

"My righteous  
ness I hold  
fast, and will  
not let it go."  
— Job. 17A)

# JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

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## STRIKES OF THE PETTICOAT MAKERS AND LADIES' TAILORS

**Lefkowitz and Zuker in Charge of the Petticoat Workers' Strike.**  
— Membership Meeting of the Ladies Tailors' Union Unanimously Decides for a 10 Dollar Tax To Help Its Strike.

After eight weeks of strike, the petticoat makers continue to be firm and convinced that they will come out victorious. The workers receive the full support of the International in their struggle against the autocratic and narrow minded employers.

Some of the more far-sighted employers have reached a settlement with the Union, and several hundred workers returned to work. Those workers who are out receive strike benefit every week. The strike is under the able leadership of Vice President Lefkowitz and Brother Zuker.

The ranks of the strikers remain unbroken despite the frantic efforts of the employers. Nevertheless they have succeeded in mobilizing a group of scabs. These scabs are made up of old women of various races and nationalities speaking different languages. There are negroes, Arabians, Armenians, Spaniards, etc. These aged women are taken to and from work on automobiles. But they cannot do the work, and they are too old to learn. There is no doubt but that the work turned out by the scabs will ruin the business of the stubborn employers. Despite their blindness they will soon realize that their methods employed to undermine the union are suicidal.

The strike that the Ladies Tailors' Union, Local 80, is conducting against the firms of Milgrim Brothers and Hickson and Co. is still on. Milgrim Brothers is now resorting to the help of the courts in its fight against the Union. It has succeeded in obtaining an order from the Police Magistrate prohibiting strikers to picket in front of its shop. The Union has appealed against this order of the Police Magistrate to a higher court.

In spite of the injunction against picketing, the strike against this firm continues. No pickets are required to warn the ladies tailors of the strike, and no worker will return to work until Milgrim Brothers and Hickson & Co. will grant the demand of the Union.

At the last general membership meeting of the Ladies Tailors' Union, it was unanimously decided that every member shall be taxed with 10 dollars to help the strike. If the strike, however, will be prolonged, every member will have to 2 dollars a week after the 10 tax will have been paid.

## WHITE GOODS WORKERS LUNCH ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN

The White Goods Workers' Union, Local 62, has begun a 100 per cent organization campaign. Although it is an old and well-organized Union there are a large number of workers who have not yet joined its ranks. Out of the eight thousand workers employed in the trade only half that number belong to the Organization. Naturally, the unorganized workers are a drag on the Union. While all the workers in the trade benefit by the achievements of the Union only 4,000 out of the 8,000 workers are struggling to uphold the union conditions and carry the burden of responsibility. The non-union workers are only parasites who partake in the hard-won victories of the Union. The situation in the White Goods trade, half organized and half unorganized, is extremely dangerous to the well being of the workers. With this in mind the Union has now undertaken a sweeping organization campaign.

According to Brother Davis, Manager of Local 62, the present season is an opportune time to start the organization drive. In the slow season the girls in the

non-union shops have a better opportunity to discover that they are at a disadvantage compared with those working in the union shops. It is true that in the busy season the employers are trying to conciliate them and give them approximately the same wages as those received by the union workers. But as soon as the slow season sets in the employers of the non-union shops are ruthlessly cutting the wages. The unorganized workers begin then to realize how much they lose by not belonging to the Union. They become eager to hear something about the Union. They join its ranks. Already have several non-union fortresses been captured.

In order to conduct this campaign vigorously and effectively, the White Goods Workers' Union has extended its Organization Department. A special organizer, Mrs. B. O'Connor, who has for many years been an organizer in the textile industry, has been appointed. Manager Davis and other officers and active members of the Union will co-operate with Mrs. O'Connor in this work.

## GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS IN PHILADELPHIA

The last quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board of the International will begin Monday, April 5, in Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Philadelphia. Boston was originally selected as the place for the last G. E. B. meeting but due to the fact that most of the Board members are now in New York and that the time before the Convention is short, it was decided to change Boston for Philadelphia.

The last General Executive Board meeting before a Convention, and particularly the present meeting, is crowded with important business. Outside of the reports from various parts of the country where the International is engaged in the struggle for better working conditions, it has to deal with the plans and programs to be submitted before the Convention. Not only will the activities, struggles and victories of the past three months be reviewed, but the entire eventful history of the International for the last two years will have to be reviewed and summed up.

The present Board meeting will be of particular importance in its consideration of the report of

President Schlesinger on industrial conditions in Europe, and his recommendation of the plans for co-operation between America and European labor organizations, particularly in the garment industries. The Board will therefore not only take up matters immediately affecting its own organization but will take up matters of international scope and importance.

One of the tasks of the present meeting is the organization of the tour and details and plans before the Convention which will begin on May 3rd. Then, of course, there will appear before the Board the various committees with their different plans, grievances and demands to be adjusted. In short, the General Executive Board will have plenty of work.

The Board members from New York are the following: President Schlesinger, Secretary Baroff, Fannie M. Cohn, Morris Sigman, J. Halpern, H. Wander, S. Lefkowitz and S. Nifno. M. Perlstein from Cleveland, H. Schoolman from Chicago and Koldofsky from Canada will also be present. S. Yanofsky, editor of 'Justice' will be present as a passive observer.

## FRAME-UP AGAINST THE RAINCOAT MAKERS' UNION, LOCAL 20

**Three Members of Local 20 Sent To Prison for Union Activity.—International To Take Vigorous Action Against Conspiracy of the Raincoat Manufacturers.**

Three members of the Raincoat Makers' Union, Local 20, were sent to prison last week for a period of not less than two and a half years and not more than four and a half years. These members are Brothers David Tannenbaum, Hyman Altman and Barney Koenig. Their conviction is a result of the old case against Local 20. Last December, it will be remembered, Brothers Weller and Friedman, Manager and Secretary of Local 20, together with six other members, were sent to prison for a period of 30 days. It was a result of the infamous injunction that the manufacturer of a raincoat shop in Richmond County, Brooklyn, has obtained against the Union.

All indications point to the conclusion that imprisonment of the strikers is a result of a dark conspiracy of the raincoat manufacturers against Local 20. The petty employer of the shop in Richmond is doubtless backed by the other manufacturers of the trade. They apparently think that now is the chance to break the Union.

The members of Local 20 are determined to do anything within their power to fight this outrageous conspiracy perpetrated by the employers.

This question was taken up this week by the General Executive Board members in New York, who have worked out plans to combat the underhand method employed by the raincoat manufacturers. The case against the three imprisoned members has been appealed to a higher court. Abraham Levy, a prominent New York lawyer, is in charge of the case. This question will also be taken up at the Quarterly Meeting of the General Executive Board in Philadelphia.

### SOCIALIST ASSEMBLYMEN EXPELLED

As we go to press a report from Albany gives the expulsion by the Assembly of the five Socialists — Waldman, Glassmans, Solomon, De Witt and Orr.

The vote expelling Waldman, Glassmans and Solomon was 116 to 28, and De Witt and Orr, 110 to 40.

It took approximately 22 hours of oratory before the vote was taken.

## Topics of the Week

### Socialist Party Outlawed

FINALLY, the Assembly Judiciary Committee has passed judgment on the five Socialist Assemblymen. By a vote of 7 to 6 it decided that the Socialist Party is "a disloyal organization, composed exclusively of perpetual traitors," and therefore recommended to deprive them of their seats. The Seven of the Committee have obediently followed the policy outlined by Sweet and Co. The majority report made little mention of the individual charges, but emphasized the disloyalty charge. There are two minority reports. One of them, submitted by Assemblyman Chas. Evans, a Bronx Democrat, maintained that under the State Constitution loyalty to the Government was not a necessary qualification for membership of the Legislature. Another signed by Assemblymen Lown, a Republican, recommended that Assemblymen Orr and De Witt of the Bronx be seated and that the other three be expelled.

These reports are now before the Assembly. If the Assembly should vote to expel the Socialists, Governor Smith will not be able to call a special election to fill their places for this season, for the election law provides that the Governor cannot call a special election after March 31, and almost 150,000 will be without representation until next year.

Despite the pressure of public opinion against the ousting of the Socialist Assemblymen, the Sweet machine has remained loyal to its original position, which is, war on the Socialists.

### Coalition Government in Germany

BOTH the monarchist coup and the Communist revolution in Germany have failed. Germany is now picking up the threads which seemed to have been broken by the civil war. It is now planning to resume its activities as if nothing had happened. Its political physiognomy remained unchanged. It has a coalition government, — the same form of government which has been responsible for the recent conflict, which has caused the revolution a year ago, and which has proved to be a great misfortune for Germany and the rest of the world. The present German Government is but a few days old, but judging from the political parties making up the Cabinet, it is evident what its policies are. There are, of course, no Communists. Neither are there Independent Socialists. It is made up of so-called Majority Socialists, headed by Herman Muller, Democrats and Centrists, that is, a coalition of purely bourgeois parties. The resignation of Noske is the only gain of the workers. But it is of slight political importance. Gessler who takes his place is a member of a bourgeois party and there is little doubt but that he will follow in the footsteps of his predecessor. Already the press is reporting militarist threats that the new Government is making toward the recalcitrant Communists. By the grace of the Allies the Ebert Government is ready to send an army to the Ruhr region to do its devilish job.

The new Government was created soon after the general strike had been called off. It is reported

that the Labor Federation has expressed its approval of the Cabinet. But the Workers' Executive Committee has issued a manifesto demanding vigorous continuance of the struggle in the Ruhr district. The Independent Socialists have passed a similar resolution. But it is clear that the workers were again defeated, and the bourgeois again emerged triumphant. The Independent Socialists decided to strike because some conditions on which they consented to resume work a few days ago have not been complied with by the Government. But it was ridiculous to expect that the concessions promised by Ebert would be realized. Only the most innocent, and simple could seriously regard the promises of governments. It was only a capitulation on the intelligence, and leadership of the German workers when they depended upon Ebert's promises. The belief that a labor program could be carried out by a Government serving capitalist interests is more than naive.

The ultimatum issued by the Ebert Government is a convincing indication that the Communist revolution, for the time being at least, is complete. The ultimatum contains the following demands:

Unconditional surrender of the Reds, with the promise by them that they will not renew hostilities. Unconditional recognition of the government. The restoration of the police power to the hands of the Government. The release of all prisoners. The workers are given until tomorrow to comply with these demands. Unless they do so the Government threatens to attack them by force.

### Will Poland War on Russia?

DURING the last several weeks there were frequent reports of military encounters between Poland and Russia. These reports were varied. One day flaming headlines announced that the Bolsheviks are attacking the Poles on a 400-mile front, the next day the Polish Government was reported to have fled from Warsaw, and on another day the Poles were said to be dictating terms of peace to the defeated Bolsheviks, etc. But what is true is that Poland's imperialist appetite is outgrowing that of its protectors, particularly France. Poland has decided to extend its bloody rule over the whole of Eastern Europe and reduce Russia to an Asiatic state. Poland demands land, indemnities, locomotives, all archives, works of art, libraries which she claims had been taken from her in the past but which have not the slightest basis of fact. The mad terms offered to Russia were doubtless first submitted to the Allies for their approval. Poland will not undertake a war on Russia without the support of the Allies. Will the Allies after failing in their Koltchak, Denikin and Yudenich campaigns now try to help Poland in a war against Russia? This is the crucial question in the present Russian-Polish crisis.

### Ireland in Revolution.

TWO weeks ago the Mayor of Cork, Ireland, was killed by a group of masked men. A week ago the Magistrate of Dublin was dragged from a train car and shot. The former was a Sinn

Feiner, that is, an ardent Irish nationalist who was for complete secession from England. The latter was conducting an investigation into the activities of the Sinn Fein organization.

This is an illustration of what is daily going on in Ireland. The reason for this is to be found in the fact that Ireland wants freedom but finds misery, poverty and oppression at the hands of England. According to all the rules of national self-determination Ireland should be an independent republic. It has expressed its will for independence not only through numerous revolutions against British rule but through perfectly legal ways. In the general elections the Sinn Feiners got an overwhelming majority. Ireland has its Dail Eireann, or Irish Republican Parliament, but it is ignored by England. It has its president, but he is American. Ireland is under British military rule despite its will to be free and independent. Hence the reign of terror.

### Tenants Organize

SIX hundred and forty-eight delegates from 324 organizations, representing more than 800,000 tenants in New York held a conference last Monday evening at Beethoven Hall and organized themselves into a Tenants' Defense Union. The conference was called under the direction of the United Hebrew Trades to combat rent profiteering. Neither the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering, nor the State Assembly will do anything to relieve the situation. The recent trip to Albany that landlords and tenants have made has clearly shown that legislative bodies will do nothing but legalize the outrageous robberies committed by landlords. There remains only one way to lower rents, and that is the remedy suggested by Alderman Vladeck at the meeting in Beethoven Hall. He said:

"In the name of law and order I call on you to get together in a powerful organization. When you form this powerful organization the Mayor and people will come to you and you will see how quick you get action. Organize and instead of politicians leading you, you will lead them."

The conference adopted several resolutions which will form the basis of the activities of the Tenants' Defense Union. One resolution adopted calls on the State Legislature to authorize the issuance of revenue bonds for the purpose of building municipal dwellings. Another resolution called on the Legislature to submit to the citizens a referendum on an amendment of the State Constitution so that all dwellings occupied by more than two families could be classed as public utilities. Another resolution demanded that landlords be required to obtain from the Board of Health certificates stating that it was not against the health to evict families which the landlords desired to dispossess.

### First Signs of the Campaign

THE Presidential campaign is in full swing. The customary charges of graft and corruption blaze across the front pages of our press. Sensational scandals are to be revealed. Huge sums of money have already been spent by aspirants for the Presidency in buying votes. But General Leonard Wood has particu-

larly distinguished himself in this regard. His campaign has proved thus far to be far more costly than any of the other aspirants. He has the most powerful organization of financiers backing him. The New York World has published some articles indicating the source from where the Wood campaign is being financed. Senator Borah has demanded a wide-open investigation of the entire subject of political contributions and immediate remedial legislation by Congress. Senator Johnson, on the other hand, states that his is a "poverty-stricken campaign." While the Hoover Club has only spent 5000 dollars for the campaign. And so on it goes.

But now it is announced that Hoover would run as a Republican. So would Senator Johnson. So would General Wood. It promises to be a pretty fight. What should we do? How should it organize its forces in the present campaign? The Railroad Brotherhoods are highly organized, and their Plumb Plan for the nationalization of the railroads indicates that they are far ahead of trade unionism pure and simple. Their demand challenges the existing social order. But how do they proceed to work for this end? By indulging in wasteful letter writing to General Wood, Hoover, Johnson, etc. Here are the two questions which "Labor," the official organ of the tenant workers, submits to each of the aspirants for the Presidency.

"First—How is your campaign financed? How much have you expended to date, and how much do you expect to expend before the national convention of your party meets? Will you be good enough to furnish the names of contributors to your campaign fund or to any fund which is to be used in your behalf, and the amounts of the contributions?"

"Second—Are you willing to join in an appeal to Congress to immediately enact legislation which will compel all candidates for the presidency to make sworn returns to some official of the national government showing all moneys expended, etc.?"

Resolutions to this effect were about to be submitted in the Senate. But everybody knows that if submitted such resolutions would be buried with no hope for resurrection.

### Political Trials

HARRY WINITSKY was the secretary of the New York Communist party. For this "crime" he was arrested. A jury deliberated and returned a verdict of guilty. Last Monday, Justice Weeks sentenced Winitsky to serve from five to ten years in Sing Sing prison. The conviction of Winitsky follows the conviction of Ben Gitlow, of Rose Pastor Stokes, of O'Hare, of Debs, and will be followed by Jim Larkin and scores of others.

In such a manner the American courts are reviving the ghost of Czarist legalism. With the conviction of Winitsky, political trials are becoming the order of the day. America has helped to defeat autocracy in Germany only to implant it in this country. The old practice which enabled the reactionary classes in Europe to hound all Socialist and labor organizations is now brought to life by the American ruling classes. It is amazing how laws and practices which proved to be suicidal in Europe are introduced in this country.

# MONTESANO

"They are putting Montesano on the map," said a local booster, as he watched the crowd pouring out of the courthouse at the end of a day's session of the court before which eleven men were being tried for the killing of four ex-service men in connection with the Armistice day parade at Centralia in November. He had in mind no doubt the score or more of newspaper men who were telegraphing the daily news of the trial under a Montesano data line. Montesano was becoming famous in somewhat the same way as have Butte, Bisbee, Centralia and other centers of industrial conflict in the West. Montesano, of course, had nothing to do with the Centralia affair, but the trial had been transferred there by a change of venue from Lewis County to Grays Harbor County.

Montesano is a sleepy little village of 2,500 people, located in the Chehalis Valley. It is flanked on either side by narrow strips of rich river bottom land and surrounded by the bald hills of logged-off land whose blackened stumps bear silent witness to the former luxuriant growth of timber. Grays Harbor County is one of the teeming centers of the lumber industry in Washington. The three principal cities of the county, Cosmopolis, Aberdeen and Hoquiam, form along the shores of Grays Harbor an almost continuous network of sawmills and shipyards—veritable lumber hubs. Montesano, as befits a county seat, perhaps, is a dozen miles from these centers of industry, and from the standpoint of accommodations is a poor place for the trial. The two or three hotels are rather boarding-houses for the unmarried workers. The residents are a home-owning people. Most of those interested or connected with the trial go back and forth daily by auto-bus to Aberdeen. The jury is cared for in quarters arranged in the courthouse; the American Legion men are housed in temporary quarters in a garage building, and a mess is provided in the town hall.

When the defendants were arraigned before the superior court of Lewis County on November 20, no attorney appeared to defend them, and they were given thirty-six hours to plead. On the following day they were represented by attorney, pleaded not guilty, and asked for a change of venue on the ground that feeling in Lewis County was so strongly against them that a fair trial was impossible. On November 28, Judge George D. Abel of Grays Harbor County was called in to listen to the arguments on a change of venue; he decided December 4 to grant the change, and designated Grays Harbor County, in which he is one of the two superior court judges, as the place of the trial. Twelve days later Prosecuting Attorney Allen, of Lewis County, filed what is substantially an affidavit of prejudice against Judge Abel on the ground that his brother had been retained by the State as a "special prosecutor," and asked the court to request the Governor of the State to designate a trial judge. Governor Hart selected for the purpose Judge John M. Wilson of Thurston County (Olympia).

The attorney for the defense then argued for separate trials for the men, and urged that a second change of venue be permitted on ground of prejudice.

Judge Wilson denied the request for separate trials for the defendants but intimidated that he was disposed to grant a change of venue to Pierce County (Tacoma), or Thurston County (Olympia), if it was found to him that there was sufficient legal authority or precedent for a second change of venue. At any rate, he expressed himself as seeing some truth in the charge of the defense. After argument a change was granted, but the place, whether Tacoma or Olympia, was to be decided later. On further consideration, however, Judge Wilson reversed his decision saying that at the time he granted a change of venue he had taken cognizance of the civil rather than the criminal law and that the showing of prejudice had not been sufficient. The trial must, therefore, be held at Montesano.

The attorney for the defense is George F. Vanderveer, of Seattle, a lawyer of experience, ability and keenness, who has become widely known through his defense of the I. W. W.'s involved in the killing at Everett in 1917, and the large number of cases arising under the criminal syndicalist law forced Pierce to withdraw from this case and at the very time of this trial he was defending thirteen alleged criminal syndicalists just across the hall. Most of the cases involving I. W. W.'s in the state are defended by Vanderveer and Pierce, not because there is any scarcity of lawyers far from it—but because very many of the county bar associations, as was the case in Lewis county, have passed resolutions practically forbidding any of their members to defend the I. W. W.'s. Opposed to Vanderveer, who by the way is assisted somewhat by Elmer Smith, an attorney and one of the defendants as necessary before the fact, is a strong array of legal talent. The principal participants are W. H. Abel, of Montesano, and C. D. Cunningham of Centralia, who are assisted by Herman Allen, prosecuting attorney of Lewis county, Attorney-General I. L. Thompson, P. P. Christensen and John Dunbar of the attorney-general's office. Mr. Allen made the opening statement of the state's case and took an active part in the preparation of the case before it came to trial, as did the representatives of the attorney-general's office, but the burden of conducting the prosecution is clearly in the hands of Abel and Cunningham, who are both keen, capable and experienced lawyers. Both have had a large experience in handling cases for the lumber interests in their respective counties and are connected with this case as "special prosecutors." Vanderveer insists

that the I. W. W., and not the eleven defendants, are on trial. He has openly accused the "special prosecutors" of being in the pay of the lumber interests—the lumber trust, he calls it—and has declared his willingness to prove it. Abel and Cunningham vigorously and emphatically deny both charges, and the court has uniformly ruled that the I. W. W. as an organization is not on trial and that the charges against the "special prosecutors" are improper.

Nevertheless, in spite of the emphatic denials of the attorneys for the prosecution, the belief is quite general throughout the region that at the bottom the case is the lumber interests versus the I. W. W., and one can hear emphatic confirmation by wisecracks "in a position to know." Their statements may not have a scintilla of fact to support them, but they are believed, and are evidence of the tenseness of feeling and distrust that the trial is bringing out.

How difficult it is to separate the organization and its members may be illustrated by brief extracts from the examination of two possible jurors.

Q. You are prejudiced against the I. W. W.?

A. I am not; I have reason for my feeling against them.

Q. You believe they advocate violence, murder and the things advocated in this case?

A. I do.

Q. You had an opinion about the I. W. W. for about ten years perhaps?

A. Yes.

Q. And you have an opinion about these defendants?

A. I gained the idea some of them were sorry they were I. W. W.'s.

Q. But they had committed murder?

A. That they had committed murder, maybe, and were sorry they were I. W. W.'s and in that fix.

Q. You had formed an impression that the I. W. W. did that?

A. It's not an impression. I know it, but the I. W. W. are not gh trial—it makes no difference here.

Q. Yet you believe the I. W. W. advocate murder?

A. I believe they do.

A challenge by the defense was overruled, but later after a conference between the judge and attorneys this taleman was excused. The other example came some days later.

Q. Have you any prejudice against the I. W. W.?

A. I have.

Q. You believe that I. W. W. is disloyal?

A. Yes, I believe they have less regard for the flag of our country than anybody else.

Q. Then you have no use for them?

A. No use for any man not loyal to the flag.

Q. Could you give the defendants a fair trial?

A. I could.

Q. Even though you hate them?

A. Yes.

Here a challenge was issued by the defense but it was overruled. The questioning proceeded and the challenge was again renewed and granted.

Two other symptoms of the belief that more than the eleven defendants are on trial is evidenced by the presence in the courtroom of a large number of ex-service men—soldiers and sailors in uniform—and the presence of a "labor jury" made up of half a dozen representatives of organized labor selected by their

unions to attend the trial and watch proceedings. An intelligent-looking ex-service man who sat beside me at the trial expressed what may be a common point of view among the men. Asked if he was getting anything out of the trial he said it was too dry for him, but he added, "There is good pay and good eats in it. I should worry." As the trial dragged on week after week the crowd of ex-service men dwindled noticeably. Apparently the dryness of the trial and the absence of opportunity for enjoyment outside of the courtroom overbalanced the "good pay" and the "good eats" for many.

In addition to the 78 taxpayers called for jury duty on the regular panel an additional call for 300 more was made when this case was assigned to trial in the county. Many of these were excused, of course, some for sickness, some for business reasons, and in most cases the women took advantage of their statutory exemption and were excused. Almost two weeks were required to select 12 men "tried and true," and in selecting them 93 were examined. Under the laws of Washington, whenever in the opinion of the judge the trial is likely to be a protracted one he may order the calling of one or two "alternate jurors." Judge Wilson therefore ordered two alternates and two additional days were consumed in securing them. The second one was the last man on the jury list, and when this was learned by the attorneys they took a "sporting chance" and accepted him "on his looks."

These alternates will in all particulars listen to the trial and be treated as regular jurors, and in case of the incapacity of any regular juror, one of them will be substituted for the regular juror and the trial will proceed. In case the alternates are not needed, they are dismissed just before the final submission of the case to the jury.

The jury as selected consists of five farmers, a teamster, an engineer, a real estate agent, a fisherman, a carpenter and two laborers. The alternates are a cigar dealer and a blacksmith. Altogether 127 men and women were examined to secure the necessary fourteen. Under the law they must be kept together day and night throughout the trial, which may last weeks. It is no wonder so many talemen suddenly developed prejudice or pressing business as excuses for not serving. It is a thankless and arduous duty of citizenship that not only subjects a man to physical discomfort during the trial, but because of the tense feeling in the county may lead to much mental suffering after the trial is over, no matter what the decision may be.

—The Survey.

## SECURE BOUND VOLUMES OF "JUSTICE" FOR 1919

There are a limited number of bound volumes of "Justice" for 1919 for sale. The price of a volume is 3 dollars.

Copies may be secured at the General Office of the International.

E. Lieberman, Manager.

# JUSTICE

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## EDITORIALS

### THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

No epoch making decisions are to be expected from the Quarterly Meeting of the General Executive Board, which will start next Monday at Philadelphia. It will be the business of the speedily approaching Convention, which will take place next month, to find a solution for all the problems confronting the International. But in order to know what we lack, we must first know what we have achieved. It is doubtless the members of the General Executive Board, those who were most instrumental in clearing the way for the International, who participated in all its struggles who can supply us with this knowledge. There will certainly not fail to prepare at this meeting a message for the Convention in which the story of our achievements will be summed up.

Another important task awaiting the General Executive Board is to prepare the ground for the coming Convention, to outline a program so as to enable it to carry out this work in a most efficient and economical manner. It is quite possible that this will be the last service rendered by the General Executive Board for the International. For the next General Executive Board may consist of new members. In any case, the members of the Board will come to the meeting with the consciousness that they are discharging for the last time the duty they took upon themselves two years ago. And this consciousness will doubtless introduce into the present meeting an element of uncertainty and a feeling of restlessness, that were absent from the former meeting. But apart from the value which this meeting may have for the coming convention it has certain functions of its own to perform. The story of what we achieved in the last three months may be quite interesting in itself. The situation of the Cleveland cloakmakers is now different from what it was three months ago. The same may be said with equal justice be said about the Toronto, Chicago, Boston and New York cloakmakers.

And last, but not least, will be the report by B. Schlesinger, the President of the International. We must not forget that it was the General Executive Board that decided to send Schlesinger to Europe. And it is they who are above all interested to learn what suggestions and plans Schlesinger has in mind.

We are certain that the members of the General Executive Board will come to the meeting with a full consciousness of what they achieved for the International. Hoping that they will handle all the questions that will be brought before them with the same seriousness and

wish them success in all their deliberations.

### ANTI-STRIKE LAWS

Whatever justification anti-strike laws may have or may not have in other cities, they are certainly quite superfluous in New York. What sense is there in having new laws, if the old laws can be so easily circumvented, and can be so conveniently bent to serve the interests of those who happen to be on good terms with the city magistrates? It is sufficient for a judge to have some good friend among the magistrates in order to obtain a decision forbidding the picketing of this or that shop. Questions of right and justice have little to do with the decisions. However unlawful they may be, they have nevertheless behind them the whole brutal force of the police. And the victims who are affected by these decisions have to submit meekly, if they want to avoid greater trouble. It needs an illustration of this state of affairs, it can be readily furnished him by recent events in the strike that is going on in the shop of Milgrim Bros. The workers of this shop did everything in their power to avoid a strike. They even forced themselves for the sake of peace to have confidence in Judge Aaron J. Saxe, the mouthpiece of the justice. This guardian of justice asked the workers to wait with their demands for a wage increase, to give him time for deliberation. And the workers waited patiently until the judge deigned to bestow his attention upon the question. But then he declared that the case was too simple to be in need of much reflection. It is plain, he told the workers, that they are not entitled to a raise. The workers had, of course, no choice but to declare a strike.

This courageous answer of the workers evidently frightened little the our brave judge. This time he began seriously to reflect over the matter. He mustered up whatever judicial skill he could, he gave him had at his command and set out to invent charges, one more fantastic than the other, against the strikers, in order to ruin the Union financially and to discredit it morally. All this, however, proved to be futile. The more shameless the charges were, the more the workers clung to their decision. Judge Saxe declared then that the best course to follow is to act directly. He has so many friends among the city magistrates. Why not ask them to do him a favor which would mean so little to them and so much to him—to issue, for instance, a ukase forbidding the picketing of his shop? Judge Levy had not to wait long to realize that the sentiment of justice is not yet dead among the New York magistrates. The work

ers of the Milgrim shop are threatened with arrest, if they continue to picket.

The Union will doubtless not swallow so meekly this arbitrary decision. It will appeal to a higher court. And it has also all the chances to win its case. Expert opinion regards this decision a flagrant violation of the law. But whatever the outcome of the appeal may be, for the present it is Judge Levy who has the day. Many weeks may pass before the case will be taken up by the higher court, and that means that for many weeks the workers will be debared from picketing the shops.

Judge Levy may congratulate himself upon his easy victory. But if he thinks that his victory is final, that this decision will make the workers capitulate, he may assure him that he is gravely mistaken. It is not by injustice and violence that the workers will be led to realize that they are wrong. Quite the contrary. The more clearly the workers will realize how mean the methods employed by their adversaries are, the more will they be determined to fight for their fundamental rights to the better and the stronger will the spirit of unionism become.

### THE RENT PROBLEM

The landlords of New York may feel safe in saying they need not fear for the time being the outcome of the storm of protest raised against them by their victimized tenants. It is obvious that the purpose of all the bills proposed by our legislators at Albany is not to check the insatiable appetites of the landlords but to sanction and make lawful the highest methods by which they forced their will upon a defenseless public.

For more than a year the landlords have been systematically victimizing the public. They have raised the rent in most cases as high as 100 per cent and even higher. But, instead of condemning this plundering, instead of putting an end for all an end to this arbitrary action, our legislators are stimulating the landlords to extend their sway further. For to tell the landlords that they may increase for 1920 25 per cent of the amount of the rents paid now, as it is proposed by one of the bills, means to declare that not only were the landlords right in what they did up to the present, but that they are entitled to raise more.

It is evident that the rent problem will not be solved at Albany. Our legislators have more at heart the interests of the landlords than those of the public. Even if the laws proposed were in favor of the public, the tenants would profit little from them. The task of our legislators should be of evading such laws.

We must, therefore recur to our only weapon—self-defense. It is only a strike extending to all the parts of New York inhabited by workers that could force upon the landlords the lesson that their power is not absolute and that the interests and rights of the tenants have to be reckoned with. And if the conference of the various organizations convoked by the United Hebrew Trades is really determined upon finding a way out of the difficulty, they have to do nothing but accept our plan for a general strike.

Of course, mere resolutions in favor of such a strike would hardly change anything in the situation. These resolutions are useful only if they are based upon a plan that

can be carried out. And in order to make our plan for a general strike successful, it is true that we must have only one month until the first of May, and that it is very difficult to carry out a successful campaign in such a short time. But a great deal can be accomplished in a month, if the work is done systematically and if the United Hebrew Trades, that is to say, all the Jewish Unions of New York, will at once plunge into this great task.

The question of rent is of vital importance to every worker. But while each of us is unable to cope individually with the problem, we could solve it only by making it a collective concern to be fought out collectively. The various locals of the unions must make the rent fight and the propaganda connected with it their business. The locals of the unions must become centers of propaganda for this campaign.

What we must especially keep in mind is the fact that propaganda is not an end in itself. Propaganda is only a means to action. Protests and resolutions, however strong they may sound, will hardly arouse the hearts of the landlords. Protests that will not issue in action will convince the landlords more than anything else that the tenants are utterly helpless. And once the landlords are convinced that all the tenants can do is talk they will not fail to avenge themselves upon their victims. We must therefore see to it that our propaganda shall be fruitful. We must apply all our efforts to reach and organize every worker in order to solve once for all the rent problem.

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### Cloakmakers Start Co-operative Movement

The Joint Committee of some locals of the Cloakmakers' Union of New York met with the following present: I. Cohen, J. Goldner, Russianoff of Local 9; Shub of Local 23; Grombetta of Local 48.

It was decided to propose the following plan for co-operation in the Cloakmakers' Union:

1. To open chain stores, such as groceries, dairy, etc., with a state charter.
2. To organize a co-operative credit union with a state charter.
3. That every local union shall subscribe for shares.
4. To admit individual members.
5. A share shall be \$5.00.
6. When the majority locals will approve on the plan and respond to the request of buying shares, we shall try to get the endorsement from the Joint Board.
7. To start a big publicity campaign.
8. To ask permission of the locals to come to their meetings and present the case for co-operation.

J. Goldner, Sec'y.

# Industrial Conditions In Austria

By B. SCHLESINGER

That Austria was enduring great suffering was known to me even before I went there. I knew it from the reports in the news-papers and from my conversation with Alda Finman of Amsterdam and Mrs. Philip Snowden of London, who spent several weeks in Vienna in connection with relief work. But that the suffering was so great I could hardly imagine.

When you hear that in Austria people are actually dying of starvation and of cold; that little children are so weak and exhausted that their feet can hardly keep up their tiny bodies; that mothers pretend not to see how their children are selling themselves for a piece of bread, you should know that these are not mere words to arouse pity, but that it is the truth, the merciless truth.

When you come to Vienna and you go into the "ring" districts in the heart of the city, you at once recall the mourning of Prophet Jeremiah, who bewailed the ruin of Jerusalem: "Thus the once crowded city remained lonely like a widow."

Such a beautiful city—the most beautiful in the world—and how lonely and forsaken it appeared! Wherever you look you see art and suffering, glory and gloom, lustre and loneliness. The buildings appear like the castles of the "Arabian Nights," which were forsaken by the curse of the witches, and the people on the streets look as if they follow a funeral. Not a smile, not a free expression. Their faces look serious and worried and in the eyes one can read the question: "Whence will the relief come?"

Austria is like a bird which had its wings chopped off, Bohemia went over to Czechoslovakia; Galicia to Poland, and Hungary became independent.

This deprived Austria of the coal mines, and oil wells and all other natural resources, which a country must have in order to be self-sustaining. And just like a bird with chopped-off wings can not endure long unless she is taken care of and provided with all necessities, so Austria, too, will not last long without oil wells and coal mines, without fields and forests, unless the world will come to her rescue.

According to the peace treaty Czechoslovakia must sell 10 per cent of her mined coal to Austria, but since the coal miners of Czechoslovakia went on strike and Austria did not get any coal from there, the city looked like a cemetery. The street cars were at a standstill. The schools and theatres were closed. The stores and offices were closed down at sunset and at night the streets were pitch dark. The Austrian government also quickly stopped the railroad transportation.

Yes, unless the world will come to the rescue, Austria will not endure long and the assistance must come not in the form of canned goods and oatmeal, by opening soup kitchens and by taking care of the children, but in the form of a large loan on long terms and at a low rate of interest, just as was done in the case of Belgium.

With her own money, Austria cannot be able to buy any food or oil or petroleum or raw ma-

terials in the other countries. According to the rate of exchange, the Austrian crown is now worth only a 90th of the pre-war value. For one American dollar you can now get 250 crowns. If Austria should buy goods from America it would not have enough paper for the currency.

Or, if this is impossible, then Austria must get the permission to unite with another country on which to rely for support. This country should be Germany. These two nations consist of Germans and the two must be consolidated into one country, into one republic; just as all the Poles were combined, and just as all the Czechoslovaks were united.

The fear that Germany will become too strong when Austria will be added is nonsense. For Austria with the 6,500,000 population can add to the strength of Germany just as much as let us say Woodbine, N. J., could add to the strength of the United States. If Germany should request this union, all the peoples should give their consent to it.

This is the opinion not only of bankers, manufacturers and business men with whom I had occasion to talk, but also of Socialist and trade union leaders. I spent several hours with Otto Bauer and Frederick Adler, discussing this question.

If Austria were as large and as rich in natural resources as Russia, she could perhaps recover in the course of a few years from her present plight without the help of other countries. But, not having such resources, and not receiving the help from other countries, there is no hope for her recovery.

Compared with Vienna even Warsaw is a paradise. In Warsaw, one gets out bread at least, but in Vienna you cannot get even that. In Warsaw, one can get some milk at least and a little meat, but in Vienna you get absolutely nothing. People live here on bread made from bran, rice and black chicory. Even in the large hotels and cafes, where one meal costs as much as a good worker earns in a week, you cannot get everything you want. The things that you do get are carefully weighed and measured by the grams and you get hardly enough to appease your hunger.

During the eight days that I stayed in Berlin, I saw many cases of suffering and need which I shall never forget. I saw them, especially among the Jews who lately came to Vienna from Lemberg and from other cities in Galicia, to escape from the pogroms there.

Many of these immigrant Jewish families live in stables. They have no beds, no tables, or any other kind of furniture, and the darkness, the cold and the odor in these stalls! A little straw on the bare ground serves the purpose of the bed, the pillow, the cradle for the baby and the table as well as the bench.

I spent more than an hour in one such dwelling. When I entered, the mother was lying in a corner of the stall, cuddled up on a little straw and rocking her two-year-old baby to sleep. In another corner, as on a little straw, I found the father with the older two children, boys of seven and

nine, whom he was teaching the A B C by candle light.

But even with these "homes," the unfortunate Jews are not sure. The Austrian anti-Semites have never been so active, they have never conducted such a poisonous campaign against the Jews as they do now.

Practically every day, the anti-Semitic distribute several thousand "20 Heller Bills" (in Austria the paper money begins from 10 Hellers) up to which there are attached slips reading: "The Jews are to be blamed for the lack of dwellings!" "The Jews are responsible for the hunger." These advertisements are eagerly grasped because, as little as the value of 20 Heller may be, you may still get something for them.

If not for the relief which these unfortunate Jews receive from the Joint Distribution Committee, they would actually die of starvation. They cannot get employment in the skilled trades because, first, most of them have never worked, and, secondly, there is not much work at hand. Unskilled labor is barred to them since the Austrian claim that they are more entitled to it than the foreigners.

I visited all the relief stations of the Joint Distribution Committee and, although it was not quite pleasant to see how many people stand in line, waiting for a can of salmon or for a little condensed milk or for some oatmeal, yet I had the satisfaction to learn that everything was conducted systematically and that nobody went away empty handed. The director, Mr. Wexler, is a very energetic man and does everything he can to supply every poor man with at least sufficient to keep his body and soul together.

The Joint Distribution Committee also established kitchens for the hungry ones. They also provided homes for the children of the Jewish soldiers who had fallen in the war and for girls who had succeeded in escaping from the pogroms in Galicia. Both homes are managed by a Jewish Austrian woman, Mme. Patack, who devotes all her time to these homes. The 300 orphans and the 100 girls look up to her as their mother and she is actually a mother to them.

The only happy occurrence in Austria is the remarkable growth of the unions. Since the end of 1918 the number of organized workers has increased. Of the 750,000 industrial workers in Austria, more than half a million belong to trade unions. That shows that the workers do not intend to leave their affairs to fate, but are determined to improve their conditions through the power of their unions.

The trade union movement works hand in hand with the Socialist party and, just as in the Socialist party, the trade union movement has also two tendencies, a left and an extreme left (there are no rights here).

I visited the office of the Vienna Central Federated Union and, although it was very cold there, I felt quite warm in the midst of the committees of the various unions, which had assembled for a conference with the unions of the central body about increases in

wages and about the strike question. I marvelled at the determination of the committees. They all appeared happy and enthusiastic, just as if the question was about arranging a ball or a picnic for the members.

The wage increase which they demanded was from 200 to 300 per cent. During the last few months a week passed in Vienna without several large strikes.

Many unions struck three or times during the past year. Each time that the cost of living took a new jump, a strike was immediately declared. Most of the strikes last but a few days and are settled. No matter how acute the poverty may be, there are no strikebreakers there.

The Socialist government is doing everything possible to have the bosses yield to the demands of the strikers in order not to increase the suffering.

The Tailors' Union of Austria has a membership throughout the country of 12,000 in men's and women's clothing. The union maintains an office, a president, a secretary, a bookkeeper, a few stenographers and typists and a traveling organizer. The president, Yohan Schmidla, has been Socialist deputy in the Austrian Parliament for the last 13 years.

The dues to the union are a crown and 80 heller per week for men, and a crown and 40 heller per week for women. The members are entitled to strike benefits, sick and unemployment benefits. The women pay less and are entitled to less. The union has a treasury of a million crowns, 200,000 of which are in cash and 800,000 are invested in a building which it hopes to turn into a labor lyceum as soon as conditions improve.

Before the war the tailoring industry of Austria employed about 250,000 people, of which 150,000 were ladies' garment workers, but Austria had not only lost her own population, which consisted of more than 50,000 people, but it also provided the Balkan countries and many other markets with clothing. Now that the entire population of Austria is only 6,500,000 and there is no chance of working for other countries, the tailoring industry employs no more than 50,000 workers, including tens of thousands of home-workers and several thousand "little masters" who work for themselves, but are called "masters" because they employ one or two assistants.

Vienna has 40,000 of these clothing workers. The other 10,000 are scattered throughout the province. Of the 72,000 who belong to the union Vienna has 16,000, and the other 4,000 work in the province. Before the war, when the industry employed a quarter of a million workers the union was much weaker. It had only 8,000 organized workers.

The ladies' tailoring and ready-made clothing trades are the only ones that have shops. When I say "shops" I mean establishments in which there are from 5 to 20 workers. There are a few shops that employ a few scores of people and have electric power and sanitary improvements. The rest of the tailoring work is done in

the homes of the workers and this is why these two trades are better organized than the others. In the men's tailoring, cloak, and the suit and dress trade, there is not a single really big shop. There are little places in which a worker takes enough work home for himself and two or three assistants. He is called a "master" and his home a shop. In the underwear trade there are also but few shops. Most of the work is done by women in their homes and for this reason there is not even a sign of a union in this trade.

In the whole of Vienna there are only 11 shops in which the machines are run by electricity and in which there are from 30 to 300 workers. These 11 shops manufactured uniforms during the war and were under the control of the government. Now they are in the hands of their private owners again and they manufacture cheap ready-made clothing. Electric power has been installed during the war.

Working hours are 48 per week, except in ladies' tailoring, where they work 47 1/2 hours. The wages in ladies' tailoring trade are higher than in the other trades, simply because the workers in this trade are better organized.

Wages in the tailoring industry are less than in the other trades. There are a list of 10 trades with the minimum scales in each and in every one of them the wages are from 100 to 250 per cent higher than in the tailoring trade. The ladies' tailors are the best organized and the best paid workers. And their minimum scale is 290 crowns per week. The minimum scale in men's custom work is even lower—only 280 crowns per week.

The piece workers work extremely hard and earn a little more, and for this reason most workers are against week-work. When a letter from the Vienna Tailors' Union was read at the Amsterdam conference, in which the union expressed itself against week-work, I was greatly surprised. I could not understand how a union could demand piece-work, but it is quite clear to me now. The viewpoint of the Vienna union is that it is better to work like a horse and eat like a man than to work like a man and eat like a horse. The theory that when one works like a man he should also eat like a man, does not seem to hold good under present conditions at Vienna.

In order to give an idea of wages in the tailoring industry in Austria, I will report here the minimum scales paid to week-workers in the large ready-made clothing shops in which the machines are operated by electricity. It should be understood that 24 crowns equal one American cent.

Cutters (Shear) .....	227 crowns
Machine cutters .....	193 "
Markers .....	178 "
Operators .....	175 "
Pressers .....	160 "

The wages of the girls who do the same kind of work and also those of the finishers are much smaller. A girl gets 120 crowns per week. It makes no difference whether she works as a cutter, operator, presser or finisher. Then come the apprentices, mostly boys and girls under 14, who work the first two weeks for nothing.

I visited some of the Vienna shops in which I observed how they worked and how much they earned. I did not know but that I saw it in a dream.

I wish from the bottom of my

heart that the prophecy of Comrade Schmidka that the bosses would grant the demand of the tailors for a 200 per cent wage increase would come true.

The number of Jewish workers in the tailoring industry is comparatively small. There are altogether about 2,000, but not more than 600 belong to the union. The rest are "little masters" or such workers as plan to give up work at the first opportunity. Nearly all are immigrants from Galicia, Austrian-born Jews in the tailoring trade are very few.

The Vienna Tailors' Union maintains an office, a secretary and a few business agents. Among the Executive Board members there is one Jew, Comrade Jacob Chaikin. He has been in Vienna for many years, he talks good German and he knows both the trade and the workers. He is trying hard to interest the Jewish workers in their trade organization.

Altogether there are in Vienna about 35,000 Jewish workers, of whom 20,000 are clerks, about 10,000 are organized. They do not have separate Jewish unions as is the case in Warsaw, but they belong to the general Austrian organizations.

The Bund and the Poale Zion arrange lectures for the Jewish workers and publish weekly papers.

The Poale Zion has also a kitchen in its clubrooms where the workers can get a meal for a few crowns, but this kitchen was established by the Joint Distribution Committee and not by the Poale Zion. Much has been written about this kitchen in the Vecker, the organ of the Bund, which is published in Vienna. The Poale Zion are accused of forcing all those who come to their kitchen to buy stamps for Palestinian fund.

I am convinced that if the Jewish workers would take a more active part in the unions (if the Jewish intellectuals of both camps would arrange mass meetings from time to time to urge the Jewish workers to join the union that could be brought about) anti-semitic propaganda would not be so effective as it is. Besides the workers would earn more and would fare better in these difficult days. The most effective reply to anti-semitic lies cannot be given through newspapers which have 500 or 1,000 readers, as is the case of the weeklies of the Bund and the Poale Zion. If the 35,000 Jewish workers in Vienna were organized and came to the meetings of their unions, their reply would be heard by the entire Austrian population.

I spoke about it to Comrade Dr. Kissman, editor of the Vecker and correspondent of our Forward, and with a number of other Comrades. I also advocated that idea at a mass meeting arranged in my honor by the Bund organizations and which was so packed that hundreds of Jewish workers were turned away. In order that my words might not be forgotten, I left 25,000 crowns to the Bund organizations to continue the agitation among the Jewish workers.

## THE WEEKS' NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By I. LEWIN

### General News

In accordance with the decision of the Executive Board, the matter of contributing Local 10's share towards creating the "Million Dollar Defense Fund" of the Joint Board of Cloakmakers' Union, was taken up at the Special Meeting held on Monday, March 29, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place, and carried by an overwhelming majority.

Despite the lull in the trade, the main hall was crowded to capacity. And when the question was put to the members, it was apparent at the outset that the cutters of all the three branches of Local 10 were ready and willing to share the burden of the cloak Joint Board of the Cutters' Union will pay \$10. The Executive Board has decided to issue stamps in 45 denominations. Arrangements for the first payment will be taken up shortly by the Board and the date will be set. Members should watch for the setting of the date and make their payments within the time that will be allotted, so that at least part of Local 10's quota may be paid within as short a time as possible.

Predictions that Local 10's Elventh Annual Ball would exceed all other affairs in point of attendance and hilarity not only came true but passed all expectations. Although the Ball Committee has not yet rendered its report, it is expected that the Relief Fund will be swelled considerably from the income realized.

### Waist and Dress News

The present dullness in the Dress and Waist trade affords the business agents an opportunity to make a survey of all the shops. Shops controlled by employers who are members of the Dress and Waist Association are not hindering this work as in the past by wholesale discharges or by any other violations of the agreement. In other words, there are less complaints being lodged today by cutters employed in Association shops than ever before.

Speaking of the present situation in respect to the Union and the Association, Manager Shekner, pointing to the election of officers held recently at the annual meeting of the Dress and Waist

Manufacturers' Association, affirms that the majority of those elected on the Executive Board in nowise represent dress and waist manufacturers, because most of these are either jobbers and do not employ any workers, and if they do employ only one, two or three cutters; or they have non-union shops. Thus, it can readily be seen that it is a handful who attempt to legislate for the industry, and who are not representative of the 95 per cent of employers in the dress and waist industry.

So far there are but a few Association shops that have not given the cutters an increase in wages. Therefore, cutters are requested to at once report to the office where this matter will be taken up by the Manager for them.

A more detailed report will be rendered at the next meeting of the activities of this branch, also matters affecting the trade and the membership will be taken up at this meeting, which will take place on Monday evening, April 12, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place.

### Miscellaneous News

Following the victory in the Wrapper and Kimono Industry which made it possible for the workers to go back to work under far better conditions than those existing heretofore, Brother Perlmuter immediately proceeded with laying plans for the proper control of the shops, with a view to seeing to it that the workers are not cheated out of their just due.

Owing to the strike, it was impossible to take a survey of the shops; however, now that the strike is over, Manager Perlmuter and Business Agent Fleisher will devote all their energies towards this work. Members are requested to keep in constant touch with the office and report all violations.

While workers in the Wrapper and Kimono Industry gained all that they expected to gain, nevertheless to have the membership and the Union lull itself into the false belief that conditions will maintain themselves would be sheer suicide. In order to uphold conditions forced from the employers it is necessary that the Union and the members keep a watchful eye.

## IN OUR EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

During Easter week, the students of the Unity Centers agreed upon a holiday. So there will be no school commencing March 29th and ending April 4th.

On Monday, April 5th, all classes in English will be resumed at all the Unity Centers. Our members are urged to attend. If the attendance in the English classes is large enough, the Educational Department will make efforts toward arranging some special lectures during that week.

On Thursday, April 11th, at the Workers' University, Mr. Leo Wolman will continue his lectures

on Labor and Management, at 7.30 P. M.

The students of the Workers' University have arranged for a short Easter vacation. So that no lectures will take place there on Saturday and Sunday, April 3rd and 4th. After that, however, the classes will be held regularly as heretofore.

We wish to announce a new series of lectures to be given by Miss Babette Deutsch, on "Poetry." Miss Deutsch commenced this series at the Waistmaker's Unity Center and will continue there after the Easter Holiday, on Friday, April 9th, at 8.30 P. M.

# NEWS FROM THE WAIST UNION, LOCAL 25

## Elections

Election of delegates to the Fifteenth Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. was held on Tuesday, March 30, 1920. Brother Weinglass was the chairman of the Election Committee. The following were elected:

Abraham, Baroff, I. Wasilefsky, L. Cohen, N. Schechter, I. Schoenholz, B. Witaskin, J. Hochman, S. Shapiro, M. Gussman, N. Levine, I. Harowitz, M. Friedman, and I. Unker.

## Shop Chairmen Meetings

At the last Shop Chairmen's Meeting held at Beethovian Hall, Thursday, March 25th, 1920, the rules and regulations worked out by our Executive Board governing shop chairmen meetings were accepted. It is hoped that these meetings become a permanent institution of our Union. It is very important that our shop chairmen and chair-ladies who represent the workers of our shops, who are carrying upon their shoulders the burden and responsibility of the welfare of the workers in the industry, shall take a keener interest in the general problems of our trade, and have an influence in the conduct and policy of our organization. Particularly now, when all dark forces of reaction are combining to stifle and hinder the progress of our movement, it is essential that our workers come in closer contact with our organization and officers, to unify and strengthen our union to a greater extent than ever before.

We are sure that nothing else can serve the purpose better than these meetings, if only well attended and intelligently conducted — following a policy of conservative work as exemplified by

members should not miss her lecture series which has already proven a great success.

Commencing Monday, April 12, the lectures at the Unity Centre will be resumed. It is hoped that our members will rejoin the classes and bring their fellow workers with them.

By special arrangement, we have secured half-price tickets for the song recital to be given by Miss Anita Low, Soprano, on Thursday, April 8th, at Aeolian Hall, 43rd Street between 5th and 6th Avenue. These tickets can be secured in the Office of the Educational Department, Room 1002, at half price.

The season tickets for the Jewish Art Theatre are still available at 15c. This ticket entitles the holder to two half-price tickets for any Thursday evening or Saturday matinee during the entire season of 1920. We would like to see more of our members taking advantage of this opportunity.

the last two Shop Chairmen Meetings.

It is in this sense that we congratulate our Shop Chairmen and Chair-ladies! And altogether let us continue to fight for the great aims of our movement.

## Equal Distribution of Work

It is very encouraging to see that the movement of equal distribution of work, inception at one of our last shop chairmen meetings, is already bringing satisfactory results. It is really interesting to see how the idea of equal distribution has overlapped the boundaries of the factory walls. No more does our Union content itself with equal distribution of work for the workers of a particular shop; but the idea is extended to include all the workers of the entire industry. How things have changed! The same chair-ladies who used to come to the office complaining against their employers for taking up help while they were not fully provided with work, are now just as ready to file complaints against employers for refusing to take up help so that they may share with their fellow workers who are not employed.

Our Union has established an Employment Bureau through which we intend to serve all those out of work, a helping them to find positions. We, therefore, ask all our members who happen to be unemployed at present to register their names with Brother Mackoff, who is in charge of this department. We also ask our Chair-ladies to inform their employers that according to our agreement the Union is first to be called on for help needed, and chair-ladies will please notify the Union of the shops in which workers are wanted, taking care that every new worker coming up to the shop has a working card signed by Brother M. K. Mackoff.

## Unity House

Now that the winter is over and the snowpiles, which our efficient Mayor has failed to remove, are finally melting away with the help of the sun, we are all certain that Spring is here and that we are on the threshold of Summer. And who can think of Summer without thinking about a vacation; and who of our people can think about a vacation without thinking about the beautiful, glorious, Workers' Unity House, situated in the heart of the Blue Mountains, 1600 feet above sea level, with wonderful lakes about, rowing boats, tennis courts, bathing beaches, and a thousand and one things too numerous to mention. The Unity House affords all conveniences imaginable.

In order to give our members a chance to enjoy all this, our Unity House Committee has already begun to make preparations, and it is expected that we will be able to accommodate this summer, twice the number we accommodated last year.

The opening day for registration will soon be announced, and we would advise all those who want to be sure of going to the Unity House this summer, to hasten and among the first to register — for if they fail they may be too late.

# THE STAGE

By Frances Robbins

## "GREEN FIELDS"

Press representatives are wont to exaggerate. It's part of their business. When the representative of the Jewish Art Theatre proudly proclaimed that this theatre has brought back the Jewish people to the Jewish drama — we smiled. But when we glanced about at the audience so tensely interested in Hirschbein's "Green Fields," we realized that his claim was fully justified.

When we speak of the Jewish public, we mean not those who regularly attend the Jewish plays on the East Side and elsewhere, but those who have for many years gazed rather contemptuously down at the Jewish Drama. To bring the wandering sheep back to the fold required productions of unusual merit, and that the Art Theatre has succeeded in attracting this particular type of theatre-goer surely speaks well for the character of the plays and players presented during the past year.

"Green Fields," the Art Theatre's latest offering, a romantic idyl in three acts, is a realistic and wonderfully vivid picture of rural life amongst the Russian Jews. The brilliancy of its performance depends, not on plot or dramatic thrills, but on sheer good acting. Each character is clean, vividly drawn, and complete in itself.

There is David (Gershon Rubin) and his wife Rachel (Anna Appel). They are illiterate farm folk, but very human and lovable. The bit of business in the first act that brings out their characteristics, Rachel is placidly cutting up potatoes into small pieces for the spring planting. Her neighbor comes to see her and a quarrel arises in which both sides speak bitter words. Rachel keeps cutting the potatoes, but as her anger rises, faster and faster flashes her knife and viciously she jabs the innocent potatoes. Gradually she calms down, slower, goes the knife and as peace is restored,

she sits once more calmly busy at her task.

David and Rachel have two sons. Hersh Behr (Minscha German) who is in love with the daughter of their neighbors, and Abram Yankiv (Lazar Fried). Both parts are well done. The daughter Zina is played by Cella Adler, who adds to the role an air of mischievous loving idleness that is most charming. Well worth remembering are the few moments in which Zina frantically runs about the room, primping herself to appear beautiful in his eyes. Even Itevlitch, played with inimitable artistry by Ben Ami, who also personally directs the production. In the play, he is a student of the Talmud, who during his wanderings, stops at Zina's home and because of his great learning, is detained by these lowly folk to teach their children. He is careless of material things, not at all interested in women or love. But in spite of himself, he is finally captured by the adoring Zina. Ben Ami is an artist. He not only acts his parts, he lives them.

It is almost unbelievable that this pale, stooped ascetic scholar is the same man who not so long ago swaggered laughingly across the stage in "The Idle Inn."

Jeeheil Goldsmith and Bina Abramovitch as Elkano and his wife Gitel are the neighbors of David Noah. Their little mannerisms, their expressive gestures are so typical of their race that one feels as though at some time they really must have been poor toilers of the soil.

And now more than a word of praise for Louis Bromberg who designed the settings. The farm scene breathe of the real outdoors, and like Zina, one is almost tempted to climb the apple tree laden with fruit. One scene showing the interior of David's cottage is convincing in its bare simplicity.

We predict a long run for "Green Fields."

# A PEOPLE'S LYCEUM IN EAST NEW YORK

The people of East New York have at last awakened! Within the last few years East New York has been developing by leaps and bounds, and as a result of this remarkable growth, many of the streets which are lined with apartments now have been cow paths but a few years ago.

Simultaneously with the above expansion grew a tremendous working class consciousness. About six years ago several people foresaw the inevitable growth of East New York, and realized the necessity of securing a workers' home in that community. With that object in view they organized a People's Lyceum Association for the purpose of furthering their work.

These people took up their work with zeal, but were greatly hindered during the war. Scarcely had the armistice been signed when the work was resumed; and now a modern building, situated in the heart of East New York, easily reached by trolley and "L," crowns the success of the pioneers' work for a Labor Temple.

Last Friday night, at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the People's Lyceum, the committee in charge of purchasing a home reported that the building selected for purchase had been contracted for, and that a thousand dollars had already been paid. But that is not all; a sum of \$12,000 must be raised during the month of March. The People's Lyceum Association realized that the only method of raising funds is to appeal to those who are to benefit from such a home, the members of the working class.

Committees have therefore been elected to visit the various labor organizations of New York. The People's Lyceum Association of East New York, Inc., appeals to all such organizations to grant the floor to its committees and to listen to their message. For further information, call on the temporary offices, 600 Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Send all contributions to Abraham Mayer, Treasurer, 321 Pennsylvania Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, or to above address.



## LADIES' GARMENT CLEKKS ORGANIZE UNION

Following in the footsteps of the workers in the other branches of the Ladies' Garment Industry, the men and women engaged in the receiving, packing, shipping, assorting and other branches of the industry not yet organized have begun a campaign for a large organization for the furtherance of their own interests and those of their fellow workers.

There are almost 15,000 employed in the miscellaneous divisions of the ladies' garment industry. Every one of the 4,000 shops manufacturing women's garments has at least one man or woman who devotes his or her time to receiving, shipping, assorting, preparing the trimmings for the operators and so forth. Many of them have finally realized that the time has come for a change in their labor conditions. They have decided that they intend to receive a living wage for their work; that they want to get paid for overtime and no charity for it in the shape of support money; they have decided that they are human beings and expect to be treated as such.

A number of these workers have formed the Ladies' Garment Clerks' Union, which has been chartered as local 130 of the In-

ternational Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. From the first day that they received the charter their temporary headquarters has been buzzing with activity. New members are being enrolled every day. The workers in the industry seem to have awakened from their lethargy and are agitating among those who are not yet awake to realize where they belong and to join the rest of the workers in their struggle for a living wage and improved working conditions.

The Union holds regular meetings every Tuesday, in Beethoven Hall, 210 Fifth St. The officers are Jacob H. Diamond, President; Hugh Livingston, Secretary-Treasurer, and an executive board.

The International, realizing the possibility of strengthening its organization, has assigned Alfred La Dorta, general organizer, to conduct an organization campaign and is co-operating in every way to make this local a success.

These workers in the workmen's wear shops which are already organized are requested to speak to their fellow workers about this organization and to send them to the office at 228 Second Avenue. The office is open every day until seven o'clock.

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## CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10, ATTENTION

### NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

CLOAK & SUIT	Monday, April 5th
WAIST & DRESS	Monday, April 12th.
MISCELLANEOUS:	Monday, April 19th.
GENERAL:	Monday, April 26th.

Special Order of Business: Case of Bro. Jos. R. Schefel.

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.  
AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

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105 Madison Ave.  
Solomon & Metzler,  
33 East 33rd St.  
Clairmont Waist Co.,  
15 West 36th St.  
Mack Kanner & Milnes,  
136 Madison Ave.  
M. Stern,  
33 East 33rd St.  
Max Cohen,  
105 Madison Ave.  
Julian Waist Co.,  
15 East 32nd St.  
Dreswail Dress Co.,  
14 East 32nd St.  
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303 Fourth Ave.  
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2-16 West 33rd St.  
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## Important Notice. Shop Chairmen and Members of the Waist and Dress Makers' Union:

At the last meeting of our Executive Board, a recommendation made by a meeting of shop chairmen was discussed and important decisions arrived at. That recommendation dealt with the present situation of the workers in our industry. Due to the irregular season, many workers are idling and shops closed up; while in other shops workers not only have a full week's work, but even work overtime. According to the rules of our organization, no worker has a right to work overtime, unless every seat in the shop is filled and every machine is working.

The Executive Board, therefore, decided to request all the shop chairmen to see to it that this rule be strictly enforced.

The Executive Board also appeals to all members to follow this decision, and see that there are as many more workers added to their staff as can find room. But the shop chairmen must not, however, take in any additional worker unless he or she presents a special card from the Union.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE NO PLACE TO WORK SHOULD IMMEDIATELY REGISTER AT THE OFFICE OF THE UNION, 16 WEST 21ST STREET, ROOM No. 5, WHERE A SPECIAL REGISTRATION BUREAU IS OPENED.

This decision must be strictly enforced, because it is not only in the interests of the workers looking for work, but also in the interest of those who are working as well as of the organization as a whole.  
EXECUTIVE BOARD, LADIES' WAIST & DRESS MAKERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 25, I. L. Q. W. U.