



JUSTICE



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTER NATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

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LADIES' TAILORS OF NEW YORK READY FOR A GENERAL STRIKE

**WEEK-WORK, \$50 MINIMUM WAGE AND 44-HOUR WEEK
CHIEF DEMANDS. INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATES
VICE-PRESIDENT LEFKOVITZ TO HELP STEER THE
STRIKE**

The Ladies Tailors' and Alteration Makers' Union, local 80 is on the eve of a general strike. The organization campaign that has been carried on under the direction of Samuel Lefkowitz, International vice-president, has brought practically every worker of the trade into the fold of the Union.

Brother Lefkowitz has been with the Ladies' Tailors since 1917, and has steered it successfully through two general strikes. He is beloved and trusted by the membership of local 80.

The agreement with the employers expires on September 1, and on the occasion the Union advanced a few new demands warranted by the time and circumstances. The principal demands are:

1. Week work
2. A 44-hour week
3. A minimum weekly wage of \$50.

As to week work it must be remembered that the Ladies Tailors' Union of New York was the first local union of the International to fight for this system. A few years ago the Union called a strike in which week work was the principal issue. The strike was won, but the employers remained sworn enemies of week work and began plotting against the new system as soon as it was inaugurated. Aided by the blindness of the workers themselves they succeeded in reinstalling the piece-work system. Now with the establishment of week work throughout the clothing industry, the Ladies Tailors are bent upon securing or rather regaining the week work system also for their trade.

The piece work system is ill-adapted to the ladies tailoring. The many fittings and alterations following the fittings consume a great deal of time, so that the chief "advantage" of piece work—the uninterrupted turning out of "bundles" is lacking here. This explains why the Ladies Tailors came to see the light before their brethren in other trades and also

why they are now solidly behind the week work demand.

The organization campaign of local 80 has been continuing for the last few weeks and, according to brother Lefkowitz, over 90 per cent of the workers of the trade are now members of the union in good standing. The finances of local 80 are in a very fair condition. The union has strengthened its defenses on all sides, and feels now strong enough to assume the offensive.

The greatest efforts are being exerted to organize the alteration tailors of the department stores and the ladies tailors in the Brooklyn shops. Local 80 is determined to deliver the alteration tailors of the department stores from their present state of slavery. The alteration tailors possess quite as much skill as the ladies tailors but they work under much lower standards. It is now the aim of local 80 to raise the standards of the alteration trade to those of the ladies tailoring and to gain better wages and shorter hours for all concerned. The tailors in department stores are the lowest paid and hardest-worked in the trade. Brother Lefkowitz says he sees no reason why these conditions should be permitted to continue.

The general strike, which will be called soon, will undoubtedly establish equal standards throughout the trade and the standards will be on the level with those of other clothing industries.

On the first of September the new demands of the Union will be sent out to all the employers in the trade in New York and Brooklyn. On September 8 the Union will call a mass meeting to acquaint the workers with the replies of the employers. If the demands will have been rejected by the employers a general strike is certain to be decided upon at that very meeting. And once the strike is called the ladies tailors and alteration workers will go back to their shops as victors or not at all.

BOSTON INTERNATIONAL LOCALS IN SPLENDID CONDITION

Secretary Ah. Baroff spent a few days in Boston last week and came back greatly pleased with the condition of the International locals of Boston. "It will not be exaggerating to say that all of our locals in Boston are in a splendid condition," said brother Baroff to a Justice reporter.

Baroff went to Boston to attend the conference between the representatives of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union and those of the Manufacturers' Association. The agreement between the association and the Union was formally signed at that conference, though it had been accepted several weeks ago.

The provisions of the agreement are of a kind that will insure for the Boston cloakmakers the same conditions as those enjoyed by their fellow workers in New York. Nor are the Bostoners any less enthusiastic over their gains than are the New York cloakmakers.

Several minor differences that were not adjusted at the time the settlement was reached account for the delay in signing the agreement. At the conference last week all the difficulties were cleared away and the authorized representatives of both sides affixed their signatures to the peace pact for the cloak industry.

Brother Baroff also attended a very interesting meeting of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union of Boston. The Union is

in a very sound condition. The week work system contributed greatly toward its strengthening. The morale of the rank and file is excellent. The cloakmakers find things in the shops more comfortable than ever, and the work of the Union and its representatives is appreciated by all.

So much of the Cloakmakers' Union. There are in Boston three more International locals: The Waist Makers' Union, Local 49, Raincoat Makers' Union, Local 7, and Ladies Tailors' Union, Local 36.

The strike of the Raincoat Makers was settled favorably for the workers, who won the 44-hour week and a substantial increase in wages. The settlement was ratified at an enthusiastic meeting of the members of local 7.

The entire raincoat industry of Boston and the vicinity has been unionized, and local 7 is in fine shape financially, in spite of the heavy drafts upon its treasury made during the recent general strike.

Things are quite lively also with the members of local 49 and 36. The waistmakers have gained a considerable increase in wages, ranging from \$5 to \$7 a week, and the ladies tailors of Boston, like their fellow workers in New York, are about to demand higher wages and other improvement, and there is no doubt that they will succeed in securing them.

LOS ANGELES CLOAK STRIKE SETTLED

The following telegram from Ben. Schlesinger was received at the office of the International:

"Los Angeles, August 26, 1919. Cloakmakers' strike in Los Angeles, which was in its tenth week was settled today with a complete victory for the Union."

The workers won all their demands, and the rejoicing is great. The victory will be celebrated at a banquet arranged in haste. Am leaving for San Francisco on Thursday to help the cloakmakers obtain same conditions as in Los Angeles.

BEN. SCHLESINGER.

The Cloakmakers strike in Los Angeles was a long and bitter struggle. It lasted ten weeks, and the manufacturers left nothing untried to break the strike and the union. But the cloakmakers on the Pacific are no more pacific than their brethren on the Atlantic when it comes to a strike and when it is necessary to stick it out. Their fighting quality and their morale were too much for the cloak manufacturers to overcome. The strikers were anxious for

Schlesinger to come and bring things to a head, for it looked like a hopeless deadlock. The President of the International responded to the call, and a few days after he had arrived there the strike was settled.

Schlesinger's trip to Los Angeles was a clever move on the part of the union, and the move resulted in the check-mate of the cloak manufacturers. They had heard of Schlesinger and his ways, and they simply got the scare when they learned that the Big Chief himself is coming to tackle them.

Brother Schlesinger knew how to utilize this state of mind of the manufacturers, and with comparatively little difficulty he effected a settlement entirely favorable to the workers.

Our president is evidently determined to "work" the Pacific Coast. His visit to San Francisco is not an idle visit, of this you may be sure. He says he is going there to "help the cloakmakers obtain the same conditions as in Los Angeles." And if Schlesinger's settlement record goes for anything the Pacific cloakmakers may safely celebrate their victory in advance.

Have You Contributed to the
Anti-Reaction Fund?

Read "An Urgent Call" on
page 4 of of this issue.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

SHOPMEN'S DEMANDS DENIED

The demands of the Railway Shopmen for higher wages have been denied by President Wilson, who accompanied his verdict by a rather lengthy statement addressed to the shopmen. In his statement the president urges the shopmen to be "good-Americans" and try to get along as best they can on their present wages.

The decision of the president as well as his statement to the shopmen, is of the greatest significance for the workers in all industries, for in principle it applies to all demands of wage increases. Mr. Wilson is of the opinion that to cope successfully with the high cost of living wages must not be increased above their present level, for increased wages would mean a further increase in the cost of essential commodities, and to permit things to go on in this way would mean to encourage the upward movement of prices.

The President recognizes the gravity of the situation brought about by the intolerable living cost, and he urges shopmen as well as all the classes of citizens and their co-operation in bringing down the prices of necessities of life, and to be guided by a "spirit of self-sacrifice, of patriotic devotion and of community action" in these troubled times of reconstruction and readjustment. The president's statement follows in part:

"We are face to face with a situation which is more likely to affect the happiness and prosperity, and even the life, of our people than the war itself. We have now got to do nothing less than bring our industries and our labor of every kind back to a normal basis after the greatest upheaval known in history, and the winter just ahead of us may bring suffering infinitely greater than the war brought upon us if we blunder or fail in the process.

An admirable spirit of self-sacrifice, of patriotic devotion and of community action guided and inspired us while the fighting was on. We shall need all these now, and need them in a heightened degree, if we are to accomplish the first tasks of peace. They are more difficult than the tasks of war—more complex, less easily understood—and require more intelligence, patience and sobriety.

We mobilized our man power for the fighting, let us now mobilize our brain power and our consciences for the reconstruction.

If we fail it will mean national disaster. The very first step is to increase production and facilitate transportation, so as to make up for the destruction wrought by the war, the terrible scarcities it created, and so as soon as possible relieve our people of the cruel burden of high prices. The railways are at the centre of this whole process.

A general increase in the levels of wages would check and might defeat all this at its very beginning. Such increases would inevitably raise, not lower, the cost of living. Manufacturers and producers of every sort would have innumerable additional pretexts for increasing profits, and all efforts to discover and defeat profiteering would be hopelessly confused.

I believe that the present efforts

to reduce the costs of living will be successful, if no new elements of difficulty are thrown in the way, and I confidently count upon the men engaged in the service of the railways to assist, not obstruct. It is much more in their interest to do this than to insist upon wage increases, which will undo everything the Government attempts.

They are good Americans along with the rest of us, and may, I am sure, be counted on to see the point.

It goes without saying that if our efforts to bring the cost of living down should fail, after we have had time enough to establish either success or failure, it will, of course, be necessary to accept the higher costs of living as a permanent basis of adjustment, and railway wages should be re-adjusted along with the rest.

All that I am now urging is that we should not be guilty of the inexcusable inconsistency of making general increases in wages on the assumption that the present cost of living will be permanent at the very time that we are trying with great confidence to reduce the cost of living and are able to say that it is actually beginning to fall."

While it may be true that higher wages contribute to the increased cost of living, it is quite a debatable question whether the denial of higher wages will keep down the cost of living. The belief is general that to keep down wages is to begin from the wrong end. The "high" wages are one of the lesser factors in the high cost of living. It has been proved time and again that wages have increased proportionately much less than the prices of life essentials, while it is a well known fact that profits in all industries are monstrously high. The wage-earners who live from hand to mouth can ill afford to sacrifice their much-needed increases for the experimentations with the high cost of living.

That the shopmen are not pleased with the President's decision goes without saying. They may have been duly impressed with the rhetoric of the President's appeal, but they know, plain-thinking as they are, that they cannot get along on their present wages and that to get along they need more wages. Immediately following the adverse decision the shopmen's chiefs ordered a strike vote throughout the country. What the result will be is hard to predict. But it will be significant, one way or another. It will show whether the workers are willing stake their material comforts on the outcome of this H. C. of J. experimentation or whether they think that wages should be the last thing to reduce in the present high cost of everything.

TACKLING THE STEEL TRUST

A strenuous effort is being made by the American Federation of Labor to organize the workers employed by the Steel Trust—the anti-union stronghold of the country. A strike vote taken in the several steel districts resulted in an overwhelming majority favoring a strike.

Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the Finance Committee of the

United States Steel Corporation and recognized "head" of the steel trust, in refusing to discuss with "representatives of a labor union" any matter relating to the employees of the trust, harps on the old broken strings of "outsiders" not representing the wishes of the employees, etc. According to Mr. Gary the steel workers are happy under the present system of long hours, the seven-day work week and low wages, and they resent the intrusions of "outside agitators" who are paid to stir up trouble.

Whether Mr. Gary is right in his contention that the workers do not want to strike and are opposed to joining a union will be shown by the general strike which seems to be imminent. Of course, we allow for intimidation by the company's agents, for the record of the trust as a union buster, for the servility of the constituted authorities in the trust-ridden towns, etc. But with all that the impending steel strike promises to be of a magnitude and intensity that will impress on Mr. Gary, and on all of him an abiding lesson, even if an unwilling one, to the principle of trade unionism.

SMALL HOPES FOR AN IMMEDIATE PEACE

In all probability the peace treaty with Germany, which it took the diplomats of the five great powers several months to work out, will be rejected by our Senate. The Foreign Relations Committee has made the beginning by rejecting entirely the paragraph of the treaty transferring the Chinese province of Shantung with its population of 40 million to Japan. This "amendment" to the peace treaty was adopted by a majority of the Committee. If the Senate will approve of the decision of the Committee, which seems to be probable, it will mean the rejection of the entire treaty. Japan will surely not consent to the above amendment. Even if she intended to return Shantung to China at some time in the future, she will not do it now under duress of a foreign government. Nor will France and England consent to the return of Shantung was promised Japan during the war as the price for joining the war, as part of Japan's booty. And if the treaty is rejected as a whole there can, of course, be no question of finally establishing the League of Nations.

On the other hand President Wilson in replying to twenty questions of the Senate, has emphatically stated that he not only lacked the authority to declare the state of war between Germany and America at an end, but that under the circumstances such a move on his part would be a stain on the national honor. America would disgrace herself if she deserted her associates in war and shook off all responsibility in regard to the peace conditions.

Under these circumstances, when the senate on one hand is determined to reject the peace treaty as it stands and the President is determined not to proclaim war at an end, it is hard to foresee any way out of the tangle.

In the present case it is difficult not to sympathize with the Senate even if we admit that its motives are not of a lofty character and are more or less of a partisan nature. The fact is, however, that in many respects the peace is an unjust one. One of the main ideals of the war, the right of self-determination of oppressed nationalities has not been fulfilled

by the treaty. As to the treatment accorded China, the President himself admitted that he considered it unjust, but he said that he was forced to consent to it by existing circumstances. But the demands of self-determination by oppressed nationalities such as the Irish, Egyptian, Greeks and others has met with as little response as the objection to the Shantung deal. The Senate Committee decided to call the representatives of these nationalities in public hearing and in this way to re-open the question, which the diplomats at the peace congress had considered settled.

Whatever the motives actuating the Senators in their opposition to the treaty, the people cannot help sympathizing with the Senate. And in the long run the dreams of a few inspired individuals may come true; the present treaty may be annulled and a new peace may be concluded by the nations themselves, and based on the highest ideals, in the name of which America, at least, entered the war.

NO WAR WITH MEXICO

American troops that crossed the Mexican border are being withdrawn. The aim of the expedition, it is said, has been carried out. Several bandits were shot and there is little hope to catch the rest of the band, for all traces of them have been destroyed by rain and storm.

This does not mean, however, that the Mexican question is solved. The oil wells are still in Mexico and American capital as well as that of other countries is still keeping an eye on those wells, and the Mexican government is still determined to prevent foreign capital from the free exploitation of the wells. We can, therefore not be sure that a new event will not lead to further complications. For the time being America finds it inexpedient to war on Mexico. It would require great expenditures and immediate results are unlikely, even though America is much stronger than Mexico. Nor is the American people in the proper spirit for war. The question must be postponed for a more "favorable" moment.

Want Prices Set

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. — "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," declares Queensland organized workers, who insist that the government extend its policy of fixing wages.

In a memorial presented to the prime minister, the unionists declare that "the present arbitration act is useless, as any increases in wages gained in the industrial court are entirely swallowed up by the profits put on by the mercantile fraternity. We ask the government to appoint a commission to fix reasonable prices for food and clothing so that these necessities are within the reach of all."

THE FINAL STRUGGLE

By JULIET S. POYNTZ

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall
All the king's horses and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again.

The old nursery rhyme pictures better than any other words the state of the economic world at the present moment. The melancholy predictions which were made by Lord Lansdowne long before the end of the war have been more than fulfilled. When this old diplomat and pillar of society came forth with his plea for peace on the ground that if the war continued the existing order would be left in ruins, he was pooh-poohed and criticised by his closest friends among the reactionaries. But indeed he was only wise—only more far-sighted than the rest. And now we see about us an unbelievable spectacle of ruin and decay. Universal unemployment, universal starvation, universal stagnation!

The war has not only sharpened the struggle between the workers and the possessors in every nation. It has transferred this struggle to the international sphere. The battle between the great imperialistic powers on the one side and international labor on the other is only just beginning. As the workers in one nation after another seize supreme power they find arrayed against them all the other nations in which the power is still in the hands of a few capitalists. The world before the war was the prize for two great rival imperialisms which battled with each other, over raw materials, colonies, foreign trade, foreign investments, spheres of influence and all the other points in the control of Asia, Africa, South America and other undeveloped parts of the world. Between the maritime powers with the British Empire in the lead and continental Europe with Germany as chief there raged a contest for gold and power that resulted finally in the awful catastrophe of the war. In the combat one of those imperialisms has been stricken down. Central Europe no longer cares to challenge the western powers for the economic control of the world. She lies prostrate, exhausted, plundered of her wealth in Europe and foreign countries, shut off from the commerce and raw materials which would be a basis of future wealth, even existence without even gold or credit with which to buy food for her starving people. The imperialistic struggle has been transferred to a new basis. Now it is a contest for world control between western imperialism and the workers. For the old feudal and industrial power of Central Europe has been substituted a new social power, even more terrifying to the western powers.

The task of the western Powers is indeed enormous. The combination of financial interests behind the governments of Great Britain, France, The United States and the little states that must eat out of their hand have a gigantic work before them. It is two-fold. With one hand they are feverishly patching up a combination for control of world trade. Jealous of each other they yet realize that their only chance for survival lies now in mutual

aid, although the temptation for rivalry among themselves is almost too great to be restrained by caution. And so a wild scramble for control of the sea, monopoly of shipping and of world trade, the building of new merchant marines is going on between England and America while France, too exhausted economically to participate, stands by to catch the crumbs that fall from the rich man's table. Great corporations are being organized now with the profits made from munitions and other implements of slaughter and destruction. The object of these new groups which include the biggest bankers and are under the leadership of powerful manufacturers like the DuPonts is to grab foreign markets, especially those of Asia and South America, and to invest their ill-gotten gains in mines, railways, cotton and rubber plantations where natives can be exploited.

While the race for markets and trade goes merrily on, the same forces are using their other hand to keep back the advancing masses of the workers. How is this to be done? In their own countries the imperialists do not hesitate to use the most extreme means for crushing the people. Their leaders are imprisoned and executed, organizations of the masses are forbidden and broken up, their institutions wrecked and the fundamental rights of free speech, free press and free assemblage cynically ignored. Imperialistic capitalism at bay abandons all pretense to liberalism which it could afford to patronize as long as its power was supreme. The liberties of the people are ignored under the new Dictatorship of Mammon. These tactics are easy in countries where money reigns supreme, as in the United States, and where the workers are not yet awakened and organized. Its more difficult in France, but the economic and spiritual exhaustion of the people still makes it possible.

In Great Britain it can only be accomplished through the lowest methods of political trickery, which may not serve for long. But it is on the international field that imperialism finds its greatest obstacles. While it may exercise control in its own nations through seizure of governmental machinery, this method cannot be used when whole nations rise up against the new tyranny. What is to be done? Clearly the only way is a new international governmental machinery which will be as efficacious in controlling all the nations in the interests of imperialism. Hence the League of Nations! That was the great idea which was to ensure a monopoly of power in the future to the victorious group of financiers. Unfortunately for the reactionaries it has taken some time, almost a year in fact, to get the League of Nations endorsed by the parties to the scheme and in running order. In the meantime without an apology, without an attempt at justification, an international dictatorship has been set up which has spread the White Terror to every land. British soldiers on the Caspian Sea, in Archangel, in Siberia, in India, Egypt and Ireland, American soldiers in Siberia, Russia and the Near East, French soldiers in North Africa, Syria, Poland and Hungary are

being forced to uphold the tottering tyranny of gold. Very often they, being themselves of the masses, rebel at shooting down their brothers. When the white races retire, the black races are forced to take their places. What a token for the future that the French sent the ferocious blacks of Senegal against the working-class republic of Hungary. We do not like the vision of white races of the world enslaved by a combination of their own capitalists with the black races. To such a pass have we been driven!

To make the picture more vivid let us listen for a moment to the description of the Senegalese given us by a Frenchman Henri Barbereau in his description of the war *Under Fire*.

"'Africans!' . . .
"They march past with faces red-brown, yellow or chestnut, their beards scanty and fine or thick and frizzled, their greatcoats yellowish-green, and their muddy helmets sporting the crescent in place of our grenade. Their eyes are like balls of ivory or onyx that shine from faces like new pennies, flat, or angular. Now and again comes swaying along above the line the coal-black mask of a Senegalese sharp-shooter. Behind the company goes a red flag with a green hand in the center."

"We watch them in silence. These are asked no questions, they command respect, and even a little fear."

"All the same, those Africans seem jolly and in high spirits. They are going of course to the first line. That is their place, and their passing is the sign of an imminent attack. They are made for the offensive. . . ."

We talk over the characteristics of these Africans; their ferocity in attack, their devouring passion to be in with the bayonet, their predilection for "no quarters." We recall those tales that they themselves willingly tell, all in much the same words and with the same gestures. They raise their arms over their heads—"Kam'rad, Kam'rad!" "Non, pas Kam'rad!" And in pantomime they drive a bayonet forward, at belly-eight, drawing it back with the help of a foot.

"In fact, they're real soldiers." "We are not soldiers," says big Lamuse, "we are men."

India is the chief problem for British imperialism in Asia. To keep the road to India free, great Britain must be master of the seas and especially of the Mediterranean. A democratic Egypt would not only deprive British capital of a rich cotton growing country and a factor in the control of all Africa but would endanger the route to India. And so Egyptians who demonstrate for self-determination must be shot down and imprisoned, their organizations destroyed, and the people governed under a regime of martial law. In Arabia and the Near East too British politics must find a friendly governing power to protect the approaches to India while on the celebrated Batum-Baku line which was the cream of German imperialism, British outposts now take their stand to prevent the spread of Russian Bolshevism to the masses of India. The latest and most surprising proposition is to give the United States a mandate in

Turkey and Armenia, thus entangling her hopelessly in the politics of the Near East, for decades the breeding ground of international war, and making her on the other hand a joint guarantor of the despots in India and Egypt and the other criminal undertakings of Far Eastern politics. In India itself the most extreme means of repression are used while the whole political horoscope of Asia is recast in British interests.

In Central Europe the policy of the League of Nations is equally disastrous to democracy. Under the influence of the Holy Alliance created at Paris, Hohenzollern, Hapsburg and Romanoff may yet come into their own. The economic destruction of the Central European peoples is the goal of the triumphant imperialism of the west, and the natural spasms of great peoples in their death-throes will be implacably suppressed by the new combination of Western Powers, while the economic boycott continues. A more desperate and cynical plan of world domination has never been conceived by the mind of man.

What then shall be the policy of labor under such conditions. The outlook of the labor movements of Great Britain, France and above all of the United States must be speedily internationalized. Trade unions can no longer exist merely for higher wages and shorter hours, or even, as Leon Jouhaux, the president of the French Confederation of Labor, recently put it, for the reorganization of industry in their own countries. They must see the problem of labor not as a national but as an international problem. They must struggle not only to save themselves but to save the workers of the world. The iniquitous Treaty of Peace and League of Nations framed at Paris for the protection of international capital must be repudiated root and branch. Labor must declare its international solidarity as never before. The stricken masses of Europe appeal to their brothers of the western world for help. Let not their cry go unheeded! In the words of Bertrand Russell: "The Labor Movement must be international or doomed to perpetual failure; it must conquer America or forego success in Europe until some very distant future. . . . It is a momentous question; upon the answer depends the future of the human race."

Same Here

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

—Employers and the public press are working overtime to convince the public that trade unionists are responsible for increased prices. Bread has been advanced 1 cent a loaf since the bakery drivers raised wages \$1.48 a week and the Labor Call says:

"The carter can deliver 1,100 loaves of bread a week and the increase of 1 cent on that number amounts to \$11.10, while the carter's wages were raised \$1.48. Thus the public is penalized to the extent of \$9.62 a week to cover the cost of \$1.48 a week."

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

The right to strike, the only effective weapon of the workers against their exploiters, gained at the cost of endless sacrifice and pain, and considered sacred and inalienable, is now in danger of being destroyed, and it would be well for American organized labor, to stand up in its defense at once and in unmistakable terms, so that the plotters against labor cannot go too far.

We are not speaking of injunctions issued by our judges, though very often these injunctions, too, amount to a denial of the right to strike. Nor do we speak of the various laws and ordinances against picketing, which limit considerably the worker's right to use the strike as his only means of defense. These are evils that labor has accustomed itself to. We speak here of the attempt on the part of our judges to deprive the workers of the right to strike at the very beginning, even before the workers go out on strike.

The Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees which called a meeting last Wednesday to discuss the question of calling a strike of the Interboro employees to force the reinstatement of employees who had been discharged by the company on account of their affiliation with the above organization. Before steps were taken to call a strike an injunction was issued enjoining the officers of the Association from persuading the employees of the Third Avenue line to break their individual contracts with the company, which were signed by all employees who received the 25 cent increase in wages. At the same time Federal Judge Mayer approved of the action of Job E. Hedges, receiver for the New York Railway Co., in concluding individual contracts with the employees. While the workers may individually cease work under these contracts it is a criminal conspiracy on the part of "outsiders" to persuade the workers to strike. Here we have again the old story with the "outsiders." When the union sends its representative to organize a shop, this representative, in the opinion of Judge Mayer, is a criminal conspirator. Moreover, by this interpretation every strike may be found to be a criminal conspiracy. In most cases a strike is called at the signal of the union's representatives. These may always be declared to be outsiders, since they are not employed in the shops, and may be convicted as criminal conspirators.

If the injunction issued against the Amalgamated is really valid in law it means that it is a crime not only to strike but to organize. For most of the work of organization is carried on to a considerable extent by "outsiders." Individual workers are free to terminate work but

a strike means more than that, a strike means a collective termination of work. To bring this about it is necessary to call a meeting to deliberate, and this may easily be interpreted as a criminal conspiracy.

That we are not at all exaggerating may be seen from the fact that at the meeting of the Amalgamated, at which the question of a strike was discussed, there were present official stenographers sent by Judge Mayer to take down every word uttered. All that was lacking to make the meeting a counterpart of labor meetings in old despotic Germany was a policeman seated beside the chairman.

But there was something even worse than that at the meeting. Wm. J. Collins, organizer of the Amalgamated, said that the meeting would have been attended by many more persons if not for the threats that the traction workers who would come to the meeting would not only be discharged from their positions but would be arrested by U. S. Marshalls and brought before Federal Judge Mayer, charged with contempt of court.

This is indeed something new in our republic, in which the right to strike and organize have been considered inalienable. Public service commissioner Nixon, who aided in settling the strike in Brooklyn and Manhattan, expressed this new tendency very tersely. He said the public was sick and tired of strikes and that no more strikes would therefore be tolerated.

That the public is sick of strikes we could take the commissioner's word for it. Thought instead of the word public he should have used the words ruling class. But we will let it go at that. The question however may be asked: Is the right to strike such a flimsy thing that it depends upon the momentary sentiments of the public? If so, this right was never well rooted. The "public" never liked strikes; they were always considered, as best, a necessary evil of the existing system.

In our appeal of last week to come to the rescue of our liberties we ventured the prophecy that the forces of reaction would not stop at the persecution of I. W. W., Bolsheviks and Anarchists; that before long every strike would be declared a manifestation of Bolshevism. Our prophecy is about to come true. In the interpretation of Federal Judge Mayer every strike may be viewed as a criminal conspiracy.

It goes without saying that we have not the least fear that this new court edict will prove deadly to the labor movement. Chances are that its effect will be quite the opposite of that intended. The workers will come to realize that most of their rights are built on a shaky foundation and that a small group of evil-spirited per-

sons vested with judicial authority may deprive them of all their rights. Should the workers be driven to adopt this point of view we have no doubt that they will find a remedy to check arbitrariness of the bench, and we have still less doubt that the remedy will be of a kind that neither the bench nor the ruling class will be slated over. We do not believe that official threats and intimidations will be in the least effective in curbing the efforts of the workers to secure a better life by means of the strike, whatever impediments may be placed in their way.

HUSTLING IN THE SHOPS MUST BE STOPPED

This is one of the great problems confronting the Joint Board of the Cloakmaker's Union. We will state it point blank that if hustling in the shops will not be stopped, the revolution in our trade will prove worthless. For it will be again piece work under a different guise. One of the strongest arguments against piece work was and is the necessity for the workers to conserve their energy. Another strong argument is that the piece work system has a deteriorating effect on the quality of the workers as union men and women. Instead of acting toward one another as friend and brother they act in a spirit of unfriendly competition, a spirit which is detrimental to the basic principles of unionism. If it is true that the chase and bustle is rampant in the shops as ever; if competition of the workers is as fierce as it was under the piece work system, the strike has been fought in vain and the victory is mere mockery. The Joint Board is surely undertaking something vital in its efforts to check the hustling evil.

The Joint Board is planning to conduct an intense campaign of education and agitation among the workers with reference to hustling. Naturally we are not

against agitation; we will be the last to discourage it. But at the same time we venture the opinion that agitation alone will not be effective. A good speech or article cannot fail to influence the hearers or readers to some extent, but this is true only when the economic circumstances are not against it. As things stand, however, we are afraid that the moral effect will be paralyzed by hard realities. In other words, as long as the average workers will have the choice between the temptation of earning a few more dollars and the impression of a speech or article he will yield to the former and not the latter.

It remains, therefore, for the Union, to fix an average output for eight hours work and also an average for overtime, this average not to be exceeded by the workers.

In other words the union must determine the number of cloaks an operator can turn out a day, and also the number that can be turned out by an operator of a more than average skill and speed.

Such a plan, if at all feasible, may not lead to the equalization of wages of all workers, but the difference in earnings will not be as great as it is now when some workers earn twenty dollars a week more than others in the same craft.

Other plans are being proposed to cope the evil of hustling and make safe the gains secured in the recent strike. We intend to give these plans all the space we can spare in our journal. Perhaps a discussion of the question will in itself aid to a certain extent in curing the evil and will in part meet the plan of the Joint Board which intends to carry on an agitation on the question. It may be pointed out here that the hustling problem was in one way or another solved successfully by many industries, and there is no reason why the cloak industry should fail in the effort.

AN URGENT CALL

Have you contributed to the \$100,000 Fund? This is trade union week. Every shop in your trade has been supplied with a subscription list which is to be circulated by the shop chairman. Has the list come to you? If so, how much have you given? If not, ask your shop chairman why not.

This money is being raised by the Trade Union Conference to Combat Reaction. It is to be used to fight the battles of radical labor and of the Socialist Movement against its enemies. It is particularly aimed at such reactionary groups as the Lusk Committee.

It is time for Labor to realize that the fight of the Socialist Movement for its existence is at the same time the fight of the Labor Movement. The reactionaries have no more love for such unions as yours than they have for the Socialist Party or for the Rand School. In the past few weeks you have seen the desperate attempts of the Money Lords to destroy the Rand School, the best known workers' educational institution in America. The attempts failed. But the enemies of labor will try again. If you permit them to succeed, if you permit them to wipe out the institutions that labor has built up through many years of hard work and with great sacrifice, the next at-

tack will be made on you.

Do not for one moment think that this is an exaggerated statement. Every day the newspapers carry stories calculated to arouse prejudice and opposition against all labor unions that are aggressive in their attitude. It is the aim of the powerful capitalists to destroy all unions which they cannot use. They know they cannot use yours against the interests of labor. As soon as they are successful in their first step they will turn to their real task of reducing labor to its former servile condition.

The papers are full of strike stories. Never before has labor been so progressive. Never before has labor gained so much in so short a time. The capitalists are worried. They can see no end to the constantly growing demands of labor except a complete surrender to labor, or the crushing of labor's organizations. Rather than surrender they will first wipe you out if they can.

Whether they can or not depends on you. You must see the crisis as clearly as we do. You must see that only if you link yourself up with the progressive labor elements can you save what you have gained. The Socialist Movement has for a long time supported labor in its most radical and aggressive stand. At times it has been alone in giving

The American Federation of Labor

ITS SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY AND ITS POLICIES AS REFLECTED AT ITS LAST CONVENTION.

By S. YANOFKY

III.

In all the past conventions of the American Federation of Labor held during the war resolutions were adopted to the effect that when the war would come to an end and when the peace conference would be called, a labor conference should be convoked at the same time and place, and that the American Federation of Labor should take part in such a conference through a delegation, to consist of no more than five persons, and with Samuel Gompers as one of them.

It is worth pointing out that in all these resolutions the A. F. of L. never had the courage to demand that American Labor should be directly represented in the peace conference. What the A. F. of L. meant was, to call a special labor conference, independently of the official peace conference, and through such a conference to exert a certain degree of influence on the great powers, lest they forget the cause of labor.

But the powerful A. F. of L. it seems, lacked the ambition to express its own opinion on the general peace matters and the principles upon which the peace should be concluded. Whether it was because the American workers felt they were adequately represented by President Wilson and the rest of the American Peace Delegates, or because the A. F. of L. considered it irrelevant as something outside the immediate sphere of labor interests, matters little. The important thing is that the A. F. of L. at its past conventions decided to call the labor conference as a side show, and through it to exert a degree of influence upon the peace conference.

In this particular the antiquated social and political philosophy of the A. F. of L. came in sharp conflict with European organized labor, I mean, with organized labor of England, France, Italy and Belgium.

The European organized workers also wanted to have a labor conference, since they realized that they could not send their representatives to the official peace conference, but the conference they had in view, and which they carried out to a certain extent in the Berne conference, was of quite a different character. First of all the European organized labor wanted the labor conference to be international, that is, to include labor

this support. When radical labor was the object of attack, of lies, and of the hatred of labor fakirs and capitalists the Socialist Movement stood firm. Now the Socialist Movement is the object of attacks and hatred as virulent as any launched against the Labor Movement in the past. Now it is your turn to support the Socialist Movement against its enemies. You must give. You give generously. We have faith in our membership. We have never appealed in vain. We know we do not appeal in vain this time.

COMMITTEE TO COMBAT REACTION

A. L. Shipiloff, chairman
J. S. Schlossberg, Fin. Ch.
Abr. Baroff, Treasurer

delegates of countries which were considered as enemy countries before the signing of the armistice on November 11, 1919. Secondly, since it was hinted that it would be dangerous for the delegates from the enemy countries to and would be present, and that the main reason for meeting at Berne was for the purpose of arranging socialist procedure of an international character. Berne had been selected as the place of meeting owing to peace terms not yet being prepared and signed, and it would not therefore have been diplomatically proper nor advisable to have had German, Austrian and Bulgarian delegates at a meeting held in Paris. In addition to this the American delegation submitted that if such a convention hoped to have influence with the official Peace Commissioners now in session at Paris that purpose would not be enhanced; in fact, might largely be hampered if labor conditions and provisions were submitted to them in which labor delegates representing the countries which had composed the central powers in the war participated, for it would have been obvious that the proposals submitted were largely "German made."

This difference between the attitude of the A. F. of L. and that of representatives of organized labor of France, England and Italy, had been revealed by the correspondence exchanged between Arthur Anderson of England, Jouhaux of France, Audegeest of Holland and Gompers of America, and submitted to the convention by James Duncan, as part of the report of the American Labor Delegation.

While Audegeest writes about the Berne and Leeds programs and demands trade union representation for the discussion of peace demands; while Jouhaux of France writes about a conference of an international syndicate and of a socialist conference; while Arthur Anderson writes about the various socialist delegates that were invited to the conference, Gompers replies briefly and emphatically that the American delegates cannot be bound either by Berne or Leeds programs, that the American delegation is ready to meet with trade-union delegations, but must refuse to be guided by political parties, since it considers the meeting with representatives of such parties as something unlikely to bring good results.

In other words the A. F. of L. would have none of the socialists and their plans and intentions, which, in the opinion of Gompers, can be of no use to labor. He wants a trade-union conference, pure and simple, a conference of bona-fide trade-union representatives; and as it appeared later the A. F. of L. really refused to meet in conference with German cut-throats, before peace is concluded. There is time enough for an international trade-union congress, the A. F. of L. contended. Now the representatives of the Allies countries alone must meet and discuss peace questions, for if German labor representatives would attend the labor conference the suspicion may be aroused that the peace is going to be a German-made peace and the influence of labor on the peace conference may thus be impaired.

Here are a few paragraphs from the statement of the A. F.

of L. which illustrate its attitude.

"The American delegations thus ascertained that the purpose of meeting at Berne was because delegates from the countries of the central powers had been invited and would be present, and that the main reason for meeting at Berne was for the purpose of arranging socialist procedure of an international character. Berne had been selected as the place of meeting owing to peace terms not yet being prepared and signed, and it would not therefore have been diplomatically proper nor advisable to have had German, Austrian and Bulgarian delegates at a meeting held in Paris. In addition to this the American delegation submitted that if such a convention hoped to have influence with the official Peace Commissioners now in session at Paris that purpose would not be enhanced; in fact, might largely be hampered if labor conditions and provisions were submitted to them in which labor delegates representing the countries which had composed the central powers in the war participated, for it would have been obvious that the proposals submitted were largely "German made."

"The Berne conferences were originally proposed as conferences of citizens of the Allied countries. By a device that we can not approve this purpose was covertly altered so as to include delegates of the nations with which our countries were and technically are still at war. While, therefore, the official Peace Conference is in session and before it has admitted to participation therein representatives of the Teutonic powers, it was proposed that we should sit side by side and face to face with such representatives, call them comrades and in this public way condone the hideous and unforgettable crimes against humanity and democracy committed by their nations. This, for the present, we declined to do."

It is clear that the difference between the point of view of European organized labor and that represented by the A. F. of L. was enormous and that a compromise was impossible. The delegation of the A. F. of L. to be consistent with this position, could not take part in the Berne Conference. For the same reason the representatives of European labor refused to have any dealings with the labor conference as proposed by the A. F. of L. so that the original purpose of the A. F. of L. delegation to take part in a labor conference consisting of all trade-unions was defeated.

Under such circumstances the A. F. of L. delegation would have had to come back to America without having accomplished anything, if the peace conference at Paris had not found it necessary to create a commission for international labor legislation, to which President Gompers was appointed as one of the delegates.

Let us explain how this came about.

In the proposed plan of the League of Nations there is also a brief labor paragraph known as article 20, to the effect that the

high contracting parties will exert their effort to establish and maintain honorable and human conditions of labor for men, women and children, both in their own countries and in those with which they have industrial and commercial relations. And for this purpose they are ready to establish as part of the organization of the League of Nations, a permanent labor bureau.

And since such a decision cannot in itself lead to honorable and human conditions of labor, but must be aided by a machinery for carrying these decisions out, the commission for international legislation was established and Gompers was appointed one of the delegates to represent the United States.

It is worth noting here that Gompers did not refuse to sit on the commission even though many of its members were far from adhering to the trade-union standpoint. He was the only labor representative on the commission and as the report admits quite frankly, Gompers was fighting single-handed for the rights and interests of the labor masses. Most of the delegates in the commission were representatives of capitalists, yet Gompers did not fear to be contaminated, though he emphatically refused to come in contact with the various 'political leaders,' meaning socialists.

What this commission has accomplished will be time enough to consider when the League of Nations will become a reality, because the activities of the international labor legislation commission can be realized only in connection with the League of Nations. Here I will try to give the clauses which Gompers upheld and which are said to represent thoroughly the basic principles of the American trade-unionism. I will give them here as proposed by Gompers.

"The High Contracting Parties declare that in all States the following principles should be recognized, established and maintained:

1. That in law and in practice it should be held that the labor of the human beings is not a commodity or an article of commerce.
2. That involuntary servitude should not exist except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.
3. The right of free association, free assembly, free speech and free press should not be denied or abridged.
4. That the seamen of the merchant marine shall be guaranteed the right of leaving their vessels when the same are in safe harbor.
5. That no article or commodity should be shipped or delivered in international commerce in the production of which children under the age of sixteen years have been employed or permitted to work.
6. That no article or commodity should be shipped or delivered in international commerce in the production of which convict labor has been employed or permitted.
7. It should be declared that

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN CUTTERS UNION LOCAL 10

By SAM. B. SHENKER

LABOR DAY IS LEGAL HOLIDAY

The attention of the membership of Local 10 is called to the fact that Labor Day, Monday September 1st, is a legal holiday, a day on which the cutters are to refrain from working and are to receive pay.

As is the custom—a picket committee has been appointed by the Executive Board and directed throughout the city. Members who will be found working or going to work will be called before the Executive Board and fined accordingly.

BANQUET FOUR WEEKS OFF

That the Banquet of Local 10, which has been arranged for the purpose of celebrating the victory recently won by the workers in the ladies garment trades, promises to be a record breaker is borne out by the announcement of Secretary Elmer Rosenberg that a new batch of tickets is to be printed.

Members are once more urged to buy their tickets two weeks before the date, for reservations must be made in advance. Late comers will be disappointed in finding the doors shut to them, thus missing an event such as the Cutters' Union has not yet held. The committee at the last General meeting, in making its report of progress, stated that aside from the dinner and the dancing—exceptionally fine talent has been secured for the entertainment of the membership, their families and friends.

The Banquet will take place Saturday evening, September 27, at the Central Operator House, 57th Street and Third Avenue.

SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD

Members will recall the report of the special officers meeting held last Tuesday, which was printed here: A recommendation was made to the last general meeting that a special meeting be called for the purpose of taking steps with the view of meeting any move on the part of employers to reduce the wages cutters are now receiving.

This meeting will take place together with the General Meeting, on Monday evening, September 29th, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place. Cutters of every

the workday in industry and commerce should not exceed eight hours a day, except in case of extraordinary emergency, such as danger of life or to property.

8. It should be declared that an adequate wage should be paid for labor performed, a wage based upon and commensurate with a standard of life conforming to the civilization of the time.

9. That equal wages should be paid to women for equal work performed.

10. That the sale or use for commercial purposes of articles made or manufactured in private homes should be prohibited.

This program which is called the Bill of Rights of Labor, moderate as it is, has gone through some serious changes. In its final form the Bill of Rights is a much tamer affair than in the original draft. Clause 1, 2 and 6 in the final text read as follows:

branch of the cutting industry are urged to attend, since the matter that will be before them for consideration is a matter of momentous importance. That employers are looking forward to the slack season when they will find some excuse in order to lower wages can hardly be doubted.

This, obviously, would be the most flagrant violation of the principle of the right of the workers to a living wage. The cost of living is today higher than it ever was, and to reduce wages at such a time would spell starvation to the great working masses. Every member should under all circumstances attend this meeting and pledge his and the organization's resources for the combating of any such move.

EXAMINATION FEES INCREASED

At the last general meeting the membership decided to raise the examination fees for new applicants. It was voted to raise the examination fees of the Dress and Waist and Cloak and Suit to \$35. This, together with the \$15 initiation fee, makes it a total of \$50 for any cutter who desires to join the union as a full-fledged mechanic. The new examination fee for the branches mentioned will go into effect September 1st.

The examination fee for the Miscellaneous Branch has been increased to \$15, and together with the initiation fee of \$35, it will require a total of \$50 for newcomers who desire to join this Branch of Local 10. The new entrance fee for this branch will go into effect December 15th. The membership in voting on this date for the Miscellaneous Branch gave as its reason the fact that just now a sort of a re-organization campaign is taking place in this branch, which covers the wrapper and kimono, underwear and children's dress cutting trades, thereby affording an opportunity of joining the union to those men who have as yet failed to join.

HOLD CONFERENCE WITH CHILDREN'S DRESS MANUFACTURERS

An important conference with the Children's Dress Manufacturers' Association and the Children's Dressmakers' Union Locals 10 and 50 was held Tuesday, August 26th. The matter of re-establish-

1. Labor should not be considered merely as a commodity.

2. The right of organization for lawful purpose of labor as well as employer should, etc.

6. This abolition of child labor and the imposition of such limitations upon the work of minors as will permit the continuance of their education and will assure their proper physical development.

Not a word is mentioned in the Bill of Rights in its final form about the right of the sailors, nor does it say anything about goods produced by prisoners. The Bill of Rights is a collection of phrases which are of little value to labor in any country. Why then is the American Federation of Labor proud of it? The answer to it may be found in the further consideration of the proceedings of the last convention.

ing relations between the two organizations was the subject before the conferees. Aside from representatives of Local 50 there were present Secretary Elmer Rosenberg, Israel Lewin, who is temporary manager for the cutters of this trade, business agent Jacob Fleisher and International secretary-treasurer Ab. Baroff.

The matter in dispute was the charges of the association to the effect that Local 50 abrogated the agreement. That this charge is unfounded and that the very opposite is the case—that it was the association which broke the agreement—will be seen from the facts as they were presented by the Union.

Some time ago the workers of one of the employers who is a member of the association left the shop because of the low wages paid them and secured jobs elsewhere under higher wages. The association demanded that the union send the workers back. The union could not and would not do this. First because the workers were earning more and would refuse to leave their jobs for less money and the union would not urge them to go back for the same reason.

The matter was taken before an impartial chairman, who decided that unless the workers were sent back the union would be charged with abrogating the agreement—which was done. On the follow-

ing day Local 50 attempted to go on working under the agreement but the association heads refused.

The union took the position at the conference that it was the association who broke the agreement since it was not for an impartial chairman to abrogate an agreement. Secondly it charged that the majority of the members of the Children's Dress Manufacturers' Association employed non-union workers and hardly ever made an effort to compel its members to live up to the preferential union clause.

From what has been stated here it can readily be seen that under such circumstances the workers in this industry could never earn decent wages and work under decent conditions.

Thus far Elmer Rosenberg, who is the 1st vice president of the International, in the absence of President Schlesinger, sent a letter to the association in which this matter is explained. Other conferences are to be held where the union will insist upon a workable agreement; an agreement that will guarantee the workers a living wage. At the next conference it is expected that the decision of the cutters of the Miscellaneous Branch—that the union requires an increase in wages comparable with the present cost of living—will be put before the employers.

CLEVELAND AFTER THE SETTLEMENT

By M. PERLSTEIN

The crisis is over. The sacred agreement brought about last year by the kind offices of the Secretary of War, remains intact. The International emerged the victor and it has been honorably cleared of the charges of breaking the agreement.

The workers won a raise in wages and a machinery to settle disputes. Both sides have laid down their arms and are anxiously awaiting the results of the new arrangement. The increases of from \$3 to \$5 per week are considered by the workers quite satisfactory, and as to the machinery to settle disputes, they decided to be patient and see how it will work out in practice. There wouldn't be much waiting, after all—only till Christmas—and if by that time things hadn't run smoothly, we'll know what changes and improvement we want.

The manufacturers' faces were a bit jaded out when the arbitration award was announced. It is true they thanked the arbitrators for their kind offices but they did so manifestly to save appearances. The inroads of the Union into their shops are not at all a matter of rejoicing to the employers.

Our boys were in quite a different mood. On the very next day after the award had been announced, they had a banquet arranged, and though it was got up in great haste, it was none the less cheery. Our President Benjamin Schlesinger was presented with a huge loving cup filled with gratification at having subdued Cleveland, too.

Since the fellows thought that I, too, had something to do with the rumpus, they overwhelmed me with a gift of \$500.

We had not been celebrating long before Schlesinger glanced at his wrist watch and bidding us a hearty good-bye grabbed his famous Philadelphia satchel in one hand and the Cleveland cup in the other, and dashed off to

the railway station to catch the next train for Chicago. The readers know the rest.

THE DAY AFTER

The day following the banquet was a busy one for our secretary. There was a run on the union office. The applicants could not get union books too quickly to suit them. Women were predominating in number. The offices looked rather like a department store on a bargain sale day. And a bargain day it was.

The old stock was "sold out" to a book, to a stamp.

Hurry calls were sent to New York for more books, and before the week was over 800 brand new cards left our offices to settle permanently in the pockets and pocketbooks of men and women of several nationalities.

And even now, when the work is over, the union card is a mighty good seller. People have to stand in line to get the "clean read cards" and stamps. The dull season in our offices is over for good.

TROUBLE IS BEGINNING

The pressers of Sonnenhein's shop suddenly decided that they would not work with the few non-union pressers of the shops. And to show they mean business, they went on strike. After a week's striking the matter was adjusted.

The firm of Schwartz, Fiary Hecker and Sons, an old Hungarian union hater discharged the shop chairman because he was a bit too active on behalf of the Union to suit the firm. As law abiding citizens we filed a complaint.

Our arbitrators promised to appoint for us an impartial chairman to settle our disputes. We waited for this impartial chairman a few days, but he did not come. We had filed several complaints and we wanted them adjusted. In the absence of the im-

THE FATE OF THE "BACKWARD" RACES

By WILLIAM P. HAVEY
(Former Editor of the American Railway Employee's Journal)

Autocracy, whether political or industrial, succeeds only in the measure of the ignorance of its victims. The effort to democratize the world will succeed only when every artificial obstacle has been removed from the paths of individuals making up the races.

For those races which have achieved political democracy, there remains only a fight for industrial democracy. For the so-called "backward nations," the effect must be first for political freedom and afterwards for industrial freedom. Never in the history of the world has any nation achieved mental or physical freedom, as far as industry is concerned, until it has made effective the fullest and freest political independence.

American labor is primarily interested in political freedom for every nation in which a majority wish to exercise the right of self-determination because that is the first and the most necessary step toward doing away with competition of pauper labor. That class of labor exists only among suppressed races, the politically subservient. Political freedom, with the industrial freedom which inevitably would follow, would raise the standard of wages and of living in all countries in which pauperism is bred wilfully and consciously by political masters.

The foregoing form the crux of opinions recently expressed by Frank P. Walsh, former joint chairman of the National War Labor Board, in an interview with the writer.

The working people of the world are for the first time looking behind the scenes in the theatre of diplomacy," he said. "They find this theatre the home of a cruel Punch and Judy show, with the diplomatic representatives of every dominant and rapacious interest exploiting ignorance and the consequent lack of unified action. They see vast races, the so-called backward nations, emptying their pockets into the coffers of greedy capitalists, the latter-exponents of that misnamed progress of superior nations which makes dependents of individuals and races of weaker nations. These diplomatic marionettes, mimicking in thinly-disguised voices the characters of the ghastly entertainment, preach justice and progress while they ply the whip upon the helpless backs of men and women kept illiterate and politically submerged for the very purpose of making them victims to exploitation.

"They impose ignorance, filth, disease and starvation by denying political rights, knowing full well that the path to industrial freedom is a short cut after political freedom is obtained. The pages of history were opened by the war at places seldom read. The policy of self-determination which formed the soul and genius of America's entrance into the war, would, if enforced, liberate all the world politically and industrially.

"What does this denial of self-determination mean to Ireland, India, Egypt: to all the countries held in political thrall by England? What does the denial mean to all the other small countries of the world whose racial aspirations are throttled beneath the iron heels of masters? If self-

determination had been made effective, as it has not yet done in the Versailles parley, it would ultimately result in happiness for the entire world. The war and the later surrenders of rights and principle at the peace table have brought home to the workers realization that the diplomatic procurers, agents of capitalists, still are pulling the strings and throwing their voices in the effort to upset mankind."

H. C. of L. Cause of Unrest

Chicago. — The high cost of living is responsible for industrial unrest and domestic suffering, reports a commission appointed by Mayor Thompson to investigate local conditions. An appeal for relief has been forwarded to the Illinois delegation in congress.

It is significant that the causes for high costs do not include "high" wages. In the judgment of the commission, the causes are: "Exportation of food to Europe in excess of domestic surplus; profiteering by speculators; hoarders who withdraw food from consumption during the producing season in excess of normal requirements and later throw it on the market at exorbitant prices; resales within the same trade during interstate commerce; fictitious sales to enhance prices; wasteful practices by common carriers during transportation; illegal monopolistic combinations.

Defy Injunction Judges

Los Angeles. — Aroused at the fusillade of injunctions that are being hurled at striking trade unionists in this city, the central labor council unanimously adopted the following resolution by a rising vote:

"Resolved, That the central labor council henceforth shall not expend one cent in any injunction proceeding that may be brought against labor, but on the contrary, will proceed along the lines advocated by the American Federation of Labor, and we recommend that all affiliated unions pursue the same course."

These trade unionists declare that they are entitled to the same

protection guaranteed every other citizen who is charged with crime. This guarantee is ignored when workers are on strike. They are ordered by a judge not to do a thing that is perfectly legal if no strike exists, and then if a strikebreaker or gunman tells the court a unionist has violated his order the unionist is assumed to be guilty and is ordered to show why he should not be fined or jailed.

If, however, the strikebreaker or gunman is charged by the police with committing an offense against the law of the land he is assumed to be innocent and every opportunity is afforded him to prove his innocence.

A Song of Hope

By ERNEST L. EYER

*By farm and slum we sound our drum;
Make haste, ye rebels all!
Awake, awake, for Freedom's sake!
Our clarion trumpets call.
The old Red Flag, our crimson rag,
Is floating ever higher.
March on, nor halt, if worth your sale,
And face the smoke and fire,
Away with kings and all such things;
Away with laws and prison!
With flag unfurled prove to the world
A strong new force has risen.
On, on in strength to what, at length,
Must prove a better earth,
Where lies and war shall be no more,
But men be judged by worth!*

*On, on, I say, and if to-day,
Our cause seems void of hopes,
Behold, afar, where ranges are,
The sunshine on the slopes!
For us may wait the prison gate,
The soldier's shot and shell—
But who will quail before the guile,
Fierce as the fires of Hell?
Not we, not we! From sea to sea
Our Socialistic creed
Will prove a spur to make men stir
And do a noble deed!
No troops dare stand, in all the land,
Against our mighty host,
When Socialists dispel the mists,
And sunshine floods the coast!*

partial chairman we did the next best thing and called a strike against the above firm. The strike lasted two weeks, and we gave the firm the fight of its life.

PRYNZ-BIEDERMAN BREAKS FAITH AND LEAVES THE ASSOCIATION

This union-baiting firm was particularly vehement in its denunciation of our union as a band of bolsheviks and communists. The workers of the firm were mostly non-union men and the management did all in its power to prevent them from joining the union. At the arbitration proceedings the firm pledged not to discharge the few of its employees who joined the union. But soon after the referees left the Prynzbiederman heads, who had been so loud in denouncing us for violating the agreement, discharged their union employees. We filed complaints. But when the impartial chairman arrived the firm announced its withdrawal from the manufacturers' association, and refused to abide by the terms of the agreement and submit the case to the impartial chairman.

This, of course, does not settle the matter. The Union will give the firm a fight that will last as long as the firm will remain obstinate. This union-baiting concern is hated by our cloakmakers more than any other, especially since its doors have been closed to Jewish workers for the last 10 years. The fight is on, and the Union will go on with the fight.

A NEW ASSOCIATION

Sixteen manufacturers employing 600 workers formed a new association under the name of Mutual Garment Manufacturers' Association of Cleveland.

After some conferring and negotiating they signed an agreement with the Union.

The new association agrees to pay the same wages as larger associations pays and to maintain strictly union shops. After a two week trial period no manufacturer may discharge an employee without previously filing a complaint with the impartial chairman and receiving the sanctioning of the latter.

Upon the signing of the agreement the manufacturers proclaimed a 2-hour holiday and sent their workers to the union headquarters to hold a meeting and elect a shop chairman.

CAMPAIGN AMONG THE WAIST MAKERS

There are about 2000 waist makers in Cleveland, most of them unorganized. Our efforts to organize them a few years ago proved unsuccessful. Now, however, we feel strong enough to launch a campaign of organization among the waistmakers, and we are certain that this time it will prove effective and that the waist trade will be placed under union control.

MEETINGS OF CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10.

CLOAK AND SUIT—

Monday, September 8th

DRESS AND WAIST—

Monday, September 15th

MISCELLANEOUS—

Monday, September 22nd

ALL BRANCHES (Special General)—

Monday, September, 29th

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.

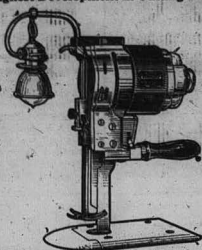
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Easy

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No fatigue at end of the day's work.
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ATTENTION OF DRESS AND WAIST CUTTERS!

THE FOLLOWING SHOPS HAVE
BEEN DECLARED ON STRIKE AND
MEMBERS ARE WARNED AGAINST
SEEKING EMPLOYMENT THEREIN:

- Jesse Wolf & Co.,
105 Madison Ave.
- Son & Ash,
105 Madison Ave.
- Solomon & Metzler,
33 East 33rd St.
- Clairmont Waist Co.,
15 West 36th St.
- Mack Kanner & Milius,
136 Madison Ave.
- M. Stern,
33 East 33rd St.
- Max Cohen,
105 Madison Ave.
- Julian Waist Co.,
15 East 32nd St.
- Drexwell Dress Co.,
14 East 32nd St.
- Regina Kobler,
352 Fourth Ave.

LADIES' TAILORS AND ALTERATION WORKERS

Get ready for the

MONSTER MASS-MEETING

(preceding the general strike)

ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th—6 P. M.

—AT—

MANNERCHOR HALL, 203-7 E. 56th Street

The reply of the employers to our demands of
a 44-hour week, and a \$50 minimum wage will
be announced at the meeting.

THE FOLLOWING PROMINENT SPEAKERS WILL ADDRESS THE MEETING:

Ab. Baroff, Secretary I. L. G. W. U.
Hon. Judge Jacob Panken
Max Pine, Sec'y United Hebrew Trades
Elmer Rosenberg, Vice-President, I. L. G. W. U.
S. Yanofsky, Editor of "Justice"
A. Giovannitti, Sec'y Italian Chamber of Labor
Samuel Lefkowitz, International Vice-President
who has directed all our campaigns will preside
at this historic meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, Local 80
H. Hilfman, Secretary.

UNITY HOUSE CLOSES 15TH OF SEPTEMBER.

ONLY LOCAL 25 MEMBERS ACCEPTED FOR LABOR DAY, SUBJECT TO ROOM.

ALL MEMBERS NOT HOLDING REGISTRATION CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, AND MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN THERE WILL BE GIVEN FIRST PREFERENCE.

Cutters' Banquet

LOCAL 10, I. L. G. W. U.

Celebrate the Recent Victories

SATURDAY EVENING, SEPT. 27TH, 1919.

at the

CENTRAL OPERA HOUSE.

67th Street and Third Avenue.

TICKETS TO BE HAD AT THE OFFICE:

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DR. BARNET L. BECKER

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* 850 POSPISIL AVE. BRONX
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