

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."  
—Job 27.6

# JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE 'INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. V, No. 4.

Friday, January 19, 1923.

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## BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER RESIGNS HIS POST —SPECIAL CONVENTION TO ELECT NEW PRESIDENT FEBRUARY 15th IN BALTIMORE

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD ASSIGNS VICE-PRESIDENTS TO VARIOUS POSTS—ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGNS TO BE PROSECUTED WITH UNABATED VIGOR.

### GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD ISSUES STATEMENT TO MEMBERSHIP

Last Saturday, January 13, at the afternoon session of the General Executive Board in Montreal, Benjamin Schlesinger definitely resigned his post as president of the International Union.

He submitted the following letter of resignation, after which he delivered a parting talk to the members of the Board and left the session:

General Executive Board of the I. L. G. W. U.  
Greetings:

I herewith tender my resignation as president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and I sincerely trust that you will make it effective at once.

I am prompted to make this step on account of my poor health. Lately my health has been so poor that it became absolutely impossible for me to perform the duties in connection with my office.

Needless to say, that I entertain the highest admiration and deep respect for each and every one of you, and that I shall, at all times, be ready to help along the movement in general and our beloved International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in particular, by deed, advice or in any shape or manner.

With genuine brotherly and personal regards to yourselves, the chosen leaders of the organized women's garment workers of America, as well as to each and every one of your constituencies, I am

Fraternally yours,

BENJ. SCHLESINGER.

The General Executive Board resumed its sessions on Sunday morning, January 14, and after a discussion which lasted the entire forenoon, decided to accept with great regret Brother Schlesinger's retirement from the presidency. A decision was immediately adopted to call together a special convention as soon as possible for the election of a new president for the International. A provisional Committee of Three was elected at

once to take over temporarily the post of the president and to go on with the regular executive work of the Union. The committee consists of First Vice-President Ninfo who is to be the Acting President, General Secretary-Treasurer Baroff and Vice-President Israel Feinberg.

The General Executive Board simultaneously issued the following call to the membership:

### STATEMENT BY THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

To the Membership of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union of America.

Brothers and Sisters:

From the press you know already that Benjamin Schlesinger, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, has resigned his post at the last meeting of the General Executive Board of our International Union in Montreal. The Board accepted the resignation and it has gone into effect.

It is, perhaps, needless to say that the members of the General Executive Board, voicing their own sentiment and the sentiment of the great masses of workers belonging to our International Union, has accepted President Schlesinger's resignation with great reluctance, only after they had convinced

themselves that his broken down health has actually made it impossible for him to continue to shoulder the heavy responsibility and the arduous task of the office. No one is better familiar than the members of the General Executive Board with the great services rendered by President Schlesinger to our International during the nine years of his leadership of our organization; no one knows better than they how valuable, high-minded and courageous has this leadership been; and no one feels more keenly the loss which the present withdrawal of President Schlesinger from the post of chief leadership of our International entails.

The General Executive Board, in facing this concrete reality of having to lose the leadership of President Schlesinger, is nevertheless encouraged by the feeling that his work of nine years' duration has been instrumental in building up an organization of men and women who are fully conscious of their interests, are loyal to their Union, and have learned how to defend their living conditions and to take an active hand in controlling the destiny of their organization. Because of that, the General Executive Board feels encouraged and strong in the belief that our great membership will continue to guard the vital interests of their organization as they have done during the years of stress, fighting and triumph in the past and that they will maintain a solid and united front against every attack, scheme or design of the enemy as they have maintained all during their unbroken progressive advance.

It is in this spirit and with these high and fully justified hopes that the General Executive Board turns to our great membership in a call for brotherly cooperation and unceasing support. The General Executive Board has made every preparation to continue the plans and campaigns decided upon by the International in accordance with the mandates of the Cleveland convention without change or modification. This will require actual help and cooperation on the part of every member of our great union, on the part of every section, branch, local and joint board and the General Executive Board hopes that this cooperation will be given faithfully, freely and wholeheartedly. Within a short time the Board will summon a special convention to elect a president for our International Union for the duration of the present term, until May, 1924. Until this special convention is summoned, the leadership of the organization will be vested in the Acting President, the General Secretary-Treasurer and the New York members of the General Executive Board who will determine at frequent meetings the action and policy of the International.

We ask you to join with us in our sincere and deeply-felt wishes for health, happiness and prosperity for our retiring president, Brother Benjamin Schlesinger, and for the continued and unbroken strength and welfare of our International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

SALVATORE NINFO, Acting President.

ABRAHAM BAROFF, General Secretary-Treasurer.

ISRAEL FEINBERG, Vice-President.

On behalf of the GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

## Special Meeting of the G.E.B.

### QUARTER-MILLION DOLLAR FUND TO BE RAISED

The Committee of Three summoned the New York members of the G. E. B. into session on Tuesday morning, January 16th. The meeting was also attended by Vice-Presidents Perlestein of Cleveland and Monosson of Boston.

The meeting took up the local situation in the various cities where organizing drives are under way and adopted the following decisions:

1. The special convention to con-

vene at Baltimore on Thursday, February 15; the General Office to begin making at once all necessary preparations for this gathering.

2. Acting President Ninfo and Secretary Baroff to devote their attention especially to the waist and dress situation in New York and to represent the Union at the conference with the Dress Jobbers' Association which are to begin shortly.

3. Vice-President Leftkowitz to

manage the organization campaign of Local 69, the White Goods Workers' Union of New York. Vice-President Leftkowitz was selected because he has had wide experience in connection with this local in the past.

4. Vice-President Wander to manage organization campaign of Local 41 and 50 which is being conducted with the aid of the General Office.

5. The negotiations to amalgamate Locals 22 and 29 and all jurisdictional questions arising therefrom to be under the supervision of Secretary Baroff and Acting President Ninfo.

6. Vice-Presidents Israel Feinberg and Elias Reiberg to manage the organization drive in the waist and dress industry of Philadelphia.

7. Vice-President Perlestein together with Vice-President Monosson to take charge of the dress and waist campaign in Boston and vicinity.

8. Vice-President Sol Seidman to continue managing the organization campaigns in Toronto and Montreal.

9. Vice-President Halperin to remain at the head of the Eastern organization work of the International.

10. Secretary Baroff was instructed to visit Chicago in the interest of the Union and also to communicate with Los Angeles and San Francisco, where Vice-President Max Gorenstein is conducting an organization campaign in the cloak and suit industry.

## TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By N. S.

### WHAT IS HAPPENING IN EUROPE

**E**ARLY Thursday morning, January 11, French troops began their long-threatened march into Germany. First they occupied the most strategic points in the Ruhr and ordered the German coal magnates and miners to continue production under the direction of the French sword. In meeting with refusal the French troops promptly extended their occupation over the entire Ruhr district, threatening with outright confiscation or annexation of the mines, and are planning even to enter Berlin.

France is aware that her military adventure into Germany is far from being popular among her Allies. The "moral" aid that she is receiving from Italy is of a questionable and uncertain character, while Belgium is only helplessly being dragged along after the military tail of France. The old legend that France is out to rescue civilization has been discarded. Mad, gruesome, destructive forces are openly, without any moral disguises, working their course in Europe. France is definitely out for a military dictatorship of Europe and in order to accomplish this end, she is causing destruction, chaos and ruin as the preliminary steps in her program.

Is it Premier Poincaré and a small military clique that are responsible for this policy? This may be answered by the following: Several hours after the French occupation of the Ruhr, Poincaré appeared before the Chamber of Deputies and explained his policy. By a vote of 478 to 86 his policy was accepted. Furthermore, the Senate voted a public posting of the Premier's address, a move taken only on rare occasions of moment. French public opinion, at least as represented by the Parliament, is solidly behind the militaristic policy of Poincaré.

Great Britain borrowed for the time being at least the American policy of non-interference and aloofness and silently watches the French invasion. Although the English press almost unanimously denounces the French adventure, the government maintains a discreet silence. The reason for this is not far to seek. England is now trying to get hold of the Mosul oil fields, and she needs the support or acquiescence of France both in her negotiations at the Lausanne Conference as well as in her air raids of defenseless Turkish towns. The British government has formally declared that it is opposed to the French scheme, but the English troops on the Rhine have not been withdrawn and the English member on the Reparations Commissions has not been recalled.

The withdrawal of American troops from the Rhine has been generally accepted as a rebuke to the French militaristic policy. Roland Boyden, the American observer on the Reparations Commission, has also strongly disapproved of the French program. The sentiment in the Senate is outspokenly against the occupation of the Ruhr. Even the press that championed the French cause find it hard indeed to build up a case. But this growing anti-French sentiment will not be permitted of course to develop into active hate. For the American government is not prepared to take any further action in Europe for some time to come. In withdrawing the troops from Germany, America has expressed herself more definitely in the present situation than did Great Britain.

What is Germany's reaction? Her Ambassadors in France and Belgium have been recalled. Formal protests against French invasion have been sent to all governments with which Germany signed agreements. Chancellor Cuno declared that France had violated the treaty by her independent action, and consequently she cannot any more expect further deliveries of reparations. Monster demonstrations in Berlin and other cities took place bitterly denouncing the French invasion. But that is not all. The German government has adopted a definite policy. It is passive resistance. But that is not all. Orders have gone to all government representatives in the Ruhr scrupulously to do what the French order, to prevent any accusation of sabotage, but to refuse to help. The Reichsbank has been ordered to send no money to the Ruhr. In short, Germany is about to follow the non-cooperation policy made famous by the Indian leader Gandhi.

France has sufficient reason to fear the passive resistance policy. It may prove more formidable than her military machine. Without the elaborate organization effected by the German Coal Syndicate and the willingness of the miners the French venture will fail. For this reason the French are using all their powers to gain the cooperation of the coal interests. They tried to bribe the German coal barons who were so demoralized as to almost accepting the French offer. The question now is whether enough integrity and self-respect has remained in the German people to carry out their only effective policy, that of passive resistance.

Another important factor in the situation is Soviet Russia. The protests against the French invasion have been more vehement in Moscow than in Berlin. The German Ambassador at Moscow has returned to Berlin, it is said, with important proposals for a closer economic alliance between the two countries. Germany appears to be more inclined to effect an alliance with Russia than ever before. But with French control of the German coal districts, Germany cannot conduct her industries, cannot produce, cannot, in fact, live. Without coal no alliance can help Germany from utter and complete destruction.

### COAL COMMISSION ISSUES REPORT

**T**HE fact-finding commission established a few months ago to study the coal industry and recommend to Congress means to bring about settled conditions in the coal fields issued a preliminary report. That "the commission intends to go to the root of the problem is seen from the following paragraph:

"The commission believes that the public interest in coal raises fundamental questions of the relation of this industry to the nation and of the degree to which private right must yield to public welfare. It may be that both private property in an exhaustible resource and labor in a public service industry must submit to certain modifications of their private rights, receiving certain guarantees and privileges not accorded to purely private business or persons in private employ."

The Commission does not of course at this time make clear the nature of these "modifications." In fact, it makes no positive proposals. It does, however, state that the fundamental cause of the instability of the bituminous coal mining industry that has its effect in unreasonably high prices, labor troubles and transportation difficulties, is a surplus of mines and miners. And it declares that "there can be no permanent peace in the industry until this underlying cause of instability is removed."

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### CONGRESS AND THE BRITISH DEBT

**F**OR the last few weeks negotiations between the visiting British Debt Mission and the American Government are going on in Washington.

Stanley Baldwin, Chancellor of the Exchequer and head of the Mission, stated that he had come to discuss practical measures for repaying the \$4,500,000,000 debt to this country. But as he went on with his address he eloquently showed how heavily the debt weighs on England as well as on the United States.

Mr. Baldwin argued as follows: To pay her debt to this country, England would be forced to impose additional taxes, which would reduce the standard of living of the British workers, which would in turn further restrict the ability of the British to buy American products. This would inevitably affect the earning power and living standards of the American farmer and worker. If Great Britain, Mr. Baldwin went on, should make the herculean effort to pay her debt, she could not pay it immediately in gold, neither could she pay it immediately in goods without injuring American industry and commerce and threatening American property.

What then should be done? What measures does England propose? That was entirely left to the secret conferences which followed this public address. And here is where the trouble begins. What England would like above all is that America should wipe the state clean of all debts. But what she will doubtless urge is the scaling down of the debt and the radical modification of the terms of payment. It appears, however, that the Harding Administration is inclined to go a long way to meet the British demands. But its powers are restricted. Congress has passed a debt funding law, which requires that each debtor country shall liquidate its obligations to the United States in twenty-five years at the rate of 4% per cent. The President feels restricted and impotent to do anything without the authorization of Congress. He therefore seeks with the aid of his supporters in Congress to modify the debt funding law. In other words, he wants to arrogate unto himself important powers of Congress so as to be able to run the affairs of the country unhampered by any legislative or other body.

The President, according to reports from Washington, will in the near future appear before Congress with a program to settle the debts problem. The chief concern of the President, it is stated, is to rob Congress of its powers regarding this question.

### THE OFFICIAL BOOTLEGGER OF CONGRESS

**C**ONGRESSMAN UPSHAW, of Georgia, presented evidence to the Prohibition Commissioner the other day in which he showed that there was an "official House bootlegger" who had a monopoly in plying his trade in Congress. His evidence also implicated a few foreign legations which found it more profitable to trade in booze than in straight diplomatic matters.

Mr. Upshaw, who has been battling for the dry cause for many years, renewed "the plea for sober officials." He wants to drive the bootlegger out of Congress. He believes that an official who takes an oath to stand by the Constitution must not stand by the bootlegger. He maintained that for legislators to violate the laws of the land is a bad moral example to our citizens.

The prohibition officials are therefore going to see that our legislators observe the laws they pass. They are planning to surround the House office building and make arrests if they find any bootleggers around. But Congress will not tolerate any such interference. That august body may be robbed of its powers by the President; it may be ignored or trifled with by the executive branch of the government. But the attempt of the Prohibition officers to rob Congress of its bootlegger will meet with determined opposition.

# A Letter from England

By EVELYN SHARP  
(London Daily Herald Service.)

Although Parliament is prorogued the nation and the government are not to be allowed to forget the existence of nearly two million unemployed men and women. Detachments of marchers from all parts of the country continue to arrive in London for next Sunday's great demonstration, which will also be repeated in other industrial centers all over the country, and will serve as a protest against the prorogation of Parliament while the unemployed problem is unsolved, and a demand for its re-assembling at once, as well as a disclosure to the apathetic public of the sufferings of these unhappy people. There is much indignation in capitalist newspapers about the "misguided" tactics of the unemployed in coming up to London to add to the numbers of those who are already crowding into the workhouses or applying to the Guardians for relief. But the indignation is really founded upon the dislike of the comfortable classes to be reminded of this blot upon the body politic; and it is impossible to forget it so long as day by day, weary processions of haggard looking men, most of them wearing war medals, are to be encountered in the west end of London. When a detachment of them were removed by force from the offices of the Ministry of Health, one day this week, no one was surprised; for this treatment seemed part and parcel of the general policy of the government to discourage the hunger marchers and drive them back to the provinces, where they are less obvious. But it is a policy that only renders the men more determined to remain until they see a prospect of something being done.

The case of the unemployed women is even more hopeless. In an appeal to them to support next Sunday's demonstrations, which are being organized by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, Margaret Bondfield points out that in none of the schemes advanced by the Government are women provided for at all. Behind this policy of ignoring the women there is no doubt the old feeling of the possessing class that unemployed women, however skilled industrially or unskilled domestically,

should be helped by the State so long as mistresses still desire servants. Unfortunately for the acceptance of this doctrine, the women themselves have longer memories, and they do not forget how, during the war, they were begged to become trained in skilled trades in order to replace the men. They loyally gave up their places when the men came back, only to be thrown on the scrap heap and told they were fit for nothing but domestic service at starvation wages.

## ATTACKS ON WAGES

The attack on the teachers' salaries has unfortunately succeeded. At the Conference of the National Union of Teachers, a few days ago, it was resolved to accept a "voluntary reduction" of five per cent on the scale of salaries that had been "fixed" by the Burnham Committee as from 1919 to 1925 in the case of the country elementary schools, and till 1923 in the case of those in London. This means that the teachers never have any security where salaries are concerned, even when so-called agreements have after much negotiation been wrenched from the authorities. Under the new arrangement thus forced upon them, these hard-working servants of the community will lose in the aggregate two millions a year in salaries. It is not a grand reflection for those who care about education in this country to feel that economy is made in the children's education while no attempt is made to reduce expenditure in military or naval salaries.

The threatened attack upon Trade Boards is even more sinister. It is stated on good authority that the Government are preparing a bill, at the instance of several groups of employers who have been prevented by the Boards from cutting wages, which, if passed, will destroy many of the Trade Boards and weaken the power of the others. This will, in addition to weakening the general Trade Board system (the one thing which has really attacked sweating in this country), especially affect the wages and conditions of the poorest paid women workers, who now come under the protection of the existing Act to the number of some 2,100,000.

## Miscellanies From Chicago

By A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR

To say that everything "works smoothly in our local sphere would be exaggerating a good deal. But there is no doubt that things are beginning to straighten out. And if it were not for the campaign for business agents, which of necessity is stirring up a great deal of animus, matters would have been found adjusting themselves quite well.

Of course, our sororhoods will be looking for issues in this campaign too and will, as of yore, come out in all their "glory" and all their execrable tactics. Yet, somehow we have not given up hope that even these few malecontents will come to their senses eventually.

We are expecting a considerable amount of cloaks in our market this coming season. As yet we have no permanent agreement and if we should for a while give up the business of solving "world" problems and pay more attention to the regular situation in the trade, we might, it seems to me, be able to accomplish a substantial bit for the present.

At last, it seems, our Joint Board is determined to begin doing educational

work among our members. From now on you will hear from us from time to time of classes, lectures, literary evenings and concerts. For the present, the provisional committee decided to arrange six general evenings with very attractive programs, including discussions on the events of the day under the lead of specially invited speakers. The meetings will be held in the various parts of our widely scattered districts so as to give all our membership an opportunity to attend. The committee will shortly bring forth a report with recommendations for classes and lectures to be held nightly or, at least, several nights during the week.

That we are not wiser than cloakmakers in other cities, we know ourselves quite well, and some educational work in our midst might not be found altogether misapplied.

For the time being, Vice-President Schoolman will work entirely with Local No. 100—until an agreement has been reached with the dress manufacturers.

Needless to say that Brother Schoolman who has considerable ex-



Drawn by ART YOUNG

## A JOKE ON CHILDHOOD

The joke is on you, Baby. They put you here with talent for music, literature, art, and science, yes and talent for goodness and play. But they make you spend most of your time scheming and fighting for the necessities of life.

I don't like to tell you, Baby, but it's a joke from Hell and it's on you.

## Two Tickets for the Price of One for the Concerts of the City Symphony Orchestra

The Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U. made special arrangements whereby our members upon the presentation of a pass will secure two tickets for the price of one for the concerts of the City Symphony Orchestra. These passes may be obtained at the office of our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.

Forty-two concerts are being held in New York this season some in Carnegie Hall, others in Town Hall and still others at the Century Theatre.

perience in this line will succeed in strengthening the ranks of the Chicago dressmakers. We shall not be surprised if a good beginning in organizing the large masses of the unorganized dressmakers of Chicago is made. For that it is necessary that the active membership get to work and lend a helping hand. The results will surely not be disappointing.

One of the methods to bring peace and discipline in our Joint Board was the appointment of Brother Bornstein as Chairman. Brother Bornstein, as a practical trade union man, succeeded in maintaining excellent order throughout the period he was at the helm of the organization. His appointment comes to an end as soon as the new joint board will enter office; it would be interesting to watch

Special attention is called to the attractive programmes at the concerts which are being held every Sunday afternoon at the Century Theatre.

Soloists of international fame will appear at these concerts. Among them Sophie Braslau, Emilio de Gogorza, and Paul Bender of the Metropolitan Opera Company.

For further information apply at the office of the Educational Department.

how the new joint board will act with regard to the election of a new chairman. We believe that it would be practical to encourage the present chairman to remain at retaining his post and thereby prove that they are heart and soul for a strong and influential union in the trade.

Local No. 59 has decided to give to three of its members obtaining the highest vote from the general membership free educational scholarships. In this contest only members of the rank and file can take part and the vote on these "gifts" will be conducted at various meetings. It is an excellent idea. Local No. 59, the finishers' local, is only two years old, but it behaves like an old experienced body of trade unionists.

## JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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## Health Education<sup>63</sup> — Union Health Center —

### III

#### UNION HEALTH CENTER

In our preceding talks with you we have dealt with the medical advantages of the Union Health Center and more particularly with sources for general health-information and development. In this talk we wish to deal more specifically with the Dental Department of the Union Health Center, which is at present giving services to many thousands of our International members and which has shown a steady and consistent growth from the time of its establishment in 1917.

#### Ten Thousand Patients

When our Dental Department was established in 1917 there was little thought that within a short time it would grow to the extent where it would care for 10,000 individual patients. This, of course, means many times 10,000 treatments; for almost without exception those suffering from teeth defects must have several treatments. An idea of the growth of our Dental Department may be seen in the income for the year 1922, which is approximately \$50,000.

#### Reasons for Growth

There are excellent reasons for this remarkable growth of the Dental Department of the Union Health Center. First, it supplies a need of long standing. Secondly, the work of the department is kept on the highest plane of scientific dentistry. Thirdly, the rates are very reasonable. It is a matter of record that the rates of our Dental Department are from 20 to 50 per cent lower than those prevalent among dentists.

When the department was installed three (3) dental chairs were placed at the disposal of our patients. This number has gradually grown and today we have ten (10) dental chairs, an X-Ray Department and an up-to-the-minute Laboratory, which enables us to do the most technical and complex dental surgery, including bridges and extractions of teeth. The Dental Department is under the direction of a competent dentist who has eighteen years of experience and whose staff of assistants are all graduate dental surgeons.

1. The aim of the Dental Department is to do better work at more reasonable charges. We make no pretense about "cheapness"; our sole desire is to do competent work.
2. Our charges are based approximately at cost. No one profits by the work of our department except those for whom the work is done.
3. No charges are made for examinations, we are ever ready to give you advice, even though as it sometimes happens those who receive the advice go somewhere else for the actual work.
4. Appointments are made for all work with patients. These appointments must be kept as otherwise the Dental Department loses the fee it pays to the physicians. A charge of One Dollar is made for every missed appointment.

The Department is open daily from 10 A. M. to 8 P. M.

#### UNION HEALTH CENTER

HARRY WANDER,  
Chairman.

Dr. GEORGE M. PRICE,  
Medical Director.

131 EAST 17th STREET

New York City.

## Conference on Women in Industry

(Special Washington Correspondence to "Justice")

By B. MAIMAN

That women are employed in huge numbers in American industries has been an open secret. Nevertheless, the figures concerning women workers in industry, as revealed in the conference on Women in Industry, held recently in Washington, have been an eye-opener.

For instance: It was brought out that there are in America 572 occupations listed by the government and concerning which some statistics have been collected, and of these there are only 35 that do not employ women. In 537 occupations women work side by side with men.

Our Secretary of Labor, James J. Davis, told the conference that there are in the United States eight and a half million women who work for hire, which means that almost one-third of the wage workers in our glorious land belongs to the fair sex. A fifth of all American women are working for hire and one out of every ten married woman assists her husband in supporting the family. These astounding facts are based on figures collected by the Labor Department. It goes without saying that the government is not interested in exaggerating the number of working women and that their numbers are perhaps underestimated rather than exaggerated.

Woman in industry has therefore become a very earnest problem which is beginning to attract the attention of larger and larger numbers. That was one of the reasons why the women's industrial conference was called in Washington on January 11, 12 and 13. What was this conference? How was it summoned, and what was done there to solve this vexed problem?

The conference was called by the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor and according to the official statement the purposes of the conference were as follows: "To formulate standards of policies for improving the welfare of women wage earners, to improve the conditions under which they work, to increase their fitness and ability, and to increase their opportunities for taking part in remunerative occupations." From this official statement we infer that while the conference was principally, if not exclusively, concerned with women who work for wages, it was also of importance for society as a whole, for an economic and industrial life, as a whole. The entire structure of the land is concerned with this question, though it involves primarily the interests of the working women themselves. Let us now examine the list of delegates represented at this conference on women in industry.

Three hundred and fifty (350) delegates from 46 states came to take part in this very important gathering representing the following organizations: The General Federation of Women's Clubs; The Young Women's Christian Association; The National Council of Catholic Women; The Federal Council of Churches; The National League of Women Voters; The Women's Christian Temperance Union; The American Association of University Women; The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; The American Federation of Teachers; The National Congress of Mothers and Parent Teachers' Associations; The Daughters of American Revolution; The National Society of the Daughters of 1812; The American Legion Women's Auxiliary; The Service Star Legion (mothers of soldiers killed in the war); The American Home Economic Association; and practically every other national organization of women in the United States.

I have purposely quoted the entire list of organizations as given even by

the conference to show that in this list there was only one organization that could be classed as an organization of workers. That is the American Federation of Teachers. But even this organization is not of the type of a regular union, as teachers are employed by municipalities, do not as a rule strike, and are not part of the industrial life of the country in the simpler sense of the word. All the other organizations represented at the conference were plain women's clubs, charity organizations, settlement workers, or groups of women of the leisured classes who have little else to do except to make believe that they are doing some good for the "lower strata of society."

In vain have I looked for representatives of waist and dressmakers, of cloak finishers, of millinery workers, telephone operators, restaurant waitresses, domestic help, stenographers and secretaries, and for representatives of all such other special women's occupations or industries that employ large numbers of women. Have in mind that there are in America 537 industries employing eight and a half million women. Who represented them at this conference? Among the speakers announced for the conference I have found, in addition to politicians such as President Harding, Secretary of Labor Davis, and Assistant Secretary of Labor Hanning, also Mr. Charles Cheney, representing the National Association of Manufacturers. Mr. Cheney is probably one of the biggest silk manufacturers in the world and is burdened with the ownership of a score of silk mills, in a number of American cities. He it was who was invited by the conference to give advice how to improve the condition of women workers in America while such leaders of labor and women labor in particular like Schlesinger, Hillman and even such a conservative leader like Mr. Gompers, were discreetly kept out. The ladies who employ domestics came to Washington to speak about higher wage, shorter hours and better working conditions for their help. The domestics, or their representatives, of course, were not invited. Yet our Secretary of Labor, with earnest mien, stated that the government hopes to derive from this conference sound advice with regard to the improvement of the condition of women workers who are compelled to be employed in trade and industry.

Nevertheless, the facts brought out at this conference are of tremendous importance as well as they are astounding. These revelations, however, will only do good if brought out in their proper light. The workers, both men and women, must be made familiar with them; they must know that in the wealthiest land of the world, in time of unusually high wages, one out of every ten married woman must help her husband to support the family, and that legions of women must leave their children at home to work in shop, factory and office. It must be made known broadcast that a fifth of all the women in the country, from the oldest grandmother to a newborn infant, a fifth of all the women in the richest country in the world, married women, daughters of working fathers or mothers of working sons, must themselves, with the sweat of their brow, earn their own piece of bread.

Isn't this a powerful indictment against the present industrial system? Doesn't this fact indicate that the entire system of our economic life rests upon an unsound foundation? It surely proves that such conferences, consisting of elderly ladies (Continued on Page 1)

# The General Executive Board at Work

I.

The third quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board at Montreal has held three sessions in the course of one week.

Each session was devoted to the discussion of absorbing problems affecting our trades in every town and city where women's garments are manufactured. It will be impossible to attempt to go over these discussions in detail in these columns. We shall, therefore, touch only upon the most vital subjects that received the attention of the Board.

Before proceeding, I wish to state that our first sessions were marked by a sort of a depressed feeling. The fact that Schlesinger became ill on the eve of his departure for Montreal and could not go together with us had made us feel badly. Only after we had learned that his illness was a nervous one, did this depression disappear. Our Montreal organization, with Vice-President Seidman and Secretary Shubert at the head, has made very nice arrangements for the meeting of the Board and has tendered it a very cordial banquet. The Montreal local also arranged a mass meeting of cloakmakers which was addressed by Vice-Presidents Feinberg, Minfo, Seidman, and Joseph Shubert and S. Yanovsky. The assembled cloakmakers listened to the speeches of the vice-presidents with enthusiasm.

All these "festivities," however, took place only after the daily sessions would be over. All through the day, with the exception of a short interval for lunch, the Board labored earnestly on the problems and needs of the organization analyzing every difficulty with which we were confronted and every success or failure encountered by us in the course of the last few months. The various committees that appeared before the Board from widely divergent localities added to this work, to say nothing of the huge amount of correspondence directing the attention of the G. E. B. to this or that demand or requirement of our locals.

The report of General Secretary Baroff gave the tone and led off in the transactions of the Board. We shall touch upon this report later, but shall say meanwhile that for its exhaustiveness and the various excellent proposals it contained this report exceeded anything read by Secretary Baroff at any previous meeting of the Board. Let us now refer to the two committees that claimed first the attention of the G. E. B.—the committee from the Joint Board of the Dress and Waist Makers' Union and the committee on the matter of Local No. 3.

Our readers know quite well of the movement for week-work among the dressmakers of New York. They also know that the referendum vote which was taken among the workers in the industry a week or so ago had decided in favor of week-work. Now a committee of Joint Board had come to the G. E. B. asking its aid in carrying out this decision. Needless to say that this committee's request fell upon ready ears. The General Executive Board is of course wholeheartedly for the turning over of a new active page among the dress-

makers of New York. Nevertheless, such an important campaign as contemplated by the Dress and Waist Joint Board, in order to be sure of success, must be carefully prepared and thought out. After Brothers Berlin and Hochman, on behalf of the committee, had laid the plans of the Joint Board before the G. E. B. the members of the Board began a very lively discussion on this matter. An exception was made in this case to the general practice of discussing committee requests by the Board. The committee of the Joint Board was asked to remain during the discussion and they had the opportunity of having a heart to heart talk with the members of the G. E. B. The debate lasted far beyond the regular time of the session, but no decision was reached because it became meanwhile known that a committee representing the New York Dress Employers' Association had arrived at Montreal to present its point of view with regard to the demands of the Union to the General Executive Board.

This, indeed, was something new. It appears to me that it was the first time in the history of the labor movement for a committee of manufacturers to appear before a general executive board of a union to present its side of a labor question in the expectation of benefiting to some extent thereby. We cannot conceal the fact that we felt that this was a compliment to our Union and an admission that we are a constructive factor in the trade which will not remain deaf to an argument based on logic and justice. This committee, represented by Mr. Flamm, made a strong appeal to the members of the General Executive Board pleading with it that the Union withhold the campaign planned at present in the interest of the entire industry. The General Executive Board as expected could not enter into a debate with Mr. Flamm, but his speech and arguments were listened to with attention as an expression of opinion on the part of the employing interests in the industry.

A definite decision, however, was deferred, as we expected that President Schlesinger would soon join the meeting and it was deemed advisable to withhold a decision until his arrival. When he joined the session on Friday morning, the question of the week-work referendum in the dress industry was again brought up, followed by a discussion. The question took up all told three full sessions of the Board and it can be easily understood therefore that the decision adopted was not the result of hasty action but of mature deliberation.

The decision after it was adopted amounted to the following: Before the campaign for the various demands and issues is begun, a committee of the Joint Board together with representatives of the International, should commence negotiations with the manufacturers' association. The result of these negotiations will determine the course of action to be pursued by the Joint Board. In other words, the campaign of the Joint Board in the dress and waist industry should begin not by fighting but by peaceful negotiations in the hope that a good deal could be accomplished at the

conference table. Only after these peaceable measures have failed to bring the desired results, will it be time to begin the fight.

The second important committee which took up a good deal of the time of the General Executive Board came in connection with the affairs of Local No. 3. This local is the result of a merger accomplished a couple of years ago of Locals 80 and 3. It was believed at that time there was no reason why two locals of ladies' gowns and sample makers should exist in the same city. It was believed that they are practically the same kind of workers and that the best way of solving their difficulties would be by amalgamation. Unfortunately, it soon became apparent that though officially both locals were united, the former two locals have built up within the new local two warring camps which fought among themselves like bitter enemies. The sample makers tend to be years for their former independent local. They began to assert that they would not stay amalgamated with the ladies' tailors, if this unhappy merger results only in bitter wranglings. The ladies' tailors, however, at least their leaders, are not eager to become a separate local, whether as a matter of spite or for some ulterior motives as their opponents declare. They want to be the lords and rulers of the local and to lead it "leftward." Both sides, therefore, came with their grievances to the General Executive Board for a decision.

After a long debate, and after the General Executive Board had heard the committee of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union to which Local No. 3 is affiliated, it was determined, first, that there are in this local two factions incapable of living peacefully together; secondly, that the fights and disputes that are occurring in that local have nothing to do with trade union affairs but with outside matters, which one side, the ladies' tailors, nevertheless, believe to be of great importance to the union. Thirdly, that, according to the statement made by the committee of the New York Cloak Joint Board, the ladies' tailors are not a desirable element in the Joint Board because they have not the slightest interest, as ladies' tailors, in the cloak industry.

The question, as you might see, is quite involved. The General Executive Board therefore decided to leave the matter for a more thorough investigation by a sub-committee which would get to work without delay and then act upon its findings in a way it may deem best to interests of the local.

In connection with this matter, there have reached the General Executive Board a number of telegrams asking the G. E. B. to give the matter serious attention before deciding to subdivide Local 3. Many other telegrams asked for an immediate division of the local. Petitions for and against the division were also received by the Board—which proves that the controversy is a subject of deep interest to the membership of the local.

If only a many members as have displayed interest in this controversy would have taken as lively an interest in the affairs of the local itself in ordinary times, we feel confident that it would never have come to such a mess within Local 3. Unfortunately, it seems that most of the members of Local 3 are indifferent to all matters affecting the local except when "politics" are involved. One thing is clear to us—there is a certain element in Local 3 which deems it a "sacred" duty to raise disturbances, to sow the seeds of mistrust toward the International, toward the Joint Board, and who use with regard to those who disagree with them, language fit for women. If this factor should be eliminated from the local it might be possible for the local to remain undivided and united. This, however, is a question for the committee to decide.

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## Union Health Center News

On Friday evening, January 19th, Dr. Louis I. Harris of the Bureau of Preventable Diseases of the Department of Health, will deliver a lecture on the "Prevention of Infectious Diseases: What the Worker Can Do." Dr. Harris is well known to the workers of our industry as well as other industries because of the splendid work he has carried on and his close sympathy with workers.

On Tuesday evening, January 23rd, Dr. Zachary Bagel will continue his course by giving the third of his series of lectures on "Stomach Troubles," a discussion of the most common disorders of digestion and how to avoid them.

### SOCIAL EVENING AT THE UNION HEALTH CENTER

Everybody had a good time at the first Social Evening of the Union Health Center, 131 East 17th Street, held Friday evening, January 12th. The little auditorium of the Union Health Center was crowded with the students of the Union Health School and the party did not break up until the witching hour of 12. The refreshment committee consisted of Bernard Schall, Anna Cydzakewsky

and Fannie Brandwein, and they were indeed very much welcome, for they served piping hot tea from a samovar, borrowed from the Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U., and cakes and nuts and raisins and dates disappeared among the happy dancers. The entertainment committee consisted of Morris Hosmer, Max Turk, Abraham Genuenter, and they did provide excellent entertainment. The welcoming address was made by Miss Theresa Wolfson, Educational Supervisor of the Union Health School, Mr. Utrecht, a student of the school, then gave a description of his ideas about health. This was followed by solos by other members of the class, Mr. Sosno, Miss Esther Fliegelmans and Mr. Sloan. Moving pictures were then shown, and everybody enjoyed the picture entitled "The Public Health Trials," while we all laughed at the Harold Lloyd comedy. Then followed dancing to the tune of the victrola and also the mandolin. It was the general opinion that these social evenings did not come frequently enough and plans are being made to repeat this happy evening in the near future.

## The Washington Conference

(Continued from Page 4)

and smacking of a tea party, where some flustered and glib-tongued politicians volunteer compliments and "advice," as has recently been held in Washington, will not solve these problems. The question of Women in Industry is a labor question and only workers, through their own

might and effort, can solve it properly. It is necessary first of all to show them that this burning problem exists and that it is of supreme importance to them. Once they begin seeking for an answer to this problem, they will be well on their way to find it.

# JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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## EDITORIALS

### THE RESIGNATION OF BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER

On Sunday, January 14, after the General Executive Board in session in Montreal had, after an exhaustive discussion, accepted his resignation, Benjamin Schlesinger ceased to be the president of our International Union.

And now that Schlesinger is no more the chief officer of our Union, we can honestly and conscientiously say that we need not modify or withdraw a single word we had ever written concerning him in these columns. His energy and devotion to the work and to the Union over which he presided was truly marvelous and his tirelessness and tenacity of purpose unlimited. We can also reiterate what we often used to say that Benjamin Schlesinger had merged his life and work with the life and work of our International. The story of his life for the past ten years is but another version of the history of our International for the same period, so closely bound and interwoven were they both, the International and its former president.

Schlesinger has been generally recognized and appreciated for his truly remarkable gifts of which he unstintingly contributed to his task. Now that he no longer president, this feeling of recognition on the part of his closest coworkers has not in the least been diminished. It is generally recognized that it will be difficult for the International to find as capable and as resourceful a leader to replace him as the head of our organization. Why then did Schlesinger resign, and why did the General Executive Board accept his resignation, even though with a feeling of deep regret?

In his letter, Schlesinger gives ill health as the cause for his resignation. This is really so. Schlesinger was physically and mentally overworked, and yet this alone should not have made Schlesinger resign. He could have taken a long vacation to which he was entitled and which no one would have begrudged him. The General Executive Board could surely have proposed that as a way out. It is clear, therefore, that while this reason of ill health and overwork may serve as an approximate cause, for Schlesinger's retirement, there must have been deeper underlying reasons for Schlesinger's action and for the action of the General Executive Board. What were those reasons?

Our readers will surely recollect that Schlesinger's decision to retire from the presidency has been reached by him quite some time ago. To our best knowledge, he was firmly determined to refuse to run for re-election at the last convention in Cleveland. The reasons which prompted him at that time to adopt such a decision are more or less known and at present not of any great importance. His decision to leave the presidency of the International, however, was at that time very fixed, yet the pressure brought upon him at the convention was so strong that he was forced to accept again the presidency. Indeed, the presidency was as if forced upon him last May, and Schlesinger accepted the leadership of the International for the next two years entirely against his will.

That our opinion is not merely guess-work, the readers can glean from these very significant words in Schlesinger's telegram to the press. "I have resigned as president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and am coming tomorrow from the meeting of the General Executive Board a free man." These words: "a free man" throw a bright light on Schlesinger's state of mind. He felt during the last few months of his presidency a great burden upon himself that fettered and harassed him. Only after he resigned his post would he feel like a "free" person. All these months since last May, it appears, he has been suffering from this sense of being compelled to do the things for which he hasn't felt the inclination and fondness of former years.

Indeed, no other interpretation could be placed on these words. Schlesinger as president had no hindrances in his way. As it is humanly possible under present conditions, he was free to act as he pleased. Nevertheless, he felt not a free man. Not because he had to submit to anyone's will but because the presidency was forced upon him against his own will. It was a mistake to have done so at Cleveland convention. His decision to retire should not have been interfered with. But the intervention of Gompers and of Abraham Cahan and the pressure of opinion from outside have forced Schlesinger to change his firm decision and to submit to the will of others.

In addition, Schlesinger is so constituted that he could not ignore the slanderous attacks made upon him from the various unclean union-smashing sources which he should by right and by

the virtue of his post have scorned to notice and which have caused him considerable anguish and irritation.

These are, in our opinion, the deeper reasons which have led to the withdrawal of Benjamin Schlesinger—whose services and energy during the past ten years have been a factor in making our International one of the strongest unions in the country. It must not, however, be understood that by this act Schlesinger had broken all of his relations with the International. We believe that Schlesinger is too much of a part of our movement that he could do that, had he even wished it. In his letter of resignation, however, he states plainly that he will at all times help his Union by word and act. Schlesinger has only given up his post but he has not and cannot leave our International Union,

What concerns the General Executive Board in particular and the membership of our International Union in general, we are certain that they entertain the highest sense of recognition of the services rendered by Benjamin Schlesinger to our Union and that he has their warmest wishes for unlimited success in whatever he might do in the future.

We might also add that if his retirement may have perchance gladdened the heart of an employer in our industry here and there inspiring him with hope for "better days" and for the return of the old-time conditions in our industry,—we can tell them that their calculations are entirely wrong. It is true Schlesinger's will-power and determination have contributed much to the many victories which we scored in the last few years. We must, nevertheless, state at the same time that Schlesinger's strength came largely from the fact that behind him there always was a strong and a powerful union. And we can assure our manufacturers that in this respect all remains as before. The Union is as strong, and as conscious of its purposes as ever, and whoever might be its next president—and we hope that our special convention will elect the very best man in our International to lead it—he will, supported by the strength of the union, discharge his duties as loyally and as competently and on the same high plane as established by his predecessor.

### THE SPECIAL CONVENTION

The General Executive Board of the International had the full right granted to it under our constitution, to elect a president for the remainder of the 1922-1924 term. After a full discussion, which revealed at the outset a wide divergence of opinion, it was, nevertheless, unanimously decided that the General Executive Board call a special convention for the single purpose of electing a president of the International for the remainder of the term.

A special convention, even though it might last one day, will cost a considerable sum of money. The question might then be asked, why has the General Executive Board not exercised its right and immediately upon the acceptance of Benjamin Schlesinger's resignation did not elect a new president in his place?

Here is the principal reason for the act of the General Executive Board. The president, in order to possess the full prestige and the required authority must feel himself the choice of the representatives of our entire membership, i. e. of the delegates to the last convention, who were elected by all the locals to determine the policies of the International for the next two years. The person who will be elected by this special convention will in logic and reason feel himself firmer and stronger in the place of chief authority in the International Union if elected by a convention rather than by the General Executive Board.

We shall yet touch upon this matter in the future. Meanwhile we desire to impress upon the delegates to this special convention that they must face their task in full earnestness. Let them not become influenced by this or that group or faction, but let them have in mind that this highest post within the gift of our Union can be filled only by the ablest and most upright person within our ranks.

JUSTICE has no pet candidate of its own to advance. We know that within and outside the General Executive Board there is good enough in president and in pick from. But the term "good enough" does not entirely satisfy us. The very best, the ablest, the most energetic and the most familiar with the important and highly-entangled problems in our industry must be selected. The length of service in our International Union, in addition to the personal integrity and ability of the candidate must also be one of the determining factors. Above all, we must have a man with a cool, collected mind, not a hothead, a demagogue or a mouther. If the delegates will have all these things in mind their choice will be a proper one, and then we shall not have the slightest ground to feel that the present, rather unexpected development, might cause any injury to our International.

There is another point to which we wish to draw the attention of our readers. It is possible that some might fall under the impression that between now and the special convention things are likely to become upset and out of gear in our International Union. To these we can say that they are entirely in error.

Everything in our Union is in best working order. A provisional committee consisting of three men,—First Vice-President Ninfo, Vice-President Feiberg, and General Secretary-Treasurer Abraham Baroff, was elected to manage things temporarily, until the special convention. Vice-President Ninfo is Acting President. Our big ship has not been left without a pilot even for an hour. All the measures that were decided upon by the General Executive Board in connection with the various organization campaigns will not be neglected and the machinery for carrying them out is going full steam ahead.

# A Contribution to the Gompers-Baker Debate

By S. YANOVSKY

IV.  
And now that I have made it clear—hope—that a closed shop, a true union shop should be, the question arises—what is it that could make the union shop what it ought to be? To this there are two answers. The first is—the union itself; the union must itself be the determining factor, without inviting or accepting outside interference from the so-called public. The second answer is,—the union itself is not capable to handle its affairs. The union, like every other organization, cares only for its own interests and very little for the interests of the community, of society as a whole. Therefore, the outside world must interfere in the disputes between capital and labor, and in the many other union affairs which affect the public.

The first answer is given by Gompers and by every trade union organization in the country. The second answer is put forth by Mr. Baker and by a great variety of other persons who cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, be grouped under the working class. The question is—what is the correct one? Let us consider their respective arguments:

When Gompers declares that the so-called public has no right whatever to have a say in union affairs, he says this not because he likes to play the role of an autocrat who would foist union labor domination upon the whole of society. On the contrary, Mr. Gompers is from head to foot a democrat. But Mr. Gompers believes that the siphon which travels under the name of "public" has no right to interfere with the affairs of the union because it can neither understand nor sympathize with the interests and wants of the workers and its interference can only bring harm.

It is a forceful argument which cannot be refuted with ease. There are only two alternatives in this situation: Either the workers are to be considered as minors, as mentally too immature to understand their own interests and then, of course, they require a guardian that would defend them from themselves as well as from their enemies. Under such an assumption, unions are not wanted at all and they would require not public regulation but total abolition. Or, if the "point of view" is accepted,—if a worker is to be regarded not as a minor, but as a person who is mature enough to take care of his own interests, then no factor in our social life has a right to dictate to him his mode of action; then the worker must have the fullest freedom to defend his interests as best as he himself understands them.

It is true, he is likely to make mistakes and act occasionally to his own detriment. He is likely, at times, to provoke by his activities the antipathy and the wrath of certain groups of people. But in such instances he would himself have to stand the consequences and learn therefrom a lesson of conduct for the future. In other words, the worker, like every other person, can learn and become wiser, better and more perfect through his mistakes.

If one assumes this point of view, one must come to the conclusion that the union must be given the fullest measure of freedom for its development and that every interference by outside forces in labor af-

airs only tends to retard the natural process of the development of the workers and harms it. Moreover, such a retarding influence affects adversely also the interests of society as a whole, for the workers constitute a huge section of our social fabric. Even according to Mr. Baker, the higher the workers are developed morally, spiritually, and physically, the better off is society as a whole. Trade unions the world over have adopted this latter point of view and no one, except those who believe that the worker is a machine to be exploited in the interest of others, can well adopt a different attitude.

Mr. Baker, in order to prove that society has a right to interfere in union affairs makes the following rather specious argument. He says:

"Men who have never had the smallest legislation for the prevention and cure of that plague which children may be members of legislatures act and vote upon measures for the establishment of orphanages and the education of the young. Farmer members of legislatures exact regulations for the government of cities and city representatives vote on rural matters."

Mr. Baker is, therefore, of the opinion that trade unions should not be an exception and policy be regulated by the government.

Well, had the policy in favor of persons who have never had any children to legislate with regard to problems affecting the raising of children and of farmers legislating for city dwellers, proved itself a huge success in the past, Mr. Baker's argument might have sounded better. The wisdom of this policy, however, has not been proved as yet. It is my humble opinion, and the opinion of many another person who have made it their life-task to study and analyze our social system, the policy and practice referred to by Mr. Baker is a very unsound one. The laws that farmers would make for the urban populations and vice versa are bound to be anything but rational. They cry for home rule which is becoming stronger everywhere it is in fact evidence of it. Laws made by persons who have never had children with regard to the care of children are bound to be harmful both for the children and for society in general. It is clear, therefore, that Mr. Baker's argument speaks more against his own view-point than for it. Quite to the contrary, we should work in the direction of leaving rural affairs in the hands of the farmers, city management to city folks and child education to persons who have an idea about children's education.

But, argues Mr. Baker, if trade unions are to be permitted to do anything and everything they please they would turn the world upside down by their "tyrannical" methods. Again he says:

"Such a government might suspend the production of coal and so freeze me and my family to death. It might suspend transportation and so starve me and my family. It might suspend the production of medicines and so devastate the country with a plague, and all the while those who suffered these inconveniences of catastrophes would for the most part be persons who had no voice in the making of the judgments by which they were thus destroyed."

Mr. Baker paints for us a horrible picture. What else should society do but try to keep this coercive power in leash? Mr. Baker's picture of horror, however, can only scare small children. A familiar example will possibly make clear Mr. Baker's bogey man. We are daily entrusting our lives into the hands of persons whom we do not know. We ride on elevated and subway railroads conducted by engineers and motormen whose character is a total enigma to us. The motorman may be a kindly and fine fellow but he also may be a vicious and worthless person. Nevertheless, we pay our fare and we enter our train carefree, unmindful of the fact that with one false move this man could transport us into the world beyond. Why do we do it? First, because we can hardly imagine such a beast in human form who would intentionally kill hundreds of persons just for the sheer lust of murder; secondly, because we know that in such a holocaust, the motorman himself would very likely perish; and we know well enough that the ordinary motorman or railroad engineer is not a person with suicidal or homicidal inclinations.

And, of course, this is also true in the case of the coal diggers, the transport workers and all others who might starve Mr. Baker or freeze him to death. It is true, they may be in a position to do so but neither our miners, transport workers or pharmacists live on the Mars. They happen to be with us on this earthly planet, and in attempting to starve Mr. Baker and his family, they are quite likely to starve themselves and their families too. We take it for granted that neither miners nor transport workers are eager to perish, and as it would be impossible for them to commit the above recited atrocities against Mr. Baker without hurting themselves, we are inclined to believe that they would not carry out such dastardly designs. We have an idea that the miner, even though he exposes himself to dangers every minute of the day, does it not because he cares not for his life but because he cannot make a living otherwise. Mr. Baker's blood-curdling picture of what the workers might some day do to our society is, therefore, begging his pardon, sort of silly.

And if the living conditions of the miner and the transport workers should ever reach such a horrible state that they might decide to starve together with Mr. Baker rather than continue living, we would like to know who is to be held responsible for an accounting of such a state of affairs that would make the lives of the miner and the transport

worker totally worthless to them. In order that things might not reach such a stage of desperation, the unions must be given fullest opportunity to lead the workers in their fight for the best possible conditions that would make life worthwhile for them, that would obviate such a degree of despondency that might become a menace to the entire system of social co-living.

The debate between Gompers and Baker revolves about the supposition that over the interests of the two social classes, the laboring class and the capitalist class, there towers paramount the interest of the "public" in general. If one adopts this point of view there can be no doubt that Mr. Baker and those who think like him, are right in demanding that the public have a voice in disputes between labor and capital.

From the point of view of the worker, however,—and when I say "worker" I mean it in the widest sense of the word, to include all those who work whether by hand or brain—he is the entire public. From his point of view those who do not belong to the class that produces and contributes to the sum total of social values, are only parasites on the public body and should not be regarded as an integral part of society.

The union worker, whether class conscious or otherwise, has adopted this point of view, to my mind the only accurate one. It is clear, therefore, that in fighting for his interests the worker fights simultaneously for the interests of society as a whole. The harder he strikes at our social parasites, the more effectively is he carrying out his historic mission to free not only the workers but humanity in general from all that hampers it in its striving for a better and more beautiful life.

## SPECIAL BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

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## White Goods Workers, Local 62, Have Rousing Meeting

BAROFF AND GIOVANNITTI SPEAK

On Tuesday last, January 16, the White Goods Workers' Union of New York had a rousing general member meeting at Beethoven Hall, 210 East Fifth Street.

This local is at present conducting an organization campaign to build up a 100 per cent union in the white goods trade of New York. The general member meeting last Tuesday night was summoned for the purpose of acquainting the members with the present stage of this organizing work and to enlist the cooperation of the membership in making this drive a success.

The meeting was attended by Secre-

tary-Treasurer Baroff of the International Union and General Organizer Arturo Giovannitti. Both delivered stirring speeches which were received with applause by the hundreds of women workers that filled the hall. Brother Abraham Snyder, Manager of Local 62, was chairman and opened the meeting with a few earnest and practical remarks that were warmly received. The members of Local 62 were especially delighted when they learned from Secretary Baroff that the General Executive Board had decided to assign Vice-President Lefkowitz to aid in their organization campaign.

There isn't the slightest reason for uneasiness in this respect whatever. Our Union is too firmly and solidly founded that the retirement of one person, big as his role and influence may have been, might shake it. And the leaders of the Union and its entire membership will now watch with even greater vigil that the strength and solidarity of our Union suffer not in the slightest degree.



# IN THE REALM OF BOOKS

## SOCIAL CHANGE: WITH RESPECT TO CULTURE AND ORIGINAL NATURE

By WILLIAM F. OGBURN

(Professor of Sociology at Barnard College. 365 pages. New York: B. W. Huebsch, Inc., 1922.)

Charles Darwin published "The Origin of Species" in 1859. One can easily and justifiably explain the stir it had made by pointing to its intrinsic scientific worth and its truly revolutionary theories. But there can be little doubt, I think, that its appeal had other bases, too. The hypothesis of Natural Selection gave the dominant classes of the day a weapon against the rising trade unions. Darwin's subtitle "The Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle For Life" in itself contained a challenge to attempts of reformers. If people multiply faster than the food supplies, there must ensue a tooth and nail struggle for existence between them from which the fit survivors emerge as the rich and the unfit are eliminated (or kept poor). So look out for yourself and the devil take the hindmost.

It was a comforting theory for the successful. Moreover it did reflect, in a way, existing social conditions. It was a theory manufactured through the medium of Darwin's brain out of the conditions of the age. Nothing testifies more convincingly to the underlying changes which time has wrought in the texture of our society than the new trends which science and thought are following. It is not only that natural selection has lost its vogue; but that biology is pointing out the extreme infrequency of biologic changes; that engineers are weighing the present system and finding it wanting; that Veblen is emphasizing the clear distinction between machine industry and business enterprise; that psychologists are attacking modern society as a "repressive environment"; that the Boss school of anthropology is increasing its following; that books like this of Professor Ogburn are being written.

Labor, certainly, cannot afford to pass by the ammunition offered in Dr. Ogburn's pages. Especially since Dr. Ogburn did not set out deliberately to manufacture ammunition for anyone. He makes his points with true scientific caution; indeed there is hardly a statement anywhere in the book that does not rest on at least three qualifications in its wake. His sole purpose appears to be a careful analysis of social change with an attempt to measure the relative importance of the various factors involved in it. He follows the facts and that the facts lead him to such conclusions as they do is of the greatest significance to us.

Supposing you should ask yourself, as Dr. Ogburn does, just what is the nature of "the world we live in?" You would agree, wouldn't you, that it contains first of all, Man, doing certain things and having certain things done to him. There is, secondly, a wealth of material objects which have a direct and potent influence upon man. There is machine industry, and factories, and railroads, and airplanes, and stores, and sky-scrapers, and printing presses, and typewriters, and submarines, and what not. This is our material culture. Finally, there are certain non-material things such as religion, art, education, political institutions, customs, laws, labor unions and so forth. This complex of material and non-material culture constitutes our social heritage (or culture). Together, with

original human nature it marks out the distinctive features of human society.

But all this seems obvious. Why make any to-do about the clearest distinction between human nature and culture? Because in the first place, social behavior is a product of cultural stimuli acting upon the mechanisms of human nature. And, in the second, because all too frequently we tend to confuse the influence of human nature and of cultural environment. It is often said, for instance, that the French are thrifty while Americans are extravagant, with the implication that these differences go back to the biological natures of the two peoples. But the French and the Americans came from the same basic stock. More probably, immensely productive power industry in a country of ample natural resources produced the extravagance of the Americans while hand-to-mouth agriculture made the French careful husbands.

The confusion between human nature and culture becomes especially striking when men seek to analyze social change. It is generally recognized, of course, that the complex culture amidst which we move was not always the kind of thing it is today. It became what it is. It has been built up through the ages by all the peoples who went before us. Was the process of cultural growth and improvement accomplished through corresponding improvements in human nature, and particularly in mental ability? How does culture grow?

Dr. Ogburn formulates some highly significant hypotheses in answer to these questions and makes an impressive beginning in verifying and testing them. The growth of culture covers a period of from 150,000 to 500,000 years. In this period material culture has accumulated by what appears to be a primarily cultural process. Inventions are the source from which the stream of culture is fed and grown. New methods of doing things are discovered and passed on; the old methods hang over as long as they possess utility of any kind. But the number of inventions appearing at any one time depends chiefly on the number of inventions that already have been made by the generations that went before, or, as Dr. Ogburn puts it, upon the cultural base. The inventor's mental ability undoubtedly plays its part. But every generation contains a certain number of able men and the size of stature of their accomplishment at any given time depends upon the cultural materials upon which they work. Thus, big inventions appear to be merely a bringing together of a series of smaller previous inventions; and many inventions have been discovered by two or more inventors working independently at about the same time.

Material culture, thus, has grown by a sort of selective accumulation. Its rate of change has been an accelerating one. For it has been something like a snowball rolling down a snow-covered hill. As it rolls it gathers more snow; the longer it rolls, the larger it gets; the larger it gets the more snow it gathers.

The cultural nature of this change, in itself is a strong argument that it develops by its own laws. But reinforced by the nature of biologic change, as we know it today, argument approaches conviction. For the mutations through which biologic change occurs are very infrequent. It seems probable that there has been no fundamental change in man since the day of the Cro-Magnons at least, or since about 25,000 years. Yet the greatest changes in culture have come

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during this period in which original nature, as passed on by heredity, has remained constant. In other words cultural evolution has occurred without mental evolution. Modern man is a "cave-man living in a modern city."

This rapid growth of material culture has brought us a host of problems; problems concerning the adjustment between the various parts of culture, between culture and the individual, and between culture and "human nature." The first form of maladjustment gives us what Professor Ogburn well calls the "lag." For non-material culture does not flow by selective accumulation, and, in fact, tends to be inert and slow moving. Consequently after a material change has occurred there comes a period in which the attitudes created by the former conditions hang over, and non-material culture lumps lamely after material. Workmen's compensation laws in the United States, for example, came at least fifty years after machine industry with its numerous accidents had made it necessary.

The maladjustment between culture and the individual created by the attempt to adapt an original nature that had functioned in a hunting environment for thousands of years to sedentary factory work gives us our varied nervous disorders and our unrest. However, nature's maladjustment to culture gives us our "social problems." We may be able to meet some of these things through the development of substitute activities, such as gymnasium, sports and recreations.

Does not the importance of these things suggest itself immediately through the numerous questions you can put after it? If this is the nature of social change, we do not have to "change human nature first," do we? If material culture is such a social product, upon what does its private ownership in modern society rest? What is the role of the "great man" in this process of social change? And consider how many things the concept of the "lag" can illuminate. It explains why labor, in this day of trusts and automatic machines still functions through the craft union. It explains why Americans today, almost 25 years after the disappearance of the free land and free natural resources of the frontier, still strive to keep alive the frontier folkways and frontier reactions to life. To develop some of these very interesting themes suggested by this book would require another book. Perhaps such a book will be written some day, not only as a further verification of Dr. Ogburn's thesis, but also as another worthy contribution to the Workers' Bookshelf.

SYLVIA KOPALD.

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# LABOR THE WORLD OVER

## DOMESTIC ITEMS

### FOOD COSTS THREE PER CENT HIGHER.

Changes in retail food costs during the month ending December 15th, reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for twenty-two cities showed an increase of from 1 to 3 per cent in eighteen cities.

### TEXTILE WORKERS WILL DEMAND INCREASE.

President McMahon, of the United Textile Workers of America, will call a strike in the textile area when the time is opportune for enforcing the respective demands of the operatives for a 23 per cent wage increase, he said at Pawtucket, R. I. This power was vested in him by the Executive Council of the Organization.

### COPELAND RECOGNIZES UNIONS.

The labor issue is the largest problem confronting America, Senator-elect Copeland, of New York, declared in an address in Cleveland. "It is mere foolhardiness for any man to say he will not bargain with labor collectively. The labor union is an economic evolution. True, many bad things are chargeable to the unions, but let's reform, not destroy."

### PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD CHALLENGES RAIL BOARD.

In argument presented in the Supreme Court of the United States counsel for the Pennsylvania Railroad System challenged the jurisdiction of the Railroad-Labor Board over wages of railroad workers and their working conditions. The Board they contended exceeded its authority, setting aside agreements negotiated between the company and its shop employees.

### WHAT OF OUR FUTURE GENERATION?

The Federal Board for Vocational Education has compiled figures showing that each year some 1,700,000 boys and girls drop out of school from the 4th to the 6th grade, the bulk of them drifting to the first jobs available and land in blind alley occupations.

### THE FIGHT FOR CHILD LABOR LAWS CONTINUES.

A large delegation of women appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee to urge the submission to the states of a constitutional amendment giving the Federal Government jurisdiction over child labor. The Supreme Court twice has declared Federal Child Labor Laws unconstitutional on the ground that they interfered with the reserve police power of the state.

### UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASING.

Continued improvement in the employment situation throughout the country was indicated by the Department of Labor's report on conditions during December made public yesterday. In practically all of the states the situation in almost every occupation was reported improved.

### PROTESTING THE SHIP SUBSIDY BILL.

A memorial bearing the signature of President Furuseth and Secretary Nolan of the International Seamen's Union, protesting against the passage of the Ship Subsidy Bill, was adopted at the 26th Annual Convention of the International Seamen's Union of America.

### THE "POWERS" HOLD ON.

Declaring that no government was more unfit than the United States to manage railroads, Vice-President Lee, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in an address in Philadelphia, asserted that a let-up on the regulation of railroad business was essential to an increase in general prosperity.

### ENFORCING BLACK LIST.

The American steamship owners' association is attempting to enforce its discharge books on crews of its vessels. These books contain the photo, measurements and description of each employee, and are along the lines of the Bertillon system used by the police to identify criminals. Under this system the worker is graded and a check is maintained on every day he is idle or is employed.

The vessel owners claim this method is in vogue in Great Britain. The seamen show that the British system does not provide for photos or the complete measurements. In that country the government and the ship owners recognize the union and treat with it, while in the United States the union is opposed.

### HUGE MEAT PROFITS.

The report of Swift & Co., meat packers, for the year ended November 4, 1922, shows clear profits of \$13,049,217, against a deficit of \$7,812,291 in the previous year. During 1922 the sales were less and the profits greater than in 1921. In 1922 the sales were \$650,000,000, as compared with \$800,000,000 the previous year.

### "BARGAINS IN LABOR."

In announcing its list of available office employees in a confidential bulletin to local business men, a Washington employment agency in this city says:

"We have many other excellent bargains in all types of office help." This agency also assumes to "educate" business men on the questions of the day. In discussing the stock dividend it says the stock holder is not enriched, but—

"Many of the companies that have declared large stock dividends are continuing to pay the old rate on the increased amount of stock and to that extent the stockholders will be benefited in actual cash income in the future."

### NO LABOR SHORTAGE HERE.

Authorities employed 12,000 men to remove the snow piles in New York City. The employment of this number of men who are capable of handling shovels would indicate that the alleged labor shortage does not exist in this vicinity.

## FOREIGN ITEMS

### ENGLAND

#### WAKING THEM UP!

Trade Union branches all over the country have been asked to co-operate in a great national campaign on behalf of the unemployed, following a meeting between a sub-committee of the Trades Union Congress General Council and representatives of the National Unemployed Workers' Committee.

Plans were made for the inauguration of a series of United Labour demonstrations on Sunday, January 7, and in the Metropolis the London Trades Council and Labour Party have been invited to co-operate in arranging a mass demonstration for that date.

Local Labour organizations are also being requested by the T. U. C. General Council to protest against the prorogation of Parliament and to demand that proper steps be taken to deal with the unemployment problem.

#### RAILWAY WORKERS.

Over 676,000 workpeople were employed on the British Railways, in March this year, against 735,870 in the corresponding month of last year, a decrease of 8 per cent; 23,440 of them were women. There were over 100,000 mechanics and artisans, nearly 30,000 signalmen, nearly 36,000 engine-drivers and motormen, about 24,000 guards, and over 35,000 firemen; 63,000 permanent way men, over 5,000 ticket collectors, nearly 48,000 porters, nearly 3,000 policemen, and 227 police inspectors.

#### BOMBS ON INDIAN VILLAGES.

Bomb-dropping by British airmen on defenceless Indian villages during the Christmas season was denounced in strong terms at a conference in London of resident Indians and sympathizers. Mr. G. Lansbury, M. P., deplored the silence of the press generally on the subject and added, "The leaders of the religion are dumb dogs just now when your people are being massacred from the air, but they were loud in their protestations when people like me were being bombed in London during the war."

#### GOOD MILK FOR THE WEALTHY.

By the new Milk and Dairies Act, which came into force on January 1, four special grades of milk will be offered for sale by licensed traders. This will ensure pure milk to those who can afford to pay for it; but the poor will still be victims of the present system of allowing dirty milk to be sold at a lower price. The Labour Party ideal of securing one standard of pure milk for all classes has not been realized, though the Medical Officer of Health for the City of London stated in his report for 1921 that out of 50 consecutive samples of milk examined in this district, one in every four was tuberculous!

#### POLITICS AND OIL.

General Sir Charles Townshend has stated in an interview that he "would not like to be the man to propose war to the British Parliament on the subject of Mosul or Mesopotamia." He went on to point out that the British occupied Mosul after the Armistice in the same way as they treated Constantinople, and "the occupation of Mosul, I say without hesitation, is a strategic blunder and a great danger." He claimed that the Lausanne deadlock is entirely due to the Mosul question, and has very little to do, as widely stated, with the Capitulations.

### IRELAND

#### IRISH PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

In his New Year message to the Irish people, President Cosgrave warns the followers of De Valera that Ireland desires peace and that the Government intend to get it by establishing the right of the majority to rule. "The New Year," he continues, "opens with a message of hope for peace, order and goodwill, and hope for unity with our country temporarily divorced from us."

But the basis of peace must be that the Treaty shall stand without the abrogation, explicit or implied, of any part of it."

### INDIA

#### VOICE OF INDIA.

Arrangements are proceeding apace for the forthcoming All-India Trade Union Congress here, under the presidency of Mr. Joseph Baptista, of Bombay. Steel workers and coal miners will be represented.

The agenda of the Congress includes the discussion of the formation of a Political Labour Party to work in touch with the Executive of the Trade Union Congress, and of the possibility of contesting elections to the Provincial Legislatures, irrespective of the decision of the forthcoming Congress at Gaya.

Mr. Bell, Secretary of the British Communist Party, has telegraphed offering the fullest support and sympathy of the world proletariat for the economic liberation of the Indian workers, whose success mainly depends on political freedom.

### GERMANY

#### TRADE UNIONS DEMAND REFORMS.

Over 70 per cent of German taxation is paid by indirect taxes, and 10 per cent by the reduction of the workers' wages, said the German trade union leaders in their recent interview with Dr. Cuno, the Chancellor. The trade unions demanded a number of financial reforms. By the present methods, property owners are able to profit by the inflation of currency to escape taxation.

## Educational Comment and Notes

### New Classes in Our Unity Centers

Beginning with Monday, January 22nd, our students in the Unity Centers will begin new classes in Applied Economics, Industrial History, and History of Trade Unionism.

In order to meet the demands of our students, the Educational Department planned that each Unity Center should have two independent courses during the present year, one in Applied Economics and one in Industrial and Labor History. This arrangement will make it possible for every student in the Unity Centers to have a general knowledge of the economic institutions and organization of our social order, and also a history of the development of these institutions. At the end of the year, it is hoped, each student will have a clear idea of some of the most important characteristics of our present system,

which every intelligent worker should have.

In each of the Unity Centers, a new teacher will start a course to consist of six evenings. The dates and hours will be found in the Weekly Calendar which is published on the Educational Page.

Members of our Union who attend the Unity Centers, are urged to attend these courses and to inform other members, who live in their neighborhood, about them.

Those members of the International who cannot attend the English classes in the Unity Centers should find it possible to spend at least one hour a week in listening to the discussions of these courses. They will find them very well worth while in value.

### Professor Ogburn's Lecture on "The Psychological Interpretation of Sociology"

Last Thursday, January 11th, Professor William Ogburn addressed a group of our members in the building of the I. L. G. W. U., on the Psychological Interpretation of Sociology.

Professor Ogburn showed that in studying social problems it is necessary to get rid of one's personal wishes and feelings, otherwise we are apt to see what we want to see. This is illustrated by the reports that came from Russia in the last couple of years. Radical writers see nothing but success and progress. Conservatives, on the other hand, see gloom and despair. Probably neither is quite right, but each sees what he expects and hopes to see.

In studying social problems, Professor Ogburn suggested that it is wise to look immediately for selfish economic purposes. All social movements have an economic motive, and unless one understands this, one cannot examine the problem successfully.

Prof. Ogburn illustrated this by reference to the recently formed Farm Bloc in Congress, which is the result of the fall in prices obtained by farmers for their products.

This economic motive is frequently disguised and it is therefore necessary to look under the surface. For instance, the imperialistic desire on the part of many governments to obtain additional territory and to exploit natural resources of backward countries, is concealed under fine sounding plans to bring civilization, morality and progress to the backward country. Missionaries are generally sent to countries where there are many old wells.

Why are selfish motives disguised? According to the lecturer, this is done because society as a whole disap-

proves of selfishness and approves moral purposes, so that, while there is general antagonism to purely commercial exploitation, there is sympathy and approval for elimination of, say, polygamy, idolatry, savagery, etc. What happens is nothing but a rationalization of strong selfish motives.

Prof. Ogburn, however, warned the audience against carrying economic interpretation too far. He showed instances where purely altruistic and unselfish actions were suspected unjustly.

The lecturer also cautioned against the tendency to interpret great social changes or movements in terms of leaders instead of social forces. Attacks on President Harding or approval of Senator Borah are unscientific, because these men are merely expressing the sentiment prevailing among groups of people, who are forced to assume certain attitudes because of irresistible social forces. It is necessary therefore to pay little attention to leaders and individuals, and to attempt to find the particular group or movement behind them.

In studying social problems, it is also important to find to what extent some of these are results of changes in economic processes. For instance, it is claimed that the entire Woman Suffrage Movement is the result of changes in industry, home-improvements, etc. Also the present movement for trade and vocational education is a response to new economic needs of society.

The lecture was followed by questions and discussions. It stimulated a large amount of thought and interest in the audience, which filled the lecture room.

### PROF. HOLLAND THOMPSON TO LECTURE ON THURS., JAN. 25.

On Thursday, January 25th, Professor Holland Thompson will address a group of our members on "The Farming Industry and Labor."

Prof. Thompson in his talk will set forth the farmer's grievances, and the reasons why the farmer feels that all other groups are in league against him. It is very important for workers to understand the psychology of the farmer, and to get the reasons for this feeling, which stands in the way of concerted action between the Farmer and Labor.

### LECTURES IN HARLEM EDUCATIONAL CENTER OF THE I. L. G. W. U.

On Saturday evening, January 20th, in the Harlem Educational Center of the I. L. G. W. U., 62 East 106th Street, Mr. Sh. Niegier will address a group of our members on the subject of "The Writer, the Reader, and the Critic."

On Sunday morning, at 10:30, Mr. Max Levin will begin a course in Yiddish on the "Economic Structure of the Present System."

Admission free to members of the International.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### WORKERS' UNIVERSITY Washington Irving High School Irving Place and 16th St. Room 603

Saturday, January 20th

1:30 SOCIAL FORCES IN LITERATURE.

Dr. J. H. H. Lynn—Prophecy in Literature.

2:30 David J. Saposs—The Intellectual in the Labor Movement.

Sunday, January 21st

10:30 a. m. A. Fichandler—Psychology of Current Events.

11:30 a. m. Dr. H. J. Carman—Political and Social History of the United States.

### UNITY CENTERS

Monday, January 22nd

Waistmakers' Unity Center—P. S. 46

330 East 26th Street, Room 306.

8:30 p. m. Solon De Leon—Applied Economics.

Brownsville Unity Center—P. S. 84

Stone and Glenmore Aves., Room 318.

8:30 p. m. Sylvia Kopald—Economics and the Labor Movement.

Tuesday, January 23rd

Harlem Unity Center—P. S. 171

103rd St. near 5th Ave., Room 406.

8:45 p. m. Theresa Wolfson—Comparative Development of Industry and the Trade Union Movement in the U. S.

Lower Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 43

Brown Place and 185th St., Room 305

8:30 p. m. Dr. Margaret Daniels—Industrial History of the United States.

Wednesday, January 24th

East Side Unity Center—P. S. 63

44th St. Near 1st Ave., Room 404

8:30 p. m. Theresa Wolfson—Comparative Development of Industry and the Trade Union Movement in the United States.

Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 61

Crotona Park East and Charlotte St., Room 501

8:45 p. m. A. L. Wilbert—Modern Economic Institutions.

Waistmakers' Unity Center—P. S. 40

320 East 20th Street

6:00 p. m. Loretta Ritter—Physical Training

Friday, January 26th

P. S. 150—Christopher Ave. and Sackman St., Room 206.

8:00 p. m. Dr. Margaret Daniels—Social Psychology.

These courses will be continued throughout the reason at the same place, day and hour.

Second Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 42  
Washington Ave. and Chambers Parkway  
Williamsburg Unity Center—P. S. 147  
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### EXTENSION DIVISION

#### YIDDISH

Saturday, January 20th

Local No. 17—144 Second Avenue.

1:00 p. m. I. Lehrer—Social Psychology.

Local No. 1—1581 Washington Ave., Bronx.

8:00 p. m. D. Isakowitz—Socialism and Trade Unionism.

Harlem Educational Center of the I. L. G. W. U.

62 East 106th Street

8:00 p. m. Sh. Niegier—The Writer, the Reader and the Critic.

Sunday, January 21st

Local No. 1—1581 Washington Ave., Bronx.

10:30 a. m. I. Lehrer—Social Psychology.

Harlem Educational Center of the I. L. G. W. U.

62 East 106th Street

10:30 a. m. Max Levin—Economic Structure of Our Present System.

Monday, January 22nd

Local No. 1, Labor Lyceum—219 Sackman St., Brooklyn.

8:00 p. m. Max Levin—The Place of Organized Labor in Modern Society.

#### ENGLISH

Thursday, January 25th

I. L. G. W. U. Building.

8:00 p. m. Prof. H. Thompson—Farming Industry and Labor.

Friday, January 26th

Philadelphia—3018 Cherry St.

8:00 p. m. Joel Katsen—The Modern Jewish Theatre

# With the Waist and Dress Joint Board

By M. K. MACKOFF, Secretary

(Minutes of Meetings January 3 and 10, 1923)

Brother Berlin in the Chair.

Brother H. Wander, manager of Local No. 23, in a communication informed the Joint Board that they elected the following to represent them on our Joint Board in reference to the coming strike: Louis Pinkofsky, Charles Margolies, S. Prisman, Sam Witkin, H. Greenberg.

Upon motion the delegation from Local No. 23 was seated.

## OUTSIDE COMMITTEES

Mr. Walter W. Liggett, manager and editor of the New York Call and Theresa Malkiel, secretary of the New York Labor Conference Committee, appeared before the Board, asking for a loan for the New York Call.

Upon motion it was decided to give them a loan of \$500.

## REPORT OF REFERENDUM COMMITTEE

Brother Rief, chairman of the Referendum Committee and Brother Mackoff, secretary, submitted a detailed report on the referendum taken on the week-work proposition, which showed that a large majority voted for week-work.

Upon motion to approve the report on the referendum a warm discussion developed in which many officers and delegates participated. During that discussion it was brought out that the referendum was taken upon the advice of the New York General Executive Board. It was further pointed out that as the General Executive Board is going to have its quarterly meeting at Montreal, Canada, beginning with next week, the committee which was appointed on October 25th to appear before the General Executive Board should also be authorized to appear before the General Executive Board at Montreal in order to submit to them a report on the referendum and other data in connection with our coming campaign.

A motion to elect a committee of five was carried and the following were elected on that committee:

I. Antonini, H. Berlin, J. Hochman, S. Prisman, I. Schoenholz.

In regard to the report on the referendum, Brother Hochman read extracts from the trade press in which it was reported that the Jobbers' Association and the Dress Manufacturers' Association held membership meetings. It was further reported that they took up the question about the contemplated changes of working conditions in our industry. Brother Hochman, therefore, advised that upon the return of the committee from Montreal meetings of the Conference and Wage Scale Committees should be called without delay.

Brother Berlin instructed the secretary that hereafter the manager of Local No. 10 should be called to attend all the meetings to which the secretary of Local No. 10 had been called. Upon the request of the delegation of Local No. 23, Brother Charles Margolies was named to be on the Wage Scale Committee and Brother Greenberg, in conjunction with Brother Wander, on the Conference Committee.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The City Club of New York in a letter in which they enclosed two tickets, invited the Joint Board to be represented by a committee of two at a meeting which will be held at the Town Hall, on Thursday, January 21th. The purpose of this meeting is

to advocate the repeal of the Lusk school laws.

Upon motion the request was granted and a committee consisting of Sisters Di Maggio and Leit was appointed to attend that meeting.

Local No. 40 in a communication informed the Joint Board that their Executive Board took up the question of the referendum and decided to recommend to the Joint Board that a canvass of each and every local concerned should be taken separately in order to ascertain the number of votes cast by each local on the question of the week or piece-work proposition.

In another communication Local No. 60 informed the Joint Board that at their membership meeting held at Beethoven Hall the decision of the Executive Board of Local No. 60 in regard to the adoption of ten Russian orphans was disapproved and after a lengthy discussion the membership recommended that aid for the Russian orphans be given through the Quakers' organization.

Local No. 89 in a communication referred to the Joint Board a request made to them by the Indian Relief Committee that we give financial help to the people of India who are trying to throw off the yoke of Great Britain's imperialism and become a self-governing country. In the meanwhile the women and children of the 40,000 political prisoners are dying of starvation. This request was referred to the Finance Committee.

Brother Mackoff informed the Joint Board that the Joint Banking Committee sent in a report which is in substance, that they are working on the establishment of a bank in New York City, to be owned and controlled by trade unionists. This Federation Trust Company will be organized with a capital and surplus of two million dollars. Shares will be sold at \$200 each and can be purchased outright or on installments covering a period of ten months. Many subscriptions have been made both by labor organizations and individuals, but under the state law the doors cannot be opened for business until the capital and surplus is on hand. The money received, however, can be put to work just as soon as it is received. Members of the Joint Committee have addressed many union meetings, district councils and joint boards and they all report a very enthusiastic reception.

In addition, they state that financiers in Chicago are now conducting a fight to destroy the building trades unions of that city by withholding credit and calling loans of builders and contractors and are using every effort to make Chicago a open shop town. If, however, a bank like the Federation Trust Company were in Chicago, where loans could be made to friendly and fair employers, other financiers would hesitate before attacking our Unions.

The Joint Banking Committee therefore requests that we subscribe for as many shares at \$200 each as our funds will permit. That we recommend the purchase of shares to our members and urge them to use the bank for their deposits and thirdly that we place some of our own deposits in this bank.

They also suggest that we select a banking committee for the purpose of keeping in touch with the development of this bank.

Upon motion the secretary was in-

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structed to secure more data on this proposition and to report the findings to the Joint Board.

## REPORT OF ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Brother Mackoff, reported that the Organization Committee arranged a meeting for the Negro workers, which will be held on Thursday, Jan-

uary 18th at New Douglas Hall. Speakers prominent in the colored section were invited to attend that meeting and all the necessary arrangements will be made in order to make that meeting a success.

The Organization Committee therefore urged the officers and delegates to cooperate in bringing about a good attendance at that meeting.

## "Ruskinians" in the House of Commons

Fine Record of the Workers College  
(From London Daily Herald)

One of the most interesting Parliamentary "groups" is formed by the band of M.P.s who acknowledge their Alma Mater in Ruskin College, Oxford. Numerically, the "Ruskinians" may not appear an imposing formation, but for debating power and knowledge of their job in Parliament they are as formidable a "party" as can be found within the precincts of the House, while their appearance there is itself a portent of the deepest significance.

In the forefront of the group is Mr. Lees-Smith, who has probably done more for the educational emancipation of the working classes than anyone of his generation. Mr. Lees-Smith was primarily educated for the Army, but his whole bent was towards progressive politics, and early in his career, while a Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, he joined the American Vrooman in founding Ruskin College.

The ideals of the founders were lefty, and the regime they inaugurated for the students of the new college would probably appear to anyone less in earnest as severe. A Spartan simplicity was the rule: the Ruskinians were expected to do their own "housework" before attending lectures, and Mr. Lees-Smith made no bones about showing them the way.

Among other Ruskinian M.P.s, of whose achievements it is only possible here to give the briefest record, are Mr. T. Grouse, Mr. Robert Young, at one time Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and now a temporary chairman of the House of Commons, Mr. Charles Sitch, a recognized expert on Trade Boards,

who did sterling work in connection with sweated women at Cradley Heath, and Mr. T. Griffiths, who was Frank Hodges' right-hand man in the formation of the Steel Smelters' Union.

Mr. Mardy Jones, another of the band, who has already distinguished himself in the House, published a book on mining royalties, which was described by Professor Edgeworth as a credit to Oxford economics.

Two other of the "collegians" who have made names for themselves are Mr. Lawson, Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mr. Ramsey MacDonald, and Mr. Watkins, a quiet, level-headed Scot, who was chosen by the Life Miners as their political organizer.

Outside the House of Commons are no less in evidence, one of the most prominent of them being Mr. Frank Hodges, Secretary of the Mining Federation of Great Britain.

Another, Mr. W. H. Stevenson, now the Parliamentary correspondent of the Labor Party, went on from Ruskin College to Cambridge University to study economics, and at the age of 21 was editing a Welsh Labor newspaper.

Others occupy responsible official positions in Trade Unions, in the Ministry of Labor, or as Labor experts on leading newspapers.

Ruskin College can truly claim almost to fulfill the function which its founders had in their mind; it educates workers, not to raise them out of their class, but to enable them to help forward in the elevation of the working class as a whole to that equality of status which is its birthright.

# The Week in Local 10

By JOSEPH FISH

## GENERAL

Now that the affair is over, the Ball Committee would appreciate very much if all those who have taken tickets from either the secretary of the Ball Committee or any other source would make proper remittances. This will enable the secretary of the committee to render a final report on the proceeds of the affair in the very near future.

Appropos of this we would also request the members who secured "ads" for the Journal to make it their business to see that the remittance for same be forwarded to the secretary, Brother Fish immediately.

The first meeting of the new Executive Board was held a week ago and the first order of business for the session was the organization of its members and the election of its various officers. The following were elected unanimously to serve in the various capacities:

Benjamin Evry, who completed his term as chairman of the Executive Board last year, was re-elected chairman. Brother Morris Jacobs, who is also Vice-President of the organization, was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board. Brother Meyer Skluh, who served on the Board last year was elected Treasurer of the Executive Board to succeed Brother Evry, former treasurer, and Brother Henry Robbins was elected sergeant-at-arms.

The Executive Board also decided that the Non-Attendance Committee, which meets every Saturday afternoon and takes up cases of members who have not attended meetings of the body, shall consist of Brothers Charles W. Serrington, Moe Diamond and Morris Aloviz. These members are to serve for the month of January, and their successors will be appointed each consecutive month.

Brother Philip Ansel, newly-elected president; in making his appointments at the installation meeting, on Saturday, January 6th, appointed only two members on the Examination Committee at that meeting. And since this committee has always heretofore consisted of three members, Brother Emanuel Kopp, who served on the last Election Board was appointed by Brother Ansel to serve as the third man on the Examination Committee. The other two are Nathan Saperstein and Meyer Katz.

The membership is no doubt aware of the fact that General Manager David Dubinsky was away last week in Montreal, Canada, attending a quarterly session of the General Executive Board of the International, where various problems confronting our International were taken up. Brother Dubinsky returned Monday morning and resumed his duties in the office.

We are sure that by the time these lines will be read the fact will be well known that our respected and beloved President of the International, Brother Benjamin Schlesinger, has tendered his resignation to the General Executive Board, owing to ill health. The General Executive Board accepted Brother Schlesinger's resignation with regret.

At the last convention, which was held in Cleveland, Brother Schlesinger was determined not to run for re-election as President of the International, and even at that time it required the persuasion of the best elements of our movement to convince Brother Schlesinger of the necessity of placing his name as candidate for that office. This is not only true of our movement but the President of the American Federation of Labor,

Samuel Gompers, who addressed the convention at that time, openly pleaded with Brother Schlesinger to again assume the leadership of our International.

We are not going to eulogize Brother Schlesinger in these columns. There is no doubt that the membership of our International remembers the successful fights conducted by our organization under his able leadership. While many local unions or internationals have had to submit to the demands of the manufacturers in other industries, if not fully at least in part, the conditions that our membership saw several years ago remained unchanged, despite the efforts of the manufacturers to break them down.

Immediately after the acceptance of Brother Schlesinger's resignation, General Secretary-Treasurer Baroff issued a statement to the effect that a convention will be held in a few weeks for the election of a new President.

The members of Local No. 10 keenly regret the withdrawal of Brother Schlesinger as head of the I. L. G. W. U., and at the last meeting of the Waist and Dress Division, held Monday night, a motion was made and carried to the effect that we send a telegram to Brother Schlesinger to that effect.

As yet, there is no definite name to be mentioned as a possible successor, but we are sure that no matter who will be elected, the membership of Local No. 10 will render him all possible support and co-operation, so that the newly-elected president will have his task lightened and will thereby be able to lead the workers of the Ladies' Garment Industry to further success and achievement.

## CLOAK AND SUIT

At the last meeting of the Cloak and Suit Division, Brother Shenker, in the absence of Manager Dubinsky, submitted to the members the last quarterly and also yearly reports of the work conducted by the office. The quarterly report was printed in these columns last week, and since we have a yearly report which takes up quite a bit of space, and not wishing to render it piece-meal, it will be printed in next week's JUSTICE.

## WAIST AND DRESS

The Joint Board of Waist and Dressmakers has received the credentials of our newly-elected delegates to that body and has seated them accordingly, since we are the only local that holds its elections on the first of the year. The other locals hold theirs during the summer.

Immediately after seating them they were requested to make their selections for the various committees functioning in the Joint Board, such as the Board of Directors, Organization, etc. The following are the choice of our delegates:

Brother Charles Stein No. 2 will serve on the Board of Directors; Henry Robbins will serve on the Organization Committee; Brother Abe Blecht on the Grievance Committee; Brother Abraham Beckerman on the Appeal Committee; Brother Harry Berlin, the fifth delegate to the Joint Board, being President of that body, naturally retains that office.

At that meeting it was also decided to send a committee to the quarterly session of the General Executive Board, requesting the Board to sanction the strike for week-work, upon which question a referendum vote

was recently held, the results of which were in favor of the week-work system. One of the members of this committee was Brother Pleasant, Manager of the Dress Department of the Joint Board of Cloakmakers. We are happy to see that the Dress and Waist Joint Board invited a representative of Local No. 23 to be present with them, as Local No. 23 represents quite a big percentage of the workers in the dress industry in the City of New York.

Besides the committee representing the workers of the Waist and Dress industry, who appeared before the General Executive Board to argue in favor of sanctioning a strike for week-work, for the first time in the history of the industry a committee representing the manufacturers also appeared before the General Executive Board in Montreal, asking that the General Executive Board should not sanction the strike for week-work. We will not here state the arguments presented by either side. However, we do believe that the decision reached by the Executive Board, to the effect that the President of the International be authorized to confer with the manufacturers as regards the question of week-work, is a proper one. We are sure that a matter who will be entrusted with this work he will do all that he can to benefit the workers.

## MISCELLANEOUS

At the last meeting of the General Executive Board in Montreal, telegrams were received from Locals 41, 50 and 62, requesting that an intensive organization campaign be started in the trades controlled by these locals. Although the International has not yet received the returns on the assessment levied at the last convention in Cleveland, nevertheless the International felt bound to institute an organization campaign in conjunction with the above-named locals, and appropriated quite a large sum of money for this purpose.

Brother Harry Greenberg, Manager of Local No. 50, Children's Dressmakers' Union; and Local No. 41, Wrapper and Kimono Workers, who has already started a campaign in these two trades, has requested the Executive Board to assign a man to assist with regard to cutters.

The Executive Board now, as in the past, is ready to co-operate in such work, and for this purpose has assigned Brother Morris Aloviz, who represents the Miscellaneous Division on the Executive Board, to assist in this organization campaign and do what is possible in organizing the cutters.

In conjunction with this we would request all the cutters carrying Cloak and Suit, Waist and Dress or Miscellaneous Books, who are at present employed in either union or non-union shops manufacturing children's dresses, bath robes, house dresses, or kimonos, to register at 7 East 16th Street, Room 405.

## IN MEMORIAM

It is with keen regret and sorrow that we announce the death of BROTHER ABRAHAM TOOVE.

The officers and members of this organization will remember the activities of this brother during the strike of 1919, when he was chairman of the Sherr Brothers' shop, which was at that time one of the biggest in the Waist Industry in the country, and his untiring efforts to bring the strike to a successful conclusion.

The sympathy of the members of Local No. 10 are conveyed to the bereaved family.

## A-T-T-E-N-T-I-O-N!

### Russian-Polish Cloakmakers

The regular meeting of the Russian-Polish Branch will take place on Monday, January 22, at 7:30 p. m. sharp, at the People's Home, 315 East 10th Street.

It is the duty of every member of the Branch to be present at this meeting.

A. E. SAULICH, Secretary.

## CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

### Notice of Regular Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS ..... Monday, January 22nd  
GENERAL ..... Monday, January 29th  
CLOAK AND SUIT ..... Monday, February 5th

(There will be no meeting of the Waist and Dress Division in February, as Lincoln's Birthday falls on the second Monday of the month.)

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.  
AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place