

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

—Job. 27.6

# JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

Vol. III. No. 12

New York, Friday, March 25, 1921

Price, 2 Cents

## WAIST AND DRESSMAKERS URGED TO PAY STRIKE TAX

The strike of the waist and dressmakers of New York against some of the obstinate members of what is left of the former Waist and Dress Association, is being continued with the same energy as on the first day the strike was called by the Union. About 1,000 workers are still involved in this strike.

The workers who are compelled to remain idle on account of the obstinacy of this group of bitter-enders are receiving the support from every man and woman in the industry who returned to work under union conditions. These regard the strike of these remaining 1,000 workers as

their own, and continue to support them financially in a generous manner.

The decision of the Joint Board in the Waist and Dress Industry to tax every worker in the settled shops at the rate of \$1 and \$1.50 per week, is being carried out faithfully. The workers know too well that funds are necessary to keep up the struggle against the irreconcilable union-smashing waist employers who would rob the Union of the fruits of a complete victory in the industry. The chairmen and chairladies of the settled waist and dress shops are again reminded that they must do their

duty and collect regularly, every week, the tax from the workers. This must be done in order to facilitate the task for the men and women in the shops who might find it difficult for themselves to bring this money individually to the office of the Union.

The Union, as a whole, is meanwhile doing all in its power to win the strike. It is up to every worker in the trade to do his or her part and, no matter how long the fight might be prolonged, it is bound to be won. The employers will learn, sooner or later, that obstinateness will not avail them anything and that they will have to come to terms with the Union.

## SECY BAROFF VISITS BOSTON

General Secretary Treasurer Abraham Baroff spent during last week two busy days in Boston in the interests of the International.

On Saturday afternoon last, the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union called a general member meeting of all cloakmakers in the city to receive a report on the pending cloak strike. About 200 workers are still out in shops belonging to eight or nine members of the former employers' association. The meeting was addressed by the officers of the Union and a report was also rendered by George W. Roever, the attorney for the Union.

Secretary Baroff was received with enthusiasm. He delivered a general talk on the situation in the various trades under the jurisdiction of our International all over the country, and commended the workers upon their firm stand in the Boston strike. His remarks were very warmly applauded.

In the evening of that day, the raincoat manufacturers of Boston took place a conference between the and the representatives of Local No. 7, the Boston Raincoat Makers' Union. Sometime ago, the raincoat employers of Boston demanded from the Union a reduction in wages of 22 per cent. of their present earnings. The Union flatly refused to listen to these demands of the employers as the workers in the raincoat shops in Boston are barely making a living even under the present scale of wages. After long arguments and discussion, Secretary Baroff succeeded in proving to the employers that the Union will not tolerate any reduction in wages, and finally an understanding was reached. The manufacturers withdrew their demands and the former standards of wages remain in force.

On Sunday, Secretary Baroff had a meeting with the active workers of the Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 49. This Union, as reported last week, has now undertaken an extensive organizing campaign. The new managers of Local No. 49, Vice-President Max Gorenstein, has brought into this organization a new spirit and new activities, and this campaign is being conducted in a lively fashion. Our International, of course, is aiding in the work, and Secretary Baroff has made at that meeting a number of suggestions to improve and accelerate the plan of the campaign.

## Cleveland Workers Firm Against Wage Reductions

The members of the six local unions of the International in Cleveland are in the midst of a variety of activities these days, according to information received by the General Office.

A general member meeting of all the locals has been called by the Cleveland Joint Board for Tuesday, March 29th, at the big Engineers' Auditorium for the purpose of considering the urgent problems confronting the Union in connection with the investigation being conducted at present by the Board of Referees in the local cloak trade, and the hearings on the manufacturers' demand for a decrease in wages which is to take place on March 30th.

The Union is decided to oppose this demand to the limit. The Union's demand will be that the present scale of wages should remain in force for another month, and that the manufacturers should guarantee that whatever garments they may sell

should be made in Cleveland by Cleveland workers.

Alexander Trachtenberg, the Research Director of the International, has been in Cleveland for the last two weeks gathering material and preparing data for the hearing on March 30th. He has already collected sufficient information to prove to the arbitrators that a reduction in wages under the prevailing cost of living is wholly unjustifiable.

The Cleveland workers are also engaged in an effort to collect the \$1.50 assessment levied upon the membership of the International at the recent meeting of the G. E. B. Letters have been sent out to each and every member of the local organization to speed up the payment of this assessment in order to enable the International to go on uninterrupted with its organizing activities and the support of the workers strikes in our trades all over the country.

## SCRANTON CLOAK FIRM DENIED INJUNCTION

The attempt of the M. & M. Company, the cloak firm of Scranton, Pa., whose workers have been out on strike for the past five weeks, to obtain an injunction to restrain the strikers from picketing their shop, has failed. The firm has been going around from one local judge to another and has, so far, not been able to induce anyone of them to hear their arguments.

The reason for the judges' refusal can be traced to the fact that the voting population of Scranton is composed largely of miners and organized workers of other trades, and judges, after all, are human enough to think of re-elected next Fall. To be sure, this is virtually the first case of its kind in Scranton, and, seeming to have the option not to handle the matter, if they choose, the judges would rather play safe and keep hands off this case.

The amusing part of this step on the part of the M. & M. Company is not the attempt to restrain the workers from picketing. They would stop their men from breathing, if they had it in their power to do so. What the strikers are amused by is that every time the owners of the M. & M. shop are asked for a statement about the strike, they claim that they are not in the least annoyed by it, as only a few workers, malcontents, are out. The others are working and their business goes on undisturbed.

The fact of the matter is, nevertheless, that they are hard-bit and their clamor for an injunction is sufficient testimony that calm assurances will not make cloaks. The workers are determined to stay out of the shop until the firm will learn to respect its agreement with the Union, in the future, and to abide by its terms.

## Cloak Emergency Fund Making Rapid Progress

GIVE \$50,000 TO AMALGAMATED IN ONE MONTH

The collection of the Million Dollar Fund of the New York Cloakmakers Union is in full swing just at present. The cloak season is at its height just now, and every local connected with the Joint Board is doing its utmost at present to speed up the collection of this emergency fund.

The situation in the cloak industry of New York is still very much unsettled. The manufacturers belonging to the Protective Association are still in a quarrelsome mood and are seeking, as it would appear, a conflict with the Union rather than amicable relations. Under such circumstances it is, indeed, quite difficult to predict what the next day might bring. The Union must be more than ever prepared now to face every exigency that is likely to arise from the present situation. It is supremely

important, among other things, for the Union to have, under these conditions, a well-filled treasury. The cloakmakers of New York are veterans in the fight of labor, with an extensive experience derived from former encounters with their employers, and they know well the value of a strong treasure chest in times of strife.

Simultaneously there are going on in all the cloak shops of New York collections in the form of contributions of two hours' earnings to the Amalgamated strikers. The Joint Board of the Cloakmakers Union has forwarded this week its fifth \$10,000 check, making already a total of \$50,000 contributed in less than one month to the valiant strikers in the clothing industry of New York.

### DINNER

Conference of Workers' Education in the United States, called by  
The Temporary National Workers' Educational Bureau

April 2, 1921, 6.30 P.M.

Strunsky's Restaurant, 34 West 35th Street.

Tickets, \$2.00. As the capacity of the dining room is limited, those who wish to attend this dinner must make their reservations at once. Apply to Room 1003, 31 Union Square.

## TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

"INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY" IN  
PACKINGTOWN

ON the very eve of the Washington conference between representatives of the master packers and the workers, under the auspices of the Department of Labor, called together in an attempt to mediate the controversy arising from the decision of the packers to reduce wages, the Most Trust has announced the initiation of a plan for "industrial democracy" in their plants.

The packers, in short, propose a board in each of their great plants as a means of affording their workers "employee representation," with consultative powers. The execution or carrying out of labor policies is left, of course, exclusively in the hands of the management. In the matter of wages, hours and conditions of employment, the management has the right and the final power to veto. Needless to say that their workers, including their leading officers and the American Federation of Labor, have already rejected this project, repudiating it as an attempt to impose upon the credibility of the public.

The meat packers' consideration for the public is well-known and proverbial. They have begun their tainted career during the Spanish-American War and the conditions disclosed in the investigation some few years ago, and the profiteering prices charged to the public, both during the great war and since, have only strengthened the general belief in their avarice.

Meanwhile, the workers in the great meat-packing plants throughout the Middle West and the West have voted overwhelmingly in favor of a strike. Only 300 out of a mass of 50,000 voted against it. Whether anything will come out of the mediation conferences at present taking place in Washington, or not, the public will not be deceived by the packers, who, after having discarded collective bargaining and arbitration, are now trying to plant a bogus scheme of "plant democracy" in an endeavor to conceal the iniquity of its wage-cutting campaign.

## JUDGE OUTLAWES PICKETING

A STARTLING decision was rendered a few days ago by Justice Van Sicken in the Brooklyn Supreme Court with regard to picketing. Any picketing of employers' shops by a labor union during an industrial dispute, declares the learned justice, is unlawful, whether the picketing is peaceful or not. The case under argument was an injunction suit by a clothing firm against the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, etc.

The opinion is the most sweeping ever rendered in connection with the clothing trade cases, and, perhaps, in any labor case on record in the United States. It has been held heretofore by most legal authorities that the right of peaceful picketing has been definitely established. It is recognized in the labor clauses of the Federal Clayton Act and in many states the principle has been tested and, with very few exceptions, the right has been sustained by the courts.

This latest judicial dictum is of supreme importance to the legitimate activities of the labor movement of America. If allowed to stand, it will seriously interfere with labor's most potent weapon, its appeal to reason and persuasion. Peaceful picketing amounts to no more and no less than that. It is an endeavor on the part of workers in time of industrial dis-

pute to speak to their fellow workers; to explain to them their situation and to enlist their sympathy and cooperation on behalf of their cause. It seems hardly feasible that such a fundamental right could even be questioned or taken away from any citizen. This right of peaceful picketing must be, once for all, decided upon definitely and conclusively. Organized labor cannot tolerate such an indefensible invasion of their constitutional rights.

HOW THE INCOME TAX IS  
SPENT

NOW that the flurry and the rush of the annual income tax epidemic is over, it may be of some interest to learn how these few dollars of ours that we have forwarded to the revenue offices in such hurry and trepidation, will be spent by our federal government during the coming year. We take these facts from Herbert D. Brown, Chief of the United States Bureau of Efficiency, who makes such calculations his official business:

For past wars (pensions, compensation, interest on public debt), 68c.  
For present defense (army and navy), 20c.

For the salaries of all civilian, federal office holders, cost of harbor improvements, good roads, education and all other peace-time activities of the government, 12c.

The analysis is based on the appropriations for the fiscal year of 1921, as the appropriations for the fiscal year 1922 are not completed yet.

Now we may rest perfectly contented. Just think of it! Out of every dollar collected by the government, no less than 88c. is swallowed by the machinery of militarism in this peaceful land of ours. Almost nine-tenths of the entire budget is given over either for the repairing of the ravages of war, or for preparations for new wars.

There is a powerful and wholesome lesson in these few figures that requires but little comment.

TARRING NON-PARTISANS IN  
KANSAS

NOW we deny, Kansas is making headway these days. After labor leaders have been recently jailed in Kansas by the order of Governor Allen's Industrial Court, for the mere calling out of a strike, there comes now the glorious news that representatives of the Non-Partisan League—peaceful farmer organizers—have been tarred and feathered and driven out of that State with the admonition never to come back.

Now, the Non-Partisan Leaguers are, as readers of Justice know, far, very far from being radicals or "reds." They are just plain ordinary folk, organized for the purpose of protecting their crops from the avarice and greed of the corn and wheat monopolists, and advocating the building of state-owned elevators, the establishment of state credit societies, state building agencies, etc. They have succeeded in carrying North Dakota and in gaining a foothold in a few other states. They have thus committed the unpardonable sin of offending the great grain monopolists and their backers, the financial and banking institutions, and, as a reward, they are maligned and persecuted now by the kept press of the country.

This outbreak against the organizers of the League and their mistreatment by a mob—many of whom, as its dispatches say, "were members

of the American Legion," is but another example of the black and evil spirit which the incessant campaign of maligning everything that is opposed to corporate greed and monopoly has produced and fostered since the armistice. Of course, these are the same dark influences that are conducting an unrelenting propaganda against organized labor in the industrial centers. It all comes to the same old conflict of interests, the conflict between organized intelligence and organized greed.

MINERS WILL RESIST WAGE  
CUTS

SO far little has been heard from the mine fields in the unending stream of announcements from every industrial center of the country, that wages have been or are to be cut. The United Mine Workers' agreement with the coal operators has still some time to run, and it is evident that the mine owners will not dare to announce any wage reductions, at least, until the agreements have expired. The General Executive Board of the Miners' Union has met recently and made a formal statement that the miners will resist reductions of wages by every means they possess. In this, the miners' union takes its place alongside the most vigorous division of the labor movement in America.

The stand of the miners ought to be applauded by all the other labor unions of the country. Coal mining is one of the essential industries of the land, and the stand of the miners in refusing to have their wages cut as long as the cost of living is still as high as it is today, will reflect favorably and encouragingly upon the state of mind of other organized workers who have been coerced and intimidated into paring down their earnings by every agency in the land that is adverse to their interests.

## RUSSIA SIGNS THREE AGREEMENTS IN A WEEK

THE last week was a very auspicious one for the Soviet régime in Russia. Three agreements, political and economic, were signed by the Soviet with Great Britain, Poland and Turkey, successively. Following upon the capture of Kronstadt and the smothering of the revolution, it is, beyond doubt, an imposing string of victories for Russia.

The British agreement was quite naturally the one that attracted the most attention. Whatever the motives of Lloyd George were in having signed this agreement, and whatever this agreement might amount in a practical sense, it certainly amounts to as much as a *de facto* recognition of the Soviet régime.

The peace treaty with Poland, signed after six months of negotiations, doubtless gives Poland a greater share of advantages than it was entitled to or it would have gained under ordinary conditions. The gold indemnity, the abolition from Russia of Russian state debts and the reduction of national valuations, is a great triumph for new Poland. The Soviet régime, however, needed peace and these obstacles could not be allowed to stand in the way.

The peace treaty with Turkey can be, on the whole, regarded as establishing definite mutual relations between both parties. It also decides all former treaties between Russia and Turkey as null and void from Turkey from all financial burdens incurred under former régimes. Freedom of trade on and around the Black Sea is guaranteed to all parties.

Thus, Russia is being gradually opened up to the world. That this practical lifting up of the blockade will have a salutary effect upon Russia's internal affairs, there is hardly any doubt. Russia's salvation lies not

in exclusion or in a state of being bottled up from the rest of the world, but in a constant and incessant exchange of goods, materials, labor and ideas. Only under such circumstances can the Russian workers and peasants have a chance to give to and take freely from the rest of the world; only under such circumstances can the play of forces within the present-day of Russia get a free and rational way for development.

THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT  
IN WASHINGTON

THERE are but few intelligent persons in this country who do not know or suspect that the great financial, manufacturing and speculative interests in the United States are solidly represented at every state capital and in Washington; that they are on guard to promote legislation beneficial to themselves, and to ward off and defeat legislation that might interfere with their selfish and greedy interests.

Nevertheless, whenever definite information shrieking loudly from the front pages of the newspapers, and stating bluntly on white the details of this insidious huge lobby that infests the legislative halls in Washington, reaches our eye, we get somewhat startled. It somehow passes our understanding that such machinations, conducted for the obvious purpose of defeating the will of the people, are tolerated in open daylight.

The other day a statement, issued in Washington by Charles S. Harrett, "President of the National Farmers' Union, and chairman of the National Board of Farm Organizations, has treated the country to an authentic list of individuals and organizations engaged in the business of "assisting" our government at Washington. Among those cited there were associations of employers of every trade and industry in the country, from lumber to groceries, employing thousands of highly paid lobbyists. It is estimated by persons who have correct information on this matter, that for every man in both branches of Congress, there are at least two "patrons" in Washington ready and eager to instruct him in his duties. If a statesman is in doubt on a matter, all he has to do is to consult with a member of the inner circle of the "assistant government" and he can be instantly set straight.

## PARIS RADICALS ACQUITTED

THERE were wild scenes in the Palace of Justice in Paris on the evening last week, when a jury selected to try fifteen labor leaders accused of a plot against the State in promoting a strike for the nationalization of French railroads last May brought in a verdict of not guilty.

The Government worked its hardest to get a verdict of guilty for these men. The General Confederation of Labor, in the name of which the strike was called in May, has later disavowed this strike and recalled it. The militaristic and reactionary government of modern France, however, was bent on vengeance, and has later ordered the dissolution of the Confederation on the ground that its part in this strike was unlawful. Subsequently it ordered the prosecution of these fifteen men.

This decision thus runs counter to the dissolution order and its administration.

(Continued on page 3)

BUY

WHITE LILY TEA  
COLUMBIA TEA  
ZWETOCHNI CHAI

Exclusively

# IN ITALY

By MORRIS KOLCHIN

When a year ago the Socialists of Italy elected forty per cent. of the entire membership of the Chamber of Deputies, the event was interpreted in every camp—capitalist and labor, Socialist and Communist—as a warning to the hegemony of the Italian bourgeoisie. And a warning, indeed, it was. The government and the leaders of finance and industry of Italy realized at once that the situation, so far as they were concerned, was growing more critical daily and more favorable for a revolution. They perceived that the state of mind of the industrial and agricultural workers of Italy was becoming more and more uncompromising. And in their march for plans and for a leader to halt the revolutionary movement, the rulers of Italy turned to that astute and tried politician, Giolitti, with a request to come back to power. As known, ex-Premier Giolitti has kept, for several years, in seclusion and retirement on account of his "pacifism," his unwillingness to involve Italy into the War. It seems that Giolitti has always known and understood that the world conflict contained the germs of a menace for the existing order in Italy.

Giolitti is not merely a clever politician. He is doubtless one of the shrewdest statesmen of our time. He forthwith appraised the situation and prepared a plan of action, far-reaching and comprehensive, even though it was severely criticized at that time by his narrow-minded capitalist associates. His plan has since proved to be a masterpiece, even though he did not realize it in full. Giolitti's plan aimed at the retarding of revolutionary movement—not forever, of course. Giolitti was too wise not to know that this is an impossibility; but his purpose was to arrest the march of the labor movement for a while. Italy at that time was passing through an economic crisis (her situation is far from excellent even today); there was a scarcity of food and in certain sections of the country real famine prevailed. The capitalists, as usual, kept on profiteering. Giolitti saw that under the circumstances reforms would be of little avail, as hunger can not be satisfied with palliatives and revolutionary passion can not be pacified through a legislated eight-hour day. Other, more heroic means, were required to save the capitalist system of Italy, and Giolitti did not hesitate to use them. When the workers of Italy began to confiscate the metal industries last Fall, and when this movement spread to other industries, the owners of the affected plants raised a clamor for drastic

measures and aggression. They called upon the government to employ guns and cannon, and to squelch this movement at its very inception. Giolitti's cabinet, however, did not do this. It kept up an attitude of neutrality as if the entire affair was none of its business, as if it had sympathized with the revolutionary workers. The reason for this affected attitude of indifference was very simple, indeed. Giolitti knew that repression would not halt the onrush of that movement; that they would, on the other hand, accelerate it. He also knew that military action against the workers involved in that movement would probably result in a revolution, and Giolitti decided to leave it run its own course, without government intervention.

Then came his chance. When the workers had taken over the factories, acrimonious discussions regarding the future of these plants commenced, and this was the beginning of the triumph of the Giolitti policy. There were among the workers anarchists, pure syndicalists, communists, socialists and opportunists. And when the question arose: "What is the next step?" theoretical and frequently physical encounters and wranglings took place in each of these factions. This, at once, weakened the position of the workers and simultaneously strengthened the position of their masters, the owners of the plants. "Traitors," "Russian spies," "opportunists," "servants of the bourgeoisie," "hot heads"—such epithets were flying in all directions from one labor faction to the other. And the real work, the revolutionary activity has not moved a step further in the interim.

The next move was Giolitti's. Of course, he professed sympathy with the workers in having taken over the industries. He told them that he did not oppose in the least workers' control over the plants. But, argued he, all this must be done carefully and in a planned manner. Everything must be worked out to suit industrial conditions. So Giolitti promised the workers everything their hearts desired. He invited them into a commission charged with the task of working out a plan of labor control. And meanwhile, as it was to be expected, the factories were returned to their owners and the workers did not receive even the raise in wages which they had demanded earlier in the conflict, and were not paid for the time they were idle.

The commission began its labors on the plan of workers' control, and while it worked, the government be-

gan to "clean house," after a fashion. The "extremists" were arrested. Quite a number of active workers and revolutionists, not leaders or men with prominent names, but scores of the rank and file, those doing the every-day, unostentatious work among the masses, were put away. Of course, there were protests, but they were too weak and were left unheeded. The process of taking over the industries and the events that were connected with it, have tended to widen the breach between the various socialist factions in Italy. Giolitti's tactics on the one hand and the exacting demands of the Third Internationale on the other, have aided considerably in this direction.

Had Giolitti employed severe means against the metal industry strikers; had he taken openly the side of capital in that controversy, the workers would have, no doubt, been solidified and their ranks remained unbroken. As it is, the different factions in the labor movement of Italy continued to fight each other and the split between them has become deeper and wider. The question of affiliating with this or that Internationale and rancorous discussion over the Moscow 21 points became the burning problems of the day. It was not any longer a struggle of a united working class, but a fight between the various parts of the working class. Under such circumstances it is only natural that the protest against Giolitti's "house cleaning" could not be effective. The various factions were busy themselves with questions of theory, while Giolitti was gaining a free hand for his activities.

As said before, the commission for the study of workers' control kept on deliberating. But as the interest of the active elements among the workers was "leg" diverted to other problems, their interest in the labors of this commission began to lag. The workers were excited over the coming congress of the Socialist Party of Italy, and when the congress finally took place, the party split into factions. The comrades of yesterday became the enemies of today; former brothers fought each other bitterly. Then Giolitti made public the report of his commission and the plan of workers' control for industry.

Giolitti's plan of workers' control, as revealed in this report, has as much to do with genuine labor control as the Clayton Amendment has had to do with true exemption of labor unions in America from the Anti-Trust law. It embodied a pro-

vision for the appointment of committees—a central committee and shop committees—with prerogatives to demand certain information from the plant owners. On the other hand, the masters retained the right not to forward such information if they so chose. These shop committees are to receive instructions how to operate the factories. But at the same time, they are not to concern themselves with the real nature of plant management. If this plan should ever be adopted, it might turn out to be a fine scheme for compulsory arbitration.

The workers attempted to protest, but their protests at this time were even weaker than at the time Giolitti arrested the "extremists." This time the workers had to deal with a different Giolitti, not the one of a year ago. Twelve months before, Italy was seething with revolution. The capitalists were badly scared and the government was afraid to come out on the open against the workers. At that time the workers of Italy were still united; the economic situation was very grave and every uprising spelled danger for the entire social system of Italy. Today matters have changed considerably. The economic state of affairs is still bad, but it is much improved over that of a year ago, and the general atmosphere in Italy is by far not as revolutionary. The capitalists feel firmer in their position; the government is more entrenched, having benefited by its farsighted policy, while the workers remain divided, their political organizations rent asunder, and their economic organizations tormented with internal strife.

And as a consequence of it, programs have begun in Italy at present against the pogroms against Jews (there are very few Jews in Italy), but no pogroms against workers and capitalists. Giolitti was afraid to send soldiers against the workers a year ago. But now the ruling powers of Italy are not afraid of a civil war. A year ago the working masses of Italy were deeply interested in the fight against the bourgeoisie; today the majority of them have become passive. A year of factional fighting and splits over organization problems has dampened the ardor of the rank and file and the workers are losing interest and close contact with the movement. The dark forces of the country, guided by the militarists and those who have always advocated a policy of bloody repression against the workers, are now taking advantage of the weakened position of the latter. Italy, particularly in the northern provinces, is today the scene of the most ugly attacks upon the workers. These pogroms are directed principally against the labor institutions which had cost years of activity and had taken the energy and the labor of a generation to build.

(Continued from page 2)

ters a sound slap at the entire policy of persecution and malice which the French government has adopted toward labor. It registers, to an extent, too the temper of the ordinary Frenchman, the rank and file citizen from whom this jury was probably drafted, towards this policy of bitter animosity to labor.

The accused were nearly all members of the Left Wing of the French Socialist Party, and their trial lasted for two weeks. The State demanded their expulsion from France, charging that their plan was dangerous to the republic and that they had means to coerce the Government by a general strike. The defense was that the accused acted in the interests of their labor unions. The acquittal of the accused will be arrested as a great victory by all the radical elements in France.

## MINGO MINERS FREED IN MURDER TRIAL

The sixteen miners tried in connection with the death of Albert Felts, chief of a gunmen's agency operating in the employ of the non-union mine operators of Mingo County, W. Va., who was killed in a gun fight last May 19th, were found not guilty by a jury. The trial consumed forty-six days, beginning January 25th.

News of the acquittal was received with a storm of approval by a great throng of miners who crowded the square in front of the courthouse.

The Mattewan battle trial has been unique in several respects. It was, for instance, the only murder case ever tried in the United States with such a large number of defendants answering one indictment. All of the defendants were accused of having participated in a gun fight on the streets of Mattewan during which

ten men were killed, seven of whom were members of the Baldwin-Felts detective agency, employed by the coal operators. One of the victims of the battle was Mayor Testerman of Mattewan, who was first to fall.

The battle was the outgrowth of the ejection of miners' families from coal company houses. Miners who joined the United Mine Workers were immediately discharged from the employ of the company and put out of their homes.

A strike of coal miners has been in progress in the Mingo County coal fields since July, 1919. Organizers of the United Mine Workers sought to organize the districts both in Mingo County and in Pike County on the Kentucky side of the border. The Baldwin-Felts detective who were shot down in the fight had put a number of miners' families out of their homes and were waiting for their train at Mattewan when the battle began. Witnesses for the defense de-

clared that the first shot was fired by Albert Felts, leader of the detectives.

The Mattewan trial has attracted the attention of the entire labor world, principally for the reason that it has disclosed as nothing else has done in recent years, the desperate tactics employed by the West Virginia coal mine owners in their fight against the Miners' Union—the hiring of gangs of cut-throats, in the disguise of "private detectives," wholesale firing of men from jobs, dispossessing women and children and similar inhuman methods.

The acquittal of the miners in this dramatic case is not only a personal vindication of the sixteen men, but it will tend, to a great extent, to eradicate the evil of rampant thuggery in the Mingo coal fields and will aid the United Mine Workers in unionizing the district and establishing more humane conditions of employment in the local mines.

# JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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## EDITORIALS

### THE DIVINE RIGHT TO "FIRE"

The cloak manufacturers have been heard from last week again through their organ, "Women's Wear." This time they talk in a minor key, and they make no declaration of a "war to the hilt" against the Union. They do not speak of the abolition of week work; they do not even stress firmly their right to discharge workers at will. They, however, seem to nurse an idea that the Union would accept a plan that would concede to them the right to "reorganize" their shops—either annually or at the beginning of each season—as a means of abolishing a "number of trade evils."

They advance the argument that the knowledge alone that the employer has a right to reorganize his shop at the start of the season—to replace his working staff with new workers—would act as a stimulant for greater production, a sort of a Damoclean sword over their heads to banish laziness and incompetence forever. The statement adds, by way of admission, that, after all, the number of shirkers or incompetents in the shops is very limited and the new regulations would not affect the great majority of the workers. Could the Union reject such a plan?

The Union's answer thereto is clear and terse:

No manufacturer is compelled to employ any shirker in his shop. The Union has declared more than once that it is ready to aid employers in such cases to weed out such "soldiers," provided the employer can prove that the worker is the kind he is alleged to be. It is quite apparent, therefore, that as long as the Union maintains such an attitude, the punitive motive behind the employers' proposal has no validity, or justification. They can always discharge a genuine shirker with the full consent of the Union. Why, then, this reorganization scheme?

The reply is simple enough. What the employers cannot digest is, obviously, the requirement that they must prove their charge of shirking against the worker in order to discharge him. This is the true "nigger in the woodpile" and this provision is exactly the one which is designed to interfere with the arbitrary right to "hire and fire."

The Union is, nevertheless, determined to defend its prerogative, to demand proof of a worker's incompetence before discharge—with all the power and influence at its command. It will not permit the employer to carry out arbitrarily the dictates of his sweet will in cases where the very existence of its members is involved. The Union is here precisely to see that no worker loses his or her job and means for making a living without the clear establishment of his or her guilt, whether in the form of shirking work or grave misconduct in the shop, or for any other substantial reason.

Let us not fool ourselves. Just as there exists a limited number of workers who would not give a fair day's return for their wages, there certainly exists a limited, and, perhaps, quite a large number of manufacturers who would, if given the right, first of all, endeavor to rid their shops of loyal members of the Union, such as insist upon their rights and the rights of their coworkers. Shall the Union leave these men and women to the tender mercy of such an employer, or encourage their proclivities in that direction? This would have been a sheer act of suicide, and the Union will not give a free hand to employers to victimize its members under the pretext of reorganization either in the beginning or the midst of the season. No blanket rights to discharge workers will be given by the Union to the employers. Again and again we say, so that this point be made clear and understood by all: The Union is ready to grant the request of any employer to discharge this or the other one of its workers. There is, however, one condition attached to it: the employer must bring forth sufficient cause for his demand. He must prove to the full satisfaction of the Union that the worker whom he wishes to discharge has really committed a serious offense and deserves to be deprived of the job. If such proof is not forthcoming, the employers' arguments will not avail and the Union will defend the rights and the interests of its members to the utmost.

### SOME THOUGHTS ON BOLSHEVIST VICTORIES

We are still in dark regarding the true nature of the Kronstadt rebellion. It is possible that the insurrection in Kronstadt was the handiwork of the bitter enemies of the Russian Revolution. The victory of the Soviet régime, in that event, will fill every heart with gladness, as did the suppression of the Kolchaks, the Denikins, and other such rebels.

It is, however, quite possible that the Kronstadt rebellion was led by genuine revolutionary elements; by men who became

bitterly disappointed over the failures of the Soviet régime and who, not being able to oppose it by any peaceful means, sought to carry out their protest in the form of violence. If this be the case, we should have very little cause to rejoice in the victory over the rebels. Such a victory, though it had cost hundreds of lives, offers but little guarantee for the future security of the present Russian régime. The defeated rebels of today may be the victorious rebels of tomorrow.

In the dispatches from abroad it is alleged that Trotsky had stated that immigrants who had returned to Russia from foreign countries are responsible for this insurrection. We are inclined to discard this explanation as a typical argument of all rulers. It is the hackneyed custom of all governments to attach guilt for rebellion among their people to "foreign" propaganda. We only wish to add that should this have been the case, that returned exiles from abroad were responsible for the Kronstadt uprising, that this assertion in itself is not much of a recommendation for the Soviet régime. It was these exiles who have returned to Russia at the outbreak of the revolution from all ends of the globe who were the most devoted and ablest supporters of the Soviet régime. That they should have become the leaders of the opposition against the Bolsheviks, declaring that the entire Soviet régime was mutilated and destroyed by those who consider themselves its standard bearers, is a point of high importance in appraising the present situation in Russia. In this event, neither the Bolsheviks in Russia, nor their friends abroad, have sound reasons to congratulate themselves upon the Kronstadt victory.

As we stated, however, it is not yet clear today who were the real moving spirits behind the Kronstadt rebellion. We shall place an interrogation mark upon this chapter of recent Russian events for the time being, and proceed to the second victory of the Bolsheviks. We have in mind the trade agreement concluded several days ago between the Governments of Russia and England.

Upon the face of it this agreement appears to be a victory for the present Russian régime. The English Premier, who had only recently declared that "it is impossible for any civilized government to come in touch with a régime that makes use of such barbaric methods of rule as the Russian Soviet Government," this same Premier who had made the convocation of a national assembly in Russia a condition precedent to the recognition of the Bolshevik régime—he, in the end, was compelled to recognize the Bolshevik régime through the trade agreement concluded recently. This recognition of the Russian Soviet Government by the English Cabinet can not be gainsaid or argued away by any twisting or subterfuge, and the Bolshevik diplomats have every reason to claim a victory over the English Cabinet.

Naturally, it is still too early to foretell what practical results Russia and the Russian people may derive from this trade agreement. Many are inclined to believe that the commercial treaty between England and Russia will not begin functioning for a long time to come. The fact, however, remains that the English Government had concluded a commercial agreement with the Russian Government, and this is an event of great moral importance for the latter.

We delight in this humble reversal of form on the part of the arch-hypocritical English Government. Moreover, should this trade agreement result in tangible relief for the Russian people, should it bring food to the hungry and clothes to the naked of Russia, our joy would be even greater. Nevertheless, when we consider the price the Bolshevik Government was compelled to pay in order to win the consent of the English bourgeois government to this agreement, we begin to doubt in the substance of its entire victory. The price it paid is epitomized in the following paragraph:

Each party obligates itself to withdraw from unfriendly activities or propaganda beyond its boundaries against the institutions of the other party; or to give aid and encouragement to any propaganda beyond its boundaries. The Soviet Government in particular agrees to abstain from any activity among Asiatic peoples against the British interests, especially in Asia Minor, Afghanistan and India." In simple words, it means that as the price for this trade agreement, Bolshevism had given up its revolutionary activity, its whole mission of promoting a world revolution.

Read over this point carefully and you will come to the conclusion that the Bolsheviks in Russia who had regarded it their supreme duty to conduct the revolutionary propaganda for the entire world, a purpose for which they had founded the Third Internationale, have obligated themselves to remain deaf and dumb wherever this propaganda might hurt the interests of the English bourgeoisie. For such countries the Third Internationale does not exist.

This is the price paid by the Russian Bolshevik Government for the commercial treaty with England, and it appears to us that this concession is a complete retreat from the entire position which Bolshevism has maintained heretofore. It may have been, perhaps, very proper and very wise for them to have acted that way. It is, perhaps, the result of the new Bolshevik conviction, that a world revolution is still far away, or as Lenin is alleged to have stated in his speech at the last Communist Party Congress at Moscow, that "world revolution is too slow to base immediate policy on it," a statement which we would be ready to subscribe with both our hands.

What we desire to emphasize here, however, is that this new attitude is the very antithesis of the former attitude of Bolshevism." In other words, Russian Bolshevism has undergone a tremendous change overnight. All that remains of it is its name; its substance has changed so radically that Lloyd George has reasonable cause to boast that the victory was not on the side of Russian Bolshevism, but on the side of the English bourgeoisie in particular, and the bourgeois order in general.

# THE SUPREME COURT STRIKES AT THE PRESS

(From the Nation, March 23, 1921)

The decision of the Supreme Court in the case of the Milwaukee "Leader," of which Victor Berger is editor, is of almost moment to the freedom of the press, yes, to every citizen who believes in the Bill of Rights and values his civil liberty, but so far as we are able to observe, it has stirred the press hardly at all. In its essence the Court has decided, with two justices, Holmes and Brandeis, the liberal minority, dissenting, that the Postmaster General has the right to exclude from second-class mailing privileges for an indefinite period any newspaper whose opinions he does not like. The theory and practice heretofore have been that no paper could be excluded for obscenity, or for such a political vagary as preaching anarchy, or for fraud; but the Supreme Court has now decided that this privilege, which is a matter of life and death to all journals with a large mail circulation, can be indefinitely forfeited if the Postmaster General sees fit. It was, of course, the case of Berger which the Court was deciding and did not hesitate to show its feeling about him. But the precedent established far transcends, of course, the case of Mr. Berger personally, for it may profoundly affect the press for a long time to come.

The majority of the Court puts

the issue squarely. It declares that since the second-class privilege is granted by permit only after the Postmaster General is convinced that the character of the paper warrants his doing so, any revocation of that permit may also be indefinite if he concludes that the past conduct of a paper gives him the ground for belief—as the Supreme Court declares the Milwaukee "Leader" did—that it will continue an obnoxious policy. This remarkable position is not related to the status of war. It is a peace-time censorship which the Supreme Court thus bestows upon the Post Office.

Now, on its face there is something tempting to many about this position of the Supreme Court, since it apparently empowers the Postmaster General to establish a censorship of the press. The press is so far degraded that many people are hoping for some kind of control. They recall the damnable work done by the Hearst papers in precipitating the war with Spain; the public is aware now that they are doing about everything they can to provoke hostilities with Mexico, Great Britain, and Japan. Why not have the Postmaster General take away the privilege—not right—by which this journalistic pest obtains a service of transportation from the Government at

one-eighth its cost? Why deprive anybody of the privilege after we are in a war if the man who deliberately helps to embroil us with others goes scot free? Why should we not have ascertainment of the press through the Postmaster General? Because freedom of the press is guaranteed by the Constitution, the now much abused and discredited founders of our Government having realized that without a free press the Republic could not survive, and because it is infinitely better for America to endure license and roguery than that any attempt should be made to throttle a press which, good or bad, is in the last resort the chief and final defender of our liberties. In his dissenting opinion Justice Brandeis sees very clearly where this will lead us to. This new power carries with it, he says, the "vague and absolute authority practically to deny circulation to any publication which in his (the Postmaster General's) opinion is likely to violate in the future any postal law." "If," he adds, "under the Constitution, administrative officers may, as a mere incident of the peace-time administration of their departments, be vested with the power to issue such orders as this there is little of substance in our Bill of Rights and in every extension of governmental function lurks

a new danger to civil liberty." Why should the Supreme Court be constantly striking at American liberties? It was not long ago that it rendered a decision in the Berea College case which, as Justice Brewer pointed out, would justify the forbidding of Jews to assemble on the market place of a city like Detroit save between certain hours, such as two and four P. M. Talk about the guardianship of four liberties! One would think that the words of Justice Brandeis and Justice Holmes would arouse the press from one end of the country to the other. But it is dead to its own shackling, and it long has been. For more than a decade past the Government has been interfering with its liberties, but just as long as its money making is not affected the press is indifferent to such attacks upon itself. When, however, the pocket nerve is touched, as, for instance, when the Government heavily increased the postal charges, then there was an outcry from one end of the country to the other, and the publishers found that they could get together and make extremely vigorous protests at Washington. But when it comes to anything affecting the spirit and soul of the press and its liberties, these editors cannot even find time to comment upon it in their editorial columns. A few, like the New York "Tribune," are shameless enough to applaud their own enslavement. What clever measure could there be of the decadence of our press? If it is not true to itself and to its ideals it certainly cannot be to the country.

## LABOR ALLIANCE FOR RUSSIA STARTS DRIVE FOR FUNDS

The American Labor Alliance for Trade Relations with Russia is starting a drive today for funds to carry on its campaign for the immediate resumption of trade relations with Russia. A theatre benefit performance will take place in the Jewish Art Theatre on Wednesday evening, April 13th, where Scholom Ash's "Family Pride" with Rudolph Schildkraut in one of the principal roles, will be played.

Now that England has signed a trade agreement with Russia, the American Labor Alliance plans to carry on a more intensive campaign than ever for similar action between the U. S. Government and Russia. Consternation and regret that the U. S. Government should have allowed England "to put one over on us" was expressed in letters received this morning from unions in many parts of the country. The union men feel that trade with Russia would greatly alleviate the unemployment which is daily increasing in this country. The program of the American Labor Alliance has the endorsement of thirteen International Unions, the largest of which are the International Association of Machinists, the International Ladies Garment Workers, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers. Their program has also been adopted by the Central Labor Unions of seventy-two cities in forty-nine states, all of which are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and represent a membership of two and a half million workers.

The American Labor Alliance urges all those interested in this movement to attend the Benefit Performance at the Jewish Art Theatre on April 13th.

Tickets are on sale at the office of the American Labor Alliance, 31 Union Square, Room 1504; The Rand School of Social Science, 7 East 15th Street; the Jewish Daily Forward, 275 East Broadway, and the Jewish Daily Times, 123 East Broadway.

## BIGGEST GARFIELD SHOP SIGNS WITH UNION

The campaign which the Out-of-Town Department of the International is conducting in Garfield for the last three months, to organize the 20 skirt shops located there, has at last brought good results. The Muscarello shop, the biggest in town, has come to terms with the organization.

Not many New Yorkers know that during the strike of 1916 a number of skirt shops drifted out of New York City, and seeking for quiet quarters, found a haven in Garfield, N. J. For a while it seemed as if they had really succeeded in escaping from union standards and control. When the International came to Garfield several months ago, the local skirt employers, under the leadership of the Muscarello firm, displayed stubborn opposition against any of our activities. It will be recalled that they prevailed upon the local police authorities not to grant our organization the right to hold a meeting in a hall. Undaunted, we went ahead and with the aid of Brother Henry Hiffers of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor, we succeeded in winning for ourselves the right of holding meetings and of going on with our organizing work. It is true that up to now the International has succeeded only in organizing four shops. With the signing of the Muscarello firm, the leader of the opposition to the union, matters have now taken a decided turn to the better.

On Saturday last, March 19th, Brother Nathan Weiss, International organizer, with headquarters at Hackensack, who has been in charge of the work in the district, signed the agreement for Local No. 134 with that shop. Others are expected to follow suit, and in a short time Garfield will become a union town as far as the making of ladies' garments is concerned, and no more the refuge of non-union houses, as it has been since 1916.

## NEWS FROM LOCAL 45

By M. LINOFF, Secretary

At the last meeting of our Executive Board, among other things the present conditions in the designers' trade were under discussion. The air in the cloak industry is already filled with rumors over a possible conflict between the union and a number of employers, and our officials have deemed it appropriate to consider more thoroughly the situation of the designers in the industry. We know only too well that in the event of a conflict between the union and the employers, the designers will become involved in it just as well as the other workers in the trade.

The Executive Board discussed this matter from every view and angle, and after a general exchange of opinion we arrived at the unanimous conclusion that Local No. 45 must be prepared for every possible emergency, and not be left to drift for itself, as heretofore. The Executive Board of our local dwelt with particular emphasis upon the unemployment prevailing in the designers' trade at present. Many members pointed out that if the practice of selling patterns would cease, the unemployment in the trade would come to a stop. Everyone of the participants in the debate agreed that this practice of selling patterns from one house to another is an evil which must be fought with a campaign of information and education among our members.

On Saturday, March 26th, our Local No. 45 had a theatre benefit, which turned out to be a remarkable success. The members of the local and the officers and their friends once again had the opportunity to meet and spend a couple of joyous hours together.

In speaking about the financial side of our union, we wish to call the attention of our members who are in arrears with their dues, to come to the office of the union to straighten out the accounts. The expenses of maintaining the office are very substantial indeed, and the union can not continue its work without the loyal cooperation of all who belong to it.

## THE END OF THE EDUCATIONAL SEASON

The end of the educational season has been reconfirmed almost all of the classes conducted by the Educational Department will soon be closed.

The students in the Unity Centers and the Workers' University both feel that the time is auspicious for a general "get together," where they can meet each other and also the teachers, under whose instruction they had been during the past winter.

The friendly relations which existed between the students and the teaching staff and also among the students themselves, have had very little opportunity for expression during the year. The classes met for work and the intervals were too brief to permit long conversations or chats.

On Saturday evening, April 23rd, all of the students and teachers will have an opportunity for meeting in a friendly social fashion and spend a few hours in pleasant personal intercourse. The scene of the occasion will be the dining-room of the Washington Irving High School. Refreshments and dancing will form part of the program.

Committees of the Students' Councils have organized this evening, and have planned the whole affair so as to produce the greatest amount of pleasure to all who will attend. The committees decided that a nominal fee of thirty cents will be sufficient to cover the expense of the evening. Tickets can be obtained from members of the Students' Councils in the various centers and the Workers' University, and also from the office of the Educational Department, Room 1003, 31 Union Square.

There is no doubt that practically all of the workers who so faithfully attended the classes during the past season, will come together for this final evening of mirth and jollity.

## Educational Comment and Notes

### LABOR EDUCATION AND IMPATIENCE

It is characteristic of human nature to want results, and to want them very quickly. Whenever persons or groups undertake an enterprise, they wish to see the tangible results of their efforts in a very short time.

The misfortune is, however, that they are most frequently doomed to disappointment. The human race is so constituted that things do not happen quickly. On the contrary, if the history of human institutions shows anything, it shows that a great deal of effort, a great deal of time and a great deal of energy are frequently necessary to produce comparatively slight results.

All this applies with equal force to the problem of unionism and labor education. When workers began to realize their impotence in face of capitalism and started to preach organization, some of them unwisely expected immediate benefits. We know now that they were mistaken. It took a great many years for labor organizations to attain anything like power. And even at that we know that today this power is quite limited.

The British Labor Movement, with almost a century of hard work and sacrifice behind it, is still very far from the goal toward which the British workers are striving. The American Labor Movement, not as old as the British, has still a greater road to travel, and we know very well how much more there is to accomplish. There is no doubt that in time this movement will become very strong, probably the strongest in society. But a student of history can foresee that this will take a long time. It seems to be the law of all social evolution, that permanent institutions grow slowly. Those that grow fast generally decay just as fast.

Now the question of labor education may be taken up from the same point of view. The International has maintained an educational department for four years. Why are not all the 150,000 members of the International thoroughly educated by this time, is a question that may be asked more or less seriously. The International has spent thousands of dollars and a great amount of energy on education. Why are not all its members conversant with its aims, theory and history of trade unionism? Why are they not all more intensely imbued with the spirit of sacrifice and loyalty to the cause of Unionism?

The very question contains the answer. One has but to refer to other similar experiments in human history to realize that the International has made but a beginning, a very, very small beginning in a very, very large job.

Contrast the educational experiment of the International with that of the movement for workers' education in England. The various workers' schools and colleges in England have existed now for more than twenty years. Conditions in England were much worse than in the United States, and the economic pressure was much more severe. Everything seemed to be much more favorable to creating among workers than in this country. And it is true, that a great deal has been accomplished. It is true that large numbers of English workers attended these classes, were benefited by the instruction and were of use to the labor movement because of the education which they received. But according to students of British conditions, the returns are disproportionate to the investment.

Considering the length of time that these workers' colleges and schools have been in existence in England, one might properly say that the outlook is not at all encouraging.

How much does this apply to this country? After all, until recently most workers have felt that they could leave their class and become small capitalists. This in itself, operated to dissipate them. And in addition, there has been no workers' educational undertaking worth speaking of, until very recently. The International, it is true, has been working along this line for four years, but what are four years in comparison to the enormous job before us.

A fair examination of what has been actually done is certain to produce optimism. Considering the fact that the most difficult thing in the world is to get the average individual to spend any time and give any attention to the serious study of a serious subject, it is undeniable that the classes conducted by our Educational Department were more than successful. Hundreds of earnest men and women gave up night after night, Saturdays and Sundays, and instead of spending that time in pleasure of all sorts, attended classes where they received systematic instruction in subjects which are of great importance to workers. The number reached is naturally small in comparison to the total membership. It cannot be otherwise. But, comparing with other institutions of a similar character, they are more than satisfactory.

And besides, it must be remembered that such institutions as the Educational Department cannot and must not grow too rapidly. Particularly in education, development must be slow. Students are attracted in small numbers at first, but as these discover that their time in the classroom is well spent, and that they are receiving worth-while instruction from worth-while teachers, who employ worth-while methods, these students inform others of the fact, and the latter in their turn, begin to attend the same classes. After this is repeated from time to time, when the men and women who attend the classes are full of confidence in the value of the institution, the classes begin to reach larger numbers, and finally, they become successful not only in quality, which should, after all, be the main standard, but also from the point of view of quantity, which is unfortunately the popular standard.

The members of the International may well be content with their Educational Department. It has done well for them, but what is more important, it will do better and better as time goes on. But, in judging its achievements, it is essential to remember that it is but a young child, only four years old. It is doing very well for its age and will do still better as it gets older.

### THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL BUREAU

The announcement of the conference which will take place on April 2nd and 3rd has aroused great interest among those who are following the subject of labor education in the United States. A number of inquiries have been made and the response shows that the proposal to establish a National Workers' Educational Bureau came at the right time.

A number of people connected with the labor schools of New York and elsewhere feel very certain that the time is ripe for a central bureau. New educational experiments are being started in many places, and progressive labor organizations are in-

quiring into the methods of organizing their own educational activities.

Full details of the coming conference in New York will be published later. For the present, the attention of the workers is called to the fact that a dinner will be held on Saturday evening, April 2nd, at Strunsky's Restaurant, 24 W. 25th St. The announced speakers are as follows:

Benjamin Schlesinger, President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Abraham Haroff, Secretary-Treasurer, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Joseph Schinberg, President, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

James Maurer, President, Pennsylvania Federation of Labor.

John Brephy, President, Dist. No. 2, United Mine Workers of America.

Joseph H. Cannon, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union.

James Sullivan, President, Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York and Vicinity.

William F. Kehoe, Secretary, Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York and Vicinity.

(John Fitzpatrick, President, Chicago Federation of Labor—probably.)

(W. Z. Foster, Secretary, Trade Union Educational League, Chicago, probably.)

A large attendance is expected at this dinner session, and those who wish to reserve tickets at \$2 may do so immediately by communicating with the one of the Educational Department, Room 1003, 31 Nixon Square. It is hoped that a large number of workers will attend the sessions of the conference, which will be held in the auditorium of the New

School for Social Research, 445 W. 23rd St.

On Saturday, April 2nd, at two o'clock, delegates from a number of labor schools in various parts of the United States will tell how they are organized, how controlled, how financed, what kind of courses they give, and what their aims and plans are.

These reports should be of great interest as showing the present extent and development of labor education in the United States, and as giving valuable information to those who are planning to initiate similar experiments elsewhere.

The sessions on Sunday will take place at 10 A. M., 2 P. M., and 7:30 P. M. At the first session, the establishment of the Bureau will be taken up. In all probability, final arrangements will be made for the organization of the Bureau, its function, etc. The afternoon session will be extremely interesting. A number of students from the labor schools in New York, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Bethlehem, Pittsburgh, Reading and other cities, will present their views on labor education, and the other students present will participate in a general discussion. The last session on Sunday evening will be of value to those who are actually engaged in teaching labor classes. They will have an opportunity of hearing and discussing reports of a number of teachers who are connected with various labor colleges and who will present their own experience and problems.

This conference will undoubtedly mark a new era in the development of American labor education. There is no doubt that its effects will be far-reaching, and that the workers of the United States will be helped by it in their struggle for economic justice.

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# The Weeks' News in Cutters Union Local 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN

The Cloak and Suit situation is still in a mist. According to the trade papers, the Executive Committee of the Cloak and Suit Manufacturers Protective Association is holding secret meetings, but it seems that the manufacturers are unable to agree among themselves on the policy to be pursued in their dealings with our union. While the deliberations of the above-mentioned secret sessions of the Executive Committee of the Association are not supposed to be made public, we have it from a reliable source, that only a few "leaders" in the Association were advocating among the members the advisability of adopting an aggressive attitude towards the union. It is also known that these leaders are finding it very difficult to convince the manufacturers of the practicability and necessity of the contemplated action, for they know full well that the Cloakmakers Union will fight to the last ditch against an inauguration in the industry of the piece work system as well as against a reduction in wages under present conditions.

The majority of the employers are satisfied with the results of the week-work system which was adopted in the Cloak and Suit Industry during the General Strike of 1919. They still remember the constant quarrels between themselves and the workers whenever prices were to be settled and the aggravations caused thereby. In fact, it was due to this incessant haggling of prices more than to anything else that many of the old-time employers had to quit manufacturing and go into the jobbing trade instead, instead.

The undercurrent of opinion among cloak and suit manufacturers generally is in favor of peaceful relations with the union, for the employers feel that a fight with the Union would ruin their coming fall season's business, which, in the majority of cases, is tantamount to ruining their entire business. These manufacturers point to the present struggle in the men's clothing industry, now in its fifteenth week, as proof of the logic of their arguments.

No matter what the outcome of these discussions among the manufacturers may be, our union is preparing for any emergency that may arise, and plans are being worked out to meet any attack on the part of the Association. In this the officers and the executive board of the different locals comprising the Joint Board are receiving the full-hearted cooperation of their respective members. The collection of the Million Dollar Defense Fund is progressing rapidly and our members, knowing that the slack season is approaching, are placing themselves in good standing. We are sure that those few who for one reason or another have not contributed their share towards this defense fund will, after reading these lines, speed up and make good their obligations to their fellow-members.

The General Strike in the Miscellaneous Division is practically over at the time of writing, with the exception of a small number of shops where settlements are being negotiated, and it can be safely predicted that by the end of this week all the strikers will have returned to work under union conditions. The members of the Children's Dress Manufacturers' Association, which dissolved at the end of last year, settled individually with the union. The Children's Dress Contractors of Brooklyn have organized an association and signed a collective agreement with the Children's Dressmakers' Union.

This last general strike was a phenomenal success and exceeded all the expectations of the union officers. The

members of the Children's Dress Branch of the Miscellaneous Division now have an opportunity to make this branch a strong factor in the industry. It is up to them to take advantage of the gains achieved as a result of this general strike so that in a short time this branch will have conditions equal to those of the Waist and Dress Division.

A number of conferences were held between the Cotton Garment Manufacturers' Association and our union, at which a demand was made by the Association for a 25 per cent. reduction in wages. The union, naturally, refused to discuss even the question of a reduction in wages and this "demand" was dropped by the Association. The following are the changes in the agreement as affecting the cutters: The minimum scale for mechanics is to be \$35 instead of \$31. At least one mechanic receiving the minimum scale is to be employed in each house belonging to the Association. Formerly, a manufacturer was obliged to keep at least one man at the rate of \$25.

A number of other changes were effected in this agreement which tend to improve the conditions of the cutters in this branch. A full and detailed report was rendered by Manager Weinstein at the last meeting of the Miscellaneous Division held on Monday, March 21st, at which all these changes were approved of. A mass meeting of all workers in the white goods industry will be held shortly, where the new agreement will be up for ratification. Cutters in this branch are urged to attend the mass meeting which will be advertised in the daily press.

The next General Meeting of Local No. 10 will be held on Monday, March 28th, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place. All members are urged to attend.

There is only one more week left in which to procure tickets for our 12th Annual Ball to be held on Saturday evening, April 2nd, 1921, at Hunt's Point Palace, Southern Boulevard and 163rd Street, Bronx. We remind our members of this so that they may not forget to have their full dress suits pressed.

Professor Schiller, the famous Jazz Band Leader, has promised us to do his very best to make this affair one of the best of the season. Judging by his past exploits, we feel that our members and their friends will not be disappointed and will enjoy the best evening of the year.

A special program of songs and exhibition dances between the regular dances is being arranged for the evening with the cooperation of "Fetie Sylvia Binder," or as she is known on the stage, "Tinkle Toe."

A limited number of tickets at \$5.00 each including wardrobe can still be had by applying to any of the officers or active members of the union.

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2685, 2690, 2695, 2700, 2705, 2710, 2715, 2720, 2725, 2730, 2735, 2740, 2745, 2750, 2755, 2760, 2765, 2770, 2775, 2780, 2785, 2790, 2795, 2800, 2805, 2810, 2815, 2820, 2825, 2830, 2835, 2840, 2845, 2850, 2855, 2860, 2865, 2870, 2875, 2880, 2885, 2890, 2895, 2900, 2905, 2910, 2915, 2920, 2925, 2930, 2935, 2940, 2945, 2950, 2955, 2960, 2965, 2970, 2975, 2980, 2985, 2990, 2995, 3000, 3005, 3010, 3015, 3020, 3025, 3030, 3035, 3040, 3045, 3050, 3055, 3060, 3065, 3070, 3075, 3080, 3085, 3090, 3095, 3100, 3105, 3110, 3115, 3120, 3125, 3130, 3135, 3140, 3145, 3150, 3155, 3160, 3165, 3170, 3175, 3180, 3185, 3190, 3195, 3200, 3205, 3210, 3215, 3220, 3225, 3230, 3235, 3240, 3245, 3250, 3255, 3260, 3265, 3270, 3275, 3280, 3285, 3290, 3295, 3300, 3305, 3310, 3315, 3320, 3325, 3330, 3335, 3340, 3345, 3350, 3355, 3360, 3365, 3370, 3375, 3380, 3385, 3390, 3395, 3400, 3405, 3410, 3415, 3420, 3425, 3430, 3435, 3440, 3445, 3450, 3455, 3460, 3465, 3470, 3475, 3480, 3485, 3490, 3495, 3500, 3505, 3510, 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