

"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. 14

New York, Friday April 1, 1921

Price, 2 Cents

## INTERNATIONAL APPEALS INJUNCTION DECISIONS

The injunction epidemic is spreading out its fangs into every branch of the garment industry of New York City. The manufacturers in the women's wear trades have, apparently, become jealous of their brethren in the clothing industry and have begun a veritable avalanche of injunction suits against our International.

Last week, Justice Newburger issued an injunction against our International in the case of the waist firm of Florosheimer & Company. Several other cases are now awaiting consideration by the same Judge. Having succeeded in one case before this Judge, the employers are obviously under the impression that he will grant many more of the same kind without much ado.

Judge Newburger is not, however, the only injunction Judge in the garment industry. Last week Justice Erlanger issued two injunctions against our union in favor of the dress and waist firms of Baum & Wolf, of 89 Madison Ave., and Rubin, Philipso and Cohen, of 14 E. 20th Street. These firms belong to that handful of obdurate bosses of the former Waist and Dress Association, against whom the Joint Board of the Waist and Dress Industry is now conducting a strike. These injunctions forbid picketing, while at the same time they grant the right of the workers to strike.

In issuing the injunctions, Justice Erlanger stated, among other things,

### MOUNT VERNON DRESS FIRM DEFIES ARBITRATOR'S DECISION

The Mt. Vernon Costume Co. of 30 South Street, Mt. Vernon, N. Y., has a peculiar conception of good faith and of carrying out its obligations towards their workers.

This firm conducts quite a big establishment, employing 118 workers. They are doing work for the well-known New York firm of Lefcourt & Brenner. During the preceding week, the finishers in the shop had little work and were compelled to go home early. Last week, however, a considerable amount of work came into the shop and the firm of a sudden saw fit to give out part of the finishing to outside shops. The chair-lady protested, and as a result she was discharged.

The manager of the Mt. Vernon local, Brother Lewis Maggio, called upon the employer on Tuesday, March 29th, and offered to arbitrate the matter before Judge Bernstein of Mt. Vernon. The firm accepted this proposal and the matter was immediately submitted for arbitration. After having listened to the facts in the case, the Judge decided that the girl was entitled to reinstatement and that the firm was not acting in good faith by giving out its work.

Notwithstanding this, the firm, who apparently expected a different decision, refused to abide by the arbitration of Judge Bernstein. Brother Maggio immediately stopped the shop. The 118 workers, to a person, are determined to stay out until their chair-lady is reinstated and the firm will have learned to abide by a decision which it had solemnly undertaken to live up to.

that he is prompted to do so because he sees in the strikes a "conspiracy to injure the business of the manufacturers." The workers in the waist and dress industry will, of course, be very gravely impressed with the depth and learnedness of this thought. For that matter, each and every strike can be easily construed as one calling for an injunction. Of course, strikes hurt employers. If this was not the case, employers would never settle with their workers and would let them strike on until Doomsday. The Judge has, apparently, lost sight of the principal purpose of the workers in going on strike. They are not out to injure the employer as much as they are out

to improve their own conditions. The Judge, however, has discarded entirely the workers' point of view in this controversy, and was actuated solely by the point of view of the employers. The International has decided to appeal these cases to a higher court where it will endeavor to obtain justice for the worker involved in these shops. Morris Hillquit is chief counsel for the union. It is intended to make one of these suits a test case and to obtain a reversal of the decision rendered by the lower court. Needless to say, that the entire membership of our International will anxiously awaiting the outcome of these appeals.

## Dispute In White Goods Industry Settled

After a series of conferences between the Whitegoods Workers' Union, Local No. 62, and the Cotton Garment Manufacturers' Association, a settlement was finally reached last week.

When the Union had raised the question of the removal of the collective agreement in the trade, which expired on March 30th, and demanded several improvements in this agreement, the Association put forth a counter-demand to reduce the wages of the workers. The Union replied in a firm negative to this proposal and began to mobilize its forces for a strike. The conference, however, were not broken up and were continued from time to time, until a settlement has been reached. The employers have withdrawn their demand for a reduction in wages and have consented to the following several improvements demanded by the workers:

1. A minimum scale for week workers and for apprentices.
2. The base rate for piece settlements for piece workers has been increased.

### AMALGAMATED DISSOLUTION SUIT FAILS

The dismissal of the suit against the Amalgamated Clothing Workers by Justice Bijler, foreshadows the failure of the employers' campaign for the dissolution of the union.

It is a splendid victory for the workers in the clothing industry and it is being interpreted as a rebuke to the slanderous accusation of the employers that the workers in the clothing industry are law-breakers and that their organization is based upon pervasive and destructive principles.

While the employers still announce their intention to accept the opportunity offered in the decision, to file new papers immediately and to continue their fight to break up the workers' organization, it can be said that Justice Bijler's refusal to consider the allegations against the union as proper ground for proceedings against the individual union officials named in the complaint, seems to indicate that action against the organization as such will not succeed.

2. Employers who had cut down prices during the last unemployment season are to revert to regular prices 24 hours after the signing of the agreement.

4. The entire day of Election Day is to be a legal holiday with pay, instead of a half day, as heretofore.

This new agreement has, so far, been accepted only by the conference committees of both sides and will now be submitted to member meetings. The Union has called a general member meeting for Saturday, April 2nd, at Beethoven Hall, at 1 P. M. Brother William Davis, the manager of Local No. 62, will render a complete report of the terms of the new agreement, which will be presented to the members for approval. President Benjamin Schlesinger is expected to attend this meeting.

This settlement is a distinct victory for the workers, and all members of Local No. 62 are called upon to come to this big meeting without fail and to vote calmly and deliberately in accordance with their best judgment on the terms of the new agreement.

### CLEVELAND HEARING BEGUN ON WEDNESDAY

As we go to press, we received a telegram from Cleveland, from Vice-President Meyer Perlestein, as follows:

"The hearing before the Board of Referees has begun on Wednesday, March 30th. A number of disputes in the cloak industry, and the demand of the manufacturers for a reduction in wages, in particular, are on the order of the day for the Board.

"On Tuesday evening, we had a great mass meeting at the Engineers' Auditorium, at which the officials of the Union were unanimously instructed to oppose to the limit the demand of the manufacturers for a decrease in wages."

The Union is represented at this hearing by Vice-President Meyer Perlestein and Alexander Trachtenberg, Director of the Research Department of the International. Brother Trachtenberg has been in Cleveland now for over two weeks, investigating living conditions and earnings and various other data to be presented to the referees to counteract the demand of the employers for a reduction in wages.

## Six Dollar Tax For Waist and Dress Strikers

As reported in "Justice" several weeks ago, the Joint Board in the Waist and Dress Industry has decided—and the decision was subsequently endorsed by a shop chairmen meeting—that all the workers in the settled waist and dress shops in New York be taxed weekly \$1 and \$1.50 for the duration of the strike in the few waist and dress shops that are still holding out against union conditions.

This tax was levied only upon those working in the settled shops, and because it was of a semi-voluntary nature, it was found that it offered loopholes for evasion. At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Joint Board, the question was thoroughly discussed and it was decided that instead of a weekly contribution, an assessment of \$6.00 upon every member in the Waist and Dress Industry be levied. This assessment is obligatory and is subject to no evasive conditions. The assessment stamps will have to be pasted on the union book as the regular due stamp.

It was also decided that monies paid in by members in the former voluntary tax be considered as part of this assessment. It means that if a member had paid in \$3 during the preceding two weeks, that he or she will have to pay only an additional \$3 to meet their assessment.

This question is to go immediately to the meetings of the various branches and locals in the waist and dress industry, and it is confidently expected that this measure will be carried. It is only fair that the entire membership of the union contribute its share towards the maintenance of this hard-fought strike and that the burden shall not fall upon one part of the membership only.

### BUSY DAYS AT PATERSON, N. J.

The Out-of-Town Department of the International, under the management of Vice-President Halpern, has started last week a lively organization campaign in Paterson, N. J. There are a number of women's garment shops in Paterson, among these several waist and dress shops and a number of corset shops. One of the waist shops belongs to Mikula Bros., well known in its days to members of Local No. 25. Another underwear shop belongs to Garfinkel & Ritter, who at one time had an agreement with the Whitegoods Workers Union, Local No. 62. The last named shop is one of the biggest in Paterson, employing 150 workers.

It can thus be seen that Paterson offers a wide field for organizing activities. The work is being conducted by Brother Nathan Welles, International organizer for New Jersey, and according to his report the local workers are interested in our campaign and are ready to join the union.

# TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

## THE STRIKE OF THE TEACHERS IN CHINA

**T**HE strike of teachers involving a number of government schools and universities, and affecting 6,000 students, which began several days ago at Peking owing to the government's failure to meet the teachers' demands for four months back pay, is now assuming nation-wide importance due to the teachers' demands that the government reserve a fixed annual revenue for educational purposes.

This strike of students and teachers in China, like previous strikes of the same kind, has a strong political background. It is the fight between the militaristic and liberal and progressive elements of the country; between the supporters of modern education on the one hand, and the upholders of the educational standards and military traditions of old China on the other. The present crisis involves China's entire educational system, bringing up the flat issue between education and militarism. The Minister of Education attempted to resign last week owing to his inability to obtain funds to meet the arrears of salary due to the teachers. He remains in office, however, owing to pressure from the teachers, and will stand or fall with them.

Like in Russia, the students in China have been playing a very important part in the liberal movement of that country, during the present generation. Their struggle for a modern educational system which is the result of half a century of hard-fought progress, is a fight for all that is in accord with the principles of freedom and liberty, as against the dark forces of reaction in China. The present teachers and students strike is, therefore, of more than ordinary importance, more than a strike for mere back pay, but involves the fundamental principles of modern progress in the Celestial Republic.

## THE SETTLEMENT IN THE STOCKYARDS

**A** TEMPORARY settlement of the differences between the big meat packing concerns and the stockyard workers' unions was reached last week, after several conferences between the representatives of both sides with the collaboration of three cabinet members—Secretaries Davis, Hoover and Wallace.

The terms of the settlement, which is a compromise by concessions on both sides, amounts to the following: First, there is a wage-cut of 5 per cent. for week workers, and 12½ per cent. for all piece workers.

Second, the basic 8-hour day and overtime rates are retained. The existing system of arbitration and collective bargaining remain in full force, without change, and Judge Alshuler, the present chief arbitrator and administrator, is to retain and exercise all his jurisdiction and authority as heretofore.

It can thus be seen that with the exception of a small concession in the form of a reduction in wages, the workers have won practically everything they insisted upon. The retention of the 8-hour work day in the stockyards is of particular significance. No less important is the preservation of the system of collective bargaining and arbitration which has been of such great benefit to the workers in the meat packing industry.

The unions, were, apparently, ready to defend their standards and organization by a strike, as the overwhelming majority of the workers had voted

in favor of one. The desire to avoid industrial strife, whenever possible, however, prompted their representatives to agree to a compromise on the question of wages. It speaks very well, indeed, for the men in the stockyards who have managed to impress their employers and the country in general with their splendid spirit and firmness, regardless of the fact that only a few years ago these workers were practically unorganized and were among the most exploited and oppressed in the country.

## COURT STRIKES AGAIN AT PICKETING

**O**N top of the Van Slicen dictum declaring picketing beyond the pale of the law, there came last week a veritable avalanche of decisions adverse to the right of picketing, and granting injunctions against a number of unions in this city.

Among these injunctions there were several issued against our International Union and its officers by Justice Newburger. In handing down the decision in the Florsheim suit, the judge declared that it was clear that the strike was "not for the purpose of bettering the conditions of the workers, but for fear that the action of the complaining firms might endanger the present system of collective bargaining." He, thereupon, set up a line of demarcation, limiting the right of the workers to organize, but not to act in any way which might cause "wrong" to others. It appears from the statement of the learned judge that a strike to "prevent the reduction of proper standards of wages, hours and sanitation in the factories, as well as to maintain such 'standing where they now prevail by continuing the system of collective bargaining between the employers and the employee," is not in violation of the pre-written rights of a trade union.

The logic of this argument is so blind and futile that it passes the power of conception of the ordinary human mind. If the unions have a right to exist, to organize, what reason for existence and what sense for their presence is there if they are not permitted to jointly abstain from working under inferior standards of labor and without the right to bargain collectively for these standards? The fallacy of this argument will be soon decided by a higher tribunal, to which the International has appealed. The organized labor movement will watch the appeal from these decisions with a great deal of interest, as it involves the fundamental question of labor tactics and the very basis of its existence.

## GOMPERTS AND HEART

**R**ECENTLY, the Hearst publications have levelled a number of attacks upon President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, accusing him of pro-British sympathies and views and a detrimental attitude towards everything affecting the labor movement. Whatever substance there may be in these attacks or allegations, coming from the Hearst publications, they revolve of the customary insincerity and hypocrisy with which these latter are saturated.

A general impression among working men and women seems to prevail that the Hearst publications are friendly to the working class, and the reply to the Hearst attacks made by President Gompers, in a recent statement, is, therefore, refreshing indeed. In this statement, Gompers personally, and through his newspapers, has undertaken to control the labor movement, with a view of chain-

ing it as an adjunct to his political ambitions. Fortunately, the labor movement of America has failed to become a part of the Hearst political machine. Gompers reminds us in his counter-attack of the fact that when Hearst was a member of Congress, he attended only two meetings of the Committee on Labor, which he was a member, and that in the Boston newsboys' strike for better treatment at the hands of Hearst's Boston paper, he first appealed to the A. F. of L. for support and finally beat the boys into submission.

It is a healthy thing to have the records of these so-called "friends of labor" exposed from time to time before the reading public, and particularly before the workers of this country. The shattering of the labor movement should not be allowed to pass without merited rebuttal.

## GOV. KILBY AS ARBITRATOR

**T**HE mine workers of Alabama have been in a bitter fight against their employers for over a year. The strike, which has embraced every colliery in that southern state, has kept every miner out of work for months and the United Mine Workers have spent large sums of money in this fight.

About two months ago a tentative agreement was reached between the Union and the employers, to present the grievances of the workers to an arbitrator, and it was the ill luck of the miners to have agreed upon Governor Kilby of Alabama as the sole arbitrator in this strike.

Whatever reputation for fairness and impartiality the Alabama Governor may have enjoyed before he undertook to arbitrate this bitter struggle, he has stripped himself bare of, after having handed down his decision. In the strike the Governor decided that the operators are not bound to recognize the union, nor to re-employ those who struck, and in addition to it all, he finds the coal operators' methods fair and equitable. Practically every iniquitous method which the miners have fought against and which has been rejected in almost every other coal mine field in the country is to be retained in Alabama. The day wage scale and the sub-contract system are to remain unchanged, and the freedom of contract between the mine operator and the individual miner, an old-time means of dodging the union, is held to be inviolate.

The report also approves of the maintenance of the detestable company stores. It ends with the recommendation that since this strike was "wrongful and without the slightest justification," the organization of the United Mine Workers is responsible for the present strikers' loss without employment, and that, therefore, the organization should support the strikers until they find work.

We do not know whether Governor Kilby will be nominated and re-elected as Governor of Alabama next year without opposition by the ruling political parties upon the strength of his record as an arbitrator. We are sure the miners in Alabama could have ever picked a less fitted person to arbitrate their grievances. We can only be safe in stating that this sort of arbitration will not arbitrate anything in the mine fields of Alabama. After the period covered by the decision has expired, there will be another strike in the coal fields of Alabama. Neither the United Mine Workers nor the men in the Alabama coal fields will be "arbitrated" out of existence.

## SPIES ON THE RAILROADS

**I**T was a pretty admission on the part of General Atterbury, the chairman of the Railway Executive, under the close fire of Frank

F. Walsh, attorney for the Brotherhoods, that the Pennsylvania system had maintained a spy system before the war, and that it had armaments and guns and revolvers at various points. If came in the midst of a heated argument on the part of the railroad, that they could not negotiate an agreement on a national scale, but that they would negotiate agreements with their own employees.

The attorney for the union, charged, in connection with the railroad general treatment of its employees, that prior to federal control the Pennsylvania maintained a spy system and that almost one million dollars was spent by the company in 1914 to maintain the system. As this charge was practically substantiated, the public should now be able to see clearly the justification of the demand of the railroads for a decrease in the workers' wages. If it costs millions to maintain a spy system, and if the public is not willing to have travel rates increased, the maintenance of such a benevolent institution like a spy system must naturally come from the wages of the workers.

The recent disclosures about the keeping up of huge spy establishments in practically every important industry of the land which have produced such a deep impression throughout the labor world, have received but additional confirmation through this admission. It offers another powerful reason for a concerted effort to legislate the labor spy out of existence through the exposure of his baneful influence upon the relations between workers and employers, and the demoralizing effect of the spy system upon industry in general.

## LAND TO IMMIGRANTS

**P**LANs to divert immigrants from cities of industrial centers and to place the newcomers on small farms, were announced by the new Commissioner General of Immigration, in Washington.

The plan is approved by Secretary of Labor Davis and is intended to help solve the immigration problem and at the same time to correct the economic situation arising from the flow of population to the large cities. The statement goes on to say that there is land enough in this country for millions of small farms in the West and the South, in addition to large tracts in the East that have been abandoned for farming by the drift of our populations to the cities. The plan is not to replace American farmers with foreigners, but to create new farms and make new farmers. It emphasizes the point that the immigration problem in this country is largely a problem of distribution of the immigrants.

So far, so good. There will be very few found to quarrel with the notions of this plan. If, however, the proponents of this measure believe that they could force or induce industrial workers arriving at the great ports in the East to depart for some lone and forsaken tracts in the Northwest or the South, and to shift for themselves in swampy and unfit for agriculture fields, they will find that their experiment will fail like many others before had failed. To succeed, would have to be a genuine, large effort on the part of the government, supported wholeheartedly by the resources of the nation and sincerely conceived and executed. It is true that the change from European rural life to conditions in big factory cities is a terrible strain upon the minds and the psychology of a great many immigrants. But these immigrants who come to seek free labor and humane conditions here will not become swamp farmers or farm hands by the virtue of an administrative order.

# THE NEEDLE WORKERS IN PORTO RICO

By ELISABETH FREEMAN

How much do the workers in the needle trades of the United States know of the conditions on which their fellow workers in the beautiful island colony of Porto Rico are exploited? Even to the casual tourist, these conditions appear unacceptably shocking, while to the visitor who remains on the island for months, there is in the environment that surrounds the needle workers of Porto Rico a sense of the ghastly, hard to overcome.

One's first impressions are occupied by two conflicting features: the exquisite beauty of the island and the poverty and uncleanness in which the workers are forced to live. As one walks through the streets of the Porto Rican towns one notices women seated inside their hovels, sewing, with piles of blouses, boys' and women's negligees all around them. The needle trades employers from the States have sought a cheaper labor market and have certainly found one in Porto Rico. Moreover, the women of the island are, to an extent, thankful to the American employers for having opened factories there. The answer to this somewhat puzzling assertion, in view of the fact that their earnings are so low and working conditions so wretched, is found in the following:

When the United States took possession of Porto Rico in 1898, there were 990,000 inhabitants on the island. The last census shows a population of 1,300,000, and this increase of 400,000 human souls has made the struggle for existence in Porto Rico even more tense and desperate than before. Needless to say, that the women have been called into action to increase the income of the family, and they have found, in late years, an outlet for their energies in doing embroidery and drawn-work at home and in the factories.

Nor is this all that one learns after a considerable stay on the island. "What are those buildings with the closely woven screened windows and doors?" I questioned a friend. "They are the blouse and underwear factories of the American manufacturers," I received in reply. I at once wanted to visit them, but was in-

formed that it was against the "rules." So feigning not to know the rules, I walked in and started talking with the forewoman, and by dint of bluff was shown all through the factory. Very proudly she told me that some of the women "made as much as \$6.00 a week." In these factories there are 25,000 women and girls, while there are about 150,000 who work in their homes. There are needy school children, or rather of school age, for whom there is no room in the schools, who earn a scanty living by embroidering and hemstitching. Those working at home get from 25 cents to 45 cents for hemstitching the fronts, collar and cuffs of a blouse, and from 25 cents to 35 cents for sewing the whole together into a complete garment ready for shipment.

The rates paid for hand-made embroideries with butterflies, leaves and flowers are:

	Each	Each	Each
Blouse.....	\$5.50	\$5.25	\$2.50
Women's Chemise.....	14	1.15	2.10
Children's " ".....	10	1.00	1.25

It takes an expert worker from 2, 3 to 4 days to finish each piece, and in case of damage they are obliged to pay for the materials, which, very often, the agent sells to some visitor and pockets the profits.

Blouses which sell in the stores of our large cities for \$20 to \$35, are manufactured by these women at a cost of less than \$5. The managers complain that the women will not work steadily in the factory and that they do not make the profits their investment calls for. This lack of steadiness is due to many things. First, the lack of proper nourishment; second, the inability of the workers to accustom themselves to stay in the factory. But as the struggle for food grows more intense and the iron hand of the system tightens, they are learning to fall into step.

To give the reader a slight idea of living conditions in Porto Rico, we shall compare these earnings with the cost of living. Rent for a one-room house where a family of six live, ranges from \$12 to \$18 per month. Coffee, grown on the island, is 25

cents per pound unroasted. Rice and beans are the chief articles of food, most of which is imported from the States, and they sell at 10 cents to 15 cents a pound. Dried codfish is a luxury and usually the family feels only rich enough to pay day to buy a pound of this unseasoned food which costs 20 cents a pound. Is it to be wondered that the workers are not steadfast and "reliable" as the masters would like to have them!

Manufacturers of infants', children's and women's wear, who have been fighting the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union for years, have for a time at least, found a Mecca in Porto Rico, and there is no doubt that these workers are as good as their trades as any to be found in the States. In factories where from 12 to 200 women work, the manufacturer has, as a rule, three times as many workers doing work at home. Those in the factory make from \$3 to \$7 per week, while those at home make from \$2 to \$4 per week.

Not only have the manufacturers of women's wear gone to Porto Rico, but great headway is being made by manufacturers of men's and boys' clothing to open factories on the island. It is safe to state that before long Porto Rico will produce more than light weight summer suits. All the latest improved garment making machines have been brought to the island, and in Arecibo there is already a clothing factory employing hundreds of women workers on men's and children's suits at wages ranging from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per week. A manufacturer of boys' sailor blouses, the kind with large blue braided collars and cuffs and a jaunty tie in front, has started a factory in San Juan with hundreds of women working in their homes. In one home that I visited, three sisters were slaving over these blouses, making them complete with buttonholes and buttons, stitched by hand, furnishing their own needles and cotton, all for the ridiculous sum of \$2 per dozen. It took these three four days to complete two and one-half dozen, working far into the night to finish them.

Recently, many women have been brought to the States from Porto Rico, and they are at the very doors of the union shops in New York City at present. In Brooklyn there is a factory where 40 of these women are working in competition with union workers. None of them are members of any union. They are thankful for the opportunity of coming to the States and obtaining a job, and it is easy to realize how a wage of \$10 to \$15 per week will appeal to these women.

Many of the workers in Porto Rico are anxious to be organized, but their past training and traditions have not developed, in either the men or the women, knowledge as to the methods of accomplishing this task. The women have been brought up with the idea that marriage is the ultimate aim of their lives, and that child-bearing is their chief function. This they perform as often as nature allows.

What is to be done then? It is evident that the remarkable increase of the women's wear industry in Porto Rico under the conditions above described, constitute a direct menace to the union workers of the States. It affects particularly the waist and the white goods trades, and unless strenuous measures are taken to organize the women workers of Porto Rico, the employers in the great cities in the States will soon be able to rely upon the Porto Rican producing market in filling their orders, and as a consequence, in a place where they can obtain strike breaking work in times of conflict with the union workers. The women, apparently, must be organized, not because they are competing with the workers in the needle trades in the United States, but principally because they must learn that only through a solid organization for their living conditions be changed and their work receive recognition of its real value.

One thing must be kept in mind: The needle workers of Porto Rico are impatient and eagerly waiting for the call of organization. If it comes on time it may remove a potential menace to the hard-earned union standards of the men and women garment workers in the States, and will, at the same time, lift up the oppressed and downtrodden Porto Rican needle workers from their present state of economic wretchedness.

## THREE DEADLY DROPS

By OBSERVER

(The Chemical Warfare Service has discovered a liquid poison so strong that three drops will kill anyone whose skin it touches.—A Washington Dispatch.)

We feel so calm and reassured now, Frankly, we were a little apprehensive, frail and gullible persons that we are. That street, incessant disarmament talk, that streak of nice, peace-on-earth prattle gushing forth from every cranny, has disconcerted our mind. The infamous fable of that "war to end war"—the laughing stock of every hyena in hell—has left us high and dry upon a mound of forlorn hopes. Hopes—yes, not that we ever really believed in the professions, the promissories, the "pious" of our war-makers; but we had a faint hope that the thirty million lives, the myriads of killed, wounded and maimed would soften the armor-bound conscience of the gunmakers, and dam the flood of bloody chauvinism that has all but engulfed the globe.

Then came the era of the "cordon sanitaire." The beast called militarism, its tail barely twisted, and its avories whetted to even greater di-

mensions, was reaching out for newer worlds to conquer. A hungry, tagged, tattered and unrecognizable Europe, was still dazed by the horror of the whip of Hate, still brandishing its stained sword in futile convulsions within the accursed circle of fratricide. The hypocritical platitudes on the glory and "ideology" of the war that hypnotized multitudes of simpletons, whipping them into a fury of medieval intolerance, have, meanwhile, faded away and retired into oblivion, eager to be forgotten and lost under the pile of historic rubbish.

Can it be said, nevertheless, that we here, on this side of the pond, have fought this "battle for humanity" in vain? Look at that towering monument, the American Legion, an immediate product of our wholesale visit to Europe, with a witch-burning record to its credit of which even the Italian Fascists could not be ashamed! Consider the remarkable propaganda against that "un-American" institution—the labor union—which the moneybags of the land have floated so successfully upon the waves of the popular though blind discontent

with profiteering and commercial brigandage! Weigh in the balance the three-four-five and upward billion dollar budgets that have come to stay, the smothering glory of a "navy second to none" that is descending upon us, and who will dare deny that we have emerged from that "crusade" a stong and purified nation, even though tainted a bit with the bee of lynching?

Yet, despite our all-around contentment, when we read the other day that the French gun experts have discovered a howitzer that could blow up all or a substantial part of Berlin with a half a dozen shots, and that the death-dealing wizards of the German War Office have been clandestinely trying out a bomb or a missile of some other kind that could snuff the life out of a regiment within the blinking of an eye—we felt a sort of peevish, or shall we say cheated after a manner. Then came that comforting telegram from Washington about the discovery of the three drops per life liquid, and we sighed our sigh of relief. How often we have read and reread these lines:

"One airplane carrying two tons of liquid could cover an area 100 feet wide by seven miles long in one trip and could deposit enough material to kill every man in the area. The only limit to the quantity of this liquid which could be made is the amount of available electric power, as nearly every nation has practically an unlimited supply of the necessary raw materials. It would be entirely possible for this country to manufacture several thousand tons a day."

That clinches our world championship in another mighty field of endeavor. Oh, no, we shall not be left behind. If we can lick the world in tennis, golf, prize-fighting and boat racing, why not in poison gases? It is true, we recall somewhere, somehow some wise old politician stating, upon the liquidation of the war, their scruples against the use of chemical poisons in warfare as "inhuman" and "barbaric," whoever that means. We recollect that they have even imposed a prohibition against the manufacture of poisonous gases as a condition of peace with licked Germany. But really these gooody-gooey scruples were hardly meant in earnest—not for the victims anyhow.

# JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Office, 21 Union Square, New York, N. Y. Tel. Stuyvesant 1124  
B. SCHLESINGER, President R. YANOFKY, Editor  
A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer ABRAHAM TUVIM, Business Manager

MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor  
Subscription price, paid-in-advance, \$1.00 per year.

Vol. III. No. 14 Friday, April 1, 1921

Entered as Second Class Matter, April 16, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1911.  
Acceptance for mailing special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1919.

## EDITORIALS

### LENINE'S ILL-ADVISED APPEAL

It was an unwise step on the part of Lenin's advisers to have suggested to him to appeal to the bourgeois government of America to resume trade relations with Russia. This step was apparently predicated upon an assumption that Harding and his cabinet are not such rock-ribbed upholders of the present system as their predecessors. It is only another example of how poorly the Soviet diplomats are informed about America and its rulers.

If the Soviet leaders thought that its success in concluding a trade agreement with England could be easily and naturally followed up by a similar arrangement with the United States, they have certainly failed to consider two very important factors. First, in their deal with England they were in a position to offer something substantial in return for this agreement, namely, a withdrawal from the propaganda of Bolshevism in countries within the sphere of English influence. Secondly, the fact that there exists in England a powerful labor movement constantly agitating for resumption of trade with Russia.

Here in the United States, both these factors are almost completely absent. A promise on the part of the Soviet regime to cease agitating for Bolshevism in America would be of no worth to our government. The labor movement of the United States, on the other hand, with the exception of a small minority, is very unfriendly to Bolshevism. Circumstances in this country were extremely naive on the part of the Soviet rulers to have believed that they could soften the hearts of the ruling class of America through a sentimental appeal only.

Naturally, had the Soviet Government been able to offer a secure and substantial source of profits to the American bourgeoisie, a trade agreement between Russia and the United States would not be long in forthcoming. The instinct of the shop keeper is surely as strong in America as it is in England. The Russian regime, however, could not promise anything of that sort. It spoke in its appeal about the "traditional friendship between Russia and America," a reminder, perhaps, that there have been very little influence upon our commercial and industrial classes. In return therefor they received, through the mouth of State Secretary Hughes, a sermon and an admonition to re-establish the capitalist system in its full former glory if they ever expect American capitalists to make investments in Russia.

One is tempted to designate this benevolent lecture to Soviet Russia by our Secretary of State as a piece of uncommon arrogance. The Soviet Government was not interested, it would seem clear from its message, in seeking advice or help regarding its internal affairs. It only asked for the resumption of trade relations. On the other hand, it would seem as if the Soviet Government had given the government of the United States, through its appeal, a certain justification for the latter's action. If the Russian Government deemed it proper to harp upon the traditional friendship of America to the Russian people, the advice of the United States Government given to Russia, that it change its ways and modify its system, is the advice of a "friend." In the eyes of the American Government, the revival of production in Russia is synonymous with the re-establishment of capitalism, and without the latter it claims it could do no business with Russia.

What remains to do at present to move America to deal commercially with Russia? The only avenue of activity is the enlightening of public opinion to the fact that commerce between Russia and America is of the greatest importance not only for Russia, but also for America, particularly for American workers. An educational campaign must be conducted among the masses of organized workers to the effect that trade with Russia does not mean necessarily agreement with Bolshevism, or the Soviet Regime; that it does not mean the endorsement or rejection of the present rule in Russia which must be left to the Russian people itself. Under the pressure of an enlightened public opinion, it is quite possible that the Harding administration will change its present stand and will endorse trade with Russia.

The reply of State Secretary Hughes leaves an open door for such a change. It states that if the Administration will become convinced that economic conditions have changed in Russia, that it will receive such proof with satisfaction. We have no doubts that the broad and influential public opinion of working America can prove to the Government that the Russian conditions have changed to the better.

### DEBS' MORAL VICTORY

Debs' visit to Washington without a guard or surveillance is a moral victory to himself and the movement which he represents. It is, simultaneously, just as sound a rebuke to the former Wilson administration which had jailed the old fighter for freedom for his political convictions.

Bear in mind the facts. Only a few weeks ago the Debs case was brought up before ex-President Wilson with the personal rec-

ommendation of Attorney General Palmer for a pardon. Tear-like, Wilson rejected this recommendation, writing across it the automatic word "Denied," without even finding it necessary to give the slightest explanation for his act. Shortly after that, Debs came out with a sharp denunciation of Wilson, for which he was kept for a number of weeks in solitary confinement, during which he was held "incommunicado."

Shortly thereafter, the new administration came into power. In a spirit of trust and confidence, Attorney General Daugherty, calls upon Debs to come to Washington, unaccompanied by guards, and leaving him completely in his own custody. A greater recommendation of Debs' moral stature could not have been given him by his warmest admirers. Do not forget, Debs is legally a criminal, sentenced to ten years in jail, and this "traitor to his country" is being invited to confer with the Attorney General about his own case! It is an open declaration by the new administration that the illustrious Atlanta prisoner is a man of high conception of honor, of deep and earnest convictions, and that it is a blot upon the name of this country to keep a person of his calibre in prison.

We do not know whether this was the avowed purpose of the Administration. Very likely the invitation to Debs to come to Washington was an unconscious step on its part. If it is so, it only adds to its significance and augments Debs' moral victory. It is possible that if Harding and Daugherty could have foreseen the chorus of gnashing teeth on the part of the capitalist press against this extraordinary treatment of an enemy prisoner of theirs, that they would have acted differently. It is, nevertheless, a fine and splendid act, one actuated by a sincere and real humane motive, which every thinking and fair-minded person in America will not fail to applaud.

### THE LESSON OF THE CHILDREN'S DRESSMAKERS' STRIKE

When the children's dress manufacturers broke off the agreement with the Union several months ago, and Local No. 50 found itself in a position of helplessness to retaliate against this arbitrary act, there were some who began to despair of the future of this local. Some members of the Union left it at that critical moment, under the impression that a weak organization, one that cannot protect them, is not worth while maintaining.

If not for the loyal and devoted group of men and women who have always stood with Local No. 50 in fair and foul weather, and had not the International aided generously this local through its critical times, this Union would have, perhaps, disappeared for a time. Many seasons might have elapsed before a new group of workers would have risen in its place to protect the workers in the trade.

It is obvious enough, therefore, that the children's dress-makers of New York have to thank this faithful and far-seeing group of members for the fact that they are working again now in union shops under comparatively good conditions. They owe thanks to their parent body, the International Union, which has kept the banner of the organization aloft under the most trying conditions. The International waited for the opportune time to call the recent strike, and then put at its head Vice-President Seidman, who brought the conflict to a speedy and satisfactory end.

The moral of this situation that the workers in our trades may always keep in mind is the following: Never despair; never give up; cling fast to your Union, particularly when the times are not any too bright. We congratulate the Children's Dress-makers' Union and its members upon the fine and speedy victory they have achieved. We hope that the members of this local will now consider it their highest ambition to repay their duty to the International by attaining such a degree of power and influence in their trade that they might never need to ask for aid again from the General Office, but on the other hand, they might be ready to extend help to their weaker sister locals in our industries and to the labor movement in general.

### MR. ARTHUR GLEASON IN THE WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

The situation in England is becoming even more interesting than before. Last week Lloyd George expressed himself as exceedingly apprehensive of the future of England, because of the increasing power of the Labor Party. Evidently, Mr. George is impressed with the continuous growth of the ranks of the workers in England, and also evidently the workers of England have made their influence felt by the authorities in more ways than one. In connection with this, there is no doubt that our workers will be more than usually interested in the course of two lessons Mr. Gleason will commence at the Workers' University on Saturday afternoon, April 9, at 1.30 P. M.

Mr. Gleason spent a number of years in England and studied the labor situation there. He is the author of the important book, "What the Workers Want." His views on the question are authoritative. In this course he proposes to take up a discussion of the old and new factors which affect the British labor situation. These contain such topics as the various political and economic

movements of British Labor. In addition, Mr. Gleason will stake up a study of some matters as the Triple Alliance, the Council of Action, etc. Following this, Mr. Gleason will discuss the latest tendencies in British Labor Movement and will point out their aims and methods.

The Workers' University announces a series of lessons on the "Cooperative Movement," by Dr. J. P. Warbanse, to begin at the Washington Irving High School on Saturday, April 9, at 2.30 P. M.

Dr. Warbanse is the president of the Cooperative League of America and is probably the greatest authority on the subject in the United States. He will discuss with the class the history and methods of the Cooperative Movement. In view of the fact that this has become one of the most important movements in America as well as in the other countries of the world, and since a great many people look upon the Cooperative Movement as the best method of solving the economic problem of today, the members of the International are urged to attend this class in large numbers.

# WHAT HAVE THE DRESSMAKERS GAINED THROUGH THE GENERAL STRIKE?

By BENJ. SCHLESINGER

Leaflets are being distributed among the ladies' garment workers in New York City for the purpose of sowing distrust towards our organization. On the day when we called the dressmakers of New York to a general strike, these leaflets were distributed to discredit the leaders of the strike for the obvious purpose of discouraging the workers from leaving the shops. Now, when the general strike is over, these leaflets are being distributed to discredit the settlement.

Two questions are being put forth in these leaflets:

1. What have the members of the Dressmakers' Union won through this general strike, through the big fight which they have just carried through?

2. Is it true that the general strike was declared and carried out solely to make the members pay up their dues? Is it true that it is the policy of the Union to call general strikes whenever it wants its members to pay up their arrears?

## The Answer

1. The members of the Dressmakers' Union have won through this general strike that for when the Amalgamated Clothing Workers are

fighting 15 weeks already, and which the United Textile Workers, the United Hatters and many, many other unions were compelled to give up without a fight. To be explicit, the dressmakers have won that their wages shall not be reduced, and that all their working conditions remain the same as they were for the past few years.

The Union had settled with 650 dress manufacturers who belong to the Dress Manufacturers' Association and who employed about 13,000 workers, before the general strike was declared. Indeed, this fact has had a great deal to do with the calling of the general strike. It was our purpose that the 13,000 workers from the settled shops aid the officers and the various committees of the Union to organize the workers of the other 1,000 dress shops that were operating under open shop conditions, and to force these firms to come to a settlement.

The result of the general strike was that 700 additional independent employers have settled after five days of striking, and we now have in New York over 1,300 dress shops where wages and conditions of labor have not been lowered and will not be ad-

versely affected unless the authors of these leaflets shall succeed through mud slinging and the spreading of distrust to weaken the interest of the members in their Union.

2. It is true that a very large number of workers were obliged, through this general strike, to become union men and women, or to pay back their arrears. Were it otherwise, the employers of the open shops could not have settled. Of course, it would be far more desirable if all the workers had understood their true interests and had not waited with the payment of their dues until the calling of a strike. However, this for the present remains only a pious wish.

That there are among the workers, we regret to say, still a great many who do not realize the importance of belonging to a union, is true not only in capitalist America, but even in Socialist Russia, where union leaders are all presumed to be of the purest gold quality. Even in Soviet Russia the unions are compelled to adopt a not altogether Socialist "policy" to keep their membership in good standing.

I recommend to all those who are interested in this question to read the

booklet, "The Third All-Russian Congress of Trade Unions," issued in Moscow in 1920, and edited by A. Losovsky. This booklet contains all the resolutions adopted at the last congress of the All-Russian Trade Unions. Here is what the congress had decided on the subject of dues:

"Resolution No. 26. Each member is obliged to pay his or her dues on pay day, each two weeks or each month. Members who do not pay their dues regularly and cannot offer any valid excuse therefor, cease automatically to be members and are to suffer the consequences arising therefrom. Such expelled members can be re-initiated into the union only upon the payment of all the back dues in addition to a new initiation fee."

When I was in Russia I inquired of the local labor leaders as to what consequences such automatically expelled members would be likely to suffer. Their reply was that one of the results of expulsion is the taking away of the food cards.

To deprive one of a food card in Russia means to condemn him or her to starvation.

## EARLY SPRING TIME AT UNITY

By JENNIE MATYAS

We sat leisurely in the observation car while our train was rushing on with impatient speed, as though the locomotive knew that we were going to our Unity House, and its mighty heart palpitated for anxiety not to lose an instant for us. The gang of railroad workers in blue shirts and red "kerchiefs" must have waved a sympathetic "Happy journey to your Unity Home" to us as they stood off the tracks to let our train fly past them. The six little ragamuffins on the way side ceased their play to wonder at our haste. Even the farmers, seeing our train dash by, stopped long enough to grin. "What's your hurry?" at us. The bare New Jersey chain of hills, the brown hills (the spring grass had not yet come out), the rivulets running quietly by the dilapidated farm shacks—we few past them all in less time than it takes to tell about it. We were impatient to get there.

It was a cloudy, hazy day, but we did not mind—any day is a bright day that takes one to Unity House.

It wasn't long before we got into rocky Pennsylvania, with its smoky towns, encircled by chains of blue mountains, and fields of evergreens. Then for a while the country became more and more open and marshy; then again rocky. We knew we were fast approaching the wondrous Delaware Water Gap. Here

we were! The altitude getting ever higher, as we were hastening on through rocky tunnels and under many stone bridges. We were flying past cow pastures, chicken farms, and gangs of early field workers. Finally we crossed the Delaware River. Water, water—more bodies of water, and from them rising huge, rocky, steep mountains. Now we were completely enraptured by them.

"Come on. We have to get out in a few minutes," my companion rudely awakened me.

"Stroudsburg! Next station—Stroudsburg," the conductor yelled.

Ah, well, we are nearer there, anyway, and that is worth everything. It seemed strange to wheel into our domain without being met by a hundred happy workers buoyantly shouting their "One, two, three, four—who are we for?" in glad welcome. Our houses, deserted, shut tight, gave a feeling of desolation and of longing—longing for us, for all of our tired workers. How I gasped for joy, though, when I saw them again!

After dinner we took the lantern—the moon was not yet out—and we went for a short walk down toward our lake. We stopped half way down in that alcove and we drank in the beauties of the view. The lake was like a sheet of glistening platinum delineated by black silhouettes of surrounding hills against a clear, bright,

starry sky. The glistening of the water was almost as brilliant as the infinite stars. It was so restful, serene, still. The singing of the crickets augmented the prevalent silence.

The next morning early we got on the job. We inspected the needs of our summer home. Miss Camen, with a basket of keys, took us from cottage to cottage as she explained to her successor the urgency of making certain repairs now, without loss of time.

"You see, this hilliard house should be moved about 50 feet. The main-house should be painted; so should this one. The roof in the dance hall leaks; so does the one in the main house. The weather already permits repair work. I advise that you start at once. The walk down to the lake must be cemented. The pool and the diving board should be fixed. You need a new sidewalk around the bath-houses and they should be painted."

So we spent hour after hour examining each thing that needed attention and care. Then, when we sat down on the lawn to rest, we talked about seeds for our vegetables—seeds for potatoes and corn and beans, and carrots and tomatoes and flowers. Then we drifted on to cooks, and chickens. Yes, I must not forget to say—we are going to have our own chickens on the premises this year.

We planned many improvements, we talked them over and over again until lunch hour sounded its urge. Then I had to leave it all and start back to our New York. I hated the thought.

The ride to the station was beautiful, even if everything did seem dead and barren. What leaves there were on trees, were dried, crisp and brown. It seemed hard to believe that green life would ever sprout into bloom again. Yet, there were some trees with foliage already forcing itself through. Here and there were some lilac bushes budding, as if to comfort me, and to remind me that life does exist even when it seems hopelessly dead. When we got to the sign that reads, "To Bushkill Falls," I could not resist, and I stopped off long enough to observe what change had come over those stirring waters. Ah! I held my breath in wonder. Here was life eternal, motion, force, endless, colossal motion! The immense, steep, evergreen banks and the mossy rocks stood out in awe-inspiring contrast to the perpetual turbulence of the falls. The bronze, copper and green colors of the rocks were beautifully reflected in the falling river. It fell—fell in perpetual turbulence over that steep precipice; it shot up again, and then flowed on calmly in the form of a very picturesque little creek. It stirred me in a peculiar way—I wanted to be back with the strike!

The next day was Monday. Of course, bright and early we were again on the picket line; but oh, how we longed to be back in "our country!"

services of Miss Fannie Finkelstein, one of our most active members, for this post.

We call the attention of our members to the fact that if they are unemployed, or if they know of any recent arrivals who have not obtained any jobs yet, that they come to the office of the union before they go anywhere else in search of a job. The union has plenty of jobs waiting for these members, and the wages in the union shops are higher and working conditions better than in the non-union shops. By seeking employment or taking up jobs in the office of the union before they go anywhere else in search of a job, you render the union a great service.

## NEWS FROM LOCAL No. 90

By A. BERNADSKY

The season in our trade is in full swing already, and some shops are working overtime. It is high time now, therefore, to talk matters over with our members and to start thinking about plans for improving the condition of the workers in the custom dressmaking trade.

It is none too late to take up a serious discussion about the introduction of a minimum scale in the trade. The period of slack which preceded the present season has convinced us all of the importance of such a trade reform. It is dawdling upon all of us that an end must come to the custom

petition between worker and worker in the trade.

Our employers have lately begun to practice a new method for cutting wages. They advertise in glowing terms for dressmakers, and when in response thereto some workers come seeking for a job, they engage those who are willing to work for lower wages. Had there been a minimum scale in our trades, this practice would be impossible. We repeat, it is time to put this important change into operation.

The organization work in our local

is bringing good results. We have scattered, recently, thousands of circulars among the non-union shops, and the appeal to this call of the union is quite gratifying. Six new shops have been organized lately, one of these, the firm of Teppel, 44th St. and Broadway, a shop which we have attempted to organize for several years, without result.

At the last general member meeting of our local, we had election for secretary, and the local is to be congratulated in having obtained the

# Educational Comment and Notes

## THE INTERNATIONAL AND ITS EDUCATIONAL WORK

The organizing of any activity presents its own peculiar difficulties. Anybody who has had experience knows that very well. In organizing a department which is concerned with educational activities, the difficulties are not only greater in number, but also in character.

It will undoubtedly interest our readers to know just what are some of the problems which must be solved, in order to make the work of the Educational Department of the International successful.

1. The first difficulty is that of getting students. It is well-known that while it is a very simple matter to get many people to come to entertainments, concerts, moving picture shows, etc., it is a very difficult to attract them in equal numbers to classes, where they have to meet regularly from week to week, and where they have to concentrate and think seriously about serious matters.

This is not an easy task, and requires a great deal of work. It means numerous personal letters, written to those who are known to be interested in education. It means addressing numbers of people at the business meetings of the Union, at school meetings and elsewhere. It means following up a number of the letters with personal interviews. It means urging, persuading, convincing, and expending all the energy possible in getting people to see that it is their duty to themselves, to their organization, and to the labor movement to pursue serious study in our classes.

2. But after the students are persuaded to join the various classes, the work is by no means finished. Once they are there, it is not a very easy matter to keep them there. While people may join a class and attend it regularly for a few weeks, it is but human nature to get tired after a while, not so much of the subject and teacher, as of the duty of attending the class on certain days at a certain hour.

Also, many get tired of the work. It is quite a strain to stay in the classroom after one's working day and follow the teacher in his discussion. The mind, after all, gets tired and requires rest. And so, a number of students easily drift away from the class.

But the Educational Department must bend all its energies to prevent this from occurring. What does it do? Again a steady campaign of propaganda to show the importance of education for the labor movement and to stimulate the desire for education is carried on. People must be continually reminded that education is important. Weak wills must be reinforced. And this compels the Department to be continually on the job.

To keep the pupils from drifting away also requires great effort on the part of the teachers. They know that the students need not return, if they do not want to. Hence, they make all possible effort to make the lessons as attractive and interesting as possible. This frequently solves the problem.

But just as necessary as is the work of the teacher and the personal appeals of the Educational Department, is the creation of a proper atmosphere in the various schools and classes. Students are after all human beings, and human beings are social animals. Very few like to be alone or to come and go without pleasant social intercourse with their teachers and fellow-pupils. For that reason it has been the aim of the

Educational Department to organize the various Unity Centers and the Workers' University in such a way that a spirit of good fellowship should prevail everywhere. This is accomplished by the selection of students' councils, who come together to discuss matters of interest to the students. Also members of all classes come together in the gymnasium for physical training and dancing, and a friendly spirit is created by the students and their teachers.

In addition, entertainments, concerts, "get togethers," are held as frequently as possible. At these, students are given an opportunity to meet socially and get in touch with each other informally.

3. The result of all the foregoing attempts and methods is more than the establishment of classes, and the insuring of students' attendance. They create in the students a very definite sense of solidarity and loyalty to the Union in particular, and the Labor Movement in general, which has made this organization possible.

Whether in the classroom or in the gymnasium or at an entertainment, the fact is always impressed upon them, that the particular activity they are attending was organized for them by their Union, and through it, the creative possibility of the labor movement as a whole. This idea becomes a part of their consciousness, as it should be.

4. The actual instruction to be given to the workers forms another problem. We may be thoroughly convinced that labor schools should concern themselves mainly with subjects dealing with the interests of workers. But the fact remains that workers want other things. They want pleasure and beauty, as well as utility. It is therefore necessary to plan a program of a course of study which will appeal to these needs of the workers.

And so, on examining the list of subjects taught, we see that in each case a definite attempt is made to satisfy some legitimate mental need of the workers, realizing at the same time that their needs are in many respects different from those of other groups of society.

5. It has taken the Educational Department of the International several years to work out its present program. A great deal of money was spent by the International in this task. It is the only Union in America which appropriates a definite sum from its treasury for educational purposes.

Not only money but energy, a great deal of it, has been expended in making this work a success. It is far from being perfect. There are many problems still to be solved. But the prospect is encouraging. The work is improving from year to year. The classes are attended by more students. The teachers make the work more interesting. A systematic study of certain subjects has been arranged. Greater interest is shown by the rank and file. Every year brings in more satisfactory results in the future.

6. The main aim of the International is obviously to educate its members along such lines as will make them better men and women, and better soldiers in the army of labor.

But, there is another aim in the minds of those who are behind this work, and that is, a sincere desire that the movement for labor education spread among the other labor organizations in this country. If the International can build up an educational organization that can point to successful results and that can serve as a model or a stimulus for similar activities in other Unions, its work

will not be done in vain. The International realizes that the success of the labor movement in America depends on the coordinated efforts of all the Unions. An educational campaign on the part of one or two or three Unions is better than nothing. But it is inadequate to the needs of the labor movement in this country. It should be the aim of the American Labor Movement to have a large number of purely educational organizations, controlled by labor and conducted for its own purposes. The International is doing its share and it hopes that its work, as modest as it is, may serve to stimulate its sister organizations to similar enterprises.

7. A retrospect of the work accomplished by the International reveals a few additional points worthy of mentioning. One is the fact that the problem of attracting students to our classes was complicated by the attractions of a great city like New York. We have a great many lectures, meetings, debates, etc., all of such an attractive character as to compete seriously with a regularly established school in a very definite way. The desire to hear a prominent speaker is generally irresistible. In planning our educational activities, this factor has to be kept in mind constantly.

Another difficulty one has to contend with is the distance which a great many students must travel to reach some of the classes. The Workers' University, for instance, is situated in the lower end of Manhattan. Students who live in Brooklyn and the Bronx must spend considerable time in traveling to and from the class. This is a serious matter, particularly for the tired worker who wishes to utilize every moment of his leisure for something important and interesting.

The need of studying the character of the various groups to which we must appeal is obvious. The International is not a homogeneous body. There are many groups of different kinds of men and women, possessing different characteristics and a different psychology. Needless to say, the work suggested for any group must be adapted to its particular temperament and needs. If this is not done, failure is inevitable.

And finally, one is impressed by

the imperative need of slow and cautious action. It is fatal to organize an activity before there is a group prepared for it. This means that much energy must be spent in stimulating the desire for a certain activity. After a protracted period of a preparatory campaign, the activity is finally organized. Even then, it is begun on a small scale. For, it is much better to begin on a small scale and find a large demand which forces a growth of the activity, than to begin on a large scale and then find the demand small. In the latter case, the activity fades out, leaving a bad impression both on the membership and on the Department. In short, slow but steady growth may be said to be one of the most important factors for success.

## WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL BUREAU

Tuesday, April 2nd, will witness the first day of the conference called to organize the National Workers Educational Bureau. Members of the International should keep in mind that these conferences are open to the public, and matters which should be of deep concern to all who are interested in workers' education will be discussed.

The sessions will be held in the auditorium of the New School for Social Research, 465 West 23rd St. The first session at which delegates from the various labor schools in the United States will make their reports will be held on Saturday, at 2 P. M.

On the same evening, at 6:30, a dinner will be held at Strunsky's Restaurant, 24 West 35th St. at which a number of prominent labor leaders will speak.

On Sunday, April 3rd, there will be three sessions. The first, at 10 A. M., will be devoted to the organization of the Bureau. At the second session, 2 P. M., a number of students will discuss workers' education from their point of view. At the third session, 7:30 P. M., a number of teachers will discuss workers' education from their point of view.

Because of this conference, sessions of the Workers' University will be suspended and there will be no classes on Saturday, April 2nd, and Sunday, April 3rd.

## "IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"

Scott Nearing and Clarence Darrow, the prominent Chicago lawyer, will meet in a debate on the question, "Is Life Worth Living?" at the Lexington Theatre, on Sunday, April 3, at 8:30 P. M. Dr. Judah L. Magnes will preside.

The debate has been arranged by the Rand School of Social Science. Clarence Darrow, who has been previously educated with the labor movement as an attorney for the last twenty years, will uphold the negative of the question. He asserts that if he were offered the chance to live again he would not take it. The pain of life, it seems to him, so far outweighs the pleasure that the wise man would refuse life if he had the choice.

Scott Nearing, on the other hand,

holds that life is full of promise—that the struggle for social improvement is in itself worth while, that negation of life is futile. There is a direct clash in the opinions of these two men. The debate is therefore sure to be interesting.

The subject of the debate is basic to all our problems. If most people should decide that life is not worth while there would be an end to any effort for reform or social betterment. On the other hand, there are some, formerly connected with some forward-looking movement, who have given up the struggle in despair, and have come to the conclusion that the game is not worth the candle. That is why there has been such widespread interest in the projected discussion.

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## (Continued from last issue)

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41 Union Square, Room 514. Telephone, BR 9-2244

Their recourse is to join the organizations of their trades or callings and we demand for them the opportunity to freely follow such a course and to exercise all of the powers and privileges which that implies. Collective bargaining is one of the great stabilizing influences in industry in the relations between employers and workers. It is censurable that employers have in too many instances dissipated these friendly and mutually advantageous arrangements. We strongly urge upon both employers and unions to keep inviolate the instrumentality of collective bargaining.

This endless movement of workers from shop to shop, with its inevitable burden of idleness and loss of production, is the individual pretext of the unorganized against conditions of employment which they have no strength to remedy. Where there is organization of labor and the opportunity for negotiation and agreement, labor turnover is eliminated as a check and drain on industrial life.

(To be continued)

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## Second Floor

## LOCAL No. 3

will hold the following meetings:

**PIECE TAILORS and SAMPLE MAKERS** will meet on SATURDAY, APRIL 2, at 1 o'clock, in STUYVESANT CASINO, 40 Second Avenue.

**LADIES' TAILORS and ALTERATION WORKERS** will meet on **TUESDAY, APRIL 5**, right after work, in **LAUREL GARDEN, 75 East 116th Street.**

*All members are requested to attend these meetings.*



# The Weeks' News in Cutters Union Local 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN

The uncertainty regarding the outcome of the injunction suits brought against the union by three manufacturers in the Dress Industry has passed. The injunctions were granted to the manufacturers by Justice Newburger, although up to the present time the order restraining the union from picketing has not been signed by him. It is, of course, needless to mention here that the workers of these shops are determined to carry on the strike indefinitely with all lawful means at their disposal.

The great number of injunctions issued by courts against workers generally, and especially against the workers in the needle industry, has in itself a tendency to weaken its demoralizing effect on them, as the workers have got used to it by this time and know full well that factories cannot be run on injunctions. This has been proved recently in the clothing industry, where the manufacturers, misled by the same people who are the instigators of trouble in the ladies' garment industry, have succeeded in obtaining drastic injunctions against the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union, preventing the strikers from picketing their places of employment and doing any other strike duty. Still the factories of these employers remain idle just as they were on the day when the lockout took place in the clothing industry.

It is characteristic how the courts are at all times and under all pretenses ready and sometimes eager to help the manufacturers in whatever way possible. A little over a year ago a strike was called in one of the waist shops belonging to the Waist and Dress Manufacturers' Association. An injunction was granted to that employer against the union, on the ground that since the union's agreement with the Association had another year to run, the former was restrained from conducting said strike. Some months later the firm of G. M. Piermont, which had an independent agreement with the union and whose agreement was not to expire until Feb. 1st, 1921, locked out eight of the best union workers in the shop, thereby breaking the agreement they had with the union. Our organization resisted this lockout, as it would be expected to do, in order to protect its members. The firm applied to the court for an injunction which was readily granted to them. In the opinion rendered by the court at that time, it stated, among other things, that it is irrelevant as to whether the firm of G. M. Piermont abrogated the agreement or not.

A year ago the pretext for the issuance of an injunction against the union was the claim that the latter abrogated the agreement. These so-called agreements expired on January 1st of this year, or about six weeks prior to the calling of the general strike in the waist and dress industry. Surely the workers had a perfect right to strike against the desire of the employers to reduce their wages as was contemplated by them. In spite of this the court has again granted the request of these employers for an injunction. The reason for it is this time is that the manufacturers claim to have contracts with some of the strike-breakers working in their shops, which contracts obligate them not to join any union during their employment by these concerns. And so it is claimed by these manufacturers that the union, in trying to induce these workers to join the ranks of the organized workers was infringing on their rights. According to this last contention, the workers in any industry may be held in virtual slavery by the employers, for no strike

would be considered legal should any employer, during the course of a strike in his establishment, engage a few strike-breakers with whom he would enter into the above-mentioned agreements. That these are only sham agreements and are to serve only to defeat the objects and purposes of organized labor is obvious to any fair-minded person.

The Joint Board of the Waist and Dressmakers' Unions and the International are going to appeal from these injunctions to a higher tribunal. The workers in these shops will require the aid and cooperation of the rest of the workers in the waist and dress industry, and it is but right that those enjoying the benefits derived from working under union conditions should come to the assistance of those who are at present fighting their battle. For this purpose the Waist and Dress Joint Board has levied an assessment on all the workers in the industry. We are quite sure that the members of Local No. 10 do not have to be reminded twice about their obligations to their fellow-workers and will comply fully with the request of the union to pay up this assessment at once.

The Arrangements Committee of our Twelfth Annual Ball to be held on Saturday, April 2nd, at Hunt's Point Palace, 163 St. and Southern Boulevard, reports that everything is in readiness for a jolly good time for all of our members, their families and friends, who are expected to attend. Those of our members who have not purchased their tickets as yet are advised to do so at once. The Arrangements Committee contemplates charging \$7.50 for tickets purchased at the door, while they still can be procured from any of the officers or active members of the union at \$5.00 each, including wardrobe, up till one o'clock on Saturday, when the office will close for the day.

## OUTLINES

A large number of students in the Unity Centers and Workers' University have kept very carefully the outlines furnished with each lesson. At the end of the season, these outlines constitute a complete syllabus or a condensed textbook on the subject.

Some of the students provided themselves with binders which are useful to preserve the outlines.

Several students informed us that they lost some of the outlines. If any one wishes a full set of the outlines in any one subject, he is requested to communicate with the Educational Department, and the set will be prepared for him. He will be informed when to call for it.

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We make a specialty of removable bridges made in our own laboratory by Mr. A. Chankin, one of the most skillful dental mechanics in the City.

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HARRY WANDER, Chairman.



## Once Upon a Time and Now

Once upon a time, when nature would give man warning that his eyesight was weakening, he would pay no attention to it. Or he would trust to luck and buy a pair of glasses from a street peddler. Such glasses would torment him to the end of his days. Eventually he would lose his sight completely—and his work. Now, man has become wiser. At the first sign of trouble, he goes to see his optician. Dr. S. Mermelstein examines eyes thoroughly, by the best scientific methods. If you want glasses, they will be ground for you from the whitest crystal in our own shop at moderate prices. We are open daily, until 9 in the evening, and closed on Sunday.

**DR. S. MERMELSTEIN**

292 Grand St., corner Suffolk Street, New York City.

Bring this ad. along.

## This Saturday CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10 ATTENTION!

## OUR ANNUAL BALL

will take place

**Saturday Evening, April 2, 1921**

at

**Hunt's Point Palace,  
163d Street and Southern Boulevard.**

Make no other appointments for the above date.

## NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

CLOAK AND SUIT:	Monday, April 4th.
WAIST AND DRESS:	Monday, April 11th.
MISCELLANEOUS:	Monday, April 18th.
GENERAL:	Monday, April 25th.

Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

**AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place**

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