

"My station—  
none I hold  
fast, and will  
not let it go."  
— Job. 8:4,7

# JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

VOL. II. No. 23. New York, Friday, June 4, 1920. Price: 2 Cents

## Huge Profits Exposed in Garment Trades

President Benjamin Schlesinger issued a statement following the indictment of the American Woolen Company for profiteering by a Federal Grand Jury, calling attention to the small proportion of labor costs in the high prices of clothing and predicting that unless these costs come down and security of employment is assured the workers will be compelled to ask for either shorter working hours or for an increase in wages.

Schlesinger's statement exposes that much advertised lie that the workers in the garment trades are responsible for the high cost of garments. The legend that the manufacturers were so assiduously spreading that the "high wages" of the workers is continually forcing the prices up is exploded by the revelations made by Government investigators which lead to the indictment of the American Woolen Company. Government investigators are now supporting the truth of the Union's contention that the prevailing high prices of garments are wholly due to profiteering.

President Schlesinger's statement follows:

"The disclosure made by government investigators, which brought about the indictment of the American Woolen Company, the largest manufacturer of woolen cloth in the United States, will convince the public of the truth of our contention that the prevailing high prices of women's garments are wholly due to the profiteering, greed and avarice of the cloth manufacturers, jobbers, retailers and other middle men who stand between the raw materials and the consumer.

"The amount of profit being realized by the woolen manufacturers in 1920 are on an average from 300 to 400 per cent, greater than those of 1919. The public will be interested to know that, for instance, on an article known as tricotine for women's wear the profits of 1919 were 49 cents, while for the same goods in the 1920 the profits were \$1.60; that in the case of unbleached cotton the mill profits rose to 745 per cent—more than eight times as large as in 1919. A similar situation exists in the case of various grades of silks, wash satins and georgette crepe. The cost of producing these goods is less than one-half of what the consumer is forced to pay and about one-third of what the purchaser in the department and dry goods stores is being charged.

"After the cloth manufacturer has reaped his harvest and before the material which is to be made up into a garment reaches the manufacturers, on its way from the mill to the cutting table, it passes, in many cases, through the hands of five or six jobbers, and

each of these jobbers and middlemen who sell and resell these goods pile up handsome profits for themselves.

"The labor cost of a garment is today about 20 per cent of the price taken from the consumer, while 10 years ago the price, according to authoritative investigation, amounted to about 22 per cent. So it can readily be seen that the buyer of a garment is paying proportionately to those who labor on garments less than in 1910.

"How does this situation affect the 150,000 men and women engaged in the making of women's wear—members of our organization?

"Ladies' garments are so high-priced that a large proportion of the population cannot afford to buy new clothes. This means less employment for our workers. In fact, our workers suffer through this situation in a double way:

They have less work and in addition have to face the terrible high cost of living.

"One thing is certain: the 150,000 organized workers in the ladies' garment industry of the country and the hundreds of thousands that depend on them for their existence must sustain themselves from their work in the industry; and if the working season in the industry, short as they are, will become still shorter, we will be compelled, in order to eliminate the ravages of unemployment and starvation, to ask for either shorter working hours or for an increase in wages. The workers will not and cannot permit themselves to be crushed between the upper and lower millstones of the woolen magnates, the manufacturers and profiteering retailers; and an enlightened public, which is acquainted with the real facts, will sustain them!"

## TRACHTENBERG WITH THE INTERNATIONAL

Alexander Trachtenberg, known in the Socialist and labor movement as one who applied his expert knowledge of economic problems for the use of workers, is now the Director of the Research and Record Department of the International.

Comrade Trachtenberg is largely known for his excellent Labor Year Books which are a mine of information on the labor movement in all its ramifications. The Labor Year Book for 1920 which appeared a short time ago is the third volume in the series.

But outside of his books and articles he is known to our members through his statistical work for the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union which served as a basis in the wage controversy last Winter between the Union and the cloak manufacturers and upon which Governor Smith's Board awarded the wage increase for all the cloakmakers in New York.

Trachtenberg is to take over the direction of the union's record department, hitherto conducted by N. M. Minkow, who has resigned in order to go into other work. He will not only continue the system of membership records, but will also establish a bureau to provide for scientific research into costs of production, market prices, workers' earnings and living costs and other important facts for the ladies' garment industry,

and keep accurate and up-to-date information on all these subjects ready for instant reference by the officers of the Union.

Those who are familiar with the work of Alexander Trachtenberg as director of the Research Department of the Rand School, editor of the American Labor Year Book, teacher and lecturer will congratulate the International upon securing the services of such a man.

## NUMEROUS FIRMS GRANT DEMANDS OF FUR WORKERS

The general strike of the fur workers in New York is but a week old but many manufacturers have already realized that the workers will emerge victorious in the struggle. As a result many fur workers returned triumphantly to their jobs under the newly won conditions, which are:

The reinstatement of all workers who were laid off since May 7; the enforcement of equal division of work until December 1st; that no reduction of wages shall be permitted during the lifetime of the new agreement; that no shop shall operate more than 40 hours a week in order to regulate the general conditions in the trade; and that inside shops shall be given preference to outside contractors and out-of-town shops.

Picketing around the shops began last Tuesday. Each shop has a permanent picketing committee and each of the strikers has been assigned to a definite period in the day to go on the line. But the pickets have thus far had an easy task. Morris Kaufman, manager of the Union said, "since there isn't a shop operating with the exception of those which have made settlements with the union."

The strike is receiving the full support of all the labor organizations in this city. President Schlesinger and General Secretary Baroff have pledged themselves to do their utmost to help the furriers win their strike.

## MANUFACTURERS CONDUCT "ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN"

There are all the signs pointing to a genuine "organization campaign" undertaken by the Manufacturers' Protective Association. This Association, it must be remembered, was long considered as exclusive, respectable and highly aristocratic. Only the richest firms in the cloak trade were admitted as members.

It is different now—so it is rumored. This Association opened its doors wide to any exploiter of labor in the cloak trade. In fact, any piker manufacturer, it is whispered, is received with open arms by that most exclusive Association.

What may this signify? Why defile a perfectly aristocratic association by admitting petty, piker manufacturers? Does this really mean the end of aristocracy, dignity and refinement?

Those who know the situation say that the Manufacturers' Protective Association was forced to take this lamentable step as a result of "certain conditions." And the "organization campaign" was undertaken with some very definite views. Some term this campaign "preparation tactics," etc. In short, the air is full of rumors that the manufacturers are scheming and planning and preparing—for what?

It is perhaps unwarranted to answer this question at this time. It appears, however, that the Union is fully aware of the activities of the Protective Association. And as Morris Sigman, Manager of the Joint Board, said, the Union is fully prepared to meet any emergency staged by the manufacturers.

# TOPICS OF THE WEEK

## The Impinch-Palmer Movement

THE Socialist and labor movement has long known of the outrages committed by Palmer and his Department of Justice. A short time ago the Central Federated Union of New York has passed a resolution endorsing Palmer's impeachment. The Socialist party, the labor unions all over the country, and the liberal press have condemned Palmer at frequent intervals. But none of these charges seemed to have such startling effect as did the expose which was issued last week by twelve of the most prominent lawyers in the form of an appeal to the American people. This is the opening step in a campaign for a public airing of Palmer's conduct.

The group of lawyers who signed the expose, which was issued under the heading: "Report Upon the Illegal Practices of the United States Department of Justice," comprises the following: Professor, Z. Chafee, Felix Frankfurter, Ernst Freund, Roscoe Pound, Tyrrell Williams; Francis F. Kane, former, United States District Attorney, Frank P. Walsh and others.

Among the charges in the report are: "Maintenance by the Department of agents provocateur throughout the country for the purpose of joining and becoming officers of radical organizations and inciting their members to criminal activities; wholesale arrests and imprisonment of men and women without warrants, or pretense of warrants, and illegal searches and seizures in violation of the Constitution.

"Forgery by agents of the Department to make cases against innocent persons caught in illegal raids; criminal thefts of money, watches, jewelry and other personal property from victims of raids by agents of the department; cruel and unusual punishments visited upon prisoners taken into custody with and without warrants, in violation of the Constitution; the use of Government funds in violation of law to spread newspaper propaganda favorable to campaign of repression, and to purchase 'boiler plate,' distributed free to country newspapers to create popular opinion favorable to acts of the department; compulsion of prisoners to be witnesses against themselves in violation of the Constitution; brutal and inhuman treatment of prisoners taken in raids; filthy conditions of confinement, and refusal to let prisoners communicate with friends or lawyers."

Here is an illustrative case of how prisoners were treated by the Department of Justice:

"In the (Hartford) jail were four punishment rooms, all alike, unventilated and utterly dark, size 4-feet 3 inches by 8 feet 10 inches, with solid concrete floor, no furniture of any kind, and placed over the pump room of the boiler, so that the temperature became unbearably high. A number of supposed Anarchist or Communist prisoners, probably ten to fifteen, were confined in these rooms for periods of thirty-six or sixty hours. During their imprisonment in the suffocating heat, without air, they were given one glass of water and one slice of bread every twelve hours. Some of them on being released had to be revived before they could be

carried to their cells. One man who was in only thirty-six hours was able to get to his cell unaided."

This report bearing the signatures of 12 prominent lawyers and issued by the National Popular Government League presents numerous specific instances of violations with unassailable evidence and affidavits. The answer to the array of illegalities is left to the verdict of the "conscience and condemnation of the American people."

## Debs Receives Nomination for Presidency in Prison

ONE of the most singular events in political history has taken place last Saturday, May 29, when a committee of the Socialist Party entered the Atlanta Federal penitentiary and formally notified Eugene V. Debs that he had again been nominated for the Presidency of the United States. The fact that the standard bearer of the Socialist Party received his nomination behind the bars is a significant comment on the political and economic situation of this country.

In accepting the nomination Debs delivered, an informal address, permissible under the prison rules, which breathed a revolutionary spirit into the platform adopted at the recent convention of the Socialist Party. As it stands the platform does not receive the unqualified approval of Debs. Among other things he said:

"I believe that it could have been made more effective if it had stressed the class struggle more prominently and if more emphasis had been laid on industrial organization. I do not believe in capricious criticism, but I want to be frank with you and state my position. I must do this if I am to prove worthy of the high confidence reposed in me."

"I have always been a radical, never more so than now. I have never feared becoming too radical. I do fear becoming too conservative. We must guard against any policy or attitude of fear to state our position clearly."

"Socialist platforms are not made to catch votes. Our purpose should be to state the principles of the party clearly to the people. There is a tendency in the party to become a party of politicians instead of a party of the workers. That policy must be checked, not encouraged."

"We are in politics not to get votes but to develop power to emancipate the working class. I would not do or say anything to catch a vote for the sake of that vote. Our duty is to tell exactly what we seek to accomplish, so that those who come to us do so with no misunderstanding."

Debs also expressed his "regret that the convention did not see its way clear to affiliate with the 3rd Internationale without qualification."

The Socialist platform as interpreted by the standard bearer assumes new meaning. As he said, "We can breathe the breath of revolution into any platform."

## Kate Richards O'Hare Released

WITH the release of Kate Richards O'Hare from prison there begins perhaps a new era in the treatment of political prisoners. It shows that the

pressure of the growing amnesty movement is having its effect even on the obstinate and immovable President.

Kate Richards O'Hare was sentenced on April 14, 1919, to five years in the Federal Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo., for violation of the Espionage Act in a speech she delivered at Bowen, North Dakota, on July 17, 1917. She was indicted and in December was brought to trial in Birmingham, N. D., on a charge of having made remarks tending to "encourage disobedience to military registration."

The facts concerning her trial, never clear, were seen to be extraordinarily vague. An investigation was begun by George Rosser, a Socialist lawyer, and he brought back with him affidavits conclusively showing that the case against Kate O'Hare was a frame-up.

Kate O'Hare was a former international secretary of the American Socialist Party. When the Emergency Anti-War convention of the Socialist Party gathered at St. Louis in April, 1917, she received the highest vote for the place of honor on the committee on war and militarism. After the convention she continued her work as a speaker and writer in the Socialist movement until her arrest and conviction a little over a year ago.

The terms upon which she has been released are yet unknown. She has not yet been officially informed whether she has been fully pardoned, or whether her sentence has merely been commuted by the President to provide for her release without restoring to her full citizenship rights. It may be that the policy of the administration at Washington is to release prominent political prisoners leaving the stigma of prison service attached to their names. This would indeed mean answering the demand for amnesty in a true Palmer spirit.

It is hardly possible that the Wilson administration should proclaim general amnesty. That would mean that there is peace, and the President wants to impress upon the Senate that there will be no peace before it ratifies his peace. What is considered likely is that each case "will be considered separately on its own merits," as Secretary Tumulty declared.

## Russia, War and Peace

ALL signs point to a speedy peace with Russia. The Polish advance into Russia is meeting with the fate of the Koltchak, Denikin and Yudenitch advances. The Polish war on Russia which has been so liberally helped by the Allies with officers, munitions and credits, is collapsing. That this is the case can be seen from the fact that Krasavin, Soviet Commissary of trade and commerce, is now in London negotiating with Lloyd George who will be soon joined by Millerand of France and Nitti of Italy. Had there been the slightest chance for success of the Polish war on Russia, the conference with a Soviet representative would have been postponed. The negotiations with Russia which began this week are, of course, opposed by France and the uncompromising jingoes in England. Yet these bitter enemies were given every chance to defeat Soviet Russia. They failed. What they offer now, however, is the hope that Soviet Russia will collapse as a result of its

own unsoundness. The other statesmen are not inclined to be misled by them any longer. They cannot afford to be misled. Europe is approaching a graver crisis still. Europe needs the raw material of Russia, and if they failed to secure the material and wealth of Russia through war, they will have to try peace.

The Allies have left out one factor in their calculations of the war on Russia. It was the spirit of Russia. Their military geniuses have doubtless surveyed the Russian situation. They must have been impressed by the hopeless transportation situation, by the shortage of all the necessary materials, by the under-production, starvation and immense suffering, and they, logically, scientifically, must have drawn the inevitable conclusion that Russia cannot endure a war, that Russia must succumb. But these experts ignored the spirit of Russia which is overcoming these colossal obstacles that the Allies are putting in its way.

Another factor which hastened England to undertake negotiations with Soviet Russia is the unrest that is spreading over Asia Minor and India. Soviet propaganda is penetrating in Asia and is imbuing the oppressed masses there with a spirit which will lead to the overthrow of British rule. Once the British rule is ended in India, the empire of Great Britain will collapse like a house of cards.

There is no unity among the Allies in their relation with Russia. France suspects England in trying to monopolize the Russian market and secure special concessions. But France is helpless economically and financially. It can offer no manufactured products to Russia. It cannot therefore trade with her. America is busy with the campaign, and there is no earthly chance for America to do anything sensible now with Russia. England, therefore, seems to be the only country which will enter into trade relations with Russia.

## INDUSTRIES GAIN RAPIDLY IN SOVIET RUSSIA

The Supreme Council of National Economy in Moscow, Russia has taken steps to reorganize in a single enterprise all factories which produce oxygen and acetylene. The purpose of the reorganization is to increase production. The potash production of the government of Saratoff has been 70,000 poods (a pood is 36 pounds) during the first months of this year as compared with 28,000 poods for the whole year of 1919.

In the government of Saratoff strenuous work has been done to increase the area of cultivated land. After the war broke out, the amount of land under cultivation decreased yearly by about 100,000 hectares. Thanks to energetic measures the level of 1915 has now been reached.

Over 400 new repair shops for farm implements have been established.

During the "work month" coal production in the district of Tjeljabinsk came up to 1,300,000 poods as compared with 900,000 poods estimated in advance.

During April the production was about 108,000 poods per day as compared to 65,000 poods per day in March. All old mines have been opened and new mines put under work.

# The Gompers - Allen Debate

By NATHAN SHAVIRO

In a sense one may term the steel strike or the railroad strike or the furriers' strike debates between labor and capitalist. What distinguishes the Gompers-Allen debate from the daily clashes is that instead of the large masses fighting they sit back in their chairs, this time in Carnegie Hall, and watch their representative tackle the representative of the enemy's camp. Another distinguishing mark is that no tangible outcome, as an increase in wages or shortening of hours, is expected of this debate, but, what is equally important, it was expected that it would bring a greater clarification of the general principles and methods of the every day struggles. Or more clearly, it would remove the haze and confusion which characterizes the relations between labor and capital in this country.

The arrangements for the debate were similar to those of any strike. There were two committees, one consisting of labor representatives, the other of employers, bankers and their representatives. This division ran through the large audience in Carnegie Hall, and out of the hall. The audience was divided into two contending factions, with Gompers and Allen as their spokesmen and champions.

But the debate was not as real and candid as the steel strike or miners' strike or any other strike. During the four hours of the debate there were only a few moments where Gompers and Allen were hovering about the real subject at issue, but they soon bounced back and moved about amidst courteous, pious, respectable ambiguities which generally goes under the name of Americanism.

Governor Allen, who has become famous for establishing a Court of Industrial Relations, in making strikes a crime punishable with imprisonment, stated his side, as he had stated it before the various State Legislatures, chamber of commerce, leagues and employers' associations, as a new gospel of industrial peace but which is actually a program of ruthless capitalist dictatorship. He gave a detailed account of the Kansas experiment.\* Strikes, the Governor said, are costly. He did not, of course, mention the far greater cost of unemployment, preventable industrial diseases and accidents, the waste and sabotage of the ruling class. But the chief stronghold of the Governor was the public. He did not come, he said, as a representative of capital or labor, but of the public. And the Kansas law, prohibiting strikes, rescued the public from the private war between "1½ per cent of capital and 3½ per cent of labor." And he wound up by propounding the following question which was the central point of the debate:

"When a dispute between capital and labor brings on a strike affecting the production or distribution of the necessities of life, thus threatening the public peace and impairing the public health, has the public any rights in such a controversy, or is it a private war between capital and labor?"

Gompers spoke three times during the evening. He refused point blank to answer this question. When he was pressed to answer it, he termed it a "catch" question. He told an allegory and an anecdote, then promised that he will answer it if he will "live long enough." There was a chance to clear up on the matter of what part the "public" really plays in industrial controversies. Gompers and the rest of us well remember who constituted the public group in the short-lived Industrial Parliament of last September called by President Wilson. To Wilson Judge Gary, Rockefeller, Bernard Baruch were typical representatives of the public. Governor Allen has no other "public" in mind. When General Wood invited Governor Allen to place his name before the Republican National Convention for President, it was a tribute of Wall Street to the Governor's understanding of the public. There was an opportunity for Gompers to rend the screen of unctuous and mean hypocrisy that is hidden under this term. But Gompers refused to approach this question as if it would reveal the

hopelessness of his position, as if he felt he would have to admit that there is a class struggle.

Gompers branded the Kansas law as a slave law. He vigorously defended the right to strike. He frankly stated the strike as a weapon will never be abandoned by the workers. Why was Gompers defending the strike so uncompromisingly? Is it because the workers would thereby abandon the class struggle? Is it because the workers would thereby make peace with the present social order and give up their struggle for the cooperative commonwealth? No, at all. He did not even make clear the point that the justice and fairness of the ruling class cannot be depended on. The reasons Gompers offered sounded almost metaphysical. The right to strike is sacred, according to Gompers, because the workers must not be robbed of their personal liberty, personal freedom, constitutional rights. In listening to his arguments one was carried back to the eighteenth century when the French middle classes fought for liberty, fraternity, equality. This feeling was

strengthened by his advocacy of the strike as a political weapon. He warmly defended the German revolution against Kapp, and the American revolution against England. He quoted Lincoln and Jefferson and the revolutionary fathers. His ideal government is that easy-going, non-interfering, apathetic thing which passed with the coming of capitalist production. He defended the right of workers to organize yet he spoke of the workers not as a class, but as individuals with sacred souls whose liberty is sacred. Fairly well, and Governor Allen vigorously defended and glorified the heroism and inalienable rights of the scab who refuses to bind himself to the organization and discipline of labor unions.

Both Gompers and Allen spoke of Americanism and American ideals with apparently the same fervent patriotism. But to Allen, as to General Wood and Judge Gary, these are used to cloak their ferocious class consciousness. To Gompers these broad and flexible terms are real, true and wholesome. Those gilded and camouflaged ideals which serve the ruling class as instruments to enslave the workers are taken by Gompers at their face value according which he moulds and directs the labor movement in this country. That seems to be the difference in the fundamental outlook of Gompers and Allen.

## The Violets Asked For You

By JENNIE MATYAS

When you were in Unity Village last year, did you go down to Lake Taiment in the evening and build a spirited camp-fire, and sit in circle around it till your face was scorched? We did this on the last Decoration Day excursion.

Do you remember the fun you used to have with Schmerl singing, "Ich fal aufer den schluff"? And did you play juke, and tell stories and sing in chorus while you were watching the flames shoot up into the sky? We did. Some of us enjoyed this sport while others amused themselves in the dance hall and spinned around in waltz and two step till the gods of sleep beckoned to them. Still others went for a stroll down the Bushkill road, and became sentimental and romantic enough to please even the full moon and the highest star. You remember how, don't you?

Our days were no less full. In the morning, soon after breakfast, the boys dressed in their khaki, and the girls in their middie, and we hiked off to the Falls. Some there were who wanted automobiles but the spirit of "rough it" prevailed, — and we sure did rough it. We walked so briskly to the tune of whistles and songs, and we kicked the road so hard, that out of your ambulance it shot up clouds of sand and we almost choked and blind us. But we didn't mind — the buttercups, and violets, and dandelions and the many forget-me-nots which bloomed in incomparable abundance along the road-side swayed to and fro gently, gracefully as if in token of a welcome reception. They seemed almost to say, "Glad you're here to enjoy our beauty, but where are all our other friends?" And we answered, "So sorry, they could not come this time, but they'll be here as soon as the house really opens."

When you got down to the Falls did you also stop short, look your breath and in almost a whisper of worship say, "Every time I come here this spot becomes more fascinating, the rocks more formidable and the precipice higher? The green is always more varied and beautiful, and the Fall itself more luring?" Did you lean over the banister every few feet and marvel and philosophize? I did. I leaned over and gazed, and gazed into that water until I imagined myself in the realm of brooks and rivulets, so completely that I seemed to understand their language. I imagined that in its fall the water was roaring at us in chagrin, "You funny little people, why is it that you come from distant-country to admire me? I am the same body of water as my fall as I am a little way above where I re go country. We crowd the swinging bridge, too, while the sun was burning hot, but pleasant. We never even realized how much we hiked and how tired we were until our stomachs began to say, "Home! a good dinner is waiting for me." It was! Fatigued and famished we reached our Lake-view dining room and we were served a meal that was a delight to us and a compliment to the chef.

In the afternoon some of the more energetic in our party played tennis, others rowed while those of us who were too tired to ac-

tive, just sat around on the grass and jabbered. Every one enjoyed himself to his heart's content. It was an ideal vacation, in an ideal home, and under ideal surroundings. Time and time again I heard people who were for the first time at our home exclaim, "Can it be? Is it really ours? To think that such wonderful estate is ours, really? Yours, mine, ours!" Rebecca Sil, as an accomplishment worth living for.

"The world for the workers — here we have it."

"Wonderful. Somehow I can't believe it. I can't grasp it really."

"Our Local has accomplished one thing impossible, — one thing of vision and idealism."

I felt so too, and my heart went out to the committee who made all this possible, and to the chairman of the last year's committee, Rebecca Sil, who was again smoothly any one individual is responsible for our present gigantic palatial Unity Village. The committee that bought this house and established it has established a model for the Labor Movement of the world. How few of us know and appreciate that in our midst, in our own ranks, we have workers of such vision and practical ability, — workers of such idealism and determination. Through them our Local can boast of many more friends. It is now up to us to uphold and promote what we have. I am here reminded of a pointed question that Professor Beard put to us at a closing exercise of our Workers' University, "I am not worried about the workers coming into their own. I know they shall. But once they get there will they be equal to the task?" Our summer home is a test.

The present committee is entrusted with a task almost as gigantic as the task of the last committee. They are entrusted with

(Continued on Page 8)

\*See article by John A. Fitch in Justice, May 7.

# JUSTICE

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## EDITORIALS

### THE CONVENTION OF THE A. F. OF L.

The Fortieth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor which is to begin on June 7, in Montreal, Canada, will be guided, it is confidently hoped, by a spirit different from that of the convention held a year ago at Atlantic City.

The year that has gone by since the last convention has been crowded with world-stirring events which left a profound impression upon every thinking man and woman. There are many indications showing that Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, has earned much during this year. One can read this marked change in the veteran labor leader in his articles and addresses which breathe with passionate and bitter protest against the Washington administration which a year ago received his wholehearted and unqualified support. One cannot help but be impressed that Gompers is profoundly disillusioned with many of the tempting promises flung to the workers by our politicians.

This last year was marked by outlawing strikes, by a variety of grotesque industrial conferences, by the bitter and ruthless persecution of every movement for liberty; it was marked by the cynical suppression of free press, free speech and free assembly; it was marked by the disgraceful methods of the Palmers, the Sweets and the Luskens. Surely, this year must have been an eye-opener to very many people. That is why this convention is expected to be guided by a new spirit.

Because of the great promise of this convention it is surprising why the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. has chosen Canada as the place for this important gathering. The labor organizations there have during the last few years dropped out of the A. F. of L. and formed the so-called One Big Union. The vast membership of the A. F. of L. are, in the United States, and the convention should have spoken from the scene where the workers have been betrayed, persecuted and outlawed. The Canadian workers, it is true, have also been victimized by the ruling classes but the A. F. of L. cannot speak for them with the same authority as for the workers of this country. And although the voice of the convention will certainly be heard in this country, its effectiveness will be marred by the removal of the convention from the scene where its decisions would have had far greater significance.

But this is a detail which will be overcome by the actual work of the convention. If the new conditions and the changed outlook of the large masses of workers as well as of the head of the A. F. of L. will be formulated into new

policies and plans of action which will be translated into deeds, the location of the convention hall will mean little.

We have had no occasion to see the Report of the Executive Council and we do not therefore know to what extent it has met the various problems and what measures it will suggest to combat the ruthless assaults of the ruling class. There is no doubt, however, that the Executive Council deals with questions like the miners' strike, the horrors of the Department of Justice, the so-called "outlaw" strikes, the railroad muddle, the Plumb Plan, profiteering, etc. At least the convention will take up these questions and deal with them in a frank and straightforward manner.

The political activity of the A. F. of L. will be one of the most important questions at this convention. And although the Executive Council has declared its political creed, it could not ignore—the rapidly growing movement for an independent Labor party. It is hardly possible that the convention will refuse to reconsider the old policy which proved to be a monumental failure. This question is of such tremendous importance that it will, at least, receive the fullest discussion.

The leaders of the Federation were fully aware of the immense importance of the convention. In the debate with Governor Allen, for instance, Gompers declared that we are on the parting of the roads. The same spirit is felt in the Convention Call which the Executive Council sent out to the various unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. The following excerpt from the Convention Call may serve as an illustration of this:

"It is, of course, entirely unnecessary here to enumerate all the important subjects with which our forthcoming Convention will concern itself, but the reminder is not at all amiss that every effort must be made to broaden the field and means for the organization of the yet unorganized workers; to strive to bring about more effectively than ever a better day in the lives and homes of the toilers; to defend and maintain by every honorable means in our power the right to organize for our common defense and advancement, for the exercise of our normal and constitutional activities to protect and promote the rights and interests of the workers; to assert at any risk the equal rights before the law of all workers with all other citizens; to aid our fellow-workers against the effort to entangle the workers in the meshes of litigation before the courts in the several states; to make effective in our every day lives the principle declared in the law of our Republic (the Clayton law), 'That the labor of a human-be-

ing is not a commodity or article of commerce'; to arouse our fellow-workers and fellow-citizens to the danger which threatens to curb and take away their guaranteed rights and freedom; to meet and help solve the vexatious problems of peace and reconstruction; to emphasize the dominating and determining economic character of our movement and to carry on such political action as the interests of labor will warrant and the trade union movement has directed; these and other great questions of equal importance will, of necessity, occupy the attention of the Montreal Convention."

These are, of course, general platitudes. What the convention will actually accomplish cannot at this writing be foretold. We can only express our hope that this convention will fulfill the expectations of the large masses of progressive workers.

Of one thing we are certain, however, that the delegation of our International will exert its influence, as it did in the previous conventions, for a more constructive and intelligent policy.

### SOVIET RUSSIA AND THE CONVENTION OF THE A. F. OF L.

Representatives of Soviet Russia have arrived to London these days for the purpose of negotiating trade and other relations with the representatives of other countries. Whether this means recognition of the Soviet Government or not is of slight importance. The significant fact is that the Allies have changed their policies. Whether this was due to the moderation of the Soviet Government or to the growing pressure of the people of Europe is, at this time, an academic question. What is par amount is the fact that the attitude toward Russia is changed.

If this is the case with the governments of Europe, why should not this be the case with our A. F. of L. which is closer in spirit to the Workers' Republic of Russia, despite its declared opposition, than any of the governments? Would it not therefore be opportune for the present convention to revise its stand on this question? Is there any excuse for the A. F. of L. to remain stubborn and unmoved in its fierce opposition to the Soviet Republic when nine-tenths of all the "news" in our press has turned out to be propaganda, pure and simple?

We have not the slightest intention of proposing to the convention of the A. F. of L. to adopt a stand diametrically opposed to the position taken at the last convention. Far from it. But what we consider to be of utmost importance for the A. F. of L. is to investigate conditions there for itself and not to depend upon the legends and rumors that circulate about the Soviets.

The trade union movement of England sent a commission to Russia for the purpose of investigating conditions there. No matter what report it should bring from Russia, the A. F. of L. cannot, of course, be expected to endorse it. But that does not at all mean that the American workers should be left in the dark and blindly condemn institutions about which they have no reliable information. It would therefore be a tremendous service to the American workers if the convention sends a commission to Russia to investigate conditions there. There are no obstacles in the way of such an undertaking. It is unthinkable that our Government

would oppose it. The Soviet Government, on the other hand, will receive the representatives of the A. F. of L. just as cordially as it did the representatives of the British Trade Unions. In sending such a commission, the Federation would not in any way bind itself to any policy.

Is this expecting too much? No. We hope that many resolutions to this effect will pour in from the various delegates from all over the country, demonstrating the great demand on the part of American workers for truth on Russia. But it would indeed be a magnificent tribute to the intelligence and wisdom of the leadership of the A. F. of L., if the Executive Council would, on its own behalf, recommend the sending of an Investigating Commission to Russia.

### A NOTE ON THE GOMPERS-ALLEN DEBATE

Both Gompers and Allen are fairly good speakers who, during their debate in Carnegie Hall last Friday evening, have expressed some truths. But it is extremely doubtful whether either of the parties who made up the large audience were really satisfied with their spokesmen.

The reason for this is to be found in the simple fact that neither of them have really shown their true colors.

Had Governor Allen frankly stated his case and not pose as the champion of the so-called public but openly declare that he represents capitalist interests, pure and simple, his arguments would at least be convincing to his adherents. His standpoint would then be clear and unadorned. He would then simply say: You workers have no right to strike because it threatens the capitalist system which is the basis of civilization.

If Gompers, on the other hand, would have come out openly and say that he does not know that creature spoken of as "public," that he only knows of two contending classes, a class of parasites and idlers and a class of toilers. If Gompers would have stated, clearly and unambiguously, that he is not so much concerned with maintaining the present civilization, that he looks forward to a time when the strikes will lead to a different, better social order, all his arguments would then assume new meaning and vigor. Gompers did not do that, however. He did not make his point clear. He used glittering phrases, leaving the vital points untouched.

There was but a slight difference between them. Both agreed that there is a public outside of the two contending classes. Governor Allen, however, seems so deeply concerned about the welfare of the public that he can do nothing else but coin laws for its protection and defense. Gompers, on the other hand, views the situation with less alarm. He holds that strikes do not endanger the public, but if it should be threatened, with danger then the strike is a crime. As one can readily see the difference between them is in degree only.

Or take the point regarding the right to strike. Governor Allen, of course, does not challenge the right to strike. The worker has the full right to quit work. He is free. But the Governor is opposed to the union calling the strike. He is, as you see, a champion of freedom. Gompers, again, is for the right to strike. But this right

is qualified and limited by certain conditions. "Outlaw" strikes, unauthorized by the union heads, is a case in point. Or to put it differently, Allen holds that the right to prohibit strikes is lodged in the Government, while Gompers holds that such right is lodged solely and exclusively in the union.

Gompers, of course, may argue that the union is the collective will of the workers, and therefore has the right to control them. But the Governor can say the same thing about the Government, which to him, represents the collective will of society. And Gompers cannot very well combat this view as he claims to hold similar opinions about the Government.

Gompers quoted Thomas Jefferson to the effect that the Government is the best which rules least. But it is a difficult thing to determine the proper limits of governmental powers. To the Governor the prevention of industrial clashes may be the prime duty of a government. Even quotations from Jefferson cannot effectively controvert him.

Our sympathies, it need not be said, are on the side of Gompers. We believe with Gompers that in taking away the right to strike means to reduce the workers to slavery. The assertion that the Union enslaves the worker is a base lie. The weakness of Gompers' argument is that he did not take the position of uncompromising class struggle. That is why the entire debate looked as if it were a battle of words. It conveyed the impression of two people arguing who are fundamentally in agreement. To a certain extent it must be admitted that the logic was on the side of the capitalist champion. The labor champion for one reason or another feared to tear that unctuous and hypocritical mask falsely marked "public," from Governor Allen and expose him as the champion of capitalism.

The trouble does not lie in Gompers' power of speech, which is really of a high order. It is not due to the art of speaking of his opponent, which is of a cheap variety. The trouble is that the trade union movement in America did not yet reach the full consciousness of its great mission.

## GERMAN ELECTION IN JUNE

Elections for the German national assembly will be held June 6. Every German male and female citizen, 21 years of age, is a voter. Under the Kaiser's regime, with suffrage restricted to men, 14,442,000 votes were cast at the reichstag elections of 1912. With women voting last year 30,400,344 ballots were cast.

To national assembly has enacted the railroad nationalization law, making the railroads the property of the people of Germany. Under the Kaiser the roads were largely owned by the states making up the empire. The railroad employees supported the nationalization project.

# Is America Facing a Crisis?

By JULIET STEWART POYNTEZ

The industrial situation is undoubtedly more serious today than it has been at any time since the severe crisis of 1907. Anyone who knew the industrial America of that day with its idle factories, its unemployed millions, and its general misery and despair may well shudder at the thought of another catastrophe of that nature. And yet all the signs today point to the oncoming of a severe depression and perhaps an actual panic. The usual symptoms of over-production or what amounts to the same thing, under-consumption together with the unloading of goods on the market at a price below producing cost, the withdrawal of credit from the business men by the banks, the shutting down of factories and the unemployment of workers point to the fact that we are in for a very bad time industrially.

The last two weeks have been a hysterical unloading of goods on the market in the attempt to realize something before the market slumps altogether. We were well into the midst of this collapse before the capitalist press was willing to admit that it was anything but a benevolent effort on the part of merchants to reduce the high cost of living. And while our American papers were boasting of "sales" the more straightforward English correspondents were writing sympathetic letters to our press commiserating us on the numerous business failures of which we know as yet nothing.

Now the cat is out of the bag, and industrial collapse in America shares the honor of the headlines with Bolshevism in Europe. Department stores throughout the country have been dumping their stocks on the market with no thought of cost. And the depression is creeping back from retailers to wholesalers and manufacturers. Million dollar stocks from jobbers are being rushed out for sale at any price, and even the wealth of the Duponts cannot save them from the operation of the economic laws which are rapidly driving America today to the brink of ruin. They are placing on the market today at a tremendous loss to themselves \$5,000,000 worth of shoes which they bought up from the manufacturers with the idea of starting business as wholesalers in this and other countries.

The manufacturers are not slow to feel the effect of this general liquidation. Their customers are not only not buying new goods because of the lack of a market but are cancelling contracts made some time ago to such an extent that the manufacturers in every one of the textile industries, silk, wool, and cotton, have been forced to establish special bureaus to deal with this "evil". Now the mills are rapidly shutting down. The shoe factories of Lynn and Brockton in Massachusetts are running on part time, and all shoe factories in Manchester, N. H., the center for cheaper shoes, are running on a 60 per cent basis. The United Shoe Machinery Co., which is the machinery trust controlling all the machinery in the shoe industry, is running on short time, a fair index of conditions throughout the industry. One-third of the shoe industry at

Haverhill, Mass., one of the chief shoe centers is at a standstill, and cancelled orders have resulted in the return of millions of dollars worth of shoes there. The textile mills are preparing for a general curtailment of production.

The number of unemployed workers in the New England textile mills has already reached the number of 20,000, and this is only a beginning. A large dress goods mill near Boston employing about 500 goes on half time this week. Many Haverhill manufacturers will not reopen for several weeks. Thousands of workers are idle at Lawrence, clothing manufacturers are cancelling large orders for woollen goods, and the mills will soon be on a four-day-a-week basis. The entire garment industry is evidently thus in a state of collapse, and here are a few signs of a possible revival.

The food markets have not yet shown the same tendencies. It is not certain that prices will go down here as suddenly and sensationally as they have with clothing. There is not as much machinery, i. e., capital, involved in the production of food nor as much expenses in storing it. The wholesale food market is pretty fully monopolized in a few hands, and the game of holding back for a price is an old trick of the trade. Nevertheless there are signs that food too is to feel the effect of the general price decline. There was a sensational break in prices last week on the great grain exchanges in Chicago, which is the primary market from which food is distributed to all parts of the country. So far however the retailer has raised prices instead of reducing them and the cost of eating has actually risen during the last two months although employment had fallen off.

The financial world also is feeling the effects of the depression. The foreign exchanges, that is, the value of German, French, and English money is rising as the financial condition of the United States becomes worse. A check is being placed upon speculation as the banking world realizes the dangerous state of the industrial situation. Loans to merchants and manufacturers are being restricted and the interest rate for money has risen to a height unprecedented in recent years. Frank A. Vanderlip, whose revelations of the economic ruin of Europe won the interest and gratitude of Americans for his truth-telling, though it is said to have cost him his "job" as President of the National City Bank, has been telling some more unpleasant truths. He has just made a report on banking conditions for the Republican Party though perhaps not with its entire approval in which he points out the serious state of the nation's finances. He points out that the war was financed by a policy of inflation which led to a great increase in the cost of living, "with its attendant hardships, injustice, and social discontent." But the worst of it is, he says, that this policy has been continued since the armistice. The government is still ready to live on borrowed money and to permit the banks to issue large amounts of paper money which increase speculation and high prices. Instead

every effort ought to have been made at the end of the war to reduce the amount of paper money and return to a "sound" economic basis.

In addition to all these factors of costs and prices making for a depression, there is apparent an actual breakdown in the machinery of production and the social system. The transportation system of the country has completely collapsed. The railroads cannot perform their function as the circulating system of industry, and the situation is not much different from that in our own bodies when the heart stops beating and the blood stops flowing. The whole body then collapses. As a matter of fact many industries are already suffering from the lack of raw materials and transportation of products to the market and have had to shut down partially or wholly. Building operations already scanty enough on account of the high cost of materials have had to suspend operations altogether in many cases because as one builder expresses it "he has been trying for two months to bring a load of brick from New Jersey to New York. The present housing congestion and high rent situation will therefore be aggravated. On the other hand the railroad owners are demanding for a large increase in freight rates which will be an almost intolerable burden to industry and consumers alike in the present state of affairs.

Lastly there are the difficulties of labor in performing its old functions in the face of famine prices and general economic disorganization. Strikes everywhere are placing cogs in the capitalist machine, and no one knows better than the manufacturers how great difficulties labor now has in its power to make for them. The collapse in the textile and shoe industries is associated with strikes and lockouts everywhere. The transportation industries are seriously affected, and there is prospect in the near future of a vital attack all along the line from the workers in the basic industries.

The capitalist system is thus suffering from the typical diseases of old age, hardening of the arteries, congestion of the lungs, and senile debility. The poor, old blood-vessels are giving out under the strain and no longer performing their task of distributing the life-fluid to all parts of the body economic. The organs for the intake of oxygen in the shape of raw materials are inflamed and congested, and the body no longer secures its necessary supply of fuel for existence. The poor, old system is so weak that it seems to lack the force to perform its functions with the old enthusiasm and energy and falls an easy prey to Bolshevism or any other germ that floats about. How long the tottering old man can endure his present trials time alone can tell, but his condition is certainly not promising.

The excitement about new commercial worlds to conquer which followed the armistice has been succeeded by a sober facing of the facts. The profiteers who had waxed fat from war profits had

no intention of abandoning that pleasant game when peace was declared and for many months the air was full of plans for capturing the foreign trade of the universe for American business. This spirit of elation, natural to those who had smelled blood and coined it into gold, gradually wore off when it was discovered that America's very prosperity was her undoing. Bursting with her war-gotten gains she was too heavily laden to move. She was so rich that the war-ruined countries could not afford to buy from her and pay her in her own coin, and other coin America was not willing to take. The very fact that the American dollar kept its value while the money of the European countries had sunk far below par made it impossible for them to buy goods from America and pay her in her own expensive dollars.

Thus gradually the shelves of the warehouses in this country have been piling up with clothing, food, raw materials which the peoples of Europe were dying for the lack of and yet could not buy. Nor could the America people afford to buy their own materials. For the new war wealth had left a trail of high prices. The billions of paper money floated as Liberty bonds were left for the people to pay for once again in prices three times above their pre-war level. The billion dollars in gold shipped to this country by Great Britain in 1916 and 1917 to pay for war supplies made gold plentiful and cheap, and other things dear in consequence. The ten billions "loaned" to the Allies after America's entrance into the war further increased the financial burden, and the general waste and extravagance of the war expenditure completed the economic undoing of the country.

Now the bill must be paid. The payment for the war must be made, whether or not the goods has been delivered. And Mr. President Wilson himself states very clearly in his message of this week that the goods has not been delivered. "Have we," he asks, "sacrificed the lives of more than 100,000 Americans, and brought to thousands of American families an unhappiness that can never end for purposes that we do not now care to state or take further steps to attain?" "We" have evidently not only done that, but have left the bill for this unattained end to be paid for in the under-feeding, overcrowding and permanent suffering of the entire population.

## CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING PLAN

The guild system of building houses first introduced at Manchester, England, is being discussed by building craftsmen. It is proposed to establish a building guild in this city and a draft prospectus has been forwarded to all district branches of the National Federation of Building Trade Operations for approval. If the plan is favored an attempt will be made to build houses under the direct control of the council, which would accept the schemes and arrange for an adequate supply of labor. The guild plan is on the co-operative basis and eliminates contractors and master builders.

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

By I. LEWIN

At the meeting of the Executive Board on Tuesday, May 25, 1920, the question of a special meeting for the cloak cutters for the purpose of discussing the advisability of affiliating with the Joint Board, as all locals are, was taken up, and it was decided that this question being of prime importance to the cloak cutters, that such meeting be called on Monday, June 21, 1920, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place. The Secretary was also instructed to notify all cloak cutters by mail to that effect.

An invitation has been forwarded to the Joint Board to have its representatives at that meeting, for the purpose of explaining to our members the benefits that may be derived through this affiliation.

The next meeting of the Miscellaneous Division will be held on Monday, July 19, 1920.

While we are at it, we wish to impress upon our members the importance of attending our next Special General Meeting on Monday, June 28, 1920, where a report of our delegates to the convention will be rendered. Do not fail to attend.

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

A communication was received from the Joint Board of Sanitary Control, informing the Executive Board that owing to increased rents for the office they are occupying at present, they have been forced to seek a building for themselves, and that they have made a contract for the purchase of one at 131 East 17th St., for the sum of \$30,000. An additional \$25,000 will have to be expended in constructing an extension for the accommodation of the Medical Department and for the purpose of equipment. They therefore propose to the Executive Board, as one of the locals participating in the maintenance of the Medical Department, one of the two propositions: Either the locals purchase the building and the Joint Board of Sanitary Control and the Fire Drill Department will pay rent to them and after a number of years the house will be the outright property of the Union, or else the Joint Board of Sanitary Control will buy the building and the Medical Department is to pay rent for them, but that we are to loan them \$15,000 for a period of five years, to be divided proportionately among all the locals.

After discussing the matter, the Executive Board decided that we instruct our representatives to the next conference between the Joint Board of Sanitary Control and the locals, that we are in favor of purchasing the building for the Union, and that the Joint Board of Sanitary Control loan us \$15,000 for a period of five years.

E. W. Rice and S. Goldstein appeared, representing the Railroad, Port & Terminal Workers' Union, Local No. 840, who have been out on strike for a number of months. They thanked the Executive Board for the donation of \$25 that was made to them on May 11th, and asked if it would be possible for our Executive Board to contribute some more money, as the situation is growing worse day by day and they are forced to maintain a commissary for the feeding of the strikers' families. Upon motion the Ex-

ecutive Board decided to donate additional \$25.

Jacob Berger, No. 7032 appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Lipschitz with being a member of the corporation shop of the Advance Style, 51 E. 10th St. Brother Berger states that he was a partner to the above corporation at one time, but that recently this corporation was dissolved and there was only one man by the name of Weintraub left as owner of the place, and that he, Brother Berger, is working there as a cutter only and has no interest in the business. Upon motion the office was instructed to withdraw the working card for the above house from Brother Berger.

Jos. Horowitz, No. 5370A appeared on summons, charged with working day work at the house of Reisman & Grungarten, 41 W. 17 St. This brother admits to the charge, but claims that on the second Monday after he started in working for the concern, he came up to the shop and was told by the firm that while they have a little work, it would not be sufficient to last for the entire week and complete it. He further states that being ignorant of the fact that he was not permitted to work day work, he asked the firm whether he could not start in right then and quit when the garments that he had on hand would be cut, to which the firm agreed. In view of the good record of Brother Horowitz as a striker in the Gers. Faist and Dress strike of 1919, this case was dismissed.

Louis Pullman, No. 6675 appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Settle with working in two houses at the same time, namely, E. Davis, 14-20 E. 32 St., and Schildhouse & Pullman, 133 West 21 St. Brother Pullman states that on Wednesday evening, May 12, 1920, he

was laid off from the house of E. Davis, for lack of work. The following day he came up to the house of Schildhouse & Pullman and was asked to make a job, which he did, having in mind, however, to lodge a complaint against the house of E. Davis the following day. Upon motion a fine was imposed upon him.

Nat. Mandel, No. 6290 appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent onen with being a member of the Dorothy Dress Co., 29 E. 34 St. Brother Mandel denies having any other connections with the above firm but that of a cutter. A letter from our lawyer was produced, proving conclusively that Brother Mandel is a member of that concern. Brother Mandel was instructed by the Executive Board that he will either have to quit the job on Saturday, May 29, 1920, or resign from the Union and hire a cutter. If either of the two courses is not following, he will stand expelled from this Union.

Max Dankowitz, No. 347 appeared in behalf of his son, Julius Dankowitz, No. 4128, who took sick and has been laid up for the last few months. Mr. Dankowitz states that he is very poor and has no funds whatsoever, and the expenses of keeping his son in a sanitarium are very high, amounting to \$40 per week. He therefore requests the Executive Board to aid his son. Upon motion the Secretary was instructed to draw a voucher for \$50 from the Relief Fund.

A communication was received from the New York State Federation of Labor, calling the attention of the Union to the record of the different senators and assemblymen in the State Legislature and as to how they stood on measures affecting Labor. They also ask that support be given to those who are favorable to Labor and that we try to defeat those who voted against bills favoring Labor. Upon motion communication was placed on file.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE DESIGNERS' UNION

The instructions of our convention to the General Executive Board to pay closer attention to the conditions and problems in the designers' trade of New York has created new life among the members of the Designers' Union, Local 45. This decision of the convention is a result of the resolution that has been introduced by the delegates of the designers' local.

The meeting of Local 45 which was held on Saturday, May 22, in Continental Hotel was a tremendous moral success. Not only were all the members present but many designers who do not belong to the Union came to the meeting.

The meeting was addressed by Brother Langer, Secretary of the Joint Board, and S. Ninfo, vice president of the International. Both Brothers, Langer and Ninfo spoke of the prevailing conditions in the industry and showed how important it is for the designers to organize. Among the things Brother Langer said was this: "The time when the designer occupied a privileged position in the shops is gone never to return. He is bound by the same conditions as are the other workers in the shop. The designers must realize that it is difficult to be a decent sub-contractor. There is only one way they can win back their privileged positions, and that is,

by organization. The Designers' Union is the only power which strives for the betterment of their condition. And it is still small, it will not take long before it will become an effective, powerful organization."

Brother Ninfo spoke in a similar vein. At the close of the meeting fifty new members joined the Union. This shows what rapid strides Local 45 is making in its organization campaign.

The Executive Board of Local 45 has at its last meeting decided to appoint a manager. A committee, consisting of Brothers A. Bailis, F. Cezario, W. Rosenfeld, were selected by the Board to seek the proper person for the office of manager.

The attention is called of those members who have trouble with their contracts to the fact that the Union is strongly opposed to members signing contracts before consulting the office. They will avoid all the trouble and misunderstandings if they will consult the office before signing any contracts.

Those members who have not paid their share toward the Million Dollar Fund that the Joint Board is raising are urged to do so at the first opportunity.

EXECUTIVE BOARD,  
Local 45

# THE STAGE

By Frances Robbins

## "HONEY GIRL"

"Light foods for summer," says our dieticians. "Light plays for summer," say our producers. And so we have with us, the very popular crop of summer shows.

A happy example of this type of play is "Honey Girl," a musical comedy, at the Cohan and Harris. To sit through "Honey Girl" requires no concentration, no straining after phenomenal whys and wherefores. One merely sits back and is more or less amused. Even in the race track scene, the most exciting of the play, one is just amused, never thrilled.

Perhaps it does require below zero weather to arouse the emotions to their highest pitch. We once saw the season's thriller on a blisteringly hot day, and as we watched the perspiration streaming down the anguished lineaments of the hero, our interest was not admiration for his brilliant performance, but the deep sympathy of one fellow sufferer for another.

Iake several of our recent musical shows, "Honey Girl" is based on "Checkers," a play popular years ago. It may still be fresh in the minds of some of our theatre enthusiasts, but for the sake of those to whom it is not familiar:

"Checkers" is the nick-name of track sport, but now determined to settle down, turn over a new leaf and live the rest of his life in quiet, Parkerstown.

He falls in love with "Honey" Parker, daughter of the town's leading citizen. Parker refuses to listen to "Checkers" but says that if at the end of the year, David can produce \$25,000, he may have another chance.

The year goes by, but on the last day, "Checkers" is still minus the stipulated sum. Desperate, he stakes his all on "Honey Girl," at the New Orleans race track, wins the need sum, returns to Parkerstown, saves Mr. Parker's band, and—the blushing maiden is his.

"Tip" Smiley, is a race track pal of Checkers, and comes to Parkerstown, where he too falls in love—with Honey's friend. His romance also ends happily.

"Checkers" is capably played by Lynne Overman, although he lacks the dash and personality of the "Checkers" of years ago. Edna Bates as "Honey" Parker has a merely pretty voice and manner.

Lucy Martin her friend, is made more interesting by the appealing voice and smile of dark-eyed Louise Meyers.

Among the men, George McKerr, Tip Smiley, easily wins first place. He is genuinely funny, his humor of the spontaneous kind makes the audience feel as though he were saying, "say—aint we having a good time." His dancing is entertaining particularly several dances with Rene Riano, who as a beauty, could not even make the chorus, but as a trick dancer, is more than clever. An aesthetic dance, which these two do together, is one of the funniest bits seen in any of this season's comedies.

Others in the cast are Meyer Templeton, Cissie Sewell, Sidene Espero and Ottie Ardine.

The settings and costumes, though not remarkable are pleasing to the eye. The music is of the quality called catchy. The melodies are easily remembered,

perhaps because they are faintly reminiscent of the hits of many seasons. Albert Von Tilzer wrote the music.

The musical version of "Checkers" while by no means brilliant, still is entertaining enough to hold out through the summer, and possibly into the fall.

## A LABOR TEMPLE IN THE BRONX

The movement for a Labor Temple in the Bronx is a labor and radical organizations in the Bronx are being called upon to rally to the cause, and do their share.

It is not necessary to remind the people of the benefits of a Labor Temple; to organize all labor and radical elements, to break the grip of profiteering hall-owners, to give the workers a place and an opportunity for their own physical, social and intellectual development. Will you do your share in helping to get this Temple?

The Board of Directors of the old Association has come together and stated active work. It is holding weekly meetings to attend to the pressing organization business preparatory to giving the shareholders and the public an account of what was done when the organization was founded. At present, new headquarters are being secured, special committees appointed to begin a campaign of lectures to be given outdoors through the summer months, concerts and lectures are to be given jointly with other organizations, at their own branch meetings.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors excellent progress was reported along all lines, and especial evidence was given of the eagerness of the people to make the mass meeting for June 4th, a success.

The best possible speakers have been engaged. Among them are A. Shipplacoff, S. Orr, A. Braumstein, and F. Paulitsch. The place will be the 5th A. D., 1304 So. Boulevard. All those who consider the Bronx their home should be present at the meeting and hear the reports. The founding of a Labor Temple must be taken into their own hands and carry it to success.

or further and more detailed information, call upon the organizer, Comrade S. Liberty, 31 St. Mark's Place, or telephone Dry Dook 1866.

## 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.

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

SEALS

WHITE LILY TEA  
COLUMBIA TEA

ZWETOCHNI CHAI

EXCLUSIVELY

## CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

### NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

CLOAK & SUIT

Monday, June 7th.

WAIST & DRESS

Monday, June 14th.

SPECIAL CLOAK & SUIT:

Monday, June 21st.

Special Order of Business:

Affiliation with the Joint Board of Cloak, Skirt and Refectormakers' Union.

SPECIAL GENERAL:

Monday, June 29th.

Special Order of Business:

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

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

### Cutters of All Branches

should secure a card when going in to work and return it when laid off. They must also change their cards when securing an increase.

## Ladies' Tailors and Alteration Workers, Local 80.

## A SPECIAL MEMBER MEETING

will take place

TUESDAY, JUNE 8th, AT 7.30 P. M.

at LAUREL GARDEN, 75 EAST 116th ST., (Main Hall)

Purpose:

The continuation of the discussion of the last local meeting.

All members are requested to come, without fail.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 80.

HARRY HILFMAN, Secretary.

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	Algermon Lee
Elements of Economics	Algermon Lee
Social Aspects of the Modern Drama	Joseph Jablonover
War and Peace in Literature from Tolstoy to the Present Time	Gregory Zilbours
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
Theory of Physical Education	Lucy Retting
Appreciation of Literature	Joseph Jablonover
Modern Currents in Poetry	Clement Wood
Current Tendencies in the American Labor Movement	Leland Gids

Those interested should communicate with

BERTHA H. MALLY, 7 East 15th Street, New York City.



## THE VIOLETS ASKED FOR YOU

(Continued from Page 3)

the care of our new acquisition. It is true that the management this year is in the hands of professional experts but the supervision of our home must be in the hands of our own people. The finest professional manager can not fully appreciate what we want. To illustrate: we have a good housekeeper. She was instructed to have one cottage clean for the people who were coming out for the week end. She did, but it was superficially done and when the committee spoke to her she pleaded in surprise that the finest hotels in the country were not cleaned more thoroughly. She hardly understood it when we explained that our Unity is not a hotel but a home which must be as well kept as any home on Riverside Drive. Now she understands, of course, but it's things of this kind and other things even more important that the present committee will have to supervise. It is just as hard to preserve a great thing as it is to attain it.

At any rate it is a joy to feel, and to know that we, the members of Local 25, own and control a summer home with 700 acres of land and a wonderful lake — a place with the most modern equipment in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is a relief to know that in the summer when the green in our faces begins to appear and registers fatigue and weariness, when the sweltering heat of the city becomes unbearable, when we must declare a bankruptcy in energy, and when life itself seems hardly worth living, I say, it is then a relief to know that we can pack our suit cases and go to our own home for recuperation, for a new lease of life. From a practical as well as an ideal point of view, the undertaking deserves our praise and full hearted support and devotion.

Yes, even in the three short days that I was up there I restored my body and nerves, and I replenished my energy enough to even suffer the subway jams—since suffered the beast we must. I am inspired anew, and I have gained new determination to make our home the finest in the world.

Altho Unity Village is our own, still it does not accommodate all of our 30,000 members at a time. Take a tip from me therefore, if you want a vacation of the highest type register at once.

## LABOR EDUCATION MAKES RAPID STRIDES IN ENGLAND

A thoroughly comprehensive scheme of working-class education has been worked out by the British Confederation of Iron and Steel Trades. Arrangements have been made with the Workers' Educational Trade Union committee for the establishment of week-end schools for members of the union. Trade unions problems will be studied chiefly.

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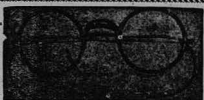
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Mack Kanner & Milius,  
136 Madison Ave.  
M. Stern,  
83 East 33rd St.  
Max Cohen,  
105 Madison Ave.  
Julian Waist Co.,  
15 East 32nd St.  
Drexel Dress Co.,  
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