

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."
— Job. 27.6.

JUSTICE

"We ought to be just even to our enemies."
— Pres. Wilson.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

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New York, Saturday, November 1, 1919

Price 2 Cents

FOSTER IN CONFERENCE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL LOCALS

ACQUAINTS THEM WITH SITUATION IN STRIKE ZONE

MOST PLANTS ARE PARALYZED. FROM 300,000 TO 350,000 MEN OUT AT PRESENT. NO STRIKE BENEFIT PAID. FOOD IS GIVEN TO NEEDY.

BAROFF SENDS OUT LETTER TO ALL LOCALS TO SPEED UP RAISING OF AID FUND. JOINT BOARD OF CLOAKMAKERS' UNION ADVANCES \$30,000.

William Z. Foster and a number of representatives of the New York locals of the International met at the Broadway Central Hotel, Broadway & 3rd St., on Thursday afternoon, October 30, to discuss ways and means of aiding the steel strikers financially and morally. Mr. Foster thought it essential to acquaint the assembled representatives of our locals with the actual situation in the strike districts. He dwelt at great length on the campaign of lies and slander maintained by the press in the interests of Gary's corporation, and presented a number of striking facts, which prove that the plants in most of the strike districts are either totally paralyzed or badly crippled. He cited figures supplied by men and officials of railway switch lines carrying materials to and from the steel plants showing that the output in plants reported by the press as running full blast is at best 10 per cent of the normal. The number of men now out, according to careful tabulations of the strike committee is anywhere between 300,000 and 350,000.

So far as the morale of the men is concerned the strike is in a splendid condition. The strikers are determined to win their right to organize and bargain collectively, and to dethrone Kaiser Gary. The need of financial aid from outside, however, is urgent. It goes without saying that regular strike benefits cannot be paid to all the strikers. This would require millions of dollars every week. What the strike committee is doing to relieve the need of the strikers is supply the needy ones with food. There is a well organized and efficient machinery for food distribution in the various strike centres. But in order that the work may be kept up, more funds are needed.

The representatives of our locals who were present at the conference elected from among themselves a committee of ten to promote the cause of the steel strikers among the members of the International. The following are on the committee: S. Seidman, L. Langer, I. Feinberg, J. Halpern, H. Breslaw, M. Danish, O. Whinsky, S. Ninfo, J. Heller and M. Gorenstein.

Earlier in the week Ab. Baroff, General Secretary of the International, sent out the following let-

ter to all the locals of the International:

"The General Executive Board of our International Union at its last quarterly meeting decided to raise a fund of a quarter of a million dollars for the strikers in the steel industry of this country.

As members of organized labor, you are no doubt familiar with the great struggle which the 350,000 slaves of the Steel Trust are carrying on for the last five weeks. For the first time since the great Homestead strike in 1894, when the steel magnates had drowned in blood the first attempt of the men in the steel mills to organize and improve their conditions has this great army risen again on behalf of their human rights. The Steel Trust, representing the greatest combination of capital in the world, aided and abetted by the entire capitalist press of the country, fighting the men tooth and nail, refuse to negotiate with their Union and is apparently bent on crushing their hopes.

Your International Union, as a part of the militant Labor Movement of this country, feels that it is a sacred obligation on its part to come to the aid of the steel strikers. After passing its resolution, the General Executive Board immediately called a conference of its Executive Boards of our 23 locals in New York City and, amidst unbounded enthusiasm, a resolution was adopted, unanimously, to raise the quarter of a million dollars within the next several weeks, proportionally by all the locals affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and pledging themselves to deliver to the General Office within the next few days a sum of at least one-third of the amount decided upon, and place it at the disposal of the strikers.

Members of the International! A strike like the steel strike is one of the greatest significance to the entire working class of this country and of the world; it is a history-making strike, and upon the outcome of it depends to a great extent the future of the entire labor movement in this country. Our Unions have at all times shown that they fully understand the value of labor unity and solidarity. We have always known that the Labor Movement is one great big chain consisting of many links, and we can only be strong when all of the links, parts,

and divisions of this mighty chain are strong and bound together.

Do not forget that the 350,000 steel strikers are opposed by the citadel of Capital, by the greatest combination of Wall Street, and that their defeat will encourage every labor-hating and Union-baiting employer to defy and trample upon the rights of their workers.

Get to work at once. Call a special meeting of your Local Union and decide immediately upon the question of raising the sum for the International Steel Strikers' Fund. As the first step, it would be urgently advisable to forward \$100 per member for this great undertaking, which will once more prove to the world and to the organized labor movement of America that we are in act as well as in word, bone of their bone,

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ELECTIONS IN WAIST & DRESSMAKERS' UNION

LOCAL 25 TO ELECT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Ladies' Waist and Dress Makers' Union Local 25 will soon elect a new Executive Committee. The elections of members to this committee will begin next Thursday, Nov. 6 and will continue up to and including Saturday, Oct. 8 so as to give an opportunity to all members to take part in these important elections.

It is hardly necessary to emphasize the fact that upon the choice of proper members to the directing body of the Waistmakers' Union depends to a very large degree the future of this great organization and of each of its individual members. The coming elections are and should be considered as of vital importance and immediate concern to each and every member of the local. It is to be hoped that the members both by their numbers and intelligent voting will prove that they have the interests of their union at heart.

AN ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE THE INTERNATIONAL IN TAMMANY POLITICS

QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY FRUSTRATED BY GENERAL SECRETARY BAROFF AND THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD.

SCHLESINGER'S PERSONAL LETTER USED WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE TO BOOST THE CANDIDACY OF IRWIN UNTERMAYER IS QUICKLY SUPPRESSED. MR. UNTERMAYER APOLOGIZES FOR ACTION OF HIS CAMPAIGN MANAGERS.

Quite a stir has been created on the East Side by a trick of Mr. Irwin Untermeyer's campaign managers who circulated a copy of a letter written by Benjamin Schlesinger to Mr. Samuel Untermeyer, the candidate's father, on the stationery of the International, where the writer expresses his high regard for Mr. S. Untermeyer and his appreciation of the eminent jurist's courageous stand on a number of public matters, in which other men of his position would be afraid to utter a word. For who can stand in defense of the Rand School and not have the epithet "Bolshevik" flung at him? Who would dare oppose the theatrical manager, or what is even more dangerous, the steel king Gary? Mr. Samuel Untermeyer, however, did have the courage to defend his convictions and to fight blind reaction, and it is in recognition of this that Benjamin Schlesinger wrote the inflated letter of appreciation, in which he also expressed his opinion that the father's liberal actions would not injure the candidacy of the son.

One can readily understand that if it had occurred to Schlesinger for a moment that his friendly note (for that is what it was) would be used to promote the candidacy of Mr. Untermeyer's son, he would not have written it at all, or he would have taken the necessary precautions and make it clear that he was expressing merely his personal view and opinion. But it seems Schlesinger never thought that his letter would be distributed in the streets as campaign literature. The very fact that he wrote it on the official stationery of the International bears out this assumption.

But to a politician there is nothing sacred or inviolable. Schlesinger's personal letter was made into campaign propaganda for Mr. Untermeyer Jr. It must be stated, however, that it was done without the knowledge of either Mr. Samuel Untermeyer or his son, the aspirant to supreme court judgeship. The latter deemed it his duty to call at the office of the International and express his regrets at the unfortunate.

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Topics of the Week

IT is now practically certain that the coal miners will strike to enforce their demands. The average citizen, tired of hearing of strikes, pays little attention to reports of new impending strikes and hardly appreciates the significance of a general strike of coal miners.

The fact alone that 500,000 workers will be directly involved in the strike justifies its placing in the fore front of the country's attention.

But a strike of the miners means vastly more than that, — it means the complete suspension of the industrial life of the country. If it will last but a few weeks all the railways, factories, ships, street cars will cease operation for the lack of fuel and millions, not hundreds of thousands, of workers will be thrown out of employment.

Why do the miners insist on a strike? To enforce the usual formula — higher wages and shorter hours. Yet the formula is not exactly the old one. The miners demand something novel in the history of the labor movement: a 6 hour day and a five-day week, or a 30 hour work week. Extravagant demands, one may think. But when the conditions under which the miners work are taken into account, their demand of the 6 hour day is neither revolutionary nor extravagant. To work 6 hours a day underground, without sunlight or fresh air, in the constant danger of a catastrophe is far from a "cinch." And when we take into account the fact that there are enough miners to supply the country with coal by working only 6 hours a day, this demand becomes not only just but socially necessary.

Nor is the demand of higher wages extravagant. True, the miners demand a 60 per cent increase, but their wages have been stationary for the last two years while the cost of living has more than doubled. The United Mine Workers concluded an agreement with the coal operators which was to be binding for the duration of the war. But since the war came to a virtual close on Nov. 11, 1918, the miners' unions at its last convention in Cleveland decided that the contracts with the employers should be considered as terminated on Nov. 1, 1919, and that if no new agreement is arrived at before that date a general strike should be called.

All attempts to effect a peaceful settlement have failed. Secretary of Labor Wilson has left nothing undone to avert a strike, but both sides are unbending. The coal operators insist on submitting all of the miners' demands to arbitration, pending which, there should be no interruption of production, while the miners, though willing to negotiate their demands, refuse to submit the question of hours and wages to arbitration.

As a last resort President Wilson issued a statement on the coal situation, in which he admonishes the miners' leaders to revoke the strike order, for its execution by the miners would spell national disaster. He also lectures the officials for having failed to solve the question of a general strike to a referendum of the membership. And finally he threatens to use all the resources of the government

"to protect the interests of the nation."

"It is time for plain speaking," writes the President. "These matters with which we now deal touch not only the welfare of a class, but vitally concern the well-being, the comfort, and the very life of all, that any attempt to carry out the purposes of this strike and thus to paralyze the industry of the country with the consequent suffering and distress of all our people, must be considered a grave moral and legal wrong against the Government and the people of the United States. I can do nothing less than to say that the law will be enforced, and means will be found to protect the interests of the nation in any emergency that may arise out of this unhappy business."

But the President's statement has failed to sway the miners. There is no doubt that Mr. Wilson means business when he threatens to do everything possible "to protect the interests of the nation," but the miners' price is laid out. They will not be scared into submission even if Attorney General Palmer carries out his threat to prosecute their leaders on the strength of a law dug up for the occasion.

The interesting thing is that while all kinds of drastic legislation is proposed to avert the strike, while certain congressmen talk of conscripting the miners, it occurred to none of our legislators to propose that the operators grant the miners' demands and thus avert the strike. President Lewis of the United Mine Workers says he can prove that the operators can afford to concede all the workers' demands without advancing the price of coal. But to follow Lewis' advice and force the employers to give in would amount to "dictatorship of labor," and this our law makers will not stand for.

THAT the National Industrial Conference was doomed to failure was obvious at the very start. The gathering began in a spirit of hostility rather than rapprochement. The employers' group came to the conference to make war upon labor and not to negotiate peace with it. Not only did the representatives of capital repine to take into account the new spirit in the labor movement, the radical demands declared to be the irreducible minimum by many powerful organizations of workers — they refused to recognize the very existence of organized labor.

The conference went to pieces after the labor group headed by Samuel Gompers withdrew in disgust, following the defeat of the collective bargaining resolution, which affirmed the right of employees to negotiate collectively with their employers through representatives of their own choosing. Since the employers' group refused to recognize the principle of collective bargaining and union representation, it was futile for the labor delegates to remain there any longer and be crucified, as Frank Morrison put it.

Even the Presidents' message, in which he pleaded harmony and patience, failed to save the conference. Gompers and his associates could not and would not stay,

and without them the conference, naturally, could not go on, even though an absurd attempt to keep it alive with labor gone was made. As he was about to walk out Gompers turned to the employers and said: "The words you have spoken means nothing. You have defeated the labor group in its declarations. But we will again meet in conference and then you will be glad to talk collective bargaining."

The failure of the conference is one more confirmation of the truth that there can be no peace between capital and labor. Even Samuel Gompers, the old labor veteran who all his life believed in a possibility of such a peace, was taught something by the conference. Not a belated lesson, it is to be hoped. There is to be then no peace between capital and labor but war — war to the knife. Both sides are realizing this, and in both camps preparations are being made for a pitched battle, which will be fought before long.

THE first blow the reactionaries have in store for the labor movement is a bill declaring a strike to a crime. It was introduced in the Senate some time ago by Senator Cummins of Iowa and it refers to the railway workers only. If the bill will be enacted into law it will be a crime to call strikes of the employees of the railways and also to obey the strike calls. That such a law would mean the enslavement of the two million railwaymen need hardly be pointed out. The roads are soon to pass back into the hands of the private companies, and there are indications that the latter are planning a general reduction of wages. With the Cummins bill enacted into law, the workers will be virtually defenseless against the assault upon their pay envelopes.

The railwaymen are fully cognizant of the true significance of the Cummins bill and they made it plain that they would not obey the measure if enacted into law, that they would not renounce their freedom without a fight. The mighty brotherhoods threaten to paralyze rail traffic of the country if the Cummins bill becomes law. The A. F. of L. is ready to throw in the full strength of its numbers and resources into the struggle to uphold the right to strike. The leaders as well as the rank and file of the A. F. of L. realize that once strikes are declared illegal in any one industry it will not take long before they will be declared illegal in all industries; and to defend the only effective weapon of labor in its struggle for a better existence this giant labor organization is ready to go to any length.

That the situation is alarming may be concluded from the fact that the heads of the 112 International unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. have been summoned to a conference to take place in the near future, where the crisis will be discussed and, as some of the A. F. of L. leaders assure, preparations will be made for the calling of a general strike of all organized labor in every industry of the land in case the Cummins bill is adopted by Congress. Though the Railway Brotherhoods are not affiliated with the A. F. of L. the latter is ready to take up their struggle as the struggle of the entire labor movement. The threat of a general strike has not as yet been made official-

ly by the Executive Committee of the A. F. of L., but it is an open secret that plans for such a strike are already under way. Certain it is that if the rank and file of the American unions will to a man answer the general strike call and it is quite probable that if the strike will not be called officially it will take place none the less, should it be necessary to defend the right to strike.

Those who know Gompers and his ways must realize that it was more than a mere phrase when he said to the employers' group at the Washington conference: "We will again meet in conference and then you will be glad to talk collective bargaining." The militant spirit of the head of the A. F. of L. undoubtedly expresses the temper of the rank and file. After the steel strike and the impudent stand of the employers' group at the Washington Industrial Conference the Cummins bill is the drop that will cause the overflow of the cup of patience even of the patient American worker.

THE law factory in Washington is turning out not only anti-strike bills. The Senate is still busy with the peace treaty and especially with the League of Nations. Now there is no longer any doubt that the Senate will not ratify the treaty in its present form. The reservations to the constitution of the League of Nations as adopted by the upper legislative chamber render this instrument practically void as far as the United States is concerned. And since the League of Nations is an organic part of the peace treaty with Germany, the whole treaty will not be ratified by the Senate. It is not impossible that the treaty will be sent back to Versailles to be readopted by the Allied governments in its new form, i. e., with the Senate reservations. Either this or America will be entirely excluded from the League of Nations, and we will have to make a separate peace with Germany. One way or another much time will be consumed, during which we will still be technically at war with Germany, even though our exporters are already doing business with the "enemy."

But the people at large bother little about the treaty or the League of Nations. What the people are excited about is the prohibition law. President Wilson vetoed the bill on the ground that it had been intended as a war measure to prevent demoralization in the army. Now that the army is demoralized there is no reason why the people should be denied a drink with a kick, especially since the wet days are counted, for in a few weeks the dry amendment will enter in force.

But the House disagreed with the President and repassed the bill over his veto. The Senate followed suit, and now you cannot get a drop of liquor if you try.

At the Meetings of the Executive Board

By S. YANOFSKY

II.

The jurisdiction question in Chicago precipitated lively debates. The question is an extremely delicate one, and a single misstep on the part of the Board might have led to serious disorganization in our Chicago unions with very grave, if not not dissuasive consequences. Fortunately the execution of the Board's decision was left to President Schlesinger, who is the only person that may be relied upon to carry out this delicate mission with wisdom and tact.

A spirited debate also arose over the suggestion of a committee of Toledo cloakmakers that the International authorize a campaign for week work in Toledo with a guarantee of a certain number of months' work during the year.

The committee presented some serious arguments in support of its suggestion, though it was aware of the fact that the International is, as a matter of principle, opposed to such guarantees, considering them disadvantageous to the workers. It maintained that conditions in Toledo are quite unlike those in other cloak centers. The request for authorization was denied by the Board, but this only after a thorough thrashing out of the question both as to its general aspects and its specific application to the Toledo cloak trade.

Very serious attention was given by the Board to the question of the impending campaign in Cleveland, which is to begin next December for the purpose of gaining the full recognition of the union and placing the cloakmakers of that city on a level with their fellow workers in other large cloak centers.

Vice-President Perlstein's report brought out the fact that the Cleveland cloakmakers have a very strong organization, stronger than ever in its history. The manufacturers are well aware of this fact and are, no doubt, impressed by it. On the other hand it is well known that the Cleveland cloak manufacturers are a reactionary lot, dominated by the Gary spirit, and the struggle is expected to be a bitter and hard one, though there is no doubt that the workers will ultimately score a complete and decisive victory.

From what has been said above, the reader may see that the General Executive Board was doing some very strenuous, intensive work in connection with the urgent problems that had arisen in the various branches of the International. It really looked as if the Board would never get thru with all the work before it and that there would be a good deal of "left-over" work for the next meeting.

But the Board did get through. It took some hustling, to be sure, but nothing of importance remained untackled, and the International chiefs even managed to spare a few hours for a trip to the Niagara Falls (at their own expense) where they gazed in awe at one of the world's wonders, the symbol of uprearing movement, of unlimited and majestic grandeur.

This trip to the Niagara Falls came as a genuine relaxation after the last session, which was a particularly grave and strenuous one.

At that session President Schlesinger told the vice-presidents that his impaired health would oblige him to take a few weeks complete rest. This in itself would have been sufficient to produce a depressing effect upon the members of the Board. Most of them were in favor of doubling Schlesinger's salary during his vacation time. This would be a feeble recognition of the services he had rendered the International during the last few months. The fact is that by taking the place of a lawyer usually employed in arbitration or settlement negotiations, Schlesinger saved the Union at least some 15 or 20 thousand dollars.

President Schlesinger, naturally, refused to have his salary doubled for the period of his vacation. He also refused to accept an increase of the salaries for the officers of the General Office, though such increases are really warranted by the increased cost of living, stating that according to the constitution of the International such increases may be granted only by

the convention of the International. What added to the depressed atmosphere was Schlesinger's suggestion that an acting president be chosen for the period of his absence from office. The opposition to this was practically unanimous! Vice-President Perlstein was particularly eloquent in speaking of the depressing effect on the membership of the International such an appointment would produce and the consequent hindrance to the work ahead of the International. He pointed out the impending struggle in Cleveland in which, he said, no one could take Schlesinger's place. If Schlesinger deemed it necessary to engage somebody to do the technical work in the office during his absence, vice-president Perlstein said, he might do so at his discretion, but the General Executive Board ought not to appoint an acting president.

President Schlesinger could not help, of course, but abide by the decision of the Board.

Also the debates about our pub-

lications were of an important character. The present writer raised a number of questions both in regard to the editorial and business phase of our weeklies. He dwelt on a few matters of a personal character which are closely related to the three weekly publications of the International. The matter was placed in the hands of a committee appointed for the purpose.

Of the many other questions before the Board that of raising the salaries of the International organizers may be mentioned. It was decided to raise their salaries \$10 a week so that most of them will get \$80 instead of \$50 per week.

The place for the meeting of the next convention was a subject of discussion at the last session of the Board. Cleveland, Chicago and St. Louis are the cities nominated. The membership, by a vote, will decide on one of them.

In conclusion I wish to say that of the many momentous meetings it was my privilege to attend during the past two decades perhaps the most earnest and conscientious was that of the General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Bulletin of the Educational Department of Our International

INSTRUCTION IN ENGLISH STARTED IN ALL UNITY CENTERS.—REGISTRATION STILL GOING ON.—WAISTMAKERS' UNITY CENTRE OPENED.

The registration and attendance in the various Unity Centres is very encouraging. The students in the classes represent all the Locals of the International in this city, from Local 1 to Local 90.

The Educational Department was fortunate enough to secure the best teachers for the students and was very careful in selecting the teachers. As soon as the classes are completed, the students will elect three members forming a Students' Council which will constitute the Executive Committee of every Centre. This Council will meet once a week with the teachers, and Educational Director, Dr. Friedland, and will discuss the courses and make suggestions regarding them.

The course of four talks on Modern Drama to be given by Miss Ellen A. Kennan was postponed until after Election because many of the pupils are taking part in the campaign. Miss Kennan's course will start on Thursday, November 13th, 7.45 P. M. in the East Side Unity Centre, Public School 63, Fourth Street and First Avenue, Manhattan, and on Friday, November 14th, 7.45 P. M. in the Brownsville Unity Centre, Public School 84, Stone and Glenmore Avenues, Brooklyn.

Mr. Frank Tannenbaum will start his course of four talks on the Problems of the Labor Movement, on Tuesday, November 11th, 7.45 P. M. in the East Side Unity Centre, Public School 63, Fourth Street and First Avenue, Manhattan, and on Thursday, November 13th, 7.45 P. M. in the Brownsville Unity Centre, Public School 84, Stone and Glenmore Avenues, Brooklyn.

In the Bronx Unity Centre, Public School 54, Freeman Street and Intervale Avenue, Mr. Sim-

Dombrow will give a course of lectures on Current Labor Problems, beginning Friday, November 14th, 7.45 P. M. and Mrs. Ruth Hurwitz will give an analysis of three plays, starting Tuesday, November 11th, 7.45 P. M. These three plays, dealing with the Labor Problem are: Hauptmann's The Weavers, Galsworthy's Strife, and a play by George B. Shaw, which will be announced later.

There will be classes in Gymnasium in the Brownsville Unity Centre, Public School 84, Stone and Glenmore Avenues, Brooklyn, on Thursday evenings, and in the Bronx Unity Centre, Public School 54, Freeman Street and Intervale Avenues, on Saturdays between 2 P. M. and 5 P. M. Lectures on Health will be announced later.

Synopses of all lectures will be distributed among the students at every lecture.

Embroidery Workers' Union, Local 66, arranged a lecture course through the Educational Department.

The Educational Department is busy preparing a schedule for the active members and officers. The schedule will be announced soon.

As announced before, Dr. Olgin will accompany the students to the theatre and Miss Mildred Rider will accompany them to the opera and later the plays and operas will be discussed in class. The Waistmakers' Unity Centre at P. S. No. 40, 320 W. 20th Street opened Monday evening, October 27th. English classes are already in operation under the direction of Mr. Davidoff, who teaches advanced English. Miss Rose Curry teaches elementary English, and Mr. Birn intermediate. Both these teachers were

in charge of similar classes last year, and will be glad to welcome their former pupils.

The course in gymnastics and recreation will start Thursday, October 30th, at 6.30. It will be conducted by Mrs. Lucy Retting, and has been put at this hour that all may attend without interference with other courses. Lectures on Drama, Music, Health, Literature and Problems of the Labor Movement, will begin the week following election.

There is already a demand for a Unity Chorus and for a class in dramatic reading. If those who are interested will see Mrs. Retting for particulars and will register, there will be a class arranged as soon as a sufficient number have given their names. Registration can be made for these and all other classes any evening at the Unity Centre or at any of the offices of the Union.

Lucy Retting, Educational Supervisor, will be in her office at 16 West 21st Street every day between 12 and 1 o'clock and will be glad to see her old and new friends and give any information desired.

The Cloak Finishers' Union, Local 69 and the Waistmakers' Union, Local 15 of Philadelphia organized a Joint Educational Committee and they are co-operating in carrying on the educational work. A first-class professional concert to celebrate the opening of the educational activities of the Cloak Finishers' Union was arranged for Saturday evening, November 8th. Miss Estelle Schriener, soprano, of New York will sing and Miss Fannia M. Cohn, Vice President of the International and Secretary of the Educational Committee will speak on The Need of Labor Education within the Trade Unions.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly.

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EDITORIALS

IMMEDIATE AID TO THE STEEL STRIKERS

It is with profound gratification and much pride that we note the results of the conference of the Executive Committees of all the New York locals of the International, called by the General Executive Board to discuss ways and means of raising the \$250,000 pledged by the Board to the striking steel workers. The conference has perfected a plan of raising this sum within a very short time, and one third of it will be sent to the strikers at once, if it has not been done so already.

The above mentioned conference is an emphatic enough denial of the slanderous rumors spread by the enemies of the Union that our International was "bluffing" when it pledged so large a sum to the steel strikers, that it never intended to carry out the extravagant promise. These lowly creatures will now be silenced by the prompt raising of the solidarity fund.

We are glad to learn that the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America will not lag behind in the great task of furnishing immediate and abundant aid to the hundreds of thousands of workers fighting for their freedom. In times like these all old scores must be forgotten. The steel strike is the cause of all American labor, and all together the workers must see that the most powerful weapon of the Steel Trust — starvation — is shattered before it is put into play. Cruel and savage as the reign of terror instituted by the strike cocks and gunmen is, it will not break the strike, but rather spur the strikers on to further struggle. The only thing that can conceivably break the strike is privation and misery of the strikers and their little ones, and all of us ought to see to it that this does not happen. The two powerful radical unions alone, the International and Amalgamated, can furnish sufficient aid to serve as relief and inspiration to the army of strikers in its struggle to save the liberties of American labor. William Z. Foster was particularly happy and made the strikers happy in reporting of the spirit of solidarity with which the New York workers are imbued. The meeting at Cooper Union, where Foster told a sympathetic labor audience of the horrors of the strike was a genuine inspiration to this brave leader of the brave strikers, and it would be a cruel disappointment to their hundreds of thousands if New York labor failed to furnish the relief the strikers count upon.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE

Perhaps there were some optimists or naive souls who really believed that the National Industrial

Conference called by President Wilson would cure all our industrial ills and usher in an era of peace and harmony between capital and labor. As to ourselves we did not for a moment believe that such would be the case. We were certain that the fundamental antagonism of interests of capital and labor could not be removed by rhetoric, however fine. Yet we thought that there was no harm in talking things over, — if for no other reason, because it would dispel the false hopes of the optimists.

Nor are we sorry that the Industrial Conference was shattered on the rock of collective bargaining, a principle which has proved its efficacy and feasibility in adjusting differences between capital and labor. Now that the labor group of the conference refused to concede the right of the workers to bargain collectively it is plain that American capitalism is anxious not to destroy Bolshevism or the I. W. W. but to deal a death blow to the American labor movement led by the A. F. of L. Only fools will now fail to realize that the crusade against bolshevism is mere sham, so far as the employers of the country are concerned. One of the employers' group let the cat out of the bag when he said that "First we must destroy the A. F. of L. When we have done that we can easily take care of Bolshevism and I. W. W."

And it is all the more regrettable that Gompers himself makes use of the bugaboo of Bolshevism to scare the employers. Is it not indeed ludicrous to attempt to scare the employers with the fake monster they themselves created and which they themselves are using in their crusade against the common rights of labor? No wonder that the employers took little heed of Gompers' warning and replied rather pointedly that he need not scare them about Bolshevism or I. W. W. Of these they could take care with the aid of the courts, the police, the prisons, and machine guns, if necessary. The real menace to the rule of their class resides in the organized labor movement, and it is this that they seek to destroy.

The good thing about the Industrial Conference is that it forced the mask off entrenched capitalism. Now it stands before the world in all its nude ugliness. Now its agents will no longer succeed in deceiving even the naive and gullible with their hypocritical sermons about industrial peace and harmony. And under these circumstances it is sheer folly on the part of the various factions of labor to continue their wrangles and petty strife. The Industrial Conference has taught labor a lesson, and both the A. F. of L. and the I. W. W. ought to benefit by it. They ought to bury

their hatchets and with united forces stand ready to give battle to the mobilized forces of capitalism.

LOCAL 25 ON THE EVE OF ELECTIONS

Elections of Executive Board members of local 25 will take place in a few days. As usual in such cases a lively election campaign is on. We do hope that the entire membership will take part in the elections for the Executive Board plays a vital and determining part in the affairs of the Waistmakers' Union, and upon the choice of fitting members to the Board depends to a very large extent the welfare and strength of the Union. We hope that the members realize that the noise-makers and phrase mongers are not by any means the best candidates for the important and responsible office, calling for discretion and sound judgment. Executive Board members need not necessarily be glib-tongued, but rather experienced, level headed members loyal to the union and solicitous of its welfare.

PHILADELPHIA CLOAK-MAKERS PREPARE FOR A POSSIBLE STRUGGLE

Two weeks ago we wrote in these columns about the turmoil in the Philadelphia Cloakmaker Union. It looked then as if the question of introducing week work in the industry and a minimum scale of wages caused a hopeless division in the ranks of the workers. But the sense of self-preservation made the cloakmakers cool off and come to a practically unanimous decision on the matter of wage scales. As submitted to the manufacturers these scales are: cloakmakers, skirtmakers and pressers — \$47.50 for a 44 hour week; cutters — \$44.00; finishers — \$37.50; skirt finishers — \$28.00; button sewers — \$28.00; season sample makers — \$37.50; sample finishers — \$25.00.

These scales as well as other minor demands will be formally laid before the manufacturers in a few days. We cannot foretell, of course, what reply the manufacturers will make to these demands. Let us hope that they will consult their better judgment and agree to these demands without a fight. But should they choose to fight the Cloakmakers' Union stands ready.

STOP ORGANIZING LABOR

By W. B. RUBIN

For a long time, the towns most learned fool was the one who constantly delved in the "science" of perpetual motion, and it is well known that the lunatic asylums are filled with the mentally "cracked" who try to make motion perpetual. Their brains, as well as their theories, however, are halted by the ever resisting facts of friction.

What is true of physical science is likewise true of social, economic science. While we still prattle about the law of compensation in this, our individualistic society, yet everything about us is highly and fully organized. The coal supply, the food supply, the clothing supply, the home supply — in fact, everything that man needs is now so highly organized that each constitutes a monopoly in law and in fact; and the only thing that is still in competition is man's appetite — with his ability to satisfy it.

We are now living in an age speeded up by the recent anti-war promises, where Labor, in self-defense against organized supply as well as organized demand, has found itself in a position where it must organize and organize rapidly, or submit to the shackles and chains of slavery.

The one patriotic organization, the one stable attempt, the one non-profit-seeking association during all our period of war, and in this, our reconstruction period, has been, and is, Labor — yet we have many so-called reputable citizens and self-constituted "trump" politicians, a turn-coat mayor, a mountainous senator, a half baked statesman, who would annihilate Labor organizations, who would enact laws to prevent the exercise of their one prerogative, that of strike. They would interfere with their freedom of action. Now that Labor, in spite of courts' decisions, in spite of injunctions goes on organizing and winning, these so-called respectable citizens and statesmen would enact a law that would make the strike unlawful.

Unrest must be stopped — that is their claim. Rest at any price, even though it mean slavery.

But the organization of Labor goes on, more and more, greater and stronger than ever. Necessity is the driving force of organization, and Labor has come to its own understanding. Never again will Labor attempt to obtain, by unorganized efforts, that which it obtains so much more efficiently through organized effort. The lines are sharply drawn. If Labor is to survive, IT MUST ORGANIZE, for two organized camps are being formed — the one, Organized Labor, and the others, Organized Against Labor.

Stop the organization of Labor, and you might as well deny the laws of gravitation, you might as well legislate that Niagara Falls send its torrents of water upwards. The forces are all the other way.

Labor — the VANGUARD of modern wants! The PROTETTOR of present needs! The CHAMPION of our democracy!

Things are unsatisfactory, it is true, but the burden rests, not upon Labor, but upon the proffiter who, in his miserly hoarding of the world's wealth, fails to read the signs of the time. The dial of the horoscope points one way.

Either RECOGNIZE Labor in full, or society WILL PAY THE PENALTY of its ignorance and vice.

A fattening of the goose makes a feast for the epicure, but he pays in the end for his banquet by suffering the rich man's disease. Gorging is not healthful, and is no longer fashionable. Obesity is not a sign of health or strength. Capital grasping at too much is but shortening its own life.

The Steel Strike and Its Leader

Impressions of William Z. Foster and his description of the strike.

By J. S. P.

STILL WATERS RUN DEEP

"The workers who give their whole lives to industry should have at least as much to say about its management as the employers who give nothing and get everything. And I for one could go a whole lot further than that." The young man who spoke these words in Cooper Union the other night carries the burden of the steel strike. An American with a nasal twang and plenty of slang, a straight forward, mild-mannered man is William Z. Foster. He is no orator as Brutus is . . . but only speaks right out of what he does know. His countenance speaks faith and courage — frank blue eyes, firm mouth and lofty forehead. He is a man whom one could trust — without egotism, without self-conceit, seeking only the welfare of the workers and the triumph of labor.

To those whose conception of a revolutionary labor leader is a fire-eating orator William Z. Foster is a surprise. He has been trained in a school of labor organization where the watchword is action and not talk. He is a general of an army not a demagogue. And for that the more feared and hated.

"They do not love me in Pittsburgh," he said. "They are working for a chance to frame me up. They are only waiting to decide on the best method. Remember if you read that dynamite has been found in my house that I have told you it is a frame-up. That's what they did to Tom Mooney, and that's what they're trying to do to me." So speaks the calm young man and quietly goes about his duty.

A STRIKE WITHOUT MEETINGS

But the steel strike needs no co-workers for the simple reason that there are no meetings. The steel striker has no chance to meet with his fellows all day in big halls, with speakers to tell him the latest news, with a concert once in a while, for his entertainment. Such luxurious strikes have not been heard of in Pennsylvania. There the striker covers in his little hovel, fearful even to venture upon the street. Nor is he secure even within his own four walls. Some day he may look up to see the state constabulary, man and horse, riding into his kitchen and dragging him forth to prison.

No, there are no meetings in the steel strike. For Pennsylvania is the one spot on earth that is unsafe for democracy. The primal rights of free speech and free assembly do not exist in a community which is owned body and soul by the Steel Trust. "The Steel Trust owns everything in Pennsylvania," says Foster, "It owns the banks and the railroads, it owns the stores and the meeting places, it owns the churches and the schools, it owns the government." What is true of the United States in general, is especially and particularly true of Pennsylvania. It is the *Servile State* where all men are slaves, hand and brain, to an overpowering capitalism. Those great, black mills with the fiery furnaces within seem indeed

temples to the Moloch of Industry, where as to the evil god of old, human sacrifice is made. Hearts, hope, health, youth, life, are offered up by day and night to the great God of Steel.

Free speech does not exist in Pennsylvania. It is not without great efforts that the Steel Corporation has succeeded in holding down the lid in the steel industry for well nigh thirty years. Every method of repression and persecution known to modern capitalism and militarism has been used to keep the steel workers ignorant and divided. Circumstances favor the steel corporation. Their workers speak three languages, and cannot communicate with each other. They are burdened with large families, often seven to ten children and the sight of hungry little ones drives a man to accept slavery. They are under the domination of all sorts of false institutions and leaders, who use the appeal of nationalism or religion to still their aspirations for freedom. Many cannot read nor write in any language, few in English. The great majority are so underpaid that they have not the physical or moral strength to strike the scales from their own eyes. Friendless, speechless, blind, alone they struggle toward the light.

And now when these workers begin to see, more stringent measures are necessary to keep them down. They can hire no hall. The owners refuse to rent. The mayors refuse permits. Street meetings even of five are considered "riots" those who meet run the risk of being shot or clubbed by the cossacks. "Even the horses are trained," says Foster. "They throw the men to the horses who trample on them." The cossacks always ride on the sidewalks to terrorize the peaceful population and create "riots." They ride down upon peaceful meetings held in the open on land owned by the workers and drive them right and left unmercifully, cracking heads with their clubs. The survivors who remain in their hands are haled to court where they are held in \$3,000 bail and over and are fined and imprisoned for "inciting to riot."

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF FANNIE SELLINS

Fannie Sellins was a light burning in the darkness. Through her efforts in various trades an entire district had been organized. Then she threw her strength into the steel strike. Her energy and magnetism drew the steel workers together and the mills of Vandergrift, Breckenridge, New Kensington, Leechburg and Apollo were organized. But she had committed the deadly sin. She had sinned against the Steel Corporation. And she was marked for destruction.

There was bad blood between the deputy sheriffs and the miners in the plant of the Allegheny Steel Company. The sheriffs set out to "get" them. Loaded with drink and shot guns they rode into town down the main street. Encountering some strikers they began to shoot wildly. Fannie

Sellins was near. She saw children in the danger zone. With true mother's instinct (she herself was a grandmother) she rushed toward the children to guide them to a place of safety. And they shot her in the back. She fell — and they shot her again — and again. One leading man stood by, a pillar of society. He seized a gun and with the handle crushed in the skull of the unfortunate woman. The man who murdered Fannie Sellins is out on \$2,500 bail and capitalist justice finds the deceased "killed in a riot by persons unknown." She had loved the workers not wisely but too well!

HOW THEY WON FREE SPEECH IN DONORA

In the great steel town of Donora for example the steel corporation dominates every phase of life. The workers were finally driven to buy a couple of lots, so that they might have a place of their own where they could meet. Everything was done to keep the workers away. Counter attractions were started, band concerts and ball games. Then the meetings were picketed by foremen and hired thugs, to intimidate the men. But still they came! Then the workers decided to get even with Donora. Bill Ferney, their organizer, was a mine worker. At his request the miners of the neighborhood decided to boycott Donora. The merchants watched their sales going down. One after another shops were forced to close up. Then the tradesmen sent a plea to the miners. "Please come back to Donora!" And the miners replied "Not until there is free speech in Donora." And soon the halls began to open to the steel workers.

THE WEAPON OF THE DISCHARGE

The Steel Trust has a worse weapon than club or gun. That is starvation. In many towns any man who dared take out a union card or even attend a union meeting was discharged at once. Literally thousands of steel workers were so terrorized as the work of organization progressed. Gunmen and spies were lined up before meeting halls taking note of all who attended. And with diabolical cruelty the corporation always picked out for discharge those who were least able to endure it, the old, the fathers of families, the weak. There was the case of Charlie Seeger. He could not read nor write. Yet through years of patient effort he had worked himself up to a well-paying job. Then the work of organization began. Charlie Seeger could not hear but somehow he received the message of solidarity, and joined the union. The next day he was discharged. Where could he go, deaf mute that he was? What could he do to get a living for himself and his family. For weeks he wandered around well-nigh mad, until the organizer in pity sent a letter of resignation for him to the manager and secured his reinstatement. Thousands of other discharged steel workers are now face to face with the world with-

out much more equipment than Charlie Seeger.

WHAT THE STRIKE MEANS

The steel strike is of greater significance than even organized labor yet recognizes. It is the final test of strength with organized capitalism. It is a gigantic organization of labor fighting a gigantic force of entrenched property — twice as large a strike, says its leader, as has even been fought before. Between 300,000 and 400,000 men are out who with their families are a population of millions. This is a strike of the unskilled. The demands are for the eight hour day which the steel workers of England, France, Italy and Germany have already won. They demand also the reinstatement of those who have been discharged, one day's rest in seven, the abolition of the 24 hour shift every two weeks, an increase in wages to provide for a decent standard of living, double pay for overtime, the principle of seniority in hiring and firing, abolition of physical examinations on hiring. It is an industrial strike on a scale never before dreamed of in the history of the American Federation of Labor. Twenty-four craft unions are combining to issue the challenge to the Steel Corporation. Upon the result rests the decision as to whether American labor is to be slave or free. The workers of every other industry will feel the effect of the steel struggle. If the steel workers are defeated, reactionary employers in every other industry will take heart. If the steel workers win, their victory will increase the power and prestige of the entire American labor movement. The English steel workers have telegraphed their good wishes in these words: "You are asking for what we have had for many years."

FOSTER AND HIS IDEA

William Z. Foster is a man with a past. He was one of the followers of Bill Hayward in the I. W. W. and went to Europe in 1912 to study the labor movement. What he saw in France, Germany and other countries convinced him that the industrial struggle was the most vital conflict for the workers, and that emancipation could be achieved only through industrial organization and the industrial strike. As for the American labor movement, let him present his views in his own words:

"At Berlin a few months ago, Jouhaux, Secretary of the Confederation Generale du Travail, in a large public meeting advised them to give up their attempt to create a new movement and to get into the conservative unions where they could make their influence felt. At Budapest he extended the same advice to the I. W. W., via myself, and I am frank to say that it would be strictly good tactics for both movements to adopt it. I am satisfied from my observations that the only way for the I. W. W. to have the workers adopt and practice principles of revolutionary unionism . . . is to give up its attempt to create a new labor movement, turn itself into a propaganda league, get into the organized labor movement and, by building up better fighting machines within the old unions than those possessed by our reactionary enemies, revo-

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By SAM. B. SHENKER

Two Special Meetings of All Branches

Two special meetings of all branches of Cutters' Union will be held within the next few weeks at which questions of importance will be taken up. One meeting, which will take place Wednesday evening, November 27th, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place, will take up the question of levying a \$2 assessment on the membership in aid of the striking steel workers. The second meeting will take place on Monday evening, November 24th, at Arlington Hall. At this meeting a vote will be taken on the city where the next convention of the International is to take place.

The membership is, no doubt, familiar with the recent meeting of all Executive Boards of the city when the International's decision, rendered through its General Executive Board, to raise a quarter of a million dollars towards helping the steel workers win their strike, was acted upon favorably.

It is hardly necessary to go into the details of the strike and the need to help the workers. The strike is making history in the American labor movement. Victory for the steel workers will strengthen the labor cause throughout the country. It is therefore the duty of every cutter to attend the special meeting and pledge his aid toward a successful conclusion of the steel strike.

The next convention of the International will take place in May 1920. It is an established rule for local unions to vote by means of a referendum on the city where the convention is to be held. The meetings of the cutters' union at which the voting on the convention-city takes place are interesting, and members are advised to attend in large numbers.

Four Trades Observe Election Day

Four cutting trades within Local 10 observe Election Day, in

lutionize those unions even as our French syndicalist fellow-workers have so successfully done with theirs.

"Among the syndicalists the sentiment is strong and growing ceaselessly, that the tactics are bad and that endeavors should be made inside of the A. F. of L.; that is in the existing unions that the syndicalists must struggle without ceasing."

In a book on syndicalism published soon after his return in 1912 Foster gives an excellent account of the principles and practice of revolutionary trade-unionism. He is apparently now trying out his own theories, and has achieved astonishing success in the packing industry and the steel industry. He is not ashamed to work quietly, and achieves his ends by clear thinking and fundamental organization. It is a question whether the steel workers with such heavy odds against them can win in this struggle with the Colossus, but if victory is possible with any leader it is possible with William Z. Foster. He is indeed a man with a past. But in the words of Oscar Wilde we will hope that he still has a beautiful past in store for him in the future.

part or in full, with pay. The Raincoat Cutters have secured the full holiday with pay. The Children's Dress, Underwear and Wrapper and Kimono trades observe half of the holiday with pay. That is, they are permitted to work under the agreement to 12 o'clock noon, and are to receive pay for the full day.

The cutters of the Branch should bear in mind that a picket committee will as usual be stationed in the various districts and those found working on the time mentioned will be liable to punishment.

Cloak Men To Nominate Officers

The Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Reefer and Raincoat cutters will hold their regular meeting this Monday, November 3rd, at Arlington Hall. The purpose of the meeting, aside from the usual order of business, is the nomination of officers for the ensuing term of one year.

The candidates to be nominated are: 1 manager, 4 business agents; 2 executive board members and one trustee. Elsewhere in this issue will be found a notice of the meeting as well as the qualifications for candidacy. The qualifications, it must be borne in mind, do not apply to paid officers of any local of the International, or of the International itself.

Underwear Cutters To Ask for Raise

The recommendation of the Underwear cutters, made at their recent meeting to the effect that the Executive Board request of the Cotton Garment Manufacturers' Association an increase, was taken up at the Tuesday meeting of the Board. It was decided that a letter be forwarded to the International, through whom the request will be forwarded to the Association.

While it is true that the majority of the cutters in this trade are receiving wages above the minimum, nevertheless, if the cutters are to hold on to their gains the minimum should be increased. Their present wage, that is the minimum, is \$31 per week. This, under present economic conditions, is far below the needs of the workers, and makes it necessary to increase the minimum.

Discharge of Patternmaker Held Unjustified

The discharge of a patternmaker, who was employed in one of the association shops, was held unjustified by an impartial chairman before whom the chief clerks took the case.

The facts of the case, in brief, are the following: Not long ago the union filed a complaint with the association to the effect that a patternmaker employed by one of their members was discharged after working in the shop for eight months. The union held that the discharge was one for union activity. The union based its argument on the fact that the firm employed a non-union apprentice some time previous and succeeded in having the boy discharged;

that a shop meeting of the cutters was held where they were instructed not to permit any learners at the cutters' table; that a day following this meeting the patternmaker in question found one of the cutters making patterns; that on the following Saturday he, the patternmaker, was discharged.

When the case was taken up before the impartial chairman, the firm brought time-cards to show that the worker in question was in the habit of coming in late. The union easily brushed this aside with proof of the same time-cards that the worker stayed in longer to make up for tardiness. The firm then brought along some linings to show that the patternmaker was guilty of an error. This also was checkmated by the fact that the mistake was originally made by the stock clerk in the firm's employ. In short, every argument the employer brought up was waved aside by the union as insufficient proof, and backed this up with proof. That the union proved the discharge of the patternmaker to be for union activity may be seen from the following summary of the decision of the impartial chairman:

"At best it is a close case. The chairman must determine whether

there or not the discharge was the result of actual inefficiency, or was caused by conscious or unconscious prejudice against the worker. In his decision, the Chairman has been mainly guided by what seems to be absolutely fair and frank testimony on the part of a co-worker, one Mr. —, a man employed with the firm for the past nine years. It may be mentioned that he is a relative of one of the members of the firm, and this fact is mentioned for no other reason but that it may stamp his testimony with that degree of impartiality which is so necessary. In the deciding of a case, Mr. — testified of having worked almost side by side with Mr. —; that he found him to be as efficient as the average; that another man was detailed to assist him in his work immediately after the discharge of the apprentice and that in his opinion the work of Mr. — did not deteriorate.

"The Chairman cannot help but feel that consciously or unconsciously, the activity of Mr. — in the meeting has affected the judgment of the firm, and considering the period of eight months of satisfactory employment the benefit must be resolved in favor of the worker and he is ordered reinstated with back pay."

TOILING WOMEN OF WORLD OPEN FIRST CONGRESS

Washington, D. C. — The first international congress of working women opened last Wednesday in the auditorium of the new National Museum here. Addresses of welcome were made by representatives of the National Women's Trade Union League. Luther C. Stewart, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees, welcomed the delegates to America in the name of organized labor.

Cablegrams from labor and Socialist organizations throughout the world were received, sending their greetings and felicitations to the congress. Among these were messages from the Central Board of Social Democratic Women of Sweden, Arthur Henderson of the British Labor party and the Oeuvres Sociales Feminines Chretiennes de Belgique.

Mrs. Raymond Robins, chairman of the congress, in her address of welcome, said in part:

"What more fitting than that the women of the world should choose this hour to accept and assume their full responsibilities. Women are builders of the race; to us is intrusted the protection of life. The social and industrial order must meet this challenge."

"There can be no compromise with the exploitation of women; with long hours and low wages. There can be no compromise with unemployment nor with poverty arising out of social conditions."

Margaret Bondfield, delegate from England, who answered the welcome of Mrs. Robins in behalf of the British delegation, said in the course of her remarks:

"The British are thinking of today and think that the women of the world are going to help complete a new form of civilization. However little we are able to do in constructive building in a conference like this, at least we can do something in building up friendships, in building up the spirit of good will, in building up the spirit of determination that in the future we will strive for the

things that are most worth while in life; and, of course, those of us that belong to the labor movement feel that we are working at the very foundation stones of civilization. Unless we are consolidated and united, we can never have a proper civilization; unless labor is free, we can never get a proper civilization."

Prolonged applause greeted her speech.

Seventeen nations are now represented at the Congress: They are: France, Japan, Poland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, England, Canada, Italy, Argentina, Norway, Denmark, Serbia, Spain, India and Switzerland.

Each nation represented in the conference has 10 votes.

The policies and questions to be dismissed will be determined from day to day. The plan is to act upon the resolutions and suggestions presented by the various delegates, and the result will be regarded as the stand of the Congress upon social and economic questions of the day.

MILLS OUST AMERICANS

The ousting of American workers from the steel mills started immediately after the Homestead strike, said Michael F. Tighe, president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, in testifying on the steel strike before the senate committee on education and labor.

"In 1892, when the Homestead strike took place," said Tighe, "90 per cent of the workers in steel mills were Americans. They struck against a reduction of wages in the Carnegie plants and lost. A system of espionage was then established in the plants; many Americans left. An influx of foreigners commenced."

President Tighe read an advertisement of the steel trust, issued in 1902, which said: "Men wanted—Syrians, Poles and Rumanians preferred."

AN ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE THE INTERNATIONAL IN TAMMANY POLITICS

(Continued from Page 1)
ate incident. He at the same time wrote a letter to Benjamin Schlesinger again expressing his regrets and saying that he had never taken the letter to his father as anything but a personal statement by Schlesinger.

But to nip this political intrigue in the bud and to remove any suspicion that the International had anything to do with the letter, which the campaign managers of Mr. Irwin Untermyer made into propaganda, — though the letter was quickly suppressed — Ab. Baroff, General Secretary of the I. L. G. W. U. with approval of the General Executive Board issued the following statement:

Oct. 28, 1919.

"The managers of the Democratic campaign in this city are circulating a letter addressed by Benj. Schlesinger, president of our organization, to Mr. Samuel Untermyer, in reply to a letter written to him by Mr. Untermyer.

The use of the official stationery of our organization by the managers of the Democratic Party for campaign purposes would tend to create a totally wrong and misleading impression, and is regretted and resented by our Union.

I regret very much that this affair occurred during the absence of President Schlesinger from New York for the past two weeks, on account of ill health. It was impossible for me to get in touch with him during the course of the day and get from him a statement about this entire matter. I am quite certain that as soon as he receives the news he will issue a complete explanation of the situation. It is only fair to ask that public opinion, and particularly our Socialist press, withhold its judgment until President Schlesinger will have had an opportunity to explain his position.

ABR. BAROFF,
Gen. Sec.-Treasurer."

This statement kills the whole intrigue, of course. As to Schlesinger, — though he never mentioned a word about the letter — we are certain that he never thought that it would be used for campaign purposes. Had he anticipated such a possibility he would either not have written it at all, or would have so framed it as not to give an opportunity to his enemies, of whom he has quite a few even in his own circles, to make scandal.

LADIES' TAILORS & ALTERATION WORKERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 80.

Our union will celebrate its latest victory with a

CONCERT & Musical Evening

ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, at 8 P. M.

—at—

WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL

Irving Place and 16th Street

The following will participate:

The talented singer, Anita Love.....Soprano
The popular tenor, T. Longten.....Tenor
The famous violinist, Morris Nitke.....Violinist
The well known pianist, Mollie Berenstein.....Pianist
The poular organist, Homer Emerson Williams..Organist

Speakers:

Honorable Judge Jacob Panken.
Abraham Baroff, General Secretary-treasurer of our Intl.
Elmer Rosenberg, first Vice-President of our International.
Fannia M. Cohn, Vice-President of our International.
Vice-President Samuel Lefkowitz, who was in charge of
our successful strike will preside.

Tickets free to every member in the offices of
our union: 725 Lexington Avenue, N. Y. City,
and 99 McKibben Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

LADIES' TAILORS & ALTERATION WORKERS' UNION, LOCAL 80

LADIES' TAILORS & ALTERATION WORKERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 80.

To All The Ladies' Tailors:

Election Day

is one of the legal holidays recognized in our agreement. The workers are entitled to pay for that day and are not supposed to work. Any one that will be found working on Tuesday, November 4th, will be fined.

Ladies' Tailors & Alteration
Workers' Union, Local 80.

H. HILFMAN, Secretary.

Italian Branch, Local 25, Favors a Separate Italian Local.

The following resolution has been adopted by the Italian branch of local 25:

"Whereas, a certain group styling itself the Welfare and Propaganda League has issued a leaflet in which insinuations were made against the Italian Leaders of this branch who favored the establishment of an Italian Local,

Whereas, the demand of the Italian Local was made unanimously and without a dissenting vote from the Italian mass at every meeting and this demand expresses the wish of all the faithful Italian Unions.

Whereas, the establishment of the Italian Local will not be considered as a nationalistic aim, but a means of organizing the Italians and training them in the International struggle of the workers, teaching them the responsibility of self government.

Whereas, the above named group is making this an issue of the coming elections of the Executive Board.

The Italian Branch assembled on this 25th day of October, 1919 unanimously

RESOLVED:

1. To protest against the action of this group and their insinuations against the Italian Local, said Local being a benefit to the Union.

2. To express the confidence in the Italian leaders who, instead of being demagogues as they are called in that leaflet, are the sincere carriers of the wishes expressed by all the Italians at their different meetings.

3. To accept the challenge of the issue for the coming elections.

4. To send this resolution and protest to the Executive Board in order that this protest be embodied in the records of our Union.

SALVATORE AMICO,
Sec. Italian Branch."

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 82nd St.
Drezwell Dress Co.,
14 East 82nd St.
Regina Kobler,
352 Fourth Ave.
Deitz & Ottenberg,
2-16 West 33rd St.
Snappy Dress,
510 Sixth Avenue.

THE UNION
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
Local 35, I. L. G. W. U.
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THE WEEK'S NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By SAM. B. SHENKER

Two Special Meetings of All Branches

Two special meetings of all branches of Cutters' Union will be held within the next few weeks at which questions of importance will be taken up. One meeting, which will take place Wednesday evening, November 5th, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place, will take up the question of levying a \$2 assessment on the membership in aid of the striking steel workers. The second meeting will take place on Monday evening, November 24th, at Arlington Hall. At this meeting a vote will be taken on the city where the next convention of the International is to take place.

The membership is, no doubt, familiar with the recent meeting of all Executive Boards of the city when the International's decision, rendered through its General Executive Board, to raise a quarter of a million dollars towards helping the steel workers win their strike, was acted upon favorably.

It is hardly necessary to go into the details of the strike and the need to help the workers. The strike is making history in the American labor movement. Victory for the steel workers will strengthen the labor cause throughout the country. It is therefore the duty of every cutter to attend the special meeting and pledge his aid toward a successful conclusion of the steel strike.

The next convention of the International will take place in May 1920. It is an established rule for local unions to vote by means of a referendum on the city where the convention is to be held. The meetings of the cutters' union at which the voting on the convention-city takes place are interesting, and members are advised to attend in large numbers.

Four Trades Observe Election Day

Four cutting trades within Local 10 observe Election Day, in

intipize those unions even as our French syndicalist fellow-workers have so successfully done with theirs.

"Among the syndicalists the sentiment is strong and growing ceaselessly, that the tactics are bad and that endeavors should be made inside of the A. F. of L.; that it is in the existing unions that the syndicalists must struggle without ceasing."

In a book on syndicalism published soon after his return in 1912 Foster gives an excellent account of the principles and practice of revolutionary trade-unionism. He is apparently now trying out his own theories, and has achieved astonishing success in the packing industry and the steel industry. He is not ashamed to work quietly, and achieves his ends by clear thinking and fundamental organization. It is a question whether the steel workers with such heavy odds against them can win in this struggle with the Colossus, but if victory is possible with any leader it is possible with William Z. Foster. He is indeed a man with a past. But in the words of Oscar Wilde we will hope that he still has a beautiful past in store for him in the future.

part or in full, with pay. The Raincoat Cutters have secured the full holiday with pay. The Children's Dress, Underwear and Wrapper and Kimono trades observe half of the holiday with pay. That is, they are permitted to work under the agreement to 12 o'clock noon, and are to receive pay for the full day.

The cutters of the Branch should bear in mind that a picket committee will as usual be stationed in the various districts and those found working on the time mentioned will be liable to punishment.

Cloak Men To Nominate Officers

The Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Reefer and Raincoat cutters will hold their regular meeting this Monday, November 3rd, at Arlington Hall. The purpose of the meeting, aside from the usual order of business, is the nomination of officers for the ensuing term of one year.

The candidates to be nominated are: 1 manager, 4 business agents; 2 executive board members and one trustee. Elsewhere in this issue will be found a notice of the meeting as well as the qualifications for candidacy. The qualifications, it must be borne in mind, do not apply to paid officers of any local of the International, or of the International itself.

Underwear Cutters To Ask for Raise

The recommendation of the Underwear cutters, made at their recent meeting to the effect that the Executive Board request of the Cotton Garment Manufacturers' Association an increase, was taken up at the Tuesday meeting of the Board. It was decided that a letter be forwarded to the International, through whom the request will be forwarded to the Association.

While it is true that the majority of the cutters in this trade are receiving wages above the minimum, nevertheless, if the cutters are to hold on to their gains the minimum should be increased. Their present wage, that is the minimum, is \$31 per week. This, under present economic conditions, is far below the needs of the workers, and makes it necessary to increase the minimum.

Discharge of Patternmaker Held Unjustified

The discharge of a patternmaker, who was employed in one of the association shops, was held unjustified by an impartial chairman before whom the chief clerks took the case.

The facts of the case, in brief, are the following: Not long ago the union filed a complaint with the association to the effect that a patternmaker employed by one of their members was discharged after working in the shop for eight months. The union held that the discharge was one for union activity. The union based its argument on the fact that the firm employed a non-union apprentice some time previous and succeeded in having the boy discharged;

that a shop meeting of the cutters was held where they were instructed not to permit any learners at the cutting table; that a day following this meeting the patternmaker in question found one of the cutters making patterns; that on the following Saturday he, the patternmaker, was discharged.

When the case was taken up before the impartial chairman, the firm brought timecards to show that the worker in question was in the shop of coming in late. The union fully trusted this aside with proof of the same timecards that the worker stayed longer to make up for tardiness. The firm then brought along some linings to show that the patternmaker was guilty of an error. This also was checkedmate by the fact that the mistake was originally made by the stock clerk in the firm's employ. In short, every argument the employer brought up was waved aside by the union as insufficient proof, and backed this up with proof. That the union proved the discharge of the patternmaker to be for union activity may be seen from the following summary of the decision of the impartial chairman:

"At best it is a close case. The chairman must determine whether

or not the discharge was the result of actual inefficiency, or was caused by conscious or unconscious prejudice against the worker. In his decision, the Chairman has been mainly guided by what seems to be absolutely fair and frank testimony on the part of a co-worker, one Mr. —, a man employed with the firm for the past nine years. It may be mentioned that he is a relative of one of the members of the firm, and this fact is mentioned for no other reason but that it may stamp his testimony with that degree of impartiality which is so necessary. In the deciding of a case, Mr. — testified of having worked almost side by side with Mr. —; that he found him to be as efficient as the average; that another man was detailed to assist him in his work immediately after the discharge of the apprentice and that in his opinion the work of Mr. — did not deteriorate.

"The Chairman cannot help but feel that consciously or unconsciously, the activity of Mr. — in the meeting has affected the judgment of the firm, and considering the period of eight months of satisfactory employment the benefit must be resolved in favor of the worker and he is ordered reinstated with back pay."

TOILING WOMEN OF WORLD OPEN FIRST CONGRESS

Washington, D. C. — The first international congress of working women opened last Wednesday in the auditorium of the new National Museum here. Addresses of welcome were made by representatives of the National Women's Trade Union League. Luther C. Stewart, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees, welcomed the delegates to America in the name of organized labor.

Cablegrams from labor and Socialist organizations throughout the world were received, sending their greetings and felicitations to the congress. Among these were messages from the Central Board of Social-Democratic Women of Sweden, Arthur Henderson of the British Labor party and the Oeuvres Sociales Feminines Chretienne de Belgique.

Mrs. Raymond Robins, chairman of the congress, in her address of welcome, said in part:

"What more fitting than that the women of the world should choose this hour to accept and assume their full responsibilities. Women are builders of the race; to us is intrusted the protection of life. The social and industrial order must meet this challenge.

"There can be no compromise with the exploitation of women; with long hours and low wages. There can be no compromise with unemployment nor with poverty arising out of social conditions."

Margaret Bondfield, delegate from England, who answered the welcome of Mrs. Robins in behalf of the British delegation, said in the course of her remarks:

"The British are thinking on today and think that the women of the world are going to help complete a new form of civilization. However little we are able to do in constructive building in a conference like this, at least we can do something in building up friendships, in building up the spirit of good will, in building up the spirit of determination that in the future we will strive for the

things that are most worth while in life; and, of course, those of us that belong to the labor movement feel that we are working at the very foundation stones of civilization. Unless we are consolidated and united, we can never have a proper civilization; unless labor is free, we can never get a proper civilization."

Prolonged applause greeted her speech.

Seventeen nations are now represented at the Congress: They are: France, Japan, Poland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, England, Canada, Italy, Argentina, Norway, Denmark, Serbia, Spain, India and Switzerland.

Each nation represented in the conference has 10 votes.

The policies and questions to be dismissed will be determined from day to day. The plan is to act upon the resolutions and suggestions presented by the various delegates, and the result will be regarded as the stand of the Congress upon social and economic questions of the day.

MILLS OUST AMERICANS

The ousting of American workers from the steel mills started immediately after the Homestead strike, said Michael F. Tighe, president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, in testifying on the steel strike before the senate committee on education and labor.

"In 1892, when the Homestead strike took place," said Tighe, "90 per cent of the workers in steel mills were Americans. They struck against a reduction of wages in the Carnegie plants and lost. A system of espionage was then established in the plants; many Americans left. An influx of foreigners commenced."

President Tighe read an advertisement of the steel trust, issued in 1903, which said: "Men wanted—Syrians, Poles and Rumanians preferred."

AN ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE THE INTERNATIONAL IN TAMMANY POLITICS

(Continued from Page 1)
ate incident. He at the same time wrote a letter to Benjamin Schlesinger again expressing his regrets and saying that he had never taken the letter to his father as anything but a personal statement by Schlesinger.

But to nip this political intrigue in the bud and to remove any suspicion that the International had anything to do with the letter, which the campaign managers of Mr. Irwin Untermyer made into propaganda, — though the letter was quickly suppressed — Ab. Baroff, General Secretary of the I. L. G. W. U. with approval of the General Executive Board issued the following statement:

Oct. 28, 1919.

"The managers of the Democratic campaign in this city are circulating a letter addressed by Benj. Schlesinger, president of our organization, to Mr. Samuel Untermyer, in reply to a letter written to him by Mr. Untermyer.

The use of the official stationery of our organization by the managers of the Democratic Party for campaign purposes would tend to create a totally wrong and misleading impression, and is regretted and resented by our Union.

I regret very much that this affair occurred during the absence of President Schlesinger from New York for the past two weeks, on account of ill health. It was impossible for me to get in touch with him during the course of the day and get from him a statement about this entire matter. I am quite certain that as soon as he receives the news he will issue a complete explanation of the situation. It is only fair to ask that public opinion, and particularly our Socialist press, withhold its judgment until President Schlesinger will have had an opportunity to explain his position.

ABR. BAROFF,
Gen. Sec.-Treasurer."

This statement kills the whole intrigue, of course. As to Schlesinger, — though he never mentioned a word about the letter — we are certain that he never thought that it would be used for campaign purposes. Had he anticipated such a possibility he would either not have written it at all, or would have so framed it as not to give an opportunity to his enemies, of whom he has quite a few even in his own circles, to make scandal.

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The following will participate:

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The famous violinist, Morris Nitke.....Violinist
The well known pianist, Mollie Berenstein.....Pianist
The popular organist, Homer Emerson Williams..Organist

Speakers:

Honorable Judge Jacob Panken.
Abraham Baroff, General Secretary-treasurer of our Intl.
Elmer Rosenberg, first Vice-President of our International.
Fannia M. Cohn, Vice-President of our International.
Vice-President Samuel Lefkowitz, who was in charge of our successful strike will preside.

Tickets free to every member in the offices of our union: 725 Lexington Avenue, N. Y. City, and 99 McKibben Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

LADIES' TAILORS & ALTERATION WORKERS' UNION, LOCAL 80

LADIES' TAILORS & ALTERATION WORKERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 80.

To All The Ladies' Tailors:

Election Day.

is one of the legal holidays recognized in our agreement. The workers are entitled to pay for that day and are not supposed to work. Any one that will be found working on Tuesday, November 4th, will be fined.

Ladies' Tailors & Alteration
Workers' Union, Local 80.

H. HILFMAN, Secretary.

Italian Branch, Local 25, Favors a Separate Italian Local.

The following resolution has been adopted by the Italian branch of local 25:

"Whereas, a certain group styling itself the Welfare and Propaganda League has issued a leaflet in which insinuations were made against the Italian Leaders of this branch who favored the establishment of an Italian Local,

Whereas, the demand of the Italian Local was made unanimously and without a dissenting vote from the Italian mass at every meeting and this demand expresses the wish of all the faithful Italian Unionists.

Whereas, the establishment of the Italian Local will not be considered as a nationalistic aim, but a means of organizing the Italians and training them in the international struggle of the workers, teaching them the responsibility of self government.

Whereas, the above named group is making this an issue of the coming elections of the Executive Board.

The Italian Branch assembled on this 25th day of October, 1919 unanimously

RESOLVED:

1. To protest against the action of this group and their insinuations against the Italian Local, said Local being a benefit to the Union.

2. To express the confidence in the Italian leaders who, instead of being demagogues as they are called in that leaflet, are the sincere carriers of the wishes expressed by all the Italians at their different meetings.

3. To accept the challenge of the issue for the coming elections.

4. To send this resolution and protest to the Executive Board in order that this protest be embodied in the records of our Union.

SALVATORE AMICO,
Sec. Italian Branch."

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 & Millus,
136 Madison Ave.
M. Stern,
33 East 33rd St.
Max Cohen,
105 Madison Ave.
Julian Waist Co.,
15 East 32nd St.
Drexell Dress Co.,
14 East 32nd St.
Regina Kobler,
352 Fourth Ave.
Deitz & Ottenberg,
2-16 West 33rd St.
Snappy Dress,
510 Sixth Avenue.

THE UNION
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
Local 35, I. L. G. W. U.

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FOSTER IN CONFERENCE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR LOCALS

(Continued from Page 1)
blood of their blood, their sisters
and brothers.

ABB. BAROFF,
Gen. Sec.-Treasurer.

The Joint Board of the New York Cloakmakers' Union decided to levy a \$2 assessment upon its membership to raise its quota of the \$250,000 pledged by the International. The Board advanced from its treasury \$30,000 and immediately forwarded the sum to the steel strikers. Many locals in N. Y. and other ladies garment centers have followed the example of the Joint Board and have advanced part of their quotas from their treasuries. It is expected that the \$250,000 will be raised within the next two or three weeks.

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OUR UNITY CENTERS.

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CUTTERS' UNION OF LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS:

NOTICE OF MEETINGS AND NOMINA-
TION OF OFFICERS:

CLOAK AND SUIT BRANCH:

Monday, November 3rd.

DRESS AND WAIST BRANCH:

Monday, November 10th.

MISCELLANEOUS BRANCH:

Monday, November 17th.

GENERAL OFFICERS: (Special Meeting)

Monday, November 24th.

Meetings begin at 7.30 P.M.

**AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place
ELIGIBILITY:**

Practical Ladies' Garment Cutters who have worked in the trade 4 months within the year. 2 of the 4 months must have been put in within the 6 months preceding the election.

Prospective nominees must be in good standing; they should not owe more than 12 weeks dues on the night of nomination. All assessments and other obligations must be settled. Only those who have been members of the union for at least 2 years can run.

**DR. BARNET L.
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RAINCOAT AND MISCELLANEOUS CUT- TERS OF LOCAL 10, ATTENTION!

RAINCOAT cutters are instructed to observe

ELECTION DAY

November 4th, with pay.

UNDERWEAR, WRAPPER and KIMONO

AND CHILDREN DRESS CUTTERS

are instructed to observe the half holiday on

Election Day, November 4th, with pay.

(Work must cease at 12 o'clock noon.)

Cutters of any of the above trades found work-
ing or going to work any part of the time

mentioned are liable to fine.

H. BERLIN, Pres.

E. ROSENBERG, Sec'y.

MEMBERS OF LOCAL 10 CUTTERS' UNION, ATTENTION!

A SPECIAL MEETING

of all Branches will be held

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 5th

ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARKS PLACE

for the purpose of

voting on the \$2 assessment in aid of
the striking steel workers.

By order of the EXECUTIVE BOARD
S. ROTHENBER, Pres. E. ROSENBERG, Sec'y.