

"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.

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LADIES TAILORS IN BALTIMORE WALK OUT ON GENERAL STRIKE

(A special correspondence from Vice President Sol Feldman)

After several conferences between the Ladies Tailors' Union and the manufacturers of Baltimore in which the Union has tried its utmost to effect a renewal of the old collective agreement, the Union was compelled to call the workers out on general strike.

The old agreement between the Union and the manufacturers was signed in September, 1919. The agreement provided a 44-hour working week and a minimum wage scale of 44 dollars a week. Later the minimum scale was raised to 50 dollars a week.

Upon my arrival to Baltimore I have undertaken to bring about a renewal of the agreement in the trade. The bosses have organized in an association and I have requested them for a conference to settle the question of wages.

We reached no understanding whatsoever at the first two conferences. At the third conference we agreed that the minimum scale should be 50 dollars per week as heretofore, plus a raise of 6 dollars to all the workers whose wages are above the minimum scale. The bosses agreed to this. We have then submitted this settlement to the workers who voted to accept it. It looked as if the settlement is finally completed.

Last Friday we were to meet the bosses in conference again in order to sign the agreement. We met. But the bosses had some thing new up their sleeve. They now refused to pay the workers for the five legal holidays which the old agreement provided. And what is more they refused to pay to the workers at the rate of time and a half for overtime. They insisted on paying "regular time" for overtime work. Arguments were of no avail. That was their decision.

On the day following a special meeting of the ladies' tailors was held. No one of course would think of giving up the hard won victories of the workers and a general strike was declared. The busy season is now beginning and the bosses will soon realize their mistake for the workers say that if the strike will be prolonged the minimum scale will be raised to 60 dollars instead of 50.

No ladies' tailor should come to work to Baltimore now. Some bosses are visiting other cities with a view to find workers for their shops. No worker should permit himself to be misled into scabbing in the ladies' tailor shops in Baltimore.

Our International has four locals in Baltimore—Local 4, cloakmakers, pressers and finishers; Local 72, dress, waist and white goods workers; Local 101, and the Cutters' Local 110.

Local 4 is one of our old locals

in the International. Its charter was granted on August 30, 1900. Several years ago this local had about 1,000 members, but during the last several years many manufacturers have given up their business, others have moved to out-of-town districts so that only the high grade work remained in the city. The result is that the present membership of Local 4 consists of only a few hundred members.

The wages and working conditions of the cloakmakers here are not worse than those prevailing in New York. The present season however is an unusually bad one.

Because the number of members is small it is difficult for the three locals which make up the Joint Board to exist. The workers pay 35 cents a week dues. Had the season been better the dues would have been raised to 50 cents. But

this can not be done at this time.

Local 72 includes the waist, dress, shirt, middie and white goods workers. Thousands of women and girls of different nationalities, native American, German American, Negroes, a sprinkling of Jews are employed in this trade in Baltimore. It is the workers in this trade that I have undertaken to organize.

More than ten thousand women are employed in the trades belonging to our International. The wages are the lowest paid anywhere. You will find shops of 300 workers, 80 per cent of whom are earning less than 12 dollars a week. A small number of workers earn from 15 to 18 dollars a week, including the bonus of 10 and 20 per cent. If one loses a few hours' work a week through sickness he also loses the bonus. Please

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Classes Begin At International Unity Centres

Last Wednesday, September 15, the Unity Centers of the International Union have been opened and the classes in the wide range of subjects have been organized. Registration of members for the classes are going on in the offices of the various local unions; educational committees are being selected; conferences are being arranged, and the entire educational machinery for this season is in full swing. The vigor and enthusiasm with which the educational work is proceeding makes it one of the most momentous and pioneering labor undertakings.

It is the aim of the Educational Department of our International to give an opportunity to the members for self-expression; an opportunity to develop character and personality; and gain a fuller understanding of the great social and economic problems with which they are confronted as members of a labor organization and as citizens of a community.

Because education will quicken the progress of the Trade Union movement towards the achievement of its ideals and because the Trade Union movement claims for the workers the best that life has to offer, of which the widest educational opportunities form an essential part, the Educational Department expects ever larger numbers of our members to join the classes, help to improve them, and make the Unity Centers real temples of knowledge and guides to life.

Among the courses offered at the various Unity Centers are the following:

English—For beginners, intermediate and advanced, taught by the best Public and High School Teachers in cooperation with the Board of Education. Methods specially adapted to suit our members.

The Labor Movement—A discussion on Labor and Management; contemporary labor problems; a brief history of the evolution of the labor movement.

Economics of the Industrial System—A discussion of the relation of our industry to others; the factors in production and consumption; the economics of production and exchange of wealth.

History of the U. S. and Civils.—A study of the political and economic history of the United States and of the form of its Government: Municipal, State and Federal.

Literature and Educational Films—Lectures on the modern drama and poetry will be given by prominent literary men. Classes will discuss modern drama of social interest and background. Films of educational value will be shown.

Art and Music—Art, Music and Educational Films will be subjects of great interest to many of our members, and lectures on music will be conducted by recognized authorities.

Health and Hygiene—The various organs of the body. Their functions in health and in disease. Practical suggestions on Hygiene and Sex Education. The lecturers are well known authorities on these subjects.

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B. R. T. Strikers Appeal For Aid

An appeal to 640 local labor unions of New York to join with the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America in their fight against the Brooklyn Rapid Transit and its open shop plans was sent out a few days ago by the chief labor organizations of the city.

Financial support was asked in the appeal, which characterized the B. R. T. strike as "one of the greatest industrial battles in the history of the New York labor movement."

It was sent out by Charles E. Siemagor, chairman of the committee which is in charge of union relief of the Central Union Label Trades Council, of which he is secretary. The text of the appeal follows:

"To Organized Labor in Greater New York: No doubt you are aware that one of the greatest industrial battles in the history of the New York labor movement is being fought in the city of New York by the members of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America, the bona-fide organization of street car men in America.

"The strike has been endorsed by the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York and Vicinity, and by unanimous vote at the first meeting, held Friday, September 10, pledged moral and financial support to the striking street car men.

"The press and one of the most vicious corporations in the city of New York are doing all in their power to prevent the workers of this union from enjoying the benefits that the Amalgamated Association holds out to every street car man throughout this country who are standing firm to a man to win this fight. There are approximately 12,000 workers involved in this fight, and should they lose, it will be one of the greatest victories for the advocates of non-union shops in this city.

"No union in this city could afford to permit this battle to be won by these reactionary forces. This circular letter is being sent to every union in this city urging them to immediately contribute whatever they can to assist and help these workers in this struggle to maintain their organization.

"This is an urgent appeal. Funds are absolutely necessary immediately," and in sending out this appeal the joint labor conference feels sure that your organization will contribute liberally to this fund, so that the men and women involved in this struggle will be able to keep body and soul together and at the same time know that the entire labor movement of their city is behind them in this fight."

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By N. S.

The New Central Labor Council

S EVEN hundred and ninety delegates were sent by organized labor of Greater N. Y. in response to the call of the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. to the conference which was held last Friday evening, September 10, at Central Opera House, for the purpose of reorganizing the central labor bodies of New York and Brooklyn. The old labor bodies, the conference call declared, ceased to function and approximately two-thirds of the unions were not represented. The essential need, therefore, was to create "an all-embracing, comprehensive and constructive central labor movement." Accordingly the old labor bodies have been dissolved and a new one created and named the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York and vicinity.

It is, of course, too early to say whether this newly created body will meet the "essential need" of labor in New York. Its birth however was attended by depressing manifestations which makes many forward looking labor men extremely doubtful of its mission. The machinery of the new Labor Council was created amid scenes of wild disorder which culminated in a riot in which a number of delegates were severely beaten up and one knocked unconscious. It reached a point when the police reserves were called to quell the disturbance. The last outbreak of the evening occurred when President Samuel Gompers, who presided, announced among others on a committee of fifteen to draft a constitution for the Labor Council the names of James P. Holland, President of the New York State Federation of Labor, and Peter J. Brady, of the Allied Printing Trades Council. The mention of these names brought a storm of protests from all parts of the house. Jim Holland with the aid of a bodyguard forced his way to the platform and on his way assaulted some delegates among whom was Brother Jacob Heller, Vice President of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union. When Holland reached the speakers' platform he proudly declared: "I fought the Bolsheviks during the war and I will fight them as long as I live."

The protests of the radical wing of the conference were of no avail and the Holland-Brady element got in control of the committee on constitution.

Arbitration of B. R. T. Strike Fails

A LL efforts to bring the strike on the Brooklyn Rapid Transit lines to an amicable settlement were rejected by Judge Mayer and Receiver Garrison. Last Monday Governor Smith, Samuel Gompers and James Vahey, general counsel for the Amalgamated Association, met in conference with a view of arranging an interview with Judge Mayer. But the latter refused to have anything to do with any representative of the Union. The nothing-to-arbitrate attitude on the part of the company has already become notorious. Judge Mayer's statement is clear. It says: "He (the Judge) had definitely determined and publicly

stated upon more than one occasion that he would not deal in any way with the Amalgamated Association, directly or indirectly, and that so far as he was concerned the matter was closed."

Meanwhile daily wrecks are reported from the B. R. T. lines in which hundreds are injured. Last Saturday, for instance, a Flatbush Avenue surface car crashed into another car with the result 86 people were injured and one dead. These accidents are shown to be entirely due to the negligence and inexperience of the strikebreakers manning the cars. The company however is prepared to sacrifice not only the convenience of the public but their very lives.

The company has definitely rejected all offers on the part of the public to intervene in the strike. Judge Mayer and Receiver Garrison took the position that the transportation system of New York is their own private business. The press is justifying this stand. What will the labor movement do about it? The Central Trades and Labor Council of New York expressed the sympathy with the strikers. But how will the labor movement in this city do in actually helping the B. R. T. employees in their struggle? A few days ago the strikers issued an appeal to the unions and to all right thinking people to help them in their fight. It remains to be seen how the mass of the workers will respond to this call.

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Disciplining Revolution in Italy

W HILE the movement for the occupation and Soviet operation of factories and plants outside the metal industry is rapidly spreading the revolution in Italy has apparently taken a turn toward moderation and compromise. At the National Labor Convention in Milan last week over 500 labor leaders, gathered from all parts of Italy, together with the Executive of the Socialist Parliamentary group, the resolution introduced by Socialist Deputy Daragona on behalf of the General Confederation of Labor was carried by 591,000 votes to 245. Daragona's resolution, which was supported by the great federation of peasants and textile workers, limits the struggle for the present to the metal workers. It opposes the general strike of revolutionary magnitude throughout the nation at this time, but it advocates a continuation of the struggle of the metal workers so that they will never have to return to work under the old relationships, and will share in all profits and have a direct representation in the management.

The revolution in Italy which began as a counter-stroke to the employers' intended lockout is aptly characterized by a correspondent to the *Globe* as a "lock in." "Half a million workers," the correspondent said, "have locked themselves in and the employers out." But this movement was rapidly spreading to other factories and plants. That this movement is of prime significance no one doubts. Arturo Labriola, minister of labor, expressed the following view regarding the present situation in Italy: "We are

moving from authorization to contractual management of industry, but what form this will take, whether that of a Soviet, shop steward or cooperative management, we do not know. Therefore, we must let this evolution take its peaceful course. If the state interferes, for instance, by using the army, as our foreign friends suggest, it would create an artificial and hence unstable situation, besides causing bloodshed and economic damage to the nation. Therefore the state is neutral."

Outside of the highly novel and unprecedented attitude on the part of the state toward the movement which will ultimately lead toward its overthrow, the recognition of the revolutionary significance of this movement is noteworthy. The Socialist and Labor movement of Italy were not slow in recognizing its drift and the question of guidance and leadership arose. The Milan Labor Convention last week took up this question. There were two contestants, that is, the Communist who wish to seize control immediately, regardless of consequences, as expressed by the resolution proposed by S. Ducea, and that of the moderates, to localize the struggle in the metal industry. The moderate view prevailed, owing to the support of the delegates from the agricultural and central sections of Italy.

"The Soviet system," declared Daragona, the author of the moderate resolution, "was to be transplanted into Italy especially at the present moment, when it would mean famine, and ruin." The attempt might result, in his view, in failure and in "the destruction of our whole patient, tenacious work for the workman's emancipation, which has lasted a dozen years." "Voting for the resolution of the Confederation of Labor," he argued, "means acceptance of a programme of action slow but sure, not conflicting with the conquests of civilization, and leading ultimately to the organization of all your rights, without the violent shocks."

The alternative motion put forward by S. Bucco, spokesman of the extreme section, advocating an immediate revolutionary solution of the crisis on a Soviet basis, got 409,561 votes. It was however defeated by a large enough majority showing that the revolution was successfully disciplined and tamed and kept in the economic boundaries. So far a governmental overturn is neither sought nor desired. The Socialist and labor leaders feel that Italy is not in a position for a social revolution.

A Break in the British-Russian Relations

T HE departure of Kameneff, head of the Soviet mission, from England marks a break in the relationships between England and Soviet Russia. With the reverses of the Red Army the change of attitude on the part of the British Government became evident. When the Bolsheviks were at the gates of Warsaw and the military triumph of Russia seemed certain England received the Soviet mission and was ready not only to conclude trade arrangements with the Soviet Government but was ready to make peace with the dreaded Bolsheviks and accord them all the diplomatic privileges. In fact the Kameneff mission was practically recognized in the diplomatic sense. It was only a question of working out details. Then by some strange

chance the military situation changed. The Red Army was repulsed. The Poles, led and armed by the French and Americans, have succeeded in dividing the Russian armies and driving them back. Lloyd George, never a lover of the Bolsheviks, saw an opportunity for at least further hostility against Soviet Russia. And he sought for a pretext of breaking and delaying negotiations with the Soviet Government.

Lloyd George found one. Kameneff placed "Bolshevist gold" in the hands of the Daily Herald, the labor organ, and has spread propaganda in England.

Kameneff replied to this charge that he came to England to negotiate political peace and that the British Premier ever since his arrival has on one excuse or another been deferring consideration of the basis on which political peace could be arrived at. "My bitterest regret," said Kameneff, "is that the British Government has not had the courage openly to declare its change of policy, but covers its actual breaking off of political negotiations by paltry and unproved accusations supplied by subordinate secret police agents."

Krassin, the other member of the mission, has thus far remained in London but it is extremely doubtful whether his negotiations will continue between Russia and England. The temporary military setback of the Red armies, the success of the Poles, the offensive of Wrangel, the determination of France and the Wilson Administration to fight for the overthrow of the Soviets, the poor state of industries and transportation in Russia, another winter of suffering, starvation and blockade are forces, worth gambling. And facile Lloyd George decided to wait some more and help these sinister forces where Labor doesn't look.

This is the situation as it looks at the present moment. The next moment may bring something new and unpredictable. The present situation however brings no outlook for an early peace.

The Demand for Amnesty

O N Amnesty Day, last Monday, September 13th two delegations, one composed of labor men and headed by Samuel Gompers, and the other representing the Socialist Party and headed by George Roewe, visited separately Attorney General Palmer with a plea for a general amnesty of political prisoners.

President Samuel Gompers explained to Palmer that he and his associates had come in response to instructions from the entire American Federation of Labor to demand general amnesty for all persons convicted during the war of political offenses. "Our demand," said Gompers, "was voted by the 4,600,000 members of the American Federation of Labor, backed by more than 20,000,000 men and women with whom our members are related by family affiliations."

Roewe, on behalf of the Socialist party, presented a memorial which demanded a general amnesty for all political prisoners, placing special emphasis on the desire to have Debs granted an unqualified pardon. The memorial is in part as follows:

"We urge the immediate release of all political prisoners, not as a measure of clemency, but as a matter of justice and decency; not in the parson interests of our party,

The International Clothing Workers' Congress

We left New York on the White Star liner Olympic August fourth and after a very pleasant journey arrived at Cherbourg, France, very early in the morning of August eleventh. At five o'clock in the evening of that day we arrived in Paris. We left Paris the following evening, Tuesday, and reached Cologne, Germany, Wednesday, August 13th, noon. We immediately left for Hamburg where we landed late at night. Early the following morning, August 14th, we left Hamburg and reached Copenhagen about ten o'clock in the evening.

The sessions of the International Workers' Congress opened Sunday morning, August 15th, and adjourned Wednesday, August 18th, noon.

This was the seventh International Clothing Workers' Congress. The Congresses, including the one of this week, were held in the following order:

- 1893—Zurich, Switzerland.
- 1896—London, England.
- 1900—Paris, France.
- 1904—Dresden, Germany.
- 1908—Frankfurt on the Main, Germany.
- 1913—Vienna, Austria.
- 1920—Copenhagen, Denmark.

The first, second, fourth, fifth and seventh Congresses were held in the month of August, the third in the month of September and the sixth in the month of July.

There was a lapse of three years between the first and second Congresses; four years between the second, third, fourth and fifth; five years between the fifth and sixth, and seven years between the sixth and the seventh. The long delay between the last two was due to the war. The work of twenty years for the building up of international working class solidarity in the clothing industry, which was one of the ways of establishing working class brotherhood of all workers the world over, was interrupted, and to some extent undone, by the horrible world war.

Last December a conference was held at Amsterdam, where it was decided that the work should again be resumed and an interna-

but in behalf of large numbers of fair-minded, liberty-loving citizens, including practically the whole body of organized labor.

"We make our appeal in the first instance to you as the Cabinet officer charged with the administration of justice and through you to the President of the United States, in whom the Constitution has vested the power of pardon and the duty to exercise that power in proper cases. We appeal in the last instance to the sovereign people of the United States, who will have an opportunity to pass upon our appeal on the day of election."

Attorney General Palmer refused the plea of each delegation. He declared that the Government is at present considering each case individually and explaining that this policy would be continued. No matter how general the demand for amnesty, no matter that the continued imprisonment of "war offenders" is mean and ridiculous at this time, the Wilson-Palmer Administration holds on to the vindictive policy of keeping the Socialists and labor leaders, who dared to express their opinions before the bars.

By BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER, President, I. L. O. W. U.
and JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG, Gen. Sec. Treas., A. C. W. of A.

tional Congress held at Copenhagen in August, 1920. Benjamin Schlesinger, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, was the American representative.

There are at present two American clothing workers' organizations affiliated with the International. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the Journeyman Tailors' Union. At the time of the 1913 Congress at Vienna there was no Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. This organization came into being during the world war, The Amsterdam Conference, upon the proposition of Brother Schlesinger, decided to invite the Amalgamated to the Copenhagen Congress, which invitation was accepted and a representative sent.

When the Congress convened at the very attractive Sopot, situated on a lake in the heart of the city, there were representatives present from the following organizations:

Affiliated Unions

America — (1) Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, Frank G. Dahlman. (2) International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, Benjamin Schlesinger, Samuel LeKovitz.

Belgium—Landelyks Centrale der Kleeding en aanverwante Vakken (National Organization of Clothing Workers), J. Cornet, J. Janssens.

Denmark — Dansk Skradderforbund (Danish Tailors' Union), Villiam P. Arup, Chairman and the entire Executive Boarding: Germany — Bekleidungs-Arbeiter Verband (Clothing Workers' Union), Heinrich Stuhmer, Gustav Sabath, Wilhelm Bloog.

England—Amalgamated Society of Tailors, Z. A. Flynn.

France — Federation d'Industrie des Travailleurs de l'Habillement (Clothing Workers' Union), Pierre Dumas, Suzanne Lion.

Holland—Bond in de Kleeding Industrie (Clothing Workers' Union), Leo Jong, Alida de Jong, T. van der Heeg.

Austria—Verband der Schneider und Schneiderinnen Oesterreichs (Union of Tailors and Tailoresses of Austria), Johan Smitska.

Sweden — Svenska Skradderi-arbeiter-forbundet (Swedish Tailors' Union), J. Andreasson, I. Larsson.

Switzerland — Bekleidungsarbeiter Verband (Clothing Workers' Union), Otto Schurter.

Unaffiliated Organizations

Holland—Federatieve Bond in de Kleeding Industrie (Federation of Clothing Workers), C. de Soet.

America—Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, Joseph Schlossberg.

England — United Garment Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, M. Schare, W. Rines.

Czechoslovakia—Verband der Schneider und Waschenarische (Union of Tailors and White Goods Workers), Karl Folber.

The above list of delegates is not complete as only one name is

given for the Danish delegation, whereas Denmark had, quite particularly, the largest delegation of all, including several women.

About thirty delegates represented eleven countries with a membership of six hundred thousand. There were six women delegates: one each from France and Holland and four from Denmark.

The official languages of the Congress were three: English, French and German. Actually, five languages were used: Dutch and Danish in addition to the above. All speeches were translated into English, French, German and Danish. The Dutch delegates understood German well.

The Congress was called to order Sunday, August 15th, 10:30 A. M. by William P. Arup, Chairman of the Danish national organization of clothing workers, with address of welcome.

Former Secretary Heinrich Stuhmer (Berlin) then read his report.

Stuhmer had been Secretary of the Clothing Workers' International for more than twenty years; that is, from its inception in 1893 until the world war when the organization ceased to function. When the International was again revived in 1919 the seat was, for obvious reasons, removed from Berlin to Amsterdam and T. van der Heeg was chosen temporary Secretary.

Stuhmer's report was followed by the report of Temporary Secretary van der Heeg. Both prefaced their reports with warm greetings and fitting words of welcome.

A lengthy discussion developed on the question of admitting more than one organization of the same branch of the industry in any one country, the rules of the International permitting only one such organization to be affiliated. At this Congress there were present delegations from three organizations in America, two in England and two in Holland. The International Bureau proposed that all delegates be seated and their organizations admitted without that becoming a precedent for the future.

It was decided to seat all delegates present and determine later as for the future.

V. Arup was elected permanent chairman for the Congress and T. Van der Heeg, permanent secretary.

At five o'clock the Danish members conducted the delegates through the famous Tivoli Park, one of the attractions of the city. It is indeed a very beautiful park. Before adjournment the chairman had announced that while under the police regulations the park closes at eleven o'clock in the evening, the park would, for the benefit of the delegates, be open until twelve midnight.

Monday, August 16, the discussion was continued on the question of admitting more than one organization into the International.

The discussion was interesting. It developed that in quite a number of countries there are more than one organization in the same

field. In the clothing industry in Holland there are no less than five: Modern, Syndicalist, Christian, Protestant and Neutral. The Modern organization has as many members as all others combined. It seems, however, that there is a great deal of co-operation among those organizations in the matter of relations with the employers. The Modern and the Syndicalist organizations were represented. The former supported the admission of the latter. It took the position that since there are several organizations we want them all in the International in order to attain the unity desired. The delegate from Czechoslovakia reported that there are three central bodies in his country.

In Bulgaria the clothing workers are divided along the lines of division in the labor movement of that country generally, the so-called broad-minded and the narrow-minded.

Other countries have similar divisions.

When the matter of siting all delegates who presented themselves first came up, Pierre Dumas, France, moved that those delegates be seated but that in the future the clause of the Constitution providing for admission of only one organization from any one branch in each country be enforced. The seating of all the delegates was unavoidable because they came upon the invitation of the International Bureau. Dumas' motion was then divided into two parts, the one providing for the seating of all delegates was carried and the other part was deferred for further discussion. After a thorough consideration of the matter the Dumas resolution was modified to provide for efforts toward inviting all organizations and unanimously carried.

The discussion on the Constitution was begun Monday afternoon and concluded Tuesday morning.

(To be continued)

Tickets for Concert at Union Office

Tickets at very reduced rates for the concerts to be given at the Lexington Theatre, are offered by the Ladies' Waist and Dressmakers' Union to union members.

The first of these concerts will be given September 19th and will consist of a Joint Recital by Herald Bauer and Toscha Seidel.

The program for the year is unusually brilliant. Godowsky, Matzenauer, Mme. Alda, Stracciari, Bonci, Yelen* Yorke and Rosen — these are just a few of the great stars members will be able to hear.

Members should apply at Room A, 16 West 21st Street, for tickets, being sure to bring their union books along with them. Tickets for all concerts at the Lexington Theatre will be available for our members.

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

THE TAILORS' INTERNATIONAL—AN ESTABLISHED FACT

Our readers must have read with keen interest the first letter of President Schlesinger about the International Labor Congress at Copenhagen. The full report of the proceedings of the Congress written jointly by B. Schlesinger and J. Schlossberg, Secretary of the Amalgamated is beginning to be printed in this issue of *Justice*. We trust that the large membership will follow this report with the attention it deserves. But the fact that the Tailors' International is not a pious wish but a living reality can be readily seen from President Schlesinger's letter.

What particularly impressed us in President Schlesinger's letter are the following paragraphs: He writes:

"The delegates of the countries which were involved in the last war were more friendly towards each other at this Congress at Copenhagen than what they were six months ago at the Conference in Amsterdam. The bitterness displayed by the French against the Germans, and vice versa, was not as apparent at this Congress as at Amsterdam, and most of the proposals by Comrades Stuhmer from Berlin and Schmitka from Vienna, were heartily supported by the French."

"It is only a question of time before the hatreds engendered by the war among the workers of the various countries will disappear entirely and they will begin to feel like one great family. It is reasonable to expect, likewise, that the experience of the war will make it impossible for the capitalist masters to incite the working class of one country against another, as they have so successfully done in 1914."

That is highly encouraging. Some pessimists were of the opinion that the last bloody war has made an end to internationalism. This no doubt was one of the chief aims of the rulers who brought about the war. But what do we see now? The wounds of the war are hardly healed, the war is not yet at an end, brothers are still slaughtering one another in different parts of the world, but where peace has finally been brought about the workers are coming to realize their true interests. German and French workers do not consider themselves any longer as enemies. They extended their hands and join in the struggle against the common enemy.

This certainly is an incontrovertible sign of progress over reaction, of light over darkness, of intelligence over stupidity and ignorance, of the bright future over against the dark past.

One of the most compelling reasons for the present rise of internationalism is the fact that it had existed for 25 years prior to the war. It is clear now that the international solidarity that ex-

isted among the garment workers was far from being superficial. Twenty-five years of international relations had a profound effect, and at the first opportunity this spirit was translated into a living thing again.

It is not generally known that the first international tailors' congress was held twenty-five years ago, on August 7 to 12, 1895, in Zurich, Switzerland. Representatives of Germany, England, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, and Switzerland participated in that gathering.

The second conference took place three years later in London. The third international conference took place in Paris in 1900, the fourth took place in Dresden in 1904, the fifth in Frankfurt-on-the-Main in 1908. At this last conference the American garment workers were for the first time represented. The Journeymen Tailors' Union sent Zondenberg of Chicago as a delegate to that congress.

The sixth conference took place in Vienna in 1913 and the following countries sent representatives: America, Denmark, Germany, England, France, Holland, Austria, Switzerland, Serbia and Bulgaria. Our organization, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, was at that time a member of the Tailors' International.

Then on the following year the war broke out and all relations among the various garment unions of the different countries were interrupted for five years. Some regarded the Tailors' International as dead. But they were mistaken. It is now stronger than ever before. It will now exert its influence through the International Secretariat, through the organ which the congress decided to issue, as well as through the coming congresses.

It is only to be regretted that the next congress was put off for three years, and will be held as late as 1923. It seems to us that after such a long interruption it would have been advisable to hold congress more often. The very fact that representatives of the different countries would meet more frequently would help to remove the terrible effects of the war. However, the delegates of the recent congress did not find the hatreds and animosities engendered by the war had disappeared. We heartily greet the growing international solidarity. Long live the Tailors' International and the international of all the workers of the world.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION OF THE BRITISH TRADE UNION CONGRESS

The British Trade Union Congress at Portsmouth, last week, adopted several very important decisions of far-reaching effect

in the relations between labor and capital. But the most important resolution, to our mind, is the one placing the burden of unemployment upon the industry, so that in no case should the worker's earnings be lower than 85 per cent of his regular wages.

It other words, abolish slack. Hitherto the workers were only certain of a subsistence during the busy working season. But when slack came they could only starve. They could not blame anybody. It was no one's concern. The capitalist pays for the factory, machines, etc., during slack as well as during the busy season. The workers however are the only exception to the rule. As soon as the working season comes to an end the workers are cast on the street as things which had served their purpose. And all relations between the employer and the workers cease.

This situation was of course in perfect accord with the interests of capital. One who is hungry and is threatened with the loss of his job is a much more obedient slave than the one who is certain of his job. The same holds true with the workers who go around idle for weeks at a time, who are starved and famished.

The great need of the workers was one of the most powerful weapons in the hands of the capitalists. The explanation given for this inhuman condition was that while the workers only produce per day, week or piece, the employer is responsible for the industry as a whole. The workers therefore got paid accordingly. The amazing thing about it all is that for long years—the workers themselves believed this explanation to be true.

But, as the workers finally realized, that the British labor resolution declared, that the industry which they help to create should satisfy their needs not only during the working season but during slack as well. The resolution demands that during unemployment the workers' income should not be lower than 85 per cent of their wages.

When this resolution will be brought into effect, and it can depend upon British labor to bring it into effect, the scourge of unemployment with all its attendant evils will disappear. That is, in case of unemployment the workers will not be starved and famished. They will at least receive 85 per cent of their regular wages.

It is noteworthy that the same plan simultaneously came to many workers in our own industries in this country. The readers of *Justice* have doubtless recalled the collective agreement concluded between the Cloakmakers' Union and the Manufacturers' Association of Cleveland which in part contains the same provision against unemployment. The Cleveland cloak manufacturers have bound themselves to employ their workers for at least 41 weeks during the year. Although it is not exactly what the British labor resolution demands, the spirit is the same.

Our readers must have also noticed the suggestion of our various correspondents that in the future renewal of the agreements there will be no talk of weekly wages but of yearly wages. The workers, they argue, must be provided with a living for the entire year. The cloak industry which furnishes the employers with luxuries should provide the workers with a living.

There is no ambiguity as to this contention. Whether one views it from the logical point of view, the practical or from the sense of fairness, this position is tenable. The only thing necessary for the realization of this idea is the strong will and class consciousness of the workers, a strong union, a solidarity which no power could break. The British workers will surely bring this plan into effect. Granted that our cloakmakers in this country show the same spirit, there is no reason to believe that any power could interfere with the realization of this just and fair plan that the industry shall provide the workers with a decent living where squalor and poverty will forever disappear.

HAVE THE WORKERS A RIGHT TO ORGANIZE?

This question may at this time sound strange and out-of-date. Yet only a few days ago Judge Siddons of the District of Columbia ruled that a worker may be discharged for belonging to a union.

The story is in short as follows: The Old Dominion Railway Company has discharged several workers because they joined a labor organization. The union therefore appealed for an injunction prohibiting the railway company from discharging the Union men. The Judge refused to issue the injunction.

He based his decision on the ruling of the United States Supreme Court that an employer has a right to dictate the working conditions to those seeking employment. And since he can dictate conditions the workers have the right to discriminate against those belonging to the union.

The Judge further argued: If one will ask what becomes of the right of the workers to organize when the employer has the sole power to dictate conditions it can only be said that it is hard to find an answer, and that the court does not feel bound to answer this question. It is hard to say the authoritative decisions of the highest court in the land which give the employer the right to discharge workers belonging to the union.

According to the decision of the Judge the right of the workers to organize is of slight value from a legal viewpoint. That is, the workers may be organized but the capitalist has the right to discharge them. That is the decision of the United States Supreme Court. The right of the workers is of no avail when the capitalist chooses to employ only non-union men.

It is therefore clear that if the workers depended on the law they would have always lost. The only bit of luck is that the workers have their organization which protects their right to organize, law or no law.

It must be repeated here again that the rush after labor legislation is in most cases a case of emergency and time. Here a law favoring labor is passed only to be followed up by another law which completely nullifies the former law. The entire history of labor legislation, particularly in this country, is a striking illustration of this truth. It would have been bad indeed for the American workers if they had depended upon the good laws and not upon their own organized strength.

From this standpoint one can see

The New Unionism :: By Max D. Darish

(The New Unionism by J. M. Budish and George Soule, New York, Harcourt, Brace & Howe, 1920.)

To begin with, it must be stated, without equivocation, that the authors, Messrs. Budish and Soule, in presenting their work to the American reading public, have rendered a distinct service and contribution towards the study of the labor movement of this country. It is, to my best information, the first earnest attempt to present a true physiognomy of the organizations in the needle trades—only too often misunderstood and misrepresented: and it contains a collection of very valuable material from sources regarded heretofore as quite obscure and inaccessible to the general student and investigator. It required no less than the personal familiarity and close relationship of the authors with the industrial situation covered in this book to enable them to get their facts together as they did and to marshal the most important events in the history of the needle trades organizations with intelligence, warmth and competence.

Nevertheless, the book as a whole contains a number of serious defects which lend a good deal of immaturity to its scope and character. The adoption by the authors of the classification made by Professor Hoxie in his book, "Trade Unionism in the United States," of the various types of trade union organizations and their contention that their investigations of the unions in the needle trades has brought them into touch with a type of union which Professor Hoxie had omitted in his book, namely, the type which combines the "business" unionism, the "uplift" unionism, and the revolutionary unionism into one is admissible and quite to the point. When, however, they attempt to attach the exclusive appellation of "new unionism" to the organizations in the needle trades because these unions combine practical achievements with humanitarian ideals and revolutionary principles—their obviously are going too far afield.

To prove their assertions, the

not an I. W. W. may be in agreement with the statement of William D. Haywood. He says:

"The I. W. W. is a non-political organization. I don't care whether Cox or Harding will be elected. They are the same to me. Gene Debs is my personal friend, but I would not cross the street to vote for him."

Haywood meant to say that the entire voting business can be of little help to the workers and for this reason it should not interest them. Haywood holds that the only effective weapon of the workers is their economic power, and as we said it is difficult to disagree with Haywood when we consider what labor legislation has done for the workers. But we think he is greatly mistaken when he says that he would not cross the street to vote for Gene Debs.

Gene Debs is behind the prison bars as a criminal, as one who dared to have another opinion in time of war from that held in Washington, and who dared to give, at the clearest expression. Consequently, a million votes for

authors quote the preambles of the constitutions of these unions; they cite the agreements made by them with various employers' associations which are models of business documents and industrial responsibility; and are narrating in general the progressive activities of these unions. As a matter of fact, there are many unions in America—~~and~~ the tailor industry—whose written constitutions contain very revolutionary preambles and who have model agreements with their employers and are noted for radical leadership and far-sightedness. These unions, such as The Moulders' Union, The Boiler Makers' Union, The Machinists' Union, and many others, are considerably older than the needle trades' organizations. Indeed, this "new unionism," which the authors of the book would have us believe is the sole property of the needle trades, has been part and parcel of many other much older organizations in the American labor movement.

In general, the book suffers considerably from the lack of analogies, and its authors introduce very few parallels to prove their basic premises that the needle trades unions present something new in themselves and are the standard bearers of a new movement in America. To prove their point, the authors should have drawn a far more detailed and convincing analogy between the needle trades unions and the organizations in other industries. They might have quoted declarations of principles from the constitutions of other unions and compared the industrial agreements of such unions with the

unions of the needle industry. This they have not done. Here and there a line is devoted to some particular characteristics of other unions. The reader, however, gains no definite impression from such references and can form no opinion that the tailor unions are essentially different from the other organized labor bodies. The latter organizations are too frequently being referred to in the book as one homogeneous mass, without distinction as to industry, history and environs of development.

Another principal defect in this book is that it lacks objectivity. The authors have apparently set out at the beginning to write a eulogy of the needle trades organizations, a hymn to whatever was accomplished during the past ten years in this field. This initial point of view makes itself felt throughout the book and compels the authors to treat everything transpiring within the sphere of their observation with a sense of buoyant admiration bordering at times upon the naive. That is why we find almost on every page of the book such remarks as that the needle trades unions were born amidst a "fraternity of ideals," "a sense of solidarity in a tireless struggle for a new system of society," "spiritual brotherhood," "structure of idealism," etc., etc. The inevitable shortcomings of collaboration likewise crop out here and there in the course of this work.

In one part of the book the authors say that the present powerful organizations in needle trades arose "from mass movements of the unskilled and semi-

skilled carrying the skilled along with them." This is basically incorrect. If the authors presume that the 45,000 cloak operators and finishers who struck in 1910 were a mass of unskilled and semi-skilled workers and that they carried the cutters' organization with them towards the formation of powerful joint boards, they are totally mistaken. The operators and finishers in the needle trades who constitute the preponderant majority of the workers in the industry are full-fledged skilled workers.

In another place in the book it is stated that the I. L. G. W. U. has jurisdiction over all branches of ready-made women's garments. As a matter of fact, this jurisdiction extends to all custom-made garments as well. Still in another place it is asserted that only one needle trades union had continued its existence since 1910, the United Garment Workers. In fact, the I. L. G. W. U. was organized on June 12, 1900, and has continued in existence ever since.

In addition, we wish to state that it was a bit unfair on the part of the authors not to have mentioned that the proposal for a needle trades federation in the Spring of 1920 was made by the I. L. G. W. U., as well as to lay particular stress on the fact that the great starting point in the organization of the needle trades was made by the Cloakmakers of New York in the strike of 1910. The other struggles in the garment industry were, to a considerable degree, influenced by and patterned along the lines laid down by that first great fight, and the structure which was gradually built up in the ladies' garment industry, as well as in the men's clothing trades, owes its origin, as it were, to that historic event in the Summer of 1910.

In the Cloak Industry of Cleveland

By M. PERLSTEIN

No Work

The season in Cleveland is exactly like that of other cities. There is no work. Only in a few shops was there enough work during the last several weeks. The workers in most of the shops, however, could barely eke out their wages for a week or two. This is the case with the workers who have steady jobs. But there are a large number of them who work in outside shops. Many of the subcontractors who run these outside shops went out of business; others closed their shops altogether. These workers go around idle and the chances of finding work this season are slight indeed.

A Guarantee of 41 Weeks

The time draws near when the

Debs will mean that America has a million people who are such criminals as Debs, at least, potential criminals. That is a thing worth knowing, and worth working for. Such a result might even be of great help to Haywood and his comrades who are in prison and for whose pardon he came to work in New York by raising a million dollars. We believe that a million votes for Debs would do more in the defense of the I. W. W. than a million dollars which Haywood wants to raise.

agreement between the Union and the Manufacturers' Association, of which Mr. Black is president, providing for the minimum of 41 "full pay" weeks a year comes into effect. The manufacturers, according to this agreement, guarantee to the workers wages for that number of weeks. The agreement goes into effect on December 1, 1920, and continues until December, 1921.

A number of our manufacturers are downhearted as a result of it. They have been hitherto accustomed to hire workers for the busy season and care not a whit what becomes of them when the job is finished and their profits pocketed. But now that the manufacturers bear the responsibility for at least 41 "full pay" weeks a year, many of them are still dazed by the strangeness of it all. To be responsible to the workers is regarded by them as a new, unheard-of plague!

But the large number of manufacturers and the Association as a whole have already made peace with the idea that from December 1st they will be responsible that the men and women making cloaks and dresses must be guaranteed bread for themselves and their families. The guarantee is 40 weeks full pay and one week vacation with pay.

Our "Efficiency System"

We are receiving numerous inquiries daily regarding the system of week work we are introducing in our industry in Cleveland. These inquiries come from various quarters. Even the British Government has tried to find out through its consular what we are doing here.

Inquiries also reach us from our own people from all over the country who are anxious to learn how our system functions. Regarding these latter inquiries we can say the following:

First, we must bear in mind the principle adopted by the cloakmakers all over the country, that every worker should be paid according to his abilities, and no one should receive a wage below the minimum scale.

We have recognized this principle and we are trying to bring it into effect in a scientific spirit. The question now is how are we to determine the wage rates, who of the workers should receive a higher wage, and who a lower?

In some cities the matter is left over to the boss and a committee of workers in the shop. If it is a busy season the workers may exact a few more dollars, if the season is slow, the better workers will only receive the minimum wage.

In Cleveland, on the other hand, a system is being instituted whereby the workers could determine who is to get a higher wage and who a lower, the good or bad season having nothing to do with the wage of the individual worker. Whether one is working, say an hour in a busy or slow season makes no difference whatsoever.

We are proceeding on the following plan: There are, for instance, three classes of workers in each shop, fast, moderate and slow.

In measuring the work, we first of all determine the time consumed in making a garment. We, of course, discount both extremes, the fast and slow workers, and strike an average. We then let the average worker make the garment which we time. His price will be 10 per cent above the minimum scale on the first garment. If, for instance, the minimum is 50 dollars a week, his price will be 55 dollars. That is, 35 dollars as necessary for stabilizing the time as we need to make a garment. In addition the worker receives the following extra, time: 6 minutes per hour for human needs, 5 or 6 minutes in case the machine needle breaks, etc. That is, within the 8-hour day the worker has about 48 minutes of rest, and 40 or 45 minutes for changing silk, etc. This extra time is added to the time it actually takes in the making of the garment and the standard time is thereby established. This standard is reached from the first and second garment. The fourth and fifth of the same style is, of course, made with greater speed and facility and the worker produces more, which means that he earns more.

The situation is practically as follows: A hundred per cent of the average workers who determine the standard of production receive more than the standard wage. The standard wage is 10 per cent above the minimum, no matter what that minimum might be.

When the workers, for instance, come into the shop on Monday morning, they know that they are all, fast, slow and average, are guaranteed with the minimum scale. After the week is over it is determined how much each worker has produced and he is paid accordingly, that is, according to the standard. Those who produce more, receive more, but those who produce below the standard, the very slow workers, do not receive below the minimum scale. It should be emphasized, however, that 95 per cent of the workers in the trade must produce for above the standard, otherwise the standard is worthless.

Workers coming to work in the morning cannot be laid up for the day, if the boss has not enough work for the entire day. Suppose there is only enough work until dinner. Then they receive according to what they produce for the period they work, and for the remaining idle period they receive according to the minimum scale. The same holds true when they have a few idle hours during the day. That is, when the workers are idle in the shop because of lack of work they are paid according to the minimum scale, when they are at work they get according to what they produce.

As was said above, this system goes into effect on December 1st. Meanwhile the Union together with the manufacturers have established a Bureau of Standards. This bureau is under the supervision

of an efficiency engineer who is paid jointly by the Union and the Association.

The different manufacturers have each engaged someone who is trained by this bureau to standardize the garments. These people are not from the cloak trade necessarily. Many of them are college graduates. Some are members of our Union. They will make up the efficiency experts in the various shops. They will be paid by the manufacturers, but they will be responsible to the bureau, which is maintained by both the Union and the Manufacturers' Association.

When some of the manufacturers wanted to have their foremen trained as efficiency experts the Union objected on the ground that the Cleveland foremen are too much imbued with the trick-

ery of the trade, and we insisted that we want fair-minded and uncorrupted men under this modern system of production.

As soon as the men will pass through the necessary course of training they will be placed in the various shops. The Union will also elect committee to control the standards in the shops. The committee will consist of five members, a cutter, an operator, a finisher, a presser, etc. Every efficiency expert will work in co-operation with the shop committee.

When a garment will have to be standardized, the efficiency man will ask the committee to select a worker who should be "termed," that is, find a worker who should represent the average and upon whose work the standard should be based. This standard is then subject to the approval or disap-

proval of the committee. If the standard is rejected by the committee, a new one is to be established.

The central Bureau of Standards, which is maintained by both parties, the Union and the manufacturers, must see that the standards are uniform in all shops and to settle disputes arising between them.

We also have in Cleveland an association of small manufacturers. This association consists of 14 members with whom negotiations are going on for the 41 "full pay" weeks a year. The negotiations are still going on.

Our contractors and subcontractors are in a panic. They got frightened for the 41 "full pay" weeks a year and many of them are going out of business.

Organizing Work at Los Angeles

By MAX GORENSTEIN, Vice President, I. L. G. W. U.

You in the East know but little of what Los Angeles amounts to as a women's garment-making centre. To be correct, I myself had only a hazy notion of the extent of our local industry save for fragmentary bits of information that I received from Vice-President Seidman in the course of a talk or two that I had with him before my departure for the West.

Well, let me say to you that we have in this city about 50 shops in the waist and dress lines, about 20 of which manufacture waists exclusively, and the remainder—misses', juniors' and children's dresses. The number of workers in these shops is anywhere from 4,000 to 5,000—about 90 per cent women. They are nearly all Americans and Mexicans, with a small percentage of Jewish girls. There is not one union shop in this line in the city of Los Angeles.

Under the circumstances, you will appreciate what a hard job I had in forming an executive board for Local No. 103, the Waist Makers' organization of this city, and in organizing a group of girls to help me in my work. To be sure, whatever was accomplished by Vice-President Seidman during his stay in Los Angeles last winter, fell to pieces after his departure. I am satisfied, nevertheless, to report that what I have accomplished in the short period that I have been here was enough to awaken fear among the local employers and they got busy.

They are at present reviving an old employers' association, which was dead for a long time. Some have given their workers an increase in wages from \$2.00 to \$4.00; some threaten to close their shops in the event the workers decide to go out on strike. Among the latter is one, Mr. Zukin, the largest waist manufacturer in the West.

We had a mass meeting here recently, and it was surprisingly well attended. Organizer Dale of the American Federation of Labor, and Brother Meyers of the Central Labor Council, and a Spanish speaker, addressed the meeting. I read to the girls one of our agreements in the waist and dress industry in the East and pointed out the difference in conditions existing there in comparison with conditions in Los Angeles. My remarks were received with enthusiasm and considerable appreciation.

The waist and dress trade here is very busy. There is a demand for skilled workers in the dress line. The newspapers are carrying columns of advertisements for help in this line. As a matter of fact, they hire anyone who can work on a sewing machine.

At the outset I was uncertain as to the method of organizing that I would adopt with regard to the building up of an organization among the local workers. There are two ways of going about it; one, is to engage a staff of organizers and to start an energetic campaign for a general

strike. This is a very intensive method, and would require a considerable amount of funds at the very beginning. The second process is a slower one and consists in calling meetings, shop by shop, in unionizing these, and in getting the individual employers to sign up with the Union.

I have selected the second way. And from present indications I am inclined to believe that it is the best and most workable one in this territory. Of course, if conditions will warrant a change of tactics, I shall not hesitate to modify my present method.

A REPLY TO A COMPLAINT ON THE UNITY HOUSE MANAGEMENT

By JENNIE MATYAS
Secretary of the Unity House Committee

On September 10th, I received a letter of complaint against the Unity Committee in general, and against Miss Camen in particular. Because the letter was anonymous, and because I know of many more who entertain that complaint,—although they have not taken the trouble to write it,—I take advantage of our paper to reply and explain.

The grievance is that Miss Camen deprived our members of their freedom, and, indeed, imposed a dictatorship upon them. To illustrate, the writer mentions the case of the Unity-ites being compelled to ride to the station in the large machine to the exclusion of private cars. This sounds like a trivial matter on paper, but in reality it caused no little ill feeling. The letter I received seemed to have come from a fairly intelligent person who, because of this machine affair, was bitter enough to end with the exclamation of "Shame on Miss Camen!" It is precisely such petty details, alas, that either make or break the success of any new enterprise. It merits, therefore, an explanation.

As to Miss Camen, she needs no vindication. She has discharged her duties as chairman of your committee, and supervisor of our house in a manner that reflects credit upon her. She may well be proud of herself. The fact that the writer blames her, rather than the entire committee illustrates further the known fact that anyone who has enough courage and feel-

ing of social responsibility to assume executive responsibilities is target for abuse.

As to the complaint, here is the situation: The large car at Unity House is not the property of the Unity House. Unity House has no means of bringing the people to and from the station. The committee in charge was anxious, as well as responsible, to make some provisions by which every vacationist would be sure to get from the station to the house. And so, for the convenience of our members, it has made a contract with a man who has two large cars. In order to make certain that he would always be at the service of our members, the contract binds him to work exclusively for us; it also binds him to the prices he is to charge. In exchange for this we guaranteed him all the trade at the house. You can see the fairness of this. We restrict the man to us for his living; in return we can do no less than supply it. To be sure, some "freedom loving" individual may exclaim, "How dare you bind me to any means of travel? I believe in freedom, and you have no right to deprive me of it." You are wrong, friend; dead wrong! You have elected a committee to supervise the running of our Unity during the summer, and the committee not only has the right, but also the duty, to deprive any individual of whatever personal freedom will insure freedom and convenience to the majority of people. You believe in freedom. Sure you do; but to be

more specific, in what kind of freedom do you believe? Do you believe in freedom and convenience for the greatest number, or in freedom for yourself at the expense of the greatest number of your fellow-men? Having made this arrangement deprived you of the insignificant pleasure of riding to the station in a private car. Not to have made it would have meant exposing hundreds of vacationists to *Chance*, for getting back to their homes. Alas, in the name of Freedom, many say, "first come I, the devil take the rest."

If we workers are to own and run any institution for the benefit of ourselves, we must first abandon the selfish philosophy of making our egotistical comfort the standard of measurement. Truly, the fact that we speak in high sounding and modern phrases does not make us any more intelligently advanced in this respect than is the individual who says, "I will not join the Union, my conditions are satisfactory to me. Joining a union will bind me to other people; I care for myself."

Now, my friend complainer, won't you think about this, please, and remember that the difficulties in running a "Workers' Unity" are many; it needs your patient and persistent co-operation.

Classes Begin At All International Unity Centers

(Continued from Page 1)

Gymnastics and Recreation. — Classes in gymnastics will be conducted by trained teachers, which will give an opportunity to all our members to learn social dancing, gymnastics and games.

REGISTER AT ONCE. — For information and registration apply to the office of your Union; or between 7:30 and 9 P. M. at the Unity Centers, in the following Public Schools:

East Side Unity Center—

P. S. 63, Fourth Street, near First Avenue, Manhattan.

Bronx Unity Center—

P. S. 54, Intervale Avenue and Freeman Street, Bronx.

Waistmakers' Unity Center—

P. S. 40, 320 East 20th Street, Manhattan.

Harlem Unity Center—

P. S. 171, 103rd Street and 104th Street, between Madison and Fifth Avenues.

Second Bronx Unity Center—

P. S. 42, Washington Avenue and Claremont Parkway.

Brownsville Unity Center—

P. S. 64, Stone and Glenmore Avenues, Brooklyn.

Lower Bronx Unity Center—

P. S. 43, Brown Place and 135th Street.

A joint conference of all the local educational committees will be held, announcement of place and date will be made later. Meanwhile the locals are requested by the Educational Department to select their delegates to the joint educational conference.

A Joint Educational Committee of all the locals of our International in Brownsville has been formed.

At the first meeting of this committee Brother A. Babitch, Manager of the Brownsville office of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union was elected chairman, and Beekie Weisman of Local 25 was elected secretary. The Joint Committee has undertaken a vigorous educational campaign.

THE WEEKS' NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By SAM B. SHENKER.

General

What with the tremendously high cost of living and the lack of production caused by employers in order to keep living costs at a high level, there is no other avenue open for workers than to enter the producing field on a co-operative basis.

It was with this subject in view that when a communication was received by the Executive Board asking it to participate in a co-operative enterprise that the Executive Board appointed a committee in order to participate. Locals 3, 9, 11, 23, 25, 48, 50 and 82 have organized themselves for the purpose of establishing co-operative centers so that the members of their unions may be able in some way to ward off the inflated costs of living necessities.

A committee consisting of Brothers Adolph Sonen, Business Agent of the Dress and Waist Division, and Philip Oretzky, Member of the Executive Board, was appointed to confer with an equal number of representatives from each of the locals mentioned here, in order to organize co-operative enterprises.

Originally the meeting for this purpose was scheduled for July 12th, 1929, but due to the trade problems confronting most of the International locals, this meeting had to be postponed for September 25th. The delegates will meet on that day at the office of the Bonnar Embroiderers' Union, 220 East 14th Street, where practical plans for carrying out cooperation into practice will be discussed by the representatives of the various locals.

A number of calls were received by the office during the past few weeks from employers, asking the managers of the different divisions to permit their cutters to work on Saturday afternoon and Sunday in order to offset their absence from their shops during the Jewish holidays.

While the employers held that they want to open their factories on Sunday solely for the reason that the workers may be afforded an opportunity of making up for lost time, nevertheless this is merely a pretext, since the trade just now is in a none too prosperous condition and enough workers may still be had to get the necessary amount of work out. The Cutters' Union does not base its refusal to permit Sunday work on the theory that this is an old established practice. It holds that before it will deviate from any of its policies, it will first see to it that all the unoccupied room in the cutting departments is filled up. And at the present time this can be accomplished with little difficulty.

A call was therefore issued to all of the officers in conjunction with a large number of members, altogether making a committee of about 100, who will picket the various shops with a view of apprehending all men who are found to violate this rule.

WAIST AND DRESS

The membership is no doubt quite familiar with the change that has taken place in the Waist and Dress industry during the past two years or so.

In place of the shops employing five or more cutters, there are to-

day nearly three times as many shops as there were formerly. The manufacturers then employing one hundred workers is today a jobber and has his work made up by probably ten contractors, with the result that a great many more shops have sprung up lately, making it quite difficult to control.

The manager of the Waist and Dress Division has somewhat modified the previous controlling system in an effort to properly control the many shops at least once a season. Heretofore, each business agent would control his district while at the same time adjusting complaints which of course very often saw one season pass without completing the control of the entire district.

This season the system was so arranged that one business agent does nothing but control his district while his complaints are distributed among the other three, who also control when the opportunity is afforded them while they adjust complaints. It is hoped that in this manner it will be possible to complete the control of the nearly two thousand shops in one season.

A case was presented to the Executive Board last Thursday, September 7, which should be called to the attention of the members, in order that they may be guided properly in a similar situation.

In a shop under the control of Business Agent Max Stoller, in which two cutters worked, an assistant was hired, a member of the Miscellaneous * Division, who worked two weeks, receiving \$30 per week, which is \$10 below the minimum of a first-grade assistant cutter, and without a working card.

As soon as this was found to be the case, the cutter who was responsible for the assistant cutter's employment, together with the latter, were summoned before the Executive Board, and it developed that neither of the two mechanics employed there steadily asked the assistant whether he was a member of the union or whether he secured a working card. Of course, the Executive Board penalized both men.

The object lesson contained here is that while a shop steward of the cutters is appointed, still very often he overlooks matters of this kind, or he becomes lax in his duties. It should, therefore, be the business of the other cutters to see to it that the union's rules are upheld whether or not there is a shop steward. And if any violation is committed it should be reported to the union.

Since the Jewish holidays prevented the holding of a Dress and Waist meeting in the month of September, it is important therefore that members bear in mind the fact that on October 11th, the regular meeting will be held which should be well attended.

First, because there is a good deal of routine work; secondly, a report will be rendered of the activities of the past two months. It is very likely that the report may call forth discussion and may necessitate action also.

The Ladies Tailors in Baltimore Walk Out on General Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

work generally prevails. Only in some small shops does the week work system prevail. The fastest-working woman or girl earns not more than 20 to 25 dollars a week.

It would be difficult to forecast the future in the trade. In addition to the low wages the seasons fluctuate between busy and slow. Just now the season is bad as everywhere else. The workers here work for lower wages and are always hungry but they are afraid even to lose this. There is no organization which should help them better their conditions in the shops.

During the five weeks I have been here I have called several meetings, and the indications are that a hard educational campaign will eventually bring about the desired results.

The greatest obstacle in the way is that as soon as an employer learns that a worker attended a meeting he is immediately discharged.

Another reason for the small attendance is the disappointment of the workers in the past efforts of the Union. Some workers say that the International began an organizing campaign four years ago and 300 cutters were organized into a union, but nothing became of it. Several other efforts were made later but with no success. The great organizing work must be started anew, and there is no doubt that we will finally have a powerful union of ladies' tailors in Baltimore. The cloak-makers and other union workers are prepared to do anything in their power to crown this great undertaking with success.

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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.

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CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

NOTE—Owing to "Rosh Hashonah," and "Yom Kippur" there will be no Waist and Dress meeting during the month of September.

MISCELLANEOUS:

SPECIAL GENERAL:

CLOAK AND SUIT:

WAIST AND DRESS:

Monday, Sept. 20th.

Monday, Sept. 27th.

Monday, October 4th.

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.

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Son & Ash,
105 Madison Ave.
Solomon & Metzler,
33 East 33rd St.
Clairmont Waist Co.,
15 West 36th St.
Mack Kanner & Milius,
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,
2-15 West 35rd St.
J. & M. Cohen,
G-10 E. 32nd Street.
West Point Waist,
119 W. 24th St.