

"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. 25

New York, Friday, June 17, 1921

Price, 2 Cents

BOSTON CLOAK STRIKE OFFICIALLY ENDED

Members of the International Union will surely leave with satisfaction that the long drawn-out strike in the cloak trade of Boston has finally been settled.

The strike lasted over eight months and was precipitated by an attempt on the part of the then existing Cloak Manufacturers' Association of Boston to introduce open shop conditions in that city. They have, of a sudden, abrogated the collective agreement with the Cloakmakers Union, under which they were operating for years and notified their workers in individual letters that they would not deal any more with their organization but with each and every one of them separately. It was a direct challenge to the Union and a peremptory demand upon the workers to give up their organization, notwithstanding the fact that they, the employers, still retained their own Association.

To this brazen attack, the cloakmakers of Boston replied most emphatically in the negative. The Union declared a general strike and the membership of the Boston cloak locals left the shops to a man. The

strike proved to be a very obstinate one.

The employers spared no means to break the union, but in vain. With the aid of the International, the cloakmakers of Boston repelled every attack and onslaught of their obdurate employers. The end of the conflict resulted in a thorough repudiation of the aspirations of the cloak manufacturers of Boston. Instead of having smashed the union, their own Association was dissolved and out of the fight the union came out even stronger and more solidified than before the battle began.

Now the strike is officially at an end. There isn't a shred left of the employers' association and the fight was settled with the employers individually after they had, one after another, deserted the association.

We reproduce herewith a telegram from Brother Abraham Snyder, the manager of the Boston Cloakmakers' Union, who was the chief leader of the strike. In a few brief words it describes graphically the story of the Boston cloak fight:

"The General strike of the cloakmakers in Boston is officially termi-

nated. All the manufacturers, with the exception of two, have settled individually with the Union and only a handful of workers are left on strike. We expect to settle with the few remaining ones in the very near future.

"The Joint Board of the Cloakmakers Union desires to express its hearty thanks to all who have aided the union in time of strike, while a special thanksgiving is due President Schlesinger, Secretary Baroff and the entire General Executive Board of the International for the moral and financial assistance given to us without stint which was chiefly responsible for our victory."

The cloakmakers of Boston deserve the sincere applause of all their fellow workers in the International. They have put up a heroic fight for their rights as organized workers and have stood loyally by the union. Their eight-month struggle was conducted not only for the vindication of their own rights, but for the principles underlying the entire labor movement of America.

We congratulate the Boston cloakmakers upon their victory.

CINCINNATI CLOAKMAKERS NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT

Vice-President Seidman left early last week for Cincinnati to negotiate on behalf of the local workers a new agreement with the Cincinnati cloak employers for the coming season.

As readers of "Justice" will remember, about six weeks ago the Cincinnati Joint Board signed an agreement with the firm of Bishop, Stern & Stein of that city after a protracted contest. The fight at that time was limited only to that firm, while in the remaining shops the relations with the employers were normal. Now the agreement with these employers is about to expire and the Union is endeavoring to come to an understanding with them without friction.

Vice-President Seidman reported by wire that the negotiations have so far been conducted in a friendly spirit and with an apparent desire on both sides to come to an understanding. It is, therefore, to be expected that very shortly a new agreement, conforming in its principal points with the agreements prevailing in all other cloak centres in the country, will be concluded.

I. L. G. W. U. DELEGATES ACTIVE IN DENVER

The forty-first convention of the American Federation of Labor opened last Monday, June 15, at Denver, Colo., with impressive solemnity. The old gristly leader of the Federation, President Gompers, opened the convention amid stormy ovations, and his initial speech was received with indescribable enthusiasm.

The convention immediately proceeded to organize itself and to do practical work. The delegation of our International occupies quite a place at the convention, and the individual delegates were appointed on important committees. President Schlesinger was appointed on the Committee for a Shorter Work-Day; Louis Langer was appointed on the Committee on Organization; Saul Metz was appointed member of the Committee on Local and Federated Bodies, and Miss Mary Goff on the Union Label Committee.

The committee to which President Schlesinger was appointed is one of the most important at the convention. It is charged with the duty of preparing plans for the shortening of the work-day, and with his experience in this particular field, President Schlesinger will render the committee very eminent service.

On the first day of the convention the bulk of the resolutions which will occupy the attention of the delegates was introduced. Our delegation has meanwhile introduced two resolutions and it is expected that they will introduce several more before the convention comes to an end. One of the resolutions introduced by our delegation deals with the injunction plague which hinders workers from conducting their legitimate activities and completely wipes out the meaning and substance of the Clayton Act, passed for the purpose of relieving labor from the tyranny of the courts. The resolution calls upon the convention to begin a strong propaganda against the spreading practice of injunction abuse all over the country and demands that the A. F. of L. start a widespread campaign to educate the public about the true character and the sinister meaning of the use of injunctions in labor disputes.

The second resolution calls upon the A. F. of L. to instruct all its organizers to aid the International in conducting its organization work in the smaller towns, where ladies garments are made under non-union conditions in open shops. It is to be expected that these two resolutions will be adopted unanimously.

UNITY HOUSE OPENS TONIGHT—CONCERT TOMORROW

Tonight, at six-twenty, a joyful crowd of members of the International will board a Lackawanna Railroad train at Hoboken, bound for Unity House, Forest Park, Pennsylvania. By nine o'clock, standard time, they will have arrived at Unity House and will swing into sight of the big "Welcome" sign at the gates. After a light supper, most of them will, probably, go into the concert hall and dance to the accompaniment of Sadie Becker's playing. On the following night, the official celebration and concert will be held.

About two hundred members are expected to participate. If on reading this, any member should wish to join the happy gathering, he or she can take the West 23rd Street Ferry

or Hudson Tube to Hoboken and board the 6.20 Lackawanna train for Stroudsburg. Buy your round trip ticket to Stroudsburg and then wait for the Bushkill train. At Bushkill the Unity Bus will call to take you to the house.

As has been announced before, a very excellent musical program has been arranged including Miss Julia Adler, soprano; Miss Sadie Chalfetz, pianist; Mr. Maurice Nitke, violinist; and Miss Jennie Valliere, dramatic artist.

Representatives of the labor press, of the executive boards of all the locals and of the General Executive Board have been invited to participate in the celebration.

Further information can be obtained in Room 6, 16 W. 21st Street, Watkins 7950.

Vice-Pres. Sigman Visits N. Y. and N. J. Towns

In conformity with the decision of the last meeting of the G. E. B., which appointed First Vice-President Sigman as manager in charge of the Out-of-Town Department, he left, last week, on an inspection tour of the numerous small towns where organization work was started by the International during the past six months.

Vice-President Sigman visited Hackensack, Garfield, Newark and Perth Amboy, N. J.; Glens Falls, Troy, Poughkeepsie and Schenectady, N. Y., and is now in Bridgeport, Conn., where the International has a substantial local of corset workers. In a general way, Vice-President Sigman's impressions of the work conducted in these towns and organizing possibilities for the near future co-

incide with the report given by Secretary Baroff to the G. E. B. meeting at St. Louis.

The conditions which have made organizing work in new fields difficult in the course of the past year, are still prevailing to a greater or lesser degree in these cities. Added to it is the severe condition of unemployment which gives the open shops employers a whip-hand in forcing down the already poor standards in these shops operated almost exclusively by non-union female labor. The offices opened by the International in these towns will, nevertheless, be maintained, and the work of organizing, insofar as possible, kept up until a more opportune time will permit organizing work to be undertaken on a larger scale and with better prospects.

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES

To the Members of the Cloakmakers' Union of New York:

Members of Locals affiliated with the Cloak Joint Board who consider themselves fit to become business agents of the Union are requested to make applications for this position.

The applications will be accepted until July 2. The applicants are requested, however, to file their papers at as early a date as possible.

By the order of the Joint Board,

ISRAEL FEINBERG,
General Manager.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

BRITISH MINERS VOTE ON SETTLEMENT

By the time this issue of "Justice" reaches our readers, the miners of England will have voted upon the plan of settlement of the mine strike which has been in progress since April 1. The conference of the coal miners' delegates, held at the end of last week, represented about a million members of the union and it decided that a ballot would be taken in all the coal fields with the proviso that a two-third majority of the votes is required to continue the stoppage of mining.

The main features of the mine owners' final wage proposal consist in the establishment of a new standard minimum wage by raising the 1914 pay rate 20 per cent, the arrangement to be valid for a period of 12 months. The owners offered to surrender their profits proportionately to the assistance received by the districts from the government fund of ten million pounds, to be advanced for the low-paid districts. New district boards, if the proposals are accepted, are to redistribute the districts on an economic instead of a geographical basis, and a national wages board will determine the ratio of profits to wages in each district.

The terms proposed are obviously a distinct improvement over the original terms proposed by the owners, which did not take into consideration equalization of pay in all the mine districts, inasmuch as they provide satisfactory allowances to the low-paid day workers at the end of 12 months if the current rates will not provide a sustenance wage.

EMPLOYMENT STILL DROPPING

REGARDLESS of cheery news and optimistic prophecies that are being sent out by interested agencies throughout the press, employment continues to drop in the Eastern States, and stagnation of industry is becoming more accentuated from month to month.

Manufacturing operations in New York State, for instance, continued to decline from April to May. The May decrease for unemployment for the manufacturing industries as a whole was 2 per cent. There were 400,000 less factory workers employed in New York in May, 1921, than in March, 1920. These statements are based on the preliminary tabulation of the May reports of representative manufacturers received by the Chief Statistician of the New York State Department of Labor.

Most of the industries showing reductions in employment from April to May belong to the metal, chemicals and paper and printing groups. A few industries showed decrease in working force as a result of seasonal inactivity. Strikes in the paper and printing industries affected manufacturing figures in these trades very heavily during last month.

EXPLOITATION OF FEMALE LABOR

DURING the war years of thousands of women entered metal trades shops all over the country, receiving a primitive knowledge of how to perform certain lines of work and operate certain classes of machinery. Owing to the unusual demand for labor, women were welcomed into the shops and received substantial wages for their work.

Now, with the return of normal and sub-normal conditions in the

shops, the employers are taking advantage of this limited training by the women metal workers and are fast reducing their standard of wages and conditions of employment. This is made easier, first, because of the almost total lack of organization among women, and secondly, because of the great unemployment existing throughout the country which makes female labor exceptionally easy prey for the unfair and unscrupulous employer.

The convention of the "Metal Trade Department of the A. F. of L." which took place during last week in Denver, preliminary to the A. F. of L. Convention, has issued a spirited demand that steps be taken to halt the merciless exploitation of female labor in metal trades shops all over the country. The declaration asserts that there is no objection to the employment of female labor in the metal industry, but it must be insisted upon that the women workers shall receive the same consideration and given the same working conditions as enjoyed by men.

Of course, the only means of obtaining for women metal workers the same standards and the same wage level as men receive, is through organization. A demand, no matter how insistent, will not be heeded by the employers unless backed by organization. It will be up to the organizing forces within the metal trades unions to remedy this growing evil in their industry and to take proper steps that the women metal workers do not undermine the standards won by the men in the metal shops during the past few decades.

SHALL NEGROES STUDY?

FAST upon the heels of the Tulsa outrage, where hundreds of negroes have lost their lives and property in the most infamous race riots that have afflicted the country, comes the admonition of President Harding, delivered in the form of a speech at the commencement ceremony at Lincoln University, a colored institution, to the effect that the negroes, in order to rise in this world, must "study and prepare themselves for participation in the great work of citizenship."

Such meaningless platitudes have been heard upon hundreds of occasions before. After the Tulsa disaster, however, this advice sounds sinister. In the reports that have been extensively printed in the press after the Oklahoma riots, it was definitely stated that the "wrecked" vengeance in the particular upon those of the negroes who were known in Tulsa as the most educated and prosperous of their race. From the list of unfortunate negroes who have suffered in these riots, it appears as if the defenders of the white race in Tulsa had singled out for their beastly rage those of the negroes who "through study have made themselves better fit to participate in the great work of citizenship."

Now there arises a dilemma before the colored population of our country: Shall they follow the advice of President Harding by filling schools and universities with students in order that they might fit out more largely for the unbridled race passions of Southern communities, or shall they remain steeped in ignorance and darkness and thus condemn themselves to a condition of semi-slavery in which they have been kept for centuries, and thus escape the wrath of the pogrom-makers of the white race?

FARM-HAND WINS SEAT FROM HIS LORD

THE regular defeat of Lloyd George candidates in by-elections in England have become such a commonplace that under ordinary circumstances they would be of little interest. Last week, however, the present British Cabinet suffered a defeat which attracted the widest attention and serves as a striking indication of its loss of popularity.

We speak of the election of Walter Hall. Labor candidate in a Lancashire district, a farm laborer, over the Coalition-Liberal nominee, in which a 7423 majority of 1918 was turned over into a triumph of the candidate of the Labor Party. Hall was a "farm hand" employed by Sir Albert Hillingworth for a number of years, and he now will take his "boss's" place in Parliament.

The press is trying to explain away these genuine victories for the Labor Party by such minor factors as the vote of Parliament to make the salaries of the members of the House of Commons free of income tax and similar inconsequential acts. The principal reason, of course, lies in the fact that the English masses are restless and thoroughly discontented. The decontrol of agriculture, giving the landlords free reign to reduce wages and other working conditions on farms at their will, has provoked the anger of the agricultural population of England to a high pitch. The continued high cost of living in the cities is trying the patience of the workers and the constant repudiation of the present policies of the government, as evidenced in the results of these by-elections, is a register of the true feeling of working England with regard to the Lloyd George Cabinet.

ANOTHER MONOPOLY "REFORMED"

AS a result of sweeping disclosures made by the Lockwood Committee, 43 fire insurance companies have agreed to "give up" their monopolistic hold on the fire insurance business all over the country. The conditions were wrung from the insurance companies directly after the Lockwood Committee exposure of the practices of the New York fire insurance exchange. It appeared that through a system of manipulation and of the boycotting of the so-called mutual companies, a group of stock fire insurance combinations have been able to impose their rates upon the public without control or supervision and are alleged to have made illegal investments of the funds at their disposal.

The companies now promise to make their rates subject to revision by the State Superintendent of Insurance and to allow all companies licensed by the State to be eligible to membership in all rate-making organizations.

Well, let those who are optimistic enough rejoice, and figure out in advance how much of the \$120,000,000 of the promised annual savings will fall to their share. On our part, we are inclined to believe that this "reform" of the fire insurance monopoly will pan out along the lines of the "reforms" in the building trades combinations. We have not heard very much of the lessened grip of the monopolistic combinations in the building trades and the consequent revival of the building of homes in New York City and elsewhere as a result of the merciless exposures of last Winter. It all sounds well on paper, particularly in election years. Honestly, there have been so many monopolies in living memory wiped out of existence, or "reformed" during the past year, that we wonder if the monopoly-crushing business hasn't become a monopoly in itself!

UNION INSURANCE LEADS

The life insurance plan of the International Association of Machinists involves a greater sum than the combined insurances of like character issued by the Union Pacific Railroad, Standard Oil, General Electric Company and American Woolen Company. The union's total insurance, which is under the strict supervision of the insurance commissioner, is estimated at \$175,000,000, and is larger than the amount the four corporations are carrying on their employees.

The union is negotiating to extend its insurance features to health and accident and to cover a child six months old up to the age of 16 years.

Secretary-Treasurer Davison, of this International, estimates that there are 1,000,000 children in the families of union machinists, who are eligible for this insurance.

"When they reach the age of 14 years," he said, "they can, automatically, if members of the organization at that time, or apprentices, or machinists' helpers, join the organization and receive a policy of life insurance of \$500 for 50 cents a month, the same as their fathers did."

"Any contract for children's insurance submitted will be considered only from an old line legal reserve solvent industrial life insurance company, with the approval of the commissioner of insurance."

WOMEN'S WAGE IS LESS

The government employs 36,000 men and 32,000 women in the District of Columbia, and the average wage of these women is \$200 less than the men's, according to Miss Ethel M. Smith, testifying before a congressional committee on the need for reclassification legislation. Miss Smith is secretary of the legislative committee, National Women's Trade Union League.

"The women are massed in the lower grades of pay, largely without regard to their work," she said. "There are comparatively few women in the service receiving more than \$1,800, or in an executive capacity at all. Some department heads fix an actual dead line for promotions of women, usually about \$1,200 or \$1,600. United States senators have told us in so many words, 'Why, \$2,000 is enough for a woman.'"

The witness called attention to the law which limits the wage of women experts in the women's bureau to \$1,800, except those at \$2,000, while men engaged in comparable work for the bureau of labor statistics in the same department may receive \$2,500, \$2,700, and \$3,000, and for 15 experts in the bureau of efficiency the minimum wage is \$3,000, with a number receiving \$5,000.

HIGH MORTALITY RATES

In 1919, one mother died for every 135 babies born, and every eleventh baby born died before he was a year old, says the United States children's bureau in a pamphlet that shows these rates are excessive, as compared with other countries.

"Not only do we lose more mothers in proportion to births than practically any other civilized country," says the bureau, "but we apparently lose more on an average each year than the year before."

CONVENTION EYE IMPRESSIONS

By HENRY LANG

(Special correspondence to "Justice")

Denver, June 10, 1921.

Rarely, if ever, in the entire history of the A. F. of L., have its opponents witnessed to a convention with a record of such heavy losses as they are coming to this convention in Denver.

Of course, the labor movement of America has seen difficult times. The present period of reaction is not the first one that we have lived through in this country, and there were times before when unions were recorded a decline in power. Nevertheless, we have been told, that these declines were possible only while the unions were in a process of development, of growth; that after they had been put on a solid basis no setback would be possible. There might be occasional strategic retreats, or periods of stagnation, but no permanent recession from gains once made and standards once achieved.

Well, we have lived to see the trade unions of America grow and develop and taking hold of practically every craft, occupation and industry. We, therefore, had reason to expect that no matter what reaction there might arise in the land, that it would not constitute a serious menace to the labor movement. We had hoped that the arrogance of "Big Business" would only create a sharper expression of the form of class struggle, a form that would produce the labor movement in a moral sense, and that would prove conclusively that the gains once achieved by the workers will not be given up by them under no amount of pressure.

Apparently we have all lived in error. The reaction came, and with the exception of a few unions, among these the powerful unions of the garment workers, organized labor had to concede, under the onslaught of capital one achievement after another. Wages had been cut indiscriminately right and left in every industry, and a number of other hard-earned labor standards have been taken away. Indeed, the present convention of the A. F. of L. cannot be described as a demonstration of the growing strength of the workers. Many of the unions that compose it, come to this convention with shorn wings, with marks of violence inflicted upon them by the organized employers of the land.

Will the labor movement of America give this state of affairs serious thought? Also, the trouble lies exactly there: The American labor unions do not think and do not plan. Thinking and planning they treat contemptuously as "theories," and in

theories they do not believe. They act upon the dictates of the moment, and their chief article of faith is "adapt yourself to the exigencies of the moment."

At times, perhaps, this is the inescapable course. One cannot always lead a vessel upon stormy waters with a program in his hand. Whoever leaves the course of his vessel always to the play of the elements, hoping all hands on deck, one that will inspire confidence in its passengers and fear in the hearts of those who are hoping for its destruction.

The movement against Gompers, which bids well to develop into something substantial before the convention is well under way, is not quite uninteresting. Unless the old leader of the Federation succeeds in casting upon the delegates an even greater spell than what he has been wont to in the past, we may expect at this convention a great amount of covert and open attacks upon Gompers. His enemies prophesy even a new president in the A. F. of L.

"Movements" against Gompers are as old as is the history of the A. F. of L. In pre-convention days the atmosphere is thick with whisperings and prophecies about the "certain" eclipse of Gompers from the executive leadership of the Federation. The past 41 years, however, have seen only enthusiastic demonstrations for the old leader and an unimpaired unanimity in voting for him as President. During these 41 years of the existence of the Federation, Gompers was voted down only once for President, in the early period of its existence. The following year he was elected with even greater ovations and a greater vote.

This year, nevertheless, the movement against Gompers seems to be of a more substantial and genuine nature. The reports seem to agree that among his present opponents there are leaders who sway a great deal of power and votes. Gompers was frequently fought in the Federation by two elements: by the radicals and the extreme reactionaries. Neither of these two elements have ever been able to form a real opposition and their numbers were invariably very small. His opponents from the extreme reactionary wing could

never get together whatever strength they possessed for an open campaign. These reactionary labor leaders, or labor politicians, could never forgive Gompers for his broader views of the American labor movement. A labor leader, for instance, like Hutcheson of the Carpenters' Union, could never understand why a convention of the A. F. of L. should respond to international problems or any other extra-industrial problem. Of course, the A. F. of L. reacts to these problems in a conservative manner and can not be accused of socialistic tendencies. But, say the Hutchesons, why waste time on these problems at all? And for this they dislike Gompers, but they are, nevertheless, afraid to come out against him in the open. The radical delegates have been whispering for years against him on the eve of conventions and have attempted even to organize openly in convention lobbies. At convention sessions, however, they have, as a rule, kept silent.

The present opposition to Gompers, however, is of quite a different nature. His opponents are largely to be found among the Irish labor leaders and within the railway union group. The dissatisfaction against him is founded, so to say, upon an organization ground.

The last convention of the A. F. of L. in Montreal adopted a resolution to give Ireland all possible aid in her fight for an independent republic. The plight of Ireland has been loudly proclaimed at numerous former conventions of the A. F. of L., at which resolutions favoring the independence of Ireland were adopted to the satisfaction of the Irish delegates, who, as a rule, constitute the majority of all delegates. This year, these delegates have a grievance against Gompers. Never before have persecutions in Ireland been so severe and cruel as during the last twelve months. The roster of Ireland's martyrs, in its fight for independence against England, has grown this year by huge leaps and bounds. The military forces of England have been forced in Ireland almost like the old Russian Army when it devastated the towns of Poland and Lithuania upon its retreat in 1915. All these horrible events have not moved the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. to make any protest whatever, and the Irish labor leaders are sorely aggrieved. Gompers, they say, failed to do this because he deemed it undiplomatic. There are times, however, they say, when to act diplomatically means to act without faith. The Irish labor leaders assert that the heads of the A. F. of L. are al-

ways ready to consent to the adoption of resolutions for Ireland, but they do not take these resolutions seriously. The question arises, Will the friends of Ireland come out this time in real earnest against Gompers?

The railway union leaders have also a strong grievance. The last convention of the A. F. of L. declared for the nationalization of the railways after an open fight with Gompers and a discussion which lasted two full sessions. In the course of last year there have taken place a number of legislative hearings in Washington on railway questions. The administration of the A. F. of L. had representatives at these hearings to state their point of view of labor. They have not mentioned at any of these hearings the decision of the Montreal convention, the demand for the nationalization of the railways. The important internationalists associated indirectly with Gompers, such as the machinists, boilermakers, etc., and the railway unions proper, consider this a breach of faith. It is true, they say, the government would probably not have been swayed by the decision of the Montreal convention. The government listened with very little attention to even the modified views of the labor representatives at these hearings. The demand of labor for nationalization, as embodied in the Montreal resolution, would have, however, created publicity for this movement and would have let the world know that there is a genuine desire for railway nationalization among the workers.

The Gompers opposition, therefore, has a strong tendency to get into battle with against him. In addition to that, there is about around here a rather childish superstition which buoy up the courage of its opponents. Thirty-five or so years ago, Gompers' only defeat for re-election as President took place in Denver. At that time a miner elected him in his place. This year, the convention is also being held in Denver and the candidate who is being "boomed" against him is also a miner, the President of the United Mine Workers of America, John L. Lewis. Could there be a surer sign of Gompers' coming defeat?

In brief, we are waiting ready for a very sensational convention. Gompers, of course, will have a great deal to say in his defense. It is said in convention lobbies that Hearst and his sensational publications will come in for some vitriolic treatment in the hands of the old Federation leader. In fact, there are some who are convinced that the entire campaign against Gompers is managed by Hearst, who seized upon the Irish issue to advance certain personal interests with the characteristic Hearst careless handling of facts.

(To be continued)

With The Waist and Dress Joint Board

By M. K. MACKOFF

(Summary of Minutes)

MEETING OF JOINT BOARD, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

Brother Harry Berlin in the chair. Communication was received from Local No. 66 to the effect that they have decided upon an organization campaign among the 12,000 hand embroidery workers in their industry. As past attempts in this direction had taught the local that the co-operation of the Italian locals of the International in the City of New York is indispensable in this campaign—95 per cent. of the workers in that industry being Italian—they ask the Joint Board to take the initiative of calling a conference of representatives of Locals No. 89 and 48

and the Italian Chamber of Labor, to devise ways and means of co-operating with it in their endeavors to organize the hand embroidery workers. The matter was referred to the Board of Directors for action, with full power.

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MONDAY, JUNE 6

Brother Nathan Reisel in the chair. Brother Henry Greenberg, manager of Local No. 50 appeared to inquire why no action was as yet taken upon the application of the Children's Dressmakers for membership in the Joint Board. It was decided to instruct the sub-committee appointed by the Board to investigate the eligi-

bility of Local No. 50 for admission to the Joint Board to proceed with the investigation and submit its report to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Upon the request of Sister Mollie Friedman that a member meeting for colored workers be arranged in the near future in the colored district of the city, it was decided that Manager Halpern, in cooperation with the secretary of the Joint Board, make all necessary arrangements to have such a meeting.

MEETING OF JOINT BOARD, JUNE 9

Brother Harry Berlin in the chair. Brother Berlin suggested that the unfinished business of the outgoing Joint Board be taken up first and, after this is completed, the installation of the newly constituted Joint Board shall take place.

A communication was read from

General Secretary Baroff in reply to a letter forwarded to him by the Secretary of the Joint Board, in which the Joint Board was informed that an election for an executive board of Local No. 22 will be held in the near future and that the committee appointed by the International to supervise the election will set a date for the voting, which will carry it out in accordance with the accepted regulations covering officers' elections in our locals.

Upon motion, the recommendation of the committee appointed on May 11th to investigate charges made by members of locals affiliated with the Joint Board against certain members of Locals 22, 25 and 46, was adopted. The committee found that the charges against most of these persons were correct and that they have willfully acted against the interest of the organization and in a manner unbecom-

(Continued on page 7)

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

MORE A WARNING THAN A PUNISHMENT

Last week the old Joint Board in the Waist and Dress Industry turned over the reins of administration to the newly elected Joint Board. It wound up its fruitful activity with an act which called for the exercise of supreme duty transcending in importance considerations of personal distaste or disagreeableness.

The act consisted in meting out justice to a few union members who had, through their acts, intentionally or otherwise, attempted to besmirch the fair name of their union and to undermine thereby its fighting spirit and its very existence. The verdict was rendered by a committee appointed by the Joint Board to investigate to the bottom the whole unsavory affair, to discover the guilty ones and to administer the proper punishment. The mildness of the verdict and the admirable impartiality of the committee's report is truly impressive. It avoids wholesale condemnation even against those who have unquestionably participated in the authorship and distribution of the infamous handbill on the eve of the election for officers in the dress-makers' local. It is extremely wary not to condemn anyone against whose guilt there existed even the slightest doubt, and to those whose guilt was established beyond cavil, it metes out punishment which is more in the nature of a warning and an admonition, than a retribution.

It is clear that in imposing sentences upon the guilty ones, the committee did not intend to make it impossible for them to become again active and useful members in the Union. Had the committee deemed otherwise, it could have, instead of suspending them from the Union for certain terms, expelled them from the organization as enemies. Such a sentence would deprive them of the possibility to work in the industry, at least, in the shops controlled by the Union. The committee, however, acted, it appears, on the liberal supposition that most of those who were found guilty have as yet not realized fully themselves the enormity of the acts they have committed against their organization. Many of them are still, perhaps, under the impression that a baseless imputation of dishonesty to the General Executive Board in times of an election campaign, and the slandering of the officers of their International as "conspirators" and "job holders," is not a despicable offense after all. In their state of irresponsibility they cannot as yet see the treason of such an act against the organization. The committee has, doubtless, taken this factor into account and rendered judgment in anticipation of the eventual repentance of these prodigals, of their early return into the fold of the Union. The entire Joint Board apparently shared these considerations, as it accepted the verdict of the committee without change, and practically unanimously, with the exception of a few scattered votes.

Only one member of the Joint Board made an attempt to offer an apology for the culprits. He endeavored to put a political color upon the entire matter. These persons, so stated their advocate, have been found guilty because they hold social and political opinions different from those held by the old leaders of the Union and the International. The handbill was a mere pretext, an excuse, he claimed, and these defendants were tried and punished for their ideas. The President of the Joint Board, therefore, deemed it necessary, in his speech before the matter came to a vote, to declare that this defense is absolutely without foundation in fact. It is not a question of political, social or religious differences of opinion. There always have been in our Union persons of various political and social convictions, and the Union, as such, never adopted one or another set of opinions. Any member is entitled to entertain and to propagate within the union any ideas of his or her liking, as long as they do not interfere with the legitimate union activities. The high officers of the International are open to criticism, and their criticism is, as a matter of fact, always welcome. A line of demarcation, however, must be drawn between criticism and calumny and slander which tend to undermine the very foundation of the union. The defendants were punished not for their ideas, but for their acts, from which no person with a sense of honor and responsibility could absolve them.

This ends a stirring chapter in the history of our International. We hope that this sorry incident will find no recurrence in any of the other locals of our International. We would like to believe that the condemned members meant no ill, that it was more an act of light-mindedness than a deliberate crime animated by a desire to capture or break the union by means fair or foul. We hope, therefore, that these penalties will not only be a warning for others and a reminder that the Union will not and cannot tolerate such behavior on the part of any of its members, but that these punishments will sober up, at least, some of these defendants very soon. The members were surely not meant to fail to recognize that the Union did not want to destroy their usefulness as mem-

bers of the organization forever. The Union recognizes that some of those upon whom the punishment was imposed, have ability, enthusiasm and a good deal of tenacity. Unfortunately, some of these very excellent faculties of theirs have been spent in idle dreaming or in actual mischief. Perhaps now they will halt to consider and give themselves a reckoning for all the mischief they have planned to commit or have committed. They might see then the great injury which they have already caused the Union with their ill-considered and unpardonable acts and will become loyal, devoted and faithful members and co-workers within the organization.

SAMUEL GOMPERS—PRESIDENT OF THE A. F. OF L.

As rumor has it, Samuel Gompers is confronted this year with a strong opposition for re-election as President of the American Federation of Labor. On the one hand, it is said that the Irish-American workers are vociferously against him because in the course of the last year, the bloodiest twelfth month in Ireland's fight for independence, Samuel Gompers has not uttered a single word of condemnation against the misrule of the English military authorities in Ireland. Regardless of his personal sympathies and antipathies, the President of the Federation which adopted at its last convention a resolution recognizing the independence of the Irish Republic, it was incumbent upon him to protest against the misdeeds of England in Ireland, as he had done in the case of Belgium. This argument is perfectly sound and Samuel Gompers will have to give a satisfactory answer to this charge.

The other attack will come from the railway unions. As known, the last convention of the Federation in Montreal adopted a resolution in favor of the Plumb Plan. The railway unions rightly say that Gompers has failed to carry out the Montreal resolution because he was personally opposed to it and that he had deliberately killed it in cold blood. In addition, Gompers will face his old opponents, the more radical leaders in the labor movement, who persist in believing that it is Samuel Gompers who would not let the labor movement of America move forward.

Insofar as we can judge from a distance, all these rumors will terminate in nothing concrete and Samuel Gompers will be re-elected either unanimously or by an overwhelming majority. The reason is very simple: There is not in the entire American labor movement a single leader whose leadership compare with Samuel Gompers, regardless of all his shortcomings and failings.

The only one that is being spoken of as an opposition candidate to Gompers is John L. Lewis, the President of the United Mine Workers. If this labor leader is possessed of any special abilities as an organizer, writer and orator that would qualify him for the presidency of the A. F. of L., the rest of the labor world is not aware of it. Is he a person of versatile experience or education, or a man of indomitable strength of character? There appear to be some serious doubts about this, particularly when one recalls how he dropped the general strike of the miners in 1919, ordered by himself and decided upon by the miners' convention, under the whip of Judge Anderson's injunction. Perhaps, it is true that at that moment he could not have acted differently and that the fear of a prison term was not the principal motive for that act. If we recall rightly, he declared at that time that the miners' union "cannot and must not take up a fight against the Government and that he is first of all a real American patriot." If this be the case, even if, of course, even less advanced than his own, Samuel Gompers, who on that occasion acted with greater courage and was thoroughly provoked by the giving up of the strike upon the order of John Lewis.

Should Lewis, therefore, take the place of Gompers in the Federation, the radical wing of the labor movement will record no gain whatever. We cannot think of any other presidential timber in the A. F. of L. Of course, there are a number of able, honest and loyal Federation leaders at the convention. But it must be candidly admitted that they do not come up to the stature of Gompers. The situation, therefore, is about as follows:

Whether Gompers is guilty of some acts of omission and commission or not, the delegates at Denver, unless swayed by an unusual wave of personal rancor, will have no other outlet, if they wish to preserve the prestige and the welfare of the A. F. of L., but to re-elect their old president, Samuel Gompers. He has, it must be readily admitted, a great many failings, but none of the possible opposition candidates are perfect. On the other hand, not one of these possible opponents has his talents, his aggressiveness, his enormous and well-earned popularity and his remarkable ability to react vigorously to all events in the world of labor.

COMMENDABLE THOUGH PREMATURE

The radical Machinists' Union, according to press reports, is about to broach a plan for the reorganization of the Federation upon an industrial basis. They plan, it is stated, to rebuild the Federation into a huge "industrial congress," instead of its present form of a federation of craft unions.

The delegates of the Machinists' Union will, we are sure, receive the endorsement of our delegates. But what about the other important divisions in the A. F. of L.? Anyone who has attended a convention of the A. F. of L. and has watched and listened to the endless jurisdiction squabbles and the ardor and zeal with which the delegates have defended their petty and clannish jurisdictional claims, will understand that the transformation of the A. F. of L. into an "Industrial Congress" is still a matter of the distant future.

Pages From Garment Trades History

By DAVID P. BERENBERG

II

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

James Watt invented the steam pump in 1769. It is certain that he did not realize just what he was doing while he was carrying on his absorbing experiments with the power of steam. What he did was to overthrow the whole social structure of his time. He was a revolutionist—one of the greatest the world has ever known. Kings and princes lost their throne—old-time aristocrats had to go to work—fine ladies lost their leisure and their luxury, because of his experiments. Well-to-do merchants became enormously rich, and independent hand workers became wage-slaves because James Watt could not keep his hands off his steam pump. It was Watt and his steam engine that brought on the Industrial Revolution.

The Industrial Revolution did not happen in a day. The new steam pump, was used first only in the coal mines. After a while it was brought into the weaving industry. Even then, for a long while, the steam machines were too expensive to be used by very many people. But little by little, the steam engine spread, and little by little the hand-worker found out that the machine was better than he could ever be. It worked faster than he did. It produced more, and after a while it produced better. Goods became cheaper. To keep up, the hand-worker had to sell his goods at the new low prices. Soon he found that if he did this he could not earn a living. So he had to give up his trade. Where did he go? He went into the factory which used steam-power machines. He became a wage

worker, whose product did not belong to him, but to the man who employed him. The merchants, who for years had made money through trade with America and India, now began to buy the new machines and began to manufacture. They now began to grow rich, richer than they had ever dreamed of becoming. The aristocrats grew poorer. The manufacturers began to buy the old estates. In a short time, they became the ruling class in England.

At first the wages paid to the machine workers were good. But the manufacturers soon found out that skilled workers were not needed to work the new machines. It had taken years of training to educate a hand-worker of the old sort. A few weeks of experience at the machine were enough to produce a machine operator. When the manufacturers discovered this they reduced wages. Then they brought in workers from the farms. In doing this, they killed farming in England. They also destroyed handicraft. In place of the independent proud skilled worker there was now a large class of workers without property, without a trade, and without skill. The proletarian was being born.

Women would work for even less than the unskilled men. So the manufacturers, who cared only for large and quick profits, employed women and discharged men. A little later children drove out the women. Children of five or six were kept at work fourteen hours a day, while their parents were unable to find work. And the factories they worked in! In the early days of the new machine there were no factory laws. Any old barn was good enough for a factory. Thou-

sands of the workers were killed by the machines. Hundreds of thousands were crippled. The factories, often burned down; sometimes the floors collapsed under the weight of the machinery. When the Industrial Revolution started there were no large cities in England except London. Now the workers began to crowd into the cities to find work. There were not enough houses for them. Slums grew up. The cities became crowded. Disease spread. Consumption became a common disease among the workers. There were no vacations. The workers were from sunrise to sunset. And the work's wage was about 30 shillings a week (between six and eight dollars). There were times when the wages went down to five shillings a week. There were also times of unemployment. There was one year when one person in every five in England had to ask for charity.

The Industrial Revolution hit the textile industry first. Then it spread to iron and coal production. It did not take long to reach the other trades. An American, Elias Howe, invented the sewing machine in 1846. This brought the revolution into the clothing industry. Till the days of Howe clothing was still made in the old way, although the cloth was woven by the power loom. With the coming of the sewing machine the modern clothing industry began to develop.

The old-time tailor began to lose his importance. People slowly, but steadily, stopped making clothes at home. At first this was true of men's clothing only. It did not affect women's clothes until much later. Factories sprang up. The master-tailor who had saved some money, enough to buy a few machines—opened a factory. But he was not employed workmen and apprentices who later became master-tailors themselves. Instead

he employed workers who remained workers all their lives. And he paid them small wages. The proletarian clothing-maker appeared.

And with the Industrial Revolution, with the machine, there came into the clothing industry unemployment, strikes, disease, overcrowding and all the other evils of modern industry.

Of course the workers struggled. Of course they did not let themselves be destroyed without making a fight. But in the beginning of the new order, while the capitalists were still weak, and when the workers might have been able to win important points, the workers did not understand what they were struggling against. They looked upon the machine as their enemy. Their whole fight was therefore directed against the machine itself. They wanted to destroy the machine, which they thought was destroying them. Again and again they tried to break the machines. They figured out if they could smash the machines, and frighten the bosses into not using them, they could go back to hand work and be happy. But they learned—and it took them forty years to learn it—that the machines could not be smashed—that they were replaced as soon as they were broken. The machines had come to stay.

Not until then did the workers realize their new position. But then it was too late to win big things for themselves in a short time. They had to settle down to the long hard work of organizing unions, and of fighting step by step for the improvement of their condition. The capitalists had grown strong in the meantime. They fought the workers tooth and nail. Followed strikes, lockouts, arrests, jail sentences—in short, the modern class struggle had come into existence.

(To be continued)

The True Situation on The Railways

By CHARLES M. KELLEY

Two million railroad workers are deprived of bread that cake may be placed on the sumptuously laden table of the capitalist. That, in few words, is the meaning and effect of the recent wage cut made by the United States Railroad Labor Board. Those who have to receive more, while those who have not are to lose what little they possess.

In presenting their demands for wage reductions the railroad managers specifically stated that they expected the Labor Board to carry out the provision of the Transportation Act which guarantees the investors in railroad securities a return of 6 per cent on the inflated capitalization of the transportation industry. This demand has been restated and emphasized in the testimony of railway executives before the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce. The railroads, having been promised a definite thing by Congress, are insistent that they shall get it. They

are going to claim their pound of flesh even if it is necessary to take it from the hearts of the workers. The Transportation Act sets up certain principles that shall control wage controversies. It provides that the cost of living, the standard of responsibility of employment and other considerations shall be taken into account in fixing pay schedules. The transportation board gave heed to none of these requirements. It bothered itself not the least about what may happen to the toilers when they are thrown back on starvation wages. It heard the call of the railroads and that was sufficient for its purpose. It slanted right and left, without thought of the consequences.

In making its heaviest reductions on the wages of the lowest paid workers the board cynically disregarded the well-being of more than 600,000 strong who were under existing schedules receiving less than the lowest estimate of what is required to keep the average family in decent comfort. The rates established by the decision will compel these men to make new and bitter sacrifices and

many of them will fall into hopeless and degrading poverty. The highest income possible for these men under the present wage rate, if they are employed every working day in the year, is less than \$1,200. With deductions incidental to holidays, inclement weather and other factors that the workers do not control, their average income is reduced to about \$750 a year. The railroad man will increase this sum about \$150 a year, leaving them a scant \$900 with which to maintain a family of five. Recent budgets compiled by various research organizations place the sum needed to keep such a family above the subsistence level at about \$2,000 a year. The employers, never so generous with workers, have declared that \$1,650 is the absolute minimum for the maintenance of the average family.

All this, of course, meant nothing to the railroads and scarcely more to the railroad labor board. The workers must take less bread than the railroads and the workers may have more cake. Millions must suffer that the shameless liberality of a recalcitrant Congress may be realized.

Railroads are the lever with which Big Business controls all industrial activities. That is the principal obstacle in the way of a just solution of our most vexing industrial problem. When this Gordian knot is cut there will be a revolutionary change in industry that will be beneficial to the people. But it won't be cut while Congress is made up of railroad attorneys and lobbyists, seeking not the public need, but the maximum of the demand of as bold a band of freebooters as ever strode the good ship of commerce.

Every official act taken in connection with the railroads, in the last two years has been the wrong step. The wage cut is the limit of infamy.

It is high time that the people closed their ears to the yawning of the politicians and the vociferous begging of the railroads and got down to the brass-tack fundamentals involved in the problem of transportation. The many mistakes which have been made in regard to the high wages of railroad workers must be disarmed from the calculation. The average wage of the railroad worker is \$1,650 a year. He will now receive \$1,500 a year. No one who has no selfish interest to protect admits is below the safety point. A demanding still further reductions the railroads must admit that they do not wish to pay a living wage or that they cannot pay a living wage and make both ends meet.

If anyone has not been proven by all this private ownership is rotten to the core and should be decently buried before the entire industrial body is infected with the poison they are exuding. The testimony railroad executives are giving is a frank avowal of their incompetence. Add to that the dishonesty of the persons in the management of the carriers and a situation is presented that ought to challenge the earnest attention of every man and woman who has the future of this country closely at heart.

OPPOSE UNION GIRLS

Managers of burlesque shows are alarmed at the growing strength of union chorus girls and will establish a clearing house where all employing and discharging will take place and rehearsals for "green" girls will keep the union out.

The managers have become suddenly solicitous for the welfare of the girls. Free medical attention will be furnished them at hotels, while travelling and conditions behind the stage will be improved.

And let it be said here in whispering tones, that not only at the conventions of the A. F. of L., but at our own conventions, many delegates who are otherwise full-fledged "industrialists," love to hanker and split hairs over petty questions of jurisdiction, and the President of the International is obliged to spend a goodly part of his time, between conventions, to settle and resettle these jurisdictional disputes.

Yes, it is easy to talk about reorganizing the Federation upon an industrial basis. It is, however, not so easy to accomplish. A great deal of persistent educational work among the masses will have to be carried on before the power and advantages of the industrial plan will be realized by the labor movement in America.

Educational Comment and Notes

SOMETHING NEW

The readers of this page will find a new feature beginning with the next issue. It will deal with education, it is true, but different from what has been presented heretofore.

Our readers have noted that these columns were devoted throughout the year in news of our activities and to such matter as would tend to stimulate our members to educational work and to create an interest in what this department has to offer.

Many of the readers attended our classes during the past season. But many more did not. There are probably good reasons why these could not join our Unity Centers or Workers' University. The fact remains, however, that many found themselves unable to receive the information which the others did in our classes.

We want to be of use to this group of our members. We want to give them in an easy, simple and valuable form some of the fundamental knowledge which it is generally agreed all workers should possess.

And so, beginning with the next issue, we shall publish on this page lessons in the history and problems of the Trade Union Movement in America, emphasizing finally the development of work of our International.

This subject, it is agreed by labor leaders and students, is most essential for the education of workers. We live in America and we are governed to a very large extent by American ideas, American institutions and the American spirit. In order to be able to introduce practicable and effective improvements in present conditions, it is obviously necessary to understand what happened in the past. It is clear, that for this reason every American worker should be thoroughly familiar with the conditions in America which came before the situation today. With such knowledge, workers will be able to plan intelligently for whatever improvements or changes they may think necessary.

The lessons which will be published on this page, will be reproduced from the outlines furnished to the students in our classes during the past winter. These outlines were very successful. They were in great demand among our students, because they contain practically the entire subject matter of the lesson, and do not only help the student to understand the lesson, but also as a work of reference to be used later if necessary.

In addition, these outlines were so satisfactory that many out-of-town labor educational organizations asked us for copies. We have sent them to a number of groups, who expressed themselves highly pleased with the manner in which these outlines were arranged and with their usefulness to workers.

Our members should therefore be prepared to follow these outlines from week to week. It would be very useful, indeed, if these outlines were cut out and kept together in a folder so as to form a permanent reference book.

It is hoped that our members will utilize this opportunity of receiving information on an important subject and will follow it up with further reading. Needless to say we hope that these outlines will prompt our members to study the subject more intently and that many of those who did not attend our classes last season will make it their business to continue their education along these lines when our classes are reopened next fall.

NEXT OUTING OF MEMBERS OF WORKERS' UNIVERSITY AND UNITY CENTERS TO BE AT CITY ISLAND JUNE 26, 1931.

The outing and hike which is being arranged by the Students' Council of the Workers' University and Unity Centers of our International will take place Sunday, June 26, at City Island.

This place was selected because of the splendid opportunities it offers for hiking, bathing and rowing. Every member is requested to bring luncheon for that day and to include two potatoes which will be baked at lunch time.

The following committee will meet the members nine o'clock sharp, outside of the Hunt's Point subway station: Henry Pollack, Local No. 9; Anna Gydakowski, Local No. 11; S. Garber, Local No. 8; Anna Paschowitz, Local No. 25; Tillie Chad, Local No. 90; S. Warata, Local No. 26; Rose Gille, Local No. 25; Fannie Farber, Local No. 25; Minnie Amlin, Local No. 26, and Anna Altschuler, Local No. 41.

The following directions are given to members: Take the Lexington Avenue subway to 125th Street where members will take the Hunt's Point Local to Hunt's Point Station.

For further information watch the "Justice," "Gerechtigkeit," "Forward," and "N. Y. Call."

THE HISTORY OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

At the joint conference of the Local Educational Committees our members expressed an interest in the history of the Garment Trades and its development beginning with the period prior to the "Industrial Revolution," which has so greatly affected this industry, up to the present time. We wish to call the attention of our members to the articles which are now being published in "Justice" beginning with June 10, called "Pages from Garment Trades History," by David P. Berenber.

We advise our members to read them over carefully. They will gain a knowledge of the development of their own industry and they will learn to what extent the development of the industry changed the position of the workers. They will also learn that the place of the tailors in modern industrial society is quite different from what it was in olden times.

THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES OF THE I. L. G. W. U.

The joint conference of the Local Educational Committees of our International which was held Thursday, June 9, was a great success. Despite the hot weather, many of the representatives of the local unions gathered, after a hard day's work, to discuss the educational needs of their fellow members and to suggest plans to meet these needs next season.

The program prepared by the Educational Department and presented for discussion, was taken up by those present with great enthusiasm. Many suggestions were made which will be of great value to the Educational Department.

It was decided that the educational committees should come in touch with the membership in the shops, at regular business and shop meetings, and should create an interest in the educational activities of our International.

It was decided that the members of every educational committee should be present in the office of their unions three evenings a week,

between 6.30 and 8.30, when they will give information to members who may inquire about the educational activities of the International.

The delegates decided that their reports should be on the order of business at the meetings of executive committees of the local, and so keep the Executive Boards in touch with the educational activities of the International.

The delegates were greatly pleased with the plan of the Educational Department to extend the courses in Yiddish and Italian. These will consist mainly of courses on trade union and economic subjects, with special reference to the problems of the I. L. G. W. U. These classes will meet at convenient hours, in the offices of the unions.

Union Health Center One Year Old

This week, on June 15, the representatives of Locals 1, 6, 9, 10, 11, 23 and 35 have met and celebrated the first anniversary of the purchase of the building at 131 E. 17th Street.

Exactly one year ago the representatives of the locals have taken title to the building and have paid \$15,000 on the purchase price of \$20,000 which was the cost of the building.

It took six or seven months before the building was reconstructed and altered for our purposes. Since December 1st our locals and the members of other locals have their own Union Health Center at which the medical and dental activities of the locals are carried on.

During the last six months there were more than 6,000 examinations in the Medical Department and about the same number of treatments

The delegates expressed great appreciation of the increasing activities of our International and voted the confidence of the members in their value and importance. They were delighted to note the growth of the movement for Labor Education throughout the country and the universal approval of our plan of work.

The delegates realized that the work of our Educational Department will become much more effective if the local unions will cooperate to make it a success.

It was decided that the Local Educational Committees meet regularly, discuss and take action on subjects of importance to the members.

The next meeting will be held within four weeks.

given in the Dental Department. The activities of these two departments have been so successful that the locals are at present planning for a considerable extension to prepare for the room for next fall. New second floor will be installed, a part of the second floor of the building will be taken for medical examination rooms, the women's, the eye, and the nose and throat departments will be greatly extended, electric baking apparatus will be purchased for the treatment of rheumatism, nervous diseases, etc., and generally, the work of the medical and dental departments will be put on a solid, scientific, clinical basis.

The financial report of the year's building activity is at present being gone over by accountants and will soon be published in "Justice" in detail.

MR. DOOLEY TALKS OF NORMALCY

"It was different when I was a young man, Hinney. In those days capital an' labor was friendly, or labor was. Capital was like a father to labor; givin' it its bread an' butter. Neither interfered with the other. Capital wint on capitalizin' an' labor wint on laborin'."

"In them golden days a wurrukin' man was an honest artisan. That's what he was proud to be called. Th' week before Illition he had his pitcher in th' funny papers. He wore a square pa-aper cap an' a leather apron, an' he had his ar'm around capital—a rosy, binivoltin' ol' guy with a plug hat an' eyeglasses. They was goin' to th' polls together to vote fr' simple ol' capital."

"Capital an' labor walked ar'm in ar'm instead ol' havin' both hands free, as at present. Capital was content to be capital an' labor was content to be labor. Capital came around an' felt th' ar'm labor want in awhile, an' ar'm Mrs. Capital called on Mrs. Labor an' congratulated her on the score."

"The pride ol' lvy artisan was to wurruk as long as his task as th' boss cud afford to pay the gas bill. In return fr' his fidelity he got a turkey lvy year."

"At Christmas time, capital gathered his happy family around him, an' in the pristin' th' ladies ol' th' neighborhood give him a sherration. 'No brave le-ade,' says he, 'we've had a good year. (Cheers.) I have made a million dollars. (Sensation.) I attribute this to me su-perior skill, aided by ye're earnest efforts at th' bench an' at th' forges. (Boos.) Ye have done so well that we won't need so many ol' us as we did. (Long an' continuous cheerin'.) Those ol' us who can do two men's wurruk will remain as if we was four. (Long other faithful sarvants,' he says, 'can come

back in the spring,' he says, 'if alive,' he says."

"An' th' bold artyman tossed their pa-er caps in the air an' give three cheers fr' capital. They wurruled till ol' age crept on thim an' thim retired to live on th' wish bones an' kind wur-ruds they had accumulated."

PETER FINLEY DUNNE.

A CURE FOR PROFITEERS

We respectfully call the attention of Congress and the Department of Justice to an effective cure for profiteering just discovered by the new State of Czechoslovakia. After observing that threats and moral appeals were wasted upon the rhinoceros-hided profiteers, and that money fines simply mean the licensing of profiteering on easy terms, the Czechoslovakia legislature has enacted a law providing that persons convicted of the crime of profiteering shall work at hard labor on the street-sweeping and road-making gangs, for periods of from one month to one year. Thus the culprits who have been giving the public the dirty end of the stick will be allowed to handle it for awhile themselves.

UNION STARTS SCHOOL

This information has been received at International Association of Machinists headquarters from Business Agent Lewis, of Toronto: "I am now organizing a school of auto mechanics and have received equipment from auto manufacturers and some from the department of soldiers' civil re-establishment of the Dominion government. We have a large room in our new district headquarters and when I have it all fixed up we shall have the best auto school in the district. We have already received over 100 names of men who want to take this course and I hope to sign up a number of new members in the near future."

Recent Labor Legislation in Europe

By LEO GLASER

(Special Correspondence from Paris)

The International Labor Bureau located in Geneva has recently published a very interesting little book entitled "The Tendencies of Labor Legislation in Europe Since the War." This pamphlet contains a well-coordinated collection of correct data regarding the improvement of labor conditions through legislation in the various countries of Europe in recent years. It would be, perhaps, of interest to reproduce in brief some of this information and facts.

A. The Eight-Hour Work Day

Until three and a half years ago, the eight-hour work day was not on the statute books of any country in Europe as a legal maximum for a day's work. The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia was the first to establish this labor maximum. A month later, Finland, a former Russian principality and now independent, adopted the eight-hour schedule.

Wherever there have occurred revolutions in Central Europe, since then, the eight-hour day schedule was forthwith proclaimed for every class of work and for all categories of workers. In Germany, this has taken place practically on the day after the November Revolution of 1918. In Poland, Czechoslovakia and German-Austria, it occurred in December, 1918. The motto—"Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, and eight hours for recreation"—for which the world proletariat had fought and bled since 1889, was of a sudden transformed into reality, thanks to the revolutionary victories of the masses of the workers in these lands.

It is interesting to note that in the majority of the other countries

that have not passed through the throes of a revolution, the eight-hour work day was equally established. In France, for instance, it was employed by the Government as a direct medium for placating the discontent of the masses' right after the war. Even during the war, the French Government was compelled to enact a number of liberal law projects in order to still the wrath of the working masses. It was at that time regarded as an important military necessity.

One year after Germany had adopted it, and two years after Russia, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Spain, Portugal, Holland and France enacted the eight-hour work day. At the time the conference of the International Labor Bureau met in Washington and acted favorably upon a proposition of an agreement to be entered into between all the countries affiliated with the League of Nations to the end that the eight-hour work day be established as a maximum for all kinds of work, Greece placed this law upon its statute books. England, Belgium, Italy and Denmark immediately thereafter gave their consent to this proposal. The reason why England, the land of powerful labor organizations, was the last to fall in line with this movement, is explained on the ground that a considerable part of the English workers had already achieved this eight-hour day through direct agreements with their employers. In the coal districts of England even a seven-hour work day had been gained. Under these circumstances, it was quite natural that the workers lacked the required revolutionary energy and solidarity for the enactment of this proposal. At any rate, within the course

of three years, one of the principal demands of the working class has been realized. At present a certain reaction, which takes form either of open activity against the eight-hour day, or in covert attempts to circumvent it, is noticeable here and

there on the continent. We shall, however, speak about it at some other time.

(To be continued)

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WITH THE WAIST AND DRESS JOINT BOARD

(Continued from page 3)

coming union people. The recommendation brought in by the committee is as follows:

Eaether Weisberg, Charles Zimmerman, David Friedman, Rose Newman, Mary Gutterman and Rose Kuntz be suspended from the union for the period of one year.

I. Dolin and Anna Zuckerman suspended sentence for one year.

David Aber and Benjamin Miller suspended from the union for a period of two years.

The charges against Essie Ballin and David Aronson be dismissed for lack of evidence.

Those the committee recommends suspended for a certain fixed period should be suspended from all privileges of membership and the locals in question be notified by the Joint Board that they obliged to carry out these decisions. Those on whom suspended sentences were imposed are put under probation and, if found guilty within a year of similar offense, they will automatically receive the maximum penalty, which means suspension from the union for the period of two years.

Brother Berlin then gave over the chair to Brother Baroff, General Secretary-Treasurer of the International, who in a brief talk outlined the work which the newly constituted Joint Board will be confronted with. He then requested the delegates to rise and administered the prescribed oath.

Brother Berlin was unanimously elected as President of the Joint Board for the ensuing year. Moved

by the acclamation accorded to him, he delivered a hearty talk to the delegates, thanking the outgoing as well as the incoming delegates for the confidence placed in him; laying much stress upon the fact that his motives and ideas were always open and above board and that he believed in acting according to his convictions without fear or favor to anybody.

Vice-President Sigman, who was enthusiastically received, followed with a few remarks, saying that the task of the Joint Board is far from completed as yet, that a great proportion of the workers in the waist and dress industry are not organized yet and that the delegates to the Joint Board should not rest satisfied until the waist and dress industry of New York becomes organized 100 per cent.

He was followed by Brother S. Yemofsky, who in a brief talk stated that the Joint Board delegates are privileged persons, having been given the position of leadership in that highly important industrial organization.

Brother Nathan Riesel, of Local No. 66, was unanimously elected as 1st Vice-President of the Joint Board, and Sister Marguerite De Maggio of Local No. 89 was elected without opposition as 2nd Vice-President of the Joint Board, which also includes the chairmanship of the Finance Committee.

Brother Halpern was unanimously appointed as General Manager of the Joint Board. Brother Louis Janser of Local No. 49 was elected as Sergeant-at-Arms.

The election of the rest of the committees and officers was postponed, owing to the lateness of the hour, to the next meeting of the Joint Board.

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The Weeks' News in Cutters Union Local 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN

We wish to announce to our members that on or about August 1, the office of our union will be removed from 7 West 21st Street to 231 East 14th Street. The present quarters of the union were used by us for almost ten years, and while the union was never thoroughly satisfied with them, still, because of the difficulties of the last few years in obtaining other suitable premises, we were forced to stay here even though the rent was increased a few times.

A few weeks ago, the entire building in which the union is located was subleased, and a new lease attempted to increase the rent once more. This was the straw that broke the camel's back, and we finally decided that rather than keep on paying increased rent we would move.

The new quarters will be on the sixth floor of a building which is modern in every respect. The Italian Cloakmakers' Union, Local 48, is the owner of this building, which will house, in addition to ourselves, Locals 9, 23, 35 and 48. In short, this will be sort of a labor temple for many of the locals in the needle trades.

The next general meeting to be held on Monday, June 27, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place, will also be a special meeting for the first reading of the new changes in the constitution, as recommended by the recently appointed Constitution Committee. We intend to acquaint our members from time to time with the new changes proposed by the above committee. The following will be part of the first reading at the next general meeting:

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Committees

Section 1. The officers of this Union shall consist of a President, Vice-President, General Manager, General Secretary-Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Delegates to the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York and Vicinity, as many Business Agents as the Executive Board may from time to time decide upon, an Executive Board of eleven members, three to be elected from the Cloak and Suit and Waist and Dress branches, respectively, and two from the Miscellaneous Branch, and one for each branch to be appointed by the President with the approval of the membership at the regular meeting.

This recommendation will bring about greater efficiency in the management of our local, and will incidentally be a saving to our local of between \$5,000 and \$9,000 per annum.

The second reading will take place at the general meeting on July 25, and the final special meeting for adoption will take place on Monday, August 22. We have no doubt, but that these changes will be unanimously approved of by the members.

In accordance with the decision of the majority of the locals affiliated with the Joint Board of the Cloak and Suit industry, the business agents for the coming term will be elected by the general membership. Any member in good standing in any of the locals, can file application as candidate for business agent by applying to Secretary Louis Langer, at the office of the Joint Board, 40 East 23d Street, fourth floor, beginning Monday, June 19, up to July 2.

All applicants will be called before an Examination Committee, composed of the Board of Directors of the Joint Board; all the chairmen and managers of the locals concerned; President of the Joint Board, General Officers and District Managers, who will pass upon their fitness as business agents. Those who will pass the examination will be placed on the general ballot. The active members of Local No. 10 who feel that they are capable of acting as representatives for the union are urged to file their applications at once. The date of the election will be either Tuesday or Wednesday, July 19 or 20, the exact date and polling places to be announced in the press, and our members working in the cloak and suit trade are called upon to participate actively in it.

Due to the warm weather and the fact that the members have full confidence in the present administration of the union, the attendance of the members' meetings has fallen off considerably; so much so, that at times meetings do not start until 9 P.M., for lack of a quorum.

The Executive Board has considered a number of measures calculated to get the members more interested in the affairs of the union. One of these will probably be an amendment to the Constitution providing for the compulsory attendance by the members of a number of meetings yearly.

At the last meeting of the Waist and Dress Division, the special order of business, as advertised, was the impeachment by the Executive Board of Bro. Julius Levine, No. 7662, as delegate to the Joint Board of the Waist and Dress Industry.

The evidence as presented by the Executive Board in memorandum to the members was of such a convincing nature, that there was not even one dissenting vote. This unanimous decision of the members to remove from office a representative of the union who failed to carry out the instructions of the members, has vindicated the principle of representative government, and no one individual in our union, so much more important he may be, will in the future, dare to impose his will on the majority.

At the same meeting of the Waist and Dress Division, the appointment of Bro. Philip Oretsky by the Executive Board as Business Agent was confirmed by the members. This and the removal of Brother Levine created two vacancies for delegates to the Joint Board, and President Dubinsky, with the approval of the membership, appointed Brothers Sidney Rottenberg and Morris Feller as delegates to fill these vacancies.

Both of these brothers are well known to our members for their past activities in the union, and we feel confident that good work will be done by them at the Joint Board.

At the last meeting of the Executive Board, Business Manager Shenger rendered a report of the activities in the office of the Waist and Dress Division for the last five months, in conjunction with the Joint Board. In it he points out certain difficulties that he encountered, which were due to the sudden change in our system of adjusting complaints. He also suggests certain remedies for them. Because of the importance of the report, the Executive Board decided to make this the special order of business for the meeting of Tuesday, June 14. The result of the recommendations will be made known to our members at the next meeting of the Waist and Dress Division.

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Fraternally yours,

JOINT BOARD DRESS AND WAISTMAKERS' UNION

J. H. PERIN, General Manager
M. K. MACKOFF, General Secretary

CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10 ATTENTION!

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

MISCELLANEOUS:	Monday, June 20th.
GENERAL & SPECIAL:	Monday, June 27th
WAIST AND DRESS:	Monday, July 11th

Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

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