

"My righteous-  
ness I hold  
fast, and will  
not let it go."  
— Job. 37, 6.

# JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

VOL. I. No. 44.

New York, Friday, November 14, 1919.

Price 2 Cents

## INTERNATIONAL GIVES FIRST INSTALLMENT OF \$250,000 SOLIDARITY FUND

## WAIST MAKERS CHOOSE NEW EX- ECUTIVE BOARD

### PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER GIVES THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLAR CHECK AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN RALLY.

Total of \$169,000 Raised at the Meeting.—Greatest Sum Ever Raised at a Labor Gathering.

GARDEN MEETING HELD UNDER AUSPICES OF ORGANIZED LABOR OF GREATER NEW YORK.

### Foster Sends Receipt for Check and Thanks.

A meeting of historical significance took place at the Madison Square Garden last Saturday. The object in calling the meeting was, first, to raise at once a relief fund for the steel strikers, and secondly, to acquaint New York Labor with the actual situation in the steel districts, thus counteracting the effects of the conspiracy of the capitalist press, which seeks to create the impression that the strike is as good as broken.

In both respects the rally at the Madison Square Garden last Saturday was a brilliant success. It is true that the huge hall was not filled to capacity. The meeting had been called rather late for extensive advertising. Besides, the building was surrounded by a cordon of police and detectives who prevented many persons from entering the hall on the false pretense that it was already filled to capacity, though there was still room enough for a few thousand more.

But in spite of all this the meeting was a huge success. The sum of \$169 thousand dollars was raised at the meeting. And this means that at least during the next two weeks the wives and children of the strikers would be supplied with sufficient food to sustain their lives.

The first large contribution was made, on behalf of the International, by its President, Benjamin Schlesinger. He handed the chairman a check for 25 thousand dollars—the sum raised by the various locals of the International toward the \$250,000 solidarity fund pledged by the General Executive Board of the International. Then came the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America with a \$100,000 check, which represented the sum raised by that organization among its many branches. Other large and small contributions followed, and it was obvious that the labor movement of Greater New York would do its utmost to keep starvation away from the doors of the strikers and their families, to keep them supplied with necessities of life so long as king Gary persists in his efforts to crush their elementary rights.

As to the actual strike situation, Fitzpatrick and Foster, the two chief leaders of the steel strike,

made it plain to the audience that despite the brutality and atrocity of the trust and its army of thugs, hired and public-paid, the strike was in excellent condition. No steel is produced, and this is what counts after all. No steel will be produced, the speakers assured the audience, until Gary will bend before the demands of the strikers.

The following letter from Wm.

## SCHLESINGER INVITED TO A. F. OF L. EMERGENCY GATHERING

President Schlesinger as chief executive of the International was formally invited to attend the emergency conference of the heads of national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and of the representatives of the four railway brotherhoods, which will consider the present crisis precipitated by the government's attitude toward organized labor. The conference is scheduled to take place on Dec. 13.

The letter of invitation follows:

Oct. 28, 1919.  
Mr. Benj. Schlesinger, Pres.,  
International Ladies' Garment  
Workers' Union,  
31 Union Square,  
New York City.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Nearly a month before the declaration of war by the United States Government, the executives of the national and international unions met in conference in Washington and then there declared Labor's attitude toward our government whether in peace or in war, and Labor made good.

The armistice was signed Nov. 11, 1918. Automatically hostilities have ended. Technically we are yet in a state of war. The return of industry from a war footing to a peace basis is not readily accomplished. The patriotic fervor of our country in peril, for the dangers which threatened the overthrow of democracy and freedom, seems to have subsided.

Z. Foster was received at the office of the International:

November 10, 1919.

Mr. Benj. Schlesinger, Pres.,  
Intl. Ladies' Garment  
Workers' Union,  
31 Union Square,  
New York City.

Dear Friend Schlesinger:

Enclosed find receipt for the check for \$25,000 donated by your organization to the steel strike fund. How can I thank you enough for the splendid support you are giving the steel workers in their heroic struggle to establish at least a semblance of freedom in the steel industry. I am satisfied that every dollar you put into this fight will return to your organization in some form or other at least a hundred-fold.

Thanking you again, and with very best wishes, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

WM. Z. FOSTER,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

A new executive board has been elected by members of the Ladies' Waist Makers' Union, Local 25.

The following is a list of the newly elected Executive Board members:

Anna Epstein, Rose Genet, Sarah Kaplan, I. Leibowitz, H. Weissglass, Pauline Stein, H. Golub, B. Rothstein, Eva Packer, Sarah Goldberg, Abraham Lupin, D. Chernushin, Mollie Katz, Olga Beckman, Fannie Blecher, Sadie Rockoff.

Pressers' Branch: Louis Cohen, I. Silberberg, Meyer Loev.

Tuckers' Branch: H. Silberman, I. Ehrlich.

Bronx Branch: L. Barrie, R. Krass.

Italian Branch: R. Aronica, La Guglielmo, F. Giannone, A. Bartolo, P. Pigilante, J. Ranno.

Brooklyn Branch: I. Spector, S. Nathanson.

Brownsville Branch: M. Ostrofsky.

Harlem Branch: M. Orenstein.

Another member is to be elected from the Brownsville and Harlem branches, thus completing the board. Only 33 were chosen thus far.

Voting took place on November 6, 7 and 8 at the union office, 16 West 21st Street, and six other polling stations.

We congratulate the Waist and Dressmakers' Union upon the outcome of these important elections and we hope that the New Executive Board will render the great union still greater and stronger.

representatives of the farmers, while in sympathy with the purposes of the conference, did not feel that they had the authority to append their names to this call. However, formal communications will be sent to their conventions inviting them to appoint representatives to participate in the conference of December 13th with authority to speak in the name of the organization they represent.

You are earnestly urged to attend the conference in person, and thereby give the most effective and responsible expression of the needs to meet the situation.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

We conferred with the representatives of the various farmers organizations. The conventions of these several bodies will be held within the next thirty days. The

# Situation in the Miners' Strike

## Injunction Made Permanent

The coal miners lost their case in court. Judge Anderson granted the application of the U. S. Government for a writ making the injunction against the coal miners' leaders permanent and ordered the latter to revoke the strike order within seventy-two hours.

Though it was expected that the judge who issued the temporary injunction would also issue a permanent injunction of the same nature, the court proceedings came as a surprise even to the most pessimistic, for Judge Anderson refused to hear the arguments of the miners' attorneys, stating that the right of workers to strike is not involved in this case, which is purely a case of obeying and enforcing the law. The Lever Act upon which the injunction was predicated makes it a crime for two or more persons to hinder the production of coal during the war. And since the war is not yet over, the leaders of the miners committed a breach of law in calling the strike.

This Criminal case was issued last Saturday, and on Monday the officials of the United Mine Workers of America met at Indianapolis to discuss the situation and decide whether the court order should be obeyed or not.

The miners' chiefs were in session all night, and early Tuesday morning they decided to yield to the court order and call off the strike.

At the present writing it is as yet too early to predict the effect of this decision upon the rank and file of the strikers. Certain it is that the coal miners will think twice before returning to work under duress. They will realize that the order calling off the strike was issued by their leaders as an alternative to the government's strangling the United Mine Workers of America. But if it was proved true that "you can't dig coal with an injunction" it may prove equally true that "you can't force men to work by a court decree." So far as the men are concerned the miners' strike is not yet over. And in this, as in any other strike, it is the men that count, after all.

## The Stand of the A. F. of L.

The position taken by the A. F. of L. on the coal miners' strike came as a surprise to many. Those miners are affiliated with the A. F. of L. and the Samuel Gompers, the president of the A. F. of L. had condemned the temporary injunction in no uncertain terms, it was hardly expected that after the government had won its case in its own court, which ordered the miners' officials to rescind the strike order not later than Tuesday, the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. would issue a statement indorsing the strike and thus openly defying the government.

The statement of the Executive Council is an arraignment of the government's autocratic action toward the miners, and an appeal to all liberty loving citizens to uphold the cause of the miners, which is also the cause of liberty.

The statement follows in part: "The executive council is of the opinion that the officers of the United Mine Workers of America did everything in their power to avert this great industrial contro-

very. Of all the great industries in our country there is none so dangerous to human life as the coal industry. The men who go down under the ground to dig coal so that the domestic and industrial needs of the nation may be supplied are engaged in work more hazardous than any other employment.

"Due consideration has never been given to the danger surrounding the coal miners. There is no other class of employment where each individual worker is so isolated and in whose districts there is such lack of opportunity of social-intercourse and employment. The condition of the miner and his family is such that he is practically deprived not only of sunshine and fresh air, but to a certain extent he is deprived of the association and companionship of all human beings outside his own particular class, who are themselves engaged in the dangerous and unhealthy occupation of coal mining. The miners suffer more than any other workers from periods of compulsory unemployment.

"Authentic statistics show that the miners have less than 200 days of employment during each year. The wages of the miners consequently having to spread over the entire year are greatly reduced as a result of the non-employment existing in that industry.

"The high cost of living has presented itself in perhaps a more serious form in isolated mining camps than in large industrial centres. There is usually not the same opportunity for the miners in the mining camps to make their purchases to such advantage as is presented in other localities. Their isolation prevents this.

"The United Mine Workers in their convention held during the month of September in the city of Cleveland adopted a positive declaration demanding improved conditions of employment for the miners. They further instructed the officers to proceed to obtain by negotiations with the operators the working conditions that the convention unanimously adopted.

"There were almost 2,200 delegates seated in the convention, representing 500,000 organized miners. They further positively and explicitly instructed their officers that unless an agreement was reached on or before the first day of November, 1919, the resolution of the convention calling for a strike on November 1, 1919, should be communicated to the membership. There was no alternative except for the officers who are elected by the membership to carry out the direct instructions of the membership or resign from their positions as officers, in which event chaos and confusion would result.

"Never in the history of our country has any such mandatory order been obtained or even applied for by the Government or by any person, company or corporation.

"Both the restraining order and the injunction, in so far as its prohibitory features are concerned, are predicated upon the Lever act, a law enacted by Congress for the purpose of prevent-

ing speculation and profiteering of the food and fuel supplies of the country. There never was in the minds of Congress in enacting that law or in the mind of the President when he signed it that the Lever act would be applied to workers in cases of strikes or lockouts.

"The food controller, Mr. Hoover, specifically so stated. Members of the committee having the bill in charge have in writing declared that it was not in the mind of the committee, and the then Attorney-General, Mr. Gregory, gave assurance that the Government would not apply that law to the workers' effort to obtain improved working conditions. Every assurance from the highest authority of our Government was given that the law would not be so applied."

We omit the part of the statement reviewing the negotiations with the coal operators and the court proceedings that led first to the temporary injunction and then to the order to call off the strike. About the latter step of the government the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. has the following to say:

"In the course of President Wilson's address to the Buffalo convention of the American Federation of Labor in November, 1917, among other things he said:

"While we are fighting for freedom we must see among other things that labor is free and that means a number of interesting things. It means not only that we must do what we have declared our purpose to do — see that the conditions of labor are not rendered more onerous by the war — but also that we shall see to it that the instrumentalities by which the conditions of labor are improved are not blocked or checked. That we must do."

"The autocratic action of our Government in these proceedings is of such a nature that it staggers the human mind. In a free country to conceive of a Government applying for and obtaining a restraining order prohibiting the officials of a labor organization from contributing their own money for the purpose of procuring food for women and children that might be starving is something that when known will shock the sensibilities of man and will cause resentment.

"Surely the thousands of men who are lying in France under the soil, whose blood was offered for the freedom of the world, never dreamed that so shortly afterward in their own country 450,000 workers endeavoring to better their working conditions would have the Government decide that they were not entitled to the assistance of their fellow men and that their wives and children should starve by order of the Government.

"It is a well established principle that the inherent purpose of the injunction processes, where there is no other adequate remedy at law, was for the purpose of protecting property and property rights only, thereby exercising the equity power of the courts to prevent immediate and irreparable injury.

"It was never intended, and there is no warrant of the law in all our country to use, the injunction power of equity courts to curtail personal rights or regulate personal relations. It was never intended to take the place of government by law by substituting personal and discretionary government.

"The Lever act provides its own penalties for violators of its provisions. The injunction issued in this case has for its purpose not a trial by court and a jury, but an order of the court predicated upon the assumption that the law might be violated and by which the defendants may be brought before the court for contempt and without any trial by jury.

"We declare that the proceedings in this case are unwarranted, as they are unparalleled in the history of our country, and we declare that it is an injustice which not only the workers but all liberty loving Americans will repudiate and demand redress. The effort to permit the establishment of maintenance of a princetownship of our country cannot ciple which strikes at the very foundation of justice and freedom. To restore the confidence in the institutions of our country and the respect due the courts, this injunction should be withdrawn and the records cleansed from so outrageous a proceeding.

"By all the facts in the case before us, we are convinced of the miners' strike is justified. We in justice of the miners' cause."

"We pledge to the miners the full support of the American Federation of Labor and appeal to the workers and the citizenship of our country to give like indorsement and aid to the men engaged in this momentous struggle."

## Stevedores Won't Handle Guns Against Russia

Stevedores and Truckers' Union No. 3812 of Seattle, Wash., is standing pat in its refusal to load Kolchak rifles aboard the steamer Delight.

United States Shipping Board notwithstanding repeated threats to both the local union and the district office, the union has notified the employers' association that any member of the union who handled the arms would be suspended from the work list for 30 days.

In answer to the claim of the employers association that the loading of the arms is demanded by the United States Government, which the union denies, the union has reminded the operators that the shipper of the arms is the Russian Mission on Ways and Communication, an institution of the Czar; that the arms are intended for Admiral Kolchak, formerly an officer in the Czar's navy, who is conducting a filibustering expedition; and that the shipment of arms is in violation of international law.

Union stevedores of San Francisco will not handle supplies, arms, and munitions shipments consigned to the Allies in Siberia "for the overthrow of the Soviet government," it was announced by the "Riggers" and Stevedores' Union.

# SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

The following statement in reference to his letter to Samuel Untermeyer was issued by Benjamin Schlesinger:

"A careful reading of my letter will disclose that it does not contain a single word of praise or commendation of the candidate, Mr. Irwin Untermeyer. I am speaking in that letter only of his father, Mr. Samuel Untermeyer, and everything that I state about him is absolutely true, and something to which every Socialist may subscribe.

"I have written this letter in reply to an inquiry by Mr. Samuel Untermeyer, an inquiry to which it was my duty, as president of the International Union, to reply, as a person who had liberally aided us in critical times financially and morally requested me to say a word in relation to the attacks directed upon him, on the ground of his aid to the radical and labor movement, in order to injure thereby the candidacy of his son. In that letter to me Mr. Samuel Untermeyer specifically refers to the fact that his enemies are endeavoring to make particular capital of the work he had done for the clockmakers in the lock-out and strike of 1916. (In passing I wish to say that Mr. Samuel Untermeyer contributed during that strike \$2,500 weekly to the striking clock makers.)

"I felt that it was my duty, both as an individual and as a representative of our organization, to reply to this letter and to state in it the truth, the true fact that the ladies' garment workers owe a great deal to Mr. Samuel Untermeyer.

"I fail to see how a clear-headed person, a person who is not seeking to fish in waters muddied by himself, can interpret this letter as an endorsement of Untermeyer's son. There is not a word in that letter in favor or against his son: all I said there was that I feel that the attacks being made upon his son because of the fact that he, Samuel Untermeyer, was friendly to labor will not injure his son but will create favorable public opinion. This phrase is not more than an appreciation of the liberal attitude and actions of Samuel Untermeyer and an urging that he may pursue the same liberal policy in the future.

"If a similar request, like the one made by Samuel Untermeyer to have been made to me by such persons as Louis Marshall, Jacob H. Schiff, Judge Julian W. Mack, Dr. Felix Adler, Professor Kirchweg, Justice Brandeis, Mrs. Willard Straight, Miss Lillian Wald, Allen Robinson or Dr. Josiah Magnes, I could have given no different reply than the one I have made to Samuel Untermeyer.

"The printing of this letter by the Democratic campaign managers in the form of a photograph of the letter-head of our international union with the inscription 'Vote for Irwin Untermeyer,' was done without the knowledge or consent of either Samuel Untermeyer or myself. The fact is that as soon as the attention of Mr. Untermeyer was directed to this

## NOTICE TO EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES OF THE LOCALS

The third meeting of the Permanent Joint Conference of the Educational Committees of the Locals will be held in the Council Room, 31 Union Square, Saturday, November 15th at 2 P. M. Very important questions will be considered. Each Local is urged to send the full representation of its Educational Committee. A permanent secretary of the Conference will be elected at this meeting. In addition, final arrangements will be made for the special course for active members. The curriculum for this course will be announced and discussed. Do not fail to attend the meeting promptly at 2 o'clock.

## BULLETIN WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 10, 1919.

**EAST SIDE UNITY CENTER,**  
Public School 63,  
4th St. near 1st Ave.,  
New York City.

Thursday, Nov. 13th, 7.45.—First lecture by Miss Ellen A. Kennan on Drama and Life, Galsworthy's "The Silver Box."

**BRONX UNITY CENTER,**  
Public School 54,  
Freeman St. & Intervale Ave.,  
New York City.

Saturday, Nov. 15th, 1.30 P. M. First lecture on Health and Personal Hygiene by Dr. Anna E. Roy-Robinson.

Friday, Nov. 14th, 7.45 P. M. First lecture by Mrs. Olga Marx on The Interpretation of the Modern Drama, Hauptmann's "The Weavers."

**WAISTMAKERS' UNITY CENTER,**  
Public School 40,  
320 East 20th St.,  
Manhattan.

Friday, Nov. 14th, 8 P. M. First meeting with dramatic group and discussion of Hirschbein's "The Idle Inn" under the leadership of Dr. Moissaye J. Olgin.

**BROWNVILLE UNITY CENTER,**  
Public School 84,  
Stone and Glenmore Aves.  
Brooklyn.

Thursday, Nov. 13th, 7.45. First lecture of Mr. Frank Tannenbaum on "The Reasons for the Labor Movement."

Friday, Nov. 14th, 7.45 P. M. First lecture by Miss Ellen A. Kennan on Drama and Life, Galsworthy's "The Silver Box."

## BULLETIN FOR WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 17th.

**EAST SIDE UNITY CENTER,**  
Public School 63,  
4th St. near 1st Ave.

Thursday, Nov. 18th, 9 P. M. Second lecture by Frank Tannenbaum, "Conservative Functions of the Labor Movement."

fact he made a public statement regretting the incident and ordering the withdrawal of the circular.

"I have in this instance, as always, acted in the best interests of the tens of thousands of the members of our international and of the labor movement in general."

Thursday, Nov. 20th, 7.45 P. M. Second lecture by Miss Ellen A. Kennan, George Bernard Shaw's "Getting Married."

**BROWNVILLE UNITY CENTER,**  
Public School 84,  
Stone & Glenmore Aves.,  
Brooklyn.

Thursday, Nov. 20th, 7.45 P. M. Second lecture by Frank Tannenbaum, "Conservative Functions of the Labor Movement."

Friday, Nov. 21st, 7.45 P. M. Second lecture by Miss Ellen A. Kennan, George Bernard Shaw's "Getting Married."

**BRONX UNITY CENTER,**  
Public School 54,  
Intervale Ave. & Freeman St.  
Bronx.

Friday, Nov. 21st, 7.45 P. M. Second lecture by Mrs. Olga Marx, Two plays by great Jewish writers: Schnitzler's "Professor Bernhardi" and David Pinski's "The Treasure."

Saturday, Nov. 22nd, 1.30 P. M. Second lecture by Dr. Anna E. Roy-Robinson, Drinking Water, and Ventilation. Clothes, in Summer and in Winter.

**WAISTMAKERS' UNITY CENTER,**  
Public School 40,  
320 East 20th St.,  
Manhattan.

Tuesday, Nov. 16th, 8.45 P. M. First lecture by Mrs. Lillian Soskin Rogers, "An Introduction of Trade Unionism."

Friday, Nov. 21st, 8 P. M. Second meeting of class under Dr. Olgin, the play being, "Lonely Lives," by Gerhard Hauptmann.

Tickets for these plays can be obtained at the Educational Department Office, 31 Union Square, and at the office of Local 25.

Last Saturday, November 8th, Dr. Friedland, our Educational Director, attended a meeting of the Joint Educational Committees of Local 15 and Local 69 of Philadelphia. The attendance was very gratifying and a business-like meeting was conducted in the Unity Center, 38 North 11th St., Philadelphia. Dr. Friedland spoke about the progress of the educational work in New York and went on to discuss the general aims and purposes of trade-union education. He gave specific advice and suggestions as to the carrying on of the educational courses in Philadelphia. These things were especially necessary as Local 69 has only just begun educational work. It looks as if the registration in Philadelphia will compare more than favorably with ours in New York, so we must hustle to enroll larger numbers for our courses here, where our largest membership resides.

In the evening, a concert was held under the auspices of the Cloak Finishers' Union, Local 69, at the Lulu Temple in Philadelphia. There was a large attendance, who listened enthusiastically to the musical numbers played by Hermann Weinberg, violinist, and sung by Estelle Schreiner, soprano. There were two addresses, one by Miss Fannia M. Cohn, Vice President of the International Committee of the Educational, and the second by Dr. Friedland, the Educational Director. Both

of the addresses were limited to the need of educational work to the necessity for increased registration in our classes and to an explanation of our educational plans, which are being based entirely on the economic and industrial factors involved. A large number of the members of Local 69—listed at the close of the concert. The meeting was gratifying in every way and our co-workers in Philadelphia adopted the slogan of our Educational Department: "Learn to Register! Live to Learn! Learn to Live!"

Registration for educational work at the Waistmakers' Unity Center, P. S. 40, 320 West 20th Street has been extended for a week or two longer. Anyone wishing to attend the classes in English, Mondays, Tuesday, and Wednesdays at 7 P. M., the class in gymnastics and Social Recreation on Thursdays at 6.30 P. M., or the lectures on health, economics, or the drama, may register between seven and eight P. M. or at any office of the Union.

Great interest has been shown in the course on the Social Interpretation of the Modern Drama given by Dr. Moissaye Olgin four successive Friday evenings, beginning November 14th. The first play will be "The Idle Inn," and students are requested to see the play before the opening date. Arrangements are being made to procure tickets at half price. Those desiring to take advantage of this should consult the educational department.

Tuesday, November 11th, Lillian Soskin Rogers will give a lecture on "The Introduction of Trade Unionism," and will continue to lecture on Trade Unionism every alternate Tuesday evening. The Tuesday evening on which she does not give a lecture will be filled by one on health by Dr. Anna E. Roy-Robinson. Mr. Frank L. Tannenbaum will also give lectures on Economics alternate Thursdays, at 8 P. M. the opening date to be announced later.

Preparations are under way for a grand opening re-union for all of the Unity friends. This will probably be at the Center, Saturday evening following Thanksgiving. All those who wish to help on the Reception Committee will please give their names to Mrs. Retting.

Sunday morning, November 16, 1919, all those who wish to participate in a hike on the Palisades will meet Mrs. Retting on the New York side of the Fort Lee Ferry, 128th Street and Broadway, at 10 o'clock sharp. Everyone should bring, lunch, warm clothes, and comfortable shoes. The party will make only a short hike at the end of which they will sit around a fire and have a jolly time talking, singing and laughing in real Unity style.

The Educational Department has arranged with the Orchestral Society, Mr. Max Jacobs, conductor, to sell to our members tickets for the concerts for the three Sunday afternoons subscription concerts at Aeolian Hall, on November 23, Jan. 18th and Feb. 29th at 3 P. M.

Tickets can be had in Room 1002, 31 Union Square, Educational Department, at half price.

# JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly.

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 B. SCHLESINGER, President S. YANOFSKY, Editor.  
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## EDITORIALS

### THE MOST CRITICAL MOMENT OF THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT

It is obvious to all those who gave the matter some thought and attention, that every step the government has taken against the striking miners was calculated not only to check the further growth in strength of the organized labor in the country but to deal it a death blow.

Throughout the negotiations with the coal operators the miners were ready to go in for compromises. The miners' representatives made no secret of this, and if the coal operators had wanted to they could have easily averted a strike. But they did not make the slightest attempt in this direction, and there is only one way to account for it: they were certain that theirs was the winning side, because the government would take it upon itself to cope with the strikers.

And they had good reason to be. For soon after the negotiations were broken off the president of the United States from his sick bed issued a statement condemning the strike as illegal and immoral.

Then came the order of Judge Anderson enjoining the miners' leaders from any activity to promote the strike, from making use of the miners' funds to aid their wives and children, so as to break the strike because of lack of leadership and by means of starving the strikers and their families.

Following this unspeakable injunction Samuel Gompers tried to persuade Attorney General Palmer to suspend the drastic court order for a few days and in the meantime the miners' representatives would again meet with the operators with a view of settling the differences and ending the strike.

The Attorney General flatly refused to consider Gompers' plan. The strike must be broken, was his verdict. The injunction would not be suspended before the miners would go back to work on the old conditions.

After rejecting every possible means to settle the strike peacefully and honorably so that the leaders are not disgraced in the eyes of the rank and file, the government went still further and issued a still more drastic order. Not only may the leaders not do anything to promote the strike but they must, within 72 hours, that is at 11 a. m. Nov. 11, the memorable day when the people of this country so frantically celebrated the victory of democracy, rescind the strike order. Failure to do so would mean imprisonment.

What does this court edict mean?

It means this: if the leaders of the miners will prove dishonorable enough and for fear of pri-

son will call off the strike, then—whether the strike continues or not—the entire leadership of the United Mine Workers of America and, indeed, of the whole American Federation of Labor will be discredited and their influence undermined, if not totally destroyed, and this means shattering the entire labor movement as it now exists. If, on the other hand, the leaders will disobey the court order, the law will proceed with all the coercive force back of it to disrupt the American Federation of Labor, thus knifing the labor movement which has grown so strong of late.

It is obvious that the sole purpose of the government's tactics was to destroy the organized labor movement of America. Only the blind will fail to see this. The miners' strike was not the issue with the government. Its ambition went further than breaking this particular strike. It was to break the trade union movement in the country.

In the ruling circles the present moment is considered the most favorable for an offensive against organized labor. The trade union movement is as yet not completely united and conscious of its ultimate aim, and it still can be destroyed. If the opportunity is missed now, it may be too late to attempt an offensive against labor at all.

This is the time when organized labor of America must stand the severest test in its history. It had an opportunity to assert its vast power in the coal strike, but failed to go beyond resolutions and appeals for aid. Will this be the case also in the present emergency? If so, then the last hour for the trade union movement in America has struck. But if all symptoms do not deceive us the American trade union movement will pick up the gauntlet hurled in its face by the government, and the struggle, which the ruling elements are so eager to precipitate, will break out.

The battle cry has not yet been sounded by organized labor, but the recent statement of the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. cannot be interpreted in any other way. At a critical moment like the present this statement by the Executive Council is, indeed, a great act. When at the present moment, after the government ordered the leaders of the miners to call off the strike because it is illegal, because it is not a strike but a revolution,—when at this moment the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. takes up the place of the miners' leaders, who were gagged by the court, and declares its readiness to spare no energies in its support of their strike,—it can mean no other thing than that the men who speak in the name of the entire labor movement are assuming the burden of the min-

ers' strike on behalf of that movement.

There can be no two opinions as to the position of the A. F. of L. in the present crisis. Whether John Lewis and other leaders of the miners will obey the court mandate or not is really of secondary importance now. It may affect them as individuals, it may affect the part they will play in the labor movement in the future. But it will not affect the miners' strike. The strike will continue with even greater enthusiasm than before, and that is more important, the miners' strike is thus becoming the struggle of all organized labor of the country.

With their statement Gompers and the rest of the A. F. of L. leaders placed themselves in open opposition to the injunction business.

It is as much as if they would say to the government: you forbid the representatives of the miners to promote the strike. Very well, they are silent. But here we are to take their place and we defy you to do your worst. You order the miners' leaders to rescind the strike call, but before their time expires we are here to declare that the strike will continue and will have our fullest support. Do your ugliest. Cast us into dungeons. Cite us for contempt of court, but this we stand we take and we will not recede an inch from our position.

This and nothing else is the true meaning of the recent statement of the American Federation of Labor. It means a struggle with the evil powers that swore death to the trade union movement. The position the trade union movement has taken is clear: if it is to die it will die an honorable death. At the first opportunity it will again rise to life, and will again resume the combat till victory is won. The labor movement realizes that to die a disgraceful death, to die a coward's death, means to be destroyed forever. It must therefore, dare, be courageous. And then again, if the combat is begun is it so very certain that labor will be the vanquished? Just as the miners' strike cannot be killed by gagging the leaders, or casting them into prison or even by forcing them to rescind the strike order, just so, and even less, can the struggle of the labor movement against its organized enemies be stopped by imprisoning a few thousand of its leaders and champions.

Now the fate of the labor movement in America is no longer in the hands of the labor leaders—these have risen to the great occasion and have proved themselves worthy of it—it is in the hands of the great labor masses. If they, too, will rise to the great occasion, the struggle will be won, and the forces of organized, injunction-baked debauchery will realize that they must call a halt; that the labor movement in America, as all the world over, is so powerful that the attempt to destroy it is madness.

### SCHLESINGER EXPLAINS

Elsewhere in this issue the reader will find Schlesinger's statement in regard to the letter he wrote to Samuel Untermyer.

In our opinion this statement of explanation is quite superfluous. What is there to explain? Schlesinger's letter speaks for itself, it is clear and unambiguous, and only malicious scandal-mongers could interpret it as a piece of

campaign agitation on behalf of the candidacy of Mr. Untermyer's son.

Schlesinger makes it quite clear why it was his duty, as president of the International, to write the letter. And he is perfectly right. He would have branded himself unworthy of his office if he had not written these few words of encouragement to the man who had shown so much friendship for the union. If he had refrained from writing the letter for fear that someone might turn it into a piece of sensation, he would have brought eternal disgrace upon himself and the union. With all his magnanimity a man like Untermyer, as well as many other good and honest persons, would have hardly been able again to aid the union with all their might in time of need. Schlesinger is quite familiar with our swamps. He knows the creatures that swarm in it. He could have, therefore, expected to be attacked for this letter. But the sense of duty toward his union, toward himself, and the friendship of his union was stronger with him than all these personal considerations, and he wrote the letter.

Schlesinger does not regret that he wrote the letter. He says that if many more persons like Samuel Untermyer had requested the same thing of him he would have acted in the same way, for it would have been "to the best interests of the International and of the entire labor movement!" It goes without saying that Schlesinger is not responsible for the spreading of the letter on the photographed letter-head of the International with the subscript "Vote for Irwin Untermyer." This was a foolish error on the part of Mr. Untermyer's campaign committee, an error which no one regretted more than Mr. Untermyer himself.

As we said, we consider the statement of explanation superfluous. We had in substance said the same thing before Schlesinger had a chance to speak. His letter to Untermyer speaks for itself. But now that the explanation was given it should be sufficient to silence every maligner. If, however, the maligner will be unable to control himself and continue with his mouthings he will do harm neither to Schlesinger, nor to the International but to himself alone.

### AGAIN ABOUT SCHLESINGER'S GOING TO EUROPE

A few weeks ago we wrote about Schlesinger's going to Europe with the purpose of reestablishing relations between the two International unions in Europe and America—and to gather authentic information concerning the conditions prevailing in the ladies' garment industries in Europe.

It seems that our brothers across the ocean are of the same opinion with us as to the importance of such an enterprise. The following cable from Amsterdam was received recently at the office of the International:

Nov. 9, 1919.  
 Amsterdam.

Int. Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
 31 Union Square,  
 New York, N. Y.

Beg to appoint delegates to provisional International Conference of tailors' organizations for rebuilding of our International Conference will be held at Am-

# How the World Moves

## Fifth Avenue and Gary

It was twilight, that magic hour of enchantment. New York was hastening home, the boss in his car, the bookkeeper on the bus. The automobiles wheel by, weary, cynical faces against the cushions. A good turn on the Exchange meant a cool \$10,000 to this one. That one cut his melon a month ago when the dividends were sent out by the Wall Street banks and found a hundred thousand on steel stock alone. He leans back contentedly puffing his Havana pasha-like, while his over-fed, over-dressed wife extends a protecting and soothing arm about him for all the world as if he had labored with the sweat of his brow and deserved love and consolation.

Outside there blaze the lights of the richest street in the world. Color, softness, fragrance, every charm is displayed in these gorgeous windows. There are rich paintings, portraits of an old burghmaster and his lady who waxed fat on trade three centuries gone by, and have come to stay perchance with the pasha and his wife, to give their cold machine-made apartment the color of an age when art had not yet been killed by industry. There are wonderful carpets from the Orient, dazzling jades from the Far East, ancient silver service from London, priceless laces of old-time, and all the new fads and fangles from Paris, the tasteless confusion and profusion, the superfluity which advertises prosperity. Here a priceless Chinese embroidery worked and worn with reverence hangs from the belt of a thoughtless woman — the plaything of an hour. There the Buddhist altar-piece is waiting to become the decoration of a frivolous drawing room. The riches of the earth are here, diamonds and lapis-lazuli, fine stone and precious wood, stiff revets and wondrous satins. From every corner of the universe they have come, drawn as by an irresistible magnet — and that magnet, gold.

To what end? From what source? As one gazes, half dazzled by the brilliant lights and the rich color while the human moths flutter by, one's thoughts revert to another place, a different scene. Suddenly one is transported to the steel towns. In the dark, terror-hunted streets hunger reigns. The children cry for bread in the

terdram, Thursday, December 11, and following days. Letter follows.

VANDERHEIG, Pres.,  
Dutch Organization.

It stands to reason that our International, after having itself proposed some such conference, cannot decline to participate in it. But the conference will have to be postponed for some time simply because Schlesinger cannot leave so early. Urgent matters within the International require his presence here. He will therefore request per cable that the conference be postponed until he is in a position to leave for Europe. And once Schlesinger will be in Europe we may be certain that he will do everything possible and necessary to establish lasting ties between our organizations in America and abroad.

squalid homes, overfilled with humanity. Outside the big men on big horses ride by with club and spur keeping law and order in Gary. The workers crouch at home dull and sullen. The sudden release from the furnaces dazes them. The slaves who have tended the great fires day and night with straining muscles sink back bewildered at the unwanted idleness. The squalor of the surroundings well befits the numbness of the spirit — bare floors and hard beds, little space, little air. And the terror of uncertainty ahead. No pay envelope this week; Scabs perhaps already on the job! The steel worker jumps up sweating with anxiety, and rushes out toward the mill. Will he be carried back with a broken head?

Such is Gary! And such is Fifth Avenue! And methinks, looking on, Fifth Avenue and Gary are the same, flesh of one flesh. The gay lady of the Avenue cashes her Steel Coupons and buys thousand-dollar candlesticks. The blood and hunger are far away. Only disagreeable and violent people speak of such things. They are Bolsheviks who should be put out of the way somewhere — anywhere so that they do not spoil people's pleasure. And then on by the dance! But nevertheless Gary and Fifth Avenue are the twins children of Father Steel. Fifth Avenue could not be except for Gary and many other Garys, nor could Gary grow like the poisonous plant it is, except for the mad thrists, the cruel varieties of the richest street in the world!

## Revolution Without Theories

A few years ago appeared a book in French by Albert Metin, entitled *Socialism Without Theories*. Such is much of the socialism of today, for it is the day of action rather than words, of deeds rather than philosophy. And so in America we are face to face with a revolution without theories. The British have always been called the most anti-theoretical nation in the world. They have always prided themselves that they indulged not in vain imaginings, but stumbled on over the rough road of experience, often bruising their shins but somehow getting there after all. But the British are an intellectual, abstract nation compared with America. No one in America reads a book. Few think! The philosopher, if one occasionally happens, is often looked upon as a fool who does not earn a proper living for his family. The tricks of bookkeeping or salesmanship are the limit of the mental development of the average American. The workman prides himself on his common sense, which is not possessed by "them Bolsheviks." He has no use for "phrases" and possesses a deep mistrust of all general ideas. And yet it is in such a nation that after all the revolution is brewing.

According to the Washington correspondent of the Evening Post, "The end of the week, bringing with it the great coal strike, is portentous. There are tenseness and solemnity here. Men who boasted of the comparatively small cost of the World War to the average American citizen are taking back their premature

statements and saying that this country will probably experience its full share of the world trouble; that the most secluded nationalism cannot escape the effects of a disturbance of humanity." The uneasy expectation of some, portentous event seems to spread over the whole people from ex-presidents and would-be presidents down to the man in the street. Nicholas Murray Butler professor-politician, with his weather-eye on the White House, shrieks hysterically "Save America" while William H. Taft, one of the has-beens, has an idea of his own. Unions, and even strikes, may be tolerated. "When a workman and his fellows combine to leave an employer with whom they cannot make the terms they wish — they are completely within their rights. But when they increase in size, so that by withdrawal as a whole they can paralyze an industry, the product of which is necessary for the life of the country, they are engaged in an unlawful conspiracy." Down with the industrial strike!

The revolution which may be expected from the present great strikes is different from what either its friends or its enemies look for. A violent revolution is out of the question except in the ordered brains of capitalists and militarists. A political revolution no one thinks of as probable. An industrial revolution in the sense of working control of industry will remain a theory in America for some years yet in spite of the earthquakes in the coal, steel and transport industries. What we shall see here and now within a year is a revolution in the spirit and tactics of the labor movement. And that is the most fundamental of all. The open opposition of the authorities to the vital principles of trade-unionism is a direct challenge flung to labor. The government through its attempts to bully the workers into submission by open command, by injunction and by military interference has raised the banner of the Class Struggle. The employers by their refusal at the recent Industrial Conference to recognize the right of collective bargaining have raised the banner of the Class Struggle. And Labor, even American labor, will find an answer to that challenge. The answer will be War on War — labor class struggle against capitalist class struggle. The stupid tactics of the government have roused the pride and indignation of labor throughout the country and the reply will soon be heard.

## Labor in Politics

Will labor go into politics as an organized body, nationally and numerously? The fining of a trade union in court drove the British workers to organize the British Labor Party. Will the abusive letters from the White House, the Prussian tactics of a Massachusetts governor, the use of the hated injunction by the government and worst of all the threatened attack on trade union strike funds drive American labor into politics? A political protest at the ballot-box is the least and the best for which employers can hope. That would be a slow and peaceful means of redress,

easier to measure and cope with than a great industrial uprising — and the general strike.

There are indications that labor will go into politics and that the present policy of the ruling powers will bring home to every workman the campaign slogan, "Vote as you strike!" Wm. Z. Foster the steel leader, looks with favor on the Labor Party, it is said. It is a fact of great meaning that he should be associated with John Fitzpatrick the leader of the labor party, in the greatest industrial uprisings of labor this generation has seen. Their conception of the labor movement is evidently twofold: political and industrial.

Perhaps the employers will not be allowed to "get away with it" so easily. The repressive tactics of the government and the courts may already have gone so far that the confidence of the American worker is turned away from politics altogether. Perhaps the government is clever in its own interest, it will draw back in its present attempt to drive labor to desperation.

## Labor and the League of Nations

The League of Nations may prove a boomerang. It has ceased to pretend to "make the world safe for democracy" but it still tries to persuade shrewd business men that it will make the world unsafe for Bolshevism. Even this hope bids fair to be crushed, to judge from the proceedings of the International Labor Conference in Washington. The spirit of the dictatorship of the proletariat seems to be strong there. The workers have organized their own groups separate from those of the employers and the governments and are planning to secure greater power. At present they have very little influence, as the league provides for four representatives from each country, only one of whom can represent labor. Two represent the government and one — the employers' which makes three capitalists. The workers could thus always be defeated in the two-thirds vote which the constitution provides for.

To make matters worse many nations sent no labor delegates at all, including ten countries of Central and South America, Siam, Rumania and China. In other countries the labor delegates are unjustly chosen or arranged to represent the most reactionary wing of the labor movement. In Japan, for instance, when the steamship departed for Seattle with the delegation, a large crowd of workmen assembled at the pier dressed in mourning as a protest against the selection of the labor delegates in a convention packed by the government.

The program of the labor group is now to demand all nations who have sent no labor delegates be shut out from the conference. They have already succeeded in securing for Germany and Austria the right of admission, thus throwing the solid votes of all delegates of these socialist republics to the side of labor. These two measures will increase the power of the labor delegates to the point where they will have more than one-third of the representation and thus be able to defeat any measure which the reactionary interests may try to put through. Labor will thus be in a position to veto if not to car-

# THE WEEKS' NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By SAM. B. SHENKER

## DRESS CUTTERS NOMINATE CANDIDATES

The Dress and Waist Cutters held their regular meeting Monday November 10th. The business of the branch for the past month was taken up and candidates were nominated for the ensuing term of one year.

The membership was warned against accepting weekly bonuses; that if the boss is so kind-hearted as to want to give the men an extra compensation he can do so, but the compensation should be given at the end of the season or at the end of the year. The violation of this warning carries with it a fine.

After the reports had been read the chairman opened the meeting for nominations. There was a great show of enthusiasm while nominating, which gives promise of many lively contests.

With the exception of the management, every other office is contested.

Following are the candidates who were nominated: Manager, Sam B. Shenker; Business Agents, (four to be elected): Hyman Goldberg, Abraham Lebowitz, Julius Levine, Charles Stein and Louis Ostrover; Trustees: Isidore Cohen and William Elstein. Out of the five candidates for the Election Board, Harris Hacken and Benjamin Evry were elected.

The attention of the candidates is called to the necessary qualifications which are printed elsewhere in this paper. The Executive Board will go through the list to strike out those who do not meet the requirements.

The election takes place Saturday afternoon, December 27th, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place. The polls are open from 12 to 5 P. M. Only those who are members of the union for at least six months and are no more than twelve weeks in arrears are eligible to vote.

We deeply regret that we must lose Brother Israel Lewin, our present manager. This tireless worker has been an invaluable factor in raising the cutters' union to its present standard. We wish him success in all his future undertakings.

## MISCELLANEOUS BRANCH TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES

At their regular meeting which will take place on Monday, Nov. 17th, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place, the Miscellaneous cutters will nominate candidates for the ensuing term of one year. The officers to be chosen are: one manager, one business agent, 2 Executive Board members, one trustee and two members to the election board.

The demand of the underwear cutters for an increase in wages was taken up with President

ry through its own measures. With the International Trade Union Conference behind it the labor group in the League of Nations may find a way to push the whole league along the progressive path. That at least seems to be the goal for which the labor delegates are hoping and working.

—J. S. P.

Schlesinger. He promises it will be considered shortly.

At the present time there are a number of strikes in the Children's dress trade. Most of these have been called to enforce the week work system. This trade with a few exceptions has accepted this system, and the union called strikes in shops where it has not yet been inaugurated. Many cutters, mostly youngsters, were found by Business Agent Perlmutter without union cards. These boys were organized, and Perlmutter soon secured decent wage scales for them.

The Wrapper and Kimono trade is reported as normal. While the trade is not exceptionally busy, few men are out. Their wages range from \$38 to \$40 per week, the minimum being \$31.

## IMPORTANT GENERAL MEETING

An important general meeting will take place next Monday, Nov. 24th, at Arlington Hall. Nominations of officers for the union as a whole, and the choice of a city for the next convention of the International will be considered.

## Unions Are Not Trusts, Declares Congress

The House rejected the amendment offered by Representative Fess of Ohio to the deficiency appropriation bill that provides funds for the prosecution of illegal combinations under the federal anti-trust law. His purpose in offering the amendment was to classify the trade unions and farmers' associations with trusts. Thus he would accomplish by amending the law which says that no money authorized for the enforcement of the anti-trust law "shall be spent in the prosecution of any organization or individual for entering into any combination or agreement having in view the increase of wages" or "shall be expended for the prosecution of producers of farm products and associations of farmers who co-operate and organize in an effort to and for the purpose to obtain and maintain a fair and reasonable price for their products."

These exemptions, which have been carried in the appropriation bills for a number of years, have excited bitter opposition, and those unfriendly to the trade unions and the farmers' associations have never permitted an opportunity to pass to attempt to eliminate them from the appropriation bill.

When the House was in committee of the whole Mr. Fess succeeded in securing favorable action on his amendment to put out the appropriation, the vote being 58 to 19. When the bill was reported to the House the contest was over the amendment favored by Representative Fess.

Following the action of the committee of the whole, representatives of labor and the farmers' associations got busy. As a result of their activities the Fess amendment was defeated. On the demand of Representative Nolan of California, a member of the labor group, for the reconsideration, the section of the deficiency appropriation bill carrying the exemptions was restored by a roll-call vote of 203 to 29.

# Collective Buying

By J. LANCH, Manager, Joint Board of Montreal.

A great deal has been heard about collective bargaining, but who ever heard about collective buying? Well, comrades, I had the good fortune to be at a conference where I was invited to discuss the question of collective buying. At the conference I predicted that it would be a failure, and my reasons given were that the people represented at the conference, or for whom the movement of collective buying was intended, in the first place, did not feel the pinch of the high cost of living sufficiently, which the idea of collective buying intended to overcome. There were present at the conference accountants, physicians, professors, business men and ladies whose husbands had a fairly good income, in comparison with the income of the average worker.

Hence my conclusion that a movement to overcome the high cost of living with such a following was doomed to failure. There are besides many other reasons why amongst a certain class of the community, this movement of collective buying is doomed to failure. But it is not the purpose of this article to worry or think for that part of the community. On the contrary, the purpose of this article is to try to further the idea amongst our own class, and I believe it could be adopted by our international locals very easily. It is, in my opinion, a more effective way of combating the present high cost of living than is the co-operative store. Co-operative stores are today up against large co-operations of retail merchants and are unable to compete effectively against them because of the cost of distribution, etc. The plan of collective buying does not propose to do away altogether with the high cost of living, but is simply a method that would tend to lower the high cost of living considerably by doing away with the cost of distribution, that accrues between the manufacturer and consumer.

In the cities of the United States and Canada there are thousands of small retail merchants, who in the aggregate divide among themselves a volume of trade that is enormous. And when one stops to consider to what an extent these storekeepers add to the already high prices of their wares, one can easily see that if it were possible to do away with this enormous and unnecessary additional expense it would amount to a considerable saving for the consumer.

The margin of profit made by the wholesaler and retailer is very great, and in most cases reaches as high as 100 per cent. Here are a few articles of common use and I will quote a conservative estimate of profit made in the course of distribution from manufacturer to consumer: Ready-made clothing, from 50 to 100 per cent; boots and shoes, from 50 to 100 per cent; drugs, chemicals and patent medicines, from 50 to 100 per cent; dry goods, from 50 to 100 per cent; hardware, from 50 to 80 per cent; groceries of all kinds, with the exception of a few staple articles, such as sugar, from 25 to 40 per cent. It is not always a case of profiteering with the retail merchants. We must not forget

that the majority of small retailers are compelled to buy from hand to mouth as does the ordinary consumer, and this in itself is one of the chief reasons that go to make up the high cost of distribution, which in turn raises the cost of living. It is obvious that the high cost of distribution, in a very large measure tends to make the cost of living very high. Collective buying proposes to eliminate to a certain extent this contributory cause to the high cost of living. Let us take a concrete example:

If a certain number of people say 1,000, were to decide to buy 2 pair of socks each, that is 2,000 pair, there would be at once a saving of 15c on every 50 pair of socks bought collectively, or a total saving of \$300, assuming of course, that the committee appointed to buy give their services free. An additional charge of 1 per cent should be added to the purchasing price to defray the cost of postage, meeting or sample room.

An initial charge of 25c should be made for membership to cover the first cost. The buyer or buying committee would get quotations and samples during the week and, let us say, Saturday afternoon or Sunday the members and their wives would come and look at samples and leave their order and cash for whatever they chose. By dealing in this method there would be no bad debts that the honest consumer must in the long run pay for. There would be no large or small stocks to be kept, and plenty allowance is made for individual taste, that must always be kept in mind. It will be seen that by this method of collective buying no investment is needed. No stocks to be kept, therefore no depreciation of stocks — another important item that the consumer must pay for. Practically no rent and no clerical help is required. Like in all progressive movements the work can be done by the loyal members, who would devote their spare time free. I have very great confidence in the movement and I am sure that a great saving could be made for the individual members.

The plan, in my opinion, deserves the serious consideration of our members and especially the executives of all our international locals. Already this movement of collective buying is being very seriously considered by the locals of Montreal, in fact is already being launched and in the near future its results will be telling.

## No Check on Profiteering

Amazing profits are shown in the report of the Corn Products Refining company for the first nine months of this year.

The surplus is \$8,686,710 after all charges, maintenance, federal taxes and preferred dividends have been paid. This is equivalent to \$17.45 a share on the common stock, against \$11.92 a share for the same period last year. The surplus for the common stock, says the report, is the highest that has ever been recorded in any corresponding nine-months' period.

# Report of the General Secretary

LAID BEFORE THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS LAST MEETING IN BUFFALO.

To the President and Members of the General Executive Board of the National Garment Workers' Union.

Greetings.

As you all know, I was stricken at our fourth quarterly meeting with a severe attack of appendicitis and was taken to a hospital in Philadelphia to be operated on. I remained at that hospital for almost two months and together with the period of convalescence I was compelled to stay away from our General Office for approximately three months. You will therefore see that for almost a quarter of a year my activities in the General Office were at a standstill and I had to content myself with watching from afar the great fight which the International Union and the Joint Board of the Cloak Makers Union of New York carried on for new standards in the Cloak Industry of New York City and elsewhere.

Shortly after my coming to the office I found that our Local No. 39 the Raincoat Makers' Union, had made all preparations for a general strike. President Schlesinger was out of town, busy with Chicago and Cleveland, and I was still an invalid when these advance steps were taken by that Local. On July 23rd, I called a special meeting of the New York members of the Board to take up the situation, and on the following day, July 24th, Local No. 39 had called out a general strike in their industry. The strike lasted about ten days and resulted in the establishing of week work and the same wage and hour minimums in the Raincoat Trade as existed in the Cloak Industry. Vice-President Miss Fania M. Cohen aided considerably in the conduct and the settlement work of the strike and I gave them all the assistance they required.

While speaking of the Raincoat situation in New York and their campaign for higher standards, I also wish to mention the fact that Local No. 7, the Raincoat Makers of Boston have also, during the same time, carried on a campaign for an increase in wages and other improvements. On August 20th I was called to Boston where I attended a meeting of the Raincoat Makers to celebrate a great victory after a strike of two weeks. The principal gains of the strike were, a forty-four hour week, and similar increases in wages. A substantial strike movement was carried on by Local No. 64, Raincoat Makers' Union of Chicago, which resulted in the winning of forty-four hour week, increases in wages and week work in the local trade.

While in Boston, I had a conference with the Cloak Manufacturers' Association of that city, together with representatives of the Joint Board of the Cloak Makers' Union of Boston to complete the work of the drawing up and the signing of the agreement in that industry. This was a matter left over from last Spring and the Union was very satisfied to have brought it to a satisfactory end. I also attended a meeting of the Joint Board and was very glad to find a fine spirit of real solidarity prevailing in the Union. I visited Local No. 49 the Waist and Dressmakers Union of Boston and I found it in a very satisfactory condition. Of course, all these locals appreciate greatly our attention and they were very pleased at my coming over and staying with them for a few days.

During the past few months, I have

attended a number of executive Board meetings of Local No. 25 and have also been invited to serve as arbitrator in a few cases in which Local No. 25 was involved. In mentioning Local No. 25, I wish to say that this important organization is undergoing at present a good deal of internal uneasiness. There is an element in the organization which strives, I must say sincerely, to improve or to substitute the present form of the organization of the Local by a different form, in their opinion a more democratic and effective one. It is, in my opinion, the direct outgrowth of the condition of unrest among some of the Waist and Dressmakers which followed the closing weeks of the great strike last Winter. I am inclined to believe that this groping after an improved form of organization should receive the attention of the General Executive Board which should discuss and take a hand in this matter as we must be on guard against unwarranted and hasty experiments which some of the more precipitate minds would bestow upon the Union and which would cause it permanent injury.

Toward the end of last year we had levied a general reconstruction assessment upon the entire membership of the Union, at \$1.50 per member. The purpose of the assessment was to safeguard the position of the Union during the so-called reconstruction period of the economic life of the country and to inaugurate a win campaign throughout our industries all over the country for shorter hours and increases in wages. We have given this matter very thorough and careful consideration and it was unanimously adopted by the members of this Board.

I need not recite at this point the sweeping achievements of our International Union during this period of reconstruction. It may be stated, that we have accomplished every aim, and possibly more than that, that we have set out to achieve, from one end of the country to the other. The International Union has gained for its members a forty-four hour work week, has introduced in all the Cloak, Raincoat and kindred trades, week work instead of the hitherto prevailing piece work, a \$1 per hour minimum and a great number of other improvements. We have done our very best to aid our members in fighting the ever mounting cost of living and to enable the Ladies' Garment Industry to absorb into its midst the men who have returned from service abroad, without feeling the shock. In most of the cities this was accomplished without strikes. The position and the prestige of the International and the indefatigable work of President Schlesinger and a number of our Vice-Presidents and organizers was sufficient to win upon all the issues involved.

In New York City, nevertheless, as you know, we were involved in a very bitter and protracted struggle in the Waist and Dressmaking Industry which had cost us hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of dollars. The contribution of the International to this fight, in money alone, amounted to \$90,000.

Another fight was precipitated in Toronto in the Cloak Industry, a struggle which underwent various stages and was finally settled favorably to the workers, which had cost the International \$25,000, a number of other organizing campaigns, undertaken and financed by the International, have kept us, and are still

keeping us, involved in large expenditures. Nevertheless, I must state with deep regret that the collection of the General Reconstruction Assessment which was levied upon the International Membership in order to enable us to carry on our work and campaign, has met with great difficulties in so far as our New York membership is concerned.

It appears that the Joint Board of the Cloak Makers Union had levied, early this year, a local \$5.00 assessment upon all its members for the purpose of getting a fund for the prospective strike in the industry. The collection of this assessment coincided with the collection of the International Reconstruction Assessment in order not impose a difficulty upon the Locals in the form of collecting two assessments at the same time, we were assured by the officers of the Joint Board and the Locals that they would collect the \$1.50 for us as part of the \$5 assessment levied upon them and that this money would be turned over to the International through the agency of the Joint Board. I must say at this point, that the Joint Board has failed to live up to this proposition and regardless of the very urgent and insistent demands that the General Office has made upon the Joint Board to remit this sum, it has failed to do so.

A specious argument is being advanced by some of the officers of the Joint Board that since the Reconstruction Assessment was levied upon the membership of the International for the purpose of carrying out certain demands and achieving certain standards in our industry and since the Joint Board of New York City has succeeded in achieving these standards without asking for financial support from the International Union, that the members of New York are absolved from payment of this Assessment.

A more disingenuous argument could hardly be imagined. For that matter the Chicago Cloak Makers who have achieved the same standards as the New York Cloak Makers have, without calling for financial aid from the International, might as well excuse themselves from paying this assessment. The Boston, Cincinnati, Montreal, Cleveland, Philadelphia and other Cloak Makers, the Raincoat Makers of New York, Boston, and Chicago and the Waist Makers in all cities might present an equally convincing argument.

Of course the International had to spend almost \$200,000 for the New York Waist strike and the Toronto Cloak strike and the International is still paying enormous sums monthly to liquidate the debts incurred during these two strikes, but this is totally disregarded by those who advance that argument. The point of view adopted by some of the officers of the New York Joint Board, strikes at the very foundation of the International Union, at its rights and duties, and would make it a loose conglomeration of Locals and Joint Board in which every one would do just as it believed would suit its own individual advantages at one or another period of its existence. I wish to bring this matter with particular emphasis before the New York members of this General Executive Board, who are at the same time officers of the Locals of the Joint Board. It is, to my mind, a matter which involves the very existence of our Union and its future work and activity.

## INJUNCTION SUIT BY MANUFACTURERS' ASS'N AGAINST LOC. 50

Legal Action by Association As A Last Effort to Prevent Strikes in Children's Dress Trade.

The Children's Dress Manufacturers' Association, through its president, Leo J. Goldberger, has instituted injunction proceedings against the Children's Dress Makers' Union, Local 50, in an effort to restrain the workers in that trade from striking.

The legal action of the houses follows a prolonged controversy between both organizations.

Last February, following a strike of the children's dress makers, an agreement was entered into between the manufacturers and the union. Soon after the settlement several employees left their jobs because of the low scale of wages prevailing in the trade. The manufacturers asserted at the time that their quitting was virtually an abrogation of the agreement.

An arbitrator was asked by them to settle the controversy. His decision ordered the men to go back to their jobs. The union said it was not an organization matter but one that rested purely with the individuals.

Shortly after, Goldberger ordered the individual manufacturers not to deal with the union. The agreement entered into in February was thus broken.

Thereafter they dealt with individual manufacturers and in all but a few cases found their conferences increasingly successful. In a few cases strikes were called.

The present injunction proceedings mark the climax of the situation.

The hearing on the injunction will take place next Wednesday and the Union will be represented by ex-Congressman Meyer London.

## ATTENTION OF DRESS AND WAIST CUTTERS!

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

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15 West 36th St.  
Mack Kanner & Milius,  
136 Madison Ave.  
M. Stern,  
33 East 33rd St.  
Max Cohen,  
105 Madison Ave.  
Julian Waist Co.,  
15 East 32nd St.  
Drezwul Dress Co.,  
14 East 32nd St.  
Regina Kobler,  
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## CUTTERS' UNION OF LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS AND NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:

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.

REGULAR MEETINGS:

CLOAK AND SUIT:

Monday, December 1st.

DRESS AND WAIST:

Monday, December 8th.

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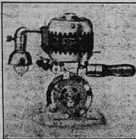
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