



JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

VOL. II, No. 22

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FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD TO BE HELD IN MONTREAL

The newly elected General Executive Board of our International will begin its first quarterly meeting next Friday, June 4, at the Palace Viger Hotel, Montreal, Canada.

The initial steps toward the fulfillment of the large number of plans and proposals adopted by our convention in Chicago will be taken at the Montreal meeting of the General Executive Board. It will have to devise means and ways to translate the resolutions into living facts. In addition to the bringing into effect the decisions of the convention, it is the business of the General Executive Board to deal with the numerous questions upon which the convention had not acted.

In many cases the convention has adopted recommendations of the various committees with the understanding that their final decision and fulfillment be left to the General Executive Board. It was felt that the realization of many plans and proposals requires expert knowledge of facts and conditions and that it is frequently impossible to deal with such questions from the floor of the convention. The General Executive Board was therefore instructed not only to bring the various proposals into effect, but to adopt or reject the resolutions which were not acted upon by the convention.

It cannot of course be expected that the Board would take up all the proposals at the first meeting. The business of the first meeting will doubtless be to make a general survey of the situation and formulate a definite plan of action.

Outside of the administrative duties of the Board, its first meeting will be of particular interest as it will be the initiation of the newly elected Board members to the actual duties of vice presidents of the International. There are three new members to be inducted into their new offices. It is true that they are not novices in the labor movement and particularly in their own union—they have in fact a record of splendid achievements—but the work of the General Executive Board is something new to them. Heretofore they have done their work directly for their unions and indirectly for the International. As vice presidents they must think and act for the International as a whole, having in mind the large membership in the different cities. There must take place a change of mental outlook and point of view from the particular situation in the shop and local to the general situation in the industry and the International. Such a change cannot be effected suddenly and abruptly, and if all the

vice presidents were newly elected there is no question but that the machinery could not be set in motion for some time. But because all the vice presidents of the old Board were reelected there is no reason to fear that there will be any unnecessary delay on account of the new members.

The members constituting the General Executive Board are President Benjamin Schlesinger, General Secretary Ab. Baroff, and all the vice presidents who are as follows: Morris Sigman, M. Gorenstein, J. Heller, H. Wander, Ninfo, Fania M. Cohn, S. Lefkowitz, J. Halpern, S. Seidman, M. Perlstein, H. Schoolman, Koldofsky and Pausen. As usual, the editor of Justice will be present at the meeting.

It may also be noted here that the annual convention of the

American Federation of Labor will be held in Montreal, and many of our vice presidents will be anxious to be present at the opening of the convention which will take place on June 7, and perhaps remain there for a few days longer.

The choice of Montreal as a meeting place for the G. E. B. will not only offer an opportunity to our vice presidents to be present at the convention of the A. F. of L. but it will have an encouraging effect on our locals in that city. Montreal has a strong Cloakmakers' Union and it is not more than right that the Board should have one of its meetings at least in that city.

All communications should be addressed to General Secretary A. Baroff, Palace Viger Hotel, Montreal, Canada.

THE GENERAL STRIKE OF THE FUR WORKERS IN NEW YORK

Ten thousand fur workers in New York have walked out last Thursday on a general strike against unemployment. The strike call was issued by Morris Kaufman, manager of the Furriers' Union, after the refusal of the Association to accept the Unions' proposals.

The chief reason for the break in the relations between the furriers and the Associated Manufacturers for the past five years is that the manufacturers have thrown almost half the membership out of employment during the last few weeks, instead of mitigating the depression in the industry by dividing the work equally between all workers.

Union officials, in recent conferences with the association have tried to impress the bosses with the serious situation of unemployment that threatens the life of the organization, offering as the only workable solution the reduction of hours of work, thereby enabling all the workers to work and earn sufficiently to carry them along during these trying times.

The association refused to accept the union's proposals nor were they ready to offer any solution of their own.

This uncompromising attitude of the associated furriers brought on the recent mass meeting at which a resolution was unanimously passed empowering the joint board of the furriers' unions to use all means to solve this problem of unemployment and to place the necessary methods of

enforcing their solutions before the membership for referendum vote.

At this meeting the workers decided that if the solution found by the committee is approved by the rank and file another committee should be appointed by active members to enforce the recommendations.

The referendum that ended last Saturday night was overwhelmingly in favor of a general strike, recommended by the committee as the only means of enforcing the demands of its membership.

The Furriers' Union then sent an ultimatum to the Fur Manufacturers' Association warning the bosses that "the officers of the union have, through a referendum, been instructed to take such action as they deem advisable to enforce the proposals of the union."

"We believe," the letter stated, "these proposals to be humane, in which all right-thinking people will agree, that:

"1. All workers laid off since May 7 be reinstated.

"2. Equal division of work be practiced during this period of depression until December 31.

"3. No shop shall operate more than 40 hours a week during this period in order to regulate conditions in general. The workers shall be paid at the rate of 44 hours per week.

"4. No reduction of wages be permitted during the lifetime of this agreement.

"5. Inside shops shall be given (Continued on Page 8)

CLOAKMAKERS STRIKE AGAINST SCAB FIRM IN MONTREAL

The strike of the Montreal cloakmakers against the firm of Taft and Dubrofsky will be carried on until the workers will come out victorious.

This firm which first locked out the workers, then tried to introduce sub-contracting, has now resorted to breaking in scabs! It has concentrated all its efforts to establish a model scab shop and it is using underhand methods to reach this end. This Taft and Dubrofsky firm has elaborated a plan of persuasion, coaxing and bluffing workers into the shop. It has gone so far in the hunt for scabs that the manufacturers' association of that city expelled this firm from membership in the association.

But the workers will not be misled or hoodwinked by the promises of this firm. They know that it is a scab shop that the Taft and Dubrofsky firm are trying to establish and they are determined to continue the strike until victory is achieved.

IMPORTANT DEBATE BETWEEN COMBERS AND GOV. ALLEN

The debate between Samuel Combers, President of the American Federation of Labor and Governor Allen of Kansas, famous author of the anti-strike law in that state, upon the general subject of strikes and lockouts and the effort to make them unlawful, will take place this Friday evening, May 28, at Carnegie Hall, 57th Street and Seventh Avenue.

Governor Allen's anti-strike plan is looked upon with great favor not only by the manufacturers and business interests of the state of Kansas but by their kin all over the country. There is little doubt but that the vested interests are now seeking to make the Kansas poignance plan the rule of the United States. This debate therefore is highly significant in that it symbolizes the actual combat between the capitalists and the working class. The class struggle will be enacted by two prominent representatives of the capitalist and laboring classes.

Admission is to be free by ticket only, but no reservation will be held after 8 P. M. sharp.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

Mexico

MEXICO is undergoing new one of the periodic revolutions that has characterized its history. The dramatic overturn of the government which culminated in the assassination of President Venustiano Carranza on May 21 in a mountain hamlet where he was hiding, followed by the election of a provisional president, does not at all mark the end of the upheaval there. The situation remains extremely unsettled. The future of Mexico largely depends upon the forces outside of that country. It depends upon Wall Street.

The immediate cause of the revolution was the presidential campaign in Mexico. The most conspicuous candidate for president was Obregon. He had been Carranza's right-hand man throughout the revolution of 1914, but since July, 1918, he proceeded to organize his party and undertake an active political campaign for his election for president next September. Carranza put a candidate of his own in the field. It was Ignacio Bonillas whom he summoned from Washington. Bonillas who had been Mexican Ambassador to the United States for a number of years was relatively unknown in Mexico. In any open and fair contest between him and Obregon, there could be no question of the outcome. It was suspected that Carranza's purpose in dragging out Bonillas and foisting him upon the country was to invite violence, and take advantage of the situation to maintain himself in power by military force. No sooner had Bonillas reached Mexico City and accepted the nomination, than all pretense of neutrality and merely political activity in the part of Carranza's Government vanished. Every official of the government showing sympathy for Obregon was either discharged or transferred. It must be remembered that Carranza became the head of the Mexican government through a revolution dedicated to the establishment of "free election and no reelection." He was elected with a constitution which absolutely forbade the President to run again or to interfere in any way with the popular vote. Carranza has violated this principle and thereby alienated the popular vote.

Mexican labor lined up behind Obregon. At the newly formed labor party convention, with nineteen of the twenty-seven Mexican states represented, the following was one of its planks:

"As it appears that preparations are being made to defraud the people of their right to express their free will during the coming national elections (July, 1920), if it be necessary the Labor Party will employ all of its moral and material strength to prevent the hopes of the working people from being defrauded in the coming political struggle."

The Convention of Labor Unions also gave Obregon the unqualified support.

In the middle of the campaign Carranza commanded Obregon under threat of arrest to come to Mexico City. He then dispatched troops to the Sonora, the state where Obregon could claim a plurality in the election. Sonora rejected military interference and revolted. Obregon took control over Mexico. Carranza fled to the

mountains where he was killed by General Herrera. Adolfo de la Huerta, Governor of Sonora, was named provisional president. But the virtual dictator of Mexico is Obregon, for the time being.

It is significant that Luis N. Morones, representative of the Mexican Federation of Labor, accompanied by Samuel Gompers, called on Secretary Tumulty at the White House to deliver a message from Obregon asking for recognition from the United States.

But this does not at all mean that Obregon is a radical. In fact he made Jewish promises to Wall Street and the American press so far favors him. When one learns that the bitter propaganda conducted against Carranza was due to the fact that he tried to curb the foreign and particularly American capitalists from exploiting the Mexican wealth for their own benefits one regards this tolerance to Obregon with a well founded suspicion that he must have sold Mexico to Wall Street for their recognition of him.

C. F. U. Ousts the Labor Party

AT the regular weekly meeting of the Central Federated Union last Friday the American Labor party was repudiated. The "non-partisan politics" idea triumphed. The propaganda conducted by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor bore fruit. A short time ago the New Jersey Federation of Labor voted down the Labor Party and adopted the reward your friend and punish your enemy politics. New York followed New Jersey.

The political realignment of the Central Federated Union was effected by violence. A large number of "union men" who were not in the habit of frequenting the meetings of the C. F. U. filled the hall. They were apparently mobilized by the reactionary forces who for a long time had not dared to oppose the Labor Party. Among them were Peter J. Brady, the notorious defender of the Luak bills; James P. Holland, president of the New York State Federation of Labor; George W. Berry, president of the International Printing Pressmen's Union, etc. Those who dared to oppose the Brady-Holland machine were threatened with violence. Brady himself was exonerated from the charge of defending some of the notorious Luak bills. In spite of the fact that the membership had approved the Labor Party in a referendum vote they have forced through a resolution repudiating it instructing the delegate to the Montreal convention of the American Federation of Labor to vote in favor of Gompers' policy to stay with two capitalist political parties.

It is hardly possible that such a coup would be successful in Chicago and this is because the Labor Party in New York has been mostly a state of mind rather than a movement. In Chicago the Labor Party has become a real thing to the workers while in New York it has remained in the nascent state of a possible political party. Yet when labor leaders dare to impose political policies on the large membership one wonders why the rank and file does not more often revolt against their leaders.

Gompers vs. Congress

SAMUEL GOMPERS has written an article in the current issue of the American Federationist, the official organ of the American Federation of Labor. This article was also printed in whole or in part in all the leading newspapers of the country. It contains a scathing arraignment of Congress. It is a sort of continuation of his recent statement on the "No, No Congress."

"The present Congress," Gompers says, "may be indicted fairly as a Congress of incompetence on the cost of living. It may be indicted as a Congress which has been negligent of duty and thoughtless of the welfare of the people." But his indictment is not only against the legislative division of the government. "The Government departments, as, for example, the Department of Justice," he continues, "may be indicted for incompetency on the same grounds. What has been more ludicrous in American public life during the last year than the announcement of the Department of Justice to the effect that it has abandoned its high cost of living campaign because of the high cost of the campaign?"

Legislation such as the Esch-Cummings railroad law and the Kansas Code of Industrial Relations, he adds, tends to aggravate "a situation already delicate to the point of collapse," while the Supreme Court, in deciding stock dividends not subject to income tax, "adds to the burden that is upon the shoulders of the people."

"While the legislative, administrative and judicial divisions of the Government have done nothing of any moment to check the rising cost of living, to relieve the people from the burden of exploitation and robbery," Gompers charges, "they have not even left the workers free to use their economic power to secure for themselves such relief as might be possible through the use of that power. The workers have one final weapon at their disposal—the right to strike. The working people have been disinclined to use this final argument. But Congress while neglecting to perform its own plain duty, while allowing profiteering, exploitation and commercial pravity to continue, has sought to place a curb upon the economic activities of the workers by restrictive and coercive measures, the object of which is to make the strike unlawful. Failing to protect the people, Congress would deprive the people of the means of protecting themselves."

Gompers accuses employers of "fighting a battle of stealth to weaken, if not destroy, the trade union movement." "Two coal miners, after two years of vain appeal," he says, "finally craved work. With what result?"

"After months of negotiations and conflict, an increase of approximately 40 cents per ton has been gained for the miners, whereupon notice is served that the consumer must pay an advance of \$2 per ton."

"Through the whole period since November 11, 1918, the American political and industrial bourgeois have laid a course of plunder, restriction and coercion. There has been an abandon and ruthlessness worthy of high seas piracy." While profiteers have reaped untold gains, makers of laws have gone about the business of writing into the statutes

measures for the suppression of trade union activity.

"Out of this repression and out of this ruthless exploitation and profiteering there has been bred among the working people a deep and stern resentment. No excuse will be accepted from the Congress of the United States for its failure to find proposals of a constructive nature to meet a situation that has long been of alarming proportions."

Gompers demands five measures of relief:

"First—Immediate adjustments of wages, both in private employment and in Government service, to at least meet the living costs that have outstripped frenzied profiteering and gambling."

This must be done without delay, Gompers adds, for although the cost of living has increased 9 per cent, the average union wage, has advanced but 55 per cent in the same period."

"Second—Immediate effective action must be taken to prevent continued increases in the cost of living. This requires action of a fundamental nature. It requires action by the Congress of the United States. Advice to 'eat the cheaper cuts of meat' must give way to a more intelligent comprehension of facts and a willingness to deal with them in an American fashion, constructively."

"Third—There must be an end to the enactment of the kind of legislation typified by the Esch-Cummings Railroad law and the Kansas Code of Industrial Relations law. There must be an end of legislative impression, restriction and coercion."

"Fourth—Not only must there be an end to the enactment of legislation of this character, but there must be a repeal of legislation already enacted. Freedom in America must not be destroyed by legislative incompetence, nor must it be destroyed by judicial decree through injunctions. The Constitution of the United States must have its full meaning restored."

"Fourth—The Congress of the United States will do well to give immediate and effective consideration to the proposal of the American labor movement that control of credit capital be taken from private financiers and placed in the hands of a public trust, to be administered upon principles voluntary and co-operative in character. This will strike a vital blow toward eliminating the abuses of profiteering and exploitation."

"Fifth—Congress should provide immediately for full publicity for income tax returns."

"The working people of the United States are speaking today in mandatory terms. They have reached a point where they will no longer endure or suffer injustice by legislative enactment and profiteering by private pirates. The service they have given entitles them to the right to be heard. They will be heard. Their demand comprehends the welfare of the people. It is a demand of the country."

"The labor movement, in its reconstruction program adopted in June, 1919, has laid before the country constructive proposals for relief with which Congress is familiar."

"The Congress of the United States cannot say that it has not laid before it suggestions for effective action by plans for real relief. It can say only that it would not listen and would not act. Against the Congress of the United States there rests an in-

slutment which an elect electorate will not overlook."

In order to achieve these ends, Gompers declares that "there must be an overturn in Congress." But how is this to be effected? And Gompers suggests the old remedy which has helped to bring about the present situation. "Enemies must be defeated. Friends must be elected." The Democrats and Republican parties are to Gompers the only parties which answer labor's demands. They have to be appealed to, threatened, coerced. The candidates must be made to promise and pledge to do things for the workers. And there is no question that they will pledge themselves as they have done in the past. But Gompers and his followers must have unbounded faith in human nature and the promises of politicians and the beneficence of the present order of things to fight to the last on the side of the politicians who are continually betraying them.

Lusk Bills Vetted

GOVERNOR SMITH vetoed all the six anti-education bills, affecting the Socialist party, which were passed at the last session of the Legislature. The veto included the Lusk bills relating to criminal anarchy and the loyalty of school teachers, as well as the measures directly aimed at the political life of the Socialist Party.

While the legislature was irresponsible to the voice of organized labor and the large number of enlightened citizens in the state, the Governor acted in accordance with their demand. It is unquestionably a sign that the wave of reaction is breaking when the Governor dared to veto the Lusk bills.

The six bills vetoed were: That designed to bar the Socialist ticket at elections.

That making obligatory a loyalty test for teachers in public schools.

That licensing, under supervision of the Board of Regents, all schools in the State. This was especially designed to suppress the Rand School of Social Science.

That creating a special bureau for the investigation of "criminal anarchy."

That changing the procedure under which legislators-elect take the State oath of office.

That designed to bar Socialists from holding public office.

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.

R. Lieberman,
Manager.

THE UNION
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
Local 35, I. L. G. W. U.

SALLO

WHITE LILY TEA
COLUMBIA TEA
ZWETCHNI CHAI
EXCLUSIVELY

PROFITS OF THE DRESS GOODS MANUFACTURERS

Enormous profiteering in women's dress goods was revealed by W. Jett Lauck, consulting economist of the railroad unions, in a survey submitted to the United States Railroad Labor Board.

"In the majority of dress goods of all kinds," said Lauck, "profits are absorbing approximately half the price paid by the consumer."

In support of the profiteering charges, Lauck submitted authoritative figures showing the divinely-known goods as unbleached cotton and profits in such cotton, printed percales, blue denim, wash satin, georgette crepe and fancy woolen suitings.

In the case of unbleached cotton, the basis of most cotton fabrics, the survey shows that between 1910 and 1919 the increase in the cost of mill labor was only one and one-ninth cents per yard, the increase in the cost of all labor plus mill expense, and the salaries only two cents a yard, while the retail price increased over 30 cents, or 10 times the increase of all labor costs.

The survey shows that by far largest element in the advance of retail price, from 81.3 to 29 cents a yard, was the increase in profit margins. These show an advance of 18 cents, approximately six times the increase in the cost of labor, salary, and mill expense.

The disparity between the increase in labor's share and that of the profiteer, it was pointed out in the report, is apparent in the fact that the labor item increased 115 per cent, while the mill profit rose 74 per cent. In other words, the mill profit in 1919 was more than eight times as large as 1910. Moreover, the total cost of producing this basic cotton cloth, which sold for 29 cents, was only 14 cents.

In the case of printed percale, Lauck's revealed the same unwarrented increase in price, due chiefly to profiteering. It was shown that whereas the increase in the share of the price received by labor amounted to only 14 cents per yard, and the increase in labor, salaries, and mill expense combined to less than 24 cents per yard, the retail price advanced in 1919, as compared with 1910, by 15 cents—12 times the increase in the labor cost and six times the increase in the combined cost of labor, salaries and the mill expense.

The increase in profit margins alone amounted to approximately five times the increase in the share taken by productive labor. Labor and mill expense together amounted to less than one-sixth the retail price, or only 4.1 cents per yard.

The exorbitant share of the price being taken today by the profiteer in the case of blue denim is another revelation in this comprehensive report. It is shown that the entire cost of producing these denims, which retailed in 1910 for 40 cents, was only 25 cents a yard. Approximately one-

half of the price paid by the consumer went to the profiteer.

In this instance the same disparity between the increase granted to labor and the increase in price is shown. The increase in the labor item was only one and one-ninth cents in labor and mill expense combined only one and one-half cents, as contrasted with an increase in the retail price of 31 cents per yard. The total profit margins for denims are shown to have increased by 16 3-5 cents, amounting to nearly 15 times the increase in labor. The mill owners' profits actually increased 600 per cent.

"With such instances before the public," said Lauck, "no one can continue to attribute the increase in prices to increase in wages. Profiteering comes back to the real profiteers, the manufacturer and the distributor."

A similar situation is exposed in the case of various standard silks, such as wash satin and georgette crepe. With respect to these fabrics the reports show that the cost of producing the goods is less than half what the consumer is forced to pay. Here again, as in cotton goods, the proportion of the price received by labor has actually decreased, while profits show a corresponding increase. It is shown that the mill cost of georgette and wash satin is slightly over a dollar and a half a yard, while retail prices vary from \$3.50 to \$5 a yard.

"In retailing their goods," said Lauck, "the department and dry goods stores usually add 60 per cent to the price at which they buy from the mill. On fancy silks, especially those which are greatly affected by the change in fashion, they add 100 per cent or more."

Turning to woolen goods, the report shows that the first step in the increased cost of suits and coats is due to rampant profiteering in the woolen industry. The profits on woollens increased more than 350 per cent, being more than four times as great in 1920 as in 1910.

"With such facts before us," said Lauck, "we are not surprised to find, in reports published in leading financial manuals, that the profits of eight large and representative textile manufacturing corporations were in the years from 1916 to 1919 five times as large as during the pre-war period."

LADIES TAILORS AND CLOAKMAKERS

The Ladies' Tailors' Union, Local 80, wishes to announce that the strike at Milgrim Bros. is in full force with the exception that no pickets are allowed on the order of a court decision. Every worker is requested not to ask for any job at the above firm.

"CAN'T STRIKE" LAWS IS ANNOUNCED SCHEME

Officers of the A. F. of L. are compiling some of the numberless "can't-strike" laws passed centuries ago.

Defenders of the Kansas "can't-strike" law refer to it as a new thing, and Governor Allen of that state is hailed as the modern Solomon, but in the light of history these claims are unworthy of consideration.

Nearly 600 years years ago English labor laws were identical with the present Kansas act. The English law empowered the "lord's court" to set wages and punish strikers. The Kansas act gives this power to a modern "lord's court" of three men, appointed by the governor.

Under the English law the lord had the first claim to the labor of his serf; those who declined to work for him were sent to jail.

Lords of the manor (land owners) who paid more than the customary wage were fined treble damages, and artificers (craftsmen) were subject to the same penalty. Any excess of wages above the customary rate could be seized for the king's use. The law not only regulated wages, but also food prices, and it was declared that "food must be sold at reasonable prices." Imprisonment was the penalty against any laborer who quit his employment before the agreed time, and alms to any able-bodied laborer were forbidden.

Every student of history knows the result of this legislation under King Edward in 1347.

MINERS' HOUSING

An uninviting picture of company mining towns is shown by Leifer Magnuson, in his report on this subject, published in the Monthly Labor Review of the United States bureau of labor statistics.

"The average company mining town," he says, "has few of the amenities of ordinary life. There is a dull uniformity in the appearance of the houses and an absence of trees and natural vegetation. Streets and alleys are open dirt roads almost without exception. Sidewalks are very rare."

"The miner's house is without the ordinary inside conveniences found in the house of the city worker. Less than 2 per cent of the homes in the bituminous coal regions have inside toilets, and running water is rare. Stoves and grates are depended upon for heating."

"The average house of the miner includes about four rooms, in which he must accommodate a family and frequently takes in boarders when there is a housing shortage."

"The desirability of locating the houses near to the mines has frequently been secured at the sacrifice of conditions of health and comfort; thus in the coking region the houses are found placed on neighboring hillsides which have been rendered barren by the gases of the bee hive ovens."

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

PROFITTEERING AND THE COST OF CLOTHING

Big advertisements supplemented by flaming headlines on the front pages of our newspapers bring us the glad tidings that the prices on clothing had dropped. Unusual bargains are promised. Cloaks for which one paid 100 dollars a week ago, can buy it now for 80, 70 or 60. The prices, so the papers say, are cut from 20 to 50 per cent.

This is said to be true not only in New York but in all the cities, towns and countryside in the United States. There is no more reason for wearing your old worn-out clothes when you can buy new and beautiful clothes at very low prices.

We are not certain if this is really true. There is plenty of reason for doubting what we read in the press. We are not even sure that the signs exhibited in the show windows, indicating the changed prices is nothing more than a legend designed to attract the naive bargain hunters. But in reality the prices are the same as they were several weeks ago.

But let us not doubt the veracity of our business men and take it for a fact that prices have really dropped from 20 to 50 per cent. The question then that naturally arises is, how can they do it?

This question becomes the more pertinent when one remembers that to the charge of profiteering our business men would invariably reply that this was only the vicious class propaganda of Bolsheviks, Reds, traitors, that the good humane business men, are only deriving a legitimate profit. The high prices, of course, were entirely due to the workers. The workers were responsible for the high cost of living, for underproduction and for all the evils. The 44-hour week, the high wages which a professor may envy, were said to be the sole reasons for the crisis.

But what brought about the change in the present situation? Why the sudden drop in prices? How can the business men afford to lose from 20 to 50 per cent. of their legitimate profits?

Then again, whence this supply of clothing? Only a short while ago there was the clamor of underproduction. In spite of the repeated charges that the workers were not producing enough, there was a large supply of clothing from which they are deriving huge profits even at the greatly reduced prices.

But it may be asked why the business men have now chosen to reduce their profits.

There are several replies to this question. One is that our business men have learned of the impending investigation by the government of the profiteers, and fright-

ened by the menacing raid of good patriots grew repentant.

This answer is hardly tenable. The Department of Justice with the great patriot, Palmer, at the head is engaged in clearing the country of the Red menace, and there is not the slightest reason for fear on the part of the business men. Then it must in all justice be admitted that profiteering was not limited to the clothing business. Why then were the prices on clothing cut, while the cost of sugar, flour and of all other food stuffs keep up their upward course. If the Department of Justice really plans a raid on the profiteers then the groceries will not be excluded from it. Why are the clothing men of all the profiteers more frightened?

There is another theory. The banks are said to have refused credits to the clothing men, at a hint from the government, thereby forcing to sell clothing at lower prices. This is hardly possible as the government will not make the clothing business men the goat of all the profiteers.

The third theory explains this sudden epidemic of cut prices more tenably. Among the factors that brought about this change is doubtless the weather. The cool spring spoiled the sale of spring clothing. Then there is the utter inability of the people to pay such inordinately high prices. They are wearing their old clothes and are unconsciously boycotting the clothing stores. They cannot, however, do the same thing with the groceries. They must eat every day. The butcher, the baker, etc., therefore in a position of greater independence while the clothing men must for the time being satisfy themselves with smaller profits.

But no matter what explanation one might offer, one thing is certain that our business men deserve utter condemnation as solely responsible for the high prices.

The manufacturers are greatly mistaken when they think that now they could cut the wages of the workers, laying the blame for the present crisis on their high wages. Investigators like J. Lauck, the expert economist for the railroad workers, have indisputably shown that the high cost of living is due to the huge profits made by manufacturers and their kin.

The workers, however, have a new proposal which goes a long way to solve the question of wages and profits. We mean

RESOLUTION NO. 332.

Among the 140 resolutions adopted at our convention is the following:

"Whereas the manufacturers in the cloak industry are setting prohibitive prices; and whereas this small group for profits on the part of the manufacturers is de-

trimental to the interest of the workers, therefore be it resolved that in all future agreements the officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union insist on inserting a paragraph giving the workers a voice in the administration of our industry."

This resolution is of utmost importance to the workers and the industry as a whole. The manufacturers claimed that the wages were too high and that the workers are not turning out enough work.

To this the workers can reply: We will not believe you until you let us see for ourselves. We want to investigate and if we discover that the progress of the industry is marred by our demand for higher wages, we will work for less. You clamor that we don't produce enough. Very well. Let us examine your books and convince ourselves whether the interests of trade really justify your statements.

It is a great plan against which the manufacturers should not protest if they really are after making "legitimate profits." The industry would greatly benefit by the joint control of the workers. They would then restrain themselves from demanding more wages, and shorter hours if the welfare of the industry would be threatened thereby. It would bring order and peace in the industry. If the manufacturers are really innocent of profiteering they should adopt this proposal. But will they? The near future will furnish us the reply to this question.

GOVERNOR SMITH AND THE LUSKS

The veto of the Lusk bills by Governor Smith is not so much the rescue of the Socialist Party from becoming an outlaw organization, as some New York newspaper headed an article, but the rescue of the State of New York from disgrace. Governor Smith has saved the largest state of America from becoming the prison house of the civilized world. Had the Lusk bills become law, New York State would have been the darkest spot to live in. Governor Smith therefore deserves the thanks not only from the Socialists but from every American who cherishes the ideals and principles of freedom. Had Governor Smith signed the bills there is no doubt but that New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, etc., would have followed suit. Governor Smith has courageously destroyed the germ which would have spread reaction all over the country. As soon as the American people will begin to think they will recognize in Governor Smith's action one of the most praiseworthy deeds.

We must add, however, that this does not usher in an era of democracy. The fact that the Lusks and Sweets railroaded through both houses of the Legislature bills reminiscent of the old days of Russia and Germany is not encouraging for democracy. The fact that there was one man who dared to veto those bills does not yet make the country safe for democracy. A Lusk or a Sweet may take his place and all the chances for democracy will disappear. There is only one guarantee for democracy and that is when the large masses of people will be ready to defend their freedom. All the laws and constitutions are of no avail unless they are in the hearts and minds of

the people. We saw during the last several years how readily some of the century-old traditions were swept aside. We learned how essential it is to teach and educate and spread among the large masses of people the principles and ideals of true freedom.

WILL THE FURRIERS BE FORCED TO STRIKE?

It is not yet known whether the Furriers will go out on strike. The manufacturers may still realize that the Furriers' Union demands nothing but what is just and fair. The Furriers' Union because of the slow season demands an equal distribution of work among all the workers in the shops.

The only reason for opposing this demand on the part of the manufacturers can only be found in their desire to destroy the Union. For the equal distribution of work will not in any way harm the interest of the manufacturers. However, the manufacturers will soon discover their mistake. The Furriers' Union is a branch of the labor movement in the United States and all the resources of the sister organizations will be utilized in helping this vigorous, class-conscious organization in its struggle.

There are rumors that the manufacturers are trying to force the Furriers' Union into a struggle. The manufacturers are understood to have the aid and sympathy of manufacturers of other trades. It looks as if our manufacturers are preparing for a struggle with the entire labor movement, with our International, our Amalgamated, our Capmakers' Union, etc. The Furriers' Union was selected as the first for the attack.

This is the great plan of the manufacturers. The workers are aware of this and are fully prepared to meet the emergency. The schemes of the manufacturers, however, are based on wild fantasies. They are dragging the tens of thousands of hungry hunks. Their attempt to break the unions is a futile and hopeless venture.

The struggle of the furriers is the struggle of the entire labor movement in New York. We can assure them that our movement will come to the aid of the furriers both morally and financially. Their struggle, their energy and perseverance with which they will conduct their strike will serve as an example for the entire labor movement. We repeat again that we are not certain whether they will go out on strike. The manufacturers may still realize their mistake in forcing the furriers into a struggle. But if they do go out on strike the entire labor movement will come to their support.

EUGENE VICTOR DEBS

At the present moment Eugene Victor Debs symbolizes the highest aspirations of the class-conscious workers. No one in the United States expresses so strikingly the protest against the reaction as does Debs. He is behind the bars of prison for his convictions. He is the eloquent spokesman of the persecuted, haunted, jailed, dumb masses. He is doubtless a formidable competitor in the coming presidential campaign. All liberty-loving will unquestionably choose Debs as their standard-bearer.

If a labor party should really

Impressions of the Chicago Convention

By S. YANOPSKY

In order to expedite the work of the convention the President of the International divided it among the various committees. The first committee to be appointed was to lay down rules according which the business of the convention was to be conducted. Every convention has, of course, its own rules and regulations. There are peculiar conditions which call for a new set of rules. Take for instance the question of how much time should be allotted to each delegate to talk on a given question. That would depend on the number of questions and delegates there are at a convention. If the number of questions and delegates is small, the time allotted to each speaker may be longer, if, however, the number is large, the time must be shorter. The same holds true with all the rules and regulations.

The second committee about which we spoke in our last article was the credential committee.

These two committees are in some respect more fortunate than the others. Their work is relatively easy and is completed before the convention actually begins its work. This is not the case with the other committees. Take, for instance, the resolution committee. Its work only ended with the close of the convention. Brothers Sigman and Heller, chairman and secretary of this committee, together with the other members were occupied long evenings while other delegates have enjoyed themselves.

Or take the committee dealing with the different constitutional questions. Vice President Ninfo, chairman of this committee, is not a lawyer. But when the President appointed him to a legal office, he has not wavered to fulfill his duty. Brother Aschpi, secretary of the committee must have been the only one who really enjoyed the work as he has an inclination for the legal subtleties. To the rest of the members of the committee it must have been only duty. And they have fulfilled their duty.

The only committee whose chairman and secretary were not on the staff of general office of the International was the officers' committee. The reason for it is simple enough. The object of this committee was to report on the work of the office of the International, and for this reason they must not be on the payroll of the general office. Feinberg and Langner, chairman and secretary of the committee, as well as the other members were free to criticize all the activities of the general office during the past two years.

The other committees without exception were headed by the Vice Presidents of the International. Because they may not be reelected, they were anxious to do their last job as well as possible, and they were straining all their energies toward this end. On the

other hand their desire to be reelected to the office of vice president stirs them to do their work effectively and thoroughly.

It is clear that the recommendation of a certain resolution by a committee may be rejected by the convention and the chairman of the committee may not only lose his prestige but he may not be reelected vice president. Sometimes a detail may spoil his chance for the important office.

A chairman of a certain committee read a brilliant report on some proposal. He read it badly, and the present writer asked the permission of the convention to explain more clearly the points of this proposal in which he was particularly interested. The writer naively imagined that he was coming to the rescue of the chairman. He meant to pay him a compliment for his excellent plan. The fact that he read poorly is no fault of his. Later the writer was rebuked for spoiling the chances of his reelection for vice president.

This chairman, however, was reelected vice president with a large majority. The convention was much wiser than many of the critics of the present writer. Still a seemingly unimportant thing may have a considerable effect on the outcome of a plan. For this reason, the committees are very careful and thorough in their deliberations. And although the convention is the final judge of the resolutions and plans, all obstacles, difficulties, differences are thrashed out in the committees before they are submitted to the convention.

But if the entire delegation were not familiar with the various plans and proposals which were previously discussed in the press and at the meetings, the committees would not have had such an easy job. One could readily say that most of the delegates were thoroughly familiar with the chief questions before the convention. One did not have to resort to his oratorical powers to evoke enthusiasm and a storm of applause when Debs' name was mentioned as the standard bearer for the workers in the forthcoming elections, or when Soviet Russia was mentioned. Neither was there any need to speak long to observe the reaction of the delegates when Palmer and Lusk and the hysteria of reaction which is sweeping this country were denounced. But what was also clear was the fact that our delegates were equally alert and enthusiastic on some of the most vital plans of the convention which mark a new era in the labor movement of this country.

I am referring to the question of the alliance of the needle trades unions in this country and its extension to a world federation. Then there is the far-reaching plan of opening cooperative cloak shops which will mark the first step toward the control of the industry by the workers.

These three questions were the chief questions discussed by our delegates. They were sincerely enthusiastic. Only the cooperation plan was opposed by a few individuals on the ground that it will not bring the social revolution and that it is not according to their

understanding, or rather misunderstanding, in harmony with the class struggle.

It would be impossible to speak here of all the adopted and rejected resolutions. One could write a book in examining every resolution and to bring out the spirit prevailing at the convention. I shall therefore try to classify the 140 resolutions in four classes, and give one or two resolutions from each class as an example.

The resolutions may be classified as follows: 1) For the well-being of the Union. Resolutions dealing with organization and jurisdiction questions, education and the press belong to this class. 2) General well-being. 3) The attitude of the convention toward political activity. 4) The attitude toward other labor organizations and the movement in general.

The resolutions belonging to the first class clearly show that the International, powerful as it is, has not persuaded itself that it has achieved the zenith of perfection. On the contrary, most of the resolutions on organization indicate that the field is yet untouched for a more vigorous organization campaign.

For this purpose it was decided to establish a special organization department.

And if you read the resolutions on reorganization carefully you will readily see that the true aim of the International is to form one big union which should do away with the various jurisdictional disputes. There are obstacles in the way of a speedy change, but there is no doubt that sooner or later this end will be achieved.

Let us note one of the most important debates in which Feinberg, Sorin, Cutler, Nisnawitch, Sigman, J. Heller and President Schlesinger participated.

The subject of the debate was the question of Locals 17 and 1. Feinberg has convincingly argued for the fusion of the two locals. There is no question but that the entire convention was in agreement with him. Still it was felt that this could not yet be realized. Local 17 is a vigorous and lively union now celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of its birth. It has won many victories and accomplished great things for the members. How then can it be obliterated! The various disputes, although unpleasant, are adjusted in the end. This was the underlying motive of the recommendation of President Schlesinger that no decision on this question should be rendered at the convention. This was also the motive of the spokesman of Local 17 who did not defend craft unionism but insisted that amalgamation cannot and should not be effected forcibly.

The same principle also applied to the other resolutions dealing with jurisdictional disputes. We are going to have one big union but not through an amuse, not through force, but through the natural, inevitable process of development.

Take the resolution of the 40-hour week and you will find the same progressive spirit bounded by extended practical knowledge.

There were several resolutions introduced on this point in order to avoid all possible misunderstandings.

The statement of the resolution committee on this question is as follows:

"The resolutions Nos. 17, 26, 51, 68 and 95 deal with the shorter workday. The spokesmen of these resolutions demand the introduction of the 40-hour working week distributed over five days. After thorough examination of this subject the committee finds that unemployment and the accompanying evils can be remedied by a vigorous campaign for the shorter working week.

"The clamor that this country suffers from underproduction is false. We are not at all aware that our factories are overcrowded with clothing. In fact there are many workers who are idle. The strength of the workers is spent in creating wealth, and they have a right to leisure and an opportunity for education.

"Your committee therefore recommends that the principle of the 40-hour week should be unanimously adopted and the incoming General Executive Board should be introduced to bring this into effect when conditions will warrant it."

Here you have the spirit of the International. There is not only idealism but practical knowledge. Our Organization is fully aware that there is a chasm between the glittering ideal and the actual facts. That is why it is careful to work out methods which will enable our Union to pass from a resolution to a reality.

Among the other resolutions belonging to the first class is education and the press. And although the educational work has not proved an overwhelming success, the convention has voted 15 thousand dollars for the further work of education among the members of the International.

OBJECT TO CHEAP LABOR

The Texas State Federation of Labor convention asked A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison to advise congress that Mexican laborers brought to this state ostensibly for the purpose of assisting farmers, are being recruited by various interests to displace American labor, and are being employed by the oil interests to displace white labor, also by the packing houses, and thousands have been shipped north, all for the purpose of displacing Americans.

"Organized labor in Texas," the resolution says, "is desirous of having the maximum assistance rendered the farmers of Texas, but we do protest against using the need of the farmer as an excuse to flood this country with cheap labor."

be formed it can do nothing better than nominate Eugene Victor Debs as its candidate for president. And if true representatives of labor will be present at A. F. of L. convention in Montreal who really mean "to punish the enemies of labor" they will elect by acclamation the great, self-sacrificing friend of labor, Eugene Victor Debs.

THE WEEKS' NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By I. LEWIN

At the Executive Board meeting of Thursday, May 20, 1920, it was decided to change the date for the report of our delegates to the convention of the I. L. G. W. U. from May 24, 1920, to the next general meeting which will be held on June 28, 1920. This report will be the special order of business for that evening. The Executive Board felt that the report of the delegates is of such vast importance to our members that sufficient time should be given, within which to advertise that meeting. We urge our members not to fail to be present at that meeting, for the report will surely call forth very interesting discussions.

The committee of Local No. 10 which was appointed to attend the hearing at Albany before Governor Smith on the Lusk-Pearson Anti-Educational and Anti-Socialist Bills, reported that the Governor, all through that hearing, was very friendly disposed towards the representatives of labor and liberal bodies, who came there in great numbers to oppose the bills. The committee also reported that the Governor vetoed all the above-mentioned bills, whereupon the Executive Board decided to send the following telegram of congratulation to Governor Smith: "The Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union, Local 10, of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, composed of 7,000 members, congratulate you on your vetoing of the Lusk-Pearson bills. Your action will be commended by all liberty-loving people the country over." (Signed)

SIDNEY ROTHENBERG, Pres.
ISRAEL LEWIN, Sec'y.

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

Emil Reichard, 7 E. 15th St., appeared. Mr. Reichard presented a credential from the Rand School of Social Science, in which he is authorized to seek donations for the above-named school. He explained the persecutions that the school is undergoing at present and stated that there is a fund going on for the sum of \$25,000, for which purpose they have issued books containing ten stamps at 10 cents each, and they request our Union to dispose of as many as it possibly can. Upon motion the Secretary was instructed to get 25 books and dispose of them among the members.

David Krammer, 78 Newport Ave., Bklyn., appeared. Brother Krammer is a member of the Suit Case & Bag Makers' Union, Local 3, and is about to be dismissed by his landlord, Brother Max Spivack of 78 Newport Ave., a member of Local 10. He further stated that the other tenants in the house, all of them workers, are being forced to pay excessive rents and upon refusal to do so will also be dismissed. He requests the Executive Board to call and Brother Spivack and try to bring about an amicable understanding. Upon motion the Executive Board instructed the secretary to get in touch with Brother Spivack and try to reach an agreement.

A communication was received from the Hungarian Workers' Relief, citing the unpeppable atrocities that are being committed against Hungarian Socialists and

workers by the Hungarian government, and asking our Union for a contribution to help the persecuted workers of Hungary. Upon motion the Executive Board recommended to the body to donate \$25.

Harry Rasmussen, 340 E. 141st St., Bronx, and Geo. Blakely, 264 W. 128th St., appeared. The above-named represent the New York & New England Railroad Men's Assn., of 513 St. Ann's Ave., which is the organization of the railroad vacationists, taking in switchmen, firemen, engineers and conductors. They presented a credential from the above organization in which they are authorized to seek contributions towards the aid of the railroad strikers. On motion the Secretary was instructed to draw a voucher for \$50, this being the constitutional sum for 2 weeks, and if the strike will last longer, additional assistance will be given them.

Morris S. Klein, No. 3696, appeared. Brother Klein is on strike from the house of I. Stein, 300 Alabama Ave. for the last five weeks. After being out on strike for two weeks he took sick and was laid up for two weeks, during which period he could not attend to shop meetings nor could he report to the Union. He now requests that strike benefit for the week ending May 15, 1920, be paid to him. Brother Klein presented a doctor's certificate to substantiate his assertions. On motion his request was granted.

Abe Patulsky, No. 7737, appeared. Patulsky was expelled from our Union on Jan. 6, 1920, for failure to resign as a member of our organization while being in business under the name of the Reasonable Mfg. Co. He now requests the Executive Board to grant him permission to reinstate himself. On motion Patulsky was permitted to join our Union upon payment of a \$100 reinstatement fee.

Louis Hamer, on reinstatement, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Sachs with working piece work in the shop of D'Angio Bros., 15 W. 18th St. A check for \$5 was collected. Mr. Hamer admits to the charge but states the following: In the latter part of January, 1920, he went to work for the above concern when that shop was non-union, and arranged with the firm that he was to work piece work but was to have a drawing account of \$65 per week, when at the end of April it got slow and on coming to collect his last week's pay the firm informed him that he has overdrawn his account, and that he owes money to the firm instead of the firm owing him anything. He then appeared at the office of the Union, told the full story to the Secretary, and asked that a collection of \$5 be made, which was done. On motion the Executive Board decided that the initiation fee of Mr. Hamer be raised \$25.

Philip Gluck, No. 6981, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Wilder with staying in the house of the Z & S Middy Co., 59 Hope St., Bklyn., up to 2 P. M. on Saturday, May 15, 1920. Brother Gluck admits that he stayed in on Saturday afternoon, but claims that he is the foreman of the shop and that the designer has quit the house and the firm offered him that position. He stayed in to make a few samples. He was instructed by the Execu-

Unemployment Loses Far in Lead of Strike Losses

Losses through strikes are relatively unimportant, as compared with the losses from unemployment of the regular, orthodox, undramatic type that doesn't get any newspaper advertising," said Dr. Royal Meeker, commissioner of the United States bureau of labor statistics, in a recent speech that is published in the current issue by the bureau.

"The cost of strikes is commonly displayed as losses of wages to the strikers, loss of profits to the employers, and loss of interest on capital invested. These estimates are necessarily crude and often misleading. It sometimes happens in a big strike that the curtailment of production results in such a sharp advance in the price of the product that the employer makes not a loss but a net gain. In such a case idle capital earns more for the owners than busy capital.

"It would be more accurate to calculate the material losses of a strike in terms of product unproduced and then allocate the losses between the several parties at interest, taking account of changes in prices and wage rates in the industry.

"Strikes and lockouts have contributed their thousands to the ranks of the out-of-work workers, but irregularities and failure in supplies of raw materials, transportation and demand for commodities produced, and lack of proper organization in industry, have contributed their millions.

"No statistical statement is possible, for no accurate information exists as to the time lost by reason of strikes, to say nothing of our almost 100 per cent of ignorance of the time lost due to other causes. We do know, in a general way, that unemployment has existed during prosperous conditions of industry to an appalling degree.

"For years the states of Massachusetts and New York published figures showing percentage of unemployment among trade union members in those states. In Massachusetts the unemployment

percentage among unionists rises to 17.9 per cent in 1914, while the minimum at any time since 1906 was 3 per cent in 1918. The unemployment percentage is even greater in New York state. The percentage of unemployment among non-union workers is always higher than among union members. This was especially true of the United States before the war, when it was the deliberate policy of the largest employers of labor, especially unskilled or semi-skilled labor, to keep on tap as it were, a large reserve force of labor upon which to draw in case of strike or any emergency requiring additional men.

"No definite statistical information exists, but from a study of strikes as have come to my attention, I am convinced that strikes today, as always, are insignificant in causing stoppage of work in comparison with unemployment due to dearth of raw materials, lack of orders for output, insufficient transportation, lack of a properly balanced organization, lack of an intelligent employment policy for handling men, failure to gain and keep the good will of employees, failure to make use of the tremendous latent creative force lying dormant in the workers.

"The cost of this most costly and destructive of all industrial hazards, unemployment, is appalling. Its money cost, reckoned in terms of product unproduced, services unperformed and capital goods lost or deteriorated in value I estimate, or guess, would amount to more than half of the value of the yearly product of all our industries. This means that we are operating out industries on a 66 2-3 per cent efficiency basis and are losing, by not producing something like \$35,000,000,000 a year, just because we have not yet recognized that ignorance, however blamable, is mighty expensive."

Commissioner Meeker's statement on strikes and their losses, as compared with the greater losses through unemployment, is similar to a recent statement by Dr. Hugh S. Gunning, surgeon general United States public health service, who showed that strike losses were trifling as compared with the staggering losses to this country through preventable diseases.

The medical man stated that the average mortality from typhoid fever is 13,000 a year and that one death corresponds to from 400 to 500 sick days. In 1918 there were 750,000 deaths from tuberculosis, with each death representing 500 sick days. There are 7,000,000 cases of malaria fever annually, with a loss of several days in each case. In 1918 there were 290,000 deaths from pneumonia, with each death representing 125 sick days.

WILL THE POSTAL WORKERS GET A WAGE INCREASE?

After nearly fourteen months of delay, the joint committee of Congress on revision of salaries in the postal service is getting ready to report. It "hopes" to get action before the November election, or at the latest by the end of the present Congress, on March 4, 1921.

Its tortoise speed has been hurried, in recent weeks, by drastic treatment—the "one-man strike"—applied by the employees. This treatment consists in resignations from the service, leaving more work to be done—or left undone—by inexperienced and overworked employees. As the burden has rolled up, the service has broken down in many localities, and from those localities the protests to Congress have been dynamic.

Twenty-five thousand dollars was appropriated for the study of the postal salary situation by this joint committee, made up of members of the Senate and House committees on post offices and post roads. The members are Senators Sterling, Moses, Phipps, McKellar and Gay, and Representatives Stearns, Madden, Moon, Bell and House.

Here are some of the facts they were able to discover:

"That for several months there has been danger of a concerted postal strike in New York, Chicago and other large cities, but that the older men have been able, by desperate persuasion, to keep the more impetuous and younger ones down to the policy of individual resignations, in the hope

of an early increase of salaries.

"That a mail carrier more than twenty-five years faithfully, and in charge of 500 men, may get \$38 a week, and be compelled to work two to four hours overtime each day to make up a living wage for his family.

"That there has been no increase in the basic wage of \$1,200 a year in the past twenty years, and that the \$450 bonus now paid must be fought for in Congress every year.

"That in big offices such as New York, veteran employees are paid for overtime at the rate of 41 cents to 57 cents an hour, while they are required to train colored girls who are paid 60 cents an hour for the same work, as long as the girls remain temporary employees. At the end of 60 days the temporary workers must take permanent work, beginning at 41 cents an hour, or quit.

"That the retirement bill, now about to become law, will give relief to some thousands of superannuated clerks, but it will lay a tax of 2% per cent upon the starvation salaries of the great body of the employees who are not yet sixty-five years of age."

Majority Leader Mondell, in the house, has threatened that no bill not already on the calendar, of both branches of this congress can be passed before the summer recess. Officials of the Federation of Postal Employees point to the fact that he made a similar prediction regarding the retirement bill—that it could not get through.

THE STAGE

By Frances Robbins

ED. WYNN'S CARNIVAL

Hilariously, almost hysterically funny is Ed. Wynn's Carnival, at the New Amsterdam. Even without Ed. Wynn, the revue would be distinctly worth while, but with him, it rises from the ranks of the successful "girl and music" show and becomes an unqualified hit.

Good music, pretty girls in pretty costumes, skilful stage settings, What more could any tired business man demand for an evening's entertainment—Add several clever dancers, acrobats, musicians, and the revue becomes still more enjoyable. Then to almost every scene, stir in a little of Ed. Wynn and his absurd nonsense, and you have a combination that explains the delight and enthusiasm of the audiences who have already visited the "Carnival."

Most of Ed's nonsense is absurd, but it is humorous, the sort of humor that leaves the average man weak with laughter and filled with a desire to slap his right-hand neighbor on the back as he choruses with glee. It's the sort of clean, wholesome merriment that appeals equally to the risibilities of a college professor or a college freshman.

Like most revues, the numbers are loosely strung together, with Ed. Wynn either very much in the foreground or somewhere in the offing. There are seventeen numbers all told, and not a single dull one amongst them. Indeed, most of them are more than usually diverting.

There is a plot, somewhere. Ed, himself, says there is. But it loses itself every so often, only to emerge triumphantly upon the scene at the dictates of the man who is extremely anxious that you should know that he wrote the songs, lyrics and book.

The hero and heroine are Marion Davis and Earl Benham, who sing and dance effectively. Lil-

lian Durkin has a pleasant voice. The Meykows, a Japanese trio, are versatile young entertainers, although Ed. Wynn says their talent is entirely due to his training.

In the Carnival scene are a sippy Jazz Band, an eccentric tancer, two unusual acrobats and "himself" as a Lightning Calculator. Of his skill with figures we are extremely doubtful, but he does seem to enjoy his own silly stunt as much as the audience.

Particularly beautiful and graceful is Even Burrows Fontaine in a spectacular Egyptian dance.

Lillian Fitzgerald and Ed. Wynn are featured in one number as "Lea and Perrin." Miss Fitzgerald does some splendid imitations but it is Ed. Wynn who for no good reason introduces her, makes himself foolish in the background and then demands most of the applause.

You'll enjoy every bit of Ed. Wynn, from his absurd little hat down to his ridiculous shoes.

Rachel Crothers' comedy, "39 East," opened Monday, May 24, at the Shubert Theatre for a limited return engagement.

"Not So Long Ago," has just completed its first month at the Booth Theatre.

William Collier in "The Hot-tent" continues to attract delighted audiences at the Geo. M. Cohan Theatre.

NEIGHBORHOOD'S LAST BILL

The "Magic Shop," given by the Festival Dancers and "The Fair," by the Neighborhood Players is the season's last bill at the Neighborhood Playhouse. This program will be given for four successive week-ends, Saturday and Sunday evenings, May 22, 23, 29, 30, June 5, 6, 12 and 13.

THIRD

SUMMER SEASON

of

RAND SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

July 5 to July 31, 1920

PROGRAM OF COURSES

FIRST TERM July 5 to 16, 1920

- Interpretation of Social Facts Scott Nearing
Control of Public Opinion Scott Nearing
Fundamentals of Socialism Algonon Lee
Elements of Economics: Descriptive Algonon Lee
Social Aspects of the Modern Drama Joseph Jablonow
War and Peace in Literature from Tolstoy to the Present Time Gregory Zilbourg
Evolution of the State Benjamin Glassberg
Music in Relation to Life Herman Epstein
Revolutionary Epochs Benjamin Glassberg
Theory of Physical Education, With Demonstrations Lucy Retting
Suggestions on Public Speaking David P. Berenberg
Development of Capitalist Industry from the Industrial Revolution to the Present Time David P. Berenberg

SECOND TERM July 19 to 31, 1920

- Fundamentals of Socialism David P. Berenberg
Economic Foundation of Ethical Standards, Norman Thomas
Social Forces in Literature Harry Dana
Epochs of Civilization Harry Dana
Evolution of the State Benjamin Glassberg
Suggestions on Public Speaking David P. Berenberg
American Government and Politics Benjamin Glassberg
Music Herman Epstein
Theory of Physical Education Lucy Retting
Appreciation of Literature Joseph Jablonow
Modern Currents in Poetry Clement Wood
Current Tendencies in the American Labor Movement Leland Olds

Those interested should communicate with
BERTHA H. MALLY, 7 East 15th Street, New York City.

CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

- GLOAK & SUIT Monday, June 7th.
WAIST & DRESS Monday, June 14th.
MISCELLANEOUS: Monday, June 21st.
GENERAL: Monday, June 28th.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Report of delegates to the Convention of the L. G. W. U.

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

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THE GENERAL STRIKE OF THE FUR WORKERS IN NEW YORK

(Continued from page 1)

work in preference to outside contractors and out of town shops."

The letter sent to the Association. Manufacturers reads in part:

"Some time ago we called the attention of your organization to a serious condition that was beginning to develop in the fur industry, namely, the problem of unemployment."

"Several conferences with your organization were held seeking a solution for this state of unprecedented unemployment. We were hopeful of gaining your earnest co-operation in furthering the interests of the industry, its workers and the continuance of our collective agreement in the same spirit in which our organization had co-operated during the abnormal period during the war."

"Under this agreement our organization has endeavored to abide by the spirit as well as the letter and we, of course, expected you to do likewise."

"When workers were scarce and the industry required greater production we extended the period of overtime work to your members despite the fact that this action was contrary to the terms of the agreement."

"We emphasize the fact that we did this to enable your members to fill their orders on time and to meet the needs of the public. We recognized this as a problem of the industry and met it with the spirit we believed should be shown by you."

"We permitted your members to engage new help without union cards despite the provision of our agreement, which specifically states that no member of the association be permitted to engage a worker without a good standing union card."

"Again we recognized this as a problem of the industry and acquiesced in this action because we believed in good faith, we were bound to do so regardless of the fact that the letter of the agreement did not obligate us to take in these workers."

"In several other instances we gave your organization the same consideration despite the terms of the agreement."

"At the conference held with your organization pertaining to the unemployment problem, which threatens the very life of our union, we expected the same good faith and spirit from you as was displayed by us when you had problems to solve."

"Your conference committee members admitted that this is a serious problem, but to our regret the conferences came to no conclusion so far as a solution was concerned. Our union advanced several propositions, but none were acceptable to your committee. Instead your members aggravated the problem by laying off workers in large numbers every week until the numbers of those unemployed virtually amounted to a lockout."

"The letter concludes with the following reference to the recent referendum:

"By this action of our membership we are duly bound in self-preservation to insist upon the proposals aforesaid and to use every means at our disposal to enforce them."

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