

"My righteous-  
ness I hold  
fast, and will  
not let it go."  
— Job. 27.6)

# JUSTICE

Who can  
get  
or are  
bosses  
We  
our  
— Pres. W.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

VOL. II. No. 10.

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## Pres. Schlesinger Returns

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER'S ARRIVAL DELAYED THREE DAYS. — ENTHUSIASTIC AND CHEERING CROWD OF FRIENDS MEET HIM AT PIER. — GIVES HIS FIRST IMPRESSIONS AT BANQUET IN HIS HONOR. — MEMBERS TO WELCOME PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER ON FRIDAY, MARCH 12, IN CARNEGIE HALL.**

Due to inclement weather the Emperor, the steamer on which President Schlesinger sailed, was delayed three days. Preparations to meet President Schlesinger were all ready last Saturday. The Reception Committee, consisting of delegates of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union and of all the locals of the International in New York City had gathered in the General Office to go and meet the president. Then it was learned that the boat would come in on Monday. Monday came but President Schlesinger was not yet here. His arrival was finally set for Tuesday, 9 A. M. sharp. But the Emperor came in late in the afternoon.

President Schlesinger was met at the pier by an enthusiastic and cheering crowd of friends. There were flowers, cheers hearty hand claps, kisses. It was an impressive scene which attracted the attention of by-standers.

President Schlesinger, his family and the entire delegation went to the Broadway Central Hotel where an informal banquet was given in his honor. There were Secretary Ab. Baroff, Morris Sigman, Sh. Yanofsky, Ab. Cahen, editor of the "Forward," Brother Guskin, chairman of the United Hebrew Trades, and many other friends of President Schlesinger.

Brother Israel Feinberg, chairman of the Joint Board and also chairman of the Reception Committee, has welcomed President Schlesinger in the name of the Joint Board as well as of the entire International Union.

President Schlesinger then gave a brief talk on the present conditions in devastated Europe. There was not the time for a detailed account of his observations. But what he said was of tremendous interest. He briefly spoke of the present working conditions in Europe which he saw at such close range, and intimated at the colossal task before the workers. He has brought with him a mass of valuable material on labor conditions in Europe and particularly on the garment industry. President Schlesinger has visited and studied the most important industrial centers of Europe and had unusual opportunities to get access to the very heart of the

situation. These impressions and observations will be published in a series of articles in "Justice."

The reception and welcome of President Schlesinger by the large membership of the International Union in this city will take place next Friday evening, March 12, in Carnegie Hall. An exceptional musical program has been arranged for that evening in honor of the guest. Modeste Alschuler, director of the Russian Symphony Orchestra, will participate. A famous Metropolitan Opera House soprano will sing, but her name cannot at the present writing be divulged.

The tickets for the evening will be distributed proportionally among all our locals. Members must secure their tickets early through their local unions.

## CHICAGO LADIES' TAILORS SECURE A WAGE INCREASE

The Chicago Ladies Tailors' Union, Local 104, secured a wage increase of 25 per cent, bringing up the minimum wage scale of the coat makers to 55 dollars a week.

After protracted negotiations of the Union with manufacturers, an agreement was finally reached on February 16th. For some time it seemed as if a strike would break out. But due to courageous stand of the workers the dispute was amicably settled. This doubtless is an eloquent testimony of the strength of the Chicago Ladies Tailors' Union.

Brother M. Hochman who has distinguished himself as organizer and manager of the Chicago Waist and Dress Makers' Union, Local 100, is now occupying an important post in the Waist and Dress Makers' Union, Local 25.

## N. Y. CLOAKMAKERS TO RAISE MILLION DOLLAR DEFENSE FUND

**CLOAKMAKERS' UNION TO RAISE FUND FOR SELF-DEFENSE. — MANUFACTURERS ARE SCHEMING AGAIN. — MORRI SIGMAN ENTHUSIASTIC OF SPIRIT PREVAILING AMONG CLOAKMAKERS. — WORKERS ARE WARNED NOT TO REGISTER IN THE LABOR BUREAU CREATED BY T. BOESSES.**

Plans for the drive of a Million Dollar Defense Fund, which the Cloakmakers' Union of New York has decided to raise, have already been started. A number of shop chairman meetings were held where the plans were discussed of launching a campaign to raise the fund which will protect the workers against the constant schemes, threats and insinuations of the manufacturers.

The cloakmakers keenly feel the urgency of such a fund. The manufacturers are now again exhibiting a chronic restlessness and scheming against the Union. They are now desperately in search for ways and means to break the Union. They are determined to make the cloak industry safe for themselves. The decision of the Governor's Arbitration Board has apparently made matters worse for them. For since the wage increase granted by the Board to the cloakmakers, the manufacturers have grown resentful and nervous. They had hoped that after the Arbitration Committee would investigate the conditions under which the cloakmakers worked, the manufacturers would be still favored. Why? Because it was their fervent wish. They disregarded the actual facts of the case.

The officials of the Manufacturers' Protective Association have begun a campaign to strengthen the position of the manufacturers. They are first trying to organize their own rank and file among a sort of solidarity among the manufacturers. They are doing that by establishing an Industrial Council of all the manufacturers of the allied trades, of those who belong to the Association as well as of those who are independent. Their first aim is to create a united front. At the same time they are fighting on another front, directed at nothing short than the destruction of the Union. For this purpose they have undertaken to

establish a so-called Labor Bureau which would provide workers with jobs. It is aimed at the heart of the Union. Almost every local of the Cloakmakers' Union has its own Labor Bureau. There is a movement to centralize the various bureaus of the Locals into one Central Labor Bureau of the Cloakmakers' Union in New York. The manufacturers do not like this idea, and they are proceeding to create a Labor Bureau of their own.

But the cloakmakers fully realize that this is merely a new word for an old practice, that is, a scab agency. The workers know what the manufacturers are doing and they are now preparing the selves not to be caught napping.

Brother Morris Sigman, General Manager of the Joint Board, feels confident that the tactics in which the employers are now indulging will fail. He is confident about the healthy spirit prevailing among the members and the determination with which they have undertaken to raise the Million Dollar Fund.

The Cloakmakers' Union warns all members not to register in the so-called Labor Bureau which the bosses have launched. According to reports, the manufacturers are employing a band of agents who are circulating promises of jobs among the workers and are soliciting names and addresses. The Union warns its members against these agencies. If any worker is in need of a job he must apply to his local union.

## PHILADELPHIA LADIES TAILORS' STRIKE FIRM

The strike of the ladies' tailors in Philadelphia is in full swing. The brave stand of the strike will doubtless lead them to victory. The employers are already realizing this and are making overtures to settle with the Union. The treasurer and many directors of the Association have already settled, and the rest will doubtless follow in good order. Recently the Association has requested the Mayor of that city for help to settle the strike. The Union is ready to meet the manufacturers for a settlement of the dispute.

## Hochman with Local 25

He was appointed Manager of the Unions' Independent Division.

Brother Hochman has done some splendid work among the waistmakers in Chicago. Those who have followed his activity there, are convinced that he will be equally successful in New York.

# Topics of the Week

## Russia Asks for Peace

FOR the twenty-second time, since August 5, 1918, Soviet Russia offered peace to the Allies. This time it followed a long succession of triumphant military and diplomatic victories. It came, contrary to previous peace overtures, amidst a deluge of favorable news printed in the hitherto hostile capitalist press. For there is a widespread confession of newspaper correspondents that they were grievously mistaken about conditions in Soviet Russia. Compliments are now flung at "Red Russia." Even the Times permits itself to head a news story out Russia with "Law and Order." Read the World and you will see that Soviet Russia has all the virtues of a country, say, like the United States. There is no meddling, bureaucracy, aristocracy, class division, capitalism and all the other fundamental principles upon which a sound and respectable social organization should rest. In short, Soviet Russia, is described in the capitalist press as possessing the necessary qualifications for commercial intercourse. Russia offers alluring concessions to foreign capitalists. It looks as if it is a question of months, perhaps weeks, and Russia will be recognized by the Allies.

But what about the United States? This is a difficult question. For this country's mind is muddled. There is no policy, there is no leadership, there seems to be no responsible government. Take the recent sale made by Secretary Baker which he was compelled later to repudiate. The Russian Soviet Bureau of New York made a bid for 200,000 dollar's worth of shoes. It was the highest bid. And the War Department announced the sale to "The Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic, 110 West 40th Street, New York City." A day later the State Department issued a statement that the Soviet peace proposal will receive no consideration from the American Government. Which department is the Government? It was puzzling, until the War Department issued another statement denying their shoe sale to Russia. That is the War Department has been disciplined by the State Department. The Soviet Bureau has also issued a statement with this interesting bit of information:

"These (shoes) are not by any means the only negotiations which we have had with the War Department. For instance, the textile division of the surplus property division of the War Department has during the past week offered this bureau for export to the Russian people large quantities of various textile materials."

There is no possible hope that the Washington Administration could do anything constructive during the remaining year of its term. Will the Senate or Congress do anything? Senator France has offered a resolution in the Senate, last Friday, providing for the establishment of friendly relations with Soviet Russia, unequivocal lifting of the blockade, extension of trade with Russia, of credits, withdrawal of any American troops remaining on Russian soil and for "any needed explanations and reparations which may be due

from this country for our invasion of Russian territory. It specifically directs the President, through the Department of State, to communicate at once with the Government of Russia, assuring the people of Russia of our friendship, sympathy and desire to cooperate with them and to re-establish full and cordial relationships of friendly intercourse, trade and commerce."

This resolution is a joint one requiring approval of both houses of Congress and signature by the President. It is pretty certain that this resolution will not reach the President. It was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where it will rest in peace. But will American business men remain passive spectators while England will grab all the tempting concessions that Russia offers? That remains to be seen.

## The Railroad Strike in France

A railroad strike must necessarily be of short duration. For the soul and being of modern society is transportation and it cannot be interrupted for long. The railroad strike in France lasted only three days. It broke out February 27 and ended March 1. First reports in the press proclaimed the strike to be a revolution. The railroad workers, it was said, aim at nothing short of the establishment of a Soviet, or what is less dramatically known as the nationalization of the railroads. Then we learned of the demands of the workers from the strike order sent out by the National Federation of Railwaymen. It reads in part as follows:

"Owing to the attack by the Paris, Lyons and Mediterranean Railroad Company on the exercise of union rights, the railroaders of that system and of the Paris region, influenced by solidarity and dignity, have begun a movement of protest which is spreading hourly."

"The executive committee of the federation, after exhausting all means of conciliation and meeting with an obstinate and uncompromising spirit on the part of the management of the Paris, Lyons and Mediterranean Railroad, the Minister of Public Works and the Premier as regards obtaining a suspension of punishments while awaiting arbitration of incidents, has decided to call the cessation of work on all systems."

These demands are unmistakably moderate and orthodox, and the French Federation of Labor endorsed the strike, contrary to newspaper reports a day before that the Federation opposed it. But when these demands were submitted by the railroad workers, the Government immediately reverted to the notorious precedent of 1910. The railway men in 1910 presented demands for an increase in wages, one day of rest in the week, the retroactive application of the old-age pension law, and several other concessions relating to conditions of work and matters of discipline. The railway companies had refused to meet the representatives of the railway men, and Briand, who was Premier at the time, advised the officials of the railway union that he could do nothing to make the railway companies change their attitude. Finally a strike followed.

and Briand immediately ordered the arrest of the members of the strike committee and ordered the striking railway men under colors, thus putting them under martial law. The strike was broken in a few days. The failure of the railway strike was a heavy blow not only to the railway workers' syndicate, but to the general labor movement of France.

The present French premier, M. Millerand, is actuated by the same faith of strike breaking as his predecessor. He proceeded to mobilize all railway workers subject to military service. He promptly accepted the offer of services tendered by an organization of former soldiers to act as scabs. He requisitioned motor trucks, automobiles and airplanes. He prosecuted and arrested strike leaders. He used military forces to operate trains and intimidate strikers. These were his methods of dealing with workers who submitted demands for the elementary right of the recognition of the union. And Millerand won. The railroad workers struck for three days. The rest of the workers hesitated and waited. Meanwhile the General Confederation of Labor had taken over complete direction of the strike, the National Federation of Railway Workers being a section of that organization. The radical strike leaders were displaced. Arbitration was initiated by the Federation. The proposals of Premier Millerand were accepted by the workers. These are: No pay for the days of the strike, no punishment for refusing the formal request to resume work, and a review by each Director of all other punishments. The strike came to end with a show of compromise. There is not the slightest suggestion in the settlement of the strike of the new forces that are moving labor.

## The French Socialist Congress

THE French Socialist Congress held in Strasbourg last week was another indication that France is not yet prepared for any political or economic change. The congress was called for the purpose of formulating a new policy to meet the present situation. The Socialists met and debated for four days, and have decided to quit the Second Internationale, but they repudiated the Third Internationale, formed at Moscow. They adopted a resolution calling on all the Socialists of the world to formulate a new platform for internationalism. But there are no positive, concrete measures. They are determined in their opposition to any program which advocates revolution or communism. They are hunting for suitable "reconstructive" measures which should leave the present order intact. The Socialists share in the belief of the ruling class that France must now show the world no sign of division or of class conflict, but demonstrate their national solidarity and perfect harmony of interests. For France cannot recuperate without the help of England and the United States. Chauvinism is the necessary prerequisite for getting credits and financial aid from the Great Powers. And the French are chauvinists and are fearful for their future. The Socialists express this state of mind as well as the ruling class. It is the one country where the war had a crushing effect on the spirit of the people.

## Ballots and Accounts

VOTES are not the only things by which Republican or Democratic candidates get into office. It is the counting of the votes that counts. A striking demonstration of this is offered now by the recount of the votes cast last November for Algeron Lee and Edward F. Cassidy for aldermen in the 8th and 20th districts. Lee's majority at the close of the count was 334, while Cassidy's plurality was 109. These figures do not include several hundred ballots in each district which the Socialists claim were deliberately voided by inspectors on Election Day. Following these victories a movement was launched to seat the two Socialist aldermen.

A movement to obtain an examination in several other districts where the Socialists believe they were elected was set on foot by Socialists. This presents a new method for propaganda supplied to the Socialists by the tactics of the ruling classes.

## The Albany Trial

IN face of great odds Speaker Sweet and his ilk are still crusading against the Socialists. After their chief counsels deserted them, they are nevertheless bravely, almost desperately holding their ground. The last thing they have was to issue a pathetic appeal to the public to support the proceedings against the Socialist assemblymen and suggest "similar action" against duly elected Socialists in other states. This appeal to the public, replete with suggestions and recommendations, is signed by a number of citizens who apparently have nothing to do with the actual proceedings of the case. It is to add impartiality to the statement. But the names attached to the document shows clearly that they are spiritual kins of Sweet and the Luskers. This attempt to appeal to the public reveals a lack of confidence in their own Judiciary Committee.

## What Is a Living Wage?

THIS is a difficult if not futile question. No sooner is a standard living wage established than the cost of living makes another leap upward. To determine the present cost of living is like taking a cross section of a rushing stream. Yet this is the chief problem which workers are daily facing.

The Coal Commission named by President Wilson to adjust the wage controversy between the miners and the owners is now trying to solve this question. The operators submitted from their 1918 and 1919 payrolls a set of wage figures which they supposed would show how justly they were dealing with their workmen. The miners immediately accepted the operators' figures. These figures showed: That for the northern Illinois district the actual average earning for pick miners and loaders were under 1000 dollars a year. That if conditions had permitted the men to work every day when the mines were in operation they would have been unable to earn more than \$1,194.12 in 1918, and less than \$700 dollars in 1919. That almost half the companies listed by the operators in their star exhibition paid average monthly which less than a third of the

wages of less than 80 dollars companies paid an average as high as 100 dollars.

The miners then laid before the commission figures prepared by Professor Chapin, of the Sage Foundation; Professor Ogburn, of Columbia University; the New York State Factory Commission; the New York Board of Estimate; and others, showing how much it costs to support a family "at the barest minimum of health and decency":

Prof. Chapin's Budget ..	\$1,632
Prof. Ogburn's Budget ..	1,622
N. Y. State Factory Investigation .....	1,587
N. Y. Board of Estimate ..	1,541
Food Allowance .....	1,643
Average .....	\$1,603

"These budgets provide for a subsistence only just above the poverty level," the President's commission was informed, "and they make no provision whatsoever for comfort, health, savings, recreation or amusement. They are not put forward to show what the mine worker's family ought to receive, because, after food, clothing and shelter are bought with this \$1,600, not the slightest margin is left to prevent the wife and children from becoming public charges should anything happen to the miner himself.

"And yet, in many mining districts, the earnings of the head of the family have not been enough to equal this amount. In order to secure a family income which would provide for physical needs alone, it has been necessary to put the children to work and for the wife to take lodgers into the home."

#### Railroad Workers Give Up

"WHAT's the use?" Gompers said, when asked if the A. F. of L. would petition Congress and the President for a change of attitude on the railroad affair. "What's the use?" is the decision reached by the railroad workers after a session of three days. "As American citizens," the statement issued by the railroad workers reads, "we feel that in the interest of railroad labor there is nothing for us to do at present except to co-operate with each other in the prompt creation of the machinery provided for in the law."

What is this machinery? President Wilson made the first step this week in the creation of the machinery provided for in the new railroad law to settle labor controversies. In letters to the Association of Railway Secretaries and to the railroad workers' organizations he asked them to name members of the bipartisan wage board, which under the act is to include employers and employees.

The railroad workers have capitulated to the fact of private ownership of railroads and will wait for the board to grant them their demands. Only one union, the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and Railway Shop Laborers, failed to sign the announcement of surrender. This body will take a definite stand at a meeting in Chicago this week. But it is expected

# A Building Guild for Great Britain

By G. D. H. COLE

In the middle of January the building trade operatives in the Manchester area, on the initiative of the bricklayers, suddenly launched a scheme for solving the British housing problem by means of a building guild. The workers began by forming, on the basis of the various trade unions in the district, a building guild committee, on which each trade union received equal representation. The guild committee then immediately went to the City Council and virtually offered to take over the housing scheme, beginning with a promise to build two thousand houses at once at a price considerably below the prices quoted by private builders. The idea was at once enthusiastically taken up by the building workers in other centers with the result that other guild committees are being formed. It now seems almost certain that before long either a national building guild, or a series of regional guilds federated nationally, will have been launched by the trade unions connected with the industry. It is equally certain that, although the local authorities and the Ministry of Health, still dominated by traditional business ideas, have considerable hesitation in accepting so novel an offer, the very urgency of the housing problem and the clamant public demand for "some-where-to-live," are likely to make its acceptance inevitable wherever it is reasonably put forward.

The national guilds idea has thus passed, with dramatic suddenness, from the stage of propaganda, at which even the miners' proposals still remain, to the stage of actuality, and there is every prospect that, within the next few weeks, the first productive guild in the United Kingdom will have been launched. The most startling thing about the situation is the absolute and elemental simplicity of the proposal. More and more, as the housing muddle has grown worse and its solution by the existing methods become more obviously impossible, the principal difficulties have been seen to be two—finance and labor. The financial problem is, and must remain, one which mainly affects

that this body will fall into line with the other organizations of railroad workers.

#### Palmer for President

PALMER, our vigilant Attorney General, has been good enough to announce his candidacy for the Presidency of these United States. He is determined to save this country, and he is convinced that no one else could do this. Palmer would immediately plunge into his job with plans all made out. He would first exterminate the radicals. He would dye the country yellow. This is impossible now, for there are only laws against red immigrants but what about American radicals? Palmer asks. At a meeting

the government and the local authorities. It concerns, first, the terms on which financial assistance is to be made available to local authorities by the Treasury and the Ministry of Health, the Ministry at present insisting on a rent higher than those which are chargeable for existing houses under the Rent Restriction acts. Both these financial difficulties, while they would not be solved, would be made immensely easier by a reduction in the costs of house-building, such as the guild seems likely to be able to ensure.

It is, however, upon the second difficulty—that of labor,—that the guild proposal is essentially based. The building trade unions possess a practical monopoly of building labor, and it is upon this monopoly that they propose to found their guild. There has been, for some months past, an acute scare about the shortage of building labor, accompanied by proposals, not in the least likely to become effective, for its dilution by the introduction of additional unskilled workers from outside. The building operatives, on the other hand, contend that there is no absolute shortage of building labor in relation to vital needs, and that the problem is that of mobilizing the available labor for the work which is most necessary for the community. There are plenty of bricklayers and other building workers; but very few of them are engaged in building houses because, under present conditions, it pays the private builder better to undertake luxury and industrial work than to build houses, and because the building worker is, generally speaking, assured of a regular week's work and pay on such jobs, but not in house-building. The workers contend that, under guild conditions, which include guaranteed continuity of pay and employment, they can, by virtue of their labor-monopoly, mobilize without difficulty for the task of house-building all the labor that is required.

The guild proposal, then, is in its essence this. The workers go to the public housing authorities and say:—"We possess a monopoly of labor, or in other words,

in New York last week Palmer complained that he was hampered in his great work by the lack of constructive legislation. There are no laws against reds who are American citizens. He has done pretty well with the aliens and he longingly looks forward to the time when his torture instruments could be applied to real Americans who happen to have ideas different from his own.

Palmer is the pet of the Administration. He has the support of the President, it is said. And he promises to perpetuate the Wilsonian tradition. The League of Nations is another issue that the exterminator of the Reds is proposing. He is for the League, that is, for the internationalism, but it is of the yellow type

we are the only people who can build houses. If you job get houses built, and you have, or are in a position to get, the money required, for building them. We suggest, then, that a marriage should be arranged between the "labor credit" of the workers and the "financial credit" of the municipality, and that the two should enter into a partnership to meet the urgent need of the people. Then the workers go on to suggest the terms of this partnership. They inform the Council that they have formed a guild, and that behind this guild is every trade union and every building worker in the area. They propose that this guild should organize as a self-governing democratic body the building of houses, appointing its own architects, engineers and technicians, and in all respects preserving its internal autonomy. They propose that the Council should enter into an agreement with the guild, that it should supply the capital required, and, of course, should become the owner of the houses erected.

Naturally, the first instinct of the Councilors, mostly with a business training and then, is to ask for financial guarantees. "You have no money," they say. "You are not solid men of business like ourselves. How, then, can you come to us and suggest a contract when you are not able to give us any financial guarantees of completion?" The workers' reply is twofold. "In the first place," they say, "we may not have the money, but neither have you the labor; and, if we cannot produce houses without money, you certainly cannot produce them without labor. In the second place, kindly remember that we are not a financial syndicate out for profits and therefore amenable to financial arguments. We are a new phenomenon in the world of industry, a black-leg proof body of workers using our labor-power as a basis for credit and for control over production. We offer you a chance, which no one can offer without us, of getting houses built. We do not ask you to advance a vast sum, but only to keep us going, as we produce, with raw materials and money to pay our workers and our overhead charges. If our experiment were to fail—which it will not—you could at any time rely on receiving value for the money advanced in the work done, which would pass into your possession. We therefore refuse to give financial guarantees; our security and credit lie in our exclusive control of the supply of labor."

In the present situation, this argument is literally and absolutely unanswerable. If the Councils were to refuse to accept the offer, the building workers would have only to stick to their point and in the last resort withhold their labor from housing schemes in order to have the whole mass of public opinion with them. For, even if public opinion is largely indifferent to the conflict of industrial theories, there is one thing to which it is not indifferent, and that is the supply of houses.

The time has come, then, for a definite and immediate translation into practice of the theories which guild socialists have been advocating for the past ten years. An unparalleled opportunity has presented itself.

(Continued on Page 7)

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## EDITORIALS

### NEW YORK CLOAK-MANUFACTURERS ARE RESTLESS

Our present economic system can hardly be said to offer a basis for harmony between capital and labor. To believe that everlasting peace is possible in industry as long as our society is divided into two opposite camps, into exploiters and exploited, is to indulge in vain and idle dreams. However strong our desire for peace may be, we may be forced against our will to take up arms. But the impossibility of perpetual peace does not at all imply the necessity of perpetual war. The workers have common sense enough to realize that constant war may spell ruin to the industry in which they are employed, and that to ruin the industry may mean to spill the blood of the workers.

War and peace are two extremes but the edges of each can be blunted by a mutual understanding, by an armistice. It is true an armistice may only be a temporary respite after an exhausting campaign, a peaceful truce, a lull in the enemy at an unexpected spot, a means to gather forces for more violent future attacks. Still an armistice may extend over a period long enough to give it the appearance of peace and make one forget that his purpose is future war.

The constant oscillation between war and armistice is characteristic of all industrial life. The cloakmakers trade seems to form the only exception. This trade seems to be in a state of perpetual war.

The question naturally arises. What is the reason of this? Is it because the cloakmakers belong to a peculiarly blood-thirsty species whose mind is bent exclusively upon fights and attacks? It suffices, however, to lay aside personal prejudice for a moment and go to the records of this Union, to read, for instance, the report of Secretary Langer, about the activities of the Union for the last two years, to realize that far from worshipping the cult of war for the sake of war, the Union has always applied all its efforts to avoid war. The reason for the trouble must be sought elsewhere. We venture to affirm that it is to be found in the absurd tactics of the cloak manufacturers. Anyone who will take the trouble to cast a glance at recent events in the cloakmakers trade will easily see that this is the case.

The cloakmakers were compelled not long ago by the rapid growth of the cost of living to come forward with a demand for a wage increase. No sober minded person could deny that these demands were perfectly just. The manufacturers saw in this nothing but arrogance and an encroachment on their inalienable rights,

and flatly refused to grant any increase. They evidently dreamed of dealing once for all a crushing blow to the Union by forcing upon it a war. The interference of the Governor fortunately gave another turn to these plans. The decision rendered by the Governor's Committee turned out in favor of the workers. The employers had no choice but to promise to comply with the decision. It seems that plain common sense was sufficient to persuade the employers that to transform their promises into facts would above all be beneficial to their own interests. To satisfy the workers is doubtless the best way to secure their good will, which in its turn is the best way to increase productivity. The employers, however, prefer war to an armistice. In a truly cowardly fashion they are trying now to create by all kinds of tricks the points of a decision which they could not defy openly at the time when it was rendered. The payment of back pay is being delayed, the promise to grant to every worker a wage increase is twisted in such a way as to make it meaningless.

The manufacturers seem to have learned nothing from the lessons of the last ten years. Every time the manufacturers came to an open encounter with their workers they were always decisively beaten. But, in spite of these defeats, the manufacturers are now as eager to attack the Union as they were ten years ago. The mental state of the manufacturers is not unlike that of the gambler. The more the gambler loses the stronger his desire grows for the next game in order to have at last a chance to win.

The beaten Indians who cling to the idea of driving out from America a hundred million whites betray the same state of mind. The manufacturers are no more led by logic to their conclusions than these simple-minded Indians. They are simply trying to vent their wrath by pointing their heads against an iron wall.

No deep vision is required to see that in this furious outburst it will be the head that will suffer and not the wall. We are also certain that their fury will neither turn public opinion in their favor nor will it change the decision of the Governor's Committee. We advise them rather to abide by their promises. They will anyway have to decide sooner or later. To defy the decision of the Governor's Committee is to launch upon a course which may prove to be quite dangerous.

How blundered the manufacturers are by passion and bad blood is strikingly illustrated by the vehement opposition with which they met the plan of a labor bu-

reau. There can be no doubt that a labor bureau would be of great benefit both to the workers and employers. It would save workers the trouble of spending days in hunting for jobs. The manufacturers on the other hand would be saved the trouble of advertising for hands as well as of groping in the dark regarding the qualifications and competence of those who apply for jobs. The labor bureau, having an exact idea of the kind of work every applicant can do and of the character of the work done in every shop, will sort and classify the workers for the manufacturers so as to provide the right place with the right man. It goes without saying that the labor bureau would be interested for reasons of self-preservation to fulfill its task as conscientiously as possible.

Instead of welcoming this plan, the manufacturers threaten in their impotent rage to establish a bureau of their own. We must confess that it is beyond our comprehension to grasp what good a separate bureau could do for the employers. Such a bureau would be a sensible enterprise if the manufacturers could hope to split the forces of the union through its agency. If there were non-union cloakmakers whom the employers could hope to recruit thru their bureau, replacing the union workers it would doubtless be worth their while. But the fact is, and the manufacturers are very well aware of the fact, that there is no such thing as non-union cloakmakers. Hundred per cent of the cloakmakers belong to the union. And if this is the case, we may also ask the manufacturers the following question: Who will come to their bureau? Organized workers will certainly prefer their own bureau. There can't be any question of non-union workers for the simple reason that there are not any. The manufacturers are perhaps hoping to kill our bureau by ignoring it. They have, of course, a perfect right not to apply to the labor bureau for workers. But what benefit would such a policy be to them? We fear our own party cannot tell. What we can foresee as the result for such a policy is this: the workers will remain idle and cloaks will, consequently, not be made.

The only reason which we can give for the peculiar tactics employed by the manufacturers in the present case is that they are determined, out of spite and malignancy, to do the opposite of what the unions do. Logic is certainly against them. Every possible reason that could be brought forward could only lead to show that our bureau has all chances to be crowned with success, while their bureau is doomed to hopeless failure. To undertake a thing the failure of which is certain and inevitable betrays a desire to hurt for the sake of hurting. We doubt that any advocate could be found to defend such outright madness.

Every careful reader can notice that we are handling the manufacturers with silk gloves. They deserve unquestionably a harsher treatment. But we do not want to add fuel to the flames, to add more madness to their madness by irritating them. Our aim is not criticism for the sake of criticism. We are interested in the positive results that a sincere and sound criticism could bring about. We are anxious to open the eyes of the employers so as to enable them to see things in their true light.

Our words are rather an appeal to lay aside passion, give up idle dreams, and weigh consequences, in a cold blooded manner, and to force a war upon the workers against their will, to prevent what can still be prevented.

A labor bureau may perhaps make the union stronger. But is not the union already strong enough? And even if the union were not strong enough nothing could strengthen it so much as a provocation to a new war. It is above all the wars forced by the employers upon the union that make it so formidable.

The manufacturers are evidently still cherishing the dream of smashing the union. This bureau of their own looks like a scheme invented for the realization of this dream. For it is obvious that under the innocent and harmless cover of a labor bureau they are carefully preparing a seab agency. We may assure the employers that the workers are not so naive as to believe that they can expect impartiality from such a bureau. The employers are deceiving no one but themselves. It is high time for them to become reconciled with the fact that the union is now an irresistible force. If the union could weather all the storms in its infancy, it is foolish to expect now that it could be smashed by tricks. Did the manufacturers gain anything four years ago with their famous lock-out? Were they not compelled a few months ago to introduce into their shops the system of week work of definite wage scales, at 44 hour working week? Were they not quite recently made to grant the workers a wage increase? Where is the guaranty that they will not be defeated again?

The labor bureau will not be detrimental to the interests of the employers. The workers in general are anxious to observe all the promises made by them and to maintain peace in the industry as long as possible. The fate of the cloak industry now is in the hands of the employers. More generosity on their part, a readiness to fulfill what they promised, — and the cloak industry will again function normally to the benefit of the employers and workers.

### A MILLION DOLLAR FUND

The Joint Board has come forth recently with a plan of raising a fund of a million dollars. It may be that the vacillating state of mind of the employers, their readiness to declare war against the union at the opportune moment, has something to do with this plan. If it is so, the manufacturers will have another opportunity to witness the effect of their tactics. But no matter whether the manufacturers are responsible or not for this plan, the idea of a fund of a million dollars is a splendid one and has to be welcomed with joy and enthusiasm. The workers have to be prepared for all emergencies. And a million dollars is an excellent proof of preparedness.

Such a fund has become all the more necessary as the union has to rely more and more on its own resources. The union has become too powerful to expect help from the outside world. It is a union from which the outside world expects and obtains help. We had, not long ago, an occasion to see how necessary such a fund is for the welfare of the union. Although

the last strike lasted only a short time, there remained little of the 250,000 dollars raised by the 5 dollar assessments.

We would even not stop at a 1,000,000 dollars. The Joint Board could certainly make an excellent use of more money. And as to the raising of the money we believe that the cloakmakers could raise every year a million dollars. Why could not for instance the Joint Board, if it had sufficient funds, launch co-operative shops for the manufacture of cloaks and make the workers in this way their own bosses? Such a plan may be premature at the present, nevertheless it cannot be denied that a fund of a million dollars is of the highest importance for the cloakmakers.

We firmly believe that this sum, however striking it may sound, can easily be raised. The total membership of all the locals belonging to the union is 150,000. Now a fund could easily be secured if each member would consent to contribute twenty dollars, which could be paid in four installments. The cloakmakers have recently raised under far worse conditions, 250,000 dollars; there is no reason why they could not raise a million dollars now. For whatever end the fund may be utilized we can be certain of one thing, the million dollars would at present serve as an excellent tonic to calm the warlike mode of the employers.

## NEW YORK CLOAKMAKERS TO BUY HOME

The New York cloakmakers are determined to have their own home to house their activities. Like the Joint Board of Chicago the New York Joint Board has decided to erect a home of its own. The attention of the Joint Board has already been turned to an eleven story house in the centre of the cloakmakers district. This house can accommodate all the locals of the union, and has also room enough for a large hall where meeting should be held.

It is needless to say that this plan deserves the welcome of every cloakmaker. The bringing together of all the locals that are now scattered over wide areas will prove an excellent means for strengthening the solidarity of the union. The intimate atmosphere in which the work of the union will be done, the opportunity the union members will have to meet often face to face will ultimately lead to the realization of one big union. Besides, the reduction of the expenses which will result from this could be utilized for more important purposes.

## SCHLESINGER'S ARRIVAL DELAYED

President Schlesinger arrived not on Saturday as it was expected, but on Tuesday. Our impressions and interview with him about his varied experiences abroad will have to be delayed for the next issue of Justice. No one, of course, will miss the opportunity of hearing President Schlesinger in Carnegie Hall, Friday, March 12.

# The Problem of Week Work

By M. PERLSTEIN

The Cleveland cloakmakers are still employed under the piece-work system, but according to the provision of the new agreement week work is to be introduced in the Cleveland cloakshops within the next eight months.

It is therefore of utmost importance to examine the question of week work which is so closely bound up with several other questions.

First, how should the wages above the minimum scale be determined?

This question has been easily solved in New York, Chicago and other cities where week work had been introduced. The wages of each worker had been calculated on the basis of his piece work earnings. Is this a fair procedure? I think not. Piece work in itself is a poor method by which to determine wages, for in the case where workers have a "show," that is, when they are fortunate enough to get good "bundles," they make good wages, while workers equally skilled and able but who have poorer luck, that is, get bad "bundles," earn considerably less. Is this just or fair?

Second, if a worker leaves his job and finds employment elsewhere, how should his wages be determined? Should it be the same wage he received from his former employer? But this will depend, I suppose, upon the general conditions of the trade, upon the scarcity of labor, etc. The worker may expect to get the same or even a higher wage if the employer is in urgent need of him. If the trade, however, is not very brisk, and the employer can afford to wait, the worker will be offered the minimum wage. What are we going to do about it?

Some perhaps will say: Very well, in such a case all will have to work for the minimum, that is, there will develop a "straight wage," just, for example, as in the carpenters' trade. All workers receive a dollar or a dollar and half an hour. There are no better or worse carpenters. Many will perhaps say that this is true trade unionism. I feel, however, that no matter how true it might be to the principles of trade unionism, it is nevertheless unjust, and I am unalterably opposed to it.

It is true that all men are born equal but it is also true that each one has different inclinations and aptitudes. Why then should the employer profit more from the abler and better worker? Why should one work for 50 dollars when he can ordinarily make 70 dollars?

The situation would, of course, be different in a society controlled and managed by workers. But there is no reason in the world why one should not receive, under the present capitalist order, as much as his abilities permit. When a uniform wage will be established the employers will doubtless manage to select the ablest workers and the slow workers will be eliminated. But when the better workers receive higher wages they not only protect their own families but help to protect the slow workers, because the employer is compelled to pay according to the ability of the workers.

I do not believe then in a "straight wage." I believe in a minimum wage for a slow worker, and a higher wage for the better worker.

How should the wages be determined? The following methods are employed. There are workers, say, who are earning 70 and 80 dollars a week. It may be that the 70-dollar-worker is worth 80. But under the circumstances the best has been done for him. There is, however, a striking difference between one shop and another. Where the price committee is strong and the employer waverless, the wages will be higher, where the situation is reversed, the wages will be lower. Should we depend upon this manner of adjusting wages?

We gladly talk of a "fair day's wage for a fair day's work." What does it mean? What is a "fair day's work"? I confess that I cannot answer this question. But I know how this works out in practice. If you work for a decent employer, the working conditions may be more or less satisfactory. But if the employer is autocratic and domineering, as is usually the case, the worker will always be accused of loafing on the job. An uncertain situation arises. Five garments a day may mean a good day's work in one shop but a poor day's work in another shop. Neither is this system practicable.

This brings us to the most important problem which must sooner or later be answered.

A minimum weekly wage has already been established in many cities. I once shared the opinion of many of our leaders that this achievement is the final goal of union activity. This was taught us by the old trade unionists and it has been followed as the Holy Writ. But I have been doing some thinking lately, and I came to the conclusion that the minimum weekly wage in itself means very little. Take an extreme case. Suppose one gets 500 dollars a week, but works only one week a year. He would, of course, starve the largest part of the year. If the workers of this industry are to make a decent living, not only during the working weeks, but throughout the year, they must know in the beginning of the year that their livelihood will be assured throughout the year.

I am of the opinion that in addition to the weekly minimum wage the workers must secure an annual minimum wage scale. The workers must be in a position to demand of the employer an annual minimum wage just as they are demanding a weekly minimum.

Many of our old-time trade unionists are clamoring for a wage increase because of the rise in the cost of living. But this is not all. The workers demand and will continue to demand a wage increase not only because of the rise in the cost of living, but because the workers have realized that they are entitled to a better life. They want higher wages because they want to enjoy the good things of life. They want to give a better education to their children than they had received. And for this reason the workers must secure an annual minimum wage. To sup-

ply work for the entire season is the business of the manufacturer. Under the present system it is the workers who carry the burden of uncertainty. The manufacturer makes sufficient profits during the short months of the year to last him for the year. The workers are making a hand-to-mouth life, and the evils of unemployment staring them in the face.

We speak of extending the season. We cannot do it, while the manufacturer is indifferent. Take the case of the high cost of clothing. The manufacturers claim that it is entirely due to the high wages of the workers. But every dollar that the workers receive is immediately added to the cost of a garment instead of subtracting it from the huge profits of the employer. Every invested dollar, the manufacturers hold, must bring so much profit, overhead expenses, etc. When a manufacturer runs a factory six or seven months he can very comfortably tide through the year. It is clear that the average manufacturer cares very little for a long season. The garments, of course, become expensive. Fewer people buy clothes. But the manufacturer makes his profits from one garment instead of 12. It is the workers who suffer the consequences.

But when the manufacturers will be compelled to guarantee his workers an annual minimum wage he will then supply sufficient work for the entire year. The manufacturer will then make his annual profit in 12 months instead of six. The cost of garments will be considerably lowered. A large number of people will buy clothes. It would be even far from damaging if the swollen profits of the manufacturers would be reduced 15 or 20 per cent profits on invested capital not profit!

## INSURANCE AGENTS

The organization of Insurance Agents that is being slowly but surely moulded into a real labor factor, is to be welcomed by every union man.

The unionist insurance agent will be a splendid medium of distribution of labor grievances, as well as a barrier of facts between the housewife and the outside world. The insurance agent spends much time in the homes of the worker and is therefore in a position to accomplish much by way of establishing a better understanding between the home and the strike line, provided the agent is himself a good union man. In addition to this, the agent himself will get many benefits through organization, which he could not get otherwise.

Every reader of the "Metal Worker" should consider it his duty to insist upon dealing with a union insurance agent only. Get your agent to show his union card, if he is not a member of his Insurance Agents' Union, insist that he become one. The Headquarters of the Union is at 112 4th Ave., New York City. J. A. Weil is the Organizer. Cut this out and give it to your agent.

# IN OUR EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

By DR. LOUIS FRIEDLAND,  
Educational Director, I. L. G. W. U.

## EDUCATIONAL CHATS

Are you class conscious? No one can say that the Educational Director of the International is not class conscious. As a matter of fact he harbors with every class in our educational society. He makes no class distinctions and he wishes to announce that he thinks this attitude deserves praise. Of course, he is not without class pride. He is proud of all the classes, but he would like to see some of them larger than they are at present. That we have a quality of students in our classes which beats anything that a former college professor has known in many years of experience goes without saying, and yet to the educational producer quantity is a quality which is also desirable. He wants to suggest very mildly, but firmly that the Workers' University should be distinguished not for the groups of eager, earnest and responsive students, but also for the response of a great many more such students to the excellent opportunities which the International offers. Surely, the workers are not few in number; their University should exemplify their numbers and their power. If knowledge is power — a truth which is undeniable — the power of a Workers' University resides not only in the free, frank, unbiased, controversial, truth-seeking teaching and discussion, but just as much in the numbers of workers who participate, who offer their presence and their contribution to the whole body.

An old proverb says, "United we stand, divided we fall." The Educational Director would like to suggest that with the University stand a good chance of attaining our goal; without it, we fail. And for a great University such as we have begun to create, many students as well as good teachers are the only essentials.

There is always room for one. Why don't you, gentle , unite yourself with us in a great comradeship of education. If you are as class conscious as your Educational Director, then choose your own class, join it, and show that you belong to it every time that it calls you.

**Opening Celebrations.** When a man opens his place of business for the first time, his friends send him wreaths of flowers with the kindly sentiment, "Good Wishes," or "Success" written across them. At the opening celebrations of our Unity Centers no floral wreaths have ever appeared — perhaps because we are not much given to sending flowers, either for weddings or funerals. But there has always been enough of oratorical wreaths supplied. We do not need flowers for our opening celebrations, first because we always have good music, good singing, exhibitions of esthetic dancing (usually by some of our own members) and general dancing for every one who wishes to disport on the light fantastic toe. The second reason for the absence of flowers is that we celebrate a venture which can never die, because the thirst for

knowledge and for recreation is unquenchable. Education will survive as long as the human spirit lives.

Most important of all, however, is the fact that the opening celebrations of our Unity Centers are held to mark an established success, and the presence of a great many of our comrades and friends on these occasions is the 'best proof of their good wishes. If you did not attend the opening celebration of the Workers' University last month, or that of the second Bronx Unity Center you should be at the next one.

**Practical Psychology.** As a practical psychologist, I want to say that when on a cold, snowy Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, I find over one hundred students gathered to listen to Dr. Samuel A. Tannenbaum, I became convinced that we want practical psychology, and also that Dr. Tannenbaum knows how to give us what we want and need. Furthermore, when this sort of thing happens week after week, whether or no weather, I begin to think well of my own psychology in having introduced this course in the curriculum of the Workers' University and having chosen our good friend to conduct the course. It is not often that one gets the opportunity to listen to a competent physician of long training and experience, and a thorough and accomplished psycholanalyst like Dr. Tannenbaum.

Perhaps you would not expect me to confess that I am learning as much about psychology as any of the students in this class, in spite of the fact that I took a properly certified course in this subject at a college some many years ago; but this only gives me the power to see the difference between the two courses, and at last I am finding out that psychology can really be practical and helpful in our everyday lives; and that it meets a great need, personal and in intellectual.

It is true that most Sunday mornings you cannot have a reserved seat unless you come early, but there are many chairs that can be coaxed into the room, and there is always standing room for late comers. Those of us who have been to these lectures do not have to be coaxed to come again. Those who do not come will never know how much they miss. There are not many things in life that stimulate us. Ignorance is not bliss, in spite of the old adage, and psychology under Dr. Tannenbaum has proved enticing enough to arouse us from blissful slumber every Sunday morning. At last we are answering to the call of education. Will you answer this call next Sunday?

If you do, you may decide to stay after the lecture for the illuminating discussions, and then a little while longer for Mr. Schulz's class in Public Speaking, or Mr. Gray's preparatory class in the same subject. Or, perhaps you will be interested in the new class in Grammar and Written English which is being formed.

Mr. Wilbert, who lectures on contemporary labor problems at the Harlem Center, P. S. 171, 1033 Street between Madison and Fifth Avenues, has proven very popular. We therefore advise all of our members residing in that locality to be present at these lectures which take place on Tuesday evenings at 8:45 P. M.

Our members who reside on the East Side are preparing for a **Concert and Dance** that will take place at the East Side Unity Center, P. S. 63, Fourth Street near First Avenue. A musical program has been arranged for this occasion, at which Sonya Medvedeff, the soprano, will sing, Max Jacobs the violinist will play, and some of Mrs. Morton's pupils, well known to our members, will give a recital of interpretive dancing. We hope to be able to have President Schlesinger with us that night to tell the audience about some of his experiences in Europe. After the concert there will be general dancing by the audience. The students of this center will act as ushers. All our members of the East Side, with their families and friends, are invited. A special invitation is extended by the East Side Students to the students of the Workers' University. Tickets can be secured free of charge at the offices of the local unions and at the East Side Unity Center.

Miss Gladys Boone of London, England, will continue her lectures on the Labor Movement and Present Day Trade Union Problems in England, at the Bronx Unity Center, P. S. 54, Intervale Avenue and Freeman Street, on Tuesday evenings at 9:45 P. M. in the Library Room. All Bronxites and others interested in the Labor Movement in England are welcome to these lectures.

The next meeting of the Joint Conference of the Local Educational Committees is called for Tuesday, March 9th, 1924 at the office of the International, 31 Union Square, Room 1003, immediately after work. Questions of great importance will be discussed there. We ask all the members to attend this meeting without fail.

## WAISTMAKERS' UNITY CENTER

P. S. 40, 320 E. 20th St.

The health lecture given Friday evenings at 8:30 by Dr. Sarah Greenberg, has aroused a great interest at the Waistmakers' Unity Center, and attendance has been steadily increasing. Dr. Greenberg is especially fitted thru long experience to speak on this subject, and has justly earned her popularity among the Unity Center students.

The Mandolin Club conducted by Frank D. Haiss is now a stable feature of the Center. It meets Friday evenings from 7 to 8:30 and any who still wish to join should do so at once before the class becomes too advanced. Mr. Haiss will assist in trying Mandolins for any who wish it.

Miss Margaret Daniels is continuing her lectures in economics, her class meeting at 9 o'clock Tuesdays in order to accommodate the English students. Every one is urged to supply themselves

# TOLEDO CLOAKMAKERS CELEBRATE TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The Tenth Anniversary Banquet and Dance given by our Cloak and Skirt Makers' Union, Local 7 of I. L. G. W. U. last week in Toledo, Ohio, was one of the most beautiful occasions in the history of our Local. Brother L. Fried, President of our Union, also President of the Joint Board was toast master. Two of the Vice Presidents of our International, Brother Lefkowitz and Brother M. Perlestein, were the distinguished representatives and our honorary guests. Business Agents J. J. Quinlivan of the Toledo, C. L. U. and Brother Chas. Krinkle of Cleveland were present, also visitors from the Jewish Socialist Branch of Toledo, Working Men's Circle, National Workers' Alliance and Poale Zionists.

Vice Presidents Lefkowitz and Perlestein were the principal speakers. Brother M. Perlestein was awarded with a fourteen karat gold watch with compliments of our Local engraved, and Brother Lefkowitz was presented with a diamond ring in appreciation of their faithful services to our Local, which they received with tears in their eyes and thanked the membership for same.

Bro. Lefkowitz remarked that he never wore any ring, not even a wedding ring, but that the one presented from the Union he would accept as a token of appreciation.

Brother Starkoff, our previous Secretary, has amused us with his so-called gang.

In behalf of our local, I wish to thank our Sister Local 84 of the cutters and Mr. Levitt for the beautiful flowers they have given us.

James Zvelebil,  
Secretary.

with pencils or fountain pens that they may take notes for future reference. Students who learn the value of note taking form a study habit which will add greatly to his or her educational capacity. Mr. Retting will furnish envelopes or folders in which to keep notes to any who wish it.

Besides the economics, health and mandolin classes, there are the usual ones of English, arithmetic, recreation and swimming. The latter class meets every Monday evening at 6 o'clock at the 23rd St. Pool (23rd Street and Avenue A.)

Any one wishing instruction in the latest methods of swimming and diving should join this class now in order to fully enjoy the lake at the Unity House next summer.

# THE WEEK'S NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By I. LEWIN

## General News

At the last general meeting of the union on Saturday afternoon, February 28th, a great deal of business was disposed of, chief among which were the nominations of candidates for the office of General Secretary, and delegates to the convention of the I. L. G. W. U., which will take place at Chicago, the week beginning Monday, May 3, 1936.

Brother Israel Lewin, present incumbent, is the only candidate for the office of General Secretary.

The following are the candidates for delegates to the convention in the order in which they will appear on the ballot:

Isidore Cohen, Sidney Rothenberg, Harry Berlin, John C. Ryan, Adolph Sonen, Meyer Scharp, Sam Perlmuter, Philip Anshel, Benj. Rubin, Julius Levine, Jacob Lukin, Isidore Nagler, Sam B. Shaker, Harry Blum, Nat. Saperstein, Max Gorenstein, Leo Klein, Meyer Zuckheim, David Dubinsky, Israel Lewin, Louis Lipschitz.

Sections for the above offices will take place on Saturday, March 20, 1936, from 12 Noon to 5 P. M. at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place.

## Waist and Dress News

The situation in the Waist and Dress Industry is precisely the same as it was a week ago, with the only difference that during the week, a great number of manufacturers belonging to the Waist and Dress Association have come to terms with the Union on the question of increases in pay and revision of scales.

The Union officials, both in Local No. 10 and No. 25, were surprised to find what little influence the Association exerts over its members. In spite of the orders of the Association to its members not to settle anything without it, almost everyone of the manufacturers that was approached, agreed to the increase and the back pay. In a few instances where the manufacturers were stubborn, the people stopped from

work, after which the employers agreed to the terms as handed down by Dr. Magnus.

At the time of writing, there are only three shops stopping on account of the failure of the employers to increase the wages of the workers in their shops and give them back pay from February 2nd.

The most significant part of the situation is that during the last two and a half weeks, there have been no complaints filed with the Association other than those where the employers failed to grant increases and back pay. We assume that the reason for it is that the manufacturers feel that with the present restlessness on the part of the workers in the shops, they would rather not give any cause for complaint, as it would be apt to lead to serious consequences. The members in the shops, of both Local 10 and 25, realize this, and feel that it is due to the fact that the manufacturers fear the strength of the Union.

At the request of Local 25, the writer of these lines, Brother Israel Lewin, has been released by the Executive Board of Local 10, to take charge of the Waist and Dress Association houses in Local 25.

## THE SEATTLE ELECTION

Few cities of its size are better organized than Seattle and few organized cities have demonstrated initiative and generalship in the use of organized power better than the labor unions of that city. Their daily paper, the Union Record, is one of the best newspapers on the Pacific Coast and is a model of the new journalism that in time will supplant the poisonous sheets maintained by political rings and the exploiting classes.

Naturally, there has been some keen interest in the first venture of the Seattle workers on the political field in a class party of their own. Unofficial returns of the election on Tuesday shown that James A. Dusen, the candidate of the workers for Mayor of Seattle, received 34,059 votes, his only opponent receiving 50,840.

This is an excellent showing. The result is all the more gratifying to the workers there when it is considered that their candidate faced a coalition of all the frightened forces of reaction. The usual tactics of a bankrupt ruling class were resorted to. The insane mental atmosphere of the war period still brooded like a cloud over the city. All the wit, wealth, prejudice and hatred that the mercenary and grafting interests of a large city can mobilize was pitted against the workers.

It is certain that this showing of strength will command more respect for the working class of Seattle than if they had permitted the ruling machines to pick rubber stamp candidates of the banks and public service corporations and then proceeded to "reward" one as a friend and to "punish" the other as an enemy. They have "rewarded" no "friend"; they have maintained their own respect and preserved their solidarity for the still greater struggles ahead.—N. Y. Call.

## A BUILDING GUILD FOR GREAT BRITAIN

(Continued from Page 3)

sented itself, and the guildsmen in the building industry and the other guild leaders who have been acting with them in the preparation of their scheme, have taken full advantage of it. To Mr. S. G. Hobson, the well-known guild writer, and to the guildsmen who lead the Manchester building workers, the credit for this promp-

tion is due. Clearly, the results of this new experiment, if it succeeds as it seems likely to succeed, may be expected to be immense. It will react not only on building workers throughout the country, but on the whole working class movement. Moreover, it will certainly have a powerful effect in promoting that alliance in the control of industry among the workers by hand and brain which is every day coming nearer in Great Britain. For the building guild scheme is explicitly based on a full recognition of the distinctive position and functions of the administrative and professional workers belonging to the industry. It is proposed that the local guild committee should consist of a representative appointed by each of the trade unions connected with the building industry, and that to these should be added representatives of the technical and administrative staffs necessary for the work. There is no doubt at all of the readiness of a sufficient number of architects and other professional and administrative workers to throw in their lot with the guild.

The object of the promoters of the scheme is to provide for full technical and administrative efficiency by leaving technician and administrator as far as possible a free hand, and at the same time to make the guild a real working economic democracy by providing for the democratic choice of foremen by agreement between the guild committee and men working on a particular job, and by leaving the detailed administration of the job in the hands of the group actually engaged in it. Great importance is attached to this democracy beginning at the bottom—in the job itself, as the necessary basis of democratic working in the guild itself.

Another problem with which the promoters of the scheme are

concerned is that of preventing certain of the most disadvantageous conditions of capitalist production from being forced upon them by the environment in which they have to work. The guild does not want to make a profit, or to become a sort of democratic capitalist. At the same time, it is essential for it, in order to safeguard its position, to accumulate plant on a sufficient scale to enable it to extend its enterprises rapidly. This difficulty is being met by the vesting in trustees of all funds accumulated by the guild, with a view to their passing to the national guild when it is formed, and becoming in its hands a definite trust for the community, to be used not for the benefit of the building workers alone, but in the common interest of the people. That this presents difficulties at the present stage of development cannot be denied; but these difficulties arise purely from the hostile environment in which the guild has at present to exist, and not at all from any desire on the part of the workers to assume the position of collective capitalists.

I do not pretend that all the immediate obstacles in the way of the guild beginning work have yet been removed, or that the proposal has yet assumed an absolutely final stage. No contract has yet been definitely accepted by a local public authority or endorsed by the government department. But, in view of the facts that the building workers are ranging themselves solidly behind the scheme, and that they possess an almost complete monopoly of the labor which is required, and without which houses cannot be built, the result seems to be almost a foregone conclusion. Thanks to the propagandist efforts of the guild socialists and their National Guilds League, the guild idea, which a year ago was definitely accepted by the miners and formed by them into a definite proposal, has now moved yet a stage further towards immediate practical application. I have no hesitation in describing this guild proposal arising in the heart of the trade unions and in an industry on which, because of the crying need for houses, public attention is highly concentrated, as by far the most significant development in the British labor movement for many years.

—From the New Republic.

## Attention of Dress and Waist Cutters!

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

Jesse Wolf & Co.,  
105 Madison Ave.  
Son & Ash,  
105 Madison Ave.  
Solomon & Metzler,  
33 East 33rd St.  
Clairmont Waist Co.,  
15 West 36th St.  
Mack Kanner & Milius,  
136 Madison Ave.  
M. Stern,  
33 East 33rd St.  
Max Cohen,  
105 Madison Ave.  
Julian Waist Co.,  
15 East 32nd St.  
Dreswell Dress Co.,  
14 East 32nd St.  
Regina Kobler,  
352 Fourth Ave.  
Deutz & Ortenberg,  
2-16 West 33rd St.  
J. & M. Cohen,  
6-10 E. 32nd Street.

## LADIES TAILORS' AND ALTERATION WORKERS' UNION, LOCAL 80.

Every member, especially the Shop-Chairman is requested to collect the 10% wage tax. It was unanimously decided that the members must meet and bring same to the office of the union. It is clear to all members that this assessment is of urgent necessity.

Hickins and Milgrin are out to undermine the Union therefore all members must be determined to be prepared to meet their tactics so that they shall not dare to undertake these attacks against the Union.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 80.

H. HILFMAN, Secretary.



# SCOTT NEARING'S COURSES

## CAPITALISM

Thursdays, 8.30 P. M. \$1.35, beginning February 12, 6 Lectures

## CONTROL OF PUBLIC OPINION

Fridays, 8.30 P. M. \$2.50, beginning February 13, 12 Lectures

## CURRENT WORLD HISTORY

Saturdays, 1.30 P. M. \$2.50, beginning February 14, 12 Lectures

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## CLOAK MAKERS OF CHICAGO ATTENTION!

Official notice is hereby given to every member that in order to be entitled to sick benefit, one must comply with the following rules and regulations:

1. A sick member is obliged to notify our office immediately as soon as he becomes ill, giving his name, correct address and his union card.
2. He must inform the Union whether his illness compels him to stay at home or not.
3. No member is entitled to sick benefit unless he is a member in good standing for not less than six months prior to the date of sickness.

Fraternally yours,

JOINT BOARD CLOAK,  
SKIRT, & DRESS WORK-  
ERS' UNION, I. L. G. W. U.

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Local 35, I. L. G. W. U.  
S.E.L.S.  
WHITE LILY TEA  
COLUMBIA TEA  
ZWETOCHNI CHAI  
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## CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10, ATTENTION

### NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

Special Order of Business: Case of Bro. Jos. E. Scheffel.

WAIST & DRESS: Monday, March 8th.  
MISCELLANEOUS: Monday, March 15th.  
GENERAL (All Branches): Monday, March 22nd.  
CLOAK & SUIT: Monday, March 29th.

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

## Cutters of all Branches

who are working at present should change their working cards for the new season.

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