

"My righteousness 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. 16

New York, Friday, April 8, 1921

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## PRESIDENT GOMPERS TO LAUNCH ANTI-INJUNCTION FIGHT

Comes to New York to Confer With President Schlesinger and Morris Hillquit

Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor will come to New York this Saturday, April 9th, to take a direct hand in the fight against the injunction epidemic which is raging in New York City.

As known, the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. has adopted two months ago a determined attitude towards the injunction evil. Last Monday, Brother Schlesinger visited President Gompers in Washington and brought to his attention the grave situation which has arisen from the prohibition of peaceful picketing in the strikes pending in the ladies' garment industry in New York City.

President Gompers will have two conferences next Saturday in New York. In the morning he will confer with President Schlesinger and Morris Hillquit, chief counsel of our International in the injunction proceedings, and will familiarize himself there-

oughly with the details of the situation. In the afternoon he will confer with the Executive Committee of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York. Gompers will bring to the attention of this body the acute situation growing out of the injunction attacks. It is probable that the Central Labor Body of New York will then undertake the fight against the injunctions.

It is high time that a widespread anti-injunction movement be undertaken in New York City. Mass meetings should be called at which the partiality of the judges who issue injunctions indiscriminately should be exposed and the right of striking and lawful picketing defended at all costs. Public opinion must be aroused to the fact that these injunctions are in violation of the cardinal principles of American liberties and that they aim at the destruction of the unions, the workers' sole protection against the aggression of the employers.

## JACOB HALPERN NEW MANAGER OF WAIST AND DRESS JOINT BOARD

THE SIX-DOLLAR TAX ADOPTED

When Bro. Morris Sigman, First Vice-President of our International had assumed several months ago the post of general manager of the Joint Board in the Waist and Dress Industry, it was explicitly understood at that time that he would hold that position only temporarily until the Joint Board could find a person suitable for the post. With the aid of Bro. Sigman himself, the Joint Board has now succeeded in finding such a new manager in the person of Vice-President Jacob Halpern, until now the director of the Out-of-Town Department of the International.

Readers of "Justice" are, no doubt, familiar with Bro. Halpern. For many years he was president of the Cloakmakers' Joint Board in New York, and was one of the pioneer workers at that organization from the days of the first great strike in 1910. He was for a number of years manager of Local 9, and has made it one of the strongest cloak locals in New York City.

Bro. Halpern has "made good" at every position of trust he has occupied in our organization, and it is certain that his work as general manager of the waist and dress Joint Board will be attended with equal success. Vice-President Halpern is full of life and energy and loves his work. We extend him our good wishes in the pursuance of his new duties.

Needless to say, the change of managers in the waist and dress Joint Board will not affect in any way the prosecution of the strikes in the trade against the few obdurate bosses who are still fighting the Union.

As reported last week, the Board of Directors has recommended to the Joint Board the adoption of a six dollar flat tax upon all the members of the locals in the waist and dress industry instead of the dollar and dollar and a half tax imposed previously upon all members working in settled shops. The Joint Board at its last meeting unanimously ratified this plan, and it has now gone into effect. It is understood, of course, that those members who have paid part of these six dollars through the weekly tax, are to pay only the remaining difference.

Aside from strike benefits, the Union is also involved in a number of lawsuits and injunction cases which require a great deal of expense. It is hoped, therefore, that the waist and dressmakers will pay uninterruptedly.

## Our Students and Teachers Will "Get-Together" on Saturday, April 9

Tomorrow evening, Saturday, April 9th, at 6:30, the long expected "Get Together" of the students and teachers of the Workers' University and Unity Centers will take place. A large number of members have already made their reservations and a jolly happy evening will undoubtedly be spent by them.

A committee of students has been quite busy making arrangements. The purchase of refreshments, the decorating of the dining-room and other details have occupied their attention, and the results will be seen on Saturday. Their efficiency will bear fruit and produce a pleasurable evening.

It is hoped that no one will miss this evening. Admission will be thirty cents per person, just enough to defray the necessary expenses.

President Schlesinger and Secretary Baroff will be present and will address the students. Since there will be no formality about the evening, and all will mix in a spirit of "camaraderie," this evening will be a red letter event in this year's activities of our Educational Department.

## Labor Amnesty Committee Sees Pres. Harding ---Another Committee To See Harding Apr. 13

On Monday last, April 4, President Harding received at the White House the Amnesty Committee of American organized labor, appointed by President Samuel Gompers.

The committee urged upon the President to declare general amnesty for all political prisoners that are still languishing in American jails. The following persons were on the committee: Samuel Gompers and Frank Morrison, of the Executive Council of the A. F. of L.; John Donlin and William Spencer, of the Building Trades Department; James O'Connell, of the Metal Trades Department; James Lord of the Mining Department; Benj. Schlesinger, President of our International Union; Fred Hewitt, editor of the "Machineist Journal"; Congressman Meyer London; Harry Lang, labor editor of the "Forward"; Louis Langer, secretary, Joint Board Cloakmakers' Union; and a member of chiefs of International up the assessment at once and aid their Union in going on with its work union.

President Harding received the committee in his private study very cordially. All the delegates were introduced to him by President Gompers. In reply to speeches by Gompers and Congressman Meyer London, the President assured the committee that he is considering the situation very carefully and is animated by a feeling of good will and justice.

President Schlesinger expressed his opinion that Harding appears to be earnestly interested in the question of amnesty and that good news might be expected from Washington in the near future.

The Political Amnesty Committee, whose headquarters are in Washington, was informed that President Harding would be glad to receive the committee to make representations on behalf of amnesty for political prisoners, at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning, April 13th.

The Political Amnesty Committee is composed of delegates from the

Socialist Party, a number of International Trade Unions, the Farmer Labor Party, the American Civil Liberties Union, and various other civic groups. These delegates, coming from all parts of the country, will meet in Washington April 13th, the second anniversary of Debs' imprisonment, where they will present the thousands of amnesty petitions to Congress. Representatives of the committee, among them Morris Hillquit, Secretary Abraham Baroff of our International, Jackson Ralston, attorney for the A. F. of L., Frank P. Walsh, noted labor attorney, and Roger Baldwin, will then be received by President Harding. A committee will also appear on the same day before Attorney General Daugherty.

The petition to be presented to Congress is said to contain more names than any other petition ever presented in the history of the A. nation. The unions of Pennsylvania, Indiana and Illinois alone have sent in hundreds of thousands of names.

gating conditions and has succeeded in obtaining a mass of statistics in support of the Union's assertion that the cost of living in Cleveland has not fallen.

Vice-President Perlsstein delivered an impressive speech at the hearing making use of the presented data and pointed out that the cloakmakers of Cleveland were barely able to make a living even on the wages they were earning now.

When these lines are being written the result of this hearing is not known yet. The Board of Referees has reserved its decision and will not announce it for several more days.

## Cleveland Cloak Referees Hear Wage Dispute

On Monday, March 20, there took place at Cleveland the hearing before the Board of Referees in the local cloak industry, under the chairmanship of Federal Judge Julian W. Mack. The cloak manufacturers of Cleveland have been pressing for the past several months for a reduction of wage scales, and the Union, of course, has resisted vigorously their attempts. These demands were brought before the Board of Referees last December and were laid over for a hearing in March.

The representatives of the Cleveland Manufacturers' Association have defended their demand on the assumption that the high cost of living in the country has already subsided and that the workers were therefore obliged to allow a cut in their earnings. The International was represented at these hearings through Vice-President Perlsstein of Cleveland and Alexander Trachtenberg of the Research Department of our Union. Trachtenberg had spent several weeks in Cleveland in investi-

## TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

ON March 31st, government control of coal mines has come to an end in England, and on the following morning, the coal miners of England began to leave the pits in response to an order of the Executive Board of the Miners' Federation. Immediately thereafter, Great Britain was declared to be, by royal proclamation, in a "state of emergency," and drastic regulations for the distribution of coal were enacted.

The end of control was regarded by the miners as a definite breach of a pledge given to them by the Government, as it implied an immediate reduction of wages amounting, in the case of some fields, to as much as 10 shillings a day. They claim that the government has again played false in turning the mines back to the owners before making the industry self-supporting. The strike came as a result of a meeting of the "Triple Alliance," made up of miners, railway and transport workers. Subsequently, the National Union of Railwaymen and the Union of Transportation Workers held a meeting and declared their readiness to support the miners if necessary through a general sympathy strike.

As far as the stand of the miners is concerned, it is summed up tersely in the statement issued on the eve of the strike by Frank Hodges, the Secretary of the Miners' Federation: "The only guarantee of peace is a national settlement of the wage and profit problem. Under the present conditions of the coal industry there can be no universal reduction in wages, but the reduction would vary from district to district. The poorer districts would have the biggest reductions; the richer districts would have the smallest reductions."

In short, the miners are fighting against a reduction in wages. They also insist that the government continue to guarantee their present earnings. The strike is not a direct move for the nationalization of the mines, because the miners of England, as stated through Mr. Robert Smillie, their leader, do not want nationalization as long as the present government is in power. They would not trust the sincerity of the Lloyd George Government even if it had undertaken to nationalize the mines with the probable outcome of discrediting the idea through mismanagement.

### THE ORR ANTI-LABOR SPY RESOLUTION

LAST week Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, appeared before the Committee of General Laws of the New York Assembly and made a strong plea for the adoption by the legislature of the Orr Resolution. In substance the resolution provides for the creating of a legislative committee to investigate the practices of private detective agencies during strikes. This is the first concrete attempt on the part of organized labor in New York to enact legislation against the criminal practices of hired spies and agents who precipitate and promote violence and disorder in labor disputes. Nevertheless, there is little likelihood that the resolution will be even reported out of committee. President Gompers summed up the case against the labor spy in a few terse and virile remarks. "Discontent and disgust," said Mr. Gompers, "is rampant throughout the country because of private detectives who stoop to spy on labor for the evident purpose of preventing or breaking unions—the only lawful workers have against being driven back to their former working and living conditions. Those who are behind this movement had better hold and consider."

Woe to those who believe they can crush the labor movement in the United States, and then have a perverse desire to have a investigation of the activities of these so-called detectives, who break the spirit and heart of American workmen."

Nevertheless, we are quite confident that the New York legislature is not likely to investigate these spy agencies. The legislature is too busy attending to the needs of the poor transportation companies, telephone rate boosters and similar public benefactors. It has neither the time nor the desire to protect the interests of labor.

### FEONAGE IN THE SOUTH

GEORGIA'S peonage cases which have aroused indignant protest throughout the country are not to be regarded as sporadic instances. According to undisputed information, peonage is widespread through the Mississippi Delta, that is, wherever cotton is grown and there is need of great numbers of negro laborers. While the Georgia cases, the murder of the eleven colored workers, had many features as to awaken national protest, the practice of peonage, that is, of involuntary servitude, is found throughout the region indicated and has been the cause of violations that has led to a number of lynchings.

The term peonage may be applied to any practice supporting forced labor, from the harvesting of a cotton hired hand, to veritable slavery. Its principal Southern forms are two, one—is the holding of negro wage workers to involuntary labor under the operation of laws and courts which fine such workers for breach of contract and force them to work out their fine under their old masters. Second—is the voluntary enslaving of negro tenants through a system of dividing of crops.

Federal laws forbid peonage in any form. Nevertheless, involuntary servitude has flourished throughout the South practically without interference. In October, 1919, the extensive riots in Arkansas were also due to this practice of peonage on the part of the white cotton planters. The present Georgia case has probably brought about a congressional investigation. It is difficult, however, to believe that these shameful barbarities, will ever be properly prosecuted by southern juries and courts. Scores of former attempts in this direction have proved futile, and the unfortunate colored workers in the South are just as helpless and outwaged today as they were sixty years ago.

### A REVIEW OF THE OPEN SHOP DRIVE

THE first review of the open shop drive launched by employers' organizations throughout the country to crush the labor movement, has appeared in the form of a pamphlet by David Zimand, issued by the Bureau of Industrial Research of New York entitled "The Open Shop Drive, Who Is Behind It and Where Is It Going?"

The pamphlet reviews the open shop, or the American Plan Campaign, from its beginning, over a year ago, and through the course of its nation-wide development, discussing the forms taken by that movement in various cities and states. The writer lists 240 cities and 44 states where open shop associations are active, and says that while he has been unable to ascertain whether paid agent and canned propaganda originated from a common source, there was, however, such similarity of language and method as to suggest a common inspiration.

"Never before has an open shop drive been so heavily financed, so skillfully organized, so shrewdly planned," says the pamphlet. "It flies all the flags of patriotic war time propaganda. It advances in the name of democracy, freedom, human rights and Americanism." The drive, it is said, has its stronghold in the South. In San Diego, a religious fervor is given to the policy by framing the usual anti-union declaration in the name of the Ten Commandments.

The pamphlet constitutes the most comprehensive survey of the movement which has so far been presented. It is a very valuable document, and of great importance to every person who is interested in the labor movement. The best attention to the importance of the pamphlet can be seen in the fact that the New York "Times" had seen it fit to devote to it a full editorial in a futile attempt to discredit its purpose and findings.

### HOUSING RELIEF DEAD

THE mountain which has labored so hard and noisily through the Lockwood Commission has brought forth a mouse—at least, for the present year.

The startling facts brought out in the course of that investigation which showed clearly the widespread nature of collusion and intimidation which has stood for years in the way of building homes in New York and which was responsible for the merciless increases of rent, have given many people the hope that some relief would be enacted by the legislature in this direction. A tentative program was, as a matter of fact, brought forward to relieve the acute housing situation during this session of the legislature. All these plans to encourage building were, however, turned topsy-turvy, and it is certain now that no effort will be made this year to pass housing relief legislation of any kind. The bill which would empower the State to make building loans has been criticized by the governor and foredoomed to failure.

The New York situation is only typical of the housing situation in practically every other large city in the country—Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland and others. The landlords having become used to huge interest rates on their investments would not permit a return to normal building activity which might threaten present rentals. What they are after is the repeal of the rent laws enacted last year which have taken the teeth out of the old laws which permitted landlords to send rentals up sky high indiscriminately. Meanwhile they hold the population of our great cities in their grip making the tenants pay the price indirectly, wherever they cannot do so directly.

### NIGHT AND CHILD LABOR LAWS DOOMED

IF it is becoming apparent that the Senate Bill which lifts the restrictions on night work for women over the age of twenty-one and the Meyer Bill, which permits the new State Industrial Commission to increase or decrease the hours of employment of women and miners in factories and stores, will be passed before the legislature comes to a close, the organized women workers who have been fighting for the enactment of legislation restricting the number of hours of employment of women and miners in industry, have thus received another set-back. It appears that Governor Miller is determined to carry out faithfully his policy of destroying labor legislation in the state of New York on the ground that women are entitled to "industrial" as well as political equality. The act of the legislature will undermine, to a great extent, whatever belief workers have had in the lobbying for labor legislation in the halls of

Albany or Washington. It has taken labor lobbyists others to get this legislation enacted, and now those labor laws will have been wiped out in one fell swoop by the labor-bating majority in the Assembly.

It is particularly interesting to note that the repeal of these labor laws comes on the heels of a report issued by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor in Washington in relation to the controversy over the employment of women as conductors and ticket agents. On the basis of an investigation in Kansas City, Detroit, Chicago and Boston, it is made clear that the dismissal of women from New York street car lines was not made necessary by the night work law. Women conductors are employed in ticket sellers are employed in Chicago without night work, and so are women conductors in Kansas City, without any handicap to their work in any degree.

But what is the use of arguing? The fruit canners in the up-state counties have been anxious for years to wipe out the anti-night work and the 54-hour law for women and men or so that they can employ them 14 and 16 hours a day. And the interests of the canners and other child labor employers appear to rule supreme these days at Albany.

### A NATIONAL WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL BUREAU ORGANIZED

LAST week was a memorable week for the movement of adult labor education.

On March 31st, a number of groups representing labor unions and individual educators, interested in the cause of labor education, met in the Brookwood School at Katonah, N. Y. to discuss a plan for founding the first resident workers' college in America. The plans as outlined were based on four fundamental tenets.

First—that a new social order is needed and is coming.

Second—that education will not only hasten its coming, but will reduce to a minimum and perhaps do away entirely with a resort to violent means.

Third—that the workers are the ones who will usher in this new order.

Fourth—that there is immediate need for a workers' college with a broad curriculum, located amid healthy country surroundings where the students can completely apply themselves to the task at hand.

Among those who participated in the meeting were John Fitzpatrick of Chicago, James Maurer, president of The State Federation of Pennsylvania, William Z. Foster, leader of the 1918 steel strike, and a number of other prominent labor leaders. The conference continued for several days and worked out a definite plan for a national labor college, intended to co-operate closely with the national and international labor groups already conducting educational work among men and women at present.

Meanwhile, the agencies within the labor movement who are at present conducting the work of labor education on a large scale have met during that same week for a two-day conference on April 2nd and 3rd, in New York City, and formed a National Workers' Educational Bureau. The Katonah conference in a way supplements and reinforces the practical work of the existing labor educational agencies and should not in any fashion be considered as either competing or conflicting with these agencies for education in the labor movement.

In another page of this issue, the readers of "Justice" will get a complete review of this conference. It need hardly be stated that the establishment of a National Bureau to act as a clearing house of information in the field of labor education is a matter to be heartily welcomed.

## CIVIL WAR IN ITALY

By IRA W. BIRD

Rome, March 21.

Chaos rages in the northern provinces of Italy with the organized workers massed against armed bands of gunmen in the pay of the manufacturers' associations and individual employers. For two months there have been almost daily clashes between the Socialist workers and the Fascisti, the organization of gunmen and assassins which has been utilized as a White Guard by the reactionary elements.

In an effort to check the warfare in the big industrial centers, Premier Giolitti on January 25 issued a drastic decree which applied to the whole of Modena, Ferrara and Bologna—cities and provinces. All permissions for carrying firearms were revoked and the prefects were ordered to take immediate steps for the complete disarmament of the population. The movement for disarmament of the population was opposed by Socialists, Communists and the labor organizations. They declared the disarmament decree was a government scheme to get the workers completely at the mercy of the Fascisti, who were the aggressors at that time in every clash. The armed Fascisti roved in bands to terrorize socialist leaders, beating veteran socialists, shooting others and burning headquarters of labor unions and offices of newspapers.

Hundreds of socialists have been killed and wounded by the Fascisti during the last six months, causing the organization of fighting bands of Communists who fight with the slogan: An eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth. In revenge for the killing of their comrades and the destruction of many newspaper offices and labor temples, the Communists declare they have repaid the Fascisti and their masters with interest.

Many of the socialist leaders have had almost miraculous escapes from death in clashes with the Fascisti.

Vincenzo Vacirca, well known in the progressive labor movement of America, is one of the socialists who has had hairbreadth escapes from death in numerous clashes with the White Guard. Vacirca was active in organization campaigns of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and other labor organizations in the United States. At the time he left the United States, in September, 1919, he was editor of the "Hotel Worker," the journal of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union.

Vacirca is a Sicilian, but he was elected as a Deputy from Bologna one month after he returned to Italy. During the recent municipal campaign he went to Sicily to conduct socialist propaganda and there was shot by enemies of the workers' movement. A companion was killed. This attack was made at Nolo near Syracuse.

Many minor clashes followed, leading up to Vacirca's nearest escape from death by lynching or burning when the Fascisti destroyed the splendid Chamber of Labor in Bologna on January 24. A band of Fascisti, enraged by the death of two of their number and the wounding of fifteen in a clash with Socialists in Modena, rode to Bologna in auto trucks to destroy workers' buildings. Military cordons were thrown around the Chamber of Labor, but as these soldiers were in sympathy with the Fascisti they permitted the White Guard to break through cordon.

Vacirca was alone in the Chamber of Labor with the porter and another comrade. There were no weapons in the building, so the porter connected a fire hose to repel the invaders. The water drove them back for a few minutes, and then they renewed the attack, throwing bombs through windows and firing revolvers at the doorway. The defenders escaped to upper rooms as the Fascisti broke in,

so they escaped lynching. Unable to find the Socialists, the Fascisti poured oil on the floors and on the record books and set fire to the building. As they rushed from the building, Vacirca and his comrades ran out with them, mixing with the crowd undetected.

In a short time the beautiful building was a mass of flames, and all its contents were destroyed. The building had a great auditorium, printing works, a remarkably fine library and a residential club with a garage attached. Many valuable records of the Communist Socialist and labor organizations were destroyed.

The three offices of "Avanti!" in Turin, Milan and Rome were burned by Fascisti, but the great Socialist dailies continued publication in the offices of friendly papers. An attempt was made to destroy the office of "L'Epoca" in Rome because that paper allowed the printing of "Avanti!" on its presses. Troops from all sections of the city were called out to protect the newspaper office. The Rome office of "Avanti!" is now hidden in small rooms at No. 11 Piazza Filotea. They are reached by a winding hallway and narrow stairways, where two well-armed men could hold off regiments of Fascisti.

The Fascisti, members of the organization called the Fasci di Combattimento, have degenerated from idealists who banded together to get the "democracy and freedom" for which they had been fighting in the great war, into assassins, gunmen and gangsters in the pay of the enemies of the Socialist movement. The reactionary elements gained complete control over the Fasci after the workers gave up their control over the factories they had seized last year. White Guard bands were organized to terrorize the leaders of the revolutionary movement. The Fascisti never dared attack groups of workers, nor did they dare attack indi-

viduals in working class sections of the city. Socialist leaders were attacked in the most cowardly manner, at night in their homes, or in quarters of the city where the Fascisti would be certain of the protection of friendly troops.

Daily reports from industrial centers of the sudden death of leaders of the Fascisti, of the burning of their homes, indicate that the fighting bands of the Communists are demanding "an eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth."

The national secretary of the Fasci, which is organized on a national scale throughout the country, is Benito Mussolini, an ex-Socialist and a former editor of "Avanti!" Although professing to be a most revolutionary Socialist, Mussolini was an interventionist when the war broke out and so was expelled from the Socialist Party. He might not have become such a ferocious enemy of the Socialist movement if he had not been repeatedly attacked by Serrati, the succeeding editor of "Avanti!" In his rage, Mussolini apparently lost his reason and became more reactionary than he had been revolutionary.

Out of the minor clashes may come a great battle—any day. The industrial centers and even Rome present the appearance of armed camps in war time. The troops are armed for battle, with steel helmets and bullet cartridges and loaded grenades. An unusually large number of soldiers has been detailed to guard the Parliament building. All civilians with packages or knodks are suspected dynamiters until they give proof to the contrary.

Although the reactionary elements are better armed for civil war than the workers, the workers greatly outnumber their enemies—and there are numerous secret stores of weapons in every city. Neither Socialist, Communist nor Confederation of Labor leaders wish to see a revolutionary coup at this time, but there will be no way to halt the revolutionary wave when it has been started, perhaps by some particularly ferocious assassination of a Socialist by a band of Fascisti.

## WHERE STEEL IS KING

## A REVIEW

By Mary Heslop Yorke

Dance &amp; Lippincott, New York, 1931.

There are books of the value of which cannot be measured by the accepted gauge of literary criticism—books whose contents are so compelling that one simply dare not pass judgment upon them from the point of view of a literary product only—books which win a place for themselves mainly because they are human, social documents. Such books are often treated as works of art chiefly because they belong to the category of the literature of horrors, not in a melodramatic sense, not because of hair-raising plots, but because they discover and reflect a great social tragedy of the day.

"Men and Steel" belongs to this class of books. Two great forces, two elemental powers in modern society, are seen there in their correlation—men and steel, and the portrayal of the play of these forces, which the book contains is colossal and overwhelming.

"Such terms as the 'steel trust,' 'steel baron,' 'industrial despotism,' 'the political power of capital,' etc., are common words in the vernacular of labor journalism and radical literature. To an extent, therefore, they have lost their original terrible meaning to us and we receive them in our minds as mere words and conceptions. They, however, become full of life and meaning, after one has read a few pages from 'Men and Steel.' The realm of steel is a principality in the liberal medieval, despotic sense. One feels at once its primitive, autocratic power, the power of ancient tyrants,

## BY N. B.

the power that does not doubt its own supremacy and is secure of its own invulnerability. In the words of the author:

"The principality of steel is young. It has the despotism and the power of youth; its power rests only on wealth and dominion. Power without responsibility, power which throttles among its subjects all efforts at self-government. Power brutal, young, riotous, lusty, driven by the force of steel. Power which treats men's lives as commodities. A creative thing made of fire and iron and taking no account of the lives of men. Smoke, fire, iron and human lives are its substance. Gain and greed and the sullen discontent of men are the stuff from which this unthinking despotism is made."

This is the author's prefatory statement with which she proceeds to the description of the Principality of Steel? It is not an overdrawn, extravagant statement. As you read the following chapters, you become aware of the fact that the passage quoted above portrays the power of steel only in moderate, pale words.

Steel is king. The machines that make steel are the rulers. The men, their lives, their families are a side issue, a necessary evil. "Order for the machine; disorder for the men who tend the machines." This is the brief formula of life within the Principality of Steel. The human mind, the human genius has labored to create a marvelous world of machinery

where all is order, symmetry, science and reason. The steel factory is perfection incarnate. Outside the limits of this factory there is filth, squalor and human lives. The factory wall is the line of demarcation between order and disorder, between cleanliness and filth, between system and chaos, between strenuous care and total indifference. On one side of the wall there are the machines and the dynamo; on the other—human beings.

Like a cruel process of nature, like a vicious nightmare, the lives of the men enslaved by steel drag on:

"Men coming, men going. Day shift, night shift. Ten hours light, fourteen night. This procession is punctuated as the tide. It never stops. It goes in every morning. It comes out every night. Like the sun, like the tide, it knows neither holiday nor Sunday."

"It does not seem as if men owned the mills. It seems as if the mills owned the men. The mill gates open up in the morning and suck the men in and at night they open up again and spew them out."

When one reads the story of the steel strike in Mary Heslop Yorke's book one begins to understand how the thousands of people of various races, tongues and nationalities have of a sudden risen against the cruelties of steel. There was something primitive, titanic in the sufferings of these hundreds of thousands, their common subjugation, common woes, and common downtrodden spirits. The strike does not impress one as a conscious movement of proletarians against capitalists. It appears more like a process of nature, an elemental move-

ment. The slaves of steel have risen. Men dominated by machines have broken loose, and if no uprisings in the literal sense of the word have taken place, if there were no riots, it was because the worn-out masses have discovered within themselves a new spirit of resistance, the deadening spirit of passive combat.

The volume of lawless brutality which the steel barons have employed against the workers can hardly be even gleaned from newspaper reports. The heartlessness of the Cosacchi, hired street-armed men and the local authorities, the poisonous warnings in the press—we have heard about these. We have also read of exceptional cases of brutality and corruption. The most damning feature of this terror without end was that men have become used to it and have come to regard it as almost a natural thing, as an inevitable phenomenon.

"Why have the Constables beaten up your man?" "Why have they broken into your house?" a striker's wife is asked. "And she replies with astonishment at the stupidity of this question, 'Why, he is a striker!' Terror, wild, limitless, triumphant terror, converted into lost and passion."

"We used to talk about the psychology of the Cosacchi. We could never understand the things they did. There seemed to be no answer to them. It tasted of unreason. Why should they tear down an American flag? Why should they chase babies going to school? The breaking up of meetings, that was easy. It was the details we could not fathom. What has happened to a man when his instinctive gesture

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## EDITORIALS

### THE COAL MINERS' STRIKE IN ENGLAND

The causes of the present miners' strike in England can be put down in the following few words: The organized workers of England are the only workers in the world who refuse to forget the rosy promises made to them by their government during the War—when their toil and blood were so indispensable for the winning of world-wide "democracy"—and they are determined never again to be swindled and cheated by their masters.

It is true, the present strike in the mines is not for an increase in wages, but for the retention of prevailing scales. Nevertheless, it is a much more important fight than what it appears on the surface. Until last week, all the coal mines of England were under the control of the government and all miners, regardless of the pit where they were employed, received equal wages. Now, after the government had returned the mines to their owners, the miners who are working in better fields would receive probably the same wages as heretofore, but in the poorer fields, they would suffer a very substantial reduction of wages. This the class-conscious workers of England will not permit. They demand an equal wage for all the miners of England and will tolerate no division into well-paid and poorly-paid coal mine workers.

The present strike, therefore, is a fight for one of the fundamentals of trade unionism. The English Government, naturally, assails the demand of the miners as revolutionary, but the organized workers of England have long since become indifferent to being called hard names by their opponents. Such epithets like "Reds," "Revolutionists," "Bolsheviks," or "Communists" do not seem to frighten them any longer. They remain confident of the justice of their demands and in this strike they have shown even greater earnestness and determination than in former contests. They have called out, together with the coal diggers, the engineers and pump attendants who in former mine strikes stayed in the pits to guard the mines against flooding. This is a new and an important departure in the fighting tactics of the Miners' Federation of England and registers in a striking manner their determination to struggle to a finish. When added that the strike broke out practically without preliminary discussions, the bitterness of the contest becomes apparent at once.

It is impossible to foretell, at this hour, the end of this obstinate struggle. It is, of course, possible that it will end in a compromise as the fight of several months ago. This is, however, gravely doubted. The government has come out strongly against the nationalization of the mines or subsidizing the mines in the poorer fields to equalize wages. The workers, on the other hand, are determined to hold out for an equal wage and for the retention, at least, of the present working standards. The lack of a middle ground makes, therefore, the early settlement of the strike highly improbable. It is quite possible, in addition, that the railroad and transport workers—the most essential workers of England—will join the fight of the miners and paralyze the industrial life of the country. The miners are united with the railwaymen and the transport workers in a "Triple Alliance" and are pledged to work hand in hand with them, and the latter know too well that the defeat of the miners would be just as great a defeat to themselves. A strike of such dimensions is likely to lead to a veritable upheaval of the entire industrial system in England.

We shall not, however, commit ourselves to any prophecies in this direction. The English Cabinet has proved upon many former occasions how lightly it can change its opinions whenever they become a menace to its existence. It is difficult to believe, therefore, that the Cabinet will continue its policy of blind obstinacy when the situation becomes too hot for it. It is not surprising to read in the near future a turn-about-face statement by either Lloyd George or a member of his Cabinet to the effect that the English workers are, after all, not so "red" and all they ask is a "chance for a decent living." If Lloyd George, indeed, has found it not beyond his resourcefulness to whitewash Lenin, he will certainly not find it impossible to issue a clean bill of health to his own English "communists."

### THE "OPEN SHOP" CONSPIRACY

Mr. Savel Zimand of the Bureau of Industrial Research, an organization devoted to the promotion of sound human relationships in industry by consultation, fact studies and publicity, has written a booklet under the name, "The Open Shop Drive," in which he makes the grave charge that our capitalists of industry have organized and launched a conspiracy to wreck trade unionism and the labor movement in America. The booklet is replete with testimony relating to this anti-Union drive covering a multitude of cities and the various States where it is operating. It points to the similarity of methods employed in the various localities, the identical phraseology and means of combat as proof that organized capital in America has set about to destroy the labor movement in accordance

with a prearranged and premeditated plan.

Capital, true enough, never shamed any particular love for labor unions. On the other hand, it has never dared to come out openly against the labor movement. We have heard from many capitalists and their press lackeys in the past that trade unionism had its good sides and that it could be endured were it not for its "bad features."

The present drive for the "open shop" is likewise conducted under a mask of friendliness towards labor unionism. It is being asserted that the "open shop" is not opposed to trade unionism. It is paraded as an "American plan" which cannot tolerate that workers be deprived from their chance to work merely because they do not belong to a union.

The booklet and the investigation upon which it is founded deserves praise for having torn off the mask from the professions of our capitalists of industry. First, the facts marshalled in the book prove beyond doubt that the employers have hatched a conspiracy, against the labor unions; and, secondly, they prove just as conclusively that this drive for the open shop means nothing else but a campaign for the non-Union shop, a shop where the workers would be completely subjugated by the employers. It is of the highest importance that the workers of America keep constantly in mind the great menace of this "open shop" movement. The notion that it contains but little danger for the labor movement should be discarded at once. The very fact that the employers are making such concerted, strenuous efforts to introduce the "open shop" is sufficient proof of its menace. The workers must oppose with all their force every inch of the advance of the "open shop" agitation and must, at the same time, endeavor to strengthen their own ranks as far as possible.

The harmful practice of many labor unions, to keep their doors closed for new applicants, must come to an end. High initiation fees and other barriers to admission must be lifted in order to give a chance to thousands of workers to join the labor organizations to which they properly belong. Not alone that. Just as organized capital is making at present a drive for the open shop, the organized workers of the country must now engage in a strenuous drive to gain new recruits for their organizations. The fact remains that notwithstanding the progress of trade unionism, the majority of the workers in this country are still without the ranks of the labor movement. This is the result of the callousness with which the members of our labor unions regard the interests of the great masses outside their organizations, an indifference which acts in the long run as a boomerang to their own welfare. It must be recognized that as long as the majority of American workmen will remain unaffiliated with labor unions, the capitalist drive for the "open shop" can hardly be checked. The most effective and radical weapon against the "open shop" conspiracy is a comprehensive campaign to organize the workers who are still outside the labor movement.

Given the will and determination, there is no reason why the 5,000,000 organized workers should not double their number within one year. The organized labor movement lacks no financial means or other resources to launch and conduct such an organization campaign. What is required is the will to do and the aim can be easily accomplished.

### THE IMPOSING VICTORY OF LOCAL NO. 62

The manufacturers in the white goods industry have lived, for a while, under the delusion that the hour had struck for a reduction of wages of the workers in their trade, and several of them have already begun to carry it out into practice. A fight seemed imminent. It looked almost certain that the White Goods Workers' Union would be compelled to wage a fight against the employers for the retention of wages and working conditions which they had gained in the course of the last decade. The struggle, however, has been avoided. The manufacturers, seeing that the union is determined not to permit the breakdown of the working standards of its members, has come to an understanding with Local No. 62, after a series of conferences. Under the terms of the new agreement the workers have not only lost none of their former working standards, but have won some definite improvements.

We congratulate Local No. 62 upon its victory which could not have been more complete or definite even after a long strike. Our congratulations are due to Brother William Davis, the manager of Local No. 62, and the other officers of the union for their tactful conduct during the conferences with the employers, which has contributed a great deal to averting of the fight. We likewise congratulate the entire membership of Local No. 62 who have been able, through their solidarity, to avert all that is possible under present circumstances. We hope, nay, we are confident, that the workers in the white goods industry will now, more than ever before, become convinced of the advantages of unionism, will join Local No. 62 and make it doubly strong, so that when this agreement will have expired, two years hence, they might be able to present and win even greater demands for themselves.

### RUSSIAN PHONOGRAPH RECORDS TO BE HEARD

On Wednesday evening, April 13th, Chalkline, the greatest Russian singer, will sing the Marseilles in the Jewish Art Theatre.

Dr. A. Worgelin, a New York physician, who went into Russia for the Joint Distribution Committee six months ago, has just returned with 60 phonograph records of modern Russian music, poetry and speeches. Some of these records will be rendered during the intermission of the performance of Sholem Ash's "Fam-

ily Pride" on the above-mentioned date.

The proceeds of this performance will go to the American Labor Alliance for Trade Relations with Russia, which is carrying on a campaign for the resumption of trade with Russia. Those who wish to obtain tickets can buy them at the Forward, 175 E. Broadway; the Rapid School, 7 E. 15th St., and the office of the Alliance, 31 Union Square, Room 1504.

# WITH THE WAIST AND DRESS JOINT BOARD

By M. K. MACKOFF

On Friday, March 18th, there was held the last meeting of the General Strike Committee in the waist and dress industry, under the chairmanship of Brother Harry Berlin. The meeting was called for the purpose of receiving reports from the various sub-committees and striking a balance as to where the activities and registering the sum total of the results achieved during the strike.

The following committee submitted their final reports to the General Strike Committee: The Organization Committee, the Picket Committee, the Speakers' Committee, the Press Committee, the Settlement Committee, the Out-of-Town Committee, the Harlem District Office, the Brownsville District Office, the Brooklyn District Office and the Law Committee.

On behalf of the Committee on Organization, its chairman, Brother Portnoy, stated that its work was divided into two kinds of activities, to get attendants for the striking shops and to investigate all shops and approve them for settlement. He stated that the difficulties in handling the unorganized workers as they left their shops was harder during this general strike than usual and that the open shops were left to the care of a few as soon after the strike had broken out, as most were settled and a great number of the active members had to return to work.

1,479 investigations were made by the committee and careful attention was paid in each case so that no work be given out to non-union jobbers. 164 association jobbers and 33 independent ones have been put under the control of the union. In addition to that, an understanding was reached with the Merchant Ladies' Garment Association, who are controlling 25 dress shops, which brings the total number of jobbers up to 162. This does not include the number of independent jobbers who are under contract with the Cloakmakers' Union. Brother Portnoy added that they are at present conferring with the Jobbers' Association and also with the Merchant Ladies' Garment Association, to have all open shops that are doing work for their members, unionized.

Brother Max Gutzman, the chairman of the Picket Committee, re-

ported that at least 200 shops were organized through the efforts of the Picket Committee. There were cases where shops returned to work prior to settlement owing to misunderstanding and the Union was compelled to send committees to them several times before they were completely organized. Brother Gutzman strongly recommended that the extensive organization work which was begun during the general strike shall not be abandoned, but that efforts be made to immediately continue unionizing all the non-union shops which threaten the existence of the organization.

Brother Luigi Antonini, in reporting on behalf of the Speakers' Committee, stated that notwithstanding difficulties, the activities of the Speakers' Committee were quite successful. He expressed his opinion that in the future the speakers, hall and entertainment committees ought to work in closer co-operation so that there occur no overlapping of effort and no working at cross purposes in time of a strike. He extended his thanks to Brother Wolinsky and Sister Cohen for assistance in getting Jewish and English speakers and assigning them to the various halls. As the services rendered by the speakers were all voluntary, his committee spent no money whatever in carrying out its work.

He also stated that he assisted the Press Committee in supervising the publicity of the strike in the Italian dailies of New York.

Brother Julius Hochman said on behalf of the Settlement Committee that this committee had started its work on Friday, February 11th, and continued until Saturday, February 26th. The total number of shops settled was 548, out of which 400 signed up as individuals, 41 as independent jobbers and 102 joined the Dress Association. The Settlement Committee also arranged for the admission of 46 shops into the Waist Association, making a total of 589 shops taken care of at settlement headquarters. The settling office also reported the following settlements: Bronx, 20 shops; Harlem, 29; Brooklyn, 45, and Brownsville, 36. The settlement headquarters received approximately \$70,000 in securities from the individual manufacturers

with whom agreements were entered.

While there has not been a general demand for increases, the committee has succeeded in securing substantial raises in 206 shops. It is also worth noting that 23 shops of the former dress and waist association settled independently and agreements were also entered with 107 open shops.

Brother Wolinsky, on behalf of the Press Committee, stated that they received the generous support of the labor press, both English and Jewish, and have also received considerable notice in the general press of the city. He stated that the committee was very much indebted to the wholehearted support and co-operation of all officers of the Joint Board who helped to supply the press constantly with important publicity matter.

Sister Anna Krohnart reported on behalf of the Out-of-Town Committee, stating that at the beginning of her committee's work, she got in touch with some officers of the International and found an extensive record of the out-of-town shops in the General Office. Immediately she communicated with the International organizers in Mt. Vernon, the Jersey towns and up-State New York. She helped the various shop committees in investigating the out-of-town shops to find out whether their work is being made there. On February 28th this work was turned over by her to Miss Matyska. She stated further that in looking over the records of the Out-of-Town shops, she has found that 68 per cent. of the shops were dress and waist establishments, employing about 17,000 waist and dressmakers. Miss Krohnart urged that sufficient funds and organizers be allotted to do organizing work in the out-of-town districts. Unless proper attention is given to this matter it will be found that not only the waist industry will have drifted out of town, but that dressmaking will disappear also from New York City.

Brother C. Iandoli reported for the Harlem Office that prior to the strike there were 25 union shops in Harlem, of which 25 renewed the agreement. In addition to that, 15 new shops were organized, making a total of 40. There are still a number of non-union shops in Harlem, the total

majority of which are making waists.

Brother M. Eisenfeld reported on behalf of the Brownsville Office that when the strike call was issued by the union, 30 shops responded to the call. All the other shops in Brownsville were closed on account of lack of work. During the strike 4 other shops signed agreements, and today the union controls 40 shops in Brownsville, all thoroughly reorganized. He stated further that there are at present about 125 open shops in East New York, with additional new shops opening all the time. The failure to organize these shops during the strike was due to the fact that there were very few people available to do the organization work, and to the lack of propaganda carried on prior to the general strike. The workers in these shops are largely Italians and could not be expected to flock to the organization without preliminary agitation. He advised an intensive campaign of propaganda through the distribution of literature as the only method available for organizing these shops.

The Brooklyn District Office reported, through Brother M. Schecter, that prior to this strike, the Brooklyn Office controlled 68 shops, and that at the time the strike was called 30 of these were not working. In the course of the strike, 12 new shops were organized. There are 250 open shops located in the different sections of the Brooklyn District, and the attempt to organize them did not meet with success owing principally to lack of preparatory agitation work. Nevertheless, the strike in that particular section can be viewed as having yielded satisfactory results, when the long slackness preceding this strike and the general feeling of depression in the industry are taken into consideration.

Brother M. K. Mackoff, chairman of the Law Committee, reported that this committee had attended 639 cases of members arrested in various parts of the Greater City during the strike. The committee was kept quite busy in attempting to all these cases.

The General Strike Committee, after having listened to the report, decided to approve the work of the various committees, expressing thanks to those who, while not paid officers of the union, had assisted in conducting the work during the general strike. Upon motion, the general strike committee was then officially disbanded.

## HAPPENINGS IN LOCAL NUMBER THREE

By C. SCHATZBERG

Our trade is at present quite prosperous; our members have plenty of work, and the office is receiving many calls for workers. This is a sure sign that our members are making a living, because the trouble with our trade, as with all seasonal trades, is that only during certain times of the year can we be assured of a livelihood. We must, therefore, be ready at all times to defend ourselves against the enemy.

Our employers are now very anxious to present us with a gift—in the form of the piece work system; under which the workers in our line have suffered much in the past; the uncertainty of the week's wage; the blind settling of prices, the frequent resettling, with the loss of weeks of work at the height of the season occasioned by strikes on account of these re-settling of prices; and then more trouble when, after re-settling the price on a certain garment, this number would suddenly disappear.

Here are a few of the demands which the employers advance: In order to insure harmony in the cloak trade, they maintain, the workers

should first agree to a reduction in wages, and second, to the reinstatement of the piece work system—prior to the settling on the pre-war standard. Do these manufacturers imagine that it will be an easy matter for them to saddle us again with this system of slavery? Do they really believe that the workers can not learn to distinguish between right and wrong? They must be thinking that the only thing that is necessary to reestablish the miserable conditions which we fought so vigorously to get rid of, is to print a few dollars in their trade journals, and all.

We know, however, that our mem-

bers are made of different mettle; we are certain that they will never stand for the reestablishment of the piece work system with its attendant evils, and that they are determined to defend to the last what they have gained through so much strife and hardship. We have good ground for this contention in the fact that our members are giving two hours work to the strikers in the men's clothing industry, and the good will, and en-

thusiasm with which they give. We may be proud of the fact that the piece tailors and sample makers were among the first to donate to the striking men's tailors; and the same can also be said of the entire membership of the Cloakmakers' Union.

Our members certainly displayed a fine sense of classconsciousness when, as soon as the season in the ladies' tailors shops started they came to the office and asked why they had not been invited to donate two hours; they were under the impression that only the cloakmakers had been asked to donate. But when they were told that they, as well as all the other members of the International would be expected to donate their share, they started collections immediately. In order to insure the success and to systematize the collection of the fund, the general manager of the Joint Board called a meeting of all the shop chairmen of the ladies' tailors shops on Monday, March 21st, and he explained to them just how collections should be taken.

Another instance of the determination of our membership to combat

the enemy is the unprecedented success of the Million Dollar Fund. As is well known, this fund was created for only one purpose—a general strike. If the manufacturers were not so very anxious for a strike, our members would still have a few months in which to pay up the assessment, but as they are even now preparing for trouble, our members understand that payments cannot be postponed. A number of our members understood the necessity of paying up the entire assessment at the time when it was levied, and we are confident that before the end of the season everyone will have paid up his share of the assessment.

On Saturday, March 19th, the installation of the Italian Branch of our Local took place. Election of officers was held, and Brothers Fasani and Rea were elected chairman and secretary, respectively. Both these brothers are well known to our Italian members. The Italian Branch was created upon the approval of the recommendation of our Executive Board by both sections of our Local, the Ladies' Tailors & Alteration Workers' Branch and the Piece Tailors & Sample Makers' Branch, in response to urgent requests from the Italian members.

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# A Declaration to the American People

Adopted by the Special Conference of the American Federation of Labor at Washington, D. C., on February 23, 1921

(Continued from last issue)

Those manifestations of autocratic policy in industry already cited are almost entirely of a purely industrial character. There remain other abuses equally serious, if not more so, finding expression more often through our political machinery. Through reactionary decisions of courts, through the unwarranted and reckless use of the writ of injunction, through laws establishing industrial courts and boards, through compulsory arbitration laws, and through the other failure of Congress and of state legislative bodies to attempt anything which might serve as an stimulus to labor in these trying times, the welfare of the entire country and in fact the stability of many of our democratic institutions, is most seriously menaced. These are matters of paramount interest to every American.

## Industrial Courts Destroy Freedom

Through the establishment of industrial courts, employers are seeking to inject into American industrial life a device through which they may annul constitutional guarantees and deprive workers of freedom and of the right to function through their organizations. Aside from the denial of guaranteed rights brought by the establishment of industrial courts, these instruments serve to create in industry a disharmony which inevitably must result in a chaotic industrial condition and consequent loss of production.

The joint relationship between organized workers and employers which exists when these two industrial forces meet in voluntary conference to reach voluntary agreements, is a relationship of negotiation; is a relationship which exists when industrial courts are established to determine the conditions in industry is a relationship between litigants—litigants never voluntarily yield an iota. Trade unionism establishes a condition of harmony through mutual effort toward a common purpose while the industrial court establishes a condition of antagonism, each party in hostile suit against the other and each inevitably hostile toward the court itself when the decision is unfavorable. Industrial courts and the like, created by law, are pseudo-devices, the fundamental error of which must become more clear as time passes. The paradox of the situation is that those employers who look upon them as devices for their benefit and who are propagating the idea with the zeal of fanatics will, in the long run, suffer equally with labor as a penalty for their short-sightedness.

## Injunctions Restore Feudalism

The revival of the unrestrained use of the injunction also imperils the stability of our economic structure. For six years the Clayton Act, accepted on all sides as the established law of the land, to an appreciable degree checked the abuse of the writ of injunction. A majority of the justices of the supreme court have swept away this strong barrier against a feudalistic legal concept and labor finds itself again at the mercy of an unlimited use of judge-made law. The injunction, as it is now used and abused in labor disputes is without sanction either in the constitution or in the fundamental law of the land. It is a pure usurpation of power and authority. The only possible and practical remedy in the face of a power so usurped and so completely unjustified lies in a total refusal on the part of labor to recognize or abide by the terms of in-

junctions which seek to prohibit the doing of acts which the workers have a lawful and guaranteed right to refuse to do, or which seek to compel workers to do those things which they have a lawful and guaranteed right to refuse not to do. This is the only immediate course through which labor can find relief and this course it purposes to pursue. Labor realizes fully the consequences of such a course, but in the defense of American freedom and of American institutions, it is compelled to adopt this course, be the consequences what they may.

The workers maintain that the constitution of the United States is a living document, its provisions and guarantees as applicable today as when they were adopted. The workers maintain that in their every day life and work rights which the Constitution declares to be inalienable should practice, as well as in theory, be inalienable. Among these rights is the right to liberty—freedom from involuntary servitude or compulsory labor, except as punishment for crime. This guarantee of the thirteenth amendment lives, and the workers are determined that it shall not be denied them. Nor shall this guarantee of their freedom be so distorted as to compel a group slavery in modern industry as reprehensible as was the individual, chattel slavery of old. Slavery, compulsory labor, the tying of men to their jobs, will be no more tolerated now than was chattel slavery then. It has no more right to exist and is just as repugnant under our democratic form of government as it would be under a government of monarchial, bureaucratic or under any other form of government.

The Clayton Act was made law by Congress and by the signature of the President for the express purpose of correcting a condition under which such cases as the Danbury Hatters' case were possible. It was made law for the express purpose of instructing judges in the limitation of their power. Shortly after placing his signature to the Clayton Act with its labor provisions the President of the United States made the following declaration:

"A man's labor is not a commodity but a part of his life. The courts must not treat it as if it were a commodity, but must treat it as if it were part of his life. I am sorry that there were any judges who had to be told that. It is so obvious that it seems to me as if Section Six of the Clayton Act were a return to the primer of human liberty; but if the judges have to have the primer opened before them, I am willing to open it."

## Trade Unions Defend Liberty

The greatest force in American life capable of restraining predatory capital and to that extent capable of maintaining the democratic institutions of the country is the trade trust, false to the ideals of our Republic and false to the great public whose confidence it must have, as well as false to its own members whose interests it is organized to protect, if it neglected any proper effort in behalf of the liberty or well-being of the great masses of our people.

(To be continued)

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# The Weeks' News in Cutters Union Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

The past two meetings of the Joint Board in the Dress and Waist Industry were with discussions and plans for action on the problems facing the trade. Of prime importance were the discussions on the injunction mania now raging in the ladies' garment industry. President Schlesinger was especially invited to the last meeting and spoke at length on the evil of the injunction and what steps could be taken to combat them.

Unless proper steps are taken, and taken at once, Mrs. Schlesinger had pointed out, it would not be long before the industry will revert back to the old sweat-shop days. All an employer has to say now is that he had made a week-to-week contract with the workers in his shop, and a judge will declare the shop immune from unionization. The time is perhaps not yet ripe to enter into details as with regard to steps contemplated in this anti-injunction campaign. Suffice it to say that President Schlesinger is planning to get in touch with Samuel Gompers, President of the A. F. of L., with whom this matter will be taken up. This, it should be remembered, is but one step; other means will be taken up in due time.

Of course, to carry this fight on will take a good deal of money. Hence, the Joint Board has decided to assess the entire membership in the dress and waist trade with a flat \$6 fee. In other words, the \$1.50 assessment levied has been called off on the fourth week and a uniform assessment placed on all members.

All dress and waist cutters who had paid part of the assessment or none at all, are herewith instructed to pay the whole or the balance of the \$6 to the treasury of their organization. This matter will be taken up with the Executive Board and it is likely that the same procedure will be decided upon as in other assessments.

The secretary will be instructed not to accept dues unless the assessment has first been paid up.

The second meeting of the Joint Board was of importance to the cutters. At this meeting, which was held on March 25th, a resolution was introduced by the delegates representing Local 10, urging the Manager to take up certain slack time problems affecting the cutters in particular. The resolution follows:

"Whereas, there are certain problems affecting the cutters that are peculiar to the cutting trade, particularly in the slack season, which is now almost in full swing;

Whereas, some of those problems are:

1. That many employers do most of the cutting in the slack season;
2. That many cutters are partners in the firm in some form or other;

Be it Resolved that the Joint Board in the Dress and Waist Industry hereby instructs the General Manager to call a special meeting of all Department Managers and Business Agents to confer with the Manager of the Dress and Waist Cutters for the purpose of taking these problems up with a view of deciding upon a line of action that will in some way check these evils."

In compliance with this resolution a meeting of all Business Agents was called for Saturday morning, April 2nd. Harry Berlin, delegate from Local 10, and chairman of the Joint Board, was present. M. Sigman, General Manager of the organization, presided and outlined its purpose. He then called upon the Manager of the Dress and Waist Cutters who dwelt at length on the problems affecting the cutters as contained in the resolution.

Brother Sigman then followed along the same lines, urging upon the business agents the necessity of controlling the shops in a manner that would bring to light all violations.

The Manager of the Dress and Waist Cutters also made arrangements with Julius Hochman, Manager of the Independent Department of the Joint Board, for controlling shops, as was formerly done by the business agents of Local 10. Cutters are herewith instructed that when a delegate of the Joint Board appears in their shops for purposes of control, they must show their dues books and working cards to him. Also, when shop meetings are called, cutters should not fail to respond. Members who fail to attend these meetings are liable to be disciplined by the Executive Board of Local 10.

All in all, it can safely be stated that with the new arrangements as regards control, and investigations in line with the resolution read to the business agents of the Joint Board at last Saturday's meeting, a proper control of the shops will surely result.

The success of the Twelfth Annual Ball, which was held last Saturday night at Hunt's Forest Palace, exceeded the expectations of even the Arrangements Committee, which, towards the last few days approaching the affair, was somewhat sceptical regarding the outcome.

At an early hour the cutters began to come in, not, as is their wont, with shears and knives, but with rosebuds, and looking and feeling as the balmy spring evening. However, the point is that the ball was everything anyone expected it to be. At 10 o'clock the hall was nearly full. Towards 11 o'clock difficulty was found in moving on the dance floor due to huge crowds of couples shivering, or, as some call it, "shimmying."

There was only one disappointment. And that was when the cutters found that Pettie Sylvia Binder, who was responsible for a good deal of the evening's pleasantness with her pretty dancing, was really petite. What the cutters expected to see in "little" Miss Binder was—anyway, they enjoyed her dancing.

And the march, led by none other than Local 100's Max Spivak, capped the climax of the evening. The Secretary of the Arrangements Committee, Israel Lewin, who so splendidly succeeded in the arrangements for the ball, supervised the march. In the report to the membership, the Committee will be able to say without fear of contradiction that the ball was a financial success as well as a "moral success."

The General Strike in the Children's Dress Industry has come to an end, the last few shops having returned to work under union conditions during the past week. The success of this General Strike was even greater than had been expected or hoped for, considering the trend of the times and the depressed conditions in industry generally, when millions of workers in the United States are idle. From the point of view of the cutters, the most notable gain among others secured by them, is the increase of the minimum from \$31 to \$40 per week. The other workers in the industry, who, prior to this General Strike, had no established minimum scales, the demand for which had caused the abrogation of the agreement with the Children's Dress Manufacturers' Association and the dissolution of the latter, have now succeeded in obtaining minimum scales, thereby eliminating to a great extent the competition going on among the workers in the trade.

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## CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10 ATTENTION!

### NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

WAIST AND DRESS:

Monday, April 11th.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Monday, April 18th.

GENERAL:

Monday, April 25th.

SUIT:

Monday, May 2nd.

Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

### Cutters of All Branches

should secure a card when going in to work and return it when laid off. They must also change their cards when securing an increase.