



JUSTICE



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

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QUARTERLY CONFERENCE OF GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD SET FOR OCTOBER 6.

PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF INTERNATIONAL WILL GATHER AT BUFFALO TO DISCUSS VITAL MATTERS—CONFERENCES TO LAST SEVERAL DAYS.

EDITOR OF "JUSTICE" WILL ATTEND

LEADERS WILL REVIEW ACTIVITIES OF PAST THREE MONTHS AND MAP OUT FUTURE WORK.

PROBLEMS BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE BOARD INCLUDE CAPTURING OF UNORGANIZED TRADERS, ORGANIZING SMALL TOWNS, AND EXTENDING SCOPE OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS. COMMITTEES OF LOCALS WILL BE HEARD.

The regular quarterly conference of the General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union will begin next Monday, October 6, at the Statler Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y., and will continue well toward the end of the week. The events of the last three months in the ladies' garment industry and the plans for the future will engage the attention of the International chiefs throughout the conference.

The General Executive Board is both the clearing house and the supreme council of the I. L. G. W. U. It is composed of the president and secretary of the International and the 12 vice presidents representing all the important ladies' garment centers in the country. At its quarterly meeting the Board hears the general report of the president and the reports of the vice president on the situation in their respective localities, and after having obtained an *ensemble* view of the situation throughout the country the delegates take up urgent problems indicated in the course of the reports and map out the work of the International for the next 3 months.

The report of President Schlesinger will, no doubt, be thickly crowded with an array of momentous events that took place in the various ladies' garment centers in the country. Schlesinger has been "on the go" for the last 3 months and took a leading part in every important struggle the International has to record for this period. Not only was he at the wheel in the historic strikes and near-strikes in New York, where he steered the various trades to triumph and security—he marshaled the forces of the International in Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, and only recently secured remarkable gains for the ladies' garment workers of the Pacific Coast cities—Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. His survey of the situation and his suggestions and recommendations will, therefore, gain added weight because of his direct participation in the making of history for the International as well as his first hand information.

But the less general sectional reports of each of the vice-pres-

idents will be of quite as much importance, for while president Schlesinger attended to the effecting of settlements, it is the vice-presidents that had to see to the application and the actual workings of the settlement pacts. The week work system established in the most important centers of the cloak industry such as New York, Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, Montreal, Los Angeles and San Francisco, while undeniably a great step forward in stabilizing and humanizing conditions of employment, has been passing through its trial period, and it will be interesting to hear from the vice-presidents how the new system works. We know, generally speaking, that it works well; we know that it is a huge success in New York and other cloak centers; we know that the return to the sweating system of piece work is out of the question. But at the same time it is important to learn of the squeaks in the new machinery, if there are any, and of the necessary improvements, if any are needed.

The week work system affects not only the cloakmakers, for it is now in operation also in ladies' tailoring, kimono and wrapper, and raincoat, trades; and this system is coupled with the 44 hour week and weekly wage minimums ranging between \$36 and \$50. There can be no doubt as to authenticity of information that will be furnished by the various sectional leaders in reference to these aspects of the general situation, and with reliable and exhaustive information before it, the Board will be well equipped for further work in the direction of week work, shorter hours and minimum wages. It must be borne in mind that in such important centers as Philadelphia, Cleveland, St. Louis, Toronto and Toledo the piece work system is still in vogue, and there is the task ahead of the International to stabilize the industries also in those cities.

Week work and conditions of employment will not exhaust the "calendar" of the General Executive Board. The campaign of organization in the towns clustering around the great centers of the industry has been conducted

with great vigor during the past 3 months, but it is not over yet.

At its last quarterly meeting the General Executive Board decided to throw all the resources of the International into the out-of-town organization campaign, for it was realized then as now that the gains obtained in the centers are insecure with the many scab towns clustering around these centers.

It will be interesting to learn what has been accomplished on this score and how much more work is to be done. The organization campaign covers not only the trades within the control of the International but extends to unplowed fields as well. It is the aim of the International to reach out into every trade that properly belongs to its control and guidance. A good beginning has been made in this respect in New York City where locals of Ladies' Neckwear Makers, Petticoat Makers and Corset Makers have been organized and chartered.

Reaching out into every angle of the workers' life as it does, the International is interested not only in purely trade matters. The General Executive Board will have before it also the question of perfecting our publications and extending their scope. Some six months ago the thin "Bulletins" and weeklies of a few individual locals were merged with the monthly published by the International into central organs published in three languages. "The Yiddish 'Gerchehtigkeit,' the English 'Justice' and the Italian

"Giustizia," all under the editorship of St. Yanofsky, now carry to all the members of the International not only the immediate news but also the events of the times treated by competent and well known writers. It has been the aim of the International and the editor, St. Yanofsky, to make our publications the vehicles of all that may be of interest to our tens of thousands of members. While this aim has been largely attained; while our members cherish our publications; while every effort has been exerted to meet the intellectual needs of all of our readers, it is nevertheless true that there is room for improvement, especially since the International can afford both materially and intellectually to make improvements. Friend Yanofsky will lay before the General Executive Board his views and suggestions concerning our publication, and there is no doubt that he will have an interested and sympathetic audience.

Other unforeseen matters will probably come up at the conferences. Various committees of our locals will appear before the Board to present problems which might otherwise escape its attentions.

The conference will be attended by Benjamin Schlesinger, President of the International, Ab. Baroff, Secretary-Treasurer, and by the following vice-presidents:

New York: Elmer Rosenberg, Salvatore Ninfo, Harry Wander, Samuel Lefkowitz, Sol. Seidman, Jacob Halpern, Morris Siegan, and Fannia M. Cohn.

Chicago: Hyman Schoolman.

Philadelphia: Max Andur.

Cleveland: Meyer Perlstein.

Montreal: Samson Koldofsky.

The proceedings of the conferences will be fully reported in the Justice.

CONFERENCE OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES

The first important conference on the educational work of the International will be held at the headquarters of the International, 31 Union Square on Monday evening, October 6. The delegates of the various locals of the International will gather immediately after the close of the work day to discuss plans for the coming term.

The Executive Committees of local unions and the Joint Board of the cloakmakers union, which have not yet appointed their delegates to the conference are requested to do so immediately. In cases where the Executive Committees would not meet before October 6 the secretaries of the locals are requested to designate 3 delegates from each local. The names and addresses of the delegates should be communicated to the office of the Educational Committee.

The conference is called by the Educational Committee of the International. H. Wander and Fannia M. Cohn respectively chairman and secretary of the Educational Committee will lay before the conference their plans for the ensuing season. It is the intention

of the committee to conduct the educational work on the principle of local autonomy and local initiative. Each union will decide for itself on the nature of classes or courses of instruction for its members. While the Educational Committee will be glad to advise individual locals in their choice of educational work for their members, it will not take upon itself to dictate to the locals any activities in particular.

In this way it is expected to make the educational work the direct concern of every local and of every member of each local.

This is in broad outline the plan of the Educational Committee. As to the applications of the plan and the working out details or modifications it will be for the coming conference to decide upon.

At the conference Dr. Louis S. Friedland, Educational Director of the International, will make his first official bow to our workers' representatives and will present his views of the task ahead of the Educational Department.

The proceedings of the conference will be reported in our next issue.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

THE second week of the steel strike finds the situation still undetermined. The relative strength of both sides has remained practically unchanged. The prophecy that the strike would be broken last Monday has not come true.

The press seeks to create the impression that the strike is as good as broken, but even with the strictest conspiracy maintained the pen slaves of the steel trust cannot successfully withhold the facts from the public. The mills cannot be reported running full blast when they are not running at all; the strikers cannot be said to be flocking back to work when they have not the least intention to go back as scabs. The best the press can do is color the news, exaggerate events in favor of the trust, and prophesy that the strike is in its last stages. This the newspapers are doing to the limit of their abilities.

One thing is clear in the steel strike—the workers have against them not only their immediate employers but the united strength of all the capitalist institutions combined. The solidarity of the ruling class has been shown in this strike as in no other industrial conflict. To defend their last stronghold the masters of industrial absolutism in America have mobilized all their resources and placed them under a unified central control and command.

One who has followed the press reports on the strike; one who has read carefully the editorials in the leading dailies could not help arriving at the conclusion that the savage attacks against the strikers and their leaders are inspired by one central source. The difference in language and style can hardly disguise the identity of plan and scheme of argument. The press is seemingly under the command of a strict dictatorship and does not deviate an inch from the orders of the dictators. In no other way can one explain the consistent one-hundred-per-cent one-sidedness of all the capitalist dailies. The usual degree of decorum, the professional ethics of stating both sides of a dispute, which had been adhered to at least by some of our dailies, is entirely absent. Openly, undisguised, our editors stand with rolled up sleeves and work with might and main to drown the strike in a deluge of lies, slander and calumny. And all this is done as if by military command. One day all the papers will box and otherwise feature the "fact" that Foster is a Bolshevik, and will make appropriate editorial comments. The next day you will read that Gompers is opposed to the strike, or that the strikers mutiny, and are about to desert their leaders. Editorial articles found in a number of morning editions of the same date show clearly that there was collusion between the editors.

Also the "investigation" which was started in great haste by the Senate Committee on Labor and Education (what an appropriate name!) is conducted with the manifest intention to corroborate the charges against the strikers, their leaders and the entire A. F. of L. Before the investigation was started the investigators announced that the purpose of their inquiry was to find out whether Foster and Fitzpatrick really preach Bolshevism; whether Gompers was

really opposed to the strike; whether the unions really control a small minority of the steel workers, etc. Openly and undisguised the investigation committee constituted itself a grand jury, with the only difference that the jurors had to indict against the workers really even before the presentation of evidence began.

First Fitzpatrick and then Gompers, who appeared as witnesses before the Senate Committee, pictured the true conditions prevailing in the trust-ridden districts. They told the Senate investigators of the persecutions the steel workers had to suffer at the hands of the hirelings of the steel companies—the paid gunmen as well as the controlled municipal authorities; of the Czaristic spy system intended to strike terror into the hearts of the workers and prevent them from joining the unions; of the brutal and cynical suppression of free speech and assembly; of the cruelty of the strike copsacks and the police who consider themselves the direct employees of the trust and who do the bidding of their true masters—kill, maim and torture the workers that cannot be cowed into submission. Fitzpatrick and Gompers made it clear to the committee that the strike is the affair of the entire A. F. of L. and not of a few radical leaders.

But our senators sitting on the committee insisted on getting the witness to confess that he might incriminate the strikers and exonerate the trust, and the impression was produced that it was a group of the steel trust's counsel cross examining witnesses who testify against their client.

It is, of course, difficult to predict how the strike will end. But one way or another the American labor will have learned something about the class struggle operation, and of the relentlessness of the voting class in its fight of undisputed autocracy. And this piece of knowledge is worth perhaps all the sacrifices made in this offensive against the stronghold of industrial absolutism.

THE railway strike which is now taking place in England is more like a revolution than a strike, though the issue is quite a commonplace one—higher wages.

The strike broke out unexpectedly. Both the railway workers and the public were sure that the conference between the government representatives and the National Union of Railwaymen would be averted. The question in dispute was that of adequate wages for all railway workers to meet the high cost of necessities of life. At the last moment the government proposed conditions which were entirely unacceptable to the representatives of the workers, and the strike was called.

Even in the middle class circles in England it is recognized that the strike was provoked by the Lloyd George government. It seems that the prime minister of England decided to give battle royal to English labor in the belief that present circumstances are favorable for such a decisive match. He characterized the strike as an attempt on the life of society, but if this is really so, he himself is chiefly to blame for the attempt.

"It is the saddest day of my

life," said Thomas, the secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, when the strike was declared. The workers did not want to strike, but the government representatives decided once for all to match forces with the Railwaymen's Union and through it with the mighty Triple Alliance.

All railway traffic in England is at a standstill, and in addition to the 600,000 railwaymen involved hundreds of thousands have been thrown out of employment due to the lack of fuel and materials. The miners and the transport workers will probably join the strike in a few days and England will become completely paralyzed.

The government is making ready for the employment of troops to break the strike. If it will really take this step it may mean a social revolution in England. It is a well known fact that the soldiers in England are restless and discontented, and it can hardly be doubted that they will show little zeal in fighting their own countrymen and fellow workers. Rather the opposite is possible: the soldiers may make common cause with the strikers and then...but we will not venture predictions in the event of such an alliance.

Lloyd George's figuring is obvious: the longer the strike will continue the more impatient the people will become, for already the strike has caused great privations among all classes, and the easier it will be for the government to defeat the workers who have become all too powerful and independent. But it appears that his figure is only half way correct. The workers are indignant, it is true, but more against the government for precipitating the strike than against the workers for having called it. The political foes of the coalition cabinet are making political capital out of the situation, and it is quite possible that the strike will cost Lloyd George his ministerial head. Rather than permit this to happen the prime minister may play his last card and throw the segments into the conflict. But then there will take place in England something more momentous than the fall of the prime minister.

WILSON broke down. The strain was too much for him. He had to speak to unfriendly audiences, and in some instances only his high office saved him from overt manifestations of hostility. The strain of his tour was not relieved by the gratification of having secured his desired purpose. The president was probably oppressed by the realization that he failed in his task.

While the breakdown of the president's nerves is generally regretted, few are disappointed at the fact that a few more speeches will remain in Mr. Wilsons system undelivered.

Had the President shown as much grit and determination at the Versailles deliberations; had he defied the idealists which brought new hopes to the white world, as energetically as he defended the indefensible treaty of peace by coercion, his breakdown would be raised to the level of universal sorrow. The whole world would be filled with anxiety lest it lose its prophet and deliverer. But now there is no cause to fear. So far as the emancipation of the world is concerned it really does not matter.

THE American Freedom Conventions met at Chicago last week for the purpose of devising plans concerning the

form of organization and methods of propaganda in the campaign to regain the fundamental liberties—freedom of speech, press and assembly, and to bring about the release of all political, industrial and religious prisoners sentenced on the basis of laws enacted during the war.

Plans were made at the convention for a permanent organization, to be known as the American Freedom League,—to be established with branches all over the country. This League will bring to the attention of the people all the facts bearing on the Freedom movement among the workers. The League will seek to unite all the organizations working on behalf of political or industrial prisoners, and the next convention of the reorganized League will be called a soon as practicable.

Interesting addresses conveying a variety of questions were made at the convention. Mrs. Victor Berger spoke on the freedom of the press and exposed the methods employed by the government in suppressing socialist publications.

Roger N. Baldwin told the delegates how the United States aids England in persecuting champions of freedom for India.

Convict No. 13106, of the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kas., was greeted with a storm of applause. He announced his name as William D. Haywood and made a plea for the I. W. W. He said:

"I got an underground message the other day from one of our boys in Atlanta, stating that Debs still refuses to come out conditionally. Debs and O'Hare could walk out in 10 minutes if they would pledge themselves not to discuss their cases nor denounce the Democratic party.

"The government hopes that the release of those prisoners may be effected so that such meetings as this will stop. The fact that they still are in prison constitutes evidence that they stand pat. So we urge you to stand pat, to keep at it until all class war prisoners are free."

Congressman William E. Mason of Illinois brought the delegates to their feet when he demanded the impeachment of President Wilson.

"In my opinion Woodrow Wilson stands impeached because he has betrayed his government," the legislator declared. "He has sent troops to Russia to guard a railroad in which John D. Rockefeller has an interest of millions of dollars. He has sent other American boys to do police duty in Silesia and along the Rhine.

"If we allow this to go unrebuked, if compulsory military training becomes a law Woodrow Wilson will have a private army of 1,000,000 men to send wherever he wants.

FRENCH LABOR FAVORS NATIONALIZATION

Lyons, France. — Resolutions constituting a sort of platform for organized labor in France were adopted at the closing session of the Federation of Labor. A large majority was shown in the vote, this being considered as an approval of the attitude of the labor leaders during the war.

The resolutions demand the nationalization of industries under the control of producers and consumers and the nationalization of transportation, mines, water power and banks. They point out that this does not mean an extension of the attributes of the state nor the submission of industries to functionalism, "with its irresponsibility and constitutional vices."

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN CUTTERS UNION LOCAL 10

By SAM. B. SHENKER

CUTTERS HOLD BIG MEETING

In accordance with the decision of the Executive Board, the special meeting, at which the membership was to take steps to combat efforts at reducing wages higher than the minimum, was held last Monday night, September 29th, at Arlington Hall. The plan of the Board was unanimously adopted after a lengthy discussion.

It will be recalled that the Executive Board called a special meeting where this question was taken up. At that time the trade was busy and the cutters were receiving wages compatible to a degree with the present cost of living. According to the opinions expressed by officials of both the Union and employers, indications pointed to a prosperous season. However, the Executive Board would not allow itself to be lulled into any false hopes. It knew from past experiences that whatever the members secured, it was solely through militancy. And if they hoped to hold on to any gains, these hopes could only be realized through concerted action of a militant nature. Hence the meeting. The plan is a simple and feasible one. Firms whose cutters succeeded in securing increases above the minimum scales in the various trades of the industry, will find a solid membership opposing attempts at reductions in the slack season. The increases were, it is true, secured at a time when labor was somewhat scarce. The main reason is, however, that the minimum fixed six months ago is much behind the living costs. Food stuffs are ever soaring in price. Rents are being raised monthly. A monthly issue of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the U. S. Department of Labor does not pass without reporting an increase in the cost of living. Wages, on the other hand, are not increasing so rapidly. In fact they were stationary these past six months.

CUTTERS SHOULD REPORT REDUCTIONS

The financial standing of Local 10 has never been better than at the present time. The membership at the general meeting voted unanimously its entire resources, in numbers as well as in finances, to fight any move at reducing wages above the minimums.

Members should not hesitate a moment in reporting any such move. Promises of steadier work will result in nothing. An employer will always rid himself of workers when he has no work. But promise or no promise, cutters should hold on to their gains! They have the organization back of them.

ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE SUPPORT

Aside from the action the members took on the matter reported here, they also voted financial aid to two organization fighting reaction. The Journeymen Tailors were voted \$75, and, as Brother John C. Ryan put it, "more if they need it," in aid of their strike against intolerable conditions — the piece work system; home work and long hours of work.

\$200 was voted the organization to combat reaction and fight the organized enemies of labor such as the Lusk Committee.

OLD PROBLEM IN CLOAK AND SUIT BRANCH

Once more the old question of placing cutters in the shops of contractors in the Cloak and Suit Industry has sprung up. Upon the termination of the recent strike in this trade, and the signing of the agreement with the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association, it was thought, as a result of the provisions in the agreement, that this problem was somewhat settled. But recent developments showed otherwise.

One of the clauses in the agreement with the new association provided that the union would deal with those employers only who had at least fourteen machines, a number that warrants the employment of at least one cutter. However, results of investigations, disclosed by Manager Max Gorenstein, showed a large number of employers having only six and less machines. Such houses, the investigation further shows, seldom employ cutters, during the height of the season, when employment was plentiful. Little opportunity was afforded the union to learn of this condition. When the slack season came on, and when hoard of cutters began looking for work the union was astonished at the revelation.

Gorenstein stated that he found the old system rampant. He took the matter up with Sol Metz, manager of the division in the Joint Board controlling the new association shops, of which there are 750. A conference was immediately sought for and secured. A plan was formulated by Gorenstein. This plan was brought before the Executive Board at a special meeting held September 20th and approved. The entire matter has been placed in the hands of Gorenstein, who has assigned Business Agent Max Margulies, whose duty it will be to go out on a joint investigation with a representative of the association, and shops where no cutters are not employed will be compelled to put one on to cut the work, as the association recognizes the justice of the union's grievance.

Manager Gorenstein feels certain, as does Margulies, that the plan will work. Cutters having knowledge of shops operating now in which no cutters are employed should report to the manager. Cutters who have been employed in small shops and are laid off now, should consult Gorenstein at once.

SPECIAL MEETING OF CHILDREN'S DRESS WORKERS

At the last general meeting Harry Berlin, president of Local 10, announced the calling of a special meeting of all children's dress makers and cutters for last Wednesday, October 1st. He urged every cutter to quit at 1 P. M. and attend. The matter placed before the workers is of grave importance. It deals with the abrogation of the agreement by the Manufacturers' Association of this trade. Space does not permit the reporting here of the stand taken. However, that steps will be taken to compel the employers to live up the agreement is certain.

OTHER TRADES IN MISCELLANEOUS BRANCH

The Wrapper and Kimono and Underwear trades in the Miscellaneous Branch are gradually be-

ing improved. As stated here before, strikes are called wherever firms show an inclination to or do lower standards. Under jurisdiction of Israel Lewin, who is temporary manager, and in conjunction with Business Agents Jacob Fleisher and Samuel Perlmutter, the trades are being lifted out of the rut into which they have been this long time. The appointment of Perlmutter by the Executive Board was recently ratified by the membership of this Branch at a meeting held not long ago.

IN THE DRESS AND WAIST BRANCH

There is little of importance to

be reported of this Branch. Few strikes have been called and settled. The trade, as is well known, is at present slow. Many cutters are unemployed. The complaints now filed deal mainly with equal division of work. As old as the system is in this trade, employers are still to be found who do not scruple at throwing a man off of work these days in the slack season, regardless of the fact that work enough is to be had for a few weeks. These complaints are being adjusted 100 per cent. The Union is ready to strike any shop which fails to supply a cutter with work to be had in the slack season.

Victory of Boston Ladies' Tailors

By JACK WHITE, Organizer

It was in 1913, to be exact, just after an apparently successful strike, for the 8 hour day and other improved conditions, that the Ladies' Tailors' Union Local 36 suddenly found its members locked out, because the Rosses' Association treacherously repudiated the agreement after the workers had gone back to work. Active members of the local were blacklisted and compelled to leave the trade, while others were forced to submit to the non-union conditions imposed upon them by the employers. The result was the complete collapse of the Ladies' Tailors' organization. And not until January 1919, did the opportunity for reorganization present itself to the Boston Ladies' Tailors. The history of the reorganization is interesting.

It happened that Mr. Magnavito, business agent of Local No. 80, New York, once came to Boston to investigate a case at Hickson's, whether work from the firm's New York shops was being produced in Boston. And sure enough, the work was being done by our Boston workers. A shop meeting of the workers was immediately called, and the workers were informed that they were working on scab work, and that their brothers in New York were on strike in the shops of their Boston employer. The workers there and then decided they should not scab on their fellow workers of New York, and accordingly none of the Boston Ladies' Tailors returned to work the next morning. The strike lasted for two weeks, after which time some of the Boston workers weakened and went back to work, thereby weakening our fighting force. Meanwhile the strike at the Hickson shop in New York was settled, and brother Magnavito returned to New York, while the Boston workers were still on strike. Brother Magnavito, it is true, promised financial aid to our Boston strikers before leaving us, but it was nearly two weeks before the promised aid came, and not until the writer of this article made a special trip to New York for this purpose. Because of this evident lack of interest of local No. 80, after they had won their battle, we were forced to have our men return to work defeated.

But the loss of the strike in Hickson's was not a loss to the cause. Their defeat the workers frankly attributed to their lack of an organization, and talk of organizing became general. The frame was ready, it was the old skeleton of the broken-up old Local No. 36, and some of the more active and class-conscious members of the old local began their

activities afresh. Members like Joseph Southeron, Hamburg and Entin, threw their life and soul into the movement, devoting their days and nights in helping me to call shop meetings, arranging mass meetings, soliciting new members. When I saw that the foundation for the Union is sound, I went to New York, and presented a petition to the International for a charter, which was granted to us under the name of the Ladies' Tailors Local No. 36. With the charter in hand, I returned to Boston, and launched the campaign for enrolling new members, until we have reached now a membership of 200, representing fully 100 per cent of the trade. With the workers in a solid body, we promptly started propaganda for better condition, and accordingly we sent out a set of new demands to the employers. The demands included a 44 hour week, week work, a minimum scale of \$40, time and a half for overtime, pay for legal holidays, and above all, recognition of our Union. The employers were willing to grant a certain deal to reply, and on Sept. 10, after no reply had been received, a general strike was called, with the sanction of Brother Baroff, who happened to be in Boston at that time.

The walkout was complete. Applications from the employers for settlement swamped the headquarters of the Union. Soon the manufacturers notified us that they had formed an association. An investigation showed that some of the larger employers were members of the association. Complying with their request, we had a conference with them, but nothing came of the conference, because both sides had come with the intention to test each other's strength. However, after a series of conferences an agreement satisfactory to both parties was finally reached. The conditions agreed upon are as follows:

1. Recognition of the Union.
2. Week Work. A 44 hour week.
3. Legal holidays. Time and a half for overtime.
4. Equal wage scale of \$35 per week is established.


The ratification of the agreement took place at a General Meeting where the victory was cheered by the strikers.

Much credit for our victory is due to our attorney, Mr. Joseph Bearak, who helped drawing up the agreement and aided the organization not only professionally but as one of its devoted friends.

The officers of the local extend their thanks to all those who have given local 36 a helping hand in time of need.

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EDITORIALS

THE STEEL STRIKE

The steel trust is the embodiment of capitalism, the greatest stronghold of capitalism in America, and fighting its own battle the trust fights the battle of capitalism as a whole. It is no wonder, therefore, that the entire capitalist press has taken up the cause of the steel trust and is conducting a vicious campaign against the strikers and particularly against their leaders. The newspapers miss no opportunity to present the strike leaders in an unfavorable light. Both Fitzpatrick and Gompers stated before the Senate committee that only one hundred thousand workers voted for the strike. The newspapers caught up this statement as a sensation and in ferocious articles attacked the leaders of the strike, stating that Gary was right when he said that the majority of the employees of the steel trust were "loyal" and wanted no labor unions.

The prostituted press knows very well that on the same ground the government of the United States or any other representative government, may be declared illegal, for there is no government that is elected by a real majority. It is always the small minority which has a right to vote or takes the trouble to, and it is always the minority that has the deciding influence on the outcome of elections.

The editors, of course, are well aware of it. They know that if ninety-four thousand out of one hundred thousand voted in favor

of the strike, they expressed not only their own sentiments but those of the great majority, who did not vote, as well as those who did not belong to the union. But our editors have only one object in view—to misinterpret facts so as to create the impression that the strikers are all black and the trust—all white.

The fact that the strike call of the union was answered not only by the one hundred thousand organized but by the great majority of the steel workers, three hundred thousand in number, is best proof that Gary was simply lying when he said that the employees did not want to belong to a union. The response to the strike call was entirely voluntary, for the union could not and would not use coercion. The workers responded to the appeal because they were in accord, with principles that the unions stand for. The steel trust, on the other hand, employed coercion, violence and crime to prevent its workers from joining labor unions. The dagger of unemployment and starvation was used ruthlessly against those who dared join a union, but in spite of all this one hundred thousand steel workers, at the risk of losing employment and being condemned to starvation, did join unions. The thousands of spies

lurking upon the workers, the reign of terror instituted by the authorities subservient to the trust could not keep the steel workers from joining the American Federation of Labor. And had this labor organization had a free hand in exercising its lawful activities; had its organizers not been denied the constitutional rights to free speech and assembly there is no doubt that nearly all of the five hundred thousand steel and iron workers would now be members of labor unions.

Judge Gary stated that he would not confer with the representatives of organized labor because these representatives did not properly represent his employees. This is a lie. The fact that the majority of them joined in the strike voluntarily, knowing that they are taking the risk of forfeiting their jobs and even their lives, is undeniable proof that the labor leaders had the full confidence of the steel workers, that they were considered by the workers as their genuine friends and representatives, who seek to promote their interests. If Judge Gary possessed in the least degree the sense of decency he would admit that he was wrong in refusing to confer with these representatives. But decency has no standing with the Garys and the press that champions their cause.

Shameless and cynical they still insist that the workers of the steel trust do not want to belong to a union and have no use for labor agitators.

We are not surprised at this stand taken by Gary and his host of pen slaves. Their object is not to represent the fact correctly but to pull wool over the eyes of the public. Lies or no lies, slander or no slander, the public must be made to believe that the workers are as much opposed to the union as is the trust itself.

There is another thing worth bringing up in connection with the press campaign against the strikers. Before the strike began and immediately after, the newspapers sought to prove that the purpose in calling the strike was not to improve the conditions of the steel workers but to increase the power of the A. F. of L.; that the organizers of the A. F. of L. were using the steel workers as their tools to promote their own interests.

But when the newspapers discovered that the public was not impressed by these stale arguments, they changed their tactics and adopted the familiar method of crying "Bolshevism." It was "proved" that the strike leaders were not interested in wages or union conditions, but that they wanted to precipitate a Bolshevik revolution. It was pointed out that William Foster, the secretary of the National Strike Committee, had written a book a few years ago in which he condemned

the wage system. It is not this conclusive proof that the strike is not a strike but a revolution, aiming at the overthrow of all organized government and that this revolution must be nipped in the bud even if violence and blood-shed must be resorted to!

And when organized capitalism speaks of shedding blood of the workers, it means business. With the industrial autocrats a bloody war upon the working class is not mere theory. They practice what they preach. In the present strike every day brings new evidence of the unchecked savagery of the servants of the steel trust. Men and women are shot down for no other offense than attempting to hold meetings. The constitutional rights of the strikers are trampled upon. In the second week of the strike the toll of blood is sufficient large to show that it is not merely a strike between the steel workers and their employers, but that it is a ferocious assault of organized capitalism upon American labor in all industries.

The present conflict is the decisive grapple of two giants—capital and labor. Not only the fate of the young labor organization of the steel workers is now at stake but that of all organized labor.

Who will win this decisive battle—capital or labor?

We are convinced that the steel workers cannot lose, that the trust, in spite of all its resources and its unscrupulousness, is doomed to defeat. But this is true only on the assumption that all organized labor of America will make the steel strike its own struggle.

Sympathy alone is not sufficient in the present case. Resolutions will do no good against starvation and machine guns. Every union must aid the steel strikers to the limit of its ability. If the strikers need more organizers, more speakers, the unions must furnish them. If the strikers need money, the union must give it to them with a lavish hand. And finally, if it is necessary to join the steel workers in the strike to defend the very existence of organized labor, the unions of all industries must do it without hesitancy. For, we repeat it, the defeat of the steel workers would mean the defeat of organized labor of America, and the triumph of the steel trust would mean the triumph of industrial absolutism. Should the steel trust succeed in breaking this strike, other industrial organizations will follow its example and declare war upon their employees and will not stop until the matter are completely subjugated.

It must be borne in mind that the steel trust is not alone in the struggle, that all the forces of capitalism in America have been mobilized and placed at its disposal, that every manufacturer, small or large, is an open or secret ally of the trust.

This is the gravest moment in the history of the labor movement in America. The capitalist class is determined to crush the working class, and to avert this calamity the forces of the working class must be mobilized as completely as those of the enemy class.

We appeal to all workers and to our great International in particular to rise to the importance of the present moment. We must not wait until the steel strikers appeal for aid. Aid must come forth voluntarily and in abundance. The unions that remain indifferent in the present struggle are committing an act of treason against the American labor movement.

THE LUSK COMMITTEE AND THE RADICAL UNIONS

We feel genuinely flattered, nay, proud that the Lusk Committee in its quest of sedition in the country has not skipped our International and summoned its representatives to a hearing.

It is too bad that the hearing will be held behind closed doors, as behoves the Lusk inquisition, for we would really like to be there. It is truly complimentary to our International that the Lusk Committee considers it radical enough to call its representative for examination. It would be a disgrace if the Committee, after the outrages perpetrated against the Rand School, after the Czaristic raid upon the Soviet bureau in New York had left out an organization like ours. This omission might have been remedied, for the International has deviated from the righteous path and turned Lusk proof.

Now that we have the credentials of the Lusk Committee as a radical union we can hold our head high. If any of the "council men" will hurry against us the accusation of being conservative we will refer them to the Lusk Committee. If any one will insinuate that our president is not up to the top of the radical tree, we will point out which pride that he is on the Lusk list of "suspects." Yes, we are greatly indebted to the Lusk Committee. We did not know ourselves how radical we are. Great distinction has been conferred upon us by calling our representatives to a hearing. We hope that our secretary Baroff who was "invited" to appear before the Lusk Committee, will not make us feel in any way that the invitation was mis-addressed. We hope that he will make the Lusk-ers feel happy in the realization that they hit upon the sorest spot; that our sacred institution are menaced not by a few Bolsheviks, not by sworn Reds, nor by the I. W. W. but by organizations like ours, with a membership of over a hundred thousand, which call strikes from time to time and insist that their members work no more than 40 hours a week and earn no less than \$44 a week and enjoy the atmosphere of freedom and independence even while in their shops.

When the Lusk Committee will find out all details about our organization it will at last be justified in announcing that it discovered the storm center of revolution, compared with which all the avowedly red organizations that the Lusk Committee has handled, are harmless and commendable amusements clubs.

PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER BACK FROM HIS TRIP TO THE PACIFIC COAST

President Schlesinger spent six weeks on the Pacific Coast, mostly in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle. The readers have been briefly informed through the medium of the Justice of his activities in the far West. But one must to hear Schlesinger's personal report to gain an adequate idea of the scope of his work and the nature of his accomplishments. We have brother Schlesinger's promise to narrate his experiences and impressions in the columns of the Justice. We are sure that it will furnish absorbingly interesting reading to all of our readers.

We are particularly interested in his impressions of the labor movement in Seattle. Is it really

Great Offensive Against the Steel Trust

By A. ZELDIN

With the strike of the Iron and Steel workers the American Federation of Labor undertook to destroy the greatest stronghold of industrial autocracy in the United States. The Steel Trust is the only uncurbed autocrat in the American industrial field and it has been the mainstay of the anti-unionism forces in the country. Until now this industrial autocracy succeeded in suppressing all of the uprisings and mutinies of its subjects, the workers. The Steel Trust has remained impudently deaf to all appeals on the part of its employees for the recognition of their right to collective bargaining and has with an iron hand crushed every attempt to unite their ranks.

Now, however, the American Federation has mobilized its strength and resources for a decisive battle. Upon the outcome of this battle depends a great deal of the further development of the American labor movement. If the workers in their present drive will succeed in smashing this stronghold the rest of the industrial autocrats will not hold out much longer. But should they fail, it will mean a further prolonged struggle not only with the steel trust, but with the other industrial enterprises that follow in its footsteps.

The chances are however that the workers will win this time, if only their ranks will not be disrupted. The calling of the strike was preceded by a period of thorough preparation. The leaders of the workers learned from experience that this mighty fortress can not be overthrown by an attack along one front, and they have therefore prepared for an offensive along all fronts. For this purpose the American Federation of Labor has adopted a new tactical method which is now being tried out for the first time.

The preparations made by the leaders of the Federation indicate that they do not underestimate the strength of the Steel Trust. It must therefore be emphasized at the very start that it is not only a struggle of the steel workers against the steel factories, but of all the workers of the industry against the autocrat management of the industry, — a struggle of the Federation against the Steel Trust.

The Steel Trust which controls one of the greatest industries has been so successful in nullifying all attempts of the organized American labor movement to organize the workers in the steel factories and foundries. In 1892 and a decade later, in 1902, the Steel Trust gave the American labor movements two pitched battles and won both. Each time it succeeded in crushing the strike with blood and iron to the triumph of the principle of the open shop. Of these two strikes, the first, known as the Homestead Strike, was the bloodier. It was not really a strike but an actual war between the hirelings of the trust and the strikers. It was a war in which

the strikers fought with guns and forced the Pinkertons to surrender. But the state government came to the aid of the trust, and the state troops drowned the strike in blood.

The strike of 1902 which lasted from July 1 to Sept. 15 was not as bloody as the Homestead strike, but ended in no better results for the strikers. A settlement was patched up in which the principal point of contention, the right to collective bargaining, was decided in favor of the Trust.

After two such victories the trust became even more tyrannical towards its employees. It captured the political power in the Pittsburgh district and in all the towns and cities where its plants were located and obstructed in every way, the efforts of the A. F. of L. organizers, the steel and iron workers, the administrators of the trust-ridden municipalities are controlled by the trust, the judges are under its influence, the officials are in many ways connected with the trust, and for such an alliance, it has been relatively easy to keep undesirable influences out of their territory.

When an organizer would come he would not be able to procure a meeting hall, and the police would not give him a permit for an open air meeting. If an attempt was made to hold such a meeting without a permit, the organizer would be arrested for blocking the traffic and the judge would impose the maximum fine and order the "trouble maker" out of the city limits. The unruly organizer often forfeited his very life. Seven

organizers were killed in the steel district during the past three months.

If a committee of the workers ever dared appeal to the management of a steel factory for concessions or improvements in working conditions the ruling of the trust would in such cases always be the same: to fire the committee men.

An elaborate and ramified spy system instituted by the trust kept track of every employee, and if any of them were found to attend secret union meetings they were discharged at once.

The local press has been under the control of the trust, of course, and it has been conducting a vicious campaign against unionism, denouncing it as un-American and the leaders of the Federation as a band of Bolsheviks.

Such was the state of things in the Steel Kingdom when the strike broke out.

The American Federation of Labor decided once for all to put an end to this regime in the steel industry. Already in its 1918 convention at St. Paul it decided to make a serious attempt to introduce union conditions in the steel factories, but on account of the war the attempt was postponed.

The Federation realized that the strength of the iron and steel workers alone would not be sufficient to break the resistance of the steel trust and it was, therefore, decided to mobilize all the unions that are connected in any way with the steel industry, beginning with the miners digging the iron ore and the seamen carrying it to the foundries, and ending with

electricians, carpenters and other crafts working for the trust. A national committee representing twenty four of these unions was organized, with John Fitzpatrick, of the Central Federated Union of Chicago, as chairman.

Immediately after the signing of the armistice the national committee began organizing the workers of the steel industry. The initiation fees were lowered so that workers of various crafts could easily join the respective unions.

After the recent A. F. of L. convention at Atlantic City the presidents of the 24 unions of the steel industry left for the steel districts and set about organizing the workers. The steel trust did not dare use the same tactics against these presidents as it had used against ordinary organizers and permitted them to hold meetings. But the spies were on guard and reported the workers who attended these meetings to the trust offices, with the result that thousands of men were discharged.

But in spite of all these difficulties and obstacles the union leaders maintain that they succeeded in organizing the vast majority of the employees in the steel and iron plants.

The events immediately preceding the strike the refusal of Judge Gary to meet the workers in conference, and of the national committee to comply with Wilson's request to postpone the strike till after the industrial conference at the White House — are too well known to need further elaboration.

Reign of Terror in the Steel Districts

Pennsylvania presents all the aspects of war, with the exception that only one side is equipped with the implements of war.

If the under dog ever excited sympathy, the striking steel workers certainly deserve it now in Western Pennsylvania. Never has the greed of capitalism gone as far as in the present instance to suppress the fundamental rights of the workers.

From Pittsburgh to Clairton is a distance of some 15 miles, and on each side of the Monongahela River can be found many of the largest steel mills in the country. All are surrounded by newly uniformed and recently deputized gunmen, carrying heavy rifles, wide cartridge belts, pockets bulging with blackjacks, and the butt of a heavy revolver protruding significantly from its leather holster fastened to each well-groomed body.

At the several entrances of each steel mill are mounted from one to a half-dozen machine guns, and around these stand from a dozen to a hundred bosses, some with a police cap on their heads, others with a blue coat, still others without any sign of authority in their apparel. But all have a deputy sheriff's star — there are more than 10,000 in the section referred to. Many new men have also been appointed to the police forces of each of the boroughs and cities along the River.

In addition to all this there is a large force of the unspeakable state constabulary in the district,

clothed with blanket police authority, ride horseback without a particle of warning down the sidewalks of the small steel communities swinging their vicious clubs and shooting right and left. Men were terribly beaten, women and children were mercilessly trampled under the feet of the horses, the American flag which was torn down and then and shortly afterwards more than two score were arrested and charged with inciting to riot, hurried to the county jail in Pittsburgh, 20 miles away and each held in \$2,000 bail.

One man had a blackjack thrust into his pocket by one of the state cossacks, whereupon he was immediately charged with carrying concealed weapons. After he was in jail the same people confiscated his automobile, and thus they have secured another monster for riding down the helpless and terror-stricken workers.

In McKeesport, on the same day, where for several weeks meetings have been suppressed, arrangements had been made to hold one on some lots that had been bought outside the city. A monster crowd had assembled when the state constabulary rode roughshod into the crowd. In this instance, many of the people were standing on the edge of an embankment, which they were obliged to drive over to escape being run down by the cossacks.

On September 24th, when another gathering had assembled in the same place, they again appeared, slugged a dozen men into

insensibility, arrested 36, and, in their reckless disregard for the rights of anyone, ran down and very seriously injured the chief of police of Glasport, who was there to see that order was preserved at the meeting, it being held within the limits of the Borough of Glasport.

In Duquesne, where it has been impossible to hold a single meeting during the whole organizing campaign in this district, these state cossacks go to the private homes of the men, arrest any one found out of work, take them to jail, fine them heavily and threaten them with further arrests unless they return to the mills.

To illustrate the methods employed by the city authorities in Duquesne: A steel worker named Joe Yuba was arrested on Sept. 8th for being a spectator at an attempted meeting that some of the organizers of the American Federation of Labor planned on holding. On this occasion this man was fined \$10, and costs, which he paid under protest, taking an appeal to the superior court and giving bond to guarantee his appearance. The case was set for Sept. 23rd. On the 23rd, when he left his home in Duquesne early in the morning to appear in court in Pittsburgh, he was arrested, placed in jail, refused bail and the following morning fined \$25 and costs. John Yuba, his brother, had exactly the same experience. Both forfeited their bond when they failed to appear in court when their cases were called. In

as radical and stormy as we easterners imagine? Schlesinger has many interesting things to tell us in this connection. But we do not want to head him off, and the readers will have to be patient and wait until Schlesinger speaks for himself.

addition to this, they were obliged to pay two fines.

A peaceful parade of striking steel workers held in Monessen and Donora was ridden down by the state cossacks, the parade broken up, and many arrested.

Jails are being filled, men are being clubbed, mounted cossacks are riding up and down the country terrorizing women and children, and company gunmen and deputy sheriffs are everywhere.

Yet with all these odds against them, the men are standing firm. New men not possible to reach in the rush of the campaign are joining the ranks of the strikers daily. Nearly 350,000 men are out at this writing, and probably before the end of the week a half million will be involved, presenting a strike the magnitude of which is without a parallel in the history of the country.

Already so great has become the alarm at the spread of the strike a senatorial investigation has been ordered, and the committee is due to visit Pittsburgh next week. Efforts are being made to get Frank P. Walsh to come into Pittsburgh to take hold of the legal end of the fight. Many, many cases have been appealed from the tyrannical decisions of the police courts of the smaller towns, during the past two or more months. In not a single instance, with the exception of one that was against he workers, has the court handed down a ruling. All cases when tried are taken "under advisement," and nothing further has so far been heard from them.

Railroad men in many places are refusing to switch cars in or out of the steel mills, the sailors on the Great Lakes have all left their boats, which are engaged in carrying ore to the steel mills.

The brutality of usurped authority by the steel puppets in political office in Western Pennsylvania is rousing the workers everywhere to a deep resentment that before long bids fair to soon be translated into action.

The assault upon the rights of the workers in the state of Pennsylvania presents a grave danger to the whole labor movement; the merest novice can see the menace to freedom the country over if the steel barons can get away with the high-handed program they are following in the steel centers of the Monongahela Valley.

Frantic efforts of steel magnates to stampede the strikers back to work on Monday morning before the Senate Committee

can continue its investigation resulted in failure. Page advertisements in the daily papers of Pittsburgh for the latter part of last week failed to have the desired effect, and, instead, the counter efforts of the unions have resulted in the stopping of mills that it had been impossible to reach before.

Monday was regarded as the day when the acid test would occur. The workers have stood the propaganda of the newspapers, the bulldozing of the courts, the brutality of the police, gunmen and cossacks, and have instead of depleted ranks, additions of many thousands from the Bethlehem Steel plants in Bethlehem, Steelton, Sparrows Point and Lebanon. The Jones & Laughlin plant in Pittsburgh is badly crippled and it required the strenuous efforts of every boss in the works to keep the smoke coming from the stacks, and this smoke represents the last stand of this tyrannical corporation to maintain its savage grip on its thousands of workers. All this has given the workers new courage. They are beginning to feel confidence in themselves.

The one outstanding horror in this strike has been the relentless cruelty of the barbarous cossacks. They have ridden down women and children, beaten men nearly to death, completely overridden every right the workers have of free speech and free assembly. Imagine a situation such as exists in McKeesport, which is duplicated in many other places. Meetings in halls have not been allowed for more than a month, due to the refusal of the Mayor to give permits. To meet this situation, the organizations bought some lots outside the limits of the city. Meetings on these lots were ridden by the cossacks, scores of men were beaten up and jailed and held in terribly excessive bail, distribution of literature even was forbidden and crowds of two or more were ruthlessly broken up by the cossacks, and organizers who attempted to circulate among the men were immediately thrown into jail. Thus, there was not a single means by which the men could be communicated with. They were newly organized men. Yet, in spite of all, they are sticking, and the Labor Movement in days to come ought not soon to forget the debt it owes to these sorely oppressed men, who are upholding its banner under the most oppressive and trying conditions existing perhaps in the whole country.

TO TEST RIGHT TO STRIKE

Racine, Wis. — A trial which involves the right of unions to strike and what damages can be collected for so doing is to be tested in the courts here. Last spring Machinists' Union No. 437 demanded recognition, higher wages and shorter hours, and when the Webster Electric Company refused to meet these demands the union machinists in the company's employ struck. Since then the union has continued the fight in the ordinary way. The company has entered suit against the union and filed a statement that "it desires to recover damages against the defendants by reason of a wrongful and unlawful scheme, combination and conspiracy entered into by them for the purpose of doing injury to the plaintiff's property and injuring and destroying its business by threatening and intimidating its employees and coercing them by force and violence into unlawful means to leave the plaintiff's employ. That due to this the products of the plaintiff's factory have been reduced and its profits diminished."

MOVE TO REFORM CONVICT LABOR

Birmingham, Ala. — Alabama is making an energetic effort to end the inhuman system of employing convicts in the mines, where, according to Representative Orr, 80 per cent of all who contract tuberculosis after entering upon their sentences, get that disease. He is the author of a bill to take them from the mines and from private employment and to place them on the state highways, believing that the modern theory of penal servitude demands that the prisoner emerge from confinement better in health and in morals than when he entered, whereas the Alabama system makes the convict a confirmed enemy of so-

LADIES' TAILORS WIN IN BALTIMORE.

Miss Anna Neary of Local 101, Baltimore, informs us that a splendid settlement has been secured by the Ladies' Tailors' Union of that city.

Every shop in the city has signed the agreement for the 44 hour week with a \$44 minimum scale. It was necessary in the case of the firm of Chertkoff to strike for one week, but it was brought in line and promised to be good. Every member is at present working, and quite happy with the splendid victory. Too much cannot be said in favor of Brother Snyder who so ably assisted in the negotiations. Were it not for his presence in the city, so much could not have been accomplished in so little time. Local 101 unanimously express their kind appreciation of the work done by representative Abraham Snyder.

Now, a word in behalf of the Alteration Workers of Baltimore. They too are progressing nicely — slowly but surely. Each week a few are added to their membership. Through the efforts of their shop chairmen all members have received an increase in wages and a special meeting has been called for Monday next to take up the question of the forty-four week in the department stores.

ciety. Custodians with whips drive the prisoners to work in the mines; on the roads they would have to be decently treated. It is feared that Governor Kilby will veto the bill because it does not permit the working of convicts in state-owned mines.

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The meetings will begin Monday, October 6th, and will continue all week.

Locals that wish to lay matters before the General Executive Board will please write or send committees to Hotel Statler, Buffalo, N. Y.

Committees will be received on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 7th and 8th.

AB. BAROFF, General Sec.-Treas.

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Sunday, Oct. 12th—5 P. M.
DR. WILL DURANT
"AFTERMATH OF THE
REFORMATION"

Sunday, Oct. 12th—8 P. M.
Speaker: DR. JONATHAN C. DAY
"THE WORKER IN THE
CHANGING SOCIAL
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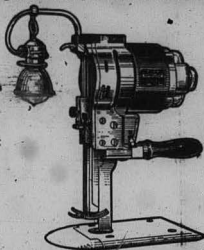
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DRESS AND WAIST—

Monday, October 13th.

MISCELLANEOUS—

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