

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."
—Job. 27.6.

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. 36.

New York, Friday, September 3, 1920.

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Division Street Storekeepers in a Frame-Up Plot Against Strike Leaders

The owners of the cloak stores in Division Street are apparently determined to break the strike of their salespeople by every foul means at their command. One of their choicest methods in gaining their objective is to incite fights with the peaceful pickets who are parading the sidewalks with strike signs and to cause their arrest subsequently.

After one of such free-for-all melees about two weeks ago, two officers of the Salespeople's Union, Brothers Block and Newman, were arrested. The Division Street bosses have since asserted that in the course of that fight a certain man was severely beaten and that Block and Newman are responsible for that assault. It is a matter of common knowledge that these two union officials were not present at the scene of fighting. Nevertheless, at the behest of the storekeepers, Block and Newman were arrested and later released under \$10,000 bail each.

This affair has become considerably aggravated since the man who had sustained the injuries died on Saturday last, and the Division Street storekeepers are making an attempt to use this affair as a means of breaking the strike of their salespeople. Needless to say that this attempt will fail. The strike is now being conducted with even more determination and energy under the leadership of Vice President Harry Wander. The Union will not fail to provide Brothers Block and Newman with every legitimate means of defense, and will expose before the world the abhorrent frame-up against these two innocent men.

The Salespeople's Union is a part of the United Hebrew Trades, and at the last meeting of that organization, their strike served as the chief topic of discussion. This central body of organized Jewish labor has decided to address the following appeal to all

the women of New York for the striking cloak and suit salespeople:

"To All Fair-Minded Women! The women of the East Side and all other districts of the Greater City must aid the clerks of Division Street to win their just fight. The only effective aid they can render is by making the storekeepers of that street feel that the women side with the strikers and that their sympathy is entirely with them.

"The clerks of the Division Street stores did not seek a strike. Their union endeavored to deal with the bosses in a peaceful manner and to come to reasonable terms. The bosses locked out these clerks, as they have done several years ago, and as in that memorable fight, they are again attempting to use every contemptible means to break the strike, to implicate their workers in crimes, to maintain gangsters and to cast shame and discredit upon our East Side.

"The strike of the clerks is endorsed by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, to which the Salespeople's Union belongs. It remains now with the women who are making ready to buy their new garments for the holidays, to do their duty.

"The United Hebrew Trades appeal to all women to remember that it is in their power to help eliminate the gangs of hoodlums in front of the East Side stores; that it is in their power to compel the East Side storekeepers to employ union workers and not to engage in murder plots against innocent workmen."

Loc. 25 Starts Drive Against "Open" Shops

There is still a considerable number of so-called "open" shops in the waist and dress trade of New York, and the Waistmakers' Union has undertaken now a very energetic campaign to combat this evil and to organize these shops. In the course of this campaign, the Union has issued an appeal to all the workers who are either employed in such shops, or come in touch with these, to aid the Union in its organization drive. The following is the appeal:

"Sisters and Brothers! The long-awaited fall season is finally at hand. As usual, the arrival of each season brings on its wings hundreds of new little shops, born overnight like mushrooms after a rain. Thanks to the mad speculation and greed of our employers, we had to undergo an unusually long slack period, and the greatest majority of our workers were idle for a long time. Many shops were closed and now, at the beginning of the season, a number of our workers are compelled to seek employment in the above referred to non-union shops.

"We have commenced an active organization campaign in all these shops, and in order that our work be made more successful, we call upon all workers, those who work in such shops, and those who have information concerning these, to immediately get in touch with us and the Union will take care of the rest.

With Union greetings,
Waist & Dress Makers' Union,
Local No. 25,
Julius Hochman,
Mgr. Independent Dept."

The Cutters' Union Becomes a Full-Fledged Local of the Joint Board

Local No. 10, the Cutters' Union of New York, has now become a full-fledged local of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union, enjoying all the rights and subject to all obligations of that organization. Some readers of "Justice" will doubtless be surprised. They may ask: "Did not Local No. 10 belong to the Joint Board heretofore?" The answer is: Local No. 10 did belong to the Joint Board since 1910, since the first general strike in the cloak industry of New York. It had as many delegates at the Joint Board as any other local. They were not, however, entitled to vote upon all questions and were limited in their rights and duties.

The business agents of the Cloakmakers' Union, for instance, are appointed by the Joint Board and they control the members of all the locals of the Joint Board of the cloak shops. Their control did not, however, extend to the cutters. Local No. 10 would elect its own business agents, and in case of trouble their affairs would be taken care of by their own officers. In matters affecting business agents the delegates of Local No. 10 at the Joint Board could

not, of course, participate. The delegates of Local No. 10 at the Joint Board were, as a rule, styled "half delegates." It was an unhealthy state of affairs, and some time ago negotiations were begun between Local No. 10 and the Joint Board for a fuller affiliation between these two bodies.

These negotiations have now been brought to a successful finale, and Local No. 10 is now a Joint Board local on par with all other locals. Local No. 10 will contribute to the Joint Board the same per capita the other locals are paying and will not have to have separate business agents for its members in the shops. Of course, the local will have the right to a quota of candidates for business agents as is allotted to all other locals in the cloak industry.

This reform is, of course, a great step forward for Local No. 10. It can only benefit through it, and it will strengthen the Joint Board as well. A number of misunderstandings that have occurred in the past will be avoided, and the delegates of Local No. 10 at the Joint Board will finally find themselves full-fledged members of our local labor parliament.

CLOAKMAKERS, ATTENTION!

Monday, September 6th, is Labor Day, one of our legal holidays, and no one of our members is permitted to work on that day.

Committees of the Union will visit the various cloak districts on that day, and all those found working will be called before the Grievance Board and will receive adequate punishment.

JOINT BOARD, CLOAK, SKIRT AND REIFER MAKERS' UNION.

Educational Machinery of the International in Full Motion

The 1920-1921 educational term of the International has opened under bright auspices and ever-widening and broad possibilities.

The past four years of experience in labor education are an invaluable asset in the hands of those who have been charged with the continuation of the work which only a short while was regarded by many of us as a bit of experimenting, a folly to appease the clamor of some dreamers in the labor movement.

Of course, the labor movement itself is growing and maturing, and in the conscience of its growth and strength it cannot fail to take account of the fact that in order to meet the great responsibilities which the immediate future holds in store for it, it must arm itself with training, knowledge and faith. And this is not mere rhetoric, either. With the fast growing demand for labor's participation in the management of industry, labor-owned factories and centres of distribution, the intelligent men and women who work in the shop, mill and mine will have to produce brains for leadership and management besides brains for production.

It is with this purpose in view that the Educational Department of our International Union, in preparing its curriculum for the coming semester, will offer, in addition to its other courses, a course for systematic instruction in the practical problems of our industry. Production and management have always been leagues apart in the factory life of our workers, and the very idea of being familiar with the processes of management was always distant and un-

known to our workers. It is with this purpose in view that the Educational Department of our International Union, in preparing its curriculum for the coming semester, will offer, in addition to its other courses, a course for systematic instruction in the practical problems of our industry. Production and management have always been leagues apart in the factory life of our workers, and the very idea of being familiar with the processes of management was always distant and un-

realizable. A complete plan is being worked out for the benefit of those members of our organization who are eager to learn and study the knowledge of not merely how to make a garment but how to supervise its making, its marketing, financing, etc., etc.

Our Educational Department is likewise conscious of the fact that it takes more than one mind to realize the problems of labor education. With this purpose in view it is intended, this term, to organize a faculty composed of all the teachers and instructors connected with the educational activities of the Department, those affiliated with the Workers' University and those lecturing and teaching at other schools alike. A chairman and a small executive board will be elected, and these will be in charge of the curriculum and entrusted with the responsibility for the educational courses and their planning. A number of prominent educators, in addition to those who were on our staff last year, have signified their intention to join the faculty, and a complete list of these teachers will be announced within a very short time.

A call has been sent out to all the Executive Boards of our Locals in Greater New York, as well as to locals out of town, to elect educational committees to cooperate in the work of the Educational Department. It is intended, this fall more than ever, to obtain full cooperation from these local committees with regard to the actual need of the membership of our International in the field of education by keeping in unbroken contact and consultation with them. Arrangements have been made to retain for the use of the Department the public schools that have been utilized in our educational work during the past years, and to engage the best teachers possible for elementary and advanced English courses.

Vice-President Fannick M. Cohn, who during the past four years has been very actively connected with the educational work of our International and who had seen it grow from its infant stages to its present importance and significance, is again in charge as organizing secretary and is rapidly whipping the initial plan and preparatory work into shape. The names of some of the best known educators in the city have been suggested for the post of educational director, and a selection will soon be made and announced.

Meanwhile, all the members of the locals in Greater New York are being called upon to register in the local offices of their Unions for the courses of the coming term. The regular work of the educational courses will soon start in full swing, and as greater attendances are expected this fall than in the preceding year it is advisable that the registration lists be completed at an early date as possible.

The Ladies' Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local 25, announces the reopening of its educational work for the year 1920-1921, under the direction of Miss Elsie Gluck as Educational Supervisor.

Members may now register at Waistmakers' Headquarters, 16 West 21st Street, with Miss Gluck, for the various courses in English, Literature, Music, Labor History and Economics to be given at the Unity Centers and at the Workers' University.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

The Brooklyn Rapid Transit at a Standstill

TWELVE hundred motormen, guards and other workers employed on the surface, elevated and subway lines of Brooklyn quit to a man on Sunday, August 28th. The entire transportation system of Brooklyn is at a standstill.

The men voted to strike because the company's receiver and Federal Judge Mayer would not consent to arbitrate a request for a raise in wages. In the agreement concluded last year between the B. R. T. and the men there was a clause which provided that all questions "hereafter" arising be arbitrated and that both parties accept the award. Receiver Garrison and Judge Mayer have held that this article provided the method for arbitrating all outstanding questions at the period of last year's strike, but that it was a provisional agreement which was automatically terminated when final agreement was reached last year.

The strikers contend that that clause made it binding on both parties to submit all future requests and grievances to arbitration, and that they are prepared to enter into an all-inclusive arbitration embracing every point at issue.

At this present writing, the attempt of the Public Service Commission to bring the strike to a settlement has failed. The splendid success of the strike, however, warrants the belief that the workers will succeed in overcoming the bitter obstinacy of their employers and will win the day.

Federal Troops at West Virginia Mines

BLOODY clashes have again occurred between the Union miners in the Mingo coal fields of West Virginia and a swarm of hired gunmen Kentucky and West Virginia National Guardsmen have invaded the strike territory and are intimidating the workers in the same ruthless manner as during last spring. In addition to that, and as a prelude to the approaching trial of twenty-four miners indicted after the bloody events in the Muttawen District during last May, when seven Baldwin thugs, the Mayor of the town and two other men were killed in a battle between Union miners and private detectives, a battalion of United States infantry entered the district on August 28th.

The troops were armed with regulation riot equipment, including machine guns, rifles and one-pound cannon. Martial law has not yet been proclaimed in the strike district, and the presence of federal troops, in addition to the numerous National Guardsmen, is being explained on the ground of expected trouble in connection with the trial.

A Campaign of Apathy

IT is already becoming evident that the "big show" of 1920, the contest between the Democratic and Republican parties for the Presidency, will go down in our political history as an apathetic affair, lacking in genuine public interest and sentiment.

The first few weeks of the Cox and Harding campaigning have been concentrated on matters of minor importance and significance. It was the League of Nations once and over again, a lot of fence-straddling and a heap of generalities on both sides with regard to issues and topics that touch neither the heart nor the imagination of the great masses of America, and that are distant from their daily interests and their burning questions. Cox's bombshell in the Republican camp about an alleged election fund of \$15,000,000 "to buy the Presidency" has stirred up a ripple on a surface and was admittedly a piece of clever campaign maneuvering. But is there a sane observer in American public life who could be really shocked by such revelations? Is there an intelligent worker in the United States who does not know that the huge campaign funds of both old parties are made of "friendly" contributions by moneybags of various political "pursuasions"?

The truly great issues of the day, the issues that stare us hourly in the face, the staggering cost of living, the lack of homes and the dislocated industrial conditions, are very astutely shoved away in the background by the major performers of the old parties. It is best not to touch on these scores, not to discuss them in the open, except for the occasional platitudes here and there. They have no remedies to offer and no guiding policies to suggest anyway.

So the campaign is swinging on, to and fro, upon the slender string of the personalities of the two little Ohio editor-politicians to the infrequent amusement of a patient and already disgusted citizenry.

Rebellion in Ireland

THE events of last week—scores killed and hundreds wounded—indicate clearly that the fire started by the Sinn Feiners in retaliation to the repressive policy adopted by the British Government bids well to become a conflagration which is likely to engulf the entire population of the Green Isle.

The stage of the present fighting, as it could have been expected, is centered in the North of Ireland, the Unionist counties, principally in Belfast. The greatest of bitterness was displayed during the fighting by wrecking of houses and burning of furniture. The gravity of the situation is accentuated by the intensely dramatic episode, the hunger strike of the Sinn Fein Mayor of Cork, Thomas MacSwiney, who has been held at Brixton Jail, England, on charges of sedition and who has refused food for over two weeks. He is very near death at this hour, and although he does not any more expect to be released, has apparently resolved to die for the best of Ireland.

This event has brought forth great demonstrations all over Ireland and the English Cabinet is deluged with protest against its ruthless treatment of the Cork Lord Mayor, together with warnings that MacSwiney's death may mean civil war in Ireland. What the immediate future holds in store for the distracted and strifetorn Irish people is difficult to foresee.

It seems certain, nevertheless, that the day of half measures and compromises in Ireland is gone and the cardinal question of an independent Irish nation will have to be fought out by an appeal to brute force and bitter civil warfare.

British Miners Vote for a Nationalization Strike

THE cable brought this week from England the immensely significant news that the British miners have voted in favor of a general strike to enforce nationalization of the mining industry.

The totals in the poll, as announced, show 277,413 in favor of striking, and 117,068 opposed. An interesting fact in this connection brought out was that 100,000 of the breaker boys employed in the mines voted for the strike while the vast majority employed at the pits opposed it. The situation will be brought before the Triple Alliance of the miners, the transport workers and railwaymen for definite action in the near future.

This "direct action" voted by the miners to enforce a measure of such vast political importance, following closely the splendid display of power by British labor which compelled Lloyd George to maintain a more conciliatory policy towards the Soviet Government, is another indication of the growing consciousness of their strength by the organized workers of Britain. It will be recalled that the British Trade Union Congress has recently voted not to employ for the time being direct action methods—a general strike for political purposes. It is quite feasible, therefore, that the Joint Labor Council, organized to prevent England from waging war on Russia on behalf of the Polish adventure, will yet intervene to prevent the strike situation from reaching the danger point.

The determination of the entire working class of England to wrest the control of the mines, railways and all other essential public industries from private greed, and to nationalize them, remains as fixed and firm as steel. British labor, moreover, knows that the fight for nationalization will mean a fight against all that is vested and rock-ribbed in the conservative mind of Britain. They know, too, that every agency of the government, press and public, will be arrayed against them. This conflict will, nevertheless, have to be fought and won, as it lies in the course of the legitimate and rational advance of organized British labor towards its eventual control of the economic and industrial life of the nation.

The Situation on the Russian-Polish Front

LAST week has brought the tense situation on the Russian-Polish fighting lines to a climax.

The counter-attack by the Polish northern armies, officered, led and supplied by France, has had the effect of clearing most of Poland of the Red Armies for the time being. The cable stories concerning the "crushing defeat of the Reds" and the capture of hundreds of thousands of men have gross exaggerations. Of course, this change of military fortune has had its effect on the armistice and peace parleys at Minsk.

Nevertheless, it is safe to say

OUT OF TOWN DEPARTMENT AT WORK

Progress at Hackensack, N. J.

The first meeting held by Brother Nathan Weiss, International organizer in the Hackensack, N. J. territory, with the employees of the Kanesse Dress Company of that city, resulted in 29 of the 31 employees of that factory enrolling in the organization. The interesting point about this is that the firm has offered no opposition to the unionization of the shop. The employers have obviously realized that they would rather have harmony and peace under Union conditions than constant strife and dissatisfaction with the Union. The officers of the Union have also succeeded in signing a contract with the De Feo Skirt shop of the same city and the workers have all joined the newly formed local.

Meanwhile, the antagonism and bitterness which was being stirred up against the representatives of the International in Hackensack by some of the reactionary labor baiters of the city, particularly by a certain Mr. Samuel Denson, attorney for the local garment manufacturers' association, is gradually subsiding. The idea of converting Hackensack into a refuge place for sweatshops where boys and girls would work long hours in unfit buildings, does not, it appears, appeal very strongly to the citizens of that city. It is being appreciated that the union, in coming to Hackensack, has no intention of injuring legitimate local industry and enterprise, but wishes to safeguard the well-being, living conditions and the health of the mass of workers in the ladies' garment shops of Hackensack through organization, mutual understanding and fair play.

The Hudson District — Poughkeepsie, Kingston, Newburgh

The various small towns along the Hudson comprise a separate organizing district, and these have been entrusted to Miss Maud Foley of Vice-President Halpern's staff. Miss Foley has spent the last few weeks visiting the various cities along the Hudson, where ladies' garment shops are being operated, and has at present established a permanent office at Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

There are approximately 1000 people employed in our lines at Poughkeepsie, in seven skirt, waist and dress shops. The local Central Labor Union with its President, John Bradley, at the head, has loyally cooperated with Miss

that the prospects for an enduring peace between Poland and Soviet Russia were never as bright as they are at present. The Polish Army, heeding the message of America and England, has halted on a line near its ethnographic border. And the Soviet delegates at Minsk have conceded two essential points in the negotiations which threatened to disrupt them at the beginning: The point concerning the arming of Polish workmen exclusively, and the transfer of the peace conference from Minsk to a neutral place, the City of Riga.

The boundary question between Russia and Poland — once the imperialistic appetites of the Polish militarists had been squelched — and the questions of political and economic reciprocity between these two peoples, can and must be solved now without further bloodshed.

Foley in the work of organizing the girls of the town. Owing to a city ordinance which prohibits the distribution of circulars on the streets of Poughkeepsie, the task of approaching the girls is rather difficult. Nevertheless, the interest of the local workers in our organization is growing rapidly, and very soon a local of ladies' garment workers will be formed in the town.

There are seven ladies' garment shops at Kingston, N. Y., largely small waist shops, employing about 500 people. There have been many attempts made to organize the Kingston girl workers in the past, particularly during strikes in New York City. These attempts were not always successful, but the present prospects seem to be much more favorable. There are also a number of shops at Newburgh, N. Y. of the same kind and calibre, and the Central Labor Unions of these two cities are expected to lend their full assistance in the work Miss Foley has undertaken on behalf of the Out-of-Town Department.

The Mount Vernon District

Organizing work at Mt. Vernon has been going on for the past three or four years. Mt. Vernon is a considerable center for ladies' garment shops, of which there are 28 in the waist, dress, cloak and raincoat line. Local No. 25 has kept there an office for the last two years at 51 So. 4th St., and recently, when the organizing work of the smaller towns around New York was transferred completely to the International office, this was continued with Brother Louis Maggio as the head.

There are almost 3000 ladies' garment workers at Mt. Vernon, 550 of which belong to the Union. Seven shops are organized and are working under complete Union conditions and agreements. The local holds regular weekly meeting and transacts its business in an intelligent and harmonious way. S. D. Vignoli is the local secretary, and James Amoroso is the Secretary, and a number of girls are members of the local Executive Board. The installation of this new Local, No. 113, will take place in the near future, and this event will be made a new starting point in the organizing campaign of the city.

When the International first came to Mt. Vernon two years ago, it met with a very inimical attitude on the part of the citizens of that town, as well as from the local press. The situation has changed considerably at present, as it is being recognized on all sides that the purpose of our local organization is not to drive the shops of Mt. Vernon, back to New York, but to gain fair conditions and wages for the Mt. Vernon workers without any prejudice to the local industry.

In the Newark Territory

Newark is a large ladies' garment manufacturing center with 30 shops and over 5000 workers in the white-goods, corset and waist lines. The history of the organizing activities of the International in Newark extends far back to 1914. Time and again attempts have been made to organize the women workers of the city, and at one time as many as 500 of them were enrolled in the union. Owing to a number of causes, principally to the fact that these organizing campaigns were conducted

ed during the period of great strikes in New York City and bore the stamp of temporary, spasmodic efforts, the local organizations did not survive after the strikes in New York had come to an end. The present activities of the International at Newark, however, have in view a permanent and substantial enrollment of every man and woman working in the Newark shops into the new Local No. 115.

The principal industry in our lines in Newark is the manufacture of corsets. There are approximately 2800 workers in that line alone, and one shop, the H. & W. Co., employs over 850 girls. The wages in the corset shops of Newark are exceptionally low and the working hours still very long. There is certainly sufficient reason for the Newark corset workers to be organized into a union, and if it were not for the fact that most of them have been working in the same shops for a number of years and have been, to a degree, prejudiced against the union, Newark would have had today a very strong local organization.

Miss Elizabeth Aldrich is in charge of the local office at present and is ably assisted by Brother Max Bruck, the manager of the local clockmakers' union, No. 21. The new office at Newark is located at 843 Broad St., in the center of the city, and is equipped as an attractive meeting place. As stated before, the organization campaign at Newark is an uphill fight, particularly in view of the fact that work is at present slow in the shops. Nevertheless, the

prospects were never as bright as they are at present.

The Essex Trade Council, the New Jersey State Federation of Labor and the organized Hat Trimmers of Newark have promised full assistance. A widespread meeting and circular campaign has been planned and is being carried out. Above all, Newark is so near to New York that the workers of that city cannot help realizing, by comparison, that only through organization can they aspire to reach the same level of hours, wages and treatment as the workers in New York City have accomplished.

Aid From the State Federation of Labor

The Convention of the State Federation of Labor held recently at Hinghamton, N. Y. has taken up the question of the organization of ladies' garment workers in the smaller towns throughout the state at one of its meetings through a resolution introduced by Brother T. J. Purcell of the Troy Federation of Labor. Brother Purcell has been on the staff of our International for the past year and a half, in charge of Schenectady territory, and as delegate of the Troy organization, he succeeded in obtaining the pledge of the State Federation of Labor to assist the Out-of-Town Department in its plans of organization. The Convention adopted a motion to circulate the various central labor unions throughout the State to aid our organizers whenever they are called upon to assist in organizing work, particularly in the case where certain prejudices stirred up by selfish local interests place themselves in the way of our workers.

LABOR NEWS HERE AND ABROAD

PEONAGE ADVOCATES

CHECKED IN KANSAS

The supreme court has been asked to set aside a decision by District Court Judge McCamish of Wyandotte county, Kan., in which he declared unconstitutional a provision of the "can-strike" law making liable to arrest any person who would influence others to strike.

Judge McCamish's reason was technical and held that this provision of the "can-strike" law violates the state constitution because the provision is not clearly expressed in the title of the peonage act.

The court said that the legality of the "can-strike" law as a whole was not before it, but the court intimated his sympathy with the act by this statement:

"There is not and cannot be any doubt that the state of Kansas through its legislator, has the right and power to deal with and settle industrial disputes and that its power is ample to accomplish the object and purpose sought to be accomplished by the enactment of the law known as the industrial court.

"The only thing for serious consideration by this court is as to whether in the effort made by the legislature it has kept within constitutional bounds."

Regardless of Judge McCamish's reasoning, the fact remains that if the decision is upheld it will be a hard blow to the state industrial court, which will be checked in its attempt to silence strike agitation in this state.

U. S. NEEDS HOUSES

Approximately 25,000,000 persons in this country are now living in temporary, crowded and sometimes unsanitary quarters, according to officials of the United States housing corporation.

"The nation is short more than 5,000,000 dwellings and apartments," said an official. "All hopes of improvement must be deferred until next spring. Building now has virtually stopped. It will take the country five years to catch up. The housing situation now is more acute than it was at the close of the war, when virtually all building had been halted for years."

871 WORKERS KILLED

During the months of April, May, June and July 871 workers were killed in industry in the state of Pennsylvania. During July, of the 241 fatalities, 113 were miners.

These statistics compiled by the state bureau of workmen's compensation seem to be accepted as a matter of course by many people who talk on "the horrors of war."

FACTORY OR BABIES?

Medical Officer of Health Herbert of Blackburn, England, says, in his annual report, that "of the industrial Lancashire county boroughs, those engaged chiefly in the cotton industry have the lowest birth rate." The medical man establishes his claim by a long list of comparisons and says industrial conditions in Lancashire towns are wholly responsible for this situation.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly.

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EDITORIALS

THE STRIKE OF THE DIVISION STREET SALESPERSON

The expected happened. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has taken over the fight of the Division Street salespeople, and Vice President Wander, was given full authority to manage this important conflict. We can rest assured that he will not relinquish his duties until this strike will have been crowned with complete victory.

The International has decided upon this firm stand not because the Salespeople's union has recently obtained a charter from the parent body and its activities were to be backed up under all circumstances. Had the struggle of the salespeople been without justification, had their demands been too extravagant, the International would not have sanctioned their strike. The International has lent its sanction to this strike only after it has learned that the salespeople had been practically locked out from the stores and that the Division Street storekeepers had made up their minds to fight the organization of their salespeople to a finish.

What is it that inspires our Division Street "captains of industry" with so much confidence? They cannot, of course, be led to believe, for a minute, that public opinion is on their side! It is quite definitely against them. Are they counting upon the helplessness of the strikers? They surely have had a chance to inform themselves that the salespeople are not only well organized but have become part and parcel of the powerful International Union. What is it then that makes our Division Street employers so cock-sure about their prowess? Is it the employment of brute force and petty intimacy with the policeman on the corner beat upon which these upstarts rely to "teach the strikers a lesson"? We must admit that this is the only weapon in the hands of these bosses. And they stoop before nothing in exercising it.

For instance: Before the strike has been well under way, a murder charge had already been concocted in which an attempt is made to involve the leaders of the local. These officers of the union whom they would try to connect with an assault upon an ex-union man, who died several days after that, were known to have been at the time of the alleged assault in a different part of the city. It is still a mystery to all honest men as to who is responsible for the death of the unfortunate salesman. It is quite possible that the secret is well known to those who could hope to profit by a stigma of murder attached to the fair names of the accused Union men. For the present, however, this charge means the temporary removal of the leaders of the strike from their

posts and this, of course, suits the interests of the storekeepers very well.

We can assure them that they have reckoned without their host in this matter. Other crafty and unscrupulous employers have attempted to injure the union via this route and have failed. This heinous concoction will not hinder the Union for a minute in its just struggle against their employers, and will not deter the International from rendering every aid to the striking salespeople. We wish to assure the Division Street employers that at the opportune moment not a single worker employed in any of their shops will remain at work or fail to stand by the just conflict of their striking salespeople.

This is the firm decision of the International no matter how many strong-armed thugs our Division Street invincibles may enlist in this fight. Eventually they will be compelled to deal with their salespeople as with an organized body of men and women and concede the moderate and just demands presented to them by the Union before the strike broke out.

THE NEW AGREEMENT IN THE PHILADELPHIA CLOAK INDUSTRY

The Cloakmakers' Union of Philadelphia is one of our oldest organizations, and its leadership is favorably known for its ability, its experience and its loyalty to the cause of the workers. Our general membership in Philadelphia is, of course, not less intelligent and devoted than any other group of our workers in any other city. It is a fact, nevertheless, that the Cloakmakers' Union of Philadelphia has been, during the recent past, the cause of considerable anguish to its own loyal leaders and to the International alike.

It took much longer for the Philadelphia Cloakmakers to realize the importance of the abolition of the piece work system and the introduction of week-work than it did in any other cloak center in the country. After week-work was finally introduced a great deal of wrangling over a series of agreements began, and numerous meetings had to be held until ultimately an understanding was reached and the agreement was accepted.

What are the true causes of this confusion among the cloakmakers of Philadelphia? It must not be lost sight of that it was this particular wrangling which caused Bro. Amdur to resign his post as manager of the union which he had led for a number of years from success to success. There surely must be some fanatic element within the union which still cling to the old and time-worn fallacy that the less peace and harmony there is between the employers and the workers the bet-

ter it is for the labor movement.

Or is it possible that there are in this Union a few who are aiding the work of the bosses in a provocative and unconscionable way, and who are ready to sell their honor and their Union for a silver coin? We cannot believe that there are such cloakmakers in the Philadelphia Union. We would rather accept the first theory. It is, in all likelihood, a disease, an outgrowth of the hysterical times that we are passing thru now, and it is certainly a matter of regret that our Philadelphia organization should be infected with an exceptionally large dose of this malady.

Of course, we do not despair. We know that it is a passing ill wind that will disappear at an early hour. Let it not be misunderstood that we consider a difference of opinion as an unhealthy symptom. Just to the contrary. We welcome any expression of opinion upon the platform and in the press of our Union with open arms, but it must be a difference of opinion. In the case of the Philadelphia agreement, however, it was mere hairsplitting, recrimination and endless talking for the sake of talking. Again we wish to say: An agreement, no matter how weak and ambiguous, can, and must become a strong weapon in the hands of true and conscious union men, and the best of agreements can be of little help to workers who are not conscious of their rights and their strength as workers and union men.

We deemed it our duty to state what we have said frankly because we consider it to be the truth. If we have failed in gauging the situation rightly — we are, after all, located one hundred miles from Philadelphia — we would ask our Philadelphia Cloakmakers not to take offense at our remarks and to accept them in the spirit in which they were made, together with our congratulations upon the acceptance of the agreement and the fact that peace and harmony prevail this day again in their ranks.

LOCAL 10 A FULL FLEDGED MEMBER OF THE CLOAKMAKERS' JOINT BOARD

Sincere congratulations are due to the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union and to Local No. 10 alike upon the fact that the Cutters' Union has finally become a full-fledged member of the Joint Board on similar terms with all other component locals.

Heretofore Local No. 10 had for years attempted to be a privileged character organization within the Joint Board. True, it belonged to the International and derived all the advantages of its affiliation with the parent body. It also belonged to the Joint Board and benefited similarly from its membership in that body. Its "privileged" standing, self-assumed though it was, has made it at times avoid certain duties which other locals only too willingly undertook. Quite naturally, this abnormal relationship could not last forever. Matters had to develop to a logical point where Local No. 10 would be called upon either to sever entirely its connections with the Joint Board or to become an equal-rights-and-duties member of this body.

What was expected finally came to pass. Recently, Local No. 10 has become affiliated with the Joint

Board fully and completely. With the general change in the cloak industry there came the readjustment to the members of the Cutters' Union that their privileged standing is but a fiction; and that if the economic condition of the cutters is not to be jeopardized, they must become an integral part of the big Cloakmakers' Union with no ifs and whys, on par with all the other branches of the cloak industry.

AN EXCELLENT MEANS OF PROPAGANDA

We have had occasion to refer in "Justice" to the organization work undertaken by our International in numerous towns outside of New York. We wish to draw the attention of our members to an excellent means of agitation adopted by Brother Weiss in the course of his work at Hackensack, N. J.

Brother Weiss is quite obviously a person who knows what he wants when he wants it. Immediately upon his coming to Hackensack, he was met by a member of the police force, apparently an emissary from the local employers, with a mandatory order to leave town at once on penalty of arrest. To this Brother Weiss replied that he came to Hackensack to stay and to pursue legitimate activities, and immediately thereupon went to see the Chief of Police and the local judge. After a brief and rather favorable interview with these authorities, he proceeded to work.

One of the first things he did was to insert an advertisement in the local newspaper. That was a good idea. News stories regarding his work followed, and very soon everybody in Hackensack talked about the organizing work of the International. We quote from that advertisement:

"Waist, Dress and Skirt Makers of Hackensack, N. J.:

"At last the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has come to your town. For a long time the bosses of your town have tried to keep the Union out of here, knowing that with the coming of the Union, they would have to pay you workers higher wages, give you a shorter work day and improve conditions in the shops generally.

"They do not want to do this and have tried by every means to keep the Union out of your town, but they cannot succeed, because the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is organizing every little town in the country where waists, dresses or skirts are being made, and Hackensack will be no exception."

From what Brother Weiss reports, the ladies' garment workers of Hackensack are continuing to come to the office of the Union. The notes have had the proper effect, and it may be hoped that before long the local employers will have realized that their seeking refuge in Hackensack from the influence of our Union was an ill-calculated step.

There is an interesting incident to be told in connection with this advertisement. Brother Weiss had agreed to submit it first to the censorship of the local judge. There, was in the original the sentence: "We are here to help obtain justice for you," to which

the judge demurred. "If it is a matter of justice," he said to Brother Weiss, "then I am here on the job." Finally, a compromise was reached, and the word "industrial" was added, to the complete satisfaction of the local bench.

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE FOR WOMEN

Finally, after a struggle of 50 years, the women of America have won equal rights of citizenship. Of course, this is a great victory and the women who have fought so long and obstinately for their political emancipation have every reason to be proud of their achievement.

Simultaneously, the winning of political rights, the rights of civic maturity, brings to the women of America greater responsibilities. Heretofore the American woman was justified in refusing to accept the responsibility for all the iniquities of our social life. What could woman have done to call a stop to the mad holocaust which has ruined the world? Nothing, indeed, for politically she was helpless. What could the women of America have done against the mad wave of reaction which has all but engulfed our country? Hereafter, the American woman will be charged with responsibility for all that transpires in our life, on par with the male part of our population. Given the will, what wonderful changes she may yet accomplish in our sad world!

Will the woman of America do that? Will the consciousness of her great responsibility come to her with her newly acquired rights? Will she line up in the ranks of light and progress to aid in the building of a more humane and broader life, or will she take her place in the ranks of reaction and darkness?

This is a great question, an answer to which would yet be premature. We hope for the best, and in this hope of having gained a new great force in the struggle for right, we congratulate the women of America from the depths of our heart upon the fact that they have finally won their place in the sun of political equality.

The Menace of Unemployment

By JULIET STUART POYNTEZ

The worker in the garment industries has been among the first to feel the industrial depression that is gradually growing. Both the men's and women's garment trades have suffered severely during the last year from the prevailing economic conditions. Many workers in the dress and waist industry have been unemployed for months, and the men's clothing industry which is usually less affected by style movements and therefore more steady than the women's garment industry reports a very considerable lack of employment. Now that the inflated conditions of war-time are subsiding, the menace of unemployment is growing. On all sides there seems to be a fear for the industrial future which is already shown in the contraction of credit and the restriction of production. Many mills are running short-time or are completely shut down, and thousands of "hands" are idle. The textile industries have suffered greatly, and other industries have been severely affected. To make matters worse there is a state of complete disorganization and inefficiency in the transportation system of the country, due to the selfish capitalist exploitation of the railroads for the benefit of private stockholders. And finally the coal-supply which is the lifeblood of industry threatens to be insufficient for either heat or power.

The most gloomy prophet could hardly have anticipated a worse state of affairs within a year and a half of the armistice. Then all was hope and optimism. American bankers and business men looked upon the misfortunes of Europe with a "naughty little twinkle" in their eyes as they reckoned up all that they had to sell that Europe needed to buy. It apparently never occurred to them that Europe might do as she had done after great wars before, pull in her belt and do without, rather than go bankrupt buying foreign goods. But it was not only Europe famished and naked, that America was gloating over. There were many more worlds to conquer.

With the other great industrial nations safely exhausted at least for the time being, American capital hoped to step in and capture the trade of the world. There were numerous conferences of bankers and business men on the subject of American industry in foreign trade. Millions were expended by American finance in the effort to establish trade connections all over the world before the other nations would have an opportunity to revive. Many of these new-blown undertakings have since collapsed. The discovery has been that foreign trade is a department of international capitalism which cannot operate while so large a part of the capitalist body lies stricken with disease. American finds that she cannot "go it alone" in foreign trade, and that the much talked of prosperity of the "reconstruction period" is not forthcoming. And so the warehouse shelves are not emptied and the factories are idle.

The menace of unemployment is still further strengthened by the oncoming of the fresh stream of immigration that has begun to pour into the country quite recently. These new arrivals crowding into the labor market with their standard of life brought from devastated Europe will naturally tend to increase the supply and lower the price of labor unless definite steps are taken to prevent this situation. Where labor is not well organized and has not a strong control of the supply of labor through the closed shop or in other ways, there will be a tendency toward disorganization, low wages and unemployment.

Whatever the causes of the unemployment that is approaching its effects may be terrible. In a country like the United States with unorganized industry, unorganized government, unorganized labor market, and unorganized workers, unemployment has always been a very terrible thing. The scenes in the homes of the working class in 1907, the last panic year, the despair, the tales of murder and suicide, the hungry children and the hopeless parents are still fresh. At that time the official figure of unemployment ran as high as 33 1-3 per cent of all workers, a figure never equalled in the worst days of unemployment in England during the seventies and eighties. But the cost of living in 1907 was one third of what it is now. Food and rent were cheap. Help from friends or relatives, or in the worst case charity, might keep the breath of life in the body. One hardly dares to picture to oneself what widespread unemployment might mean today with the prices of the necessities of life at their present high level.

Action should be taken by the intelligent forces of labor in the present crisis. After the broad lines have begun to form it is too late to administer a fundamental cure for the evil of unemployment. The forces of industrial disorganization have already done their work. Soup kitchens, workshops and farms for the unemployed, emergency registration bureaus and all the other temporary apparatus established in the midst of a crisis of unemployment are mere device

of despair and only scratch the surface of the problem. What then are the fundamental and constructive measures to be taken for the prevention of unemployment?

Organization of the Labor Market

The American labor market must be organized on a national basis. The distribution of labor in the various industries is a social function which should be exercised through a national system of employment exchanges or clearing houses for labor whereby the men out of jobs in any particular district or industry could quickly and conveniently learn of all opportunities elsewhere without the heartrending and ineffective tramping around for work. Daily and weekly bulletins should be published showing the demand for labor in various places and industries. These exchanges should be under the supervision of bodies on which there should be a strong trade-union representation, and where the trade unions have been intelligent and foresighted enough to establish labor bureaus of their own these should be aided and strengthened in their work by the co-operation of all the public exchanges. The private commercial employment offices should be abolished root and branch. The public employment exchanges should have a monopoly of the labor market. Only so can they do their work effectively and know the whole employment field. Germany has already prohibited all private employment bureaus except in districts where there are no public exchanges. Such is the only intelligent policy.

The state and government employment bureaus that have been started at times in this country have operated on too small a scale and on too conservative a policy to be satisfactory from either the business or the social standpoint, and the plan that developed during the war perished without being mourned by anybody. It leaves the field free for an effective national, all-inclusive system of labor exchanges.

The trade unions should keep a watchful eye upon the development of the public labor exchanges in this country. Such a system of organization of labor is surely coming. It rests with the labor movement to determine whether it is to be a form of capitalistic conscription of labor which would weaken the power of the labor organizations in ways that can hardly be calculated, or whether on the other hand it is to be a real form of social organization of labor developed under the influence of the workers' needs and ideas like the system in England which has grown up under the constant care and watchfulness of the strong trade unions and which has proven one of the greatest measures of security for the workers in the present insecure industrial situation. The American trade unions have only themselves to blame if they do not go into this movement "on the ground floor" so to speak and mold it to their own ends instead of waiting until the capitalist steam-roller has put its own machine into motion.

(To be continued)

IBSEN'S "ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE" ON LABOR DAY

Everyone who is in sympathy with the cause of progress can this year celebrate Labor Day, September 6th, in New York in a most fitting and enjoyable fashion. Ibsen's play, *An Enemy of the People*, will be presented at the Manhattan Opera House by Robert K. Whittier, for the benefit of *The Call Fund*, on Labor Day night.

Henrik Ibsen's play, *An Enemy of the People*, is a drama for every man and woman who uses his or her mind, but it is very easily understood, and tremendously effective. In it Ibsen has displayed more than his well-known skill as a master of the stage. He has shown a deep love of humanity, a jolly sense of humor playing side by side with his revolution-

ary spirit and his intense idealism for social justice.

Robert K. Whittier, who is presenting *An Enemy of the People* for *The Call*, and who takes the leading part of Dr. Stockman, the Socialist-idealist, is an extraordinarily gifted actor-producer, who has specialized in modern social dramas. He is far-famed as an Ibsen interpreter, and has played the modern repertoire in Russia, France, England and America. The production he is making will doubtless prove sensation-ally interesting.

The production of *An Enemy of the People* will be given at the Manhattan Opera House for two weeks, commencing Labor Day, tender 6th, at popular prices. Profits of all performances go to *The Call*.

Organizing In Wisconsin

By ARTHUR S. SAMUELS

Man proposes, but circumstances dispose.

I started out as an organizer for the raincoat industry exclusively, but I now find myself up to my ears in the work of organizing the other branches of the women's wear industry, as well as the raincoat makers.

In places where the needle industry is highly developed it is possible to concentrate the work of organization in each separate trade, but where, as is the case in Milwaukee, the trade, is only partially developed, such a course is not only impossible, but also inadvisable.

Because of the fact that the needle industry is developing rapidly in the state of Wisconsin, and particularly in Milwaukee, where the men's clothing industry already ranks high, this territory is becoming of great importance to the trade at large. Several concerns have already picked Milwaukee as a favorable spot in which to locate new factories, primarily for the purpose of escaping union control.

The raincoat trade in Milwaukee is confined to four shops: one manufacturer, one sub-manufacturer, and two small contractors. The latter get their work principally from other cities. There are altogether, about sixty people, most of whom are women. There are much larger raincoat factories in various other parts of the state of Wisconsin, employing greater numbers of workers, principally women; but it is most essential that Milwaukee be first organized, despite the fact that so few workers are at present employed here. The workers all over the rest of the state look to Milwaukee to set the pace. As long as Milwaukee remains unorganized the chance of effecting a strong organization in the rest of the state is not bright. With Milwaukee properly lined up the task in the rest of the state is easy.

Having realized these facts I have devoted the greater part of my activities to Milwaukee, and I am glad to be able to announce that the work has proved very successful. The city now has an actively functioning organization, "The Waterproof and Ladies' Garment Workers' Union," a charter for which has already been applied for. As a result, we have one more city on the organized map of our great International Union. The newly organized local is made up of serious-minded and intelligent men and women and the zeal with which they apply themselves to their new work, and the rapidity with which their membership is growing, promises that they will, in the very near future, prove themselves worthy of being admitted into the large family of our International locals.

It was not possible, however, to form a local of raincoat makers exclusively. Their response to the call was not strong enough to effect an organization, so I concluded that a "mixed" local, that is, a local composed of workers of the various other of our trades, would be the only way in which the early formation of a local could be made possible. I have consulted President Schlesinger in the matter, and have received his approval of my plan. I am firmly

convinced that the "mixed" local is an innovation that will greatly increase the efficiency of the general work of organizing. The newly organized local, therefore, may justly be called an "International" local, both as to the nationalities of its members and the diversity of trades represented.

When the membership representing one of the respective trades of which a "mixed" local is composed becomes numerous enough, and the workers in this trade feel that they should have a separate organization, they will find no difficulty in detaching themselves from this local, as it were, and obtaining from the International a charter for a separate organization.

There are a number of shops in Milwaukee manufacturing coats, waists, tailor-made garments, white goods, etc., each employing a small number of workers, principally women. These trades, like the raincoat trade, are greatly affected by the trade depression prevailing in the needle industry at present, which, of course, reacts unfavorably on the work of organization. While devoting my entire attention to Milwaukee I have by no means neglected any of the adjacent towns and cities in which women's garments are manufactured. I have visited nearly every place in the state where our trades are represented, and have visited local unions, acquainting them with my mission, and urging their co-operation and assistance in the work. I appeared before the annual convention of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, held at La Crosse, Wis., in July, and addressed some two hundred and fifty delegates. I pointed out to them the importance of securing the personal assistance of every organized worker, no matter what their trade alliance might be. No worker can afford to rest quietly while there is one open shop in existence.

I have had several conferences, with Henry Ohl, Jr., general organizer of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, and plans for a joint campaign are being worked out. Generous assistance has been given me by the manager of the Milwaukee Joint Board of the Amalgamated, and several of the Socialist officials of the city have been of great help in my work. The work for the thorough and effective organization of our industry in Wisconsin is well underway, and I am very much encouraged to hope that the 100 per cent goal is not so far distant.

I keep in close touch with local 54, in Chicago, and local 114 at Racine, Wis. In the latter place the situation is disquieting. The employers of the Chicago Rubber Clothing Company of Racine, Wis. believing the International to be not inclined to undertake a fight in a place so remote from their headquarters, are acting in a provocative way towards their workers and the workers, on the other hand, are determined to resent these attempts to disrupt their union. I have met with the members of local 114, and cautioned them to be calm, and to exhaust every means at their command to bring about an amicable understanding. I invited Brother Schoolman, of Chicago, to attend, with

Ladies' Tailors and Sample Makers Amalgamated

By HARRY HILFMAN, Secretary

The long expected amalgamation of the sample makers and the ladies tailors, Locals No. 3 and 80, into one organization has finally become a reality. As sister locals of our International Union, Locals No. 3 and 80 were, of course, aware of each other's existence and have occasionally come in contact in their daily activities. It was, nevertheless, for the first time in their existence that the membership of these two locals met each other face to face at the first general meeting on Wednesday, August 25th, at Laurel Garden, 75 E. 116th St.

The ladies' tailors and the sample makers, as organized workers of similar crafts, of course, have identical interests and strive to achieve the same purposes. We were always aware, nevertheless, that there are certain distinct interests peculiar to each of these two lines which have in the past justified the existence of two separate locals. In amalgamating these two organizations, it was understood that neither of these two trades should dominate the other, and that the general membership would deliberate and act upon an equal basis with regard to differences of opinion that may arise between the members from time to time. It was not more than natural to expect that at the first meeting a number of obstructive technical points would come to the surface. Sarcastic remarks of "we" and "you" were occasionally heard at the meeting. Practices and customs of each of the former locals that were not familiar to the entire membership, were frequently apparent during the course of the discussions. It was obvious, however, that all present were endeavoring to do their best under the existing conditions. But there is always room for improvement, and we can but hope that after having worked together for some time, the rough edges of the first contact between the members of former Locals No. 3 and No. 80 will have disappeared.

A short time will elapse before we shall learn each others' intentions, and a new life will enter into the old-new Local No. 3, a new spirit which will stir up interest among the members in the welfare of their Union.

The new Executive Board of Local No. 3 is divided; as customary, into various standing committees, such as a Grievance, Finance, Membership and other committees. A Board of Directors was elected at the meeting for the first time, whose main purpose is to consider all trade problems and to control the work of the officers. All these standing committees are to report to the Executive Board on Tuesdays. The Membership and Finance Committees are to meet on Monday; the Board of Directors on Thursday, and the Grievance Committee on Saturday of each week.

We also wish to call the attention, a special executive board meeting in Racine. The General Office is being kept well informed of this situation.

tion of our members, particularly the ladies' tailors, to the following fact: - Some time ago the sample makers deemed it proper to establish a sick and loan fund for members in distress or afflicted with illness. Every member was to pay into this fund \$5.

Now, when the ladies' tailors and the sample makers belong to one local union, it was decided at a meeting held prior to the final amalgamation, that each ladies' tailor is to pay into that fund the sum of \$1.50 in order to be entitled to the above mentioned benefits. Each member can obtain a pamphlet covering the rules and regulations pertaining to this fund at the office of the Union. It is of great importance that the ladies' tailors pay up the fund initiation fee and the monthly dues of 25 cents to sustain these benefits.

The ladies' tailors season is getting nearer, and all members are requested to cooperate with the Board of Directors and the officers of the local whenever a shop or a district meeting is called. We believe that there is no necessity for making a special appeal to our members. More than ever our members should show their loyalty and their confidence towards their union at this present hour.

Owing to the amalgamation, a new ledger was installed at our offices at 725 Lexington Avenue, which necessitates a change on the dues cards of each of the 4000 members belonging to our new local. Sample makers are not to change the local number but the ledger number.

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EXCLUSIVELY

By ISRAEL LEWIN

The trade, excepting in the miscellaneous branches, is picking up, and our members in both the Cloak and Suit and Waist and Dress Divisions are almost all employed. The standards in the shops, due to the slack season that the industry has just passed through, have not been raised, as was frequently done every season in the last two years. However, it must be said to the credit of the union, that conditions in the shops have not in any way deteriorated, notwithstanding the fact that only a few weeks ago the majority of our members were idle.

The salaries paid to our cutters now are about the same as those paid last season, with the exception of a few waist houses where the employers, at the instigation of the now extinct Waist and Dress Manufacturers' Association, are trying to hire cutters at wages below the minimum of \$44 per week. Business Manager Shenker, of the Waist and Dress Division and his staff are on the job, and in every instance where the manufacturers attempt to hire men below the scale, action is taken against such firms. Our members in both the Cloak and Suit and Waist and Dress Divisions are warned against accepting work at salaries below the scale.

The Executive Board will, in such cases, deal with the offenders very severely, for not only do they commit an offense against their fellow-workers by competing with them and thereby reducing standards in the trade, but they also help the manufacturers in their fight against our Union with regard to the interpretation of the decisions of the Governor's Commission in the Cloak and Suit industry and the Board of Arbitration in the Waist and Dress industry.

For those of our members who are not yet acquainted with the situation and what is really the bone of contention between some of the manufacturers and our Union, we wish to state the following:

At the beginning of this year, the workers in the industry made a demand on their employers for an increase in wages. In the Cloak and Suit industry, Governor Smith, who was anxious to avoid a strike involving about 50,000 workers, appointed a commission of labor-spirited citizens, with the consent of both sides, to decide as to whether the demands of the union were justifiable. In the Waist and Dress industry, Dr. Judah L. Magnes was appointed as arbitrator on the very same question.

In both instances, the decisions rendered favored the workers, and increases were granted all along the line. The manufacturers, naturally, felt disappointed, although they tried to create the impression of taking it good-naturedly. After a while they began to seek means of nullifying the effects of all the decisions rendered by the impartial agencies. The increase granted, they claimed, was meant only for those workers who were at that time employed in the shops, but was not to be applied to the minima. In other words, a cutter at that time may have received wages way above the scale, still, he would be entitled to the increase of \$3 which was granted by the Governor's Commission, but

should a man be so unfortunate as to seek a new position, an employer might, in their judgment, hire a cutter at the old scale of \$29 per week, which would practically mean that if "a man is down he is to be kept down."

The Union objected to that sort of interpretation on the part of the manufacturers, and proposed to bring the entire controversy back to the Governor's Commission for a proper interpretation. This the manufacturers refused. The only thing left for the unions to do was to compel the employers to live up to the decisions of the impartial bodies. On all previous occasions, whenever increases were granted to the workers in our industry, it always meant a corresponding increase in the minima as well. Some few shops in the cloak and suit industry are out on strike just on account of that "interpretation" by the manufacturers. The number of shops out on strike would have been much greater, were it not for the fact that the employers saw the true light in time to avoid having the Union take action against them.

Our members are requested to agree on a price with the employer before starting in to work for a new house. This will save a great deal of trouble for the members involved and the Union.

At the last general meeting on August 30, 1920, three of our members were censured by the chair for offenses committed by them at different times.

This is a new departure in the way of punishing members who violate union rules. The ordinary way of placing a monetary fine, while occasionally bringing good results, does not, however, leave the moral effect which a fine is intended to produce on the members in question. The nature of the three cases was as follows:

Nathan Kaufman, No. 6094, appeared at the office of the union some time in April of this year, complaining that he had worked for the Century Costume Company, 242 West 23 St., since May 1919, and that he worked overtime there continually, for which he was only paid single time. The office figured out that the difference in the overtime amounted to \$202.15. Business Agent Settle proceeded to the above shop with a clerk from the Association of Dress Manufacturers. There Brother Kaufman retracted before the two representatives the statement he made at the office, claiming that he received double time for overtime, but that he purposely wanted to "frame-up" the concern so that in case of his discharge which he expected, he would be able to mulct the firm of some money. The Executive Board thereupon decided that his working card be withdrawn from the above house, and that he be censured by the chair.

The second case was that of Joseph Koenigsberg, No. 7658. This member is employed at the house of D. Panken & Son, 151 West 26 St., and was charged with working during the dinner hour and permitting the designer to help him out. It was admittedly done in order to avoid hiring an additional cutter with whom he would have to divide work during the slack season. The Executive Board found Brother Koenigsberg guilty of the above offense and ordered him to be censured at the general meeting.

Men of this type will, in the future, be removed from their jobs, for by their contemptible acts, they are depriving other cutters of making a living at the trade.

The third case is that of Louis Alovius, No. 6473, who was charged by Business Agent Shapiro of Local No. 25 with refusing to show him his working card and union book. In this case the Executive Board acted leniently by having Brother Alovius censured before the body, for the reason that it is not commonly known to our members that business agents of other locals have the right to request that they be shown union books and working cards.

We take this opportunity to inform our members of all divisions that the business agents of the different locals are authorized by our Union to look over the standing of our members in the different shops, and we hope that the cutters will co-operate with them in this respect, as we expect this

The Work of the Garment Clerk

By H. LIVINGSTON

In the city of New York there are from 15,000 to 20,000 clerks working in the garment industry, —unorganized, under-paid and working under conditions which no organized man or woman would tolerate.

These workers are on the average quite intelligent, and they realize the hopelessness of their position under the present conditions. They also realize that their only hope is a strong organization of members of their craft. However, some of these clerks still stick tenaciously to the old notions which are constantly fed to them by their employers and which seldom materialize, such as future advancements, chances to become salesmen, employers, etc. As a rule, these clerks take root in the younger and less experienced minds, but after they had gone through the gamut of hard work, poor pay and long hours, these ideas change.

The claim has been made by a number of employers that these workers, the factory clerks, are not producers and are not, therefore, entitled to the same conditions which their more fortunate brothers and sisters in the industry are working under. We take exception to this opinion and hold that these clerks are of great use at both ends of the factory—the machinery of production and distribution—and are a necessary part of the entire industry. Even if the opinion of these employers were true with regard to the relative importance of skilled and unskilled work, one can easily see the fallacy of such an argument. The right to organize and to bargain collectively for the price of one's work cannot and should not be denied to any worker, regardless of the kind of work he or she is performing.

Let it be said here in spite of this assertion that before becoming an efficient garment clerk a man must possess a certain amount of knowledge and undertake considerable responsibility. The work of the receiving clerk is more or less difficult and responsible. He is called upon to be familiar with the various cloths or silks by name, number, color, quality and price. The stock and piece goods man, whose work consists in taking charge of the cloths and other supplied with goods, must be a person of thorough experience

to be of great benefit to the industry.

Through an error in our weekly advertisement in *Justice*, it was stated that the next Cloak and Suit Branch meeting will take place on September 15th, and the Waist and Dress and Miscellaneous meetings on the 20th of the month. We wish to correct same to the effect that there will be no meetings of the Cloak and Suit or Waist and Dress branches in the month of September, owing to Labor Day and the Jewish holiday, —Rosh Hashonah.

The only branch meeting to be held will be that of the Miscellaneous Division, which will take place on the 20th of September.

A General Special meeting is scheduled by the Executive Board to take place on September 27th, for the purpose of deciding on the reconstruction of our local, which is necessitated by the proper affiliation of the Cloak and Suit Division with the Joint Board:

material and keeping the cutters about the shop, and is called upon to perform a great amount of hard labor for which he receives very little in return.

The shipping clerks and packers, who are the last to take charge of the finished garments, must see that the garment is in good condition, of the right quality, color, size and style. He must be thoroughly familiar with all the customers' names, shipping directions, dates of shipments, freight rates, expressage rules and many other matters too numerous to describe.

Notwithstanding all this, and in spite of the fact that the garment clerk is an important factor in the garment industry, he has received for years the lowest pay, worked the longest hours and never had a voice with regard to the conditions under which he has worked. In order to remedy this condition, the International Union has organized a local under the name of "Ladies' Garment Clerks' Union, Local No. 113." It is the purpose and the duty of this local to organize these clerks and to build up among these thousands of underpaid men an organization that will raise them to the level of all other ladies' garment workers in New York City.

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

After pledging their one day's wages to the starving railway strikers of the Punjab, India, thousands of workers in a mass meeting in Bombay, representing different industries recently voted for an All-India Trade Union Congress to be held soon in this city. This meeting passed resolutions denouncing the attempt of the British government to choose India's Labor representative to the International Labor Conference. The Government nominates N. M. Joshi, but the trade unionists want Lala Lajpat Rai. The Revolutionists want Manabendra Nath Roy, Bhai Bishan Singh, Bhupendra Nath Datta or Viernadra Nath Chattopadhyaya. They hold that a Home Ruler like Lajpat Rai has no moral right to represent India, for he will debauch international public opinion by his Home Rule propaganda.

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CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

NOTE—Owing to Labor Day and "Rosh Hashonah," there will be no Cloak & Suit and Waist & Dress meetings during the month of September.

MISCELLANEOUS:	Monday, Sept. 20th.
SPECIAL GENERAL:	Monday, Sept. 27th.
CLOAK AND SUIT:	Monday, October 4th.
WAIST AND DRESS:	Monday, October 11th.

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.

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 B. TROFF, Chairman

FANNIA M. COHN, Secretary
Educational Committee, I. L. G. W. U.

LABOR DAY

will be celebrated in the

Unity House

by a

CONCERT

in which the following prominent artists will participate:

MR. CARLO ENCISO Mexican Tenor

Secured through the kind permission of his manager, Misha Appelman, of the American Music Bureau.

MISS ANETTA LOEW Soprano,

MR. ARTHUR HOCHMAN Pianist

MME. AGATTA BARCESCO Elocutionist

ATTENTION!

Registration for Labor Day is positively closed. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO GO WITHOUT A REGISTRATION CARD;—YOU WILL NOT BE ADMITTED. House will be open until September 18th.

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 A GENERAL MEMBER MEETING

will be held on

Tuesday, September 7th at 7 P. M.

at Laurel Garden, 75 East 116th Street

A very important report of our Executive will be discussed.

H. HILFMAN, Secretary.

Our office is temporarily located at 725 Lexington Avenue, Telephone, Plaza 1434.

LEARN

AT OUR LOW
SUMMER RATES

how to design, cut and grade patterns for women's, misses', juniors', children's and infants' cloaks, suits, waists, skirts, dresses or underwear. A "Practical Sketcher" is given free with every course. Individual instruction given during the day and evening hours.

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Bet. 2nd and 3rd Ave.
Tel. Stuyvesant 5817.

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,
33 East 33rd St.
Clairmont Waist Co.,
15 West 36th St.
Mack Kanner & Mills,
136 Madison Ave.
M. Stern,
33 East 33rd St.
Max Cohen,
105 Madison Ave.
Julian Waist Co.,
15 East 32nd St.
Drexell Dress Co.,
14 East 32nd St.
Regina Kobler,
352 Fourth Ave.
Deutz & Ortenberg,
2-16 West 33rd St.
J. & M. Cohen,
6-10 E. 32nd Street.
West Point Waist,
119 W. 24th St.

DR. BARNET L. BECKER

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