

"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. 14.

New York, Friday, March 30, 1923.

Price 2 Cents

4TH QUARTERLY MEET OF G.E.B. IN SESSION IN NEW YORK

PRESIDENT SIGMAN AND SECRETARY BAROFF SUF
—BOARD RECEIVES COMMITTEES FROM LOCAL

Last Monday, March 26th, at ten o'clock in the morning, the fourth quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board opened its session in the council room of the International Building, 3 West 16th Street. This is the first meeting of the Board, with President Sigman, the new president of the International, as chairman. The General Executive Board has before it a number of important questions affecting the activity of our union in various sections of the country. A large number of committees from locals and joint boards have already appeared before the Board with requests and appeals on behalf of their organizations.

On Monday afternoon, President Sigman gave the members of the Board a review of what has transpired in our International since he entered upon his office, reporting on the strikes that we have had since that time and dwelling in particular upon the situation in Chicago, which he recently visited.

Secretary Baroff followed with a very detailed report, submitting facts and figures on the state of affairs within our International from the early part of January until the close of March.

As these lines are being written on Thursday morning, the meeting of the Board is in full swing, and it appears that it will be in session during the entire week. Most of the vice-presidents have not yet reported on their special work and assigned duties, and a considerable number of subjects have not yet been decided upon. We shall report on all these decisions in detail in our next issue.

The entire membership of the General Executive Board, with the exception of Brother Max Gorenstein, who is in San Francisco, is present at the meeting, namely: President Sigman,

enita Ninfo, Perlestein, Misselman, Reiberg, Seldman, Heller, Feinberg, Lefkowitz, Breslaw, Dubinsky, Wander, Monoson, and Secretary Baroff.

New York White Goods Strike Practically Ended

UNION SCORES EXCELLENT GAINS

The general strike of the White Goods Workers' Union, Local 62, is almost ended. The strike lasted actually not more than one week and resulted in very substantial gains for the workers in the trade.

The strike was all the more successful because a large number of non-union workers joined the union girls in leaving the shops when the strike call was issued. The strike began on Tuesday morning, March 20th, and on Friday afternoon the Conference Committee of the Local had already reached an agreement with the Cotton Garment Manufacturers Association. The terms of this agreement were laid before the strikers in the halls by General Secretary Baroff of the International and Brother Abraham Snyder, manager of Local 62. The strikers unanimously decided to accept the agreement.

The workers won a raise in wages amounting to an increase of ten per cent to all piece-workers and a flat increase of \$2 to week-workers.—\$1

upon the signing of the agreement and the second \$1 on June 1st. The principal gain resulting from this strike, however, consists in the fact that Local 62 has come out of it with a much larger membership than it ever has had, and has succeeded in getting a better hold on the control of labor conditions in the shops. According to the new agreement, an employer can no longer keep up an open shop and remain a member of the manufacturers' association.

The trade is going to be unionized and that is the best guarantee for the retaining of union conditions in it.

Over three thousand workers are already back in the shops, all of them having returned to work with working-cards issued by the office of the union. Among the settled shops are also a number of independent firms which have become thoroughly unionized. There are still a few hundred girls out on strike, but it is only a question of a short time before their employers will have to capitulate.

Philadelphia Waist And Dress Union Fortifies Position

RAISE DUES FOR ORGANIZING FUND

Though the strike of the waist and dressmakers in Philadelphia was officially announced at an end last week, there are still about 75 workers out against some obstinate employers who refuse to come to an agreement with the union. The union intends to place them in organized shops in the near future should their employers persist in their obstinate course.

At the membership meeting of the union last week, the problem of putting the union on a stronger financial basis was foremost in the order of the day. As a result a decision was taken raising the dues of the members from 30 to 35 cents per week, and an assessment of \$4 per member was also voted for an organizing fund. Vice President Reiberg, manager of the union, urged very strongly upon the members the necessity of such a fund.

According to Manager Reiberg's report, Local 15 has an excellent opportunity now to become a forceful factor in the local industry, with which even the bitter-enders in the trade would have to reckon. It has been announced in the Philadelphia dress trade that employers maintaining open shops have decided to grant some concessions to their workers in order to keep them away from the union. Past experience, however, has shown that such methods avail but little, and once the workers begin realizing the benefits that accrue from belonging to a union—and the spirit of relative independence which the workers win from becoming a part of an organized labor body, they cannot be thwarted by such eleventh-hour concessions or scraps thrown to them.

Morris L. Cook New Impartial Chairman in Cleveland

WAGE RAISE HEARING ON APRIL 17

Both parties in the Cleveland cloak industry, the union and the association, united last week in choosing a new chairman of the Board of Referees in the place of Judge Julian W. Mack, who resigned several weeks ago. The new chairman, who is the arbitrator of disputes in the industry, is Morris L. Cook, well-known industrial engineer and lecturer on industrial and economic subjects at Harvard. He will assume his post with the full confidence of the Joint Board of the Cleveland Cloakmakers' Union and of the Cleveland Cloak Manufacturers Association.

On or about April 17, there will be a hearing before the Board on a number of very urgent matters which have accumulated in the local industry. Both sides have already made preparations to appear before the Board with their respective claims. At this hearing, the union will demand a raise in wages for all the workers in the trade, as follows:

A raise of ten per cent for operators and sample makers.

A raise of \$4 a week for women

dress operators.

A raise of \$5 a week for pressers. A raise of \$7 a week for all cutters. A raise of \$1.50 a week for finishers.

A raise of \$3 a week for examiners, drapers and other miscellaneous workers in the trade.

According to Vice-President M. Perlestein, manager of the Cleveland Cloakmakers' Joint Board, the union is ready to make a strong fight for these wage increases at the next meeting of the Board of Referees. The union will furnish facts and proof that the workers are fully entitled to such a raise, on the ground of the general prosperity in the Cleveland cloak industry in recent times.

Naturally, the employers will put up a strong fight against it, perhaps on the ground that whatever prosperity there is in the industry all belongs to them. The Board of Referees, however, will have the final say in the matter and it is to be hoped that its members will appreciate the fairness of the workers' demands and will grant them these increases.

Local 25, Waistmakers' Union Seeks Greater Membership

TO ENROLL TUCKERS AND HEMSTITCHERS

While it is true that the waist trade in New York City has shrunk considerably in the last ten years and is not what it formerly was, both in size and volume of production, there are still a number of waist shops in New York, Brooklyn and the Greater City employing some thousands of women. Local 25, which has jurisdiction over this trade in New York City, has, however, but a fraction of these workers in the union.

TUCKERS AND HEMSTITCHERS, ATTENTION!

The Joint Board of Dress and Waist Makers' Union is conducting a campaign now to organize all tucking and hemstitching shops so that the workers employed in these places may have the same advantageous work conditions as our Union gained in the last general strike. These conditions are:

1. Forty-hour (8-day) week work, which means two complete days of rest each week.
2. Good pay for your work, not only in busy seasons, but all the year around.

and it has now started organizing work—having seen from the example of Local 22 that nothing succeeds like a concerted organization drive—with a campaign to enroll all the tuckers and hemstitchers in the trade into the local.

We received from Secretary Charles Jacobson of the local a copy of an appeal which was forwarded by Local 25 to all tuckers and hemstitchers in the trade:

3. Guarantee of the job after one week's trial.

The waistmakers of Local 25 appreciate the fact that many tuckers and hemstitchers are compelled to forfeit membership in our union because of their poor earnings, and have decided to initiate all such workers who are employed in non-union shops for the sum of \$5.00. Don't fail to take advantage of this opportunity and bring your application to our office, 16 West 21st Street, without fail. Keep in mind that this reduction will last only until April 14, 1923.

Among the Custom Dressmakers, Local 90

By J. BERNADSKY, Manager

There is lots of work in the custom dressing trade in New York. Our employers are making loads of money, they surely know how to utilize the right time for themselves. They have known how to play the game in former seasons and they know how to do it now, too.

But what about the workers? Do they know how to make use of the season, of those weeks when there are literally not enough workers in the trade? Well, in the union shops both the earnings and labor conditions are taken care of by the union. Our members know it and they appreciate it. But in the non-union shops things are quite different: from there we get reports that are not altogether brilliant. And why? Aren't the workers in the non-union shops just as good mechanics as the union people? Sure, they are. One has got to be nothing short of an artist to work in a real custom dress shop nowadays. Don't forget that one has to gratify the fickle taste of Fifth Avenue ladies, and that's saying enough!

So why are they so enslaved? Why do they sit in their shops with heads bowed down and spirits harnessed, afraid of saying a word or raising a voice lest they be discharged? The answer is so obvious that we don't even have to give it. How much better, indeed, it would be for all the workers, union and non-union, if the entire trade were organized and if all of them could work under the same conditions! Will the non-union workers ever group that and join the organization and become thereby a little more independent and better off all-around?

The Local has recently called together for this very purpose a meeting of chairladies and other active workers to talk things over and to agree upon a method of approaching the non-union shops. All were of the opinion that something must be

done, that, if not, the better conditions in the union shops will soon be a matter of the past. From that we have learned the following: the dressmaking trade is not any longer what it used to be. The trade has spread out and includes now a large number of native American girls and a good deal of colored workers. Instead of the two or three girls that would be employed in a place a few years ago, there are now 20, 100 and even 300 workers. In place of the ladies' tailoring trade that used to be, there is now an exclusive dress-making business, all work done by hand.

The chairladies were of the opinion that a general strike in the trade would be a highly desirable matter. It would arouse the workers, draw their interest towards the organization, and pave a way for building up one of the strongest locals of the International in our trade. You must have in mind that ours is a steady trade and the material in it not of the fluctuating kind. Secondly, in spite of the high caliber of the work in our shops, the workers who are unorganized are still working for scandalously small wages, and certainly this should be an incentive for organization.

The meeting decided to continue the organizing activities of the local as heretofore, to spread literature in the shops, and to keep up vigorously our educational campaign. All who were present volunteered to take a hand in the work and to give it all possible cooperation.

The first of May is one of our legal holidays—with pay—and the entertainment committee of the Local has therefore decided to celebrate the day at a "May Flower Ball," on April 30, Monday evening, at the Harlem Educational Center, 62 East 106th Street. The price of a ticket is 50 cents, and each member has been taxed with two tickets.

DESIGNERS OF LADIES' GARMENTS ARE IN GREAT DEMAND A GOOD PROFESSION FOR MEN AND WOMEN! EASY TO LEARN, PAYS BIG MONEY

Take a Practical Course of Instruction in the Mitchell Schools



In designing Women's, Misses and Children's Wearing Apparel. A course of instruction in the Mitchell School means an immediate position and bigger pay. The Mitchell Schools of Designing, Pattern-making, Grading, Draping and Fitting have been established for over 50 years and have achieved

NEW IDEAS NEW SYSTEMS BEST METHODS BEST RESULTS

Individual instruction. Day and evening classes. Reasonable terms. Write, phone or call for free booklet and full information.

Demonstration Free at Our School

EVENING CLASSES: MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

MITCHELL DESIGNING SCHOOL

15 WEST 37TH STREET

NEW YORK

Telephone Fitzroy 1674

Boston Branch: 10 Hayward Place.

But that is not all. To make this ball a success, tickets must be distributed among other organizations and friends of the members in general. The other locals of the International in New York will be invited to come to this affair and we have every reason to believe that May Day Eve will be met by the great family of the membership of the Locals of our Union in New York in a befitting manner at our May Flower Ball.

Our office, heretofore located at 725 Lexington Avenue, and found to be not very convenient for our members, has now been moved to 744 Lexington Avenue, 2nd floor. The new office is

much better fitted out than the old one. There is a rest room there for our workers who choose to stop off at union headquarters on the way from work or in search of a job. We have a reading room there too—remember the new address—744 Lexington Avenue.

We desire to say a few words to our members concerning dues: beginning this week, each member must have her book with her in the shop at all times. The books will be strictly controlled, and those found behind in dues this season will be stopped from work. There is no reason or valid excuse why our members should be in arrears with their payments this season.

A Letter from England

By EVELYN SHARP
(London Daily Herald Service.)

The position in Europe is becoming every day more critical. It is fairly safe to say that, but for the reluctance of a post-war Britain to enter into another European contest, we could easily have drifted into war with France by this time. Already some distinguished journalists,—Mr. Garvin in last Sunday's "Observer," for instance,—are writing in criticism of France's attitude towards the British Occupation troops in a way that tends to turn popular feeling for our Ally into popular feeling against her. The present situation is indubitably a test of pacifism; for the isolation of our troops in the Rhineland and France's tendency to occupy more and more of unoccupied Germany are two distinctly provocative acts. Against this can be set the slightly more conciliatory tone shown towards Great Britain during the deliberations between representatives of the Belgian and French Governments at Brussels, an occasion also of one important development in the Ruhr situation—the first tentative mention of the terms on which a progressive evacuation of the Ruhr might take place. These are only small crumbs of comfort in a hostile atmosphere, but we have nothing else to show that official France has even begun to regret for intransigence.

Labor is doing its best under the

very difficult circumstances. After the defeat in the House of Ramsay MacDonald's motion to request the parliaments of France and Belgium to appoint committees to discuss the Ruhr question and seek a solution of the British Parliamentary Party met privately on March 7 and decided to invite the Labor and Socialist Parties of France, Belgium and Italy to confer in London as to the best parliamentary tactics to pursue in the present crisis,—this to be a prelude to a larger conference of the trade-union and socialist parties in all countries. In view of the British General's recent refusal to allow such a conference, summoned already by the Ruhr Trade Unions, to meet in Cologne, this decision of the British parliamentary party is of considerable usefulness.

Last night's debate on Sir John Simon's motion to move the reduction of the vote on account, that is, to move a vote of censure on the government for its policy of drift on the Ruhr question, was supported solidly by the Labor as well as the Independent Labor party, and the result was that the government majority, only 48, was the lowest on record in the present parliament. It is already being rumored that if the government does not fall on account of its housing and unemployment policy, it will

fall on its Ruhr policy. "But perhaps that is too optimistic a view to take as yet."

IS THE HABEAS CORPUS ACT DEAD?

The few lovers of liberty, including some members of the House of Lords, who raised their voices during the war to protest against the suspension, without consent of Parliament, of the Habeas Corpus Act in order to facilitate the internment of civilians without trial (a direct contravention of the right of British subjects to trial before imprisonment, which was fought for and won both in Magna Charta and the Bill of Rights) have been amply justified in two occurrences during the past eight days. Early on Sunday morning, over 100 Irish men and women, resident in Great Britain and the majority of them British subjects, were arrested by the police and deported to Ireland in a warship, there to be handed over to the Free State Government apparently for internment without trial.

They were given no opportunity to answer any charge, or even to prove they were not the persons wanted, which in certain cases is gravely doubted over here. The government's defense, when holly attacked in the House of Commons by the Labor party, supported by Liberals and even one or two Conservatives, was that they acted under a clause in the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act, passed during the Black and Tan period of two years ago. But this Act refers expressly to Ireland and was moreover passed by the British government when Ireland was part of Great Britain; it cannot legally be used to deport British subjects to another country. To assert, as the Home Secretary did in the House, that the arrested persons are guilty of crimes or of criminal intent, may or may not be true, but this is an argument for trying them in the courts provided for the purpose, not for internment in another country without trial.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Office, 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel.: Chelsea 2148

MORRIS SIGMAN, President.

S. VANOFFSKY, Editor.

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer ABRAHAM TUVIM, Business Manager

MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year

Vol. V, No. 14.

Friday, March 30, 1923.

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1102, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 23, 1919.

An Open Letter to Jackie Coogan

By EARL DERR BIGGERS

Not long ago I was sitting in the smoking room of a small Southern hotel. Beside me an old white-haired gentleman was reading a newspaper. All at once he let out a cry—a wild little yelp of astonishment. He held up his paper and pointed.

"Five hundred thousand dollars!" he shouted. "Can you beat it! Five hundred thousand—that's what they've just paid over to that kid Jackie Coogan!"

Then he laid the paper on his lap, and sat staring for a long time into space. I suppose he was regretting his own mispent childhood, or comparing his income with yours, or just thinking over the strange things that are going on in this modern world.

I don't know how accurate that five-hundred-thousand-dollar talk is, but I imagine it's pretty close to the truth. And whatever you get, I for one don't begrudge it to you. You are giving the world a lot of pleasure in return.

Probably you know that at the moment you are the most famous child alive—and the most popular. It isn't only grown people who like you; it's your own generation, children like yourself, and older. I've been among those present where one of your pictures was being shown, and the front seats of the theatre were filled with kids, having the time of their lives. When you flashed on the screen they shouted to you—just as they would shout over the back fence to one of the gang: "Hey, Jackie!"

They followed you breathlessly through the story. They were for you against all comers; you were their spokesman, their friend, their good 'ol pal.

You are, you see, the king pin of your generation of kids, the genius, the millionaire, the leading citizen. And if you've ever talked with a leading citizen, maybe you've gathered that he feels sort of responsible to—toward those not quite so lucky. If he's the right sort, he wants to help them. There's a big fight looming ahead for the kids—your friends—the guys, and so far none of the kids is in on it. So far it's the grown people, like the National Child Labor Committee, and editors, and such, who are doing the scrapping. But if you want to, you can help. You can do more in a minute than the ablest grown person could do in a month.

You see, it's like this—there are several million kids in this country who are getting a terrible raw deal. They are being robbed of the fun they ought to have, and the schooling they ought to get if they are ever to amount to anything, and being forced to work. Not work like yours, which is no doubt mostly fun, and which leaves you plenty of time to get an education. But hard, manual work in factories, mills, canneries, mines, and quarries. At lathes or machines, or down deep in coal mines where the sun never goes. Or, in the season, picking cranberries ten hours a day, crawling through wet marshes on hands and knees. Or thinning, hoeing, topping beets, stooping and lifting—men and sometimes twelve hours a day. Taken out of school to sweat in cotton or tobacco fields, to plow and plant wheat, to thresh and bale hay, fill silos, pick fruit, herd cattle. Millions of children up against that sort of thing, in the South and the North, the East and the West.

Are you surprised to hear this? I know I was. I supposed that child labor was a thing of the past, and at first I didn't believe that this kind of thing was going on today. But they handed me a big bunch of proof—I won't bother you with it, it's hard reading—and I was convinced. Then I got indignant. I said: "There ought

to be a law! What's the United States Government doing!"

And I discovered that the United States Government isn't doing a thing. It can't. Its hands are tied. It seems that in 1918 Congress passed a Federal Child Labor Law that everybody thought was fine and would do away with most of this labor by kids. And then in 1922 the Supreme Court came along and said the law was unconstitutional, and it was all off again, and things were as bad as ever. Of course I know that this kind of talk is pretty hard for a little fellow like you to understand.

But you can understand when I say that because this law was greeted by "That's out!" from the director—I mean the Supreme Court judges, who probably hated to do it, but have to go according to the books—the kids in twenty-eight of the States aren't protected any more from men who want to put them at hard labor when they should be in school. In Georgia 12-year-old kids may now be worked ten hours a day, sixty hours a week, in cotton and wooden mills, and from sunrise to sunset in other factories. If they're fourteen and a half, they may be worked all night. In Utah kids any age at all may be worked in factories and canneries. In Minnesota and Michigan, where there are a lot of mines, children of fourteen may be worked there, and at any age in quarries. I could go on and on, but you can see how it is.

You can see, too, that something has got to be done about this. Otherwise a lot of the kids who are growing up along with you will turn out to be undernourished and unhealthy, old before their time, and with not enough education to get along in the world and be happy.

Grown people have already realized this, and have started the fight. They want Congress down in Washington to pass an amendment to the Constitution which will enable the United States Government to put a stop to this business of making money out of the labor of children. Senator McCormick of Illinois has introduced the amendment, but—oh, well, you know how Congress is! Slow. Pooling round, talking. They've just gone home now and left the whole thing up in the air until the next meeting. Slipped off home and left the poor kids in the lurch!

But, as I said, the friends of the kids are getting ready for a big drive that will force the congressmen to take some sort of action when they come together again next December. They're determined to show these lawmakers that the people of this country want their children protected. It's going to be one grand battle. Lurking in the background are the villains of the film, the men who are getting rich out of the labor of kids. Working underground as villains love to do. But congressmen are pretty good scoundrels, after all, and when they get down to it they'll probably pass the amendment. But they'll never get down to it—unless they're properly stirred up.

Before you can stir up Congress, you've got to rouse the public. And that's some job. You know how people are.

They hear about something that's all wrong, and they say: "Why, that's terrible! I must get busy about that." And then they begin to think about their golf game, or their indigestion, and forget the whole matter. Editors, reformers, writers, may about themselves black in the face, and the public yawns and drifts away. But you, Jackie—if you spoke! They'd listen. You bet they would.

All over the country you are making

personal appearances—these are the great. Standing up for your adoring public to gaze their fill. Saying a few words. What do you talk about? The film? Hollywood? All right, but why not add a few lines? Something like this:

"I'm glad to be here and meet you all because I like folks, but the folks I like best are the kids. And I want to tell you that I've found out something and it's bothering me a good deal. I've found out that millions of kids in this country are having a pretty tough time of it. They're being worked all hours—not easy, pleasant work like mine, but hard labor that's breaking their hearts. Think of it, folks! Kids waiting outside cotton mills before daylight with their dinner pails in their hands. Kids going down into the dark, damp mines with little lanterns in their hats. Kids crawling through cranberry bogs, kids choking on the dust of quarries. Kids that should be in school. Something ought to be done. Your senators and your congressmen can do it. As a favor to me, get after them. Stir them up. Put dynamite under them."

Giovannitti to Address Mass Meeting Of All Trades Unions in Bridgeport

ENTIRE LABOR MOVEMENT OF CITY IN JOINT ORGANIZATION DRIVE

Immediately following an open campaign begun in Bridgeport by our International, the labor movement of the city took on a new lease of life. The flooding of the city with circulars in three languages which outlined the great gains of our unions in New York, served to begin the blazing-out of a smoldering mass of discontent amongst all the workers.

Largely through this influence John J. Egan, representative of the Machinists' Union, called a joint conference of all trades unions in the city to consider plans for a joint drive. Practically every union in Bridgeport suffered a loss of membership during the great depression of 1922. Conditions were very decidedly on the downhill road; work hours were lengthened from 44 to 48 and 50 and 55; and the wages of skilled workers had been cut from \$1 and \$1.15 to as low as 50c an hour.

At this conference, representatives of nine factory trades unions were present. A plan was worked out by Mr. Egan and Miss Gluck for an advertising and publicity campaign in the local papers, and a joint distribution of circulars in all shops of Bridgeport. The expenses of this campaign are to be shared jointly. But what is much more important is that the workers of the city will from now begin to realize that instead of disjointed, spasmodic efforts by various organizations, the enemy will be attacked in one mass movement for better wages and better conditions.

All the representatives showed considerable enthusiasm when it was an-

Tell them you want action, and don't stop till you get it.

"As a favor to me, I thank you." That's just a rough idea—you could put it in your own words, of course. You'd start something, Jackie. You voice would be heard—you know that. You might even go further—you might get the men who are producing your pictures to star you in a film story on the subject. An Oliver Twist, of the factories. You know, Dickens did more than tell some good yarns. He brought about a lot of reforms, and never lost a bit of humor, human interest, or thrill-out of his story while he was doing it.

Your parents, I understand, are putting your money aside in trust for you. That's mighty fine of them. But when you grow up, you'll have more than money. You'll have many happy memories of the time when you were the best loved child in the world. It would be fine to look back and remember that you helped in this fight for the children—that you took your true place as their spokesman. To know that because of your efforts the men and women about you are better educated, better fitted in every way to get the most out of life and be happy. It looks like a big chance for you. What do you think?

—(Colliers, the National Weekly).

nounced that Arturo Giovannitti, general organizer for our International, would be a speaker at the mass meeting called by the conference for Thursday, March 29th. Giovannitti is well known to the workers of Bridgeport. The other speaker at the meeting will be George J. Bowen, organizer for the International Association of Machinists. It was Bowen who started the campaign which resulted in the eight-hour day in Bridgeport in 1914.

Very tangible results of the campaign of our organization are already noticeable. Up to the first of the year wage cuts in all departments of the corset shops were being made, right and left. Since the organizing work began no cuts have been made, while all requests for increases have been acted upon favorably. In fact, during the last week, increases were given without any request by the workers. When it was reported by a committee of Local 33 that the corset manufacturers voted for a 55-hour law at the state hearing, workers in the shops of the industry expressed renewed interest in the organization. The membership is growing by leaps and bounds, and there is every indication that within a very short time the local will include the majority of the workers in the industry.

There is a tradition in Bridgeport that it is always the Corset Workers, through their organization, who start things a-bumming. This was the case in 1914 and again in 1916. Rumors of a 44-hour week, a general 10 percent increase and a union town are now in the air—mainly as a result of the live campaign being carried on by our organization.

CUTTERS—ATTENTION

There will be no meeting of the Cloak and Suit Branch for the month of April, as the first Monday falls on the 2d, which is Passover night.

Dumb Leaders

(In Place of a Postscript)

By A. LEBEDIGER

"What shall we say, what shall we speak!"

Perhaps it isn't true. But the world is full of it—the world reverberates with the news from one end to the other. Lenin has lost his speech, Lenin is dumb . . .

Yes, perhaps, it isn't true. But how odd these words affect one, how strangely!

"Lenin is dumb."
There is something fatal, something symbolic in these terse, harsh few words—Lenin is speechless. . . Talk, speech—why all these now? Before he had brought Russia to the borderline of the "new"—talk was high, speech was high in the saddle, and the tongue, the silver tongue reigned supreme.

But today? What is there to talk about? Russia has reached the boundary and cannot go any further. . . Russia is going back, back to the old order.

Finally, the consciousness sinks in to one's mind that words will avail no longer, that talk is vain—and as a result: Lenin has lost his speech. More than that: it is a subtle admission of great failure. It says: it is impossible to introduce the new order; capitalism is still too strong—so why talk? The retreat to the old order

can be made in a silent, dumb, funeral way . . .

Lenin is speechless.

But his silence talks: "I have nothing more to tell you. Can't you see for yourselves that we cannot go ahead? Can't you see that talk is fruitless?"

"In the days when we dwelt in a world of fantasies—oh, then we did talk! We stormed the world and have brought Russia to the vanguard in the fight for the Social Revolution. . .

First Russia, and afterwards the whole world. . . We talked on. . . Our speech knew no limits—but when we undertook to realize our plans we began to see that ours was mere talk, beautiful flowery talk—but mere talk nevertheless. . .

Lenin has lost his speech!

But his seething mouth speaks on:

"I have nothing more to tell you."

"Talk will bring no salvation. . . We must keep silent, we must not speak." A reverie overtakes me and I visualize the following picture:

Lenin is still alive. Lenin escaped the claws of death and the merciless grip of the newspaper correspondents. Lenin lives on—but Lenin cannot regain his speech. A dumb leader he remains, a sovereign without a tongue. He rules the land without speech, by

the sheer motions of his fingers, through the language of the dumb and the deaf.

Russia—the land of talk, the country of the winged phrase—is cast into silence. Russia is speechless out of respect for its leader. Her leader lost his tongue—so Russia would not talk. Russia is marching silently back to the old order—how tragically pathetic this land looks now to me the land of a speechless leader! We see the whole world looks on and wonders.

The whole world looks on upon the speechless leader of a silent land as an astounding oddity. . . The whole world still dreads this silent leader. . . Yes, perhaps, it isn't true that the world writes about him—but these stories bring strange thoughts to my mind, strange grotesque ideas.

Ours is a period when everybody everywhere imitates Russia, when everybody dances after the fashion of the Northern Colossus. Will they begin imitating Russia in the manner of dumb, silent leaders?

Will they begin setting up in every land upon the throne of leadership the least eloquent of their speakers, the most tongue-tied of their chiefs, the most "gumshod" of their politicians? The world stands only to gaze thereby, for the world will soon realize that the dumb are the best fitted for its leadership. The world has suffered enough from its talkative leaders—in Russia in general. The world has had more than its share of diplomats with smooth forensic address, of politicians of the silver-

tongue variety, of convincers, persuaders, and apologetes.

The world lies hunched back under the huge burden of talk, of false talk, of lying talk, of talk that amputates reason and has all but left it prostrate. And strangest of all—in this bacchanalia of talk, the world, that huge aggregation of mankind which passes under this name, has never had a chance to edge in a word even sideways for the simple fact that the leaders had monopolized the "door," constantly, ceaselessly, anaesthetically.

The trouble with the world is that its leaders have not been less talkative—and strange as it may sound—it has suffered enough for when its leaders are will forfeit speech as a weapon.

Perhaps, it's all not true that Lenin has lost his speech—it is not a novel thing to concoct fake stories about Lenin—yet the story leads one, willy-nilly, to dreaming about a new world, a new order of things.

It may well be worth the price of a fake story several times over.

If you want the Negro workers in your shop to join the Union, to become members in the 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

The Company Union Hokum

By J. CHARLES LAUE

Large corporations will spend millions of dollars to create and maintain company unions, after pensions, profit sharing, co-partnership plans and other devices have failed to divert the natural surge of their employees to form or join a labor organization for protection and advancement of their interests as workers. It is the last and most substantial bulwark against trade unionism.

Company unions have proven to be ineffective in the needle trades but in other industries they are institutions to be reckoned with. In the hands of such powerful organizations as the railroads the company union has become a menace to seven international unions of the American Federation of Labor. The subsidized "brotherhoods" of the traction ring in New York and other cities are excellent examples of this form of paternalism that seeks to deprive the workers of their industrial and collective independence.

"Employee system of representation" is the honored phrase used by the Pennsylvania Railroad to describe its company union. The only bona fide organizations still recognized by the Pennsylvania Railroad are four trade service brotherhoods. It is the largest railroad in the United States, its property is valued at \$2,000,000,000, it has nearly 200,000 employees and represents about one quarter of the trackage of Class A roads in the country.

When the national strike of shopmen began last July the principal causes were the reduction in wages, installation of the piece work system, sub-contracting and the elimination of cherished shop rules. On the Pennsylvania system, the shopmen struck for one thing only. It was for the right to elect as their own committees, members of the various shop crafts organized in the American Federation of Labor.

The company had circumvented the union with its "employee plan of representation." A ballot was circulated containing the names of individuals with no other means of identification. It was to all intents and

purposes a "blind" ballot, for the voting shopmen could not determine whether the candidates were union men or just "stool pigeons" of which the Pennsylvania system breeds a good many. The union men refused to vote, claiming their organizations represented their interests, asserting also that the system of balloting was unfair.

Eight months after these men had struck for their right to elect their own spokesmen as granted by the Transportation act of 1920 and redefined by the United States Railroad Labor Board, their contention was upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

In delivering the unanimous decision of the court, Chief Justice Taft said that the votes cast at the company's ballot represented but 2,000 out of the 33,000 shopmen entitled to vote, and he upheld the claims of the shop crafts' leaders that they had been denied a fair deal in the election. He went further and stated that, while the Pennsylvania railroad was not compelled to deal with labor unions, Congress had legally recognized labor unions as legal organizations and that there was no reason why an association of workers if properly inclusive or representing a majority of those involved, may not be regarded as the proper "organization of employees" to deal with.

It was a complete legal victory for the shop crafts. Meanwhile their forces had been shattered in the eight months' strike before the Pennsylvania Railroad was brought to terms by the highest representative, thus emphasizing again the disadvantage a labor organization is under when forced to enter a prolonged legal battle. The road was thereby able to forestall public censure until public opinion had become warped and deadened to the issue involved.

Another form of company union now being planned as a substitute for a trade union is the "group bargaining" plan as distinct from "collective bargaining." In passing, it must be added that W. W. Atterbury who directs the labor policy of the

Pennsylvania Railroad is quite convinced that his "employee system of representation" without any union mixed up in it is the ideal system of "collective bargaining."

The brightest example of the latest hokum to confuse the minds of workers between the genuine and the spurious forms of labor organizations is the "labor corporation" formed recently in Beech Grove, Indiana shop of the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis railroad. This corporation is composed of scabs and recruits obtained during the shop strike, who have been persuaded to work under the piece-work system and who also submitted to a sub-contracting system within the shop. The innovation in this company-made plan is a low hourly basis of pay supplemented by extra pay based on extra productivity over a standard output. It is a piece-work plus system. The contractor works with the men as a mechanic and pace-maker, and is paid a bonus when the production of his particular group is high.

This so-called labor corporation showed its true colors by immediately bringing suit through the same sub-contracting railroad attorneys that incorporated it under the laws of the state, to prevent the United States Railroad Labor Board from interfering with its freedom to evade the wage, hour, and shop rules laid down by the Board. In time this issue will also come before the Supreme Court. It is expected. Meanwhile the railroad will have had time to carry out its plan to exterminate the trade unionism.

While the corporations are advancing the superior virtues of their pet organizations, they are careful not to claim that these unions of their own creation are entirely satisfactory. Frank Hedley, the dictator on the New York subway system claims the Interborough Brotherhood is quite deficient, especially just before one of the infrequent wage increases have been handed out. Even General Atterbury does not claim the Pennsylvania's company union is a panacea for future peace and happi-

ness between the lamb of labor and the lion of capital. It may be that he expects the lamb to bite the lion.

Yet the corporations lavish money upon their own brand of "unions." The Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company in 1920 while in the hands of a receiver spent \$2,000,000 to defend its company union and destroy the bona fide organization. The steam railroads have spent \$500,000,000 trying to break the shop craft organizations in the first seven months of the struggle, which by the way is still being fought with the courage of desperation by the seven unions involved.

The disadvantage of the company union for the workers can be seen at a glance. No vigorous, courageous, insistent spokesman for the group can survive without support from the workers. When the matter of discharge is regulated, an excuse can always be found or a trivial cause to discipline an active worker. Since the union is emasculated from the start, it has no finances, no leadership and no solidarity or faith from the membership. It can only beseech and be satisfied with the crumbs that may be left fall.

In a few isolated instances workers are kept out of labor unions by special rewards that place them above the average earning capacity of the workers in that particular employment. Such cases of benevolence do not affect the great mass of the workers who must by their own organized strength take advantage of industrial tides to advance their standards of living.

In the final analysis, company unions are maintained by force and the shackles can only be broken when the workers decide it is time to free themselves from bondage and enjoy the freedom of voluntary association guaranteed to all citizens as a constitutional right.

BUY

WHITE LILY TEA
COLUMBIA TEA
ZWETOCHNI CHAI
Exclusively

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.
Office, 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y.

MORRIS SIGMAN, President.

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer. ABRAHAM TUDIN, Business Manager.

MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.50 per year

Vol. No. 14. Friday, March 30, 1923.

Entered as Second Class matter, April 18, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1102, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 23, 1919.

EDITORIALS

STRIKE AND VICTORY OF THE WHITE GOODS WORKERS

We have become so accustomed to strikes that last long and weary weeks that when a strike in one of our trades comes to an end after a week or two, we are, to say the least, amazed if not puzzled. We begin wondering if it is really possible for a union to win something substantial in the course of a few days. We are in the position of that poor, hardworked fellow who one bright morning finds himself the recipient of a bounty from a distant uncle and who can hardly be convinced that it is possible for him to stay in bed another hour in the morning and draw an easier breath.

Nevertheless, the brevity of our strikes in the last few months is an uncontrovertible fact. Take the strike of the cloakmakers of Philadelphia for example—it was settled before we had a chance properly to train our guns. The jobbers conceded the demands of the union and the workers returned to their shops. And the very fact that we hear neither "right" or "left" news lately from the Philadelphia cloakmakers is to us the best evidence that the workers there are contented with the settlement and are earning a living.

The strikes in the dress industry of New York and Philadelphia, the strike of the dressmakers and cloakmakers of Boston, and of the children's dressmakers of New York, tell the same story. And now it was the turn of the white goods workers. A week ago Tuesday, they went on strike—and in a few days the strike was at an end. With the exception of a handful, the overwhelming majority of them went back to work under honest-to-goodness union conditions. What explains this phenomenon? Are we to take for granted that the period of long, hard and arduous fighting in our trades is already behind us and will never come back? Or are there some special definite reasons prevailing at the present moment which make it possible for our International to score substantial gains with comparatively little effort?

We could, if we had space, point out a lot of reasons which might throw a light upon this new departure in the history of our fighting. Here are three of the most important:

First, our leadership is becoming continually more expert in the matter of waging war. They have gained experience from our past conflicts—and past blunders—and are wary not to repeat them whenever avoidable.

Secondly, we have learned to call out our workers on strike at the right moment,—at a moment when the employers cannot afford to offer protracted resistance lest they jeopardize the very existence of their business.

Thirdly, because our last strikes came as a genuine surprise to the employers in our trades—whether in New York, Philadelphia or Boston. Somehow these employers have come to believe that our unions are too weak, too much torn by dissension to be capable of fighting. Somehow they have come to believe that our workers' ability to resist their aggression is a matter of the past. They openly claimed that the threat of the union to fight was a mere "gesture" on the part of its officials.

But when the workers responded to the call of the union with enthusiasm and a spirit of self-sacrifice, the employers realized at once that they had committed a costly error, and that our unions are far from demoralized. With such concrete facts staring them in the face, they had no other alternative but to concede the demands of the workers.

The just ended strike of the white goods workers presents the most striking illustration of the truth of this statement. Owing to a number of rumors and suppositions, which, fortunately, were not based on fact, the white goods employers honestly believed that the union in the white goods trade was a matter of the past, only a sign of a firm in the last throes of its agony. How surprised they must have been, indeed, when, at the signal from the union, thousands of girls left their shops and went out on strike! This to our opinion was the most significant event in the whole strike. We have often stated in these columns that trade agreement entered with employers is but a mere scrap of paper if there is no vital intelligent force of the workers behind it. It is the conscious will of the workers that infuses life, substance and into any agreement and makes it a sharp weapon against the exploiters.

The white goods strike succeeded in winning a union for the workers in the trade. Let it be stated here that the workers in this trade had really become indifferent to their union in the last few years. This is neither the time nor the place to analyze the causes that are responsible for it. But the strike has gathered together and scattered forces of the white goods workers and welded them into a strong organization.

This is obviously the most important gain of the strike. Of

course, the addition of \$2.00 a week for the week-workers and the ten per cent raise for the piece-workers is something that cannot be ignored. It means more bread, more comfort for thousands of workers. But important as that might be, it is, nevertheless, of little significance in comparison with the fact that the White Goods Workers' Union is now a strongly-knit organization of workers which will be in a position to see that these union conditions are maintained in the shops and are continually improved until they can well be compared with the working conditions of their sisters and brothers in the other industries under the control of the International.

This will depend entirely upon the members, old and new, which are now affiliated with Local 62. If they remain loyal to the union, come to meetings and take part in its activities and not leave all matters to "others" or the union officials, the agreement will be a vital and effective weapon in the hands of the union. They must see that all of the rest in the trade who are not yet members of the local join it at once. If these things are achieved, we have no doubt that this strike, which lasted but a few days, will be a milestone in the existence and the progress of Local 62.

The importance of attracting to the union the large number of workers that are still outside its fold is paramount and we shall discuss it at greater length with the members of Local 62 at some other time. We only desire to emphasize that the members of Local 62 can do it now with greater effectiveness than at any other time. They can point to the concrete gains achieved by the union for the workers, if the abstract principle of trade-unionism might not appeal to these unorganized elements. The White Goods Workers' Union has now the exceptional opportunity of multiplying its numbers and augmenting its strength. The field is wide; it requires only doers and builders, and this can only be done by the workers in the shops in their daily contact with the other workers.

In the hope that the members of the White Goods Workers' Union, the youthful and energetic workers who compose it, will now take wholeheartedly to the task outlined above, we congratulate them on their quick and great victory, for which they have no one to thank but themselves, their leaders and their International, of which they are an integral and inseparable part.

LOCAL 3 AND LOCAL 80

At the third quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board of the International Union, last January at Montreal, it was decided, after a thorough and long discussion, to appoint a committee with full power to act in the matter of Local 3, which a couple of years ago resulted from the amalgamation of the then-existing Locals 80 and 3.

It appears that the artificial amalgamation of these locals lacked the most essential prerequisite unity. From the first moment, there have occurred wranglings and dissensions in the new local. Yet, the International has hoped right along that in time these two locals would somehow attain harmony and become one. For this purpose Vice-President Lefkowitz, in whom both parties had the fullest confidence, was appointed with the consent of the entire local as its secretary-manager. Harmony, nevertheless, was not forthcoming. Instead of subsiding, the friction and fighting became more frequent and more embittered, until working side by side became obviously impossible. The question of separating, of getting apart, naturally arose in all urgency.

As trade union members are not opposed to divorce on principle, it would seem that this process was quite an easy matter. But, as often occurs in the life of individuals, one of the parties to the ill-fated amalgamation stubbornly refused to become divorced. They would rather scrap and snarl but they would stay "united." Had this side at least done its best to maintain a semblance of fraternal relationship, it could at least be reasonably explained. But it was exactly this faction which was responsible for a great part of the fighting and wrangling, and yet it would not hear of separation. When this question was brought before the General Executive Board at Montreal, it became obvious to all that the right thing for the ladies' tailors and the sample makers would be to separate. The Board, however, went farther, and appointed a committee with full power to reinvestigate the entire problem and act upon it as it might deem necessary.

On that committee there were appointed Vice-Presidents Perlman of Cleveland, Reisberg of Philadelphia, and Breslau and Heller of New York. None of these committeemen are either ladies' tailors or sample makers and none of them have any direct relations with the local and, of course, not the least ground to be partial to this or that side. Two of them are not New Yorkers and are known decided opponents of dividing up unions without cause or reason.

Well, after another thorough investigation, this committee decided that Local 3 must be divided, as the amalgamation of the ladies' tailors and the sample makers had from its inception been a great blunder. This is what the committee says in its statement to General Secretary Baroff:

"The facts that mainly impressed the committee were:

1. Disharmony has prevailed in that organization since the day of its amalgamation.

2. A marked separation of ideas between the sample makers and ladies' tailors was noticed.

3. An almost constant division on every question was found to exist between the sample makers and the ladies' tailors.

4. A strong desire, in fact a persistent desire, on the part of the sample makers to have their autonomous existence as heretofore, is evident.

An Issue For Generations

By ALEXANDER ZELDIN

Until now, prohibition was a more or less speculative affair in America. It was possible to conjecture that, since the Eighteenth Amendment has been so unpopular among the general public, the politicians would bow to the will of the people and repeal, or at least emasculate it. Since, however, our Attorney-General Mr. Daugherty has recently proclaimed President Harding's candidacy for another term with prohibition enforcement as one of the chief issues, it would seem that we are "in for" many long "dry" years in these United States—at least insofar as the retaining of the prohibition laws are concerned. The politicians have again, for the nth time, ridden roughshod over the will of the people.

From a practical point of view, prohibition enforcement is, to put it mildly, an unrealistic dream. The prohibition against drink can be carried out just as prohibition against sleep, against kissing, could ever be materialized. The proof of it is the way prohibition is being enforced today. The very gentlemen who have legislated prohibition enforcement into existence have been seen to enter the national legislative chambers in inebriate state. In the waters adjoining New York Harbor, beyond the three-mile limit, a permanent rum fleet is lying at anchor as a permanent national institution, ready at all time to supply the thirsty metropolitan district with "wet" products.

There is even talk of the existence of a great booze syndicate or trust controlled by the millionaires who wield sufficient influence to prevent their operations from being disturbed by "inter-meddlers." Even "placers" have appeared in American waters who prey upon the "legitimate" activities of the rum-runners. In the interior rum-trading continues very energetically. From time to time the papers report heroic exploits by that redoubtable little Galician-American, Mr. Izzy Einstein, but our Izzy seems to be far stronger for publicity stunts than for getting results for prohibition enforcement. Izzy and Moe's net is wide enough to garner in from time to time a few of the small fry, but their access to the big fish is, of course, nil.

To speak therefore in earnest today of prohibition enforcement is pure nonsense. But the reader must keep in mind that besides being a

practical question enforcement is also a political issue. Politics, at least in our country, cannot be measured with the gage of normal human logic. Politics have their own logic and wisdom—and what may appear impossible to the ordinary human mind may seem straight and wise from the point of view of political logic.

Politics have their own morals and their own code of ethics. What has long been condemned and discarded in social life as wickedness, is still good trading merchandise in politics. The highest ideal of the political reformer has always been to introduce into politics at least the same ethics that prevail among ordinary, average tradesmen. To this day, however, this aspiration has remained only a vacuous dream.

What are politics?

They are the organized will of a small minority which is able to preserve the status quo or to maintain social conditions as they are.

What is a political issue?

It is the whip exercised by this organized minority to drive the big unwilling majority to do its bidding. It is best to lash one with one's own whip—a generally accepted tactical method among all politicians. The best political slogans are those which are most likely to incite the basest instincts or the narrowest sectional or national feelings. That's why anti-Semitism is such a valuable issue in Central and Eastern Europe; negro hatred, in America; and patriotism everywhere in the world.

The character of politics differs substantially in the various countries on account of the different economic and political conditions prevailing in them. Among all politicians, nevertheless, the same tendency is noticeable everywhere—as far as possible not to touch upon social problems, as their very discussion is recognized essentially as a danger to the existing order. And when social problems are very pressing and stand out too boldly in relief, the politicians as a rule resort to some meaningless cry that would distract the attention of the people for the while. In the worst case, they will drag the country into a war in order to befuddle the mind of the people with narcotic nationalism which is invariably the accompaniment of each war.

With this in mind, we shall have no

difficulty in explaining why there is such a dearth of real live issues in the political life of America—particularly during recent years. If it depended on the politicians, of course, there would have been just as little of it in Europe too,—except for the fact that there is in almost every country in Europe a strongly organized opposition which forces real issues upon the politicians. In this country, opposition in the real sense of the word does not exist. The Republican and the Democratic parties are to all intents and purposes twins which can hardly be distinguished apart. The struggle between them is, in the lingo of the politicians, after all a fight for the "pork barrel," for jobs and for patronage which the control of the federal government offers. They have no deep-laid differences in principles and for that matter cannot have any. Both parties compete against themselves in their servility to privileged and monopoly and both speculate on the volume of disgust which one or the other might provoke among the great masses of the people before the latter decide to make a "change."

And so it goes on in our republic—Taft electing Wilson, and Wilson electing Harding—and Harding probably electing some one else. The deciding element in all these elections is not the issues involved in them but the amount of antagonism that can be aroused in the public against this or that group of politicians and the readiness of the same public to punish their deeds. Under such circumstances, of course, each issue is good as long as it does not touch upon deep social problems, and in this sense the prohibition issue is certainly as good as the Hague World Court issue, for instance, the recent thing trotted out by Harding.

Whether the prohibition enforcement brings any results or not—does not bother the politicians to any degree. It is enough for them that this issue offers some campaign material, that in turn would bring votes and campaign contributions. For, no matter what one may think of prohibition as a reality, one cannot help reckoning with the fact that there is in America a substantial element to whom prohibition means something. These are, first, the strict church people and all who are closely associated with them. Secondly, there is the

farmer element that is for prohibition, though it can hardly be said that they practice it themselves. The farmers, however, are just mass enough about it as a class to force it as an "issue"; they are jealous of the city, because life in the city is richer and far more interesting than in the village and they are forever ready to spite the city folk in whichever way they can. Prohibition is one expression of their spitting the city, an organized nation-wide expression.

And thirdly,—there are the rich who give money for everything for which the churches appeal. They give money for the propaganda of prohibition—just as the trusts and monopolies will give money for every cause that leaves them alone. Prohibition, in a word, is a "golden" issue.

There is another thing which must not be left out of the reckoning, a very important matter, though involving purely internal party affairs. Prohibition has opened a new course for a lot of fat political jobs. Enforcement commissioners have been known to become wealthy persons after having stayed on the jobs but a short time. The politicians have found new ways of rewarding their political party henchmen. It stands to reason that they will not with their own hands kill the goose that lays the golden eggs for them.

It is a long time before the next national campaign, and it is difficult to prognosticate what other meaningless issues the politicians will "cook" up before that. But whatever they may be, it is almost certain that prohibition will remain in our national politics an issue for many generations to come.

MOSHER • WHOLEMEAL • DELICIOUS
MASHWITZ MATZO
 "THE MATZO WITHOUT AN EQUAL"
 Baked in a small round bakery under the most sanitary conditions. Packed in airtight tins and moisture proof containers.
 B. MASHWITZ CO.
 New York Office:
 13 UNIVERSITY PLACE

5. A lack of sufficient community of interest between the sample makers and ladies' tailors was found."

Such are the reasons advanced by the committee of the General Executive Board. We believe that each of these five counts is sufficiently strong to impel the International to divide up Local 3 into two separate organizations as quickly as possible.

The committee does not lose a word about blaming or castigating "that party guilty." It simply states that both sides can not live together. Their interests, their ideas, are widely apart and they have nothing in common,—as little, let us say, as a truck-driver with a jeweler. No doubt they are both workers and are both equally exploited,—but that is no ground for them to belong to the same local.

As further proof that this committee was prompted in its decision merely by the interests of the union, we shall quote a few of their recommendations which are to be carried out as soon as the division of the local is accomplished. The committee decided that:

"1. For a period of six months, each of the newly established organizations be placed under the supervision of the General Executive Board, which is to give the new organizations the proper guidance and assistance.

"2. All ladies' tailors be permitted to work in shops controlled by the Joint Board without any transfer, and vice versa—that all sample makers be allowed to work in shops controlled by the ladies' tailors without transfer.

"3. The Joint Board of New York be requested to give all possible help to the future ladies' tailors organization whenever it is applied for."

It is clear, therefore, that the committee had meant no harm to either of the locals. On the other hand, it has made it possible for them to be able to function and progress in their work—without coming to a clash or collision with one another. Never-

theless, it appears that the ladies' tailors are now raising a cry to heaven that they have been torn away from the bosoms of their brethren, the sample makers, and that a great harmonious and cooperative body of workers had been split asunder.

The whole affair would have been laughable, indeed, were it not so sad. We can really barely imagine the ladies' tailors getting on together with the sample makers in one local. They cannot advance the slightest tenable reason for this co-living except that abstract holy straw-man "one big union." But what is the sense of "one big union" where scrapping and fighting is almost the sole order of the day? The truth is that the ladies' tailors in this respect are the blind tools of a group of outsiders for whom this affair offers but another pretext for attacking the International.

We appeal to the ladies' tailors to think twice before they allow themselves to be misled again by those unconscionable intriguers who would use them as tools for their own sordid aims and purposes. All this shrieking and all these hollow protests will not avail in the least. Local 3 must be divided up into the two original locals because its amalgamation was a lie and an act of violence. It is true, it was committed in the honest belief that it was to be for the best interests of both locals. This, however, does not improve the blunder the least bit.

The only way of rectifying this mistake is to make an end to the amalgamation which has caused hatred and enmity among those who should have and could have been best of friends from a distance. The committee decided that Local 3 is to be divided again into the two original locals of which it was formed and this decision will remain firm. The ladies' tailors in their overwhelming majority will comply with the decision of the International—and will now have their own independent self-sustaining local to the better advantage of all the workers in the trade.

The New European Tragedy

By LEON CHASANOWICH

(Special European Correspondent to "Justice")

1. The Aims of French Imperialism

The international labor movement could perhaps afford to watch with ironical satisfaction the complete moral bankruptcy of capitalist society in Europe, so amply demonstrated by the French invasion of the Ruhr, were the labor movement itself not so helpless as it is today. The outstanding feature of the present historic moment lies in the fact that capitalism has lost its ability to lead the world, while the working class has not yet attained the ability to take over world leadership from it, and is not equipped with the necessary intellectual and organizing qualities to bring order out of the chaos created by degenerated capitalism.

We are living in a historic twilight, is a period of transition, when the dying order has no successor, an heir, an able-bodied and mature successor. This is the great tragedy of Europe, a tragedy which makes itself felt in every part of the world, in the most distant corners of Asia, North and South America. The complex international situation in Europe, of which the German-French conflict is the sharpest, though not the sole expression, has its roots in the Versailles Treaty, which, in every one of its hundreds of clauses, is not only one of the refinedly heartless and shameful products of the human mind, but also one of its most senseless. The great minds of more than a score of countries, which, with Wilson at their head, undertook by their collective efforts, in Paris to bring order and harmony in the world, are shown through their ignorance, errors, through their lack of integrity, and all of them through incomparable light-mindedness, converted Europe into an active volcano and have made war and the menace of war a permanent state of affairs in distracted Europe. For the authors of that sinister volume which is called the Versailles Peace Treaty, all the lessons of history seem to have been in vain.

The French Government, under the leadership of that old spy for France, who in the course of his long life evolved from a fire-anting apostle of Socialism into an opportunistic representative of French imperialism—naturally plays a leading part in the "regulation" of European affairs. The Versailles treaty is the camouflage expression of the dream of world-hegemony of the French bourgeoisie, which had been considerably weakened prior to that through the opposing interests of English capital in particular. In the secret Paris pre-treaty negotiations, France demanded for itself the left bank of the Rhine with the object of making French political and economic domination secure on the one hand, and of wiping Germany off the map as a world power, on the other. The other powers, however, were not willing to gratify openly the cynical demands of the French imperialists. France, nevertheless, succeeded in leaving a back-door open on that treaty so that it might at a later opportunity achieve its aim. The impossible obligations imposed upon Germany with regard to reparations for war damages, reparations which Lloyd George sanctioned in part on account of thoughtlessness and in part owing to a number of demagogic motives—were this key into Germany left in the hands of France. The French "peace" delegates at Versailles have constantly nursed the malicious fact that Germany could not fulfil these obligations, even after superhuman efforts, and France

would then find a suitable moment and an excuse to attack Germany. The French Government began to look for such a favorable situation and soon found it. It obtained the support of Turkish Nationalists, thus bringing the English Government into a difficult dilemma and forcing it to maintain "sympathetic" neutrality when the French army finally marched into the very heart of German industry.

In the French-German conflict, the French professed that their only purpose is the reconstruction of the devastated district of Northern France. In reality, however, this problem is of least importance to them. Even the enormous financial appetites which the French bourgeoisie has been craving to satisfy at the expense of Germany retire to a distinct background in comparison with the political and economic aims which France would like to achieve through the occupation of the Ruhr.

To Clemenceau is attributed the vicious expression that Germany has "twenty million souls too many." After all the Versailles amputations of living limbs from the German national organism, Germany still has a population of sixty millions, which steadily continues growing so that it might be expected to reach eighty million or more in the course of another twenty years. At the same time the forty million population of France has not grown since 1870, and if, not for the influx of foreign immigration, it would have been materially smaller. This stagnant condition of France and the growth of Germany is the nightmare of French "patriotism." Had the world war been ended on the basis of a just peace, had international relations been placed on the foundations of equity and harmonious economic cooperation of all nations, the League of Nations would not have been such a pitiful caricature but a concrete organ for the regulation of international relations, the French would perhaps have no ground to fear for the future. But the French bourgeoisie, which knows full well that it is responsible for the present unsettled conditions in Europe, knows too that the German people, as soon as they come back to their strength, will be driven to take revenge for Versailles—just as France has revenged itself for the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine in 1871. To forestall such a possibility, German unity must be broken, so that Germany might never raise its head again.

It is not merely a question of taking away from Germany a certain piece of land with twelve million inhabitants, but a question of depriving it of a section which is the main source of Germany's economic life. With Lorraine, France acquired the richest ore lands in Europe. The Ruhr district might supply it with the richest coal mines of Germany. Today Germany is compelled to buy iron ore from Sweden, and when Germany shall be compelled to import coal, the highly developed German industries will be fatally injured, and will break down in the competitive world market. The destruction of the German industrial economy would inevitably draw into its vortex practically every industrial country in Europe, for it must be kept in mind that Germany is the economic pulse and nerve of the European continent. Today the French slogan is "Unite Lorraine ore and Ruhr coal." The extremist wing of French imperialism also strives to annex the Rhineland

EAST RIVER NATIONAL BANK

680 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY

On Special Interest or Thrift Accounts interest is credited each month. Small deposits gladly taken. Open your account now. Safe Deposit Boxes \$5.00 and up. Foreign remittances made to all parts of the world.

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

DESIGNING, PATTERN MAKING and GRADING FOR CLOAKS, SUITS OR DRESSES

Taught strictly individually during the day and evening hours.

Rosenfeld's Leading College of Designing and Pattern Making

Between 2nd and 3rd Aves. 222 East 14th Street. Telephone 5817 Stuyvesant.

Union Health Center News

HAY FEVER SEASON WILL SOON BE HERE

Those workers who dread the coming of the Hay Fever season because they are subject to this annoying disease, will welcome the news that beginning April 16th there will be special Hay Fever clinics at the Union Health Center, 131 East 15th Street, between 11 and 1, and 5:30 and 7. This is the second season that the Health Center has undertaken special treatment for patients suffering from this malady. The results of last

season have been so successful, the treatments have given so much relief to the workers, that the Health Center is even more confident of certain success this year in the special treatment of Hay Fever cases.

All workers suffering from Hay Fever and interested in the special treatment given at the Union Health Center, may secure information about this treatment by applying to the general physician of the Health Center every day except Friday.

There will be a continuation of the Tuesday Night Posture Classes at the Union Health Center, until Tuesday night, April 10th. Dr. Crampton has kindly consented to give one extra lecture.

The last two lectures for the month of April at the Health School, will be given by Dr. Iago Goldstein, on Interpretation of Freudian Psychology.

On March 30th, the Union Health Center will celebrate a social evening. Members and friends of the Union Health Center are cordially invited to attend and participate in the good time.

Friday evening, April 6th, there will be a special lecture on "Teeth and the Bugaboo—Pyorrhea." This will be given by a prominent member of the Oral Hygiene Committee of New York City, and will be an illustrated lecture with moving pictures and lantern slides.

DESIGNING - SKETCHING

at reduced rates

A FULL COURSE \$75.00

You can become a successful pattern-maker and garment-sketcher in three months! REGISTER NOW in the

MODERN FASHION SCHOOL

Pattern Making, Grading, Sketching and Draping of Ladies', Misses' and Children's Garments. Practical Methods. Easy System. Expert Instruction. Moderate Rates. Easy Terms. Call any evening, 6-9. Saturday, 2-4.

MODERN FASHION SCHOOL

104 W. 43rd Street, New York City
Telephone Bryant 1428

and to convert it into a French province. This for them would be the straightest cut for combining Lorraine ore with Ruhr coal. They worry very little about technical and organizing problems which are so closely interwoven with the management of industry and the upbuilding of a huge industry. The more modest faction among the French contents itself with the erection of an independent Rhine republic under a French protectorate. They would have the Germans manage production as before, but would keep the political and economic control in their own hands. The French Government vehemently denies that it has anything to do with this tendency. It stands to reason; they would keep their objects concealed for the time being and prepare slowly for this operation.

As yet, France has achieved very little with its occupation of the Ruhr. Quite to the contrary, so far, the disorganization of coal production and coal transportation in the Ruhr district has created a great shortage of coal in the French iron and steel industries. But what significance have

temporary difficulties and failures when problems of "eternity" are considered? France seems not to worry about gouging out one of her eyes as long as she feels assured that both eyes of Germany will be gouged in the process.

WORKERS' EDUCATION BUREAU OF AMERICA

THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION

NEW YORK
April 14-15, 1923

Sessions to be held in Auditorium of New School for Social Research, 469 West 23rd Street, New York.

A GREAT ACADEMY OF DESIGNING AND CUTTING

EMBROIDERED DESIGNING
PROF. A. FALLESIO
411 W. 21st Street
Courses for Young Ladies
Masters of Tailoring
Men's and Women's Garments
Fashion Plates, etc. \$2.50



LABOR THE WORLD OVER

DOMESTIC ITEMS

DEPORT STRIKEBREAKERS

Allen strikebreakers employed at the railroad shops of the Central Railroad of New Jersey are being examined here. Many of them have been deported. They entered the country as seamen and then left their vessels. They are a mixture of Hindus, Malays, Egyptians and other Far East peoples.

Similar strikebreakers are employed by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, another corporation that has locked out its shop men. When the strikebreakers were arrested it was found that some of them were afflicted with the dread disease trachoma, also tuberculosis and other contagious diseases.

Locked out shop men are pleading that the presence of these diseased strikebreakers be protected by the public if for no other reason than self-preservation, as deadly contagious diseases are indiscriminate in selecting victims.

MAY REFUSE TO SELL

It may be illegal for workers to withhold their patronage from a business, but Federal Circuit Judge Rogers rules that a business concern may refuse to sell to retailers if so desired.

Judge Rogers held, in effect, that a business concern may sell its products to wholesalers at one price and to retailers at a higher price, and that it may even refuse to sell to the latter.

BIG RAIL PROFITS

The "hard luck" for railroads continues. The Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac railroad has accumulated \$8,000,000 in surplus the last few years and now wants to dispose of it.

The railroad has \$2,168,000 invested in United States bonds and other securities and asks the interstate commerce commission for permission to put the remainder back in the business by leasing stock dividends to the value of \$5,417,000.

CLERKS TO HAVE BANK

The comptroller of currency has approved the application of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks for a national bank charter. The membership is being solicited to subscribe 40 per cent of the capital stock. Fifty-one per cent, or complete control of the bank, will be held by the organization as such. The capital is to be \$200,000, with a surplus paid of \$50,000. A down payment of \$75 on each share purchased is required and the balance may be paid in five monthly installments. Stockholders' dividends will be restricted to 10 per cent; profits over that amount will be distributed among depositors.

NO LABOR SCARCITY IN NEW YORK STATE

Reports received from employers "indicate that the sources of labor are not exhausted," says Bernard L. Shientag, state industrial commissioner, in his monthly statement on unemployment in New York state factories in February. This reference to unemployment by the state official best

acquainted with labor conditions is in contrast to claims by advocates of free immigration.

With the aid of a flunkie press the public has been led to believe that industry is prostrate because of a labor shortage. Now the on man in the state who is in a position to speak with authority on this subject says that while the number of factory workers has increased 1 per cent from January to February, "the sources of labor are not yet exhausted."

It is stated that the level of factory employment is within 12 per cent of the maximum during the expansion of 1919-1920.

EXPLOITED WORKERS RESIST SUGAR KINGS

Agricultural workers in several cities and towns secured higher wages and have returned to work after a strike of several weeks. The unions asked for \$2 a day. They have secured \$1.05, instead of the 75 cents that they formerly received.

With sugar selling at \$7.50 the sugar interests of this island could pay \$3 a day and make millions of profits, declared Santiago Iglesias, member of the Porto Rican senate and president of the Free Federation of Workmen, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

In a letter to the island executive, President Iglesias called attention to the refusal of several large sugar corporations that have refused to even discuss wages with the workers' representatives.

PROBE SEVEN-DAY WEEK

Representative church men of all denominations in this country have united to probe seven-day labor in industry in the United States.

It is proposed that coordinated studies be undertaken by different organizations and particularly by well-equipped academic groups, such as the departments of economics and sociology in the larger universities and by engineering and agricultural schools.

The following organizations of church men are cooperating in this movement:

Commitment on the church and social service, federal council of the churches of Christ in America; social action department, national Catholic welfare council; social justice commission, central conference of American rabbis.

40-HOUR WORK WEEK MEANS LONGER LIFE

Organized painters in district are proving by statistics and the experience of medical men that the five-day week lengthens the lives of these workers. The painters are maintaining a health bureau. It is equipped with scientific apparatus. It is in charge of recognized medical men and technicians. In a booklet issued by the bureau it is shown that the average life of a painter is 46 years, or 16 years less than that of the general population.

Every material that the painter handles is loaded with poison which results in disease. These poisons include lead, turpentine, naphtha and wood alcohol.

FOREIGN ITEMS

BOLIVIA

OLD AGE INSURANCE FUND IN BOLIVIA.

According to a decree which came into force recently in Bolivia all postal and telegraph employees must deposit monthly in the savings bank section of the National Bank of Bolivia a sum equal to at least 5 per cent of their wages. The sums thus collected will be utilized to constitute an old-age insurance fund. Persons who come within the scope of this decree may withdraw their deposits subject to the consent of their respective chiefs or in case of resignation or illness.

BRAZIL

FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVE COLONIES IN BRAZIL.

The International Labor Office has been informed that under the auspices of the Federal Government in Brazil, fishermen's cooperative colonies and elementary schools supported by these cooperatives with a view to the development of education amongst the coast population, have been organized at different points on the coast of Brazil. There are 309 of these cooperative colonies already in existence. They are affiliated with the General Confederation of Fishermen, which has been founded in Rio de Janeiro. The Confederation has a credit department for the benefit of fishermen belonging to cooperative colonies and members of the Confederation.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

SZECHO-SLOVAKIA TRANSPORTS UNEMPLOYED.

The Ministry of Social Welfare in Czechoslovakia has concluded an agreement with the Ministry of Railways whereby workers for whom work in another district has been found through the medium of a public employment exchange will have their fare paid to the place where they are to work. The return journey will also be paid if the unemployed person in question is not accepted by the employer. The cost of transport will be defrayed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, according to information received by the International Labor Office.

ENGLAND

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT CONDEMNED.

At a largely attended meeting in London on February 16, the abolition of capital punishment was urged by several men and women speakers. Mr. George Lansbury stated that the Labor party will in the House of Commons bring in a motion for its abolition; and Miss Margery Fry, the prison reformer, declared that the community had no right to ask others to do in their name a thing they would not do themselves.

THE COST OF OCCUPATION.

French taxpayers will get their first inkling of the cost of the occupation of the Ruhr, when a bill for supplementary credits will be laid before the Chamber of Deputies, totalling 100,000,000 francs, roughly about \$1,230,000. \$448,000 of this is for maintaining the present army in the Ruhr during January and February. A sum of \$768,000 is accounted for as the capital cost to France of the control of the railways in the Rhineland and the Ruhr.

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES IN ENGLAND.

The Ministry of Labor reports that the number of persons on February 23rd recorded as wholly unemployed at labor exchanges was 1,328,000, being 12,260 fewer than in the preceding week. In answer to a question in the House of Commons it was, however, stated that records were not kept of single men who had applied for unemployment benefit since July, 1922, nor of the number of claims that have been disallowed.

ITALY

LEASING THE RAILWAYS TO PRIVATE COMPANIES.

The Council of Ministers discussed the conditions on which the Italian railroads will be ceded to private enterprise. The fundamental principles are that private enterprise will take the roads on leases lasting for a number of years agreeing by contract with the government how much capital must be set aside as a guarantee of the solvency of the companies. Private enterprise is to get 7 per cent interest on this capital and to divide everything over 7 per cent with the government, in a ratio to be decided upon.

GET-TOGETHER OF STUDENTS SUNDAY, APRIL 15

The students of the Workers' University and Unity Centers are planning a get-together of the students, their instructors, and friends, on Sunday, April 15th. This gathering will serve a double purpose. It will give an opportunity to the students, the teachers, and their friends; to spend a few hours in sociability and good fellowship, and to extend their welcome to the delegates to the Third Annual Convention of the Workers' Education Bureau of America.

The get-together and reception

will be held in the auditorium of the I. L. G. W. U. Building, 3 West 16th Street, on Sunday, April 15th, at 5 p. m.

The delegates to the Workers' Education Bureau Convention will be entertained between sessions, that is between 5:30 and 7:30 p. m. Sandwiches, tea and refreshments will be served and the evening will end in social dancing.

The Committee of Arrangements will meet this week and work out the details.

We advise our members to keep this date open.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Report of Education Subcommittee, Trades Union Congress General Council

(The following report from the Trades Union Congress General Council was presented to and endorsed by the delegates attending the Trades Union Congress at Southport, England, September 4, 1922.)

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In considering the educational needs of Trade Unions with a view to drafting a scheme to meet them, your Committee have had in mind their varied and extensive character, and how inadequate the existing working-class educational organizations and colleges are to meet these needs, even if they agreed to come into a co-ordinated scheme.

PURPOSE AND CHARACTER OF WORKING-CLASS EDUCATION

In providing educational facilities for the workers, it is important to realize that, while they need certain specialized forms of education, with which we deal below, their needs are by no means confined to such specialized training. The workers want knowledge, both for the immediate and practical purposes of the Labor Movement, and also as a means to the enlargement of their mental and social outlook. They seek a knowledge, not only of economics and industrial history, but also of the general and social history of their own and other peoples, of literature, and of the arts and sciences. Therefore, in putting forward an educational scheme for the Trade Union movement, while we have endeavored to make provision for the various forms of specialized training, we have in mind above all an education broad enough to give to every worker who desires it a new sense of understanding, and a thoroughness of power to mould the world in accordance with his human and social ideals.

The following classification of the different kinds of what may be regarded as specialized phases of working-class education, although far from complete, will help to illustrate this:

1. Training in the Management of Trade Union Business—Local, District, and National.

As a result of the rapid development of Trade Unions, the need for a specialized training in the administration of Trade Union affairs is becoming general, but is probably greatest amongst Trade Union branches. Branches are the units of the Trade Union movement. Their strength and efficiency determine the strength and efficiency of the whole. The administration of branch business is a training for wider responsibilities, and provides opportunities of graduating for positions on the District and National Committees of Trade Unions, Local Authorities, and the House of Commons. Moreover, the work and responsibilities of branches has been greatly increased during the past 20 years, and will continue to increase

in the future. Good secretarship is important, but good chairmanship is equally important, and often more difficult to find. A good chairman can do more to make a Trade Union branch a centre of living interest in Trade Unionism, its aims, policy, and problems, than any other member. In this connection the following extract from the "International Trade Union Review" relative to the educational work of the German Trade Unions, is of interest:

"One reason why the German Trade Union movement marches so steadily is that those responsible understand that Trade Union officers and leaders require special training for their work as much as if they were engaged in any other business. As far back as 1906 special courses were organized for the instruction of potential Trade Union officers by the German Trade Union Federation at its Berlin headquarters. Except bookkeeping, statistics, and other special branches, the lecture courses were given by experienced Trade Union leaders. The Syllabus for the 1907 Trade Union course will give an idea of the scope of these courses:

"1. History and Theory of the German Trade Union Movement. Twelve lectures, six debating evenings.

"2. The Rival Trade Unions in Germany. Ten lectures, four debating evenings.

"3. The Trade Union Movement Abroad. Ten lectures, five debating evenings.

"4. Insurance Legislation. Eight lectures, five debating evenings.

"5. Protection of Labor. Twelve lectures, three debating evenings.

"6. Wage Agreements in Industry. Ten lectures, four debating evenings.

"7. Political Economy. A course of twenty-seven lectures.

"8. Cartels and Employers' Associations. Fifteen lectures.

"9. Introduction to Statistics. Five lectures.

"10. Trade Union Literature. Six lessons.

"11. Banking and Finance. Twelve lectures.

"12. Criminal Jurisprudence. Twelve lectures.

"13. Industrial Hygiene. Twelve lectures.

"In addition to these special Trade Union courses of instruction, there are courses for the training of labor secretaries to man the labor bureaus. These are places at which workers, salaried employees, and others can get information concerning all questions relating to Labor law, and also information on general law, especially civil law. In these bureaus, established by the working class, the organized workers and employees get their information, and often legal assistance free of charge, the unorganized workers being required to pay a small fee."

(To be continued.)

Weekly Calendar

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

A COURSE ON THE HISTORY, AIMS, AND PROBLEMS OF THE I. L. G. W. U., BY MAX LEVIN in the following Centers:

TUESDAY, APRIL 3rd, 8 p. m.: Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 61—Crotona Park, East and Charlotte Street—Room No. 501.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4th, 8 p. m.: East Side Unity Center—P. S. 63—4th Street near First Avenue—Room No. 404.

MONDAY, APRIL 9th, 8 p. m.: Waistmakers' Unity Center—P. S. 40—820 East 20th Street—Room No. 305.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4th: Waistmakers' Unity Center—P. S. 40—320 East 20th Street—Room No. 305.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 5th: Waistmakers' Unity Center—Room No. 405.

6:00 p. m. J. A. Rubel—English.

CLASSES IN ENGLISH IN ALL CENTERS ON MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY.

RUSSIAN

THURSDAY, MARCH 29th: Russian-Polish Branch, 315 East 10th Street.

8 p. m. A. Brailovsky—Culture.

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

LESSON 2—HOW THERE CAME TO BE A UNITED STATES

(One of a Series of 18 Lessons to Appear Weekly in "Justice")

I. America unknown five hundred years ago.

1. Five hundred years ago, civilized men knew little about either the extent or the resources of the present world.
2. The world to them was what is now Europe, part of Asia and the northern part of Africa.
3. America was unknown in 1400.

II. How our European ancestors earned their living in 1500.

1. Principal industry was agriculture.
- (a) Towns few and small.
- (b) Manufacturing primitive and carried on at home.
- (c) Comparatively little trade carried on.
2. Land belonged to a privileged aristocracy.
3. The majority of the people were poor.

III. The finding of America.

1. What little trade there was, was monopolized by Italian merchants.
2. Other merchants particularly Spanish and Portuguese were jealous of the Italians.
3. These Spanish and Portuguese merchants therefore urged their governments to find new trade routes to the Spice Islands so that they might compete with the Italians.
4. In thus trying to find new routes and new markets, America was accidentally discovered.

IV. The great migration to America.

1. During the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, as well as during the 19th, Europeans came to America because
 - (a) Of economic misery at home.
 - (b) Opportunity in new country to make a decent living.
 - (c) To escape religious persecution.
 - (d) Some came for adventure.
2. Why do people come to America today?
3. How the first people earned their living.
 - (a) Mostly by farming. The farmer a jack-of-all trades.
 - (b) Some by fishing and fur trade.
 - (c) Some by trade or commerce.
 - (d) No manufacturing as we have it today.
4. By the middle of the 18th century very definite social and economic classes had developed in America. Of these, four may be mentioned: (1) merchants and shipowners; (2) northern farmers; (3) southern planters; (4) professional people of whom the lawyers and clergy were the most important.
5. The land settled by the English.
 - (a) It included at first a narrow strip along the Atlantic seaboard which varied in fertility. The middle and southern portion of this strip was better adapted for farming than the northern.

READING: Beard, History of the United States, Chapters I, II, III, IV, V.

CAUTION: This is not a complete lesson. It is merely a suggestive outline.

(To be continued.)

A Course in History and Problems of I. L. G. W. U.

The Educational Department is planning a course in the history, aims, and problems of the I. L. G. W. U., to be given in Yiddish and in English by Max Levin. In the Unity Centers it will be given in English, and in the Bronx, Harlem, and Downtown in Yiddish.

The first lesson will be on Tuesday, April 3rd, in the Bronx Unity Center,

P. S. 61, Crotona Park, East and Charlotte Street, Room 501. On Wednesday, April 4th, in the East Side Unity Center, P. S. 63, 4th Street near First Avenue, Room 404, and on Wednesday, April 9th, in the Waistmakers' Unity Center, P. S. 40, 320 East 20th Street, Room 305. These classes will meet at 8 p. m.

"With the Waist and Dress Joint Board"

By M. K. MACKOFF, Secretary
(Minutes of Meeting January 26, 1923)

Brother Berlin in the Chair.

OUTSIDE COMMITTEES

A committee from the strikers of the Amalgamated Knit Goods Workers' Union appeared before the Board with Brother Isidore Lederman as their spokesman. Brother Lederman made a warm appeal to the Joint Board on behalf of the few thousand striking knit goods workers who are fighting for the right to organize. The manufacturers in the knit goods industry, the Joint Board was informed, are organized in a national body. On the other hand, the union of the workers is not affiliated with any international body though justly the knit goods workers should be a part of the Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

However, the speakers continued, with the devotion, energy and sacrifice on the part of the strikers, who are putting up a brave fight for their rights, the union is confident of coming out victorious. But in order to make this possible they need aid as they are financially unprepared to meet the strain.

The Joint Board expressed its solidarity with the striking knit goods workers, and upon motion it was decided to donate \$1,000, and, should the occasion demand more help, the Joint Board would do all they possibly can to help them.

Brothers Abel, Sacknow and Shuldiner, members of Local No. 60 appeared before the Board stating that they were appointed by their Executive Board to appeal in behalf of Brother Abraham Pollack, member of Local No. 60 who claims that he was injured by a certain Mr. Arkin to whose shop he was sent by the Picket Committee to call the workers out on strike. He contends that ever since he received a blow on his skull with a heavy iron he has had dizzy spells and is unable to go back to work in his shop. The committee therefore requested the Board to do the proper thing for Brother Pollack.

Upon motion a committee consisting of Brothers Egitto, Robbins and Sister Wolkowita was appointed to make a thorough investigation and report its findings to the Joint Board at its next meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was received from Brother Sigman, President of the International in which he expressed his regret at not being able to attend this meeting of the Joint Board owing to the fact that he would be out of town. He stated, however, that on some other occasion he would be glad to attend one of our meetings.

A communication was received from Brother A. Baroff, general secretary of the International in regard to the labor bank which the International plans to establish. Upon motion the Board of Directors was instructed to take up the proposition of our participating in the formation of that bank and to submit its recommendations to the Joint Board.

LABOR BUREAU

A communication was received from the committee which was appointed at the last meeting of the General Strike Committee in regard to the labor bureau. The letter reads as follows:

"The committee elected by the General Strike Committee to take care of the employment bureau until the Joint Board finally decides about it begs to report as follows:

"As the number of unemployed was very large right after the strike and the employers resorted to signs and advertisements for obtaining help,

we could not entirely keep the workers from looking for employment. We therefore signed releases for a number of workers permitting them to find work and then issued cards. At present most of the released workers secured employment either through the bureau or by themselves and we are now in a position to enforce the securing of positions through the union only.

"The work of the bureau until now has been satisfactory. During the past week approximately six hundred workers were placed in shops by the bureau. The first three days of this week 432 workers were placed; 171 on Monday, 155 on Tuesday and 106 on Wednesday.

"Rose Mirsky and Boanano are working in the bureau and to our understanding their work is satisfactory. We have arranged with them for a salary of \$35 a week.

"In conclusion we wish to state that the time is ripe for the permanent establishment of this bureau and the importance of this institution for the Union cannot be overestimated from a moral as well as from a financial point of view. We also recommend that the Association be notified to the effect that such a bureau has been established by our Union."

(Signed) S. FARBER
J. PORTNEY
S. MILAZZO.

The motion that the Joint Board establish a permanent labor bureau brought about a long discussion. Some delegates contended that the labor bureau is not working properly and others stated that the Joint Board never passed a decision to establish such a bureau. The ruling of the chairman was that the Joint Board several weeks ago decided to establish this bureau on the occasion when Local No. 89 complained about having pressers from their local secure positions through Local No. 60. The Joint Board then decided that hereafter working cards to pressers should be issued by the Joint Board offices only, it being understood that the advice of the officers of Locals No. 60 and No. 89 will be welcomed.

An amendment was carried to the effect that the establishment of this bureau should be referred to the Board of Directors and to the committee consisting of Brothers Farber, Portney and Milazzo.

REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors reported on its two meetings held on March 6th and 12th, 1923, as follows:

March 6.—In regard to the payment of strike benefit to the people still on strike the Board of Directors took into consideration the necessity of continuing the strike which have not yet been settled. After due discussion it was decided to authorize the standing Finance Committee of the Joint Board to pay strike benefit at the rate of \$6 to single people and \$8 to married people. It was further decided that this same committee should act as a Relief Committee and pay out relief in each case according to its merits.

Brother Mackoff, secretary of the Joint Board, reported that practically all the money which came into the Joint Board on account of the \$20 assessment was spent. He therefore asked the Board to advise him where to secure money to pay out strike benefit as well as all other expenses in connection with our strike.

A warm discussion developed which

brought out the fact that, according to the collections made of our members in the respective halls before they were sent back to work, a great deal more money was collected by the locals. However, these monies were paid out and stamps were not issued by the locals. Therefore the money cannot be turned over to the Joint Board before the members call for their stamps.

After a long discussion upon motion it was decided that the secretary should try to secure advance payments, if possible, from the locals on account of the \$20 assessment.

PLANS OF ACTIVITY

As to the present activities of the Organization and Picket Committees, it was pointed out that there are still about 800 people out on strike and stationed at Beethoven Hall. The Board was also informed that Brothers Berlin, Guzman and Schoenholz intended to leave the Picket Committee by the end of this week.

The Board of Directors, considering the number of shops which are still on strike and the importance of continuing the organization campaign, appointed a committee consisting of Sisters Goodman and Wolkowita and Brother Reiff who should work out and submit plans for the Organization Department, to the Board of Directors.

In connection with the people who are on strike the Board of Directors was informed that there are still pending fourteen court cases and new ones are likely to come up. The Board of Directors instructed Brother Mackoff to make all the necessary arrangements for these cases.

Brother Hochman reported that more conferences were held with the representatives of the Dress Contractors' Association and that at these conferences the question of engaging help through the offices of the Union was taken up. The stand of the Association was that their members should apply to the Union through the office of the Association in such cases. This, however, is not final and another conference is going to be held as soon as we can make arrangements to get Brother Sigman, President of the International to be present.

Brother Hochman reported further that investigations are being made in the independent shops as well as in the shops of the Association and judging from the results of these investigations we will have to be ready to declare strikes against some of the jobbers.

As to the waist situation, Brother Hochman reported that he had an informal conference with some of the waist manufacturers who have formed an association and wish to enter a collective agreement on lines similar to the agreement with the Dress Association, with the Union.

Brother Hochman advised that should such an agreement be reached we should request the waist association to deposit as security with the Union \$100 for each of their members.

As to the routine work of the office, though the general strike is of-

ficially over, there are still, nevertheless, a number of complications and it was impossible to redrive and rearrange the respective districts. However, this will be done in the near future.

In regard to the Organization Campaign, the Board was advised that a circular is being prepared for distribution among the workers of the open shops.

Brother Horowitz reported that the clause of the agreement with the dress contractors' association that employers should pay workers who are discharged during the trial period, 25 per cent above the minimum wage scale, was taken up with the representatives of the association and it was agreed that such workers should be compensated with 15 per cent above the minimum wage scale.

LOCALS No. 22 AND No. 23

The Board of Directors then considered the recent settlements made by our Joint Board as well as those made by Local No. 23. In connection with this it was pointed out that the agreements entered into by our Union and by Local No. 23 are for working 44 hours whereas our members are to work 40 hours per week. Furthermore, whereas we permit 4 hours overtime per week, Local No. 23 permits 6 hours overtime per week.

The opinion of the Board of Directors was that immediate radical steps should be taken to put the dress industry under a unified control.

After a long discussion it was decided that the Joint Board should appoint a committee of five to take up the question of dress industry with Brother Sigman, president of the International. In connection with this the secretary was instructed to extend an invitation to Brother Sigman to attend our next Joint Board meeting.

After due deliberation the report and recommendations of the Board of Directors were approved.

As to the committee to be appointed to take up with the International the question of having a unified control in the dress industry the following committee was elected:

L. Antonini, H. Berlin, J. Hochman, R. Wolkowita, I. Goodman.

Brother Landoli requested the Joint Board to do something to help out the Organization Department as the number of people who are on strike is still large and the officers stationed to care care of them are not adequate. Upon motion Brother Hochman was instructed to appoint someone in order to better the work of the Organization Department.

In regard to Joint Board committees, Brother Berlin announced that all the Joint Board delegates who are members of various committees should take notice that hereafter all the standing committees are to resume their functions and he urged them to perform their duties from now on with still more zeal than they did heretofore. In particular, Brother Berlin emphasized the advisability of getting the Organization Committee to get busy and work out plans of action.

The announcement made by Brother Berlin was well taken.

"SHALL A LABOR PARTY BE FORMED?"

A debate on the question, Shall a Labor Party be Formed? will be held Sunday, April 15, 3 p. m., at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Lafayette Avenue, near Flatbush, the affirmative being taken by Morris Hillquit, International Secretary of the American Socialist Party, and the negative by Edward Keating, editor of Labor, official organ of the sixteen standard railway unions.

Hillquit and Keating are both considered authoritative contenders for their respective positions. Hillquit is International secretary of the Am-

erican Socialist Party and an executive member of the American Labor Party, while Edward Keating in his capacity as editor of "Labor," official organ of sixteen standard railway unions, is official spokesman for over 1,000,000 workers.

Reservations for the debate may be made through the following offices: New York Call, 112 Fourth Avenue; the Jewish Daily Forward, 175 East Broadway; the American Labor, 1229 Sackman Street, Brooklyn, and the Socialist Party, 167 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn.

The Week in Local 10

By JOSEPH FISH

GENERAL

Another one of those overflow general meetings was held on Monday night, March 26th, in Arlington Hall, where almost seven hundred men were present. Exactly what was responsible for the extremely large attendance is a matter of conjecture. Some may attribute it to the fact that it was the last meeting of the first quarter, and the men came down in order to be marked "present," so that they might avoid paying a dollar fine for non-attendance. Others attribute it to the fact that news had spread that the increase for the Manager would again come up for action and the members came down to voice their opinions and votes.

Due to the fact that an unusual number of men formed in line to pay their dues, the writer requested Brother Sam E. Shenker to act as secretary, and below is given the latter's account of the meeting:

The business before the meeting were the reports of the Executive Board for the month of March. These contained, among the usual number of requests for relief, three other important questions: First, the recommendation of the Executive Board that Local 10 purchase \$10,000 worth of shares, which was allotted it towards the creation of a labor bank by the International, which will hold sixty per cent of the stock. The second question was the recommendation of the Executive Board to grant the Manager an increase of \$15. The third question was the favorable action of the Executive Board to affiliate with the American Labor Party.

The question of the purchase of the \$10,000 worth of shares in the International bank, and the affiliation of Local 10 with the American Labor Party were unanimously adopted without any discussion. The third question, the salary increase for the Manager, was discussed at some length.

It will be recalled that about eight months ago the Executive Board had recommended to the body an increase in the salary for the Manager, which was then voted down. The reason given then by the speakers who led the opposition was that nothing was known of the abilities of the present Manager, David Dubinsky, and that time would have to show as to whether or not the manager was deserving of an increase in salary.

At this meeting, at which this question came up again, there were also speakers who rose to oppose the increase. The reasons given against it this time were entirely different from those which were advanced the first time.

When the speakers in favor of the increase took up the question, they reminded the members of the reasons advanced against the increase by the opposition the first time. It was broached. These speakers argued on the present occasion that the Manager has rendered valuable services to the organization; that the financial resources of the organization are greater than they have been for a good many years; that everything points towards favorable action on the matter before the house, as instigated by the activity in the organization with regard to the enforcement of union conditions.

When the matter was put to a vote it was carried by an overwhelming majority; only 18 members voted against the increase, out of the nearly 700 present.

Not until the vote was taken, did Manager Dubinsky speak. In the course of his remarks he said that he was doubly gratified with the result; not so much by the increase,

itself, as that he takes the vote to be a vote of confidence. Dubinsky said that when the proposition was defeated the first time he felt deeply depressed. However, the Manager went on to say, he determined then, more than ever, to show that no officer should, and that he particularly would not allow insufficient monetary compensation to interfere with giving the best that was in him. He determined then to go on just as energetically with his work and felt that he would not only retain the confidence in the membership but that this confidence would be increased as time went on. And, in the action of the membership in the present instance, he felt that his original belief was more than confirmed.

Following the brief address, which was warmly applauded, the meeting adjourned.

CLOAK AND SUIT

Another attempt, and this time by an individual employer, to make scraps of paper of agreements, has been frustrated by the Union. These columns could be filled every day with such instances. However, the present is worthy of notice for it contains an object lesson to both the members of the Union and the employers.

Some few weeks ago, Manager Dubinsky received information that the cutters employed by Charles Maisel, located at the Garment Center Building, were guilty of a number of violations of union rules, among which the most important one was that the men received time and a half for their overtime, instead of double pay.

The men were called to the office and cross-examined, after which the men, with two exceptions, admitted their guilt. A complaint was immediately filed by the Union with the association, in accordance with the procedure provided for in the collective agreement. Following an examination of the charge, the Association concluded that the Union's complaint was justified and the case was signed up by Business Agent Nagler of the Protective Department, who attended to the case, and the representative of the Association, allowing the Union back pay for the difference in the overtime.

When Mr. Maisel was asked to pay he flatly refused to do so, and even went so far as to defy the Protective Association, of which he is a good standing member. He stated with some pride that "he was an association in himself."

Subsequently, during the course of the negotiations for the back pay, Manager Dubinsky received the additional information that the cutters had agreed to work by the day and even by the hour. Immediately, upon the receipt of this information, the Union filed another complaint with the Association through Brother Rubin, Manager of the Protective Department, insisting that the men who were laid off in the middle of the week be placed back to work.

One of the cutters, whom the employer suspected of informing the Union of this other violation, was discharged and the reason advanced by the employer was that he had discharged the man on account of his having snubbed in the shop. While such a charge might be a serious one in ordinary cases, in the present instance, the Union argued, the charge of snubbing was but a subterfuge by means of which the employer attempted to discriminate against a man for reasons of union activity.

The Association, upon an examination of the various charges made by the Union—the payment by the employer of time and a half to the cut-

ters; the equal division of work by the week in the cutting room and not by day or hour; the discrimination against a union man—sustained the Union in its contentions, and agreed with the Union that the discharged worker was to be reinstated, and back pay be turned over to the Union as pointed out above.

Upon failure of the employer to comply with the decision, the Union, in accordance with a provision in the collective agreement, made a charge against the firm of non-compliance, i. e., that the firm had failed to comply with the decision reached by the Association and the Union. This, too, was sustained by the Association, and the Union declared a strike against the firm. On the next day, after the calling of the strike and when the workers had been out for one day, the firm decided to abide by the decision of the Union, and the workers went back to work, following the complete victory of the Union.

This Mr. Maisel, who was an "association by himself," and who boasted that he never did and never will pay any back pay, was compelled to forward a check covering the claim of the Union—of which there were very many. And in addition to this the discharged cutter was reinstated.

This ended the matter so far as the firm was concerned. It is by no means ended for the cutters and their guilt as regards accepting time and a half for overtime, together with their acceptance and agreeing to work by the day and by the hour. This matter will be dealt with by the Executive Board, before which body the cutters will be called next Thursday.

There is not the slightest doubt but that the men will be amply disciplined with an additional measure of discipline for the two men who held out and refused to admit their guilt. This, by the way, has placed these two men in a position of protecting the employer and conspiring with him to lower the standards of work.

The object lesson or the moral is very plain: The Union, as it has shown in the past, will exert every effort to show the employers that it means to have agreements lived up to. As for the members, the question is, "Does it pay in the long run?"

MISCELLANEOUS

As was predicted in these columns last week, the majority of the workers in the shops of the underwear trade, who were called out on strike Tuesday, March 13th, returned to work last Monday fully victorious. There was more than a three hundred per cent increase in the membership of the Underwear Division. The conditions under which the men returned are an increase in wages, and the unionization of the cutters, who are to be employed under very much improved labor standards.

One of the big gains in this strike was that the Union will at last, after

ten years of collective bargaining with the Cotton Garment Manufacturers' Association, attain a complete control of the cutters working in the underwear industry. While it will take a few months to accomplish this, nevertheless it will be possible for the Union to remove from a job any cutter who is not a member of the union. This was not at all possible under a clause in the agreement which recently expired and which permitted employers to hire and retain in their employ non-union cutters.

In order that the underwear cutters may be thoroughly familiar with the agreement as it was signed, Manager Dubinsky will forward to them notices urging them to be present at the special meeting of this branch, which will be held on April 16th.



Eyes Examined

with the
Best Modern Instruments

In Dr. Becker's Optical Office. Don't take any chances! Safety lies only in Dr. Becker's Eye-Glasses—they are a true help to the eye. They improve the vision and eliminate the eye-strain. All work under the personal supervision of Dr. Becker. Great care is exercised in examinations and treatments.

111 East 23rd St., Near 4th Ave.
213 E. Broadway, Near Clinton.
100 Lenox Ave., Bet. 115-116 St.
131 Second Ave., Corner 8th St.
2313 Seventh Ave., Near 136th St.

895 Prospect Ave., Near 163rd St.
262 East Fordham Road, Bronx
1709 Pitkin Avenue, Brownsville.

D. BARNETT & BECKER
OPTOMETRIST OPTICIAN

DESIGNING, PATTERN-MAKING SKETCHING

AT REDUCED PRICES
Taught during the day and evening hours for women's, misses', juniors', children's and infants' garments. The most practical and most easily-learned system taught.

ROSENFELD'S LEADING COLLEGE OF DESIGNING
222 E. 14th St., bet. 34 and 35 Ave.
Tel. Stuyvesant 5817. New York City

CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

Notice of Regular Meetings

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

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place