

"My righteous-
ness I hold
fast, and will
not let it go."
—Job. 37.4.)

JUSTICE

"Workers
of the world
unite! You
have nothing
to lose but
your chains."

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

Vol. II. No. 35.

New York, Friday, August 27, 1920.

Price: 2 Cents

Philadelphia Cloakmakers Accept New Agreement

After several weeks of deliberation the cloakmakers of Philadelphia have finally endorsed the collective agreement between the Union and the manufacturers' associations at a general membership mass meeting last Thursday evening in Arch Street Theatre.

After Brother S. Rubin, the chairman of the meeting, introduced H. Weinberg of Philadelphia who made a brief address, the two agreements between the Union and the Women's Garment Manufacturers' Association and the Mutual Protective Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association respectively were read. The chief points of both agreements are fundamentally the same. They only differ in details. Some points however evoked a good deal of lively discussion.

The agreement was read by Brother Karp, chief clerk of the Union, and some explanations were given by Brothers Morris Damsky and S. Radin.

The chief points of the agreements are as follows:

1. Week work with the following scale of wages: cloakmakers', skirt makers' and pressers' minimum, 50 dollars a week; cutters, 48 dollars; finishers, 40 dollars; skirt finishers and button sewers, 30 dollars. No worker should receive less than this scale with the exception of old or disabled workers who cannot be because of their physical condition earn the minimum. Their wages should be determined by the employer and workers of the shop

concerned subject to the approval of the Union.

2. The working hours should be 44 hours a week, divided into six days as follows: From 8 to 6 and an hour for lunch during the first five days of the week, and from 8 to 12 on Saturday.

3. No overtime is permitted between November 15th and January 1st, or between June 15th and August 1st. In shops where skirts are made the time can be arranged according to the season. During the season overtime work should not exceed 8 hours a week and 2 hours a day. Overtime is paid at the rate of time and a half.

4. No overtime is permitted

in shops where more workers could be employed.

5. Workers are to get six legal holidays for which they are to get paid. These are: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Christmas and New Year's. The workers have the right to stop work on the first of May, the international labor holiday for which they are not to get paid.

The large mass meeting held in Arch Street Theatre was an enthusiastic affair. In spite of the readiness at fault finding on the part of some members which in turn evoked spirited discussions, the membership as a whole was dominated by a spirit of solidarity and loyalty to the Union.

G. E. B. BACKS STRIKE OF CLOAK STORE CLERKS

At a meeting of the New York members of the General Executive Board of the International Union last Tuesday, August 24, at the General Office, 31 Union Sq., it was decided to lend all the moral and financial support to the striking clerks of the Division Street stores. The General Executive Board has appointed Vice President H. Wandler to take charge of the strike.

This action was taken in response to the request made by a committee of striking clerks which appeared before the Board. As was already stated in previous issues of *Justice* the strike is a result of the lockout of the clerks by the storekeepers.

These storekeepers are resorting to brutal tactics in order to (Continued on Page 7)

Waistmakers' Union Launches Series of District Meetings

The Ladies Waist and Dress Makers' Union, Local 25 is launching a series of district membership meetings to acquaint its members with the present conditions in the trade.

The Waistmakers' Union is confronted with new and important problems which will have to be dealt with in 1921 at the time of the renewal of the collective agreement in the waist and dress trade. There is the question of the introduction of week work, the determination of minimum wage scales, etc., and on recom-

mendation of Brother Julius Hochman, Manager of Local 25, it was decided to launch a widespread and effective educational campaign among the workers in the trade in order to acquaint them with the numerous problems facing them.

The first district membership meeting in the series will be held next Tuesday, August 31st, in Public School 40, 320 East 20th St. The meeting will be held right after work so as to enable all members to attend. Brothers Hochman, Antonini and other officers of the Union will address the meeting. Questions of utmost importance to the workers in the trade will be discussed.

The meetings are arranged according to the shop districts. The independent shops, and the shops of the Waist and Dress Association which are located between 9th and 21st Sts. constitute the first district. All the workers of these shops must not fail to attend their meeting. The other district meetings will be announced later.

The waist and dress makers doubtless realize the great importance of these meetings. Questions of direct and immediate interest are to be discussed and later to be acted upon. Without intelligent understanding of their own conditions the workers cannot hope to better them.

The Ladies' Waistmakers' Union is now having two important strikes on hand. One is against the West Point Waist Co., and the other against Piermont Dress Co.

The strike against the West Point Waist Co. is a drawn out and bitter struggle. But after 9 weeks of strike the Union is still determined and confident that the workers will win their just fight. The firm of course puts up a desperate fight, using every underground method to defeat the Union. The police appears to be very helpful to the firm by persecuting strikers and arresting pickets.

The firm is indignant. The Waistmakers' Union stopped its work made by the contractors in New Jersey and Harlem. This action appeared to them as interfering too much with "their" business, and the manufacturers were fuming with rage. The first thing they have done was to arrest Miss Lillie Leibrecht, the chairlady of the shop. She was brought before a very severe judge who sees a "dangerous Bolshevik" in every striker, and he sentenced her to five days in prison.

The strike conducted against the Piermont Dress Co., 29 West 38th St., is the result of the discharge of the shop chairman and the active union workers by the firm.

With the help of the police this firm has undertaken a fight against the Union. The police prove themselves very accommodating to the firm and are arresting the pickets without the least provocation or excuse.

The Union has already complained to the Police Commissioner with regard to this action of the police and it remains to be seen what he will do in the matter.

Workers are warned not to apply for work in the above mentioned shops.

Pres. Schlesinger Elected Member of Secretariat at Copenhagen Congress

According to a cable received by the General Office, President Schlesinger was elected member of the International Clothing Workers' Secretariat at the Congress in Copenhagen last week.

From the meagre reports of the tailors' congress reaching this country so much is known that the tailors' international is an accomplished fact. The decision to establish an international bureau is the first concrete and practical demonstration of the revival of the spirit of solidarity between the workers of Europe and America. This spirit will now be translated into actual cooperation. Another important resolution adopted by the Congress is for the introduction of week work and the abolition of home work in the garment trades.

The tailors' international which existed prior to the war

called for complete reorganization at the conclusion of the Armistice in 1918. The International Ladies Garment Workers' Union was the first American organization to help in the revival of that body, and in October, 1919, the first congress of the needle trades' unions was held at Amsterdam, at which our Union was represented by President Schlesinger. The Amsterdam conference laid the foundation for an international organization and extended invitations to the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and the Journey-men Tailors' Union to send delegates to the Congress at Copenhagen. The American needle trades' unions were therefore well represented.

At the close of the Congress a beautiful banquet was arranged in honor of the American delegates.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

American Women Enfranchised

THE fact that 27,000,000 more citizens will participate in the presidential election next fall is in itself significant but what is more significant is that it marks the triumph close of the long struggle for woman suffrage. This victory was brought about when the Tennessee Legislature by a vote of 50 to 40, last Wednesday, August 18, ratified the 19th amendment extending equal suffrage to American women. The action of the Tennessee Legislature was of such importance because it happened to supply the needed thirty-sixth state for ratification.

Coming as it does only about two months before the election the Democratic and Republican candidates hailed this victory for suffrage. The Democratic standard bearer immediately proclaimed that "The civilization of the world is saved." And the Republican candidate has confessed that "All along I have wished for the completion of ratification." Will the women be bamboozled by the compliments and empty phrases of the politicians? Will they vote as their fathers, brothers or husbands? When the women first participated in the general elections in Great Britain in 1918 they generally helped to elect a jingoist Parliament. Experience showed that sex difference is hardly a sufficient reason for a difference in political outlook. Economic interests are primarily determining the political activities of women as well as men. And it is education which will show the working women how to vote.

The struggle for equal suffrage for women in this country began in 1849, when American women had no legal right to their property, wages or children. In July of that year New York State women held a convention and adopted a resolution asking not for the franchise alone but for equal rights in universities, trades and professions; personal freedom in property, wages and children; the right to make contracts; to sue and be sued, and to testify in courts of justice. In 1866 women organized a petitioning Congress to change the terms in the proposed 14th amendment. They were refused on the plea that that was the "Negro's hour." In addition to refusal they suffered a rebuff. But they continued their fight until they achieved victory.

The United States is not the pioneer in giving votes to women. It is the twenty-seventh country which granted this right.

Flow of Immigration Begins

MORE than 5000 immigrants are arriving daily at Ellis Island. Despite the lack of transportation facilities and the difficulties of immigration from Central Europe, approximately 800,000 immigrants arrived in the United States during the 12 months ending June 30, as compared with 141,132 during the corresponding period the year before and the record of 1,285,349 in 1907.

The employing classes were anxiously looking forward to the time when the flow of immigration would begin. The notorious Inter-Racial Council was organized for the purpose of stimulating immigration which would act as an effective means to break the labor movement. In having an

over supply of labor the employing classes hope to deal a blow to organized labor.

Our government seems to be of the same opinion that America needs plenty of immigrants. This is evident from the announcement that the immigration department has been entirely reorganized. Frederic A. Wallis, the new commissioner of immigration, dismissed many officials who have been identified with the old methods of intimidating the immigrants. The shake-up of the Department of Immigration was precipitated by the exposure of the Hindu cases. But the fundamental reason for it is the expected tide of immigration.

Labor is doubtless facing a new situation for which it must be prepared. The policy of the American Federation of Labor is for restricted immigration. And it has tried to maintain the power of organized labor by keeping it in isolation and by keeping out the inflow of new workers in American industry. What is called the immigrant labor movement has always differed from the rest of organized labor in believing in free immigration. This attitude, however, was only of a rather abstract and theoretical nature. Actually the immigrant labor organizations were not strong enough to work out a definite and concrete policy toward the incoming workers.

The situation is wholly different today. In the needle industries for instance the labor unions are practically 100 per cent organized. They are in a position not only to formulate a general policy but to act upon it. That is why the call for a conference issued by the United Hebrew Trades to adopt measures for meeting the immigration tide is so significant. Among the largest unions invited to the conference are the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the International Furriers' Union, etc.

One of the plans of the United Hebrew Trades is the installation of a labor bureau on Ellis Island to inform immigrants on the conditions in the country and to direct them to industrial centers where a shortage of labor exists, at the same time advising them to avoid centers where strikes and lockouts are in progress. The latest report of the International Clothing Workers' Congress at Copenhagen states that all delegates from the countries represented are in accord with the proposed international bureau for immigrants.

The Polish-Russian Situation

DEUE to the military reverses of the Soviet armies on the Polish front the political outlook has undergone an appreciable change. The Polish Peace Delegation at Minsk is delaying its reply to the Soviet Government. The French military clique has for the time being reinforced its position by the successes of the Polish armies. The Paris newspapers have already pointed out that at the Millerand policy has won out and that Lloyd George will follow the French policy. So far, however, there is a difference between the French-American and the English-Italian attitude toward Russia.

This difference was emphasized by the conference between Lloyd George and G. Giolitti in Lucerne.

Lloyd George openly criticized the policy of President Wilson and Premier Millerand. In the statement issued regarding the conference the British and Italian favor of the reestablishment of Premiers declare themselves in peace the world over at the earliest possible moment. "Until peace is fully established between Russia and the rest of the world," the statement reads, "an atmosphere of disturbance and unsettlement will continue to menace the world." The British and Italian Governments are making the appearance that they are the only pacific governments which are trying to bring about peace. France and America on the other hand are the two countries which are pursuing a war-to-the-finish policy. They have not yet forgotten the mad war cry.

The situation is far from being clear. With the help of the French General Wrangel is attacking the Red Army from the South. Soviet Russia is now fighting on two fronts. The transportation as well as the general economic conditions are deplorable. Will it overcome all the terrible difficulties in its way? According to press reports a conference of the Communist Party in Moscow has issued a call for help, for further mobilization, for greater efforts of the military powers of Russia. It is forced to concentrate all its efforts in organizing a big military machine. It is transforming the world into a battlefield.

But the situation is so explosive and unpredictable that the entire outlook may be reversed in a few days.

Is the British Empire Crumbling?

ONE of the reasons for the British willingness to negotiate with Soviet Russia, was her fear for the Bolshevik propaganda in Asia Minor and India. "In Asia," says Bertrand Russell, "lies open the Bolshevik ambitions. Almost the whole of the former Russian Empire in Asia is quite firmly in their grasp. Trains are running at a reasonable speed to Turkestan, and I saw cotton from there being loaded on to Volga steamers. In Persia and Turkey powerful revolts are taking place with Bolshevik support. It is only a question of a few years before India will be in touch with the Red Army. If we continue to antagonize the Bolsheviks, I do not see what force exists that can prevent them from acquiring the whole of Asia within ten years."

The strengthening of the imperial ties of Great Britain is one of the most pressing problems of her statesmen. Ireland presents a problem which is daily growing more and more unmanageable to the British government. Ireland and England are at war and it is hardly possible whether anything short of complete independence for Ireland will end the war between them. The Sinn Feiners, the extreme Nationalist party in Ireland has the full support of the Irish people while England has its undying hatred. English statesmen perhaps feel that they are late in holding Ireland as a member of the British empire. Its home-rule cure would have been effective several years ago but it is futile now.

The recognition of the independence of Egypt is largely due to the realization that violence and force will ultimately defeat its end. Ireland is a case in point. Great Britain could not very well maintain armies in different parts of the world. It is now try-

ing a more conciliatory policy. The situation in Egypt grew tense during the years of the war. Last Monday the British Government announced a new policy toward Egypt. Among the fundamental points of the agreement are:

"Egypt will recognize Great Britain's privileged position in the valley of the Nile and agree, in case of war, to afford every facility for access to Egyptian territory. Great Britain will maintain a garrison in Egypt in the Canal zone. Egypt retains control of foreign relations, subject to her not making treaties contrary to British policy, and will have the right to maintain diplomatic representatives abroad. Capitulations will be abolished."

Lloyd George is said to have a similar plan for Ireland. Perhaps the entire structure of the British empire is being remodelled for the fear of its early collapse. What is certain is that this fear on the part of the British statesmen is not illusory. It is based on definite and compelling facts.

Debs on the Campaign Issue

TO Cox and Harding the League of Nations is the issue of this campaign. They publish statements and make speeches pointing out the pros and cons of a League which President Wilson brought over from Paris. But it is as dead as a door nail. It is a smoke screen to hide the vital pulsating problems of the day. A few days ago Eugene V. Debs was interviewed on Atlanta Prison. What will Cox and Harding "do about the coal problem?" Debs asked. "What will they do with the mines? That is the supreme and vital issue of the campaign. . . Mr. Cox and Mr. Harding, as well as other representatives of and apologists for the existing system have been telling us that the trouble with the coal mines is that they cannot get cars with which to haul the coal to market. And yet the United States can build 4000 railroad cars of a special design by the special order of Mr. Wilson and can ship them to the Polish Government in order to enable the aristocrats of Poland to fight and crush the only genuinely democratic government on the face of the earth—the Russian Soviet. Why can we send 4000 cars to Poland, why can we not get a few thousand cars to supply coal to the imperative needs of the American people?"

"Were I campaigning in this election," Debs continued, "I believe I should dismiss most of the technical terms and speak in the clearest possible language. I should say: 'There can be no change as long as a few people own this country, its industries and its resources, as long as they are in control of its wealth and therefore of its politics. Take, for example, the situation in my own town of Terre Haute. Terre Haute is surrounded by coal, is built over a coal deposit, yet it is impossible to get coal at any price. A few owners have taken possession of the coal mines. They say 'This is ours,' and they have shut out the people."

"The miners are at their mercy and they cannot dig the coal even to keep themselves warm, unless the mine owners give them permission. To the coal miners these owners say: 'I will permit you to enter my mines and dig coal for me on any terms. Out of what you produce for me I will give you as your share just enough for you

to breed upon.' For the miner has no home in any true meaning of the word 'home,' she has only a breeding place.

"And to the people the coal mine owners say with a smile: 'Come to see me. This is my price. You may take it or leave it.' This is capitalism; this is what both the Democratic and Republican parties stand for. If you like it, vote for it; but don't complain when you have received what you have voted for.

"The Socialist proposition is this: We are proposing to take possession of the coal fields to pay the miners at work the full value of all the coal they dig, so that they may build decent homes, educate their children and live in comfort, and then charge to the public exactly what it costs to dig and distribute the coal. The Attorney General says that it costs just \$2.76 a ton to bring coal to the mine mouth, whereas it is sold at the mine mouth for \$12 and \$15 a ton, as a result of which coal mine owners are making profits of 7,000 and 8,000 per cent.

"Palmer proposes to put a few profiteers in jail. But that does not interest us — what we want is coal. And we want it cheap and plenty — and that can never be accomplished until the nation owns its coal and sells it to itself at what it costs to produce it. This proposition is so simple that a child can understand it.

"To the miners we say, 'For whom are you working? For plutocrats who do not live here, who do not care anything about you or your home! They are interested in you for just one purpose — to get out of you all they can for themselves. Whether you get coal to keep your own family warm does not concern them in the least. They are not interested in that. Whether the country gets enough coal to keep its industries running, its schools open, its houses warm, they do not care. All they want is the profit to be made out of private ownership of coal.'

Debs declared that the Farmer-Labor party is a one-candidate party. 'They will never survive this campaign. People are too far along now to hold to any half-way measures or programs.'

AMERICAN LABOR AGAINST WAR ON RUSSIA

The action of the Seattle Central Labor Council in unanimously voting against interference by the United States in the war between Poland and Russia is being followed by a similar stand on the part of other labor bodies. The Seattle council wired Samuel Gompers asking that the executive council of the A. F. of L. be called into extraordinary session in New York to consider the attitude of American labor toward President Wilson's declared aid to the Poles.

The Central Trades and Labor Council of Bremerton, Wash., a small navy yard near Seattle, has followed suit and is forwarding a letter to President Wilson and members of congress from this state opposing intervention.

Representatives of 6,000 miners of Washington state have also gone on record against aid to Poland. In a resolution passed by the miners an appeal is made to American labor to refuse to handle munitions for Poland or any other country making war on the Soviets.

Editor, Justice:

Dear Sir and Bro.:—It has been accepted as a truism that a half truth is frequently worse than a lie, and as a lie has the advantage of traveling on wings it is difficult to keep up with it.

In your issue of July 30 William M. Feigenbaum mouths the malicious statement that I sent an emissary to the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce and obtained twenty-eight thousand dollars for printing "Americanization" articles in the Cleveland Citizen, which I have edited about thirty years, and other distortions that can only emanate from a diseased mind.

The same dirty insinuations appeared in the late and unlamented Cleveland Socialist, edited by Mr. C. E. Ruthenberg, whose brilliant leadership succeeded in smothering the Socialist organization in Cleveland at a time when its local triumph was practically assured, as well as pretty much all over Ohio; in Mr. J. L. Engdahl's paper, printed in Chicago, as well as several other sheets of equal worth. In reply to Ruthenberg's scurrilous article a statement of fact appeared in The Citizen, and later I sent a reply also to Engdahl, which neither of the "fair" gentlemen had the decency to print, their motto evidently being to throw plenty of mud in the hope that some will stick.

I don't wish to impose upon your good nature by rehearsing the matter and would pay no further attention to the incident were it not for the fact that Mr. Feigenbaum, like a true Tammany ward-heeler, is attempting to strike at the Farmer-Labor party over my back, showing the depths to which these alleged idealists and champions of the working class have sunk. The facts are, and can be verified in every particular here in Cleveland, that after the war was over an advertising campaign designed to deal with constructive rather than destructive subjects began here and elsewhere. Instead of appeals being made to the public in these ads, to "Buy Bonds," "Swat the Kaiser," etc., they took the form of "Naturalization," "Americanization," "Buy a Home," "Safety First," and so forth. The Citizen accepted some of these ads, as did many other papers, and I challenge anyone to show where even one that was printed in our paper was inimical to working class interests.

Believing in political action, I favor naturalization in order to increase the power of the workers and make easier the acquiring of governmental control. The "direct actionists" of the Ruthenberg-Feigenbaum-Engdahl stripe, who know nothing about industrial affairs and "direct" nobody, are, of course, little concerned in naturalization because their readymade r-r-revolution will fix all that when the fateful hour strikes.

That I asked the Chamber of Commerce, directly or indirectly, for a donation is so absurdly false that that one assertion alone proves the answer to be an ignorance or a deliberate knave. The C. of C. makes no donations and seldom advertises, and did not in this case, and is not partisan to the labor press. All that the Chamber does is, through a standing committee, to pass on the legitimacy of local advertising

vehicles—that is, it seeks to protect, as far as possible, local advertisers from being imposed upon by the myriads of fakirs who travel from place to place to prey upon business people with "sure-thing" schemes. Every ad that appeared in The Citizen stood strictly upon its own feet and carried no editorial or managerial endorsement, and it was plainly stated that the space was bought and paid for by citizens interested in the subjects announced, or words to that effect. Several were originally prepared by the U. S. Department of Labor and upon request I wrote several on technical training, industrial accidents, etc.—a reprehensible crime, no doubt, in the minds of such paragons of virtue as Ruthenberg, Engdahl, Feigenbaum & Co.

The space was sold at the rate of \$50 per half page, the regular advertising rate at the time, and a verbal understanding was had with the "emissary" who contracted for the space that the matter could not be run regularly and 54 issues would be the limit in any event. Finally the feature was discontinued in order that the space might be devoted to regular advertising, which was more profitable to the paper, and which, horrifying as it may seem, is paid for by local capitalists who sell goods at bargain prices, they claim, that the people need. The Citizen never begged a dollar in its thirty years of existence and kept a movement crippled, as

Ruthenberg's egotistical adventures have, but depended upon regular subscribers and advertisers to pay the freight, as is the custom.

In your issue of July 23 you speak of the undersigned as "the former Socialist." Let me assure you that I have not recanted my political principles one iota. Despatches over which I had no control compelled me to change my policies. No organization that I know of has a patent or copyright on socialism as a scientific principle, no more than that astronomy or the multiplication table can be monopolized. I helped found the Socialist party and for twenty years struggled as hard as I knew how to build up that party, a dozen years of which were devoted to almost daily activity as a speaker, writer, organizer, etc., until it became necessary to give more attention to personal affairs. In an honorable way, without endeavoring to influence a soul and with the best of feeling among members of my branch, I withdrew in May, 1919, declaring that I had been through the struggle against DeLeonism and had no desire to repeat the performance. I have no quarrel with the S. P. and will enter into no controversy with the decent and sane men and women in it. The not distant future will probably decide which are the best policies to pursue.

Yours fraternally,
MAX S. HAYES.

Out of Town Organization Campaign in Full Swing

Our International Out-of-Town department is rapidly extending its machinery. During the last week several new offices were opened in different towns around New York under the supervision of Vice-President J. Halpern and local organizers.

One office was opened in Troy, N. Y., which is an important center of many waist and dress shops. Several other towns nestle around Troy which are important centers of the ladies' garment trades. Bro. T. J. Purcell, formerly with the American Federation of Labor, has been appointed manager of the office. Brother Purcell is intimately familiar with the entire district and we can confidently expect that he will meet with great success.

The second office has been opened in Poughkeepsie, New York, under the supervision of Miss Maud Foley, who is an organizer of our International.

The third office has been opened in Hackensack, New Jersey. Brother Weiss is the manager of the office. Hackensack was up till now an out-of-the-way place where New York manufacturers ran for safety from the union. But since the union office had been opened in that hitherto union-proof town the scene has changed. The bosses are nervous and frightened. They are using all possible means to hamper the organization campaign.

One particular boss, a certain Belzer, used "strong arm" methods. He attacked Brothers Sheind and Magnetti of the New Jersey

office of the New York Joint Board who are doing organizing work in Hackensack. The strong armed boss was arrested and fined a few dollars. He will later appear before a grand jury and he will have to account for his "methods" of combating the union.

There are many skirt, waist, dress and cloak shops in Hackensack. The workers are interested in the organization campaign, and already they are responding to the call of the union. In spite of the chagrin of the bosses the union has come to stay in Hackensack, and before long a new local of our International will be established.

Another strike occurred in Scranton, Penn., this week. The strike took place in the shops of the Imperial Cloak Co. Brother J. Halpern succeeded in reaching a settlement with the manufacturers to the satisfaction of the workers.

Scranton has still another strike which has not yet been settled. It is against the cloak firm of Linderman Brothers. This firm was once located in Philadelphia against whom the Cloakmakers' Union of that city conducted a strike. The firm then "moved" away to Scranton in the hope of being finally safe from union activity. But it found the union also in Scranton and the strike is continued as if this firm hadn't moved from Philadelphia. Brother Halpern has succeeded in securing the help of the Central Federated Union of that town in the struggle against Linderman Bros.

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

SIXTEENTH OF SEPTEMBER

Governor Smith issued a proclamation calling for an extraordinary session of the Legislature to relieve housing conditions in New York. He also called special elections to fill the five vacant seats in the Assembly caused by the expulsion of the Socialist members.

The special elections were called for September 16. There is all the reason to believe that all fair-minded people in the five districts concerned will concentrate all their efforts to re-elect the ousted Socialist Assemblymen. There is hardly any doubt as to what the outcome of the elections will be. The residents of those districts will not fail to voice their protest against the act of violence committed against the very principles of representative government.

Yet it would be extremely erroneous and misleading to imagine that the results of the elections are an accomplished fact. The Republican and Democratic party machines will not only resort to their fusion tactics in order to defeat the Socialist candidates but according to reports in the press the politicians have decided to resort to violence and terror in this parliamentary struggle. A whole army of agents, spies, thugs are employed to attend Socialist campaign meetings and to break them up or at least disturb them. It will be enough for a Socialist speaker to express a view which according to the American Legion is unpatriotic or disloyal that the meeting will be broken up and the speaker hailed before a court as a terrible criminal.

And if these politicians who are so much opposed to the despotism of the Bolsheviks could permit themselves to break up meetings under various flimsy pretexts then we may expect a veritable reign of terror from this nefarious clique of politicians on election day, September 16. It is therefore hazardous to confidently wait for the election of the ousted Socialists. It happened even in ordinary times that votes for Socialist candidates were stolen. The two political parties have frequently employed thugs and gangsters to intimidate citizens who voted the Socialist ticket. There is little doubt that they will use these tactics in the coming elections.

That is why it is of utmost importance that all voters in the districts concerned should participate in the elections. It is a supreme duty for every citizen to vote and to take care that his vote should not be stolen or destroyed. The Sweets and Luskens must be taught a lesson. The confident feeling that an overwhelming majority of votes will be cast for the ousted Socialists and that therefore no unusual efforts are necessary in this campaign will be of great help to the sinister designs

of the politicians. Such an attitude would play into the hands of Sweet & Co. We must concentrate all energies to re-elect the expelled Socialist Assemblymen. No citizen should fail to utilize his right. This is not an ordinary election. It is the occasion for one of the most impressive protests against the dark forces of reaction. The vote must express itself in a telling and unmistakable deed: The greater the vote for the Socialist Assemblymen the more impressive will the protest be against those who desecrated the rights not only of the chosen representatives, nor alone of the hundreds of thousands of voters but who defiled and nullified the very life principle of the United States.

A NOTE ON THE QUESTION OF SLACK

We have already had occasion to deal with the question of slack. Our explanations have not of course taken the place of actually remedying the conditions. But we trust that they served as food for thought and that many members will henceforth not blame their union for all the ills and freaks of the trade. They will, we trust, realize that it is both ridiculous and futile to vent their bitterness on the organization.

We repeat again that it is extremely hazardous for the members to indulge at this time in fault finding of their organization. They must all rally in a united effort to maintain the power of the Union.

Now more than ever the members must show their devotion and loyalty to their union. All energies must be devoted toward maintaining its strength financially and otherwise.

The slack season will not continue indefinitely. Soon the busy season will begin again, and it is therefore of utmost importance for the workers to be prepared to defend themselves against the usual tactics of the bosses. And the only way to be prepared is to have the union strong and effective.

This is the most opportune time for doing effective work in those districts which have remained practically unorganized. That is why the energetic campaign for the organization of the out-of-town trade under the leadership of Vice-President J. Halpern is so encouraging. It is also gratifying to hear from Brother Samuels that the organization campaign in the raincoat industry in Milwaukee and vicinity is highly satisfactory. We hope to hear similar reports from other districts.

The organization campaign under the present conditions is beset with difficulties. But no obstacles will stop our Union from this important work. The hardships

spur our organizers into greater activity. They are guided by the maxim that "where there is a will there is a way." The present achievements, no matter how small they might appear, are of great significance for the international because of the hardships and obstacles that had to be overcome. Experience teaches us that achievements which have been attained through hardships and sacrifice have a more lasting effect than those gained easily and without effort.

THE TAILORS' CONGRESS AT COPENHAGEN

From the reports thus far received regarding the congress of the International Clothing Workers at Copenhagen it is difficult to draw any definite conclusion. We know who the representatives of the American needle trades unions were, but we don't know which European countries sent representatives. Did Russia and Poland, for instance, send representatives to the congress?

This we will surely learn from letters from our delegation. From the cable reports we gather that a resolution in favor of week work was adopted. It was also decided to establish an international bureau.

This latter decision means that the tailors' international is an accomplished fact. For there cannot be an international bureau without an international federation of all the unions. We venture to assume that since an international bureau will be established an international organ exclusively devoted to the questions of the needle trades will be published. It is therefore clear even from the brief cable reports that the foundation of a tailors' international has been laid at the Copenhagen Congress.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL 66

The bonnaz embroidery workers are organized in Local 66 won a swift and decisive victory. Which is the best demonstration that they are well organized, that their local is strong, their leadership able, and the large membership dominated by a spirit of solidarity. It could with truth be said that the leadership of Local 66 reflects the spirit of the members who are class conscious workers.

Local 66 is all right. The point in the agreement which says that a 46-hour week should be introduced during slack seasons is on the right way. But it does not go far enough. Why only a 46-hour week? If the Union is going to relieve the scourge of unemployment there should have been a provision that in time of slack all the work should be equally distributed among the workers in the shops. This would make it unnecessary to limit the number of hours beforehand. Sometimes it would be advisable to limit the working week to 42 hours, or 36, or even less as the situation might call for.

The chief aim during slack season is not so much the limitation of working hours but the finding of employment for large numbers of workers.

But this is a detail. Practically this principle of equally distributing work in the shops during time of slack will be adhered to.

The embroidery workers may be proud of the fact that they re-

ceived the highest minimum wage scale in the needle industry, 75 dollars a week for first-class workers and 65 dollars for second-class workers.

The embroidery manufacturers are also to be congratulated for their speedy settlement. We are certain that they will never regret the fact that they avoided a prolonged struggle with the Union.

A GOOD ADVICE

In a report of Brother P. Kotler, manager of Local 1, there is the following pointed paragraph which is extremely worth while to quote:

"It is in the interests of the operators to work no overtime where there are idle machines. Outside of the fact that it is not more than right to give an opportunity to unemployed workers to earn a living, it is in the interest of the operators that no workers should go around idle and threaten to force down their wage scales. They must refuse to work overtime where there are idle machines and force their bosses to employ more workers. It is for their own protection."

N. Y. World for Election of Expelled Socialists

In an editorial headed "Re-elected the Five Socialists," the New York World endorses the action of Governor Smith in ordering a special election in the five assembly districts whose Socialist representatives were expelled from the Legislature last spring.

It adds:

"There ought not to be even a moment's doubt of the re-election of the five Socialists who were expelled by the assembly in defiance of right and reason. As a matter of principle they should all be restored to their seats by majorities that will carry an unmistakable rebuke to the Assemblymen who voted to unseat them merely for being Socialists. By raising this issue Speaker Sweet challenged public opinion in a way that admits of only one answer, and voters who believe in representative government, whatever their party affiliation, should hasten to join in rendering a verdict that will not be forgotten. If a man properly and legally elected is to be thrown out and his office vacated because a majority of the assembly disapprove of the party to which he belongs, elections in this State are a farce.

"Totally opposed as it is to the principles and general practices of the Socialist Party, the World hopes that all five of the expelled Socialists will be reelected in spite of Tammany-Republican fusion, and that the citizens of those districts will emphatically uphold the issue of representative government, which is the only issue involved in this contest."

A Parliament in the Cloak and Dress Industry

By M. PERLSTEIN

In the last issue of *Justice* there appeared an editorial advocating the abolition of overtime in the cloak industry in order to lengthen the working season and to prepare jobs for the immigrants who are beginning to come to this country.

There is doubtless no one in our trade who would not want to see overtime work abolished and sooner or later it will be abolished. But will our problems be solved then? We hardly think so. Our editor however contends that with the abolition of overtime the working seasons will not only be lengthened for the workers in the trade, but it will supply employment to the immigrants.

Under the present conditions when chaos reigns in our trade the abolition of overtime will not lengthen the seasons. It will fail to bring about this effect just as the introduction of week work had failed. An industry in which hundreds of new employers and thousands of new workers are coming in yearly cannot be improved unless radical measures are taken and the business side of it is completely reorganized.

Suppose that overtime will be abolished and the workers will turn out less work. What will happen? The manufacturer will not have to begin his season a month or two earlier. There will appear a greater army of sub-contractors who will find more workers and the manufacturers will have their work done without in the least lengthening the season.

A trade like ours, where everyone can easily become a boss is scattered and spread. During the few busy weeks the work is widely distributed and after a short time the task is done.

We rejoice in the fact that we have great unions, that we have a Cloakmakers' Union in New York of 50 thousand members. We congratulate ourselves upon the fact that our locals enrol large numbers of new members every season. But have we really made progress in bringing about greater security for the workers? It is true that the introduction of week work and the few good seasons have enabled us to raise the weekly earnings of our members.

But we must not forget the time we are talking about. There was no immigration to this country during the last few years. The men's clothing industry was flooded with work and a large number of our members worked in that trade. But no workers in the men's trade came to us. The seasons were good, the country as a whole was prosperous, there was no oversupply of workers. This accounts for the relatively steady work and wages.

We are now coming to the normal times. Immigration begins. What is to be done? The abolition of overtime may be a necessary step. The question however is whether this will really lengthen the seasons. Will this help the workers who have given away their lives in the industry?

It is admitted by all fair-minded people, non-workers included, that the industry must provide its workers with a living.

In saying this we mean that the employer must bear the responsibility

that his workers out of whom he makes his profits should earn a living wage and enjoy a fair degree of comfort. The employers however do not assume any responsibility. They employ the workers during the busy few weeks, then they are discharged and a few weeks later they are again employed. Forced idleness and work constitutes the life of the workers.

But if the employers would bear the responsibility to the workers not only during the few weeks of the busy season but during the remaining weeks they would take great care to lengthen the season and improve the conditions in the industry.

An employer today may find enough workers to pull through a few weeks and make enough profits to last him the rest of the year not caring a bit what becomes of the workers. He is not of course interested in lengthening the season. After the employer gets his share it is of little concern to him that the workers are in a bad plight. On the contrary the more the workers suffer the more do these manufacturers rejoice because they are placed in a more favorable position when the busy season comes. It is of course true that longer seasons would bring bigger profits to the employers but they don't stop to think about it since they get it in a few weeks.

In order to lengthen the seasons the employers must assume greater responsibility. In order to make them more responsible the workers must secure outside of a minimum weekly wage, a minimum number of working weeks. That is, every worker must be guaranteed a definite number of working weeks or of weeks for which he should get full pay.

As it is, there is an irresponsibility on the part of the manufacturers. The manufacturers are organized not for the purpose of improving the industry which they could have easily done but for the purpose of lowering the prices of the workers. As a result the industry is broken up and scattered among innumerable sub-contractors ruining thereby not only the workers but the entire trade. Hundreds and thousands of sub-manufacturers arose who are plundering and exploiting the people.

Hundreds of former workers became petty bosses. Many of them made good money. Among them are even former business agents who are making profits by plundering and fleeing the workers.

It is of course ridiculous to ask guarantees and responsibilities of such a type of illiputian manufacturers who aren't worth two cents. Their very existence is due to the abnormal conditions in the trade. The sub-manufacturers do not directly belong to the trade, they are parasitic middle men who export their profits by pillaging the workers.

The manufacturer as well as the worker suffers from this condition in the trade. As soon as the sub-contractor makes good he tries to become a manufacturer and sell his products to the storekeepers. He must of course sell his products below the usual price. How is it possible for him to com-

pete with large manufacturers? The sub-contractor pays more for materials, machinings, rent, etc. He can only compete by exploiting the workers. If he does not underpay his workers they must turn out twice as much work as in a big shop. The sub-manufacturers compete on the money and health of his workers.

Under these conditions the big manufacturers is gradually replaced by the petty employer.

If there are no big manufacturers there is no one to hold responsible.

As far as profiteering is concerned the petty bosses can just as well managed if not better than the big ones. They differ only in the utter lack of responsibility.

If we work for capital we must deal with capital. But as it is we only deal with former operators, cutters, business agents who have become petty bosses. If the workers themselves would have controlled the industry, that is if the industry would have been nationalized, the problems of slack, for instance, would have been solved by the workers themselves. This however is far from being the case. We must therefore solve these problems together with the employers.

Paper victories will not in any way improve the conditions of the workers. Our workers in the cloak and dress trade are practically 100 per cent organized. The problem before the unions is to put the organization on a sound foundation.

When I speak here of improving the conditions I do not mean to bring about a situation where a worker could amass a sufficient number of dollars so that he could become a boss himself. I am not interested in these individuals. I am thinking of the large mass of workers who have no ambitions of becoming manufacturers.

Now when the workers are organized big things must be done. In the past great things have been done to organize the workers, now still greater things must be accomplished to improve their living conditions.

These problems however cannot be settled by the Union alone but must be settled jointly with the manufacturers. The problems are also of such a nature that they cannot be settled in one isolated spot. They must be dealt with in a national manner, for the entire country. That is why it would be necessary to call a national conference of the manufacturers and jobbers of the entire country together with the unions where the following questions would be taken up:

Sub-manufacturing — the evils of this system for the entire industry; the responsibility of the workers to the industry and of the industry to the workers; what the workers must do to develop the industry; what measures should be taken to protect not only the wage scales but also a definite number of working weeks in the year; the security of the workers employed in the industry; control of immigrant workers; the development of big shops; a national unemployment insurance fund which should be mutually established. These and similar other national questions should be taken up at the proposed conference.

Such a conference must naturally lead to the establishment of a national parliament in the cloak and dress industry which should legislate for the manufacturers and workers. This national body should be made up of representatives of both parties, and the workers should not only have a voice in determining the wages and hours but that they should also have a share in the business side of the industry. For the more prosperous an industry is the greater will be the benefits.

This must be undertaken at once. But will our people be big enough to bring this into effect? Will we fail to utilize this opportunity? The time when the worker was a mere appendage to the machine is gone.

The time came when the workers must be interested in the development of the industry, they must be interested in gaining a voice in the control and administration of the industry, for the well being of the workers depends upon the well being of the industry.

Farmer-Labor Party in Michigan

A propaganda and organization convention of the Farmer-Labor Party of Michigan will be held in Detroit September 18th and 19th. Delegates from all parts of the state are expected to be in attendance. At this convention a state platform will be adopted and the balance of the state ticket filled up.

Two days later the state convention of the Michigan Federation of Labor will be held in Flint. It is expected that many delegates attending the Farmer-Labor convention will also attend the Federation gathering.

A hard battle is anticipated between the progressive and conservatives for the control of the Federation. The sharpest clash is expected upon the proposition of endorsing the Farmer-Labor party.

The non-partisans, followers of Gompers and his policies, have been placed in an awkward position due to the candidacy of Judge Jeffries for governor on the Farmer-Labor ticket. They dare not oppose him as a candidate by openly supporting some old party man, for they will lose their official heads in their own locality due to the popularity of Jeffries with the rank and file.

Increase for N. Y. Municipal Workers

An increase in pay of 22 per cent for all municipal employees receiving less than \$1,500 a year, and an increase of \$500 for all who get over \$1,500, has been voted by the Board of Aldermen of New York. The Socialist members of the Board offered an amendment making the \$500 increase apply to the lower paid employees as well as the higher paid, but this was tabled.

Alberman Vladceck, Socialist, pointed out that the 22 per cent scheme failed to bring the wages of 40,000 of the city's employees up to the standard living wage fixed at \$2,800 by the report of the police and firemen's associations.

By ISRAEL LEWIN

In an effort to determine the workers' right to picket, two organizers of Local No. 25 submitted themselves to arrest. The case was brought up last Thursday morning in Jefferson Market Court.

About two weeks ago, a strike was declared against the shop of G. M. Piermont, 28 West 38th Street. The firm discharged all of the active union workers and is resorting to all tactics in an effort to maintain an open shop. In addition to the policemen and detectives stationed in front of the shop, private guards have also been hired. Scabs come in and go home in taxicabs. Union workers are intimidated and are arrested for picketing, under the pretense that they are "obstructing traffic."

Waist Makers' Union, Local No. 25, in order to convince itself of the manner in which strikers behave themselves, sent investigators, Abe Friedman and Chas. Cohen, to picket and to see to it that the strikers conduct themselves in a peaceful manner. As soon as they began marching up and down in front of the shop they were informed by an officer that they are not permitted to do so. The men, however, insisted upon their right to picket, saying that no law exists against peaceful picketing. The result was that they were arrested and their case was taken up in Jefferson Market Court last Thursday.

The result of the case is not known yet due to the fact that this paper was in press at the time.

An opportunity was finally afforded the union to prove to the public that whatever intimidation and coercion is exercised in times of strikes is the result of the gangster tactics employed by the manufacturers.

Strikers were, as usually, peacefully picketing the shop of the West Point Waist Company of 219 West 24th Street. The strike, it will be remembered, was called some fourteen weeks ago and is still being continued. Last week, while picketing, one of the girls was struck by the foreman. The girl immediately turned to one of the officers stationed in front of the shop, and insisted that the foreman be apprehended, with the result that the foreman received a suspended sentence, with the warning that a repetition of this offense will result in his being sent to jail.

According to all indications, the firm is weakening. This is borne out by the fact that all efforts are being made by the employer to dispose of their stock at whatever price possible, as the strike has thus far been a costly one to them.

Two Impartial Chairmen Cases

On Monday of this week, two cutters' cases were brought before two different impartial chairmen.

The first one was the case of Sam Krinsky, a cutter working for Louis Gerstein, 138 West 25th Street. Brother Krinsky joined our union during the general strike and lock-out of 1916, at which time he was employed at the above house as shipping clerk and errand boy, and receiving \$10 per week. The firm put him on

to cut trimmings. After a while his wages were raised to \$12, \$14 and \$16 per week, until the year of 1918, when he received \$20 per week. He was then drafted into the army.

After his discharge from the army, he came back to the shop and was paid \$25 per week, and continued working there until May 22 of this year. In the last few weeks of his employment, he was receiving the magnificent sum of \$35 per week. The union contended that the cutter is entitled to back pay for the period dating from July 12th, 1919. The Protective Association, on the other hand, claimed that this cutter having worked also in the capacity of shipping clerk, and never having complained to the union that he was not receiving the minimum scale, is not entitled to any back pay. As a matter of fact, they drew up a matter in question over did any cutting outside of laying up some canvas once in a while. The verdict of the impartial chairman was in favor of the union.

The other case was a complaint against the firm of William Sattler, 450 6th Avenue, where Cutter Joseph Kampner entered into an individual agreement with the concern in July, 1919, for 52 weeks' work and \$45 per week, on January 5, 1920, when the Governor's commission granted an increase of \$5 per week to our members, Brother Kampner did not receive his increase.

The union claimed that in so much as the individual agreement entered into between the firm and Brother Kampner was in violation of the collective agreement which exists between the American Association and the union, that that is null and void and the collective agreement supersedes all other arrangements. The firm is therefore obliged to pay the difference of \$5 per week for thirty weeks. The Association, knowing that the union was justified in its claim, was willing to compromise. The union, feeling that they had a 100 per cent case, refused to compromise, since it involved the integrity of the principle of collective bargaining.

However, to the surprise of all concerned, when the case came before an impartial chairman, it was decided in favor of the firm. The impartial chairman stated in his decision that he is not concerned with the collective agreement between the union and the Association, and that the individual agreement, in his opinion, should stand, and the union therefore is not entitled to back pay.

This latter decision will be a lesson to the union for the future to be more careful in selecting its impartial chairmen, for any man who can make the statement that he is not concerned with the collective agreement between the union and the Association has no legal or moral right to sit as a judge in cases affecting the two organizations.

The following is an extract from the Executive Board minutes of the past week:

Emanuel M. Glick, No. 3352, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Wilder and members of the Elegance Dress Co., 141 W. 21st Street, with hav-

ing insulted the firm. They also charge Brother Glick with having worked on Saturday afternoon, July 10, 1920; Sunday, July 11, 1920, and Saturday afternoon, July 17, 1920. To corroborate their statements in reference to the Saturday and Sunday work, Joseph Prumwalt, bookkeeper; Anna Tornell and Julia Dambrosky, members of Local No. 25; Morris Weiner, shipping clerk, and Arthur Mandola, member of Local No. 89, appeared. The latter witness appeared at the request of Brother Glick. He stated before the Executive Board that notwithstanding the request of Brother Glick, he will tell the truth and testifies that he saw him go up to the shop on a Saturday afternoon after 1 o'clock.

Mr. Prumwalt, the bookkeeper, states that on one or two occasions in the early part of July in the course of his work, he met Brother Glick on Saturday afternoon. Misses Tornell and Dambrosky state that on a Saturday afternoon in the early part of July they came to the shop about 3:30 P. M. to buy a dress and found Mr. Glick in the shop. The shipping clerk testifies in the same manner.

After hearing all testimony, Brother Glick asked for a postponement of the case, stating that he will try and bring witnesses

who will deny the allegations of the firm and Business Agent Wilder. Owing to the fact, however, that Brother Glick was given due notice to bring his witnesses if he has any and failed to do so, the Executive Board refused his request. The case was then taken up and taking into consideration the fact that Brother Glick has only this week finished paying up a previous fine of \$50 imposed upon him for working on a Sunday and that he is at present a dropped member owing 2 1/2 years' dues and also his previous record in the same shop where he tried his utmost not to have any other cutter working with him, so that he would not have to divide work in the slack season, the Executive Board instructed the office to withdraw the working card of Brother Glick from the above house on Saturday, Aug. 21, 1920. The Executive Board further instructs the office not to issue a working card to any cutter for the above house unless that cutter is sent from the office.

PAY LOSS

One of our men, Robin Berman, lost his pay of \$47 on a Saturday, August 21 at 12:30 P. M., on the corner of 25th Street and 6th Avenue. Any one who found same should kindly return it to the office of our Union.

Soviet Russia Medical Relief Mass Meeting

While the battle between imperialistic Poland and Soviet Russia is still raging, the smoke of powder and lies is slowly clearing and the truth emerges to the careful observer.

Soviet Russia is left alone to care for her wounded and starved population and armies. Everybody in the allied countries predicts her defeat; everybody mistrusts her peaceful declarations despite the fact that she alone has recognized the independence of the small border states, carved out of old Russian territory, and has given them magnanimous peace terms.

The Polish atrocities against the Jewish population are matters of record. Not only have the Jewish Relief workers and rabbis in the Ukraine, Galicia and Poland testified to it, but even the High Commissioner of Great Britain, Sir Samuel, furnished incontrovertible evidence of the Jewish massacres perpetrated by the Poles.

Russia is facing a superhuman task in being forced to care for an impoverished population, to clear infested areas of former Polish occupation, to eradicate contagious diseases and to organize destroyed cities. The retreating Polish armies are destroying waterworks, burning villages, taking away the peasants' cattle and destroying their crops, and leaving nothing but desolation and suffering behind.

In the great work of reconstruction and rehabilitation which Soviet Russia is doing now every human impulse should compel us to use our utmost efforts to help this hard pressed republic of Russian workers and peasants. Food and medical supplies are needed now more than ever in Soviet Russia. The blockade is gradually being lifted. Trading between Soviet Russia and Scandinavia and England is being carried on for several months. Shipments from the United States to the neutral

ports surrounding Russia on the Baltic, such as Revel, Estonia are possible. Given sufficient funds medical relief can reach Soviet Russia from the United States.

To collect such funds the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee has been circulating subscription lists for the past few months. To strengthen these funds it has arranged for a mass meeting in Madison Square Garden, September 2, at 8 p.m. Dr. Judah L. Magnes, Mr. L. C. A. K. Martens, the Russian Soviet Government Representative in the U. S., Lt. Col. R. L. Roustam-Bek, and other prominent speakers will address the meeting.

MINERS SUBSCRIBE TO POLYMER-LABOR PARTY

Miners of District No. 10 which includes Washington state have passed a resolution scoring the international officials of the United Mine Workers of America for alleged failure to call a special convention dealing with the problem of the Farmer-Labor Party. Provision for the calling of the convention for discussion of the Labor Party was made at Cleveland, according to the resolution. District No. 10 miners held that "We believe the rank and file of our union subscribes to the policy of the new party and are against the policy as outlined by the officials of the A. F. of L." Demand is made that the official miners' journal carry news of the Farmer-Labor party.

AGAINST CHILD LABOR

The Wisconsin State Federation of Labor has applied to the state industrial commission to revoke a large number of child labor permits at the Nekoosa-Port Edwards paper plant, following action on the request of the labor party suspending the issuance of such permits until further orders. An investigation now is on.

The N. Y. State Federation of Labor Convention

Speaking before the 57th annual convention of the New York State Federation of Labor Samuel Gompers called upon organized labor to support the Democratic ticket. At the same time he warned labor to be prepared for more shutting down of mills and the laying off of hands in other industries in an attempt, he said, to coerce the workers into voting as the employers wished.

"I hold," said he after describing the present Republican Congress as reactionary, "that in the present campaign the masses of American wage earners are in duty bound to see to it that this spirit of reaction shall not be installed in power."

His warning to labor was couched in these words:

"There are some of the corporate interests that are trying to coerce the men of labor. We found recently those conditions existing in a number of plants, particularly typified in New England woollen mills and on the Pennsylvania Railroad system, namely the shutting down of plants and laying off men in an attempt to reduce wages."

"The purpose is that of repeating the old policy of the corporations and big business to frighten the working people so that if they vote one way they are going to be put out of their jobs and out of work."

"We shall see further evidence of this as the weeks go on from now until election day. If the attempt is seriously made to coerce the working people of the United States and the citizenship of the United States to bring them into a frame of mind that they have to vote in the coming election for President and Vice-President, for senators and representatives as the employers want to coerce them to vote, I am satisfied that the working people of the United States will give them the answer they deserve—either take off your coercion or you will have to take off your coats and do your own work."

Next to Gompers' speech which was full of politics, the feature of the opening day of the convention of the State body was the refusal to seat Ernest Bohm, the veteran secretary of the Central Federation Union. The Credentials Committee acted on the protest of Robert F. Brindell, also of New York, that Bohm was barred by that provision of the constitution making actual employment at one's trade a requisite for membership in the convention.

James P. Holland of New York presided at the convention, which is made up of 600 delegates. They were welcomed by Lieut. Gov. Harry C. Walker and local officials, after which Mr. Gompers was presented as "the youngest man in the labor movement."

He began by referring to the approval of the Nineteenth Amendment by Tennessee as a belated act of justice, saying that labor was for equal Suffrage "when it was not fashionable to be a Suffragist."

Gompers led up to his declaration on politics with a brief review of the progress of the trades union movement, saying that until the unions became powerful, writers and cartoonists were much worried by the damage stri-

kers did to themselves and their families.

"In the last few years," said he, "those finding that strikes are not injurious to strikers now undertake to make them criminal and unlawful. There are some people inconvenienced by strikes."

It is good that they are inconvenienced one in a while, for otherwise they would pay no attention to the workers' woes.

"They have in one State made it unlawful to strike, made it a crime to strike."

"Recently the railroads were turned back to their private owners. When the Government took them over, the men on the railroads were free men. When they were turned back, the men were tied to their tasks. The only advantage to the workers, if advantage it was, was that the men had lost their freedom in the transaction. We will all have to meet that situation."

"Unless the men and women in labor, in all walks of life, are up and doing now and within the next few months we shall have lost the privilege and freedom for which four years of bloody war in the United States was waged to abolish human slavery and for which all the sacrifices of the recent war to abolish for all time autocracy and militarism. There will be riveted upon the wrists of wage earners the gyves of slavery and unfreedom—the policy to make it unlawful for a workman to stop work, to set men upon trial and imprison them if they stop work."

"I believed then," he continued, "that the Republican Party had not yet fulfilled its mission and that the Democratic Party at that time was lacking in principle and understanding, and that I could not support such a party. After that, from 1876 until 1908, I could not support the party that stood for the very opposite to the principles for which the Civil War was fought."

"In 1908 came the declaration of the Democratic Party declaring labor not a commodity and promising exemption from the anti-trust provisions of the Sherman Act."

"This was the spirit, the thought, according to the working people; the right for which I am speaking now. These principles were enacted into law (the Clayton act), and the last Congress, dominated by that reactionary spirit, put upon the statute books laws repealing in effect and preying the laws that we secured at the hands of a preceding Congress."

Here Gompers took a drive at the Third Party movement.

"The present industrial and agricultural conditions do not admit," said he, "of securing results by a third party. While the House of Labor is on fire I do not propose to have my mind diverted to some tom-fool plan."

"No one can tell what the future may hold for us or what it may be necessary for us to do, but in this campaign an independent party is worse than folly."

Other speakers included Mayor George R. Lunn of Schenectady, Mrs. Lucy Robbins of New York, Charles Eisler of Denver and Dr. John B. Andrews of the American Association for Labor Legislation.

Dr. Andrews advocated a careful investigation into manufacturing conditions to ascertain the causes of inefficiency and underproduction. He also advocated changes in the Workmen's Compensation Law, by which persons injured in industry draw pay after eight days idleness instead of fourteen as at present.

The refusal of a seat to Bohm is incidental to the friction in Manhattan over politics, and the decision of the Federation to merge the New York bodies following the refusal of the Manhattan body to co-operate in the non-partisan political movement of the Federation. Bohm has gone along with the Labor Party movement.

The Committee on Education's report calling among other things for the repeal of the charter of the Rockefeller Foundation, will be reported without amendment by the Committee on Resolutions. This committee will also have a housing resolution dealing with conditions in New York City. It will recommend State and city aid in relieving the situation.

The committee will further ask for Federal legislation giving the 50,000 longshoremen in New York the benefits of Workmen's Compensation Laws, taken from them under a recent court decision.

The enactment of beer and light wine bills will also be favored, as will a revision upward in the salaries of State employees.

G. R. B. BACKS STRIKE OF CLOAK STORE CLERKS

(Continued from Page 1)

defeat the Union. They are working hand in glove with the police who bound and arrest the pickets. Among the tricks used by these storekeepers is to incite a street fight only to give the police an excuse for arresting the pickets. Brothers Block and Neuman, both officers of the Clerks' Union, were arrested this week on a warrant of the store keepers.

General Secretary Ab. Baroff issued a statement to the effect that if the Division Street store keepers will keep up their stubborn fight against the Union the workers in the cloak shops may be compelled to join the store clerks in order to win their just demands.

So far however the store keepers are desperately fighting the Union not heeding any warning or suggestion toward an amicable settlement of the controversy between the Union and the store keepers. But there is little doubt but that they will soon realize that they are defeating their own ends, that they must come to terms with the clerks if they don't want to ruin their businesses.

September 13--Amnesty Day

Four thousand Class War prisoners are still in jail.

Every reason advanced for their imprisonment has ceased to exist. The war is over, in fact if not in name. There are no longer armies whose enlistment can be interfered with; there are no enemies to aid and comfort; there are no emergencies that can justify the continued imprisonment of thousands of men and women. Then what are these comrades of ours still behind prison bars?

They are there because the Master Class is afraid! It is afraid to admit its guilt in persecuting our people. It is afraid of the truth they will tell once the prison doors open. These soldiers of the common good are being kept in jail so that those who rule may enjoy their power a little longer. It will not avail them!

Every country that took part in the war has given Amnesty to political prisoners—except the United States! Here, where the sentences meted out were the most ferocious, it seems to be the determination of the ruling powers to make the victims drink the cup of misery to the dregs. Revenge is the keynote! The isolated instances of executive clemency—the freeing of Kate O'Hare and Carl Haessler—serve to emphasize the calculated brutality of the treatment of the other Class War captives.

Then what is to be done? Clearly there is only one possible answer to this question. The people themselves must speak—in no uncertain terms to the powers at Washington. They must ask for Amnesty. We do not ask for pardons. We do not want clemency. We want amnesty! We do not ask for the release of Eugene V. Debs. We ask freedom for every "wobbly", for every conscientious objector as well. We ask this not as a favor but as a right. If not the prison doors will open. If not, people back us up in our demand, then we must wait a little longer.

On September 13th the Socialist Party of America will hold Amnesty meetings in every part of the country. In each of these meetings the demand will be made that all the Class War prisoners be freed. These meetings will be attended by hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions. Out of these meetings, we expect a thundering demand to arise that America end her medieval policy and at last join the rest of the civilized world in freeing her political dissenters.

The funds raised at these meetings will be turned in to the National Office of the Socialist Party to swell the National Campaign Fund. The National Campaign of the Party this year is largely an Amnesty Campaign.

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EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF ALL LOCAL UNIONS IN GREATER NEW YORK

are kindly requested to elect local Educational Committees for the ensuing term—1920-1921—to co-operate in the work of the Educational Committee of the International Union.

ABRAHAM BAROFF, Chairman

FANNIA M. COHN, Secretary

Educational Committee, I. L. G. W. U.

CHEER UP!

GOOD NEWS!

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CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

GENERAL:

Monday, August 30th.

CLOAK AND SUIT:

Monday, September 13th.

WAIST AND DRESS:

Monday, September 20th.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Monday, Sept. 20th.

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.

TO ALL SHOP CHAIRMEN IN THE CLOAK, SUIT, SKIRT AND REEFER INDUSTRY:

CUTTERS' UNION, Local No. 10, is now affiliated with the Joint Board. You are therefore requested to attend to the interests of the cutters in your shops in the same manner that you attend to the rest of the workers.

Kindly see that each cutter is in good standing and that he has a working card; the color of this season's working card is green.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL No. 10.

LADIES TAILORS, SAMPLE MAKERS AND ALTERATION WORKERS, LOCAL 3

(FORMER LOCALS 3 & 80)

Ladies Tailors and especially Sample Makers should take into consideration that the office of 9 W. 21st Street will be given up from September 1st and all business will be attended from the temporary office, 725 Lexington Avenue, until a more convenient place for the ladies tailors and for the sample makers will be obtained.

Executive Board, Local No. 3.

Attention of Dress and Waist Cutters!

THE FOLLOWING SHOPS HAVE BEEN DECLARED ON STRIKE AND MEMBERS ARE WARNED AGAINST SEEKING EMPLOYMENT THEREIN:

Jesse Wolf & Co.,

105 Madison Ave.

Son & Ash,

105 Madison Ave.

Solomon & Metzler,

83 East 33rd St.

Clairmont Waist Co.,

15 West 36th St.

Mack Kanner & Milina,

136 Madison Ave.

M. Stern,

33 East 33rd St.

Max Cohen,

105 Madison Ave.

Julian Waist Co.,

15 East 32nd St.

Drexwell Dress Co.,

14 East 32nd St.

Regina Kobler,

352 Fourth Ave.

Deutz & Ortenberg,

2-16 West 33rd St.

J. & M. Cohen,

6-10 E. 35nd Street.

West Point Waist,

119 W. 24th St.

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