

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

—Job 27.6

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

Vol. V, No. 13.

New York, Friday, March 23, 1923.

Price 2 Cents

GENERAL STRIKE IN WHITE GOODS INDUSTRY OF GREATER NEW YORK

CALL OF UNION STRIKERS

Y OBEYED—IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION AS GIRLS—THOUSANDS OF NON-UNION WORKERS JOIN PRESIDENTS LEFKOVITS, HALPERIN AND FAIR. A COHN ASSIST IN CONDUCTING STRIKE

The general strike in the white goods industry of New York, called on Tuesday last, March 20th, by the White Goods Workers' Union, Local No. 62, under the auspices of the International Union, is proving to be a remarkable success.

This is not the first strike in the white goods trade, but never was a strike in this industry so general, in the literal sense of the word, as the one that is being fought out now. The strike has actually paralyzed every shop, every factory and sub-factory where white goods are being manufactured throughout the Greater City.

The enthusiasm displayed by the girl strikers is similarly astounding. The girls from the non-union shops—as well as the members of the union shops—have dropped work at the appointed hour and have flooded Broadway, Mercer, Spring, Green and all adjacent streets, marching in happy,

smiling series down to the halls to which they had been assigned. Italian girls marched side by side with Jewish, native white girls locked arms with negro fellow-workers—all laughing, singing, and skipping merrily on their way to the first strike meetings.

Here is the official strike call which had been spread in the early hours of Tuesday morning in the white goods district and which brought out the thousands of anxious girls. It was printed in three languages, English, Jewish, and Italian:

WHITE GOODS WORKERS OF NEW YORK, BROOKLYN AND THE GREATER CITY

A GENERAL STRIKE DECLARED

TODAY, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1923, AT 10 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

All cutters, operators, ribboners, examiners and pressers working on muslin and silk underwear must leave the shops and come out on STRIKE.

Sisters and Brothers: The deplorable conditions that exist in the white goods factories today are the direct result of the many non-union shops that have come up and multiplied in our trade in the past few years. These non-union shops have a bad effect upon the entire industry and they constantly endanger the better and more humane conditions that prevail in the union

(Continued on Page 11)

Fourth Quarterly Meeting of G. E. B. Begins Next Monday, March 26th

THE FIRST FORMAL MEETING OF THE BOARD UNDER NEW PRESIDENT — SECRETARY BAROFF WILL RENDER FULL REPORT ON UNION'S ACTIVITIES DURING LAST FEW MONTHS

Next Monday morning, March 26, at the Council Room of the International Building, there will begin the fourth regular quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board of our International Union. The meeting will, for the first time in a number of years, be held in New York, and will be the first formal meeting of the Board under the chairmanship of the new President of our Union, Brother Morris Sigman.

The meeting will have before it a

number of matters of first importance. President Sigman will, at this meeting, lay before the members of the Board a plan for organizing work in new territory, worked out in full detail and with system and efficiency. A plan for strengthening many existing locals in various localities and for making them less dependent upon the General Office will also be discussed.

Secretary Baroff has prepared for the members of the Board a lengthy report on the organization work and

on the strikes waged by the International in the course of the last ten weeks and will also render a complete financial statement.

Locals and members of the Union who desire to communicate with the General Executive Board or to appear before it, are requested to notify Secretary Baroff about it, at the Home Office of the Union, 3 West 13th St., New York City.

President Sigman Received Warmly in Chicago

SPENDS THERE SEVERAL DAYS IN INTERESTS OF UNION—VISIT WILL BRING LASTING RESULTS—AIDS IN REACHING UNDERSTANDING WITH CLOAK EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

President Sigman came to Chicago on Monday, March 12, and remained there several days. He received a very hearty reception from the membership of our Chicago locals who accorded him a rousing welcome.

President Sigman wasted no time from the moment he arrived in the Windy City. On Monday evening, he attended meetings of the executive boards of the locals. On Tuesday night, March 12, he was present at a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Joint Board of the Chicago Cloakmakers' Union. On Wednesday evening, March 14, he addressed a mass meeting of the dress

makers at Schoenhofen Hall. It was a remarkably successful affair and President Sigman was listened to with rapt attention by all assembled. The meeting was also addressed by John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, Edward Johnson, and many others.

On the afternoon of the same day, President Sigman attended a conference between the representatives of the Cloak Manufacturers' Association and the Joint Board. A number of differences which have been for quite some time in the way of a complete agreement with the employers were straightened out at this meeting. The

Dress Strike in Philadelphia Ends in Victory for Union

LOCAL 15 ISSUES IMPORTANT STATEMENT

The general strike in the dress and waist industry of Philadelphia was officially declared at an end this week.

The strike lasted no more than two weeks and resulted in a substantial victory for the workers and for the union. Two-thirds of the workers in the industry responded to the call of the union and left the shops. All of these are now back at work under union conditions. All settlements have been made with individual manufacturers. The dress and waist makers' union of Philadelphia, Local 15, has issued the following statement, a few days ago on the termination of the strike:

"The Union has come out of this strike much stronger than what it was in the last few years. Our membership has been troubled. The Union has again introduced Union working conditions in the waist and dress shops of Philadelphia.

"The Union will now continue with its new policy with regard to the shops belonging to the members of the manufacturers' association, who have refused to deal with us collectively. The Union will never recog-

(Continued on page 3)

Topics of the Week

By N. S.

SETTLING THE EUROPEAN CRISIS

GERMANY'S note to Washington and London is kept secret. But unofficially the diplomats admit that it may well prove to be the basis for negotiations with France. The German government apparently realized that its passive resistance against French invasion could not last very long, and that sooner or later it would be forced to come to an agreement with France.

The industrial bloc in the Reichstag, led by Hugo Stinnes, is busily engaged in framing a new scheme to appease the ravenous appetite of France. Chancellor Cuno will be forced to submit the new offer to Poincaré or resign. German magnates found that the passive resistance policy is non-conducive to profits and they are now ordering their government to try peace and submission.

Germany is prepared to go a long way to effect a working agreement with France. But it is not known whether she will go far enough to satisfy French imperialism. Her hope is that Great Britain and America will exert their moderating influence on France. But it is a forlorn hope. The British government is wavering, uncertain, almost on the verge of collapse, while the American government is proud of its inactivity and aloofness in foreign matters. The French government, on the other hand, has often stated that it will regard any attempt at mediation by an "outside" power as an "unfriendly act."

THE UTERMYER PROGRAM AT ALBANY

AFTER prolonged legislative committee hearings, and state-wide agitation and discussion the program prepared by Mr. Samuel Utermyer and sponsored by the Lockwood Committee emerged from the Joint Legislative Committee last week. The Senate debated and wrangled over it. It was broken up, sifted and amended; some of its provisions were defeated, while others passed by a narrow margin. It now awaits the action of the Assembly.

The action of the Senate occasioned some surprise. It passed the bill to create a state commission to regulate trade and commerce and prevent illegal combinations from handling commodities. It passed the so-called blue sky bill which provides for supervision of the Stock Exchange and the jugglers in finance. But when it came to the bill which provided for the state regulation of labor unions, no one was found to defend it and it went down in defeat. Some credulous souls were therefore inclined to draw the conclusion that the Albany legislators are simply out after the scalp of the profiteers and have finally turned to be the champions of the workers and the defenseless consumers.

A closer scrutiny, however, reveals the political game enacted at Albany. There is a Democratic Senate playing against a Republican Assembly, and the chief concern of each chamber is to discredit, embarrass and annoy the other. If the Lockwood bills passed by the Senate should be ditched by the Assembly, the Republicans will have to bear the onus of blocking a program which is aimed to relieve not only the housing situation but many other economic evils as well. But the bill which provides for a state commission to regulate trade and commerce is distinctly distasteful to big business and hence like many other unpopular provisions it will be slaughtered. It only remains for the Assembly to devise effective camouflage to cover up its designs and at the same time hit back at the Senate. Governor Smith, however, has already shown signs of impatience with the Assembly and is determined to keep a vigilant eye on its doings. It is of course impossible to predict at this writing which of the numerous bills the Assembly will adopt. One thing, however, has already been settled for the present session, namely, that the measure which provided for the state regulation of labor unions is buried. But the workers must be prepared for its resurrection in the future.

IS THE ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE "POLITICAL"?

THE Anti-Saloon League, which seeks to make the world bone-dry, God-fearing and obedient, has been liberally financed by our sanctified money kings. The New York organization spent at least a quarter of a million dollars annually to promote its aims. It was particularly busy during elections, and between elections it held the Albany Legislature in leash. William H. Anderson, the superintendent of the League, assumed the role of dictator before whom the lawmakers trembled and did his bidding. Then it came to light that the bone-dry, ultra-moral Anderson had been manipulating the funds entrusted to him for uplifting mankind in a shady and suspicious manner.

With the rising tide of "wet" sentiment the attacks on the Anti-Saloon League gained fresh impetus. The demand that this League like any other political organization should be obliged to open its books and make an annual statement of receipts and expenditures to the government became more urgent. It came up before the New York State Supreme Court. Mr. Anderson and his dry colleagues argued that they are merely running an educational institution, a sort of Sunday-school. This League, they insisted, is engaged in training, purifying, raising the moral standards of the people, and if they are forced to exert political pressure, it is only as a means to an end. It was apparent, however, even to the judge that politics of the Republican brand crowded all the "educational" and "moral" stuff out of its program. And the judge ruled that this League is a political body and as such must make annual reports of its finances.

The wets scored another victory and are jubilant. Mr. Anderson, on the other hand, is irritated and defiant. He threatens to appeal to a higher court. He insists upon his right to guard the secrets of his financial transactions. Why? Why this distrust? Mr. Anderson surely knows that the Republican and Democratic parties, despite their reports and statements to the government, are managing pretty well to get away with a good bit of what is not quite regular. Why then worry?

Union Health Center News

Because of the popularity and great success of the first of the series of lectures given on Physical Exercises for the Worker, Dr. Crampton has extended his course to include one extra lecture—the last talk of his series to be given on April 10th. This series is specially adapted to the workers of the I. L. G. W. U., for Dr. Crampton made a special study of the manner in which workers sit at their machines and stand at their tables, and, based upon this study, has developed a series of special exercises. The fee for this course is \$1.00.

On Friday, March 23rd, Dr. S. W. Boerstein will give a special lecture on the Physiology of Women's Wear, a description of the rights and wrong way to dress, according to the physical needs of the body. This will be a special lecture for women only and will be developed along the lines in which women will be most interested.

Dr. Boerstein is Orthopedist of Fordham Hospital and has made a special study of the defects arising from bad corsets, tight garters, etc. This lecture is open to women only, and the members of the I. L. G. W. U. are cordially invited to attend.

On Friday evening, March 30th, there will be a social evening at the Union Health Center, when every one will have the opportunity to have a good time.

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A SIGN OF PROSPERITY

VARIOUS governmental and private agencies have during recent months been engaged in proving that the American people are on the rising tide of prosperity. Increased employment, higher commodity prices, heavier purchasing orders have been pointed to as the signs of the revival in business. But it is the Treasury Department at Washington that finally settled all doubts. It directly and conclusively demonstrated that the era of prosperity is here by showing that the incomes of the American people are rapidly increasing.

The Treasury Department knows what it is talking about. On March 15 all income tax returns for the first period of 1923 were completed. All expectations of Treasury officials were surpassed. 400 million dollars was the income tax for the first quarter for the first quarter of the first year, while the income tax for the same period last year amounted to about 30 million dollars less. It must also be borne in mind that no excess profit taxes were included this year and that surtax rates were radically reduced.

Larger income taxes obviously mean larger incomes. For tax-payers are not anxious to boast of their increased incomes. The opposite is true. Corps of lawyers and accountants are employed to cheat the government. The figures of the Treasury Department therefore are conservative and would tend to underestimate the wave of prosperity as measured by the rise in incomes.

Have the miners, the railroad workers, the steel workers, the garment workers paid larger income taxes? Have they paid any taxes at all? Have their incomes risen to a point where they could maintain themselves in accordance with the accepted standard of living? Manifestly the workers do not partake in this prosperity. It is a state describing the life of our ruling classes.

OIL POLITICS

OIL is in the way of American recognition of Mexico. It may become the chief motive for dealing with Russia. It accounts for our interest in the Near East and China. All our government departments are oil-conscious. Secretary Hughes measures and weighs all things in terms of oil.

A recent decision of the Department of the Interior and a report of the Federal Trade Commission reveal the American oil anxiety. There is, according to the commission report, an international conspiracy against Americans in foreign oil fields. It takes two forms: first, discrimination in the sense that foreign governments deny to Americans privileges allowed to other aliens; and second, discrimination in that foreign governments deny to Americans privileges similar to those allowed by the United States to the citizens of those countries. America is excluded from the oil agreements between Great Britain and France. The Royal Dutch-Shell group is a fierce competitor of the Standard Oil Co. The richest oil fields in Europe and Asia are pretty much apportioned among the European powers. Which is more disturbing is that the Royal Dutch-Shell group controls many oil fields, refineries and bunkering stations in this country. A foreign corporation competing with the Standard Oil Co. on American soil!

The American government has therefore tightened the bars against foreigners operating oil fields here. It has retaliated against foreign discrimination of American interests abroad. It will doubtless follow up this new policy by a more aggressive stand. There are all the signs that oil will continue to mould and shape American foreign policy.

THE "CASE" AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS

THE Department of Justice has produced the star witness in the trial against the Communists at St. Joseph, Michigan. He is a government spy; who attended the secret meeting of the Communists last August as a bona fide red. His testimony is therefore the most damaging and incriminating "evidence" the government has to offer.

Judged by the newspaper headlines it would seem that the Department of Justice has succeeded in building up a formidable case against the radicals. But if one takes the trouble to read the stories broadcasted from St. Joseph it becomes clear that the Department of Justice has merely published a second edition of the "documents" and "secret papers" collected and edited by former Attorney General Palmer. The government star-witness told a long tale, describing the workings of the Communist party, the names of its members, its constitution and program, its affiliation with Moscow. The most startling revelation that this spy could make is that W. Z. Foster is a red.

A Letter from England

By EVELYN SHARP
(London Daily Herald Service.)

Three crushing defeats have been encountered at the polls by the government. In each case an established Tory stronghold fell to an opponent of the government, at Willesden to a Liberal candidate (there was no Labor candidate), and at Mitcham and Liverpool to Labor candidates. In the two latter instances the news of the Labor victories was received at the House of Commons at first with incredulity, so impossible did it seem that either could be represented by a Labor member. In all three polls the anti-government majority was large enough to leave no doubt as to the opinion of the constituency which, only three months ago returned a Tory member who now came back for reelection with the added lustre of a Minister's title. For all three defeated candidates were newly appointed Ministers seeking reelection; and their defeat, followed by resignation, forces the government to find either Tory members to take their places who have such safe seats as cannot possibly be upset by the rising tide of opinion against the government's housing policy.

For these government defeats must be attributed mainly to the unsatisfactory policy outlined in the government's new Bill dealing with the control of rents, and indeed, regarding the whole of their housing policy as seen in the present shortage of working-class dwellings. The workers are naturally dissatisfied with a government that makes no real attempt to provide decent housing for the poor, while the middle-class has been equally alienated by the proposal to decentralize their houses—that is, to leave the owners free to raise the rents as much as they choose, within the next two years, provided the House of Commons does not dissent—a vacillating policy that leaves no one, either owner or tenant, with any security of tenure. Looking at these amazing election results, one can only wish for some greater issue, though one must not underestimate the Englishman's attachment to his home even if, in thousands of cases, it is anything but the proverbial castle.

LABOR AND THE RUHR

The debate in the House of Commons on J. Ramsay MacDonald's motion to appoint a representative committee from the House to meet similar Parliamentary committees in France and Belgium for a discussion of the Ruhr problem, at least drew an interesting pronouncement from the Prime Minister, Mr. Bonar Law, on the British government's attitude. He admitted that the government had no alternative policy to propose to that advocated by the Labor party, which he rejected as likely to be looked upon by France as a hostile act; but he thought no policy at all was better than a policy which could not suc-

ceed and was in itself bad. The French government was obliged to do what it had done, of which the British government disapproved, because it had the French people behind it. Intervention would not stop them, it would be hostile to France, and the British government was not prepared to try it. Lord Robert Cecil, who spoke last week against the Labor proposal to appeal to the League of Nations, opposed yesterday's motion because the League of Nations was the only body to settle the question! One rather hopes that the Germans do not read the debates in the House of Commons, for the Labor members, with a few of the Independent Liberals, seem to be the only people who feel the dishonor of standing by inactive while the French violate the Treaty of Versailles and hit the enemy while he is down, an unadmission of the traditions of British fair play. The "Manchester Guardian" suggests today that the Labor party should go forward with their committee suggestion without government blessing upon it; but if they elect to do so it will not have half the value or influence abroad it would otherwise have possessed.

Meanwhile, today's reports of yesterday's proceedings in the Berlin Reichstag are some indication of the strain to which Germany is being put by the increasing aggression of France, by the recent occupation of more towns, by the treatment of German prisoners whose only crime is that they will not be a party to France's invasion of their undefended territory. Herr Cuno, after enumerating some of these outrages, ended by saying that the one success that France had attained was the resolution of all in the Ruhr and Rhineland to meet her with determined passive resistance. "We will not cease in our policy of passive resistance," he concluded, "until our goal is attained, of a reasonable, fair and honest understanding."

WOMEN'S WEEK IN THE COMMONS

Four bills of particular interest to women have been debated this week in the Commons, three of which have secured a second reading and may pass into law if the government gives time. Beside the two noted before (page 6) a measure to give the wife equal divorce rights, so that she can divorce her husband on the same grounds (i. e. adultery) on which he can now divorce her, was given a second reading by the very large majority of 221 votes to 27. The almost unanimous nature of the speeches in the debate were some measure of the advance made in the position of women since they were enfranchised. The fourth proposal, which did not secure a second reading, the government being opposed to it, still was de-

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lated very sympathetically by members who did not all, let us hope, have their eyes fixed upon the ballot box. It was a Labor measure to grant pensions to widows and to wives whose breadwinner was incapacitated, and was rejected by the government on account of the cost that would be involved—a sum placed severally at 45 million and 26 million pounds annually—impossible, of course, in view of the immense sums required for our adventures in Mesopotamia and elsewhere.

Another matter closely affecting women as well as men, the question of the limitation of families, is being hotly discussed in the press and on

the platform just now on account of the Judge's obviously adverse attitude in the libel action brought by Dr. Marie Stopes, the well-known advocate of birth control in this country, last week. Here the jury, after virtually deciding in her favor, allowed themselves to be practically argued out of it by the judge, an unheard of proceeding in an English court of justice, which will lead many to inquire into the whole question much more closely than would have been the case had she received simple justice on the merits of her case, quite apart from the subject matter on which the libel was founded.

PHILADELPHIA DRESS STRIKE COMES TO AN END

(Continued from page 1)

nize this association again. It will tackle these shops singly until they are brought to realize that they must operate under Union conditions. These manufacturers will have to deal with the Union one by one. Eventually their shops will have to become Union shops and work under the same terms as the shops which have signed agreements with the Union.

"The contrast between the Union shops and the scab shops, the striking difference between the working conditions in them, will now be our best agitator. It will make the workers in the non-union shops rebel and join the Union. The workers will doubtless soon realize that there is

a difference between 44 and 48 hours a week and between fixed Union wages and wages depending upon the caprice of the boss.

Of course, the union knows that the result of the present victory in the majority of the shops will force the bosses of the non-union shops to raise the wages of their workers and perhaps to give them some better work conditions in order to keep out of the union. But the workers in the non-union shops will not be slow in understanding where their help came from and they will join the union anyway. In a word, this strike union conditions in all the dress and will result in the introduction of waist shops of Philadelphia without exception.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

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ATTENTION

RUSSIAN-POLISH CLOAKMAKERS

The regular meeting of the Russian-Polish Branch will take place on Friday, March 23, 8 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, at which very important business will be taken up.

SECRETARY.

CAGED

(A Sketch)

By SYLVIA KOPALD

They had been engaged now for more than a month. Every once in a while she would look at him with a start and say to herself, "He is going to be my husband." Each day she saw him with an increasing sharpness. She noticed the little deep lines that pulled at the corners of his eyes. She grew familiar with the way he ran his fingers through his straight, silky hair whenever something bothered him. She began to listen for the short, staccato chuckles that always came before his hearty laugh. And after each new revelation of this strangely complex man she loved, she would long for the physical feel of him. She wanted to nestle against the roughness of his man's coat; she wanted to lay her face against the deceptive smoothness of his shaven cheek; she wanted to feel again the tender strength with which he crushed her hand in his; she wanted even to sniff the faroff scent of tobacco that clung to him. But always when she yearned for these things, there were so many other around.

Many times she had exploded in sudden gusts of anger against the never-ending intrusion of people—always people—into their love.

"We're just like animals in a cage," he would say. "No matter what we want to do, we can't get away from the silly eyes of people. There is no room in this damn city even to breathe."

And she thrilled with pride at the cleverness with which he could express their feelings—and agreed. That's just what they were—animals in a cage.

"But at least we're in the cage together," she would comfort.

Then he would kiss her greedily, telling her what a darling little Pollyanna she was, and how he loved her; and they would forget their complaint against the city—for a while.

One Friday came when everything went badly. As the evening progressed, she watched the tide of his rage mount steadily within him and wondered what he was planning. She knew how clever he was, and she knew also that when his patience broke he always wanted to do something about whatever troubled him. Her growing restlessness echoed his anger. Yet that Friday held nothing that was entirely new. It only contained a lot of the old familiar irritation into a few short hours. Things began at supper.

Her mother liked to have Dave to supper as often as possible. But she insisted upon his presence at the table on Fridays. Minnie was the first of the children to become engaged and her mother had hovered over her anxiously and excitedly ever since she had heard of Dave's proposal. Her mother was very proud of Dave—and just a little afraid of him. She would tell the neighbors of how much he read, and how beautifully he spoke and how everybody in his union looked up to him as a "brainy fellow." She knew that Minnie was just the wife for him, because she, too, had always stuck in the libraries and had a way of coming out with the queerest things. The first family engagement had somehow broken the dull routine of life for her. Each Friday she prepared the Shabbas' meal with an excitement that belonged to her early married years and which Dave's entry into the family circle had restored to her.

This Friday everything began as

usual. The candles had been lit and their dim and fretful gleams cut the white tablecloth into blocks of heavy shadow and thin light. The first brooding Sabbath calm had been broken by the steady, tinkling raps of spoons and forks knocking against plates as her mother brought in the gefilte fish, and the noodle soup, and the chicken drowned in knishes (rarely) gravy, and the Fresh-baked, twisted halles and all the rest. While her mother beamed upon them (nothing delighted her so much as watching her folks enjoy a meal), they ate with their customary relief. For Mrs. Epstein belonged to those old-fashioned Jewish women for whom canned food and the delicious supper do not exist, and who, therefore, spend the greater part of their lives over the kitchen stove. A crisp potato latka brought her the joy of a true artist. Even Dave could seldom withstand the insidious content with men and things which her cooking brought.

Because she knew Dave's usual imperviousness to the higher values of food, she always watched him sharply and pressed dishes upon him with particular insistence. Tonight she detected him with his fork held idly over his chicken. How could he know that just at that moment he was reaching for Minnie's hand under the table?

"Dave, what's the matter? Don't you like the chicken? And here I go always specially saving the white meat for you."

Dave started and his right hand came up quickly from submission to regions. And then Sarah met his confusion with her usual joke.

"Say, Ma, don't you worry so much about their appetites. Don't you know two sweeties like them fill up on love?"

She always said just that. And always she would look around the table for appreciation, wink slyly, and smother in giggles. Her father would then nudge Dave and his huge body would heave with laughter. Even little Able would break in with his standard yoke: "Don't I always tell you, Ma, to save the chicken for me and give them mush? They're more used to it."

"Ma," Dave broke in with a smile, "You see me much." He liked Mrs. Epstein. He felt her admiration for him and warmed to it. Somehow he seemed to understand her. But for the others he had open contempt. "If they would only be original once for a change," he would storm to Minnie. Tonight he ignored them with what Minnie at once recognized as ominous calm.

The jesting and snickering directed straight at them went on, but somehow they got through the meal. Dave engineered their "get-away" with surprising skill. As the family relaxed after the tea and expanded with the knowledge of a good job well done, she felt Dave's hand on her arm. Without a word, he got up, took her with him and went out. It was all so straightforward that even Sarah neglected to remark upon it.

The gas yet in the parlor had been lit to provide against the need of striking a match on Shabbas. He turned it low and they sat down together on the big soft couch. The dimness of the room gave them a curious sense of security and permanence. They spoke and planned, their voices hushed so as to break the mood of the room and the night.

Then they grew silent. His arm slipped about her and she rested her head on his shoulder. They were very happy.

When Sarah came in, neither of them saw her until she was right beside them. Minnie seemed to feel how Dave fought off the interruption of her voice, just as she did, too. "But no one could disregard Sarah's voice for long."

"Say, you sweeties," she was saying, "I'm sorry to break up this love feast, but I gotta have the parlor tonight."

"Oh, Sarah," Minnie objected, "you never give us a chance at it. We're always changing about because you want the parlor."

"Yes, I know, little one," Sarah replied, "but don't forget you got your fish hooked already. Don't be selfish. Remember I gotta work hard yet to catch somethin' myself."

Dave took up the problem, addressing himself pointedly to Minnie.

"Is there another room we can have?"

The Epsteins lived in a poky five-room flat upon the third floor of a crowded tenement on East 103rd Street. One was always knocking against furniture or elbowing some other member of the family. With the family in the dining room and Sarah in the parlor, Dave knew the answer to his question even while he asked it.

"How about the kitchen, Mr. High Muck-a-Muck?" Sarah teased. She resembled Dave deeply.

"Let's go out, then," he suggested to Minnie's sighing "I guess not, Dave."

Dave had stalked out of the house, slamming the door viciously behind them. But as they reached the street and the cool air of the late March evening caressed them, the anger seemed to ooze from his soul. He twisted his arm into hers and grasped her fingers. They walked to the Park.

Central Park still, apparently, in the embrace of winter. The branches of its trees spread severe and naked above them, the ground was bleakly brown. Yet one could almost feel Spring stirring underground, running light fingers through the heart of the trees, rustling through the thin wood-entangles of the bushes. And certainly one could see Spring. In spite of the slight chill in the air almost every bench was occupied with young men and girls seeking each other much as Dave and she were seeking. The glare of headlights from the steady procession of autos on the driveway continually cut away the protective darkness in which they hid. They walked for a while until Dave spied an empty bench tucked in a blind bend of the road.

"If we get a little privacy here," Dave promised, "we'll hide this bench like Captain Kidd hid his emeralds and keep it for our very own."

They laughed. On the main road about ten yards away another couple like them sat together. For a few moments Dave and Minnie were conscious of them. But the very obliviousness of the other two soon made them oblivious too. The friendly night seemed big enough for all.

But once again their peace was brief. A booming, coarse voice came to them from the main road. They saw a big, good-natured looking pe-

liceman angrily scolding the couple nearest them.

"And how many times must I be after tellin' youse that no speenin' is allowed here? Shure, and I should think you'd be ashamed with all the wimmins and the children goin' by. Now be off with yer, and quick, too."

Dave turned to Minnie with a little shiver. "Min, if anyone spoke to us like that I should feel absolutely defiled and commit murder or something. Let's beat it before the electric chair gets me."

They tried to pass it off with a laugh. But soon Minnie could hardly keep pace with Dave, he was walking so quickly. He stopped abruptly. "Min, let's get married."

"Why, Dave, of course we're going to get married." Suddenly she felt very scared.

"I mean now. Right away."

"Oh, Dave, we can't. Don't you remember we figured out we'd have to save six months before we could get furniture?"

"Furniture be damned. I want you and I don't want the whole damned world to be always butting in."

"But Dave, if we marry now we'll have to live with the family or take a furnished room. And that would be awful."

Because he felt the force of her arguments his anger turned completely upon her.

"All right. Have another six months like this last one. Get all the Sarah's, and policemen, and snickering idiots you want. But don't expect me to grin at it."

Her first impulse was to resent his tone. But she understood him too well to follow that.

"Dave, dear," she said quickly, slipping her arm back into his, "you know your heart. I'm right. And if you're willing to wait years for the revolution, let's wait months for our home."

"You little rascal!" Dave laughed and patted her head. "You win. You're boss. What'll we do now."

She had a sudden inspiration. "Let's go to Coney."

There always were lots of folks on the beach but somehow one felt all alone. The ocean had a way, too, of making policemen and meddling folks seem very small. Last summer, when they were going together, they had always felt very close by the dark, pounding sea.

"Too much subway before the ocean," Dave objected, even while squeezing her hand in sympathy with the idea that had made her suggest it.

"Too many lovey-doveys hugging all around you to make you willing to be just another one of the bunch."

"Oh, well, then, you old kill-joy, let's go to the movies."

So they went to the movies and watched a lovely princess defy kings, and armies, and oceans, and storms for the sake of her commoner lover back in the days when knighthood was in flower. Dave's mind told him it was a very silly picture but somehow it stilled his restlessness. His hand found Minnie's in the dark. Al most instinctively he pressed her head close to his shoulder.

"Say, there, Romeo," someone called from behind them, "Break the clench and give us a chance to see the picture."

A ripple of laughter broke the silence about them.

Profit Sharing to Fool Labor

By J. CHARLES LAUE

Whenever the unions are on the upgrade, due to the revival in industry, and are expanding and demanding and planning to get a little higher wage—most of the time merely to keep up with the rising prices—the familiar red herring of profit-sharing is drawn across the trail by the capitalists.

The great period of organization for the American workers was during the phenomenal war activity of 1915 to 1920. The extraordinary expansion of the membership of the American Federation of Labor from 2,000,000 in 1915 to 4,000,000 in 1920 marks this period. That was the golden age for employers to try their nostrums to forestall genuine collective bargaining by the workers.

Another boom period seems under way although E. H. Stewart, commissioner of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, has already issued a warning that the present boom is temporary and that another period of deflation such as the American workers experienced in 1920-1922 is coming as part of the inevitable cycle of events in modern society.

Profit-sharing is looming up again as the cure for industrial unrest. The sympathetic attention given to one of the most meritorious schemes, recently announced by Henry A. Dix, retired manufacturer of house dresses in New York city, has made the idea popular over night with employers.

Cloak man, cutters, silk merchants and textile manufacturers seem overcome with the sudden desire to "divide up" and give the workers everything. In most cases there is a string attached to snatch away the prize when the gullible workers intend to grab it. Usually it is a bid for notoriety, more successful than that of a certain New York garment manufacturer who had two large diamonds inserted in his front teeth to advertise his wealth.

Under the profit-sharing plans the workers are given, in addition to their wages, a percentage of the net profits at the end of the quarter or

the year, if they continue to be employed for that length of time. In co-partnership schemes this percentage is invested in the shares of the firm and held to the workers' account. The intention is the same in any case. It is to spread the belief that all alike, masters and men, have an equal interest in increasing the prosperity of the business.

The effect is of course that the workers employed under these schemes often feel that it is not necessary to belong to a trade union and that it is simply foolish to strike against the firm, because to do so would decrease their share in the profits. Choice has to be made between the loyalty to trade unionism and loyalty to the employer, and in practice some forms of profit-sharing have killed the real labor organization.

The house dress firm of Dix & Company, when it announced its willingness to turn a \$1,000,000 business over to its veteran employees, was merely selling the business to its employees and giving nothing. The purchase price was to be paid in a period of years out of the profits earned. And with the continued efficiency demonstrated in a standardized industry, it was thought probable that the business could go on after the death of the founder (who had become a millionaire as the result of his shrewdness and the workers' energy and skill) on a co-partnership basis, in which a minority of the actual workers, instead of outside interests, would be in control. The scheme seemed practical and fair and its success will prove nothing better than the contention that it is the workers who are responsible for the success of any enterprise and can carry it on without the superior brains of the capitalist.

On the other hand, this firm's claims to immunity from labor trouble were not entirely correct. In the dim and distant past when this employer was starting his shop at Millville, Pennsylvania, a bitter and long-fought strike was conducted by

the international against the shop. After that the firm made it a practice to pay above the union scale and, by guaranteeing a period of employment, practically all the year around, longer than that of the usual season, the conditions became so much better than those prevailing in the average shop that there was little incentive for the workers to organize.

When the new owners of the Dix factories begin to oppress their workers, then the old problem of the antagonism of the two classes will arise again.

What the advocates of profit-sharing overlook is that the conflict between employers and workers is too real and fundamental to be abolished by such schemes, however subtle. At the first strain the whole thing collapses.

In the past, when the craftsman owned his tools and also the articles he produced with them, the worker's problem was to produce and sell his product or exchange it. The great majority of workers today work for an employer mostly with his tools, and the goods when produced belong to him. The workers have nothing but their bare weekly wages.

The wages are subject to slight variation but, generally speaking, are only sufficient to enable the worker to go on working and to bring up as best he can a family to take his place when he is old.

If the prices rise, the workers are forced to organize and to struggle for a proportionate increase in wages which will be resisted by the employers. Profit-sharing makes no provision for the rise in the cost of living and this will immediately show its uselessness. It is usually suggested only when the workers are in a strong position; then in periods of depression it is a simple matter to discharge enough workers to make those that remain willing to stay on any terms to make a living, unless they have a labor union to protect them.

Usually the profits received are

small when compared with what might have been gained by aggressive trade-union action. Even if involving considerable expense, it is still desirable from the employer's point of view of exploiting and enslaving his workers to lure them into some partnership arrangement. This is still one of the most attractive and spurious schemes to wean the workers from the unions.

Much more detailed criticism could be leveled against the various systems of profit-sharing than is possible in a general review. Among those objections are the failure to give the lower order of "profit sharers" a direct voice in the affairs of the corporation, the high salaries and bonuses that can be voted to the directors, the hundred and one subterfuges that can be used to swindle the workers who stake their all on the good faith of the employer.

Naturally nothing is safe for the workers to enter into unless there is the fullest democratic control of the corporation, and, short of the system of cooperative ownership developed by the labor movement, there is no short cut to control of the job or security of employment other than can be obtained through the trade union methods and collective action—certainly not the short cut pointed out by the capitalists.

If you want the Negro workers in your shop to join the Union, to become members in the great army of organized labor, ask them to read—

THE MESSENGER
The Only Trade Union Publication for Negro Workers in America

2305 Seventh Avenue.
New York City

GET-TOGETHER

This Saturday, March 24th, the students of our Workers' University and Unity Centers will decide upon the date of the Get-Together for the students, the teachers, and their friends. A special meeting of the Arrangements Committee will be held after the class in Literature in Room 603, Washington Irving High School.

Slipping to A Fall

(Instead of a Fable)

4 By Z. W.

Human beings, as a rule, like to watch and to admire one of their own clamber to dizzy heights. It is perhaps one of the few noble streaks in our make-up. But to capture our fancy this ladder-scaling must be done in a swift, breath-arresting manner. If it proceeds at the pace of a snail, our inherent greed and jealousy might tempt us to grab hold of the climber's coat-tails and drag him down into the mire.

What we detect most, however, is to see one tumbling down from the high rung to which he had ascended. To watch one falling from the heights gives us a feeling next to nausea, or at least keen disappointment, as we turn our heads away in disgust and scorn.

I was not present when Harry Young, the "Human Fly," fell to his death two weeks ago from the wall of the Marlborough. I hazard the guess, however, that the mob that watched him go down to his last plunge must have felt real mad about it. It was robbed of an opportunity of "hurrying" and clapping by a stupid slip of a foot is something mobs usually do not forgive.

It reminds me: A few years ago they were giving "Aida" in the Boston Opera House with a new tenor around whom has already hung a cluster of wonder tales and miracle

stories. Only yesterday he was a poor young Jew from a working ghetto, where he was discovered by chance. They began to groom him as a competitor to Caruso and had sent him to Italy. He came back with studies completed, with continental training and experience, and his name properly italicized for the conquest of America. Just one appearance in the "provinces" and then on to New York to the blinding footlights of the great Metropolitan!

The first act—and the second—was set through as if in a trance. Such a wonderfully poignant, mellow voice, such a richness of color, so strong and warm at the same time! Then came the third act—the great aria—he drew the high long note. On and on it went ever higher—when, of a sudden, it broke into a screech, the screech of a disheveled rooster.

The entire opera house shook as if in the grip of a volcano.

Many years have passed since. I haven't heard the name of that singer since. He slipped and fell plumb into oblivion from the dizzy height which he had mounted after so much travail and sacrifice.

And do you remember—a more prosaic incident—that prince of merchants, Henry Siegel, and his phenomenal rise and subsequent

collapse? When Dr. Madison Peters wrote his book to tell the world that the Jews were "fragrant" folks he picked Henry Siegel as the type representing the true Jewish genius at work. But Henry Siegel slipped—his huge mercantile establishment crashed, vanished and left an unavowed odor behind it to boot.

What many of us have been wondering is—How could Harry Young's wife have stood there coolly and watched him "perform"—and get killed? Well—only, the question comes to one's lips: Could Young's mother have stood there watching him scaling the smooth walls of that hotel? Was his wife so confident of Harry's nerve and ability—or was she as strange and as indifferent as the rest of the spectators? What a problem for a psychologist!

ATTENTION

We call the attention of our members to the outlines, that will appear on this every week, beginning with this issue, on the SOCIAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES by Dr. H. J. Carman.

As our members will notice, the first outline is an announcement of the Purpose of the Course,—an introduction.—This course was given by Dr. Carman in eighteen lessons. The outlines were prepared by him, mimeographed and distributed in the classrooms. Every outline contains information of educational value, and gives suggestions for reference read-

If the tens of thousands who have stood smitten to the ground watching Harry Young "walking" up the smooth surface of the hotel wall hadn't had their pleasure so rudely disturbed by that inappropriate fall of his, they might have been able to learn from that "thrilling" spectacle the age-old hoary lesson that no matter how high one might climb, the slightest slip might send one headlong and down into the abyss. The least aid, in the form of a projecting friendly hand could have saved him—but even bricks don't happen along when they are most needed.

But that would take us into the realm of morals or moralizing. As it is, Young's early demise has brought no one any good. One simply has to have luck, if one is to succeed as a climber in our perilous days.

The eighteen lessons comprise the foundation for a text-book on the subject. Those who read the outlines carefully will get a vivid picture of the political and social history of the United States, its problems, aims, achievements and failures.

Dr. Carman needs no special introduction to our members. He has been with us for the past two seasons, and our members have learned to appreciate him as an instructor.

We cannot be too emphatic in advising our members to follow up the outlines weekly as they appear in the JUSTICE.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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EDITORIALS

THE PHILADELPHIA DRESS STRIKE ENDED

In full adherence to the newly-adopted fighting method in the Philadelphia dress industry, the strike called by the International and Local No. 15 on March 7th has been brought to an end.

The strike has ended for the large number of those dress manufacturers who had signed agreements with the Union and who will henceforward operate their shops under complete Union conditions. It did not end, however, for those Philadelphia dress manufacturers who still believe that they can defy and antagonize the Union. These may yet, perhaps, for a while, as they keep on whistling for courage, boast that the Union could do nothing with them; they may yet proclaim that their shops will "carry on" as before. But, as we stated in these columns last week, their "triumph" is short-lived. Their shops are written down in big letters on the black list of the Union—and when the psychological moment arrives the Union will again launch a fight against them—a fight that has only one definite purpose: to demoralize their shops, and to make it impossible for them to fill their orders.

These tactics will inevitably lead to their capitulation. These strong-headed and obdurate employers will eventually have to concede the moderate and humane demands of the Union. Only at this price will they be able to gain peace and tranquility in their shops. Their other alternative, blind resistance to the Union, will mean the steady decline of their business and the loss of orders. Few indeed if any will risk to give orders to such manufacturers who can never be sure that they will be in a position to fill them.

Aside from this handful of die-hard, who would for the time being retain the unenviable distinction of running non-union shops, the two-weeks' strike of our Philadelphia dressmakers has accomplished a great deal of good. The great majority of the employers in the trade have accepted the terms of the Union and their workers are now working under decent and honorable union conditions. Owing to this strike the Union has bloomed out anew; the majority of the Philadelphia dressmakers now belong to the organization, and are all determined to bring Local No. 15 back to its former strength, glory and influence in the local industry.

The strike can therefore be termed as successful in every sense of the word: the fighting, misère of Local No. 15 is again a powerful, well-organized Union; the workers have regained in a brief struggle of two weeks the conditions they had lost a year ago after a fight of 26 weeks; and what is most important—our International has adopted with reference to the Philadelphia dress industry a novel, though a well-thought out, fighting policy which must sooner or later lead to the complete victory of the Union. And in the light of these gains, we can surely congratulate the entire membership of Local No. 15, and its leadership, upon the firmness and splendor, fine sense with which this strike was conducted.

Yet, together with this congratulation, we desire to express our heartfelt wish that the same harmony which prevails today in Local No. 15 as a result of this strike, be not destroyed in the future through dissensions and factional fighting which have all but wiped out this organization in the past and which have contributed to a great degree, we are certain, to the brazenness of the Philadelphia employers.

That we might not be misunderstood, we desire to state here that it is not our intention to blame this or that faction in the local for that deplorable state of affairs. We believe, as we have stated on more than one occasion, that every member of the Union is entitled to his or her opinion, whether "right" or "left." We also believe that such a divergence of opinion, if only kept within the limits of reason, can do the Union no harm. The trouble, however, was that this "divergence of opinion" was being fostered entirely and conducted with limitless fanaticism through the influence of outside persons, who have had in view not the interests and the welfare of the Union but their own purposes and interests. This has led to the neglect of the primary work of the organization and the paralysis of all its regular activities.

This, we hope, will be entirely avoided in the future. Every member of the Union, no matter what his other opinions and convictions, will first of all devote himself to the maintenance of the strength and the unimpeded fighting ability of the local. The Philadelphia dressmakers have indeed had a very bitter lesson. They surely have learned that above all theories and opinions is their organization, the only weapon they possess in the fight against their inveterate enemies.

We wish to offend no one, but we appeal to the membership of Local No. 15 to ponder earnestly over the causes which have led in the past to the great "conflicts" within the Union. We are confident that by this time they have every reason to feel humiliated with the pettiness, the unreasonableness, and the folly of these misunderstandings that could all have been avoided if some fair-minded consideration had been given them. These colossal "dis-

ferences in principles" have been raised entirely as a screen for some petty personal ambitions and intrigues, but they have nevertheless served the ignoble purpose of all but eliminating one of our strongest labor unions and of bringing destitution and misery to the workers in the shops.

Now, in the hour of this significant victory, we deem it our duty to recall the pitfalls that threaten this newly-won solidarity—should the great majority of the membership of Local No. 15 fail to be more circumspect, more vigilant and more devoted to the true interests of the Union. Let us hope that the dark-example of the recent past will serve them in good stead and that the misery of 1922 has vanished into oblivion never to return again.

THE NEW JOBBING DEPARTMENT IN THE NEW YORK CLOAKMAKERS' UNION

To wage successfully the fight for his existence, an individual must adapt himself to all new environments which life in its processes creates for him. If he is incapable of such adaptation, his fate is sealed and his doom is certain.

But adaptation to circumstances is not the only means of overcoming difficulties. There are environs which must be fought and subdued to insure one's continued existence. There are times when a man would rather go under fighting certain eventualities than conform to them. Since time immemorial, man has always fought against such conditions—yet this fight was but another expression of the ability of the human species to adapt itself to the merciless environs of life.

And what is true of the individual is equally true of groups, entire peoples and institutions. Only those who can always find new ways and means of adapting themselves to new circumstances or adapting these circumstances to themselves survive the strenuous struggle for existence. Those who became petrified and could not or would not reckon with the constantly changing situations in life were sooner or later condemned to extinction.

We are offering this little statement of a generally-known truism by way of a preface to the new department established by the Joint Board of Cloakmakers' Union of New York. But a few years ago, such a department would have been quite a superfluous thing. A few years ago such a creature as the jobber either did not exist at all or played an insignificant part in the industry. Recently, however, this jobber became the principal factor in the cloak industry. He swept aside the manufacturer with whom the workers used to come in direct contact and became, so to say, the power behind the throne. Today the manufacturer is, for many and varied reasons, but the tool of the jobber, and clay in his hands. The Union has realized that the real "boss," the true master of the situation, is the jobber, and has begun to recognize the fact that something new must be accomplished if the influence of the organization is to be felt in the industry with the same emphasis as in the days before the jobber's ascendancy. This consideration has led in the end to the formation of a special department in the Union charged with the specific duty of controlling the jobbers.

To be sure, this work of jobbers' control was not entirely neglected up to now. It was, however, done in a partial, unsystematic way. The business agent, who would be assigned a sufficiently large number of shops to supervise, could give but scant attention to the jobber. The result was naturally far from satisfactory, and when Vice-President Feinberg, manager of the Joint Board, recently proposed the establishment of a special jobbing department, the suggestion was adopted by the Joint Board with enthusiasm. Even such perennial critics in that body as habitually raise objections to each and every thing that emanates not from themselves, found no fault with this proposal. Today this department is already a functioning reality.

To us this important innovation in the work of our union is additional strong testimony to its versatility and progressive spirit. It deals fearlessly with facts, and acts in accordance with the dictates of the day. It does not belong to that category of institutions which remain eternally moored to one spot, immobile and petrified. The Cloakmakers' Union of New York, like our entire International, is always keenly watching the processes of our economic and industrial life. When new fighting methods or tactics become imperative for the future progress of the Union, such tactics are adopted forthwith. Our Union as a whole worries little what the "conservatives," the "reformers," or the "radicals" might say about it. Life, with all its phenomena and environs, is the sole dictator and pathfinder for it.

The duty of this new department will be to take care of the jobber, to see to it that the great influence which he wields today in the cloak industry shall not reduce to naught all that the Union has accomplished up to this day for the workers in our industry and what it intends to gain for them in the future. The Union has won decent work conditions for its members in the cloak shops of New York. In many shops, however, the volume of work has been diminishing in recent seasons to an alarming degree, being obviously sent out to places the existence of which has been a mystery to the Union for quite some time. To add to the difficulties of controlling the work conditions in the cloak trade, these obscure shops began to multiply, as if at the waving of the magic wand by the jobbers, into hundreds all over the city. Very soon the Union came face to face with a dangerous and disturbing situation.

The opening of the special jobbing department will make an end to this chaotic condition. This department will bring the jobber under the strict control of the Union. He will have to account for the work given out by him to the various shops, and the Union will see to it that this work is given out to shops which are under unquestioned control of the Union. In a word, the jobber will now be made responsible to the Union for his role in the cloak industry. He will cease to be a free lance, and an end will be brought to the baneful influence which he has until now had on the cloak industry in general and the work conditions in the shops in particular.

The Sixty-Seventh Congress—A Post-Mortem

By ALEXANDER ZELDIN

The 67th Congress of these United States came to an end about two weeks ago, and our national legislators, together with the President, have left Washington, some for a vacation to Florida or Europe at the dear public's expense, and some went just home.

Between now and the beginning of the 68th Congress, there are approximately nine months, as, according to the constitution, a Congress elected in November, 1922, does not for some obsolete reason or other convene until December, 1923. Washington will therefore be a quiet place for the remainder of the year. It might not be amiss for us to take a brief retrospective view of the activities of the just dismissed Congress.

What are the outstanding achievements of this last Congress? Frankly, from a positive point of view, they are as near zero as any aggregation of politicians could have ever hoped to make it. What was done was done, as usual, very badly, and the only good accomplished was what was not done, and even this purely negative "good" has been considerably neutralized by a lot of positive mischief. And when one strikes a balance to all of it, one cannot escape wondering why it is altogether necessary to have congresses with so much ado, trumpeting and blaring.

A post-mortem usually begins with eulogy. Peculiar it is that whatever of eulogy there can be said about the last Congress should be on account of the Senate, the least democratic of the two houses. It was in the Senate that the ship-subsidy bill of ill fame died a deserved death, while in the House of Representatives this public-spirited measure went through with a thunderous majority. Of course, as stated above, this was a purely negative achievement. This open-daylight assault on the public treasury on the part of a few shipping companies that have influence with the government, was, even according to American parliamentary ethics, nothing short of scandal. It fell through, however, thanks to the filibuster of a Senatorial minority. It was a significant public service, nevertheless.

Another act deserving favorable mention is the rejection by the Senate of Harding's eleven-hour proposition that America enter the Hague World Court without joining the League of Nations. This project dropped

down upon the Capitol a few days before the closing of Congress like a bolt from the clear sky, obviously in the expectation that fatigued Senatorial brains, unprepared to withstand the shock, would pass it, along with a lot of other junk legislation or resolutions. The official motivation of this project offers but scant light concerning the benefits that might accrue to America from joining this Court. The bitter opponents of the League of Nations, however, quickly suspected that this was an attempt to drag America into the League of Nations through a back-door and that was sufficient to put the project to sleep for at least nine months more.

That is about all that can be mentioned in favor of the expired Congress.

Its debit side is fairly cluttered with pernicious legislation—with the exception of a few minor laws that can be classed as neither bad nor good. The "greatest" accomplishment of the last Congress was, of course, the new tariff. This great reform has so far increased the cost of living in America about 40 per cent and has put an indirect tax on the American consumer in favor of the domestic manufacturer amounting to several billions of dollars annually. This augmented tariff-wall, too, has added to the difficulties of straightening out the international economic tangle. The revision of taxes enacted by the last Congress is also of little weight. True, it has slightly lightened the burden of the small tax-payer; but it was nevertheless aimed and directed entirely to relieve the wealthy and the prosperous from the surtaxes of previous years.

The expired session of Congress can be given but little credit for the immigration laws it has enacted, either. Even those who believe that such a limitation upon immigration was advisable cannot help admitting that the manner in which they had put up a better argument and had carried it out in reactionary and brutal. It draws a line of demarcation between one nation and the other, between "desirable" and "undesirable" and it savors of "100 per cent" and the spirit of the Ku Klux Klan.

The only positive accomplishment that can be claimed for the last Congress is, perhaps, the naval disarmament treaties adopted last year at the so-called Washington Disarmament

Conference. Time has proved already, however, that it was a toothless achievement, and nothing substantial has as yet resulted from these treaties. A few old boats have been demolished—perhaps to make room for new things, new orders for the ship-building companies and the Steel Trust.

The same can be said about the settlement reached with England on the huge debt owed by our trans-Atlantic cousins to America. The final upshot of this settlement amounts to an annual subsidy by the American taxpayers in favor of the English government to the tune of about 50 million dollars. It is a simple matter: American taxpayers will continue to pay the full rate of interest on the Liberty bonds, part of which was utilized as a loan to England,—while the English government will pay a much lower rate of interest on this same money. The difference will be met by the American taxpayers via the United States Treasury.

There were, true, some excellent bills proposed in the last Congress which might have been an achieve-

ment and a credit to its memory had they been passed: there was the anti-lynching law, proposed for the purpose of removing the stain of dishonor upon America for lynching. This bill needless to say, fell through, thanks to the opposition of the "Democrats" from the South. Among the defeated bills was also an amendment to the Constitution in accordance with which Congress would assemble not 13 months but 3 months after its election. It meant to make it impossible for defeated representatives or senators, "lame ducks," to pass legislation for the country after they had been rejected by it.—Public opinion was almost unanimous for this amendment. The Senate adopted it practically without a dissenting vote. It fell through in the House of Representatives owing to the opposition of Harding's lieutenants, most of them of the "lame duck" variety themselves. The President had made it known that he would have no reforms and this bill was smothered.

Such is the record of the 67th Congress. With this record it went into a merciful eternity,—little better though little worse than the record of many of its predecessors.

CLOAKMAKERS HELP STELTON FERRER SCHOOL

Harry Kelley, the director of the Ferrer School in Stilton, New Jersey, recently appealed to the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union to allow the school to make collections in the cloak shops for its maintenance and security. The Joint Board granted this request.

Accordingly the Ferrer School issued a 10 cent stamp which is now being sold in all the cloak shops in New York through the shop chairmen.

It is a deserving cause. Cloakmakers will surely buy as much as each of them can afford. The money is to be forwarded to Brother Philip Kaplowitz, treasurer of the Joint Board, at the office of the Union, 40 East 23rd Street.

Benefit for Rand School Library

A recital by the well-known pianiste, Edith Friedman, has been ar-

ranged by the Library Committee of the Rand School for Friday evening, March 23rd, at 8:15, at the Rand School Auditorium, 7 East 15th Street. Miss Friedman will give a program of Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, Scarlatti and others.

The price of reserved seats is \$1.00 and general admission, 50 cents.

Readers of JUSTICE who are familiar with the library of the Rand School and know its value and importance for the labor movement are requested to patronize this performance.

LECTURE BY SH. NIEGER ON FRIDAY, MARCH 23rd, IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF LOCAL No. 9

On Friday evening, March 23rd, Sh. Nieger will lecture on "The Writer, the Reader, and the Critic," in the headquarters of Local 9, 228 Second Avenue.

Members of the International are invited to attend.

As manager of the new jobbing department, the Union has appointed Vice-President Harry Wander, who for many years has been the manager of Local No. 23. From our personal knowledge of Brother Wander, it would appear to us that he is the best fitted man for this important post. Vice-President Wander is a person with a highly-developed sense of responsibility. He is calm and deliberate in everything that he undertakes. True, he is not a phrasemonger, but he is a man of action and a doer of deeds. We are certain that whatever is humanly possible to bring the jobber in the cloak industry under proper control, Vice-President Wander will do.

Brother Wander has for years been manager of Local No. 23. Under his leadership this local became one of the strongest in our International Union. Duty calls him to a higher office, with greater responsibility. We hope that the same endurance, tact, deliberation and ability which have made him so valuable as manager of Local No. 23 will serve him in good stead as manager of the jobbing department. We wish him the greatest measure of success in his new important task for the Cloakmakers' Union of New York.

STRIKE OF THE WHITE GOODS WORKERS

On Tuesday, March 20th, the white goods workers of New York left their shops and went down on strike for better earnings and for more considerate treatment on the part of their employers. They went out to fight for working conditions which are regarded as the irreducible minimum for workers nowadays, if they are not to be mere chattels in the shops. In view of the very modesty of their demands, one might have thought that the employers would concede them without a fight. The white goods employers, it seems, however, are built otherwise. No matter how little, they would give up nothing unless their workers would force them to by a strike.

The majority of the white goods workers are young girls, many of them not yet out of their teens. Many of them, were it not for the bitter want which drives them into the factory, should still have been at school. Of course, they should not like to fasten the guilt for

this entirely upon the white goods employers. It is our miserable social order as a whole which sends young children in the bloom of their lives to the factory to eke out an existence.

Yet, had the factory at least offered them in return for their work the means of gratifying their living necessities, the situation would have been more or less tolerable. It would seem, that these young children are made a special target of exploitation in the shops. They are paid the least, worked the hardest, and treated the worst of all our workers.

This is what makes the present strike of the white goods workers so important. It is a fight against the literal tramping into dust of these young lives. It is a strike for an opportunity for these thousands of young girls to make an honest living from their toil. It is a strike of the weakest and most helpless of our workers against the limitless lust for profits of their employers.

We are certain that of all the successful strikes waged by our International in the last few weeks, the strike of the New York white goods girl workers will make the strongest appeal to the general public. We can hardly imagine that public opinion will not line up entirely on the side of these strikers against the employers.

At any rate, the International is heart and soul with these girl strikers of ours. The International has done all it could to prepare and mobilize this strike and will do all in its power to lead the strikers to deserved victory. On the other hand, we know that these young strikers will enter the fight with such enthusiasm and zest as will insure victory so far as they are concerned. Certainly, they should bear in mind that they are waging the last strike of the cycle conducted by the International in the last two months and that they must display as much energy and fighting spirit and a will-to-win as has been displayed by their sisters and brothers of the other Unions in our International.

We call to them: Fight! Fight for the right to live and enjoy life! Fight with every thread and fibre of your young hearts,—and your victory is inevitable.

THE STAGE

Sholom Asch on "The God of Vengeance"

(Open Letter to the Press)

Dear Editor "Justice":

Because of the wrong interpretation of my play, **THE GOD OF VENGEANCE**, now running at the Apollo Theatre, I wish to make the following statement:

I wrote this play when I was twenty-one years of age. I was not concerned whether I wrote a moral or an immoral play. What I wanted to write was an artistic play and a true one. In the seventeen years it has been before the public, this is the first time I have had to defend it.

When the play was first produced, the critics in Germany, Russia, and other countries said that it was too artificially moral. They said that for a man like Yekel Shephovitch, keeper of a brothel, to idealize his daughter, to accept no compromise with her respectability, and for girls like Rutha and Ramek, filles de joie, to dream about their dead mother, their home, and to reveal in the spring rain, was unnatural. About two years ago I was approached by New York producers for permission to present the play in English. I refused, since I did not believe the American public was either sufficiently interested or adequately instructed to accept "The God of Vengeance."

I don't know whether I can explain the real feeling I wanted to put into this play. It is difficult for an author to comment on his own work. As to the scenes between Manka and Rifeke, on every European stage, especially the Russian, they were the most poetic of all, and the critics of those countries appreciated this poetic view. This love between the two girls is not only an erotic one. It is the unconscious mother love of which they are deprived. The action portrays the love of the woman-mother, who is Manka, for the woman-child, who is Rifeke, rather than the sensual, inverted love of one woman for another. In this particular scene, I also wanted to bring out the innocent, longing for Sin, and the Sinful, dreaming of Purity. Manka, overweighed with sin, loves the clean soul

of Rifeke, and Rifeke, the innocent young girl, longs to stay near the door of such a woman as Manka, and listen within.

As to the comment that the play is a reflection on the Jewish race, I want to say that I resent the statement that "The God of Vengeance" is a play against the Jews. No Jew until now has considered it harmful to the Jew. It is included in the repertoire of every Jewish stage in the world and has been presented more frequently than any other play. "The God of Vengeance" is not a typically "Jewish play." A "Jewish play" is a play where Jews are especially characterized for the benefit of the Gentiles. I am not such a "Jewish" writer. I write, and incidentally my types are Jewish for all peoples they are the ones I know best. "The God of Vengeance" is not a million play—it is a play with an idea. Call "Yekel" John, and instead of the Holy Scroll place in his hand the crucifix, and the play will be taken as much Christian as it is now Jewish. The fact that it has been played in countries where there are few Jews, Italy for instance, and that there the Gentiles understood it for what it is, proves that it is not local in character, but universal. The most marked Jewish reaction in the play is the longing of Yekel Shephovitch for a cleaner and purer life. This is characteristically Jewish. I don't believe a man of any other race placed in Yekel's position would have acted as he did in the tragedy that had befallen his daughter.

Jews do not need to clear themselves before any one. They are as good and as bad as any race. I see no reason why a Jewish writer should not bring out the bad or good traits. I think that the apologetic writer, who tries to place Jews in a false, even though white light, does them more harm than good in the eyes of the Gentiles. I have written so many Jewish characters who are good and noble, that I cannot now, when writing of a "bad" one, make an exception and say that he is a Gentile.

SHOLOM ASCH

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THE KIND OF SERVICE WE GIVE OUR "OLD BUSINESS" IS THE ARGUMENT FOR THE STEADY INCREASE IN OUR "NEW BUSINESS"

Miscellanies From Chicago

By ALFRED ROSE

(Secretary Locals 18 and 59)

What a wonderful change appears in the atmosphere when the cloak industry shows signs of improvement in Chicago! The stamp sellers are busy receiving faxes, no more making applications and meetings have above the average attendance.

Here is a typical instance of what transpires at the stamp window of our Union: an elderly man in the finishing branch appeals to me to accept eight months' dues as he has been sick and has not worked for nearly six months. He states that he has just started work and received his first pay, and is willing to come again on next pay day to straighten out his book. This man is over sixty years of age, and I was wondering how powerful our Union would be if the younger element had this member's attitude towards the Union.

The expression of earnestness in his face appealed strongly to me, not because of his age or the reason he gave for not keeping in good standing,—but a few minutes before an operator who was in arrears for four months, placed his book down with a \$20.00 bill included, and stated that he wanted to pay for two months, and the assessments could wait, as he has not had much of a season and needed the money more than the Union. What a contrast between two members!

A colored young man presents a card at the window, making application for a new member in the Pressers Branch. The Executive Board of Local No. 18 accepted him for \$2.10 on recommendation of the Organization Committee. Questioned how long he had been in the trade, he answered fifteen years. I asked him where he worked all this time, and he stated he was compelled to look for work in open shops because he was never approached to join the Union, and would have gladly done so had some one spoken before to him. He was under the impression that he did not take in colored people.

I believe some effort should be undertaken to educate the colored race. I told him we have an open door for every worker regardless of nationality or color, and requested him to notify any of his friends that were working in the trade, male or female.

Local No. 18, the Pressers Branch, called a special meeting on March 8, and it was attended by the largest majority we have ever held. It was gratifying to see how enthused each member was over the manner in which our meetings are conducted, and the business transacted was discussed freely by all. The questions involved were voted upon to the best of their ability and to the satisfaction of all. The chairman of the Joint Board was present and was also pleased with the manner in which they conducted

themselves. Although it was his first visit, he promised us he would come again shortly.

Local No. 59, the Finishers Branch, also had a record attendance at their meeting last week. It was decided to present Brother H. Schoelman with a token of appreciation for the services rendered by him during the time he was financial secretary, and to express their regret at not being in a position to express their appreciation to him personally. They have forwarded to New York their token, a gold cane with the local's monogram inscribed on it.

We also have a distinguished visitor in President Sigman with us this week, and by the way the meetings are being attended and the enthusiasm shown towards us, the International can safely rely on the full support of the Chicago locals in any form our President will see fit to outline for the good of the Middle Western States.

Local No. 18 Executive Board was also honored by a visit from our President Brother Sigman, who outlined his policies and also his activities in the labor movement since he was a young man. The Executive Board tendered him their full support in all his undertakings. The chairman, Brother Bernstein, expressed the appreciation of the Executive Board for the honor paid us by this visit, as it was not remembered when the President of our International ever visited the Executive Board of Local No. 18. We trust he will pay us another call when visiting Chicago.

JOEL ENTEEN TO SPEAK IN THE CLUBROOMS OF LOCAL 1, ON SATURDAY, MARCH 24th

Joel Enteen will speak on "The Tendencies in the Modern Yiddish Drama" on Saturday evening, March 24th, in the Clubrooms of our Cook Operators' Union, Local 1, 1581 Washington Avenue.

The lectures given at our local union meetings are arranged by our Educational Department in cooperation with the Local Educational Committees.

Admission is free to members of the International.



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March 17th, 8:15 P. M. "H. W. L. DANA"
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April 4th, 8:15 P. M. "MURRY PHILLIPS"
April 11th, 8:15 P. M. "LAURA GARRETT"
May 19th, 8:15 P. M. "GRAND OPERA—11th Lecture"
Every Saturday, 2:25 P. M. "Current Events"—ROBERT WEINBERG



LABOR THE WORLD OVER

DOMESTIC ITEMS

MASSACHUSETTS REFUSES TO REINSTATE STRIKING POLICEMEN.

The House of Representatives of Massachusetts killed a bill which would have opened the way for the reinstatement of any or all of the policemen who went on strike in 1919. The bill which would have authorized the Police Commissioner to reinstate any former members of the force whom he might deem fit was defeated by a viva voce vote.

RAILWAY CUTS HUGE MELON.

Directors of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad voted to capitalize \$45,000,000 of the company's accumulated surplus of \$82,000,000 by distribution May 10th of a 62½ per cent stock dividend. The board declared also a cash semi-annual dividend of 2½ per cent payable August 10th.

PHYSICIANS FAVOR COAL NATIONALIZATION.

Dr. John W. Perill, Trustee of the Bellevue and Allied Hospitals of New York, stated that the physicians and surgeons of New York whose duty calls them into the humbler homes know the intense suffering thousands have undergone this winter because of the coal shortage. "The mines should be seized. They should be turned over to the government to be operated for the benefit of the people. The coal profiteers should be put where they belong, behind the bars."

PROGRESSIVES INTEND TO GET BUSY IN NEXT CONGRESS.

As a result of organization in the House of Representatives, a group of Progressives will introduce a sweeping program of legislation in the next Congress. Among the regulations to be introduced will be that of the coal and oil industries, soldiers' bonus, railroads and waterways, reduction of taxes, tariff and marketing.

BALTIMORE LABOR VOTES AGAINST LABOR PARTY.

In the first general vote of union locals ever taken in Baltimore, on the formation of a third party, organized labor of that city voted not to form such a party but to continue its nonpartisan policy by opposing or endorsing individual candidates for political office.

FIVE CINCINNATI SHOE CONCERNS MERGE.

A shoe manufacturing merger involving five Cincinnati Manufacturing Concerns is nearing completion according to a story published in Cincinnati. The tentative name of the new company is United States Shoe Manufacturing Co., and it will be capitalized at between \$5,000,000 and \$8,000,000.

UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PREDICTS PROSPERITY.

General prosperity with indications of expansion in the spring is reflected in the review of the industrial situation in the country issued by the United States Employment Service of the Department of Labor. There is very little unemployment reported anywhere in the country while in some sections as the steel manufacturing centers insufficient unskilled labor exists.

CHILD LABOR FIGURES APPALLING.

Figures obtained from the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor show that 378,000 children under 14 years of age are working as manual labor. In 392 factories 999 children under 14 were at work and 3,189 under 16 were working more than eight hours a day. The situation is a terrific indictment of Congress which passed over legislation involving a constitutional amendment to prevent this condition.

FARM MORTGAGE DEBT STAGGERING.

Farms of the United States are mortgaged for more than \$7,800,000,000, according to the Department of Commerce estimate. The figure is based on the 1920 census. The mortgage debt amounts to 131.3 per cent of the total value of all farm lands.

DOLLAR PURCHASING POWER STILL DECREASING.

The dollar is getting smaller weekly. It has only the same purchasing power as 69.7 cents in 1913 according to the index number of general prices compiled by Irving Fisher. The peak of high prices was reached in May, 1920, when a dollar brought as much as 46.5 cents in 1913.

UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE DECREASE.

The industry of the Nation is operating at from 75 to 100 per cent capacity. Production has at last reached the volume of the boom year of 1920, and more workers have jobs now than at any time since 1920, according to the February economic survey, made by the Labor Bureau, Inc.

CIVIC RIGHT DURING THE COAL STRIKES.

An investigation to determine whether civic rights of American citizens have been abridged or denied in the course of labor controversies in the coal industry and whether breaches of civil or criminal law have been involved for the purpose of fixing the responsibility, was begun by the Federal Coal Commission.

SHORTAGE OF SEAMEN.

Shortage of seamen due to greater employment in other industries ashore has already resulted in wage advances on the Pacific Coast and it is expected that this development will be felt elsewhere. It is reported that western ship owners have increased the pay of able seamen on steamers in the coastwise lumber trade from \$60 to \$75 a month.

FOREIGN ITEMS

ENGLAND

NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED.

In answer to a question in the House of Commons, it was stated that unemployment benefit was paid in the week ending February 19 in 955,000 men and 177,000 women.

Sir Montague Barlow, Minister of Labor, stated, when moving the second reading of the new Unemployment Insurance Bill on March 5th, that he estimated the average number of unemployed for 18 months at a million and a quarter.

THE CHILDREN OF THE RUHR.

The Danish, Swiss and Dutch working-class movements are arranging to give hospitality to a number of children in the Ruhr who are suffering most from the French occupation. A thousand families in Denmark have already consented to receive children into their homes, and a movement is on foot to extend the idea to England.

A LABOR M. P. ON DUKES AND DOCKERS.

Mr. Jack Jones, M. P., speaking at Glasgow, said the workers today are in revolt against a system which gives \$15,000 yearly to a Duke, while the government can only afford 15 shillings weekly for workers idle against their will. He declared that the unemployment dole is an insurance, not against unemployment, but against revolution. Incidentally, he referred to the House of Commons as at present constituted, as largely a profiteers' Soviet.

FRANCE

A FRENCHMAN ON THE RUHR POLICY.

The French professor, Edouard Vermeil, has thus pronounced on the Ruhr invasion: "France and Germany are ignorant of one another, and, carefully manufactured by the Press of each country, a conventional France and a conventional Germany face one another, bristling with anger, and cannot come to an understanding. . . . After a while it will be evident that the solution must be sought elsewhere than in the Ruhr. It will be found in Geneva. The democracy of France and Germany must enter into an organization which is greater than themselves, into a League of Nations enlarged, consolidated and made capable of solving great problems. The alternative is the decomposition of Europe."

FRENCH MINERS' STRIKE.

The strike of the left wing miners in France has resulted in considerable wage concessions being made by the employers, which the right wing miners, remaining at work, have accepted. Those already on strike have, however, refused them as being too small to meet the rise in cost of living.

WHAT A DEPUTY SAYS.

A dismal picture of France's situation as a result of the Ruhr enterprise is painted by Leon Blum, the Socialist deputy, in "Populaire." He says: "For two months not a single car has been loaded with coal for France. . . . The blast furnaces are going cold, and the franc is falling fast. . . . Bread, sugar, cotton and woollens are going up in price. We have contracted new loans and are promised new taxes. While waiting for Poincaré to make Germany pay, France is paying."

GERMANY

WORKERS' DISCIPLINE IN THE RUHR.

The "Essener Arbeiterzeitung" has published a list of street robberies by French troops in Essen. During one Saturday night alone 25 cases were noted, and the names of the citizens who had been robbed by armed soldiers were given. . . . These actions are increasing the people's anger and contempt for the French, but nevertheless the workers are maintaining discipline and are carrying on a purely economic struggle. The central organization of the struggle is the working-class of the Ruhr—the miners, the railwaymen and the metal workers.

RUSSIA

THE FIRING SQUAD FOR GRAFFTERS.

Within the last three months 42 persons have been shot for corruption, according to an official announcement. In the fight which the government is constantly carrying on against the corruption for which in the past Russia has been noted, 3000 cases have been tried in three months and more than 500 were acquitted. The remainder received sentences of imprisonment, usually from one to two years, but some as high as 10. The 42 shot officials had used high positions of trust for systematic stealing of public resources for private gain.

ITALY

FASCIST TERROR.

It looks as though the arrest of the Socialist leader Signor Serrati, editor of "Avanti," were the prelude to the arrest of all the other Italian signatories to the manifesto of the Third International urging the workers to rally to the support of the Italian workers in their struggle against the Fascist dictatorship.

Last week, while sitting round a table in the offices of "Avanti," discussing the arrest of Serrati, their editor, 15 sub-editors of the journal were arrested. The cause is a protest, published in "Avanti" and signed by the staff, against the arrest of Serrati. . . . All of the arrested staff, however, were set free with the exception of Signor Nenni, who will be charged with having delivered an anti-Fascist speech in Switzerland. The others will be sued for using "improper phrases" against the government.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES

Call to The Convention of the Workers' Educational Bureau

The third annual convention of the Workers' Education Bureau will be held in New York City on Saturday and Sunday, April 14 and 15, at the New School for Social Research, 465 West 23rd Street.

The delegates are expected to attend the forthcoming convention of representatives from workers' educational enterprises and trade union colleges as far west as Portland, Oregon, and as far south as Kansas City, Missouri. This convention promises to be of great educational value. Among others, the following committees will report on every phase of the workers' educational movement—

1. Workers' Colleges and Study Classes;
2. Curriculum;
3. Teaching Methods;
4. Study Class Organization;
5. Specialized Education and Mass Education;
6. Health Education;
7. The Status of Labor Universities and Colleges before the Law;
8. Extension Activities;
9. Training of Teachers;

10. Text-Books;

11. Correspondence Department;
12. International Relations.

This will give the delegates a chance to exchange views and experiences.

The Bureau was organized three years ago by a group of trade unionists and teachers. Since then the A. F. of L. officially joined the Bureau and is represented on the Executive Committee of the W. E. B. by a committee of three, appointed by its Executive Council. Workers' Colleges and study classes under trade union control are eligible to membership in the Bureau. Many city and state federations are officially affiliated with the Bureau.

The Bureau is active in stimulating a desire in the trade unions for the organization of workers' education under their own control. It is trying by advice and otherwise to assist these organizations to meet this demand.

The Bureau has published several books and pamphlets and many more are in preparation.

We advise our members to keep open the dates of the Convention, Saturday and Sunday, April 14th and 15th.

A COURSE ON SOCIAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

By Dr. H. J. CARMAN

Given at the

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

of the

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Season 1922-1923

Purpose of the Course

(Introduction to a Course of 18 Lessons which will appear weekly in Justice)

Probably at no time in the history of the world has mankind faced more intricate and insistent problems than today. On every hand social, economic, political and educational difficulties confront us. More and more, and especially since the great war, problems of industry, democracy and education press for solution. If the people of America—whether they be factory workers, farmers, members of the professions or of some other economic or social group—are to do their part in solving these insistent problems, it is highly important and necessary that they be acquainted with the political and social history of America.

The old saying that "Knowledge is power" was never more apt than at present. Every man and woman should know how and why our present society and industrial organization in America came to be what it is. We should endeavor to understand why we have industrial classes; why American capital is centered in the hands of a minority of the population; why we have a railroad problem; why the majority of the people of this country are concentrated in cities, and why many of these are without landed property; why we have great industrial organizations, combinations and protective tariffs; why in recent years there has been a growing tendency in the United States toward industrial democracy, and why America has manifested added interest in economic imperialism. These as well as similar questions merit our study. In other words, it is of primary importance that we explain the present in terms of the past. Once having done this, we shall be in a better position to comprehend the present day political, social and industrial problems, and to do our share in intelligently working out their solution.

The topical outlines which follow are by no means exhaustive nor do they cover the entire scope of American History. They are intended to serve merely as "helps" to that growing group of workers who find little time for intensive study and yet who aspire to know something about the history of the United States. In every instance, they are based upon Beard's History of the United States, an admirable text, and one especially suited to the needs of mature people. Those who desire additional readings, should consult the list of references appended at the end of each chapter.

(To be continued)

Weekly Calendar

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

Saturday, March 24th

1:30 p. m. Social Forces in Literature.
H. W. L. Dana—Contemporary Drama—Andrejew's "Anathema".

Sunday, March 25th

10:30 a. m. Alexander Finland—Psychology of the Scientific Attitude.
11:30 a. m. Dr. H. J. Carman—America A World Power.

UNITY CENTERS

Wednesday, March 21st

Waismakers' Unity Center—P. S. 40.
320 East 20th Street—Room 305

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

EXTENSION DIVISION

Thursday, March 22nd

Local No. 9—Waismakers' Unity Center—P. S. 40
320 East 20th Street—Rooms 402-403

6:00 p. m. J. A. Rubel—English.

Friday, March 23rd

Local No. 9—Manhattan Lyceum
66 East 4th Street.

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

Saturday, March 24th

Clobbrooms Local No. 1—1581 Washington Ave.

8:00 p. m. Joel Enten—The Tendencies in Modern Yiddish Drama.

Sunday, March 25th

10:30 a. m. L. Lehrer—Social Psychology.
CLASSES in Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced English in ALL CENTERS, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Last Sessions This Week of Some Courses of Our Workers' University

This Saturday and Sunday will mark the last sessions of the courses given at our Workers' University throughout the season. Single lectures and discussions will be continued on Saturday afternoons and on some week-day evenings. Announcements of these will be made.

A full appreciation of our activities of this season will appear on this page later on. At present, we wish to call the attention of our members

who attended the courses to the fact that the instructors expect them all to attend the last sessions. Usually these are very inspiring meetings. The students and the teachers, before taking leave of one another until the next season, exchange views and impressions.

We hope nothing will keep our members from being present at these last sessions on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

The Outline of the American Labor Movement

(A Syllabus for Study Classes)

By LEO WOLMAN

(Lecturer, New School for Social Research Instructor, Workers' University, I. L. G. W. U.)

(Published by the Workers' Education Bureau of America. Price 10 Cents)

Under this name there appeared a pamphlet of forty pages, in which the following subjects are discussed:

1. The Background of the American Labor Movement.
2. The Economic History of the United States.
3. The Early History of the American Labor Movement, 1800-1880.
4. The Knights of Labor, 1880-1890.
5. Growth and Amalgamation, 1890-1914.
6. The World War and Its Aftermath, 1914 to Date.
7. Types of Unions.
8. Policies of American Trade Unions.
9. Women in Trade Unions.
10. Trade Unions and the Law.
11. Organized Labor in Politics.
12. Workers' Education.

Every subject has an introduction followed by a bibliography of references—everything written on that particular subject. The value of this pamphlet rests on the fact that it is an original work. It is the first of this kind to appear in print in this country.

Dr. Wolman, who has been connected with our Workers' University for the last four years, has written this pamphlet for the Workers' Education Bureau. It is very readable, printed on heavy paper in large type. It sells for 10 cents. The price has purposely been made so low in order to give every one an opportunity to obtain a copy.

The pamphlet can be obtained at the office of our Educational Department.

The Last General Strike in the New York Dress Industry

Summary of a Report

By M. K. MACKOFF

On March 5, 1923, there was held in the Rand School of Social Science, 1 East 15th Street, under the chairmanship of Miss Anna Kronhardt, the final meeting of the General Strike Committee organized early in February by the Joint Board of the Waist and Dressmakers' Union to manage the then prospective fight between the workers and the employers of the New York dress shops. The full membership of the committee was present and the entire evening was devoted to listening to reports of the various sub-committees of the strike and to the reading of congratulatory communications.

HALL COMMITTEE

Brother I. Horowitz, chairman of the Hall Committee, was the first to report. He stated that there were 14 halls engaged for the strike—each of which was placed in charge of an active and alert person. The hall chairman was supplied with the necessary lists and directed held several days prior to the strike. The hall chairman held a number of meetings before the strike was called, and assigned the shops under their jurisdiction to the various halls and sections. The total number of shops affected in the strike was 1,434. As the strike progressed and the workers were returning to work, the halls were gradually given up and the strikers consolidated in those remaining. After the signing of the agreement with the association, Arlington Hall was engaged, with the purpose of giving out instructions as well as working cards to all shops vouched for by the association.

ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Brother Simon Farber, chairman of the Organization Committee, reported on the seven sub-committees that had been created by it: the Hall, Attendance, Investigation, Adjustment, Instruction, Working-Cards and Waist Committees, and the Employment Bureau. He stated that 98 members were assigned to the various halls, to attend shop meetings and to assist the chairmen in their various duties.

INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

The Investigation Committee, which was only nominally attached to the Organization Committee, was in the charge of Brother Ackerman, who was in the service of our union as investigator. The committee consisted of eleven investigators trained for a number of weeks prior to the strike, and all of them members of the union. This bureau was charged with the task of investigating the status of every shop before it was signed up and before the workers were ordered to return to work there.

THE ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Adjustment Committee was to help the workers to adjust their wages from the piece to the week-work scale. It was under the supervision of Brother H. Stein and seven assistants. When the settlement with the Association took place and the system was changed from week to piece-work again, this committee was no longer needed and the workers seeking help from it were directed to the Instruction Committee.

THE INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

This committee was charged with the duty of holding meetings with the workers of the settled shops, instructing them in regard to their rights and duties under the present agreement.

WORKING-CARDS COMMITTEE

Brother Jacobson took charge of the Working-Cards Committee and,

with his staff of professional clerical help, managed the job of preparing the working cards for the returned strikers.

THE WAIST COMMITTEE

The Waist Department was under the supervision of Sister Bertha Trachtman, who had been in charge of the waist shops for quite a long time before that. As the machinery of the union was taken up with the dress situation, not much attention could be given to the waist shops, and the fact that a large number of waist shops came down on strike and returned to work under union conditions is highly complimentary to Sister Trachtman.

THE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

The unemployed were registered at Beethoven Hall, where Sister Pesetta and her staff were instructed to take care of them and send them to work whenever application for additional help in the settled shops came in. As the settlement progressed and an increased demand for the new help arose, a great many of those registered secured positions through the Employment Bureau.

PICKET COMMITTEE

The Picket Committee, through Chairman Harry Berlin, reported in brief that it had helped a great deal in the work of organizing the open shops. This committee worked from a central office in Beethoven Hall and supervised the work of branch offices in Harlem, Brooklyn, Brownsville, and the Bronx. Considering the circumstances, the results accomplished were quite satisfactory.

COURT AND LAW COMMITTEE

Brother Mackoff reported for this committee, stating that, during the period of the strike—from February 7 to March 5—assistance was given to about 250 persons. For over 50 per cent of those, bail bond had to be furnished which was in excess of \$50,000. The committee engaged a number of lawyers by the week to take care of the cases. It is remarkable that, though the union was called upon to furnish such huge bonds, when the cases came up, 200 of the arrested strikers were discharged and 24 only were fined, the sums ranging between \$2.00 and \$25.00. The average fine was approximately \$3.75, which goes to prove that the courts imposed too great a bond burden upon the union, especially when one considers that the magistrates are familiar from past experience with our strikers and know that such large bail has never been needed. According to the figures, for every \$100 in bail, only \$1.00 in fines was imposed.

RELIEF COMMITTEE

The Relief Committee reported that, from the day the general strike was called, it met as frequently as the respective hall chairmen requested it to, and that, during this time, it passed upon relief to 346 persons in 48 shops. The committee has always guided itself according to the financial condition of the Joint Board as much as by the demand for relief.

SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

Ten business agents were engaged in signing agreements from two central offices,—the Cooper Square Hotel and the Union Square Hotel,—and in the outlying districts. At the Cooper Square Hotel office, 337 shops were signed up and \$5,375.75 was taken in as security. \$49,230 for the Sanitary Control Joint Board, \$562.68 for payroll books, and \$30.00 as collected wages. At the Union Square Hotel, 132 shops were settled. In the Bronx, 9 shops; in Harlem, 12

shops; and in Brooklyn, 18 shops signed independent agreements.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee submitted a report in which it stated that it had met daily to pass upon the expenditures incurred by the various committees, examining all bills presented to it by chairmen and checking them up carefully. All the strike expense was paid from the special account opened by the Joint Board with the Chatham and Phenix Bank. The committee had completed its work in full and was now ready to be dismissed.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

The Entertainment Committee, the chairman of which was Brother M. Essensfeld, stated that they had started to arrange entertainments for the strikers on February 12 and ended their work on February 23. During this period the committee arranged concerts and dances in several of the strike halls. They wish to give a great deal of credit for the success of the work to the splendid cooperation of Sister Fannia M. Cohn of the International.

INFORMATION BUREAU

The Information Bureau reported that the greatest part of its work consisted in giving information to the various persons who came to the office. The work was exceedingly difficult and trying, but the best efforts were made to give as intelligent information as was possible. Another feature which was undertaken by this bureau was the distribution of clerical help to the halls where the strikers were assembled, the typing of lists of members of the various shops, and miscellaneous work of this kind.

OUT-OF-TOWN COMMITTEE

The Out-of-Town-Committee re-

ported that it had made its headquarters at the office of the International and met there daily between 3 and 5. This committee received all complaints pertaining to work going out of town and did its utmost, with the aid and assistance of the International office, to check this practice as much as possible.

THE SPEAKERS' COMMITTEE

The Speakers' Committee stated in its report that, owing to a number of specific reasons, not the least of which was the desire to confine the work of the committee to our own speakers, officers, and active members of the union, the work of this committee was conducted on less extensive lines than has been the case in former general strikes. They felt that they wanted speakers not only to address strikers in general, but to inform them of the issues, the situation and the true condition of the strike, and to emphasize the issues that were the most important.

This committee also cooperated in securing artists for four concerts, and it wishes to express its appreciation to every one who spoke and whose services were utilized during the strike.

Upon motion it was decided that the General Strike Committee should officially disband and that all the affairs of the association should be carried on through the regular channels of the Joint Board.

Before adjourning the meeting, Brother Julius Hochman, manager of the Joint Board, spoke on the present situation of the waist and dress industry and expressed his appreciation of the splendid work done by a great number of our active members during this general strike.

GENERAL WHITE GOODS STRIKE IN GREATER NEW YORK

(Continued from page 1)

shops. In order to save and protect the union shops, it is imperative that these non-union shops be organized.

We therefore call upon you to do your duty. Whether you are working in a union shop or a non-union shop, leave your work and join in the strike bringing about new conditions and an American standard of living to all the white goods factories in Greater New York. Don't wait for committees to come to take you down. Together with the rest of the workers in your shop, march out of the factory in order.

Do not discuss the strike with your employer or his representatives. Come straight to the hall assigned to your shop in this strike call.

(Signed): GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD, I. L. G. W. U.

Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union, Local No. 10.

White Goods Workers' Union, Local No. 62.

INFORMATION BUREAU FOR STRIKERS

The strikers who assemble at Webster Hall, 119 East 11th Street, are requested to apply for information to hall chairlady, Miss Mary Goff.

The strikers who assemble in Beethoven Hall, 210 East 5th Street, will apply for information to hall chairlady, Miss Rose Astor.

The strikers who assemble in Odd Fellows Hall in Forsyth Street, will apply for information to hall chairlady, Miss Yetta Molovsky.

The strikers who assemble in Harlem will apply for information to Miss Lieberman.

The strikers who assemble in 143 McKibbin Street, Brooklyn, will apply for information to hall chairlady, Miss Esther Wiener.

For information regarding picketing interested persons should apply in Beethoven Hall, the chairlady of the Organization Committee, Miss Rose Harriet, and for all information pertaining to payment of dues and the good standing of the members on the books of the local, all parties in-

terested are directed to Miss Molly Lifshitz, secretary of the Local, at 117 Second Avenue.

JUSTICE BLUR DENIES DRESS INJUNCTION

The Jeannette Dress Company, Inc. of 14 East 35th Street, a non-union shop which has sought to enjoin the Waist and Dressmakers' Joint Board of New York and the International Union from organizing its workers, has received, for a change, it would seem, a rebuke from Justice Blum of the Supreme Court of New York as a reward for its efforts.

In a decision handed down on March 17, 1923, Justice Blum denied the application for an injunction of this dress firm, holding that the Union's activities were perfectly proper and not in violation of the law. Attorney Morris Rothenberg represented the Union.

The Week in Local 10

By JOSEPH FISH

GENERAL

On Monday, March 26th, the last general meeting for the first three months of this year will take place, covering the period from January through March. This actually will be the last opportunity for those members who have as yet not attended a meeting in the three months to attend a meeting in the first quarter of 1923.

This notification is a last warning to the members before a fine of \$1.00, as stipulated by the Constitution, is imposed upon those who did not attend a meeting during this period.

CLOAK AND SUIT

At the time of Brother Saul Metz's resignation as manager of the Independent Department of the Joint Board, he submitted a report, covering the activities of his office from the time of the stoppage until the date of his resignation. The report gives the number of persons employed in the various shops under his jurisdiction and their salaries, as well as an analysis of the wages earned by the workers under the control of his department for the years 1921 and 1922. For lack of space, we have been unable to publish this report before now, and we are therefore taking the opportunity of presenting some of its details in this week's issue.

The report covers the activities of the Independent Department for the period from August 25th to November 14th, 1922. On August 25th, at the termination of the stoppage, the office started with a list of 562 shops, out of which 496 were organized union shops, and 66 were unorganized or open shops. Up to November 14th, the office had succeeded in organizing 18 of the 66 open shops, these 18 having signed agreements and deposited security that all conditions prescribed in the agreements would be observed.

Of the 562 shops that were listed in this division, 89 went out of business, leaving a balance of 473 shops. Of this number, 425 were organized union shops, and 48 open shops. The Independent Department has made repeated attempts to organize these open shops, but without success.

Brother Metz then proceeds to a detailed account of the reasons why these shops could not be organized, — some of them because of their being corporation shops, and others because the firm employs two or three workers from time to time. These two reasons apply to the majority of the shops under his jurisdiction. Aside from having charge of the Association Department, the Independent Division had charge of the Independent district from 15th to 25th Street.

Brother Metz, in his report, classifies the shops into the American Association shops, amounting to 264, and the Independent shops, amounting to 161, all of which employ a total of 7506 workers, subdivided as follows: operators, 5498; finishers, 1529; finishers' helpers, 909; pressers, 922; under-pressers, 87; cutters, 466; examiners, 85; sample-makers, 12.

This he follows with a report of the wages and earnings of the individual members working under the jurisdiction of this department. The survey is as follows:

WAGES FOR THE FALL OF 1922

Operators	.....	\$61.07
Finishers	.....	\$46.18
Pressers	.....	\$55.41

This indicates an increase above the minimum for the operators, whose scale is \$50, of \$11.07; for the finishers, whose scale is \$41, an increase above the minimum of \$5.18; for the pressers, whose scale is \$45, an increase above the minimum of \$13.41;

for the cutters, whose scale is \$44, an increase above the minimum of \$11.12.

The figures arrived at as the result of the survey, show that there were 466 cutters employed in these shops working as follows:

2 below the scale, at \$42.00 per week; 27 at \$44.00, 23 at \$45.00, 1 at \$46.00, 2 at \$47.00, 6 at \$48.00, 118 at \$50.00, 1 at \$51.00, 6 at \$52.00, 5 at \$53.00, 99 at \$55.00, 1 at \$57.00, 3 at \$58.00, 92 at \$60.00, 76 at \$65.00, 2 at \$70.00, 1 at \$73.00, 1 at \$75.00.

This shows a minimum average wage earned per cutter of \$55.12 per week.

The report also shows that there were only 2 cutters, or four-tenths of one per cent working below the scale; 27, or 5.8 per cent working for the scale; 437, or 93.8 per cent working above the minimum scale.

Brother Metz's report then covers the difference between the wages earned by the various crafts during 1921 and of the fall season of 1922, as follows:

Operators—Average wage for 1921 \$64.28. For 1922 fall season, \$61.07. (Showing a loss of \$3.21.)

Finishers—Average wage for 1921, \$47.02. For 1922 fall season, \$46.18. (Showing a loss of 84 cents.)

Pressers—Average wage for 1921, \$54.26. For 1922 fall season, \$55.41. (Showing a gain of \$1.15.)

Cutters—Number of cutters working below the scale, 8; number of cutters working at the scale, 56; number of cutters working above the scale, 841.

This shows a total of 905 cutters, whose average earnings were \$54.33 for 1921, whereas the average for the fall of 1922 was \$55.12, showing an increase of 79 cents.

We wish to call the attention of the Cloak and Suit Cutters to the fact that there will be no meeting of this branch for the month of April, as the first Monday falls on the 2nd, which is Passover night.

MISCELLANEOUS

The general strike of the underwear industry was declared last Tuesday, March 20th, and, while at the time of writing, no figures were available as to the number that responded, it may be safely said, nevertheless, that the trade was practically tied up. This assertion is based on the two unprecedented meetings that took place within a few days preceding the calling of the strike.

While the employers did not meet with the demands of the Union for the unionization of the shops, which alone is reason enough for the calling of the strike, the real cause for the declaration of the general strike was the deplorable conditions which existed in the trade, and the many open shops which had sprung up within the past few years.

As a result of the canvass of the association shops, the union found that the great majority of the workers were compelled to work for wages as low as \$12.00 per week, and only a small number received more than \$18.00 per week.

In presenting demands for the renewal of the agreement, the representatives of the cutters were determined upon such a change as would insure the unionization of every cutter in the trade. Up to the present, the cause governing the cutters in the agreement with the association practically tied the hands of Local No. 10 in unionizing the cutters. The association has refused to meet with such a change.

The Union's Conference Committee, in presenting changes in the minima, also demanded that the min-

imum of \$35 for cutters be increased to \$40. The demand was also presented for a flat increase of \$3.00 for all cutters.

There were many changes sought, but the most important one, and the one upon which Local No. 10 has based its present fight, is a change in the clause which would compel the employers to hire none but members of Local No. 10 in good standing, in the cutting of underwear.

At a mass meeting which was held Thursday, March 15th, a separate meeting with the cutters was held, at which this point was made clear to them. Manager Dubinsky, who was scheduled to speak at this meeting, authorized Business Agent Sam R. Shanker to represent him for the cutters, as he, Brother Dubinsky, was detained at a meeting of the Executive Board.

In speaking to the cutters after the meeting, Brother Shanker was gratified to find that quite a number of non-union men voluntarily came down to the meeting and expressed a very keen desire to join the Cutters' Union. They told him that they were working in non-union shops and find conditions beyond endurance. All of these men pledged their heartiest cooperation in helping the union organize these factories.

Another large meeting, in response to the call of the union for a membership meeting, took place last Monday, March 19th, in Beethoven Hall, where circulars were distributed calling the workers out on strike, and where final instructions were given them. Among those who spoke at that meeting was a representative of the Cutters' Union, who urged the workers to cooperate with Local No. 10 for the unionization of the cutters.

In accordance with the custom of the industry, a separate hall has been secured for the congregation of the strikers in the cutting trade. For this purpose, one of the rooms in Beethoven Hall, 210 East 5th Street, was assigned. Hence, all cutters, union or non-union, whether they come down on strike with other workers of their shop or without them, should report to this hall for the purpose of registration. If some misguided individual or individuals remain in the shop, waiting to be called down by officers of Local No. 10, or thinking that the strike was not meant for them, this should be reported to Brother Philip Oretsky, who is in charge of the Picket Committee, or to Brother Morris Alovis, who is to watch out for the interests of the cutters.

It is expected that before many days are over a great many shops will have been settled and the people returned to work. It will be then that the real strike will have begun, since this will leave only the non-union shops. And while the union is interested in the present strike to raise the standards of union shops, which have been lowered during the past few years as a result of a general de-

pression in the trade, it will be glad of the opportunity to exert its utmost in unionizing the non-union shops, which is practically the big purpose of the present strike.

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CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

Notice of Regular Meetings

GENERAL	Monday, March 26th
WAIST AND DRESS	.....	Monday, April 9th
SPECIAL MISCELLANEOUS	.....	Monday, April 16th
SPECIAL	.....	Monday, April 30th

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place