

"My rights—
none I hold
fast, and will
not let it go."
— Job. 17:13

JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

VOL. II. No. 21.

New York, Friday, May 21, 1920.

Price: 2 Cents

Convention of the International Marks Era in Labor Movement

Delegates Wildly Acclaim Re-election of President Schlesinger and Secretary Baroff. — Morris Sigman Unanimously Elected First Vice-President. — Schlesinger and Lefkowitz To Be Delegates to World Congress of Tailors in Copenhagen. — Convention Asks Congress to Investigate Profiteering. — Minimum Yearly Scale and Wage Equalization Proposals Adopted. — Secretary Baroff Receives Ovation on His Fiftieth Birthday. — Convention Votes Aid to Labor Organizations. — Memorable Closing of Historic Convention.

After two weeks of epoch-making legislation the Fifteenth Biennial Convention of our International, held at Chicago, closed its session last Sat., May 15th. The convention was not only an inspiring poem but it represented actual achievements which will change the lives of thousands of workers in the trade. It has formulated new plans of action and has given voice to the vague and inarticulate ideals of large masses of workers. This convention marks an era not only in our own organization but in the entire labor movement.

At the closing session of our convention, Benjamin Schlesinger was re-elected president and Ab. Baroff, Secretary-Treasurer of the International. When Morris Sigman nominated Schlesinger for the office he was wilyly acclaimed. A unanimous vote was cast for him. The delegates rose in their places, applauded, cheered and whistled when a call for a united vote was made.

Abraham Baroff and Morris Sigman, both of New York, received similar receptions and were also unanimously elected to the respective offices of secretary-treasurer and first vice-president. Baroff has served previously in the position while Sigman takes the place of Elmer Rosenberg, resigned. Sigman was one of the 13 vice-presidents of the organization.

The balloting in the closing hours of the convention resulted in the election of the following vice-presidents:

Salvatore Ninfo, Harry Wander, Samuel Lefkowitz, Sol Seidman, Jacob Halpern, Hyman Schoelman, Meyer Perlstein, Samson Koldofsky, Fannie Cohn, Max Gorenstein, Jacob Heller and M. Pasen.

Of these, all but M. Gorenstein, Jacob Heller and M. Pasen have served as vice-presidents during the last biennium.

S. Lefkowitz was elected as a delegate to the international congress of tailors to be held in Copenhagen. Delegates were also selected for the American Federation of Labor convention in Montreal.

Israel Feinberg, president of the New York joint board installed the new general executive board. Tremendous applause greeted the vice-presidents as they mounted the platform. President Schles-

inger and Sec. Baroff were also reinstated. Feinberg in installing them emphasized that the International was working for the abolition of slavery in industry and urged the new officers to continue progressive work toward that end.

President Schlesinger in taking the chair, deplored refusal of daily press and employer publications to express a single word of praise for the convention's efforts. He sounded a warning to manufacturers, stating that if they threw the challenge to the workers the latter would be ready to take up the fight at once and that the union would fight to the last ounce of their strength in any attempt of the employers to take away the 44-hour week, present wages, and other things they have won. He pictured stirring scenes which marked the winning of the 44-hour week and week work, and declared the new officers would apply themselves to the utmost to bring realization of principles adopted by this convention. He pointed out that when the 44-hour week and week work for the cloak industry were broached two years ago, many delegates themselves considered them merely principles hardly possible of realization, yet they were established.

The highest note of interest and excitement at the Convention was reached at Thursday's session during a report of the law committee on the question of raising the per capita tax to the majority committee report recommended increasing the tax from 5 to 1 cent, the minority, from 5 to 8 cents. President Schlesinger, speaking in favor of the majority report, declared that some activities would have to be slighted without adequate finances. He pointed out how the waist trade is spreading out from New York to outlying towns, of the big expense of organizing these shops and also of the difficulty and cost of organizing American workers in different cities, as well as colored workers.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers, which is a much younger organization, pays 50 cents per capita, he said, while the International only pays 22. The International, he said, must go forward with its plans, it must not be satisfied with its present membership, and money as well as brains and

energy, are required to continue the progress.

Vice-president Perlstein, cited various organizations' campaigns authorized in various trades and cities and declared that these would have to be dropped if the tax were not raised to 10 cents.

The delegates favoring the minority declared that some locals could not afford to pay this amount and that the psychological attitude of certain workers would render the collection very difficult. The first roll call vote of the convention was held on this question and 10 cents per capita was approved by a vote of 193 to 35.

Early in the day Benjamin Schlesinger read a letter of greetings from the needle trade workers' union of the Republic of Poland.

The report of committee on education by Vice-President Wander recommended that the educational work be conducted on more extensive scale than heretofore and \$15,000 annually be appropriated from the general funds of the International for educational work and that the educational activities be conducted by a committee of five, appointed by the president, three from New York and two from outside, the entire committee to meet at least once in two months and the New York members at least once a month. The plan for education adopted at the Boston convention was endorsed for the next two years. A recommendation was also made that local educational committees be organized in cities outside of New York, wherever there are local unions' conventions. It also adopted the recommendation that merging of International educational work with the United Labor Education Committee is inadvisable at this time.

The committee recommended instructing delegates to the American Federation of Labor convention to urge the necessity of a university.

During the report of committee on resolutions delegate Litvakoff stated that he believed that the taking away the right of the workers to strike meant taking away their liberty. President Schlesinger declared that this resolution, to say the least is unfair and that any one asking the International to make agreements with provision to strike is asking for

hot ice cream. The resolution was rejected, as previously noted.

Telegrams were read from Jacob Panken, Abraham Cohan, Morris Hillquit, thanking the convention for its invitation and regretting inability to attend.

Despite the fact immigration has been particularly at a standstill, the International has gained 15,000 new members since the last convention, according to the report of committee.

At Thursday's session the convention adopted the recommendation of committee that immediately after the adjournment of the convention the incoming executive board proceed at once to form a statistical bureau which will investigate the cost of living and city where ladies' garment workers are employed. This will prove a great advantage to the workers in our industry, said the committee, and will also serve as a guide to all other industries closely connected with ours.

The convention also approved recommendations pertaining to establishment of week work in all branches of women's wear industry; the organization of workers in various cities and branches of trade; the urging of the American Federation of Labor to fight injunctions, and the protest against abrogation of fundamental civil rights, such as free speech, free assembly and raids on innocent people.

The biggest bombshell exploded at Friday's session of our convention, was when the delegates adopted a resolution asking for a Federal probe of profiteering in the women's garment industries throughout the country. The measure was adopted upon the recommendation made in the report submitted by the general executive board to the convention that while the wages of the workers have advanced only about 80 per cent in the last two years, the prices of garments have risen some 300 to 400 per cent. This, it is claimed by the union, has curtailed buying on the part of the public and as a result the seasons have been still further shortened.

"This situation must be made clear to the Government," says

(Continued on Page 7)

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

The Railroad Labor Board Still Investigates

THE Railroad Labor Board appointed by the President some weeks ago for the purpose of adjusting the old controversy between the railroad workers and the companies has transferred its headquarters from Washington to Chicago. The presentation of the labor case before the board consumed three weeks. W. Jett Louck, who was secretary of the War Labor Board, summed up the entire hearing on behalf of the sixteen railroad organizations, and submitted authenticated data of astounding profligating by corporations during and since the war.

Louck presented figures and facts to show that of the great army of wage-workers in the nation today, only 2 1/2 per cent are receiving a living wage; that 44 per cent and their families are underfed; 69 per cent are under-clothed; and 61 per cent are inadequately housed. He said 88 per cent of the workers are receiving below the subsistence level of \$1,700 per year, and more than 600,000 do not earn as much as \$1,074, below which figure three-quarters of the families are undernourished and seven-eighths are under-clothed. He said a minimum wage of \$2,500 was necessary to maintain a family of five in accord with the recognized American standard of living.

He showed that instead of labor costs being the initial influence in forcing increases in the cost of living, wage increases have lagged behind price increases; that prices were pushed up by factors over which workers had no control; that labor as a class is now worse off than it was before the war; that in the distribution of the income of the country labor is receiving a smaller proportion than it did before the war, while capital, in the form of profits, interests and rent, is receiving a very much larger proportion; that capital is "profiteering on such a scale as to menace the future of the country."

In arriving to Chicago where the resumption of the hearings before the Railroad Labor Board began, the heads of the railway unions expressed a statement expressing apprehension as to the effect of further delay in meeting the workers' request for increased wages. The statement repeats the facts and figures presented by W. Jett Louck. It is in part as follows:

"As the chosen representatives of the 2,000,000 railroad workers, we have every confidence in the decision of the Railroad Labor Board in the wage question with which it is now engaged will be equitable and just and arrived at with all possible speed. But, acutely conscious of the gravity of the situation in the transportation industry, we feel it our duty to acquaint the country with the essential facts.

"We have presented our case for a living wage for the workers. Expert opinion, predicated on incontrovertible facts, indicates that the lowest figure at which a family of five can be maintained in health and reasonable comfort is \$2,500 a year.

"We have also submitted evidence proving that only two and one-half per cent of the whole army of railroad workers are receiving a living wage today. This

small percentage is composed almost wholly of division officials, general mechanical foremen and other supervisory groups.

Among those who signed the statement are Warren S. Stone, I. E. Sheppard, W. G. Lee and a large number of other representatives against whom the railroad workers rebelled several weeks ago.

But it does not seem as if the Board will come to a speedy decision. It is predicted by those who are close to the workings of the Board that sessions may be prolonged into June or July. Meanwhile the railroad situation becomes more acute. The railway managers admit that wage advances ought to be granted but that would mean a total sum of a billion dollar wage increase for more than 2 million workers which they would get from a substantial freight rate advance.

A Note on the Amalgamated Convention

AFTER a week of progressive industrial legislation the convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers held in Boston closed its sessions last Saturday. The International convention held in Chicago closed almost the same hour. But that is not the only thing in which the two conventions of the two large organizations concurred. The problems that confronted the Amalgamated convention are very largely those with which the convention of the International had to grapple.

A move toward the formation of one big union for the workers in the men's and women's clothing industry, including the textile workers, was made when the convention adopted the following report of the committee on amalgamation and affiliation:

"This convention declares that it goes on record as favoring one international for all branches of the needle trades, including the textile workers. We believe the situation calls for such a compact organization and hope that it will materialize before long. We welcome every move in that direction and direct the general executive board to co-operate in the promotion of such movement. With reference to the textile workers in particular the general executive board shall immediately appoint a committee to meet with a like committee of the Amalgamated Textile Workers in an advisory capacity for the purpose of bringing about closer relations between the two organizations in the hope of being of greater service to the textile workers and contributing toward the consummation of one international in the sense above stated."

Participation in the cooperation movement by the Amalgamated is another significant decision reached at the convention. The proposal of the committee on co-operation for participation in co-operative banking and other co-operative enterprises will lead the report said, to "the transformation of industry for private profit to industry for public use and benefit."

A resolution was also adopted instructing the general executive board to introduce week work with standards of production in all manufacturing centers. The demand for the 40-hour week was referred to the General Executive

Board for action at the opportune time. Among the other resolutions approved by the convention are those pledging support to the Workers' Defense Fund; donating 2,000 dollars to The Call's paper fund; donating 1,000 dollars to the Naturalization Aid League; donating a sum to the Rand School, etc.

The numerous problems and the manner they were dealt with at the convention clearly showed that the Amalgamated is one of the most hopeful indications that the American labor movement will outgrow its present confused and backward state. In fact, the movement for the alliance of the needle trade organizations is the initial step toward a larger, more labor movement.

Socialists Demand Amnesty

IN accordance with the decision of the Socialist convention a committee proceeded to Washington where it conferred with Attorney-General Palmer, Joseph P. Tumulty, secretary to the President, and Secretary Baker. Last Friday the Socialist committee met Palmer and appealed for the release of all political prisoners. The committee submitted the following memorial to the attorney-general:

"This memorial is respectfully presented to urge that the Department of Justice discontinue all criminal prosecutions under the Espionage Law and other war-time statutes, and that it take steps to secure immediate amnesty and pardon for all federal prisoners convicted not of acts of treason in the service of the enemy, but on the basis of political speeches and writings, or labor union activities.

"The practice of prosecuting citizens for holding and expressing political views opposed to those of the administration in power, or for participating in working class movements and struggles not favored by it, is deeply repugnant to the genius of democracy. When it is resorted to in times of war it is invariably done upon the justification that the critical emergencies of war-time conditions necessitate extraordinary measures. Hence it has been the invariable custom of all enlightened nations to grant amnesty to war opponents immediately upon the cessation of hostilities.

"In accordance with the custom of the government of Italy has issued a far-reaching decree of amnesty in the month of February, 1919, supplementing the same by an even more radical and thorough-going enactment in September of the same year. The government of Great Britain has granted full amnesty to persons in prison for political and military offenses in connection with the late war, on June 5, 1919.

"The government of Belgium, followed with a general amnesty decree on August 4, 1919, while the French Chamber of Deputies voted a similar decree on October 24, 1919.

"The amnesty decrees of the allied powers include offenses such as 'outraging the flag,' 'offenses committed through the medium of the press,' 'offenses committed in connection with public demonstrations and agitations consequent on political and economic causes,' 'offenses arising from conflicts of a political or economic character,' 'offenses in connection with meetings, strikes and demonstrations,' and even 'crimes and

misdeemeanors against the safety of the state.'

"Full amnesty has also been granted by the governments of the central powers and of Russia. "The only United States is the only country which has not granted amnesty to its alleged war-offenders. At this time, one year and a half after the cessation of hostilities, hundreds of American citizens are still in prison serving long sentences for alleged offenses of a purely political nature. In most cases they have been tried at a time when the war sentiment was at its height, in an atmosphere of passion and prejudice. They would never have been convicted under normal circumstances.

"To say that the United States is still at war is to reply to a demand for justice by an unworthy quibble and technicality. The United States is not waging war at this time, and has not been engaged in warfare for 18 months. Further detention of so-called political war offenders cannot be seriously justified on the theory of war-time necessity, but assumes the character of a vindictive persecution of political opponents.

"The socialist party has named as its candidate for President of the United States in the coming elections Eugene V. Debs, a prisoner of the character above described. As a matter of justice and simple fairness, we demand that he be immediately released and pardoned by virtue of a general amnesty, so that he may address himself to the American electorate on the same terms as his rival candidates of the other political parties."

On Saturday the committee was received by Joseph P. Tumulty, who listened with marked interest to the case presented by the members of the committee.

Last Monday a Socialist committee presented a memorial to Secretary of War Baker demanding the release of conscientious objectors.

Palmer, Tumulty and Baker promised to give close consideration to the memorials presented by the committees. They would of course, view the matter more sympathetically if the question of justice and constitutional rights, etc., would not have been brought in. Instead of demanding the release of political and industrial prisoners and conscientious objectors, Palmer and Co. would have preferred the committee to ask for pardon. Then if would have been a different matter. The integrity, wisdom and justice of the Washington Administration would have remained intact. The high officials reigning in Washington are aware that their position is vulnerable and that they cannot stand the light of truth or justice or reason. And if they are compelled to do a just thing they must have an unjust motive for it. The departments of the government at Washington are now looking for a pretense of releasing the political prisoners.

Senate Declares Peace

BY a vote of 43 to 3, the Republican resolution, drafted by senator Knox, declaring the state of war with Germany and Austria-Hungary at an end, was adopted by the senate last Saturday. The Senate's action was taken in the face of the certainty that President Wilson will not accept it as a substitute for the Treaty or as a Constitutional method of invoking peace. In the form adopted by the Senate

Liberalism and Trade Unionism

By Juliet Stuart Poyntz

The announced intention of the French Government to take proceedings to dissolve the General Confederation of Labor of France raises some interesting questions as to the future of trade unionism and the basis on which the trade unions exist at present. This move is a body blow at the organization of labor and if successful will undoubtedly be the inspiration for the statesmen of the new order in other countries to destroy the hardly won right of labor to organize. Our generation was born with certain rights and privileges already traditional and so well recognized that we hardly realized on how slender a foundation they were really built. And chief among these was the right of workers to organize in trade unions.

The right to organize which is recognized today by all civilized nations is a privilege which is not derived from Nature or a kind Deity but from a bitter struggle between labor and the new capitalism. The issue of this struggle was decided in favor of labor not more than fifty years ago. It was in the era of the new liberalism before the war when the numerous new working class was being catered to by extension of the suffrage and by factory legislation in return for its political support that it was able to wrest from the hostile middle classes the right to organize for its own protection.

In England this right was secured as early as 1824 through the efforts of the London tailor, Francis Place. Before this time trade unions had been looked upon as conspiracies against the public good, and it was not until fifty years afterward when a democratic franchise had made the workman a political power that the trade unions were given in England a really satisfactory and secure legal position. As soon as the Act of 1824 was passed trade unions sprang up like mushrooms overnight. In fact they increased so rapidly that it was very much restricted by Parliament the next year on the ground that the combinations such as it had legalized were "injurious to trade and commerce, dangerous to the tranquility of the country, and especially prejudicial to the interests of all who were concerned with them."

the resolution terminates the state of war, reserving to the United States all rights it would have had under the Treaty, and retaining possession of all erman property seized or held by the United States government.

The Senate and the President are not on the best of terms. Although Senators are practically certain that the President will veto the resolution, they could not restrain from irritating him, or calling to his attention again that the technical state of war between this country and Germany is not only ridiculous but highly unprofitable. The resident, of course, said so before. But he wants his treaty undiluted and unamended to heal the breach. The Senate thinks otherwise.

Hence the American people will have to wait for peace with Germany and for the repeal of many war laws until a new President will be elected.

And the common law of conspiracy was left effective against all combinations in restraint of trade just as it had been in the days before the Combination Act of 1824. The right to vote was given to the workmen of the cities in 1867, and directly thereafter begins the passage of laws for the strengthening of the right of industrial organization. The German trade unions were legalized at about the same time although they suffered some years later from persecution under the anti-socialist laws, and in 1878 many of them were dissolved under the law prohibiting socialist organizations. The Austrian law legalizing trade unions dates from 1870, and those of most of the smaller countries from the same period.

In France the legal right of workmen to organize is of only recent date. The great French Revolution a century ago was a revolution of the middle class and sternly forbade all attempts of workmen to organize in the law of Le Chapelier in 1793. Thru the various monarchies of the first half of the nineteenth century and the empire of the second Napoleon from 1850 to 1870 the workmen had to disguise their weak combinations as insurance societies in order to be tolerated under the law. When the Third Republic had got firmly into the saddle in about 1880 and liberalism began to show its head after its century long suppression under church, king and emperor, the question of legalizing trade unions came before the French Parliament in 1884 a law was passed permitting the organization of workmen for the improvement of their economic conditions, and it is under this law that all the French unions are operating today, including the powerful central organization, the Confederation of Labor itself.

The situation in the United States is surprising and somewhat disturbing. For American trade unions depend for their existence to a great extent upon the tolerance of the courts. There has never been passed a Federal law giving a definite legal status to the trade unions. Like the English unions they were regarded at first as conspiracies against the public welfare and were suppressed. But gradually the courts assumed a more tolerant attitude. Some states such as New York have passed laws excepting the trade unions from restrictions as conspiracies and combinations, but in general the legal position of the unions is dependent on the goodwill of the courts, in the interpretation of the common law.

Where does organized labor stand before the law today? This question is of the greatest importance at the present moment when the whole world is in the throes of reaction, and long established rights and customs are being thrown to the winds. Liberalism has collapsed in all countries in the course of the war, and in its wake marches capitalist dictatorship naked and unashamed. Will the new doctrine of force be used to destroy the trade unions as well as the political organizations of labor?

There is no doubt that the war has brought a great change over

the status of labor organizations. The new supremacy of the political state has been won at the expense of voluntary associations like trade unions as well as of personal liberty. Even the mighty British trade union movement was compelled to surrender in war time its century old rules and regulations. The American trade union conditions were less affected only because the American labor movement was less developed. But in America too a new authority was set up over industry which did not recognize the principle of democratic control. The War Labor Board, however it may have operated to raise wages, and to reduce hours, set up over the trade union a higher industrial power, which emanated from the state. It was during the war also that attempts were made in America to extend to the trade unions the operation of the Sherman Anti-Trust act and later of the Lever Act. And since the war we have seen some of the most cynical applications of war-time restrictions against the trade unions, and the revival of the injunction in a more savage form than ever used before. The injunction against the miner's strike involved an issue of tremendous importance, nothing less than the existence of the trade unions for any effective action. Again the war-time machine for the suppression of liberty found its final field of action against organized labor.

Compulsory arbitration is another form of the "new slavery" which is developing. Governor Allen of Kansas has used all the power of the courts and the criminal law to induce the workers to how to such enforced arbitration, and his efforts are being watched with interest and approval by employers all over the country.

But it is in the field of strike-breaking that the new attitude toward the unions is most clear. The lessons learned in the persecution of the I. W. W. are being diligently applied to the treatment of the organized workers of every type from the unskilled foreign laborers of the steel mills to the American workers on the railroads and the police — Leonard Wood and Calvin Coolidge are doing for America the work of Briand and Millerand in France.

Whither do all these signs point? To the fact that the world is now entering upon an era in which the problems and tactics of labor will, like everything else, be very different from what they were in the good old days before the war. There is no doubt that both the Socialist and trade union movement waxed and grew fat under the regime of free discussion and free organization which was allowed by the older liberalism. But those were the days when capital was so strong and labor was so weak that magnanimity was cheap. That was before the time when labor had conquered several great countries of the earth for its very own, and threw down the gauntlet of battle to the death with capitalism. Capital is raging upon labor today with the question: "Upon what meat doth this my Caesar feed that he is grown so great?"

The "lineup" which capitalism is now itself demanding is the

mobilization for a final struggle which will probably be neither short nor gentle. And one of the chief elements in that struggle may be a desperate attempt on the part of the reactionaries to break the real power of the organizations of labor. Whether the leaders of labor are willing to recognize that factor or not, the trade unions have come to that point in their development where they must either go forward to the control of industry or backward out of existence. There is no middle road, no prating of a fair day's wage for a fair day's work in a time when greater economic forces make such phrases meaningless. Whether the workers know this or not, the employers know it very well, and they are determined to make their last stand at Thermopylae.

What then is to be the stand of the labor organizations in the clash of arms that is approaching, in fact that is already here? A soft answer by no means turneth away wrath. An attitude of cringing and cowardice never placates a determined enemy. Rather does he strike the harder. There can be no more prattle of rights when the liberalism which gave them birth is already dead. The rights of labor will henceforth extend as far as its power extends and no farther. The creation of power for itself is the only present work of the labor movement. The steam roller of the state has proven very effective in breaking up the more radical organizations such as the Communist Party, the Communist Labor Party and the I. W. W. to say nothing of the recent attempts on the Socialist Party and its institutions. Will this efficient and unscrupulous machine be equally effective in rolling over the labor organizations? The answer to this question must be given by the workers themselves.

WAIKEMAKERS' UNITY CENTER HAVE FINE CLOSING CELEBRATION

About 500 people enjoyed the the completion of the season's educational work at the Waikemakers Unity Center, P. S. No. 40, 320 E. 20th St. Miss Toretzka was very popular with the audience in her rendition of Russian Folk songs, and Maurice Nikke pleased everyone with his violin selections. After the Concert, general and exhibition dancing, and ice-cream was enjoyed in the gymnasium until after 12 o'clock.

This Thursday evening the Social Recreation class will have their supper outdoors over a fire. All who wish to participate will go direct from work, get off at Dyckman St., on the West Side subway, cross the Dyckman Ferry and turn south along the Palisades. Mrs. Betting will be there to welcome everyone with a rousing fire, around which the evening will be spent in song. Members should bring warm clothes and a lunch, cream, sugar and a cup if they wish coffee, which Mrs. Betting will supply.

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

A Labor Weekly.

Published every Friday by the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union office, 31 Union Square, New York, N. Y. Tel. Stuyvesant 1128

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Subscription price paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

VOL. II, No. 21.

Friday, May 21, 1920.

Entered as Second Class matter April 18, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103 Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1919.

EDITORIALS

AFTER-CONVENTION PROBLEMS

The close of our convention saw the consummation of some of the most far-reaching plans. The immediate demands of the International have been clearly outlined, an ample room has been left for further initiative and class-conscious activity among the workers.

The convention has also made it possible for the leaders and active members of the International to undertake new plans and work toward new goals. With the increase of the per capita tax from five to ten cents, for each member the Union will have greater means at its disposal to do the necessary work.

Of greater significance is doubtless the enthusiasm with which the convention has met the most important proposals. It was inspiring to see how spontaneously and zealously the delegates from all parts of the country legislated for the large masses of workers doubts that some entertained that the large membership is not yet prepared for the new plans vanished. There is no question but that the General Executive Board is full of courage and energy and that before long the many beautiful plans of the convention will be translated into living deeds.

The plan for an alliance of all the organizations in the needle trades of America must be made a living reality. And the Board must give its immediate attention to it. For this purpose a conference of the representatives of the various unions in the needle industry must be called with a view to work out all the necessary details so that the gigantic organization could begin to function in the very near future.

One of the prime objects of the new alliance will be the launching of a big organization campaign in the country where the workers in the needle industry are very poorly organized. In fact, the workers in the country are a hindrance to the advancing work of all the organizations.

Take, for instance, the resolution for a forty-hour week, that our convention has adopted. The convention of the Amalgamated has adopted a similar resolution. No other organization in the needle industry will oppose this decision. Yet we can't hope to undertake a victorious struggle for a forty-hour week until the small country towns around New York, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, etc., will be thoroughly organized so as to make it impossible for the manufacturers to have the work made at cheaper rates and under lower standards of work in country.

That is why we must undertake a vigorous campaign to organize the workers in the country, to make them convinced and en-

thusiastic members of a union. And it appears to us that this work must be undertaken by the united efforts of the entire organized labor body in the needle trades. Our International will, of course, continue its organization work in the country, but it is certain that this tremendous task must be jointly and unitedly tackled before it ceases to be a problem.

The resolution that was adopted regarding an alliance or amalgamation of all the unions in the needle industry of America must as soon as possible be translated into a reality. At any rate, the International, as the largest and most influential organization in the needle industry, must be the initiator of this movement. The other organizations have declared themselves for this plan, and even if they should hesitate, the International must fulfill its duty.

The plan for opening co-operative union shops and stores should also be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. The convention has decided to levy a tax of one dollar for each member. This will amount to 150 thousand dollars, which is enough for a beginning. But when more money will be required it is certain that it will be forthcoming. The enthusiasm of the delegates for this plan, with the exception of the few individuals who feared lest the co-operative undertaking may halt the social revolution, makes it certain that the membership will gladly contribute toward this end.

The General Executive Board which will have its next meeting in Montreal, contemporaneously with the convention of the American Federation of Labor will take up the most important plans adopted by the convention.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

Our convention was not in any sense dominated by what is known as politics. Only in the last sessions did the delegates turn to the political side of things. The reason for this indifference is not far to seek. The position of the president and general secretary of our organization was not questioned or challenged by any one. The large membership of the International has all the reasons to be gratified with the two chief officers of the Union. Their record is brilliant and replete with remarkable achievements. It is no secret to anyone that no more able, energetic and devoted leader than President Schlesinger could be found among the 150 thousand members. Then it was generally felt that President Schlesinger would not refuse his office at this time when so many revolutionary plans and undertakings are being entered into by our organization and for which he is so admirably

fit. He could not resist the temptation of work and achievement which are his prime interests. In it he finds an outlet for his inexhaustible energy and the supreme joy for self-expression.

A rumor was circulated at one of the sessions that Schlesinger may refuse to be re-elected. Those who do not know Schlesinger grew alarmed wondering how the International could get along particularly at this time without this man of tremendous nervous energy and vitality. But those who knew him better have not doubted for an instant that at the decisive moment President Schlesinger will not allow any motives to interfere with his further work for the International.

And when the decisive moment came Schlesinger was re-elected president with acclamation and fervid enthusiasm. The International is to be congratulated by the splendid choice of the two chief officers, the president and secretary-treasurer, who are not only veterans in the labor movement but who demonstrated that they are eminently fit to hold their high offices. We also congratulate President Schlesinger and Secretary Baroff on their re-election which is a token of recognition and confidence. There is no doubt but that many candidates who entertain fond ambitions to fill the offices of president and secretary-treasurer could be found if there was the faintest doubt in the present leadership. There was no opposition. In fact if any one would have suggested any other names for these offices it would have only been a huge joke and nothing more. The present leadership of our organization has most clearly expressed the spirit of the International.

The case was somewhat different when the election of vice-presidents. During the last several months three members of the General Executive Board dropped out and their places had to be filled. And although there were only three vacancies the candidates exceeded the number by far. This made the last days of the convention exciting and animated. A large number of the aspirants were new and threatened to replace some of the older vice-presidents. But the convention has re-elected our old general, Morris Sigmund, Manager of the New York Joint Board, was re-elected first vice-president; Perlstein of Cleveland, second, followed by Kridofsky of Toronto, Fannia M. Cohn, J. Halpern, Lefkowitz, Seidman and Wander from New York. The three new members of the Board are J. Heller of the Reeper Makers' Union, Local 17, Max Gorenstein of Local 10, who are well known in the labor movement. The third member is Pausen of Local 24, and although he is not so well known as Gorenstein or Heller, he is no doubtless fulfill his duties as vice-president of the International.

We congratulate our old generals on their re-election which they highly deserved and which should serve them as an indication of the recognition of the International for their devotion. With feelings of joy and hope do we congratulate the three new vice-presidents who have assumed great responsibilities which, we trust, they will ably and honestly fulfill.

We also congratulate those delegates to the conventions of the American Federation of Labor during the next two years, L. Langer, Secretary of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union

of N. Y.; Paul Metz, Berlin of Local 10, Miss Gausf and Antonini. This delegation is headed by President Schlesinger.

The election of delegates to the International Tailors' Congress in Copenhagen next August called out considerable discussion. Two delegates, consisting of President Schlesinger and another member of the International are to be represented at the congress, according to the decision of the convention. There were, of course, many willing candidates to go to Europe and to be recorded in history as the pioneers of the world federation of the needle trades. Finally the large number of aspirants were reduced to two: Our able Mollie Friedman of Local 25 and S. Lefkowitz, vice-president of the International. Lefkowitz won out as the delegate, who together with President Schlesinger will proceed to the next tailors' congress in Copenhagen.

We heartily congratulate them. They have a highly important mission and we are confident that they will realize it to the best of their abilities.

The sum total of it all is clear. The large delegation to our convention have demonstrated in a high degree that they were guided in the election of officers as in other matters by a spirit of independence and class solidarity. The prime motive dominating the work of the convention was the further advance of the International and the entire labor movement.

Russian Soviet Government Welcomes British Trades Unions

An impressive popular demonstration greeted the English trade union delegation upon its arrival in Moscow on Wednesday, May 19. Every one of the local unions was represented in the delegations crowding the platform at the Nikolaievsky station, the members of the various localities carrying banners and wearing red armbands and coats. Most of the delegates present being factory and railroad workers.

Following addresses of welcome by the chairman of the Moscow Soviet and the chairman of the All-Russian Federation of Trades Unions, the British delegates assured the representatives of Russian workers at the station that English workmen were opposed to the blockade of Russia intervention in this country, and Polish aggression. They declared they would, upon their return to England, bring the pressure of organized labor to bear upon the British government for the purpose of forcing a resumption of relations with Russia.

Illinois Labor Party Convention

Over 600 delegates are expected to attend the Illinois state convention of the Labor Party of the United States, to be held at the armory in Springfield on June 4, 5 and 6. Candidates will be nominated for the offices of presidential electors, U. S. senator, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, attorney general, clerk of the supreme court, three university trustees, and two congressmen at large. A parade of organized wage earners and farmers will be held Saturday night, June 5, in the streets of Springfield.

Impressions of the Convention of Our International in Chicago

By S. YANOFKY

The large delegation to our convention spent sixteen days in Chicago, but very few really noticed it. When the sessions came to a close it seemed as if the delegates had just left their respective places for the convention in Chicago.

The reason for it is self-evident. The sessions were of tremendous interest to all delegates without exception. And not only to the delegates but to the workers who crowded the galleries. I am certain that if sessions were held evenings hundreds of workers would have followed our proceedings with unabated interest.

It is not hard to find an explanation for this. Our convention is of particular interest in that a great deal of time was devoted to questions of general interest. I cannot recall any big social problem which was not discussed at the convention. I know of no important activity or movement toward which the convention has not assumed a definite attitude. When you follow the sessions of the conventions day after day you get the impression that you are at an all-world parliament where the different questions of general import are intelligently discussed and acted upon.

The cablegrams and letters received from France, Austria, Germany, Poland added considerably to the spirit of internationalism prevailing at the convention. It was clear that before the world federation of the needle trades is officially declared it is a virtual reality.

One becomes familiar with the large number of movements and activities in our country at the convention. Here Algernon Lee tells of the aims of the Rand School and of the persecutions of the various Luskers. Now comes Charles W. Ervin, editor of "The Call," and tells of his troubles. He is followed by Harry Kelley who in an intelligent address tells of the Ferrer School and the tremendous importance of education. Kelley in turn is followed by a representative of the Bund of Poland and Russia and he carries us away to our old home where the struggle is so gigantic. Then thru the greetings from Gleiberman who represents the Workmen's Circle our attention is again turned to our own land to the schools which the Workmen's Circle opened in Chicago. Then comes Ossip Wolinsky who speaks on behalf of the Kropotkin Literary Society, telling of the publication of a Yiddish translation of Sidney Webb's History of the Trade Unions in England.

All this is heard during a few hours. Is there any wonder that the delegates and visitors are intensely interested in the proceedings of the convention?

When the convention passes to organization matters one is inclined to think that the visitors will leave the gallery. For what interest will they find in this or that resolution? But this is not the case. The visitors remain in their places and it seems as if they are just as interested as in the speeches.

I may remark here that the visitor is perfectly justified. It is of extraordinary interest to observe the convention conduct its affairs, and it is a pleasure to see this great human gathering execute the mandates of the organization. You listen to about two hundred resolutions introduced and about hundreds of telegrams. You have before you the reports of the General Executive Board and the President in which are recommended new undertakings and important problems. You wonder, will the convention get through with its work? But when you see the convention at work you realize that workers have learned the secret of efficiency. There is a planned and systematic handling of the important problems. Not a minute is wasted. But that does not at all mean that there is coercion with respect to people into machines. There is rather a clear consciousness of the common aim which transforms the routine work into something interesting. Then one is not at all certain that out of ordinary questions there may burst forth a strikingly interesting discussion.

Take for instance the following question: The Credentials Committee whose purpose is to investigate whether all the delegates are duly accredited renders its report after a very careful and thorough examination of the credentials. The convention cannot officially proceed with its work until this committee renders its report. The chairman of this committee was Brother Breslau. He appeared on the platform and told of the decisions of the committee and his enumerated the number and names of the delegates of the various locals.

Nothing would seem to be more tedious. But here comes the report of Local 20 which has elected Brother Sachs as one of the delegates. Many serious charges were brought against him. The delegate himself was present. At the suggestion of Brother Langer he was given the floor to state his case. Brother Heller stated the case against him. He is an effective and logical speaker, and insists that the convention must adopt the recommendation of the committee.

But Brother Feinberg, president of the New York Joint Board, insists that Brother Sachs be seated and the delegates then know him to be a good union man and that he be cleared of all charges. This suggested the Dreyfus idea to another delegate who saw in the case of Brother Sachs another example of martyrdom. Others saw in it the repetition of the ousted-Socialist assemblymen. It was nothing less than that the arch-reactionary Local 20 wanted to get rid of a "red." Finally Mollie Friedman, secretary of the Credentials Committee, has in a convincing and witty speech cleared up the entire matter and it was realized that the Credentials Committee could not act differently.

And now we come to the third session. Again telegrams, again seething, active life. Former patients of a Denver sanatorium greet the convention. A telegram is read from the Jewish-Ukrainian

Alliance, signed by Joseph Baroness, A. I. Shipiloff and Jacob P. Adler. This is followed by a moving address of Brother Tolakov. This again is followed by the reading of many telegrams. President Schlesinger reads his reports of his experiences in Europe. He speaks quietly but the large mass of people listen to him with absorbing interest so that he could be heard in every corner of the hall.

Lucy Robbins of New York is the next speaker. She declares herself in love with everything the International has done for the amnesty movement. Our organization was the first to give moral and financial help to the movement to free political and industrial prisoners. The office of the Reformer's Union, Local 17, is the office of Miss Robbins. She has no words to express her recognition for the efforts of the International to help this movement. But before the amnesty movement crowns with success more work and money is required.

Her request was referred to the committee which later recommended the donation of 15 hundred dollars.

Next came B. Zuckerman and M. Gillis of the Peoples' Relief Committee. They did not come to ask for money — there was no need at all to remind the International of this — they came to express their views how the money should best be distributed

among our unfortunate brothers and sisters in Russia, Poland, Austria, etc.

Louis Lochner, Manager of the Federated Tinner, was the next speaker. He assailed the prostitute Associated Press which feeds the American people with lies. The Federated Press has decided to supply the labor press, at least, with true and reliable news. It is a new undertaking and Lochner appealed to the International for moral and financial aid.

Finally, Seymour Steadman, the prominent Socialist lawyer, was introduced. He does not ask for money. His address is extremely interesting and instructive. He speaks about the industrial situation in this country where the large masses of the workers are still conservative and where the sinister forces of reaction are still in control. The workers must learn to understand that they are in constant, daily struggle. It was a great pleasure to listen to his address which met with thunderous applause.

Following Steadman's address, a resolution was adopted by the convention to send telegrams of greetings to Eugene V. Debs and Kate O'Hare. This resolution was wildly acclaimed. The delegates jumped from their seats and cheered for several minutes until President Schlesinger called the convention to order. The reading of resolutions and reports of the various committees resumed.

EXCURSION TO THE UNITY HOUSE

WEEK END OF DECORATION DAY — IMPORTANT CONFERENCE OF UNITY VACATIONISTS — NEW VACATION VOTES

A Decoration Day excursion party of 100 will leave New York on Saturday, May 20, to spend the week end at the Unity House, the summer resort owned and operated by the Waistmakers' Union local 25 for the benefit of its members.

An announcement to this effect was made by the Unity House Committee of Local 25. Only the above mentioned number of visitors can be accommodated at the Unity House for the Decoration Day week-end. Waistmakers wishing to join in the excursion will do well to register at once their wish with the Unity House Committee at the headquarters of the Union, 16 W. 21st St., for no application will be considered after Wednesday, May 26. The excursionists will be furnished with all comforts and accommodations at the very moderate rate of \$3 per day.

An important conference of last year's Unity House vacationists will be held on Wednesday evening, May 26, at Public School 40, 320 E. 20th St., to consider various plans and suggestions for the ensuing Unity House season. It is urgent that all the persons qualified by their last year's vacation to participate in the conference, do so, for the opening date of the vacation season is drawing near,

and all innovations must be suggested and decided upon at once, if they are to be put into effect.

The Unity House Committee has set the vacation rate for this year at \$18 per person per week. This increase over last year's rate which was \$13.50 is made necessary because of the greatly increased cost of all foodstuffs and the added costs of management. A salaried manager and a force of professional waiters will add a substantial sum to the expenditure column of the Unity House, and the increased rate was reluctantly agreed upon as the only way to escape a large deficit.

Waistmakers are reminded that up to June 1 only applications of members of Local 25 will be considered and that after that date no preference will be given them over members of other locals of the International. Those of the waistmakers who want to reserve accommodations at the Unity House for any two-week period during the summer should register before June 1 at the headquarters of the Union or at any of the following branch offices:

Bronx: 1258 Boston Road.
Hartem: 165 E. 191st St.
Downtown: 129 Spring St.
Brooklyn: 60 Graham Ave.
Brownsville: 223 Sackman St.

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By I. LEWIN

The Fifteenth Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. came to a close on Saturday, May 15, 1920, and our delegates are home again. During the absence of our delegates, the work in the office was somewhat retarded, but everything is in good shape now.

Judging by the number and the kind of resolutions passed, the last convention was by far most important in the history of our Union. All resolutions that were sponsored by the cutters' delegation passed at the convention either unanimously or with great majorities.

The most important one is the resolution for a forty-hour week in our trade. The shortening of it gives the worker more leisure hours is a good thing in itself, for time to spend with his family; but for our cutting trade it is of particular importance for the reason that it is so seasonal, and there is an old maxim that "The shorter the hours the longer the season."

Another one of the important resolutions is the establishment of a sanitarium for those in the Ladies' Garment Industry who are unfortunately suffering from Tuberculosis. Local No. 10 was one of the very few unions in the International that paid the \$1.00 yearly assessment for the purpose which was passed at the previous convention. The General Executive Board was instructed to immediately proceed with the establishment of such a sanitarium.

A number of other resolutions affecting our members were passed which will be reported at our next General Meeting which will be held on Monday, May 24, 1920, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place.

There is only one more resolution which we wish to mention here and that is the decision to raise the per capita tax to the International from 5c. to 10c. per week. This increased per capita is to go towards the organization campaign of the non-union workers of our industry all over the country which is contemplated by the International. It would be superfluous for us to stress on the need of such an organization campaign. At the present time manufacturers occasionally threaten and sometimes do go out of town where they expect to get their work done cheaper under non-union conditions, which will be made impossible once the trade is 100% organized all through the United States and Canada. The only reason that we mention it is because of the fact that our dues, with the present rate of 25c. dues per week, would be drained after a period, for our expenses are greater than our income. It is expected that the Executive Board will discuss this phase of the situation in the near future and it is probable that another General Special meeting will be called for the purpose of raising the weekly dues.

The following are extracts from the Executive Board minutes of the past week:

Irving Rosenberg, No. 4169, Member of the Miscellaneous Division, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Sonen with having used the book of Max Margulies, No. 2583, Ex-Business Agent of the Cloak Division, in order that he might be permitted to work in a cloak house. Brother

Margulies lost his book, some time ago which was found by Brother Sonen blank working cards from the Cloak Division and proceeded to make out working cards in his own name for the house of A. Levitt, 9 University Place, where Brother Rosenberg worked for some time. The latter admits to having made out working cards in his own name but denies having ever shown them to anybody. Upon motion a fine was imposed upon him.

Louis Gross, No. 4052A, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Sonen with failing to receive the increase of \$4.00 per week on February 2, 1920, at the house of the Bee Bee Dress Co., 135 W. 27th Street. He is also charged with working on Saturday afternoon. A collection of \$60.00 was made in this case. Brother Gross claims that he started in to work for the concern for \$60 per week during the month of December, 1919, and that when the increase went into effect, he requested same of the firm but was told that he would get it later on. He admits to having worked one Saturday afternoon, but states that having been laid up for two weeks on account of flat feet and the firm having paid him for the time lost, he could not very well refuse. Taking into consideration the age of this brother and the fact that he joined this Union only recently, the Executive Board was lenient in imposing a fine upon him.

Morris Winnick, No. 8967, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Stoller with working below the scale at the house of the Topie Dress Co., 49 E. 21st St. A collection of \$30 was made. Brother Winnick admits to having received \$40 per week in place of \$45.00. Upon motion a fine was imposed.

Sam Udin, No. 5665A, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Stoller with being a member of the firm of the Edline Costume Co., 19 W. 21st St. produced showing that Brother Udin is one of the incorporators of this concern. Brother Udin states that he was at one time a partner of this firm but states that he is no longer connected with it and is employed by them only in the capacity of a cutter. He was instructed to either resign from the job on Saturday, May 15, 1920, or resign from the Union, or else stand expelled in case he does not follow one of the first two courses.

Hyman Rabinowitz, No. 5797, appeared on summons, charged by the office with having worked on Washington's birthday at the house of Harry Schultz, 15 W. 27th St. Brother Barnett Ladin, No. 4105A, appeared as a witness against the above named brother. Brother Rabinowitz, when called to the Executive Board at its last session, denied working on Washington's birthday. He now retracts his statement and claims that he did work on that day but was under the impression that it was permissible for cutters to work on that day as the money was to go towards the buying of a Unity summer house for the Waist and Dressmakers' Union. However, he pocketed the money, which he claims was intended to go towards the Unity house. Upon motion a fine was imposed.

GLIMPSES FROM OUR "SPECIAL" TO CHICAGO

By S. YANOFSEKY

(Continued from Last Week)

At nine o'clock the next morning we came to Niagara Falls. Most of the delegates had never seen this wonder of nature. The impression was overwhelming, gigantic even to those who had seen it several times before. For those who saw it for the first time, it was a revelation. "And although the day was cold and moist, our delegates were unmindful of it all, and gazed with a sense of awe at this sublime vision of nature."

Most of us went to see the Falls in three special cars, others took automobiles in which they not only saw the Falls but the whole town.

Several hours passed in seeing the Falls, and about five o'clock we returned to our "Special," proceeding on our way to Chicago. Here we were joined by the delegates from Boston and our "Special" thereby increased.

Again the same scenes of hilarity, restlessness and playfulness. But this did not continue very long. The crowd was a bit tired, and then they wanted to be rested and fresh on their arrival in Chi-

cago next Monday morning.

That is why we went to bed at 11 o'clock, when all respectable people go to bed, and on Sunday morning we were in Chicago. The train was somewhat late and we arrived at Union Station about ten o'clock in the morning. Here we found a committee of the Chicago Joint Board, with vice-president Schoelman at the head. H. Lang, labor editor of the "Forward", who came from New York to report the convention for the "Forward", was also in the committee.

In Morrison Hotel we met many representatives of the Capmakers' Union outside of our own delegates. It looked as if the Capmakers' Union had joined the International and sent its delegates to our convention. But I soon discovered that this was not the case. This will come later when a convention of delegates from all organizations in the needle trades will be called. Meanwhile our friends from the Capmakers' Union came to Chicago to have a meeting of their General Executive Board.

Education and the Labor Movement

Editor, Justice:

In the issue of Justice of May 9, 1920, you devoted some space in dealing with the educational work of our International. You have pointed out that the officers of our International, as well as the members of the Joint Board, strained their energies toward making the educational work a success. You lamented the fact that although all this was done, and a considerable amount of money spent, yet the educational movement brought no favorable results. You further stated that the movement did not help the organization to develop devoted and efficient members.

As one of the students of the International schools, practically since the day that this movement began (and I feel that I am not speaking here only for myself, but for many others who have labored likewise), I am actively occupied following up every course very carefully, some for my personal benefit, and some for the purpose of judging their value for others.

I found that all the various courses which were given were followed up by the members of the International with great zeal and interest. However, it is true that the attendance was small in comparison with the membership.

I found that the teachers who were most carefully and wisely chosen by the educational committee were the most able under the circumstances. Those teachers not only took a live interest in enlightening the students, but were enthusiastically inspired to teach because of the fact that our members put up with great strain and hardships in endeavoring to study after a hard day's work in the shop, besides all the energy used up in union activities.

Only a glance into the local unions of our International will convince one that the members who gain knowledge do not drift away from union activity. Take for example the delegates of our convention and you will find some of our International students there. It will be worth your

while to get acquainted with them and to find how far they drifted or intend to drift from the labor movement. I also know for a fact that during the General Strike of Locals 25 and 62, in the year 1919, all the members who attended the various courses at that time willingly left the classroom to fill the gap of hall chairmen, organizers, picket chiefs, etc. These two locals mobilized very little outside forces (in comparison with previous years) to lead their strikes. Their own members did the work. The fact is that the advanced classes in the Local 25 Unity Center have fallen to more than half in attendance during the twelve weeks' strike, which proved that the students felt their duty and devotion to the local, to give up as much time (and knowledge gained at the local expense) as it was necessary. I can safely say that all the others had the same results for those members that have participated in the educational activities. When duty called, they did not shrink, but responded to the call.

So you can readily see that "The devil is not as black as some paint him." The students did not drift from the Union because we educated them, nor did our instructors make our minds flabby instead of stronger. We are on the proper road, and proper instruction. All that is left for us to do is to encourage the movement and devise ways and means of how to carry on educational work so as to reach a larger number of our members.

Our progress is slow but sure.
CLARA FREIDMAN.

LABOR FREES AMALGAMATION IN AUSTRALIA

An amalgamation of the Australian Labor papers which will give a total capital of \$2,500,000 is on foot, according to reports received here. The scheme will include twelve important papers, and will mean the formation of the largest newspaper concern in the commonwealth. A greatly amplified cable service will be one of the results of the plan.

CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARKS ERA IN LABOR MOVEMENT

(Continued from page 1)

the recommendations of the general executive board which was adopted at convention yesterday, "and steps must be taken against this marauding."

"If there are not enough laws on the statute books to punish the profiteers in our trades, it is the duty of Congress to enact such laws and we recommend that this convention decide to urge Congress to act upon this matter with the greatest rapidity."

The vote on the proposal was animated with a spirited debate, but the sponsors of the investigation plan finally swung the delegates to their side and the measure was passed. The resolution, as amended, says that the jobbing and speculation evils have never been so rampant in the industry as they are now and the ones suffering therefrom are mostly the workers. The article before it reaches the consumer, the resolution asserts, goes through many hands and each of the parties makes an excessive profit, while the workers are being blamed for the prevailing high prices. Congress was, therefore, asked by the union to conduct a thorough probe in the trade in an effort to establish who the profiteers are. Copies of the resolution were ordered sent to the members of the House and the Senate.

Another measure adopted, after considerable debate, was the resolution calling for a yearly minimum scale and an equalization of the pay of the workers in the various branches of the industry.

On the question of uniform scales of wages for all branches of the industry and classes of workers, recommended in resolutions 77 and 109, the resolutions' committee modified these to read that whereas, minimum scales vary in different branches of the industry and there is no reason why scales should not be the same when their needs are equal, be it resolved that the convention favor readjustment of existing scales with a view to equalize earnings in all branches of the industry.

The modified resolution was adopted on resolutions three and 106, recommending a yearly minimum wage because of the highly seasonal work and the absence of assurance of steady annual earnings to provide a fair living. The committee declared that it found no objection to the principle of minimum yearly wage, and considers it the duty of the International to establish conditions which will assure comfortable living all year round and remove the dread of unemployment, but the committee, in the short time allotted, could not decide on the practical application of this plan and therefore commends that the general executive board make a thorough study of the question and hereafter apply the year minimum wherever practicable.

The convention approved this action.

The convention donation of one-quarter of a million marks, approximately \$2,000 to Ladies'

Garment Workers' Union of Poland, in the afternoon commission on adjustments, reported its action on various appeals from members and locals on recommendations of commission.

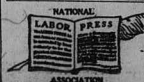
Resolutions 98 and 140, dealing with aid to radical and labor organizations, were withdrawn by their introducers. Resolution 131, the committee reported, has already been taken care of by the convention. Resolution 52, dealing with the Rand School, was adopted. Resolution 120 passed, \$2,000 instead of \$3,000 contributions to the New York Call conventions. The delegates approved many contributions, including \$500 to the Los Angeles Sanitarium; \$300 to the Douglas Park Day Nursery in Chicago; \$500 to the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society in Denver; \$300 to the Chicago labor movement; \$200 to the Kropotkin Literary Society; \$100 to the Free Arbeit Stimmer; \$500 in subscriptions to the New Majority; \$100 to the Federated Press; \$100 to Chicago Laundry Workers.

Resolution 130, asking for appreciation of secretary's work, passed; Secretary Baroff was given a long ovation and expressed his appreciation to the convention. The delegates also adopted a resolution to send representatives to the 15th anniversary of the Reiter Makers' Union, Local No. 7, in New York, next June.

For Resolution 124, the committee substituted a resolution stating essentially that, whereas a great number of workers die an untimely death, owing to lack of medical attention, it be resolved that the convention recommend the adoption of the universal health insurance to the various State legislatures. The resolution was adopted, it also was one that \$1,500 be given as an initial donation to the central body for the liberation of all political prisoners and that all locals be called upon to render moral and financial aid toward that end.

A resolution was also adopted to the effect that, whereas the international has always taken an active part in the political struggle between capital and labor, and since present conditions accentuate the paramount necessity of supporting the labor forces, in the political as well as the industrial field, it be resolved that the convention call upon the masses of workers to interest themselves deeply in the political problems of labor, and give unstinted aid at the polls to help secure "final emancipation from wage slavery."

The convention approved this, and also commended the position taken by the general executive board against the alleged unconstitutional stand of the New York Assembly in ousting the Socialist party; the committee suggested that all New York locals remember the action of the New York Assembly at the next election.



THE STAGE

By Frances Robbins

"FOOT-LOOSE"

A revival always gives the critics an opportunity to say, "Oh yes, she's good. But you should have seen So-and-So twenty years ago. She was wonderful." And so the comparisons go, usually to the discomfiture of the modern actress.

In "Foot-Loose," at the Greenwich Village Theatre, however, it is different. Emily Stevens as Stephanie, steps into a part made famous for several decades by such women as Greerice Wood, Jeffry Lewis and Rose Coghlan, and naturally comparisons must arise. But it would be hard to imagine a Stephanie more skillfully portrayed than the Stephanie of Miss Stevens.

"Foot-Loose," is not a revival exactly, but rather an adaption from an old play called Forget Me Not, by Herman Merivale and F. C. Grove. Zue Atkins has successfully modernized it into its present form, and although the effect is a bit too stagy, the brilliance of the lines and the splendid cast make of it a satisfying play.

Stephanie is a grandmother! But an extremely young and charming grandmother. Wicked, too. For she explains her youth by the fact that she has no conscience, a fact quite apparent when viewed in the events of her past life. She is the Marquise de Mohriart, whose husband has been murdered in Paris five years before. An unscrupulous ruin, his fine palace had been used for many years as a gambling house, notorious even in Paris for the scandal, the tragedies, the ruin it had brought upon its countless patrons. It was known that the Marquise equally shared the spoils and that her beauty and wit had helped to make the palace even more famous.

Andre, her son, had grown away from the influence of his

mother, and thoroughly despised her. When he married, he had done so without the consent of his mother. At this time, Stephanie greatly desired to enter "respectable society" and told Andre that unless he received her in his home, she would disclose the fact that she had never consented to his marriage. In the eyes of the law, the marriage would then be invalid. Rather than face the shame of either condition laid down by his mother, Andre killed himself. Rose, his wife, knew that Stephanie was responsible, but did not understand why.

As the play opens, Alice Verney, her sister, takes her to Rome, where her baby is born. Here Stephanie forces herself upon Alice, for she knows that Alice would rather endure her visit, than have made known the facts of Rose's marriage.

Sir Horace Welby, who loves Alice, visits her in Rome, and when he discovers Stephanie there, tries to get rid of her. As a young man, he had known Stephanie well; he knows that her weakness is cowardice, fear of death. When Horace learns that de Mohriart's murderer is in Rome and is hunting Stephanie, whom he had intended to kill and whose husband he had killed by mistake, fate plays into his hands. The curtain falls on Stephanie's flight.

Fear, terrible fear, is marvelously portrayed by Miss Stevens. Throughout the play she has been extremely gay and audacious and has easily ensnared the heart of Prince Malleotti. She herself remarks to Alice, "For a grandmother, my technique is still pretty good." To see a woman of that type cringe, shake and scream with fear is hard to understand. But as Emily Stevens does it, it seems real, human, a wonderful bit of characterization.

Horace Welby, the Englishman,

CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

GENERAL:	Monday, May 24th.
CLOAK & SUIT	Monday, June 7th.
WAIST & DRESS	Monday, June 14th.
MISCELLANEOUS:	Monday, June 21st.

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

Cutters of All Branches

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as played by Norma Trevor, is calm, efficient and yet kind, a very tower of strength to Alice. Elizabeth Raddon is very sweet and appealing as Alice. Taffulah Rankhead is Rose de Brissac, very young, very weepy and emotional, as befits her part. Barrato, the revengeful Corsican, is played by O. P. Heggie, who has not the fire and temperament that we usually associate with hot-blooded Corsicans. He is especially unconvincing in the last act. Robert Casadeas as the Prince, has a rather fetching accent, but it seems more French than Italian.

John Webster and Lillian Brenard complete the cast and help to make "Foot-Loose" the interesting play that it is.

THE MEDICAL RELIEF COMMITTEE TO AID RUSSIA

The following is a letter sent by Santeri Nuorteva, Secretary of the Soviet Bureau in New York, to Dr. M. Michailovskiy, chairman of the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee, showing the Bureau's appreciation of the relief work:

On behalf of Mr. L. E. Martens, the representative of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic in the United States, I beg to thank you most sincerely for your effort to bring Medical relief to the population of Soviet Russia.

The blockade of Russia, which has been maintained by the Allied powers, in their as desperate as futile efforts to prevent the masses of the Russian people from developing the form of society they have chosen for themselves, has among other hardships caused the Russian people suffering due to lack of medical supplies. Less than ten per cent of the pre-war requirements of such supplies are available in Russia at this time, when epidemics due to undernourishment — another result of the blockade — and the necessity of caring for those wounded in attacks against Russia, make the need of medical supplies larger than usual. Only by superhuman sacrifices and efforts has it been possible for our people to overcome these sufferings and trials.

You are, perhaps, aware of the fact, that in many countries, especially in Scandinavia, various organizations are undertaking to bring medical relief to the Russian people, — even Germany has sent a medical relief committee to Russia.

We deeply appreciate similar efforts on the part of the Americans, and we are glad of them not only because of the concrete and valuable aid to Russian men, women and children they represent, but also as an evidence of warm-hearted sympathy towards the people of Russia which is to us so much more valuable at this time when Russia is an object of malice and prejudice on the part of reactionary forces.

I beg to assure you, that we will, in every possible way, facilitate your undertaking.

If you propose to send a relief commission to Russia, our government will be pleased to extend to it every possible accommodation.

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