

"We ought to  
have it here  
and will  
not let it go."  
—John Hays

# NOTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

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## Brilliant Opening of Our International Convention at Chicago

Impressive Parade of Members of our Chicago Locals in Honor of the Opening of Our Convention.—Prominent Labor Officials Greet Delegates.—Workers of Germany, France and England Send Felicitations to Our Convention.—President Schlesinger Opens Convention with a Stirring Address.

The opening of the fifteenth biennial convention of our International at Carmen's Hall, Chicago, last Monday morning, May 3, ushered in the most constructive periods ever witnessed in the needle industry.

Every shop of the ladies' garment industry was shut tight on that day. Early in the morning all our Chicago members who declared a holiday on May 3 have formed a line at the Forward Building, Blue Island Avenue and 12th Street, and marched about a mile and a half to Carmen's Hall, Van Buren Street and Ashland Boulevard, to greet the delegates. They wound about the meeting place and paraded in front of the platform, where they cheered the delegates.

Bearing floral greetings, banners and yardsticks, the 4,000 filled the Auditorium and cheered enthusiastically the opening of one of the momentous of our Conventions.

Among those who welcomed the delegates from all over the country were John T. Walker, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor; John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago A. F. of L.; Edward Nockels, secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor; Jane Adams of Hull and Clarence Darrow, noted attorney; Robert Buck of the New Majority; Peter Bismann, noted labor attorney; Harry B. Miller, present in place of Mayor Thompson; and Otto Branstetter, national executive secretary of the Socialist Party.

Practically every speaker sounded the grave problems that confront the working class. The enthusiasm which greeted references to liberated Russia, the need of an effective political organization of the workers and the defiance hurled at Attorney General Palmer and other politicians who have been straining every effort to blackguard labor point to a rather interesting session of two weeks, during which period some of the most fundamentally important developments in the ladies' garment section of the needle industry are expected to be met.

Buck, editor of the New Majority, made a very impressive address, declaring that it was a great time to hold a labor convention. He indicated the awakening of class consciousness among the workers by pointing to the recent strikes which have shaken the country, all of them made leaderless either by injunction of the government or by faithlessness of the leaders.

Delegates rose and applauded Clarence Darrow when he was introduced. In his address of welcome, the labor attorney pointed out the necessity of political action by the working class as a unit and

used the policy of oppression of the present administration to illustrate his point.

He was vigorously applauded when he denounced the administration policy toward Soviet Russia, declaring that Russia was entitled to all the rights of self-determination.

President Walker, of the State Federation, and Nelson Nockels, of the local organization, made pleas for support of the American Labor party.

Branstetter assailed the general prosecution program of the Washington administration and called Palmer "the biggest liar, big-traitor and biggest hypocrite in America." All constitutional safeguards, he declared, were being

undermined by the present administration.

Telegrams of greeting from French and German needle trades, as well as from American organizations, were read to the delegates by Abraham Baroff, secretary-treasurer of the International.

In reply to addresses of welcome by city and state labor officials and local public men, President Schlesinger made an impassioned speech telling of the struggles of the International and attacked the reactionary forces that are trying to crush labor. Mention of Attorney General Palmer brought a tremendous booming from delegates and spectators.

Organization of the second

day's work of the Convention was speed along with the appointment of committees to consider various phases of the work.

Following the report of the credentials committee and appeals for financial support by representatives of various working class institutions, President Schlesinger proceeded to read portions of the report of the general executive board of the International. The reading was followed by reports of the committees on various resolutions to be submitted to the convention.

The committees elected, and their chairmen are:

On officers' reports, J. Feinberg; on adjustments, Sol. Seidman; on (Continued on Page 7)

## REGISTRATION OPEN FOR UNITY HOUSE

In spite of the pre-convention bustle at the offices of the Ladies' Waist and Dressmakers' Union, the Unity House Committee has succeeded in making all the necessary arrangements for the early opening of the waist makers' splendid summer resort, the Unity House.

All the 12 house of the magnificent Unity estate will be thrown open to the vacationists holding membership cards of local 25 on June 12.

An army of mechanics has been working for some time at the Unity House to get things in shape, and the Unity House committee is authority for the statement that by June 12 everything at the Unity House will be spick and span.

A number of changes and improvements have been made both in the physical equipment and in the system of management of the Unity House.

The various athletic grounds, the bathing houses, etc., all have been repaired and greatly extended, so as to afford the vacationists more room and greater comfort. Enough provisions of all kinds, except perishable foods and vegetables raised on the Unity grounds, has been stored up to last for a siege of many months.

The management of the Unity House has been placed in the hands of Mr. Lamport, who has had years of experience in managing large hotels, under the guidance and control of the Unity House Committee, of which Miss Pecker and Miss Kronhardt are perhaps the pluckiest two members.

The system of volunteer waiters has been done away with and a force of professional waiters engaged to appease the appetites of the vacationists.

A big mob is expected at the Unity House this summer, and the

management is all prepared to cope with it. The opening of registration for vacationists has been set for coming Monday, May 10 at the Headquarters of the Union, 66 W. 21st St. Room A. The early registrations will naturally have the first choice both, as regards accommodations and the time of vacation.

Those who have no particular liking for big crowds and find no thrills in waiting for "next" can do nothing better than choose the month of June to take their vacations. But whether they choose June or September, all prospective vacationists must register at once or take the chance of being turned away for lack of accommodations.

A drive will be made shortly in the shops of the Waist and Dress industry to gather in the one dollar tax pledged by the members of local 25 for the Unity House Fund. It is expected that over 95 per cent of the membership of the Waistmakers' Union will pay the Unity tax and register for the Unity vacations in the course of its next week or two.

## BIG CONVENTION DEMONSTRATION AT PENNSYLVANIA STATION

There were stirring demonstrations at the Pennsylvania Station last Friday evening, April 30, when more than 150 delegates from New York City left on a special train for Chicago where the 15th Convention of our International is now in session.

Large numbers of our New York members who were not so fortunate as to go to the Convention came to the Pennsylvania Station to give an enthusiastic send-off to their chosen delegates. It was a remarkably impressive scene which attracted wide attention. The delegates were happy and confident, conscious of the splendid achievements of the International during the past two years,

and fully realizing the significance of the messages and resolutions with which they were entrusted. It was generally felt that the delegates were going to a Convention which will be epoch-making not only for the International but for the entire labor movement in America. There was evident a spirit of unity and solidarity, ready to cope with the tremendous problem before the Convention.

Pennsylvania Station seldom if ever witnessed such a festive crowd as it did last Friday evening. The women delegates particularly distinguished themselves by their sumptuous floral decorations. In fact one could have at

moments taken it for some flower show. There was hearty laughter; there was hilarity; there were animated discussions; there was leave-taking; there were kisses; there were vigorous handshakes.

The large delegation from New York was joined by the delegation from Philadelphia at Bethlehem, Pa. At Niagara Falls where they met the delegates from the New England states, they spent a half-day on a sight-seeing tour, and then proceeded to Chicago.

President Schlesinger was not with the party, as illness in his family detained him in New York. He arrived in Chicago the next day.

# TOPICS OF THE WEEK

## The Vigilant Mr. Palmer

MR. PALMER has badly frightened the American nation a few days ago. On the very eve of May Day the vigilant Attorney-General sent out an alarm over the length and breadth of this land to the effect that a terrible assassination plot was part of the general demonstration for May Day. But the ever-weak Palmer allayed the fears of the people by the following announcement: "A warning has been issued by the Department to all those whose names are included in the list of marked men, and the Department has taken steps to furnish protection." He further assured the people that the assassination plot is "nation-wide." He will demonstrate to the people what a big job he can handle, — fit for a presidential aspirant. "I feel," said our Attorney-General, "that our action in arresting their leaders and deporting numbers of the alien agitators" will save the American people, especially the "marked men" from being assassinated.

But his awful prophecy did not come true. May Day was one of the most uneventful and quietest of days. There were about fifty meetings in New York alone, it is true, but none of them gave cause to Palmer's agents to arrest, though they have made a record for arresting people without cause. Department of Justice agents were stationed all over the country to keep their chief informed of the violence and assassinations, etc. But those agents "had nothing to report." The press was sadly disappointed, many were outraged, others were disposed to laugh at the Attorney-General. The New York Tribune carried an editorial stating that "Mr. Palmer doubtless feels under the necessity of saving the lives of the voters as Mr. Palmer does." After this Mr. Palmer went through the motions of playing this invisible dragon in its hidden lair that gratified long since faded suspicion. Is our sword-waving Attorney-General quite such a dragon-slayer as he advertises?

In this connection it may be appropriate to quote the opinion of Judge George W. Anderson of the United States District Court regarding the deportation activities of the Department of Justice. He said: "I wish you would show me one case in which the Department of Justice has the authority to arrest persons and hold them for two weeks without warrants. A more lawless proceeding is hard to conceive. Talk about Americanization; what we need is Americanization of those who carry on such proceedings. I can hardly sit on the bench as an American citizen and restrain my indignation. I view with horror such proceedings as this."

## Russia Begins Trade With China

WHILE the Polish army, aided by the Allies, particularly by France, advances in Russia, the Soviet Government is reported to have reached an agreement with China resuming trade between the two countries. The Russo-Chinese frontier has been opened for commercial intercourse, as a result of a conference between representatives of the Chinese and Russian Soviet governments, held at Verkhne Ussisk, Transbaikalia, on April 24. The conference also decided to recognize the inherent

rights of the Soviet government in the Eastern Manchurian Railway, which forms part of the Trans-Siberian line. Without the Eastern Manchurian Railway, the Russian port of Vladivostok is cut off from the rest of Siberia. A large delegation of Chinese merchants accompanied the military and diplomatic mission of their country to the conference.

Prior to their conclusion of peace, the Soviet government addressed a manifesto to China. It is in part as follows:

"We hereby propose to open the eyes of China. The Soviet Government of Russia has denounced all the enterprises of conquest by the former Russian Government, and therefore will return, the Chinese Eastern Railway to China without compensation. It will also restore to China all the mines, forests and gold mines obtained from the Manchovs, Ketzinsky, Horvath, Semenov, Kolchak and other bureaucrats. It does not care for the Boxer indemnity. The slaves of the Romanoffs are no more, and so China must drive out of the country the slaves who have been beguiling her. It will abolish all the privileges obtained by Russian merchants in Chinese territories, and all denounce all treaties concluded between China and former Russian Government."

"If China wishes to escape from the fate of becoming a second Korea or a second India, as was decided by the Versailles treaty, and to become a free nation, China must understand the reason for the existence of the Red Guards, the Russian laborers and farmers, who are the only adherents and brothers of freedom. Soviet Russia expects that China will officially co-operate with it."

## Is Mexico in Revolt?

THE last few weeks witnessed a revival of daily reports — of revolution that is sweeping across Mexico. A couple of days ago there was a report that President Carranza is preparing to flee from Mexico. This report was preceded and followed by other reports of uprisings and revolts in various parts of that country. There is also said to be a wide-spread anti-Carranza labor movement throughout Mexico. Juan Rico, President of the Linotypers' Union of Mexico and Secretary of the Executive Board of the Mexican Labor Party, is reported to have said that the American Federation of Labor will vouch for the fact that the movement is not a Bolshevik uprising but a legitimate, bona fide attempt to achieve industrial freedom in Mexico. Coupled with these developments in Mexico, the State Department has "requested" the Navy Department to dispatch American warships to Tampico and Vera Cruz for the "protection of American citizens" along the Gulf coast.

It is difficult to learn what is actually taking place in Mexico. One thing is certain, however, and that is that we are not getting news from Mexico but propaganda. It is no secret that the National Association for the Protection of American Rights organized in January, 1919, is perpetrating a huge conspiracy against Mexico. In this organization is represented America's richest banking, mining, and industrial corporations, headed by J. P. Morgan & Co., the National City Bank, Standard Oil, the Mexican Petroleum Company, the Intercontinental Rubber

Company, etc. There are also the richest corporations having a stake in Mexico. It is also clear that this Association is after the control of the Mexican oil fields by Wall Street. With this end in view a costly propaganda is conducted to whip the American people into war with Mexico. Every report of disorder, misadministration, destitution, confiscation, murder, etc. or outrage, and especially every bag in which Americans figure as sufferers, is used to impress upon the people that we are obligated to send armed forces into Mexico to "straighten out" affairs there. There is little doubt that the present reports of "revolution" and disorder there have the same purpose of awakening the American people to send armed forces and "straighten out" the Mexican affairs.

## Larkin Sentenced to Long Prison Term

JIM LARKIN was sentenced last Monday to serve from 5 to 10 years at hard labor by Judge Bartow S. Weeks, in the Supreme Court, following his conviction last week on a charge of "criminal anarchy." This is the latest exhibition of the justice meted out by the American courts. But it is far from being the only case. The sentence of Ben Gitlow and Harry Winitsky who were found guilty of the same "crime" were other illustrations of this kind of "justice." These are countless other cases. In fact the sentence of Jim Larkin was expected. The court was not capable of acting otherwise. It meted out class justice.

Larkin was one of the most extraordinary figures in the Irish labor movement. There is such a thing as "Larkinism." There are a host of legends and myths that have grown around his name. He organized the Irish Transport Workers' Union and instilled a new life into the labor movement as a whole. He was the founder and commander-in-chief of the Citizen's Army of Ireland. For this reason the British Government was very much interested in his case. Larkin made many attempts to return to Ireland but the British Government always succeeded in blocking his way.

Judge W. had now charged exceedingly helpful to the British authorities in keeping Larkin at least for five years in prison where he will not menace the oppressive rule of Great Britain.

## Communist Labor Party Legal

SECRETARY WILSON decided that membership in the Communist Labor Party, did not render an alien liable to deportation. The decision, of course, was a painful surprise to Attorney-General Palmer. In fact it was learned at the Department of Justice that the decision has blocked a nation-wide raid upon "Reds," which was to have been asked, if Secretary Wilson had not outlawed the Communist Labor Party. As the matter stands the Department of Justice is helpless to send out of the country aliens whom it regards as a national menace. Under the law, the Department of Labor is the court of last resort, and there is no appeal from its decision. Some of the Palmer agents made statements to the effect that an attempt would be made in Congress to deprive the Department of Labor of what they termed "arbitrary and misused power."

The decision of Secretary Wilson was based upon a test case, that a Carl Miller, a German cit-

izen, who came to this country in 1907. Miller is a member of the Communist Labor Party who declares himself familiar and in complete sympathy with its manifesto and program.

Not long ago the Department of Labor decided that membership in the Communist Party meant deportation, and an alien and officials of the Department of Justice hoped that similar action would be taken in the case of the Communist Labor Party. But Secretary Wilson differentiates between the parties, holding that while the Communist Party advocates force for the overthrow of the Government, the Communist Labor Party creed contemplates the capture of the state power by parliamentary methods. The Secretary's decision reads:

"The Communist Party asserts that 'Communism does not propose to capture the bourgeois parliamentary State, but to conquer and destroy it,' thereby making its intent to use force to attain the end in view. No matter how much mass action or economic power in the form of strikes may be used as a means of propaganda, it would be impossible to conquer and destroy our present form of Government without the use of force, unless it is first captured by the parliamentary methods provided by our Constitution and laws."

## British Workers Restless

A wave of discontent, similar to that of last year, is passing through the ranks of workers in almost every industry of Great Britain. The most serious is the unrest of railway workers who are demanding the abolition of the sliding scale principle which was the basis of last year's strike settlement. Under this system all grades of railway employees are automatically increased one shilling a week when the cost of living increases five points. This increase is regarded as inadequate in view of the many necessities of life unaccounted for by the government in compiling cost of living statistics. The railway employees are now demanding a flat wage increase.

The unrest has affected post-office workers who are protesting against the dilatory methods of the department in negotiating demands for improved conditions. These employees have declared for the creation of a strike fund to be used if the emergency arises.

A national conference to consider wage increases has been called to consist of delegates from the ship-building and metal trades, together with clay, chemical and railway shop workers. These workers will act together at the periodical revision of wages under the terms of the industrial courts.

The labor correspondent of Reynolds' Newspaper says that it is becoming harder and harder for trade union officials to convince members that they did the best they could in securing wage agreements. It is stated that there is a tendency to repudiate agreements in spite of contrary advice by officials. This tendency has been fostered, it is stated, by the number of awards in which the system of "splitting the difference" has been adopted.

This fifteenth convention which meets one month of the 20th anniversary of the International Union, will see virtually all the mandates of the last convention, held in Boston, carried out—the spread of a closely knit union from Montreal to Los Angeles, from San Francisco to Philadelphia; the general introduction of a week work system in the cloak and suit industry in the United States and Canada, and the establishment of the 44-hour work week and the growth of the union from 85,000 to 150,000 members.

The most important recommendation that will be made to the convention is given in the report, which urges an alliance of all garment workers' unions in America and a world-wide needle trades federation.

"We believe that the time has now come for this," declares the report, "and we must proceed immediately to achieve it. We, therefore, recommend that this convention authorize the general executive board to proceed with the formation of an alliance of all the unions of men's and women's garment workers: our International, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the United Garment Workers, the Journeymen Tailors, Capmakers, Furriers, Neckwear Workers, etc., each union to preserve its autonomy as before. None of the component bodies of this alliance are to interfere in the affairs of the others, but they are all to stand together when circumstances should require. The fight of one union should at once become the fight of all the other component organizations.

"A tailors' alliance of a half million workers will be a power against which the employers will not so lightly undertake a fight. It will also be in a position to exert a strong influence on public opinion and on national policies. In certain cities it may even be possible to amalgamate offices and to use the same organizers for all trades. The machinery of one union may be used for another in districts where one particular trade is better organized than the others.

"The usefulness of a trade-federation of this kind is practically unlimited. We are convinced that all the other needle trades will receive the proposal with joy. Let us make the beginning and success is assured."

Covering fully the activities of the International, the report shows that an extraordinary interest has been taken by the membership in general labor conditions and in governmental affairs of communities as well as the nation.

Indeed, among the chief things this 15th biennial convention will consider will be a demand for amnesty for political prisoners and a pledge of moral and financial aid "in the struggle against reaction."

The report declares: "We denounce the reaction sweeping the country at present as an attempt of the capitalist to oppress labor. We denounce the raids and arrests which the Federal and state governments have perpetrated upon various radical organizations in every section of the country. We protest against the policy of the Washington administration to keep in prison the thousands of political prisoners and we demand that they be immediately freed through a proclamation of amnesty, as the governments of Europe have done al-

ready. We consider the ousting of the five Socialist assemblymen in New York as un-American, unconstitutional and undemocratic. We pledge our moral and financial aid in the struggle against reaction, in the struggle against the dark forces which seek, under the guise of patriotism, to rob the masses of their most cherished liberties."

Referring to the "abnormal conditions created by the war" and the "state of hysteria" that now exists, the report tells the attitude of the union toward the expulsion of the five Socialist assemblymen declaring that:

"Enemies of organized labor who are at the same time inveterate enemies of true democracy and representative government, have seized upon this hysteria to foster anti-democratic bills and peace time sedition laws which are nothing but adroit designs to throttle our rights to organize, to assemble and to speak our mind within the bounds of constitutional guarantees. As a climax of this lawless hysteria, we may point to the attempt of the reactionaries in the state of New York to outlaw the Socialist party and to unseat its duly elected representatives.

The union even has embarked upon the project of establishing an international tuberculosis sanitarium. It owns 350 acres of land in the foot of the Catskill Mountains on the border line of Sullivan and Orange counties, near Mount Hope, N. Y., upon which buildings to cost \$150,000 are soon to be erected.

The report, which was made and signed by Benjamin Schlesinger, president; Abraham Baroff, general secretary-treasurer, and the vice-presidents, covers the progress made in each of the constituent unions of the International, and virtually all of them are highly commended by the general executive board for their fighting spirit and the tremendous gains which have marked their progress.

In a special section near the end of the report is "a word of appreciation" to the well wishers and advisers who have "by word or action given aid, counsel and encouragement. Among these are the various other labor organizations which have shown their solidarity, especially in troublous times, and those individuals and newspapers who have aided this cause by the spoken and written word.

"We wish to express our deeply felt recognition for the staunch support given us by the Jewish Daily Forward and its editor, Abraham Cahan, and, likewise, by the New York Call and its managing editor, Charles W. Ervin," says the report.

The advance of the International Union toward its immediate objectives of the 44-hour work week system in the cloak and suit industry are told of in the reports covering the activities of the individual member unions incorporated in the general report of the general executive board.

The report declares that the joint board of the Cloak, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Unions of New York "was never in its history in such a powerful and commanding position a snow." The progress of the joint board is covered in the report from 1916, when agreements were concluded with the Cloak, Skirt and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective Association to run until August, 1919. In the spring of

1919 the first battle occurred when the joint board asked for the change of the system of piece work to week work, the 44-hour week and the adoption of minimum weekly wage scales for all workers based upon approximate living needs.

The employers' committee was definitely opposed to this, which resulted in a vote to strike, which followed on May 14, bringing to a standstill the entire cloak industry. In the second week the strike was won. But between May and December of 1919 the cost of living jumped 24 per cent. When increases were asked by the joint board to meet this, a bitter controversy arose, which was only settled when Governor Smith named a commission which

brought about an agreement on a compromise retroactive increase of 15 per cent.

Discussing the activities of the various locals under the joint board, the report mentions Local 35, the Pressers' Union, "today at the zenith of its prosperity."

"This local," says the report, "has also been engaged in co-operative activities and has conducted a co-operative grocery on its premises for the benefit of its members."

The Italian Cloakmakers' Union, Local No. 48, "has also engaged in co-operative enterprises on a considerable scale."

"Among its other achievements it must be noted that Local No. 48 has bought the building where its office was located for three years, and has rebuilt it. This transaction involved an investment of \$45,000.

(To be Concluded Next Week)

# A PRESSING PROBLEM IN THE WAISTMAKERS' UNION

By ANNIE KRONHARDT

At one of the shop chairmen's conferences, President Schlesinger spoke of the advantages of establishing week work in our industry. His arguments were conclusive. There were many of our active members who were heartily in favor of the introduction of week work in our industry. In fact, I feel that this problem is pivotal in our trade and the sooner we bring this change about the sooner will we rid ourselves of many other evils. But before this will be effected, I fear that we will have to do a great deal of propaganda. For it must be admitted that their are still a large number of our members who see in the piece work system some sort of individual freedom.

I should like therefore to mention a few of the more striking evils inherent in the piece work system which are only too well known to the workers.

The piece worker, it must be remembered, is at the greatest disadvantage in the ladies' waist industry. The reason for it is found in the constant change of styles of ladies' clothes. This makes standardization impossible. Every new fashion, every fresh whim upsets the formerly established rates. The ever changing styles make the adjustment of piece rates one long and ceaseless process. The competition among the contractors in obtaining work from the jobbers is particularly fierce in this trade, and the workers, of course, are the greatest sufferers in the squabble.

The "jobber," of course, is trying to have his work made by the cheapest possible labor, and to pay the poorest wages. The result is that wherever the workers are least organized and are willing to let themselves be worked to death for starvation wages in order to secure work have longer seasons. Those workers who demand a reasonable living wage always find their employers to shorten the seasons of work. Consequently they are compelled to lower their demands in order to keep their seasons so as to enable them to subsist. That is why the Union, very frequently, begins to organize those workers who already once belonged to the Union. Such an unhealthy condition brings in chaos and disorganization in our ranks.

What seems to me to be one of the worst evils is the constant disputes and bickering over a better settled, farmer or a larger bundle. Everybody knows the pain-

ful, futile and depressing effect of such conflicts. I know that this condition does not exist in most of the shops, but wherever it does exist it leaves an extremely unsavory after-effect. The employer, of course, takes advantage of this situation. In fact he encourages quarrels among the workers over petty grievances.

When the question of settling prices arises, another difficulty is confronted. We find that it is difficult to change the members of a price committee. If a price committee which has served for a while decides to resolve itself, it is difficult to create a new one. The reasons are many. Inability or unwillingness to assume heavy responsibilities are as good reasons as any. One cannot really be blamed for wanting to escape the responsibilities connected with the work of the Price Committee. It requires a great fund of energy and patience to deal with some of our bosses. Many of our active members loose their energy and patience in their daily round of bargaining. The reason for this fatality and apparent lack of actual result is found in the piece work system.

The energy expended daily in the endless process of adjusting price rates under the piece work system could prove of vastly greater benefit when applied to constructive measures.

Under the week work system the competition would be greatly reduced by the establishment of a minimum wage scale as, for instance, in the cloak trade. The organization of the workers then becomes stronger. It would have more time and energy left to devote to questions of the trade in general, whereas now the Union officials are wholly absorbed in settling price disputes. No time is left for anything else. The energy of our active members would be saved. They would then use it to better purpose. They would have more time for their mental development, and for participating in the larger activities of our Organization.

If the advantages of week work are put over against the disadvantages of piece work it will become luminously evident that we must concentrate all our efforts in making a speedy change in our trade. We must substitute piece work for week work.

We must begin a week work movement in our shops. We must begin to discuss it at our shop chairmen meetings.

## EDITORIALS

### THE EDUCATIONAL WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL

In reading the report of the General Executive Board to the Convention of the International one is amazed by the great variety of activities and interests of the Organization. There are fields of endeavor which apparently have no relation with the customary activities of a trade union.

The International, however, is not an ordinary union and it cannot be measured by the established rules. It not only has a well defined attitude toward the numerous social, political and cultural movements but it very frequently expresses it with vigor and energy.

We shall have occasion later to speak of the different activities of the International. Let us first consider the educational work of our organization.

The mere fact that the International spends thousands of dollars yearly for the education of its members conclusively demonstrates that it is profoundly concerned with the larger aspects of a labor organization.

It becomes indisputably evident that the leaders of our Organization do not belong to that class of labor leaders who fear lest the enlightenment of the workers may endanger their control over the union.

On the contrary, the leaders of the International keenly realize the danger of ignorance and of the inability of the workers to think for themselves. That is why they strain all their energies toward creating educational facilities for the workers and stimulate them to make use of them.

There is no other alternative for an organization not led by an iron hand, or ruled by orders issued by bureaucrats. The activities of our Organization are conducted in an intelligent, democratic manner, where every enterprise, every new plan must find the support of the large membership. Such a system of course can only function to the best interest of the workers when the overwhelming majority of our members think for themselves. And the more our rank and file think independently the safer will be the very life of our Organization. Education is the only means toward this end. The prime purpose of the Union must be in offering educational facilities whereby our members can develop their thinking capacities and be able to cope with the daily problems which life presents to them.

That is why the educational work of the International is not a secondary matter. It has not a decorative value. It is a prime necessity.

But are the results of this undertaking justifying the labor and money expended by the International? The answer depends upon the point of view. Looked at

from the standpoint of the outside world, the International has achieved remarkable success. In the report of the Executive Committee of the American Federation of Labor to its convention at Atlantic City our educational work was highly praised and it was offered as a model to be followed and imitated by other labor bodies. There are even some American and European universities which have become intensely interested in our work.

But has the International won more efficient and devoted members as a result of the educational work? To what extent have the meetings of our various locals been influenced and directed by the new forces moulded in our classes and lecture rooms? It must be admitted that so far the results have been negligible.

The educational activities should have brought far better results. According to the report of the General Executive Board to the Convention at Chicago, lectures are given in all our unity centers on the labor movement, the current labor problems and the economics of the industrial system. There are many courses on literature, the drama; there are lectures on health and hygiene; there are classes in physical training. There are entertainments, concerts, games. There are special opportunities for an intensive study of English, economics, psychology, and a host of other subjects.

Why then is there such a poverty in actual results?

There is no doubt but that the subjects taught in our various classes are of utmost value to the workers. The study should have furnished them with a broader outlook on things. It should have enabled them to cope more intelligently and efficiently with their problems. Yet this is far from being the case.

Justification may be found in the fact that it is altogether too early to expect immediate results. They may follow in due course. But there is evidence which shows the opposite effect. It is this. Those who receive a bit of education oddly enough cease to become active in the union. The interests of the organization seem to them to become too narrow and limited.

If this is really the case then the fault lies not in education in general but in a certain kind of education. It may be due to the fact that the above mentioned are not presented to the workers in a manner intelligible to them. For it is inconceivable that the subject of economics, for instance, should alienate the student from his union and from the labor movement generally. This effect cannot entirely be attributed to the methods of teaching. It is strange logic, indeed, that while the labor movement as it is expressed in the unions is of profound inter-

est to professors and investigators, to the worker the subject trans into something alien and remote.

It is quite evident that education in itself cannot be regarded as having a demoralizing effect on the minds of the workers. The cause for it must be sought elsewhere. It is the question of methods of teaching rather than the subject matter that the Educational Committee must pry into. It may discover that the teachers are not competent enough. Or the students may be fed on subject which leaves chaos relieved by a few difficult indigestible terms which are of no earthly use in the daily grind of things. How, for instance, can a worker get something out of psychology after a strenuous day's work? Psychology, it is true, is a useful and interesting subject. But without the necessary prerequisites it may leave nothing but confusion in the minds of the workers. There are, of course, teachers who can make the most difficult subject popular, simple and attractive. There are others who may be very learned and master their subject thoroughly, but they succeed only in terrifying the students by the complexity and abstruseness of the subject. The same holds true with economics by any other subject. What we should particularly like to stress here is that the benefits of labor education should only be measured by the degree to which the workers could translate their knowledge into effective working instruments.

What the Educational Department must, to our opinion, do is something vastly more to appoint this or that lecturer and feel that its task is completed. The members of the Educational Committee must visit the lectures and classes and experiment upon themselves whether they can really follow the lectures. They must find out whether the members of the class can follow them.

When the educational activities will answer the actual demands of the workers, when methods will be evolved which will make the subjects appealing, when the workers will be strengthened by the knowledge they receive, then there will be no remaining the fact that there are few who are utilizing the opportunities offered them.

The importance of the educational work of the International can hardly be exaggerated. That is why all efforts should be concentrated in making this undertaking a success. The workers must be convinced that the hours they are asked to devote for their enlightenment are not wasted. They must be made to realize that knowledge is power and that they cannot better their living or make the slightest step in advance without knowledge. After they will realize this they will come to the lectures and classes in large masses.

This must not be taken as a rebuke to the work of the Educational Committee. Far from it. It has done its work tirelessly and wholeheartedly and what it considered would bring the best results. What we mean here is to call the attention of the Educational Committee to some other phrases of the work, which if pursued, would have brought, we have reason to believe, more tangible results. At any rate, the experience of the last few years conclusively shows that the sole aim of our educational activities in the future must be to provide such knowledge to the workers which will be able to translate what is

taught them in the class rooms into actual deeds in their shops and at their union meetings.

### A SANITARIUM FOR OUR CONSUMPTIVES

At our Boston Convention two years ago it was decided that the International should build a sanitarium for those of its members who are so unfortunately afflicted with consumptives. According to the reports of the various sanitariums a large number of consumptives come from the ranks of the cloak-makers. It is therefore the duty of such a powerful organization as ours to concern itself with its afflicted members. To make this decision a reality the Convention resolved to tax each member one dollar yearly to be used for the building and maintenance of the sanitarium.

This was doubtless an exceedingly important undertaking. Yet the sanitarium still belongs to the realm of unrealized plans. There should have at least been about 20 thousand dollars in the sanitarium fund. But there is only \$15,500.95. The rest of the money is a fine lot in the Catskill Mountains, but there is no money for erecting a building. Members of our Union are daily begging to be removed to a sanitarium but the International has no other way than to resort to excuses, apologies and promises. Why? Because the large majority of our membership are unfortunately seem to be indifferent to this undertaking.

This cannot go on. The erection of the sanitarium is too important an undertaking to be neglected. The Sanitarium has done its best. It bought a lot and negotiated with an architect. But the lack of funds makes it impossible for the Committee to go on with the work. The failure of the various locals to collect the assessments was, in the opinion of the committee, the insuperable obstacle in its way. The truth is that this failure is not only due to the indifference of the members but to their active opposition.

This certainly is a bitter disappointment. The payment of one dollar a year on the part of each member would make it possible for the International to have its own sanitarium. Hundreds of lives would have been saved yearly. Its consumptive members would not have to apply to charitable institutions or bear the burden of maintenance. They would have their own sanitarium.

The workers must awaken to the necessity of this undertaking. The present convention must seriously take up this matter. A clear and definite attitude must be adopted. It cannot hang in the air. It must not remain in its present undetermined, vacillating state. The International must take a stand which should be speedily realized.

### Cost of Living Jumped 103% in New York

Cost of living figures in fourteen American cities, obtained by the Department of Labor for December, 1919, as compared with December, 1914, put Detroit at the top of the list with an increase of 98 per cent.

Norfolk, Va., ranked second with 107 per cent, while Portland, Maine, took first honors by trailing the list with a percentage of 92.

Increases for other cities were: Boston, 92; New York, 103; Philadelphia, 96; Baltimore, 98; Savannah, 98; Jacksonville, Fla., 102; Mobile, Ala., 94; Houston, Texas, 101; Chicago, 100; Cleveland, 99; Buffalo, 102.

# The Kansas Peonage Law

By JOHN A. FITCH

Governor Allen of Kansas has been East on a speaking trip. He appeared before the legislatures of New Jersey and New York, addressed the Boston Chamber of Commerce, and at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York spoke before five hundred persons under the auspices of the League for Industrial Rights, formerly known as the American Anti-Boycott Association. And the burden of his message was everywhere the same. It was something like this: "We have found the way to industrial justice and hence to industrial peace in Kansas. We will establish in Kansas a Mecca of well ordered, contented, just relationships. Unless you pass similar legislation in your states your industries will move to Kansas where operators can carry on their business in an atmosphere of well regulated justice."

Everywhere audiences have listened to Governor Allen with deep interest. They have been impressed. Newspapers have reported that we must have this Kansas law. Public speakers have indorsed it. Legislators have introduced bills patterned after the Kansas model. Three of these are now pending in the legislature of New York. There is one in New Jersey. There is clamor for such legislation in other states.

Never before in the history of the United States has there been so widespread a movement of this sort. There are no less than six proposals before the constitutional convention in Illinois involving a limitation on the right to strike or some form of compulsory arbitration. A constitutional amendment is proposed in Massachusetts, giving the legislature "the right to pass laws restricting the right of individuals to strike." There is a bill pending in Massachusetts for compulsory arbitration of street railway disputes, and there is one in New York covering food, fuel and transportation, in addition to the three patterned after the law of Kansas.

The Kansas law is unique. It is the first and so far the only law in any American state compelling employers and employees to submit their differences to a tribunal for jurisdiction. It is the only law ever passed in America requiring the manager of an industry to get permission from anybody before he can close his plant. In Kansas, if his industry is "affected with a public interest" he has to give reasons for any desire he may have to suspend operations, and the court will examine those reasons. If it finds them "meritorious" it will let him off. Otherwise he will have to continue to run his shop or have it taken away from him.

It would be about the same way with the workers if they had a similar right. They haven't. They can't show that their desire to "strike" is meritorious. It is a plain downright illegal to strike, whatever the reason. And the penalty for violation of the law is \$1,000 fine or one year in jail or both, if the offender is a "person." If he is an officer of a corporation or of a union the penalty is \$5,000 fine, or two years in jail or both.

It should be made clear that this law does not apply to all industries. It applies to industries which are "affected with a public interest." These industries are

declared to be the manufacture or preparation of food, the manufacture of clothing, the mining or production of fuel, the transportation of these commodities, and all public utilities. To these industries there are added, in the Knight bill in New York, the manufacture, production or handling of iron and wood products intended to be used in buildings or by public utilities.

The law creates a "court of industrial relation," composed of three "judges" appointed by the governor to serve a term of three years. The court may intervene in any industrial controversy, either on its own initiative, at the request of either party to the dispute, or on the complaint of ten citizens or of the attorney general of the state. It may investigate the controversy, making a temporary award at the beginning and a final award when the investigation is completed. The award so far as wages are concerned is to be retroactive to the date on which the investigation was begun. If wages are increased in the final award the employees are entitled to back pay. If wages are reduced, the employer is entitled to recover the excess paid in wages since the beginning of the investigation.

The investigations are to be conducted in accordance with the rules of evidence as recognized by the supreme court of the state.

There are certain principles laid down as guide to the court, and presumably for the protection of the parties involved. According to Section 9 labor is entitled to a "fair" wage and capital to a "fair return." This may or may not be modified by Section 8, which stipulates that while all conditions must be "just and reasonable," they must be such as to enable the industries in question "to continue with reasonable efficiency to produce or transport their products or continue their operations and thus to promote the general welfare." Either party may appeal any decision to the Supreme Court.

No worker may be discharged on account of any testimony he has given before the court, and no employer is to be subject to the boycott or any other discrimination on account of any act performed in accordance with the terms of the law.

Section 14 of the law has some very peculiar provisions. It sets forth that any union that will incorporate shall be recognized by the court of industrial relations as a "legal entity," and may appear before the court "through and by its proper officers." Unions, whether incorporated or not, have the right to bargain collectively, but if the individual members of an unincorporated union wish to avail themselves of this right, they must, each one of them, designate in writing some person as officer of the union or otherwise, as their spokesman.

This section is open to the inference that an unincorporated union would not have a right to appear before the court. It also raises the question of the right of such a union to engage in collective bargaining if every member must designate in writing some person as spokesman. However, it appears from Section 9 that the right of collective bargaining may after all be an unimportant right. The

court of industrial relations has final authority over agreements independently made; and may modify them if it does not find them "fair, just and reasonable."

One hesitates to criticize a project so joyously entered upon as this Kansas enterprise has been, or one in which there is so much confident trust, with respect to its power to remedy evil. But it is being offered as a cure for industrial ills. Communities a thousand miles away from Kansas, and with more at stake, are being told, with all the assurance of six week's experience, that by such means not only industrial quiet, but industrial justice is to be had. The hazards are too great not to examine the molars of this particular gift horse.

The first noteworthy fact is that there are no particular qualifications mentioned in the law that the judges of the court of industrial relations must possess. That is a detail, but it is a rather important detail. Under one governor the judges might all be employers, under another they might be labor leaders, and under a third, men wholly ignorant of industry or of its problems.

Similar to the court is by ruler of evidence, a common sense inquiry seems to be impossible. Under the rules of evidence a witness is not permitted to give hearsay testimony. While this is an important restriction for the protection of a man accused of crime, it will not assist, in understanding the details of a complicated industrial situation. It is very difficult to see how the rules of evidence could be applied to such an investigation as the court must carry on; but if they were so applied it is obvious that the investigation would be restricted, legalistic and largely futile.

The law sets no time within which the court is to make its finding, nor is the period within which the award is to run limited. The only way, therefore, by which a revision of the award within a reasonable length of time could be forced would apparently be through the filing of a new controversy in order that the court might again be brought into the situation and be obliged to make a new award. The law, therefore, may serve to make inevitable that very unrest that it is designed to cure.

The section requiring an award to be retroactive is absurd and impracticable so far as it relates to the employees paying back to their employer the excess of wages received in the case of an award depressing their wages. There is no likelihood that the previous wage paid would be in general high enough to allow the accumulation of the excess either in the form of savings or of property. In other words, the money would have been spent. The collection of these sums by the employer would be highly improbable. However, the existence of this provision in the law will probably be the source of a great deal of trouble. It could undoubtedly be used in the form of persecution, whether its use for any other purpose would be impracticable or not.

The protection the bill seems to throw about the workers is of very doubtful value. In asserting that the wage must be just and rea-

sonable the bill does no more than reiterate what the most reactionary member of the community would admit. There are no standards as a basis for determining justice, and reasonableness in the matter of wages. It is certain that the judgment of a court on this question would be an extremely conservative judgment.

There is an assumed protection in the provision that a workman cannot be discharged on account of his testimony before the court.

It is well known that laws prohibiting the right to discharge because a man is a member of a union have been held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States. There is no reason to believe that this provision would have any better standing in court. But even if it did, it is a protection that amounts to very little. The important thing is that the right to strike is taken away, and the corresponding right of the employer to discharge whom he will with this one minor exception is left intact. The employer then could undermine an organization by discharging its leaders, by discharging every independently minded employee and have the full protection of the court of industrial relations in so doing. He could by this action so intimidate his employees that they would not appeal to the court for protection against low wages and long hours, nor testify against their employer if someone else made the appeal for them.

These are some of the defects of the Kansas law. To point them out, however, is not sufficient. It does not tell us what is to be done about them. The law is at fault not in details, but as a whole. Its assumptions are unsound, and its purposes run counter to some of the most deeply significant purposes of modern civilization.

Compulsory arbitration is an attempt to forbid by law the continuance of a fundamental condition, no longer as the present economic order shall stand, an essential controversy. Divergent interests exist and will continue to exist, and neither courts nor laws can wipe them out any more than nature could command the tides. To forbid a group the right to exercise its group strength in the matter of industrial relations is to fasten upon industry a species of servitude. The right of the individual to quit, which is not taken away by the Kansas law is of small significance if he is not permitted to quit in such a way as to make his act a matter of concern to the industry, and hence to make it a factor in the determination of working conditions. It is surely denied the right to bring pressure to bear on industry to secure for the workers in it better conditions of employment. In his individual freedom to quit he can get such improved conditions only by stumbling on them, if he should be so fortunate. He may not, with his fellows, make such conditions for himself.

Nor will the court make them for him, in any degree not mentioned by the general conception of the dominant group at the time. The court will give him "fairness and justice"—as understood by the court. The judges will be spokesmen for things as they are. They will be appointed to their positions by the powers that be, they will represent the accepted moralities; they will not be pioneers in the search for new conceptions of justice.

This is a matter of very great importance when you consider the

true nature of the labor movement. Taken as a whole it is a part of a profound and fundamental struggle, ages old—the struggle upward of the masses of the people. There never has been a time in the entire history of that struggle that the vanguard of the movement was not challenging accepted ethical standards. There never has been a time when a court, its personnel made up of representative members of the dominant group, would not have ruled against these challengers. When the normal status for labor was slavery a court of industrial relations, honestly dispensing justice according to its lights, would have ruled that slaves must be so fed and housed as to enable them to maintain their strength and their numbers. It would have frowned upon too severe beatings, but it would have ordered amputation of the ears, and branding, for those slaves who tried to stir their fellows to revolt.

When serfdom was the natural state, the court would doubtless have granted many reforms if they did not call in question the justice and fairness of the status of the serf. It was only one hundred and fourteen years ago that a judge in Philadelphia, presiding at a trial of workmen who had combined to improve their conditions, instructed the jury as follows: "A combination of workmen to raise their wages may be considered in a two-fold point of view: one is to benefit themselves, the other is to injure those who do not join the society. The rule of law condemns both." The jury found the defendants "guilty of a combination to raise wages."

Slavery, serfdom, conspiracy doctrine—these are, in the main, things of the past. When they existed they were the expression of the conception of "justice and fairness" of the time. Those who led the fight for a different conception were enemies of the social order.

Can anyone say that labor has not arrived at the state to which it is to be permanently assigned? There are still dissenters as there always have been who propose new marches towards a better day. Some of these plans and proposals will find expression in new demands on employers.

Whether they are justified by the facts of any given situation or not, is it not reasonably certain that an industrial court dispensing justice as it is currently and generally understood would find them unjust and unreasonable? And thus the court becomes of necessity a barrier to experiments in new standards of justice.

If it is desirable for the state to intervene in controversy between employer and employee let it do so by raising the level on which that controversy is to take place. Let there be a point below which there is to be no argument. Thus at once the bitterest forms of the controversy are made unnecessary. Above that point economic organization should be made freer, rather than less free. Voluntary arbitration should be encouraged, and the parties to the wage bargain should both be so strongly organized as to make such arbitration an agency that they may safely use.

It may not be true in all respects that that government is best which governs least, but all history, ancient and modern, gives evidence of the folly of attempts to maintain the status quo by force of law.

## THE WEEK'S NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 1

By I. LEWIN

A Special Meeting of the Executive Board and of our delegation to the convention of the I. L. G. W. U. was held on Thursday, April 29, 1920. Matters pertaining to the welfare of the entire Ladies' Garment Industry as well as the Cutters' Union were discussed at this meeting.

One of the main topics was the question of the 40-hour week. It seems that the Cutters' Union is destined to be the one to force the issue of shortening the hours of labor in our industry. When the Fourteenth Biennial Convention in Boston two years ago decided to cut the hours from 49 and 50 to 44 hours per week in our industry, the cutters there came the leaders in this fight and were successful.

The Executive Board and the delegates agreed that a resolution be introduced at the convention, calling for the reduction of the hours of labor from 44 to 40 hours per week. We have no doubt but that this resolution will have the unanimous consent of all the delegates to the convention. The Cutters' Union as in the past, will see to it that this resolution, when passed by the convention, shall not be merely a dead-letter in the report of the convention.

The question of a sanitarium for members suffering from the "White Plague" was then taken up. Of late more and more members, stricken with tuberculosis, are appealing to our Union for aid. Our local has no special fund for that purpose. The members, however, having paid the \$1 assessment for the sanitarium, feel that they are entitled to consideration.

It was the consensus of opinion among the Executive Board and the delegates, that our delegation insist that either the International should immediately proceed with the establishment of such sanitarium or else that the money that our local has paid for the maintenance of a sanitarium should be refunded to it.

The following are extracts of the Executive Board minutes of April 27, 1920:—

A communication was received from the Central Federated Union, informing the Executive Board that a State Convention of the Labor Party will be held on May 29 and 30 at Schenectady, N. Y., and again urging our Union to send delegates to such convention. In connection with this, a communication was received from the American Labor Party, enclosing additional credentials for the above convention. The Executive Board, after having been informed by the delegates to the Joint Board that that body has elected three delegates to the above-named convention, decided to recommend to the body that we send two delegates to the above-named convention. Brothers Joseph Fish and Max Gorenstein were recommended as delegates.

Jacob Slabodsky, No. 15112 appeared on summons, charged by Nat. Westman, Shop Chairman of A. J. Crystal, 187 W. 27 St., with doing work belonging to the operators. In the course of the investigation of these charges it was found that Brother Slabodsky was examining and also doing what is known in the trade as "chalking" the skirts. This is work that belongs neither to the operators nor to the cutters. Charges were therefore dismissed.

David Blumenfeld, No. 13074 appeared on summons, charged with working for the house of Latner & Moutner, 236-5 Ave., in the daytime and working at night for the house of Stein, 173, W. 23 St. Brother Blumenfeld admitted to the charge, claiming that the house of Stein is a shoe house and Mr. Stein being a friend of his, he did go in at night to make a few patterns for him and cut a few samples, but that even if he had not gone to that shop in the evening the firm would not have hired another cutter in his place. Upon motion a fine of \$25 was imposed.

Edward Waldman, No. 9823 appeared on summons, charged with working for time and a half for overtime, also with working Saturday afternoons and Sundays at the Sun Cloak Co., 116 E. 14 St. Brother Waldman denied having worked on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, but admitted, during the cross-examination, that he had worked for time and a half for overtime. Upon motion a fine of \$25 was imposed upon him for working time and a half for overtime.

Harry Fine, No. 2071 appeared. This brother worked for the house of Shapiro & Son, 54 W. 21 St., for two weeks, and then the house was called on strike. Brother Gorenstein, upon calling of the strike, informed Brother Fine that since he is not yet entitled to the job in the house he is to look for another job and is not to be given a striking card. The shop strikers for four weeks and the people were given two weeks' strike benefit. The house was then settled and Brother Fine was called back to work. He now requests the Executive Board that he be given two weeks' strike benefit as he was picketed the shop along with the other men. Upon motion the Secretary was instructed to draw a voucher for \$24 for two weeks' strike benefit.

Manager Gorenstein recommended to the Executive Board that Brother Lewin be asked to act as manager of the Cloak and Suit Division during his absence as delegate to the convention of the I. L. G. W. U. The Executive Board requested Brother Lewin to act in that capacity to which he acquiesced.

Manager Gorenstein reported on the case of Jos. Stern, No. 712 which was referred to the office for further investigation. On Tuesday, April 29, 1920, this brother appeared before the Executive Board on charges of working on Saturday afternoons and also of working overtime on week days without compensation at the house of Horowitz & Bader, 38 E. 29 St.

Upon investigation, the office found that the statements made by Brother Stern were correct. The shop chairman of the shop and a committee of two appeared at the office, and stated in the presence of Harry Zaslowsky, Executive Board member, that in their knowledge Brother Stern did not work any overtime, with the exception of staying in the shop 15 or 20 minutes after 5 o'clock, to straighten out matters, as he is foreman cutter. They also stated that the only work he did on Saturday afternoons, while being in the shop, was to accommodate the people in the shop, by cutting garments for them. Upon motion this report was accepted and charges dismissed.

## ONE RESULT OF WAR

Congressman Henry T. Rainey shook the dry bones of the house of representatives by turning the searchlight on to the increased number of millionaires as a result of the war and the efforts of these individuals to escape further taxation through a direct tax on every purchase.

Those who remained at home and pursued their ordinary business avocation made returns fabulous in amounts, said Congressman Rainey, who declared that as a result of the war 25,000 new millionaires were created. In 1914, he said, there were 69,000 men whose incomes exceeded \$20,000 a year, but during the war these incomes had reached a total of \$3,000,000 more than during the three pre-war years.

"During this period, when the boys were at the front, the corporations of this country made during the years 1917, 1918, 1919, and 1920, which was really a war year—corporation of this country made, and in their tax returns they admit they made, \$3,800,000,000 more than they did in the same number of pre-war years."

Regarding the proposal to pay a bonus to soldiers by taxing sales, the speaker said: "I understand your methods. You are going to put some cushions in this bill, but you are going to yield to the demands of Wall street. You are going to yield to the demands of the millionaire war profiteers of this country and impose the sales tax they want imposed because they think when imposed once we will never be able to get rid of it, because they want to escape some portion of the taxes on the immense incomes they are enjoying at the present time."

The speaker declared that a tax on sales means revision to the middle ages "when armed soldiers of feudal thieves and barons" terrorized communities. He insisted that a bonus for soldiers should be taken out of war profits instead of protecting the war profiteers, giving the bonus and then taking it away in the form of increased living costs through a tax on every individual purchase.

"It is not necessary to disguise the situation," said the lawmaker. "There is a contest on in this country today and throughout the world to find out who is going to bear the burden of these stupendous war debts. Wealth, on the one hand, is seeking to avoid that burden, and through the sales tax of the middle ages and the merchant taxes of 700 years ago it is seeking to impose that burden upon the people of the land."

"You gentlemen are asking up to the economic thought of the present day; you cling to the theories of long ago. You do not realize, so far as you behind the times, that you stand today in a new world, a world which faces bankruptcy, and we will follow the other nations rapidly along that course if your method of increasing millionaires and increasing the numberless proletarian class of this land is to prevail."

To sustain his claim that his colleagues on the majority side are economic back numbers when they advocate a sales tax, he showed that England is studying the question of taxing war wealth, and a preliminary affirmative report has been made.

"In England they can do that, in this country we cannot," said the speaker.

# BRILLIANT OPENING OF OUR INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AT CHICAGO

(Continued from page 1)

organization, M. Forstman; on law, S. Nino; on welfare, S. Koldofsky; on education, H. W. W. on benefits and sanitarium, H. Schoenman; on resolutions, Morris Sussman; on rules and regulations, Pania M. Cohen, and on union labels, union-owned factories and stores, J. Halpern.

Algermon Lee, educational director of the Rand School of Social Science, was warmly greeted when he made an impassioned appeal for financial support for the Rand School. He reminded the delegates that the Rand School was not separate and apart from the garment union, but was one of the divisions of the working class in the struggle for emancipation from plutocracy.

Telegrams of felicitation were sent to the Workmen's Circle in Newark and the German Tailors in Nuremberg, where the organization is in convention.

The morning session of the next day was devoted to short addresses of welcome by J. Louis Engdahl, editor of the Chicago Socialist, and Miss Agnes Nestor of the Chicago Women's Trade Union League, the reading of Telegrams containing congratulations from other labor bodies and the report of the credential committee on the seating delegates. Over two hundred telegrams were read by Secretary Baroff from all parts of the country.

Greetings were also sent to Eugene V. Debs and Kate O'Hare who are now behind the bars of "justice." Sam Metz was sponsor for this proposal.

A great ovation greeted the address of Seymour Steadman, Socialist attorney, who figured prominently in the Socialist "trial" at Albany, when he spoke on the third day of the convention of the International.

The session was devoted to some stirring addresses by active workers in the radical movement. Among those who spoke were Steadman, Chas. W. Ervin, managing editor of The Call, Lucy Robins, of the committee on amnesty of the American Federation of Labor, and Louis P. Lochner of the Federated Press. A vote of thanks was given the speakers, and the complete speeches of Steadman and Ervin were ordered printed in the proceedings of the convention.

A message from the United Ladies Tailors' Trade Union of England was read today which said:

"Our so-called benefactors became totally insolvent. They promised us garden cities, but

gave us huge cemeteries instead. They also promised us model dwellings and gave us countless graves where the remains of the bravest of the brave are now lying and rotting. The poor compensation for the dead became the wage of the living."

Lucy Robins told of her recent visit to Debs. When the American Federation of Labor committee on amnesty appealed to the warden at Atlanta for Debs' release, Miss Robins said, convicts in the prison hospital ward at Atlanta penitentiary begged Debs to remain with them, and, as a result, he refused to take his own health into consideration and remained in prison. She urged the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to give its financial aid to the movement for release of these confined men and women, reminding the delegates that the International was one of the first labor organization to support the move.

The delegates rose in their places and shouted "Amnesty! We want amnesty!"

Ervin reviewed the growth of the needle trade and pointed out that this was not due to "an aroused public conscience," but to "the organized industrial power" of the workers.

It was now no longer merely the question of shorter hours and more wages, Ervin declared, but the preparation of an intelligent working class for the taking over of industry. In this respect, he added, the international was in the lead and was being watched by other organizations. He appealed for support for The Call, declaring that "the more effective it is in lighting for the workers the more it is getting in trouble with the powers that be."

Barnet Zuckerman and Meyer Gillis of the Jewish People's Relief Organization also addressed the convention.

President Schlesinger read his report of his recent trip to Europe. Committees met in the afternoon and will begin reporting on resolutions the next day. Thursday evening a banquet will be given the delegates.

## 8 MILLION BRITISH WORKERS TAKE MAY 1 HOLIDAY

Eight million workers are estimated to have participated in Great Britain's observance of May day by taking the day off, parading and speech making, but there were no interruptions to the nation's essential public utilities, probably part due to the fact that Saturday normally is a half-holiday.

# THE STAGE

By Frances Robbins

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

If you are the sort of playgoer who enjoys only the play that grips with its wonderful acting, "What's in a Name?" will not appeal to you. But if, in the theatre, you like to relax, to feast your senses on a riot of gorgeous color and sound, while your brain slowly recuperates from the stress and strain of the day's toil, you'll enjoy every moment of John Murray Anderson's new "revisual comedy."

"What's in a Name?" is a combination of the so-called revue and musical comedy. There's no plot visible, merely a chain of sketches, songs, dances, vaudeville acts, held together by the thinnest possible links. With never a dull moment, one jumps breathlessly from scene to scene and wonders occasionally how so stupendous a production was ever conceived and carried out with so little creaking of the wheels.

The program occupies six pages of the booklet—which gives some idea of the speed with which we are hurried along, for the entire performance lacks but very few moments longer than the usual show.

An interesting prologue is followed by "The Theatrical Blues." No revue these days is complete without some reference to the popular "psychics" so we have several numbers—introducing "Rap-tap-a-tap," the "Ouija Girls," the "Seance" and "Dance Planchette." Marie Gaspar who sings, and Grace Christie who dances, contribute more than their share. In "The Jewels of Pandora," one is almost bewildered by the beauty of costume and settings. Such costumes, dazzling, colorful, varied, rare and unusual, we have rarely seen gathered into one production.

A particularly charming scene is called "A Young Man's

Fancy" and depicts the quaint love story of a Shepherd and Shepherdess atop an ancient music box. A clever youngster is little Honey Kay, who in this number takes the part of the Antiquarian, a shriveled, bent and tiny old man.

The finale of the first act is novel. A 1900 ensemble is tried out, the show is unsuccessful. Then comes a patriotic "Georgien" finale that also is discarded. In the last ensemble there is a deadly competition as to which shall take part. From Mr. Shubert (Allen Kearns) down to the raucy scrub-woman (Alice Hegeman) each loudly clamors that he or she must be in the finale. When megaphones are added to help the individual's rights to be heard, the ensuing din is almost deafening but funny withal.

The second act opens with several remarkably artistic Japanese scenes, which include a number of Japanese girls, among them Jasu Katayama.

"That Reminiscent Melody" is particularly beautiful and features Marie Gaspar, Rosalind Fuller and Vera Meyers.

S. Jay Kaufman, of newspaper fame, has contributed a sketch called "Highlowbrow," which gives bits from O. Henry and Guy De Maupassant. If Mr. Kaufman could convince the audience of the joys to be found in the pages of these two masters, as quickly as "Bill" is imbued with the desire to read these authors, he will have done a service for the cause of "culture."

In "What's in a Name," we meet several of our old vaudeville favorites. Beatrice Herford's imitations are always entertaining. Herbert Williams with his trick piano and rickety stool we know by heart, and yet we laugh at his foolishness as heartily now as the first time we saw him.

A fitting close to the performance is the "Briday Scene" with

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## CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

### NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

WAIST & DRESS

Monday, May 10th

MISCELLANEOUS

Monday, May 17th

GENERAL

Monday, May 24th

CLOAK & SUIT

Monday, June 7th

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.

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brides from the "Medieval Ages" down to the "Present". Daisy Rosalind Fuller is the bride to be. Margaret Petit, a graceful toe dancer, is a Page. The Elizabethan Bride as she enters, receives a gasp from the audience as a tribute to her costume. Fairy hands must have fashioned this vision of silks, lace and jewels. After the scenes so full of blazing colors, this last scene with its whiteness seems a bit subdued, but it leaves one with a sense of peace, restfulness and an evening well spent.

#### MAURICE NITKE TO PLAY AT CLOSING CELEBRATION

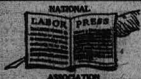
All interest at the Waistmakers' Unity Center is focused upon the closing celebration, to take place Saturday evening, May 15th at 7:30 o'clock. The affair will start promptly at that hour with a concert in the Auditorium. Maurice Nitke, violinist and Ludmilla Toretzka, who will sing Russian songs in native costume will be the leading features of the program, which will be given in full next week.

The students in the Social Recreation class at the Center will give a program of folk dancing in the Gymnasium following the Concert. Their numbers will include the Japanese dance, which was a part of the Japanese Drama given at the Unity House last summer.

General dancing and refreshments will round out the evening's enjoyment. All members of the Union and their friends are most cordially invited to attend.

Dr. Sarah Greenberg will give her last lecture at the Center, this Thursday evening, at 8:30 o'clock. Dr. Greenberg was to have finished before May 1st but she has proved so popular that she has consented to add this last talk.

English and Recreation classes are going on as usual. All who wish to learn how to swim before their vacation at the Unity House, should attend the swimming class which meets at the 23rd Street pool from 6-7 P. M.



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