

"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. 15.

New York, Friday, April 6, 1923.

Price 2 Cents

## INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION DEPARTMENT

**VICE-PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF NEW DEPARTMENT—MAIN OFFICE TO BE IN CHICAGO—OTHER DECISIONS OF GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD—AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT SIGMAN**

Among the important decisions adopted at the fourth quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board of the International, which held its sessions all last week in New York, there was one to open immediately an organization department in the West to supervise the activities of the existing locals and to conduct organization work in undeveloped territory. It was decided to have the main office of this department in Chicago, with sub-offices in Cleveland, Toledo, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Detroit, Milwaukee, and the smaller towns where ladies' garment shops are located.

As manager of this western department, the Board appointed Vice-President Meyer Perlestein, whose previous experience and knowledge of conditions in this particular territory fully qualify him for the post. Vice-President Perlestein has for the last eight years been the organizer and manager of the Cleveland Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union. The history of the Cleveland organization under his management and the truly remarkable results which he had achieved since the day he came to that city vouchsafe for the efficiency and the vigor with which Vice-President Perlestein will conduct organizing work for the International out West. Vice-President Perlestein has, in addition to his duties in Cleveland, taken care of the work of our International, from time to time, in Cincinnati and Toledo, and he is familiar

ly conversant with conditions in these and other middle-western cities.

The general supervision of the work, both in the East and West will remain in the hands of President Sigman, who, according to the constitution of the International, is chief organizer of the Union. From time to time, President Sigman will visit every active center to inspect the situation and to give advice and suggestions to the vice-presidents or organizers in charge of the work.

### OTHER G. E. B. DECISIONS

Among other important decisions of the General Executive Board, its final settlement of the problem of Locals 5 and 90, and also the problem of amalgamating Locals 22 and 23 into one dressmakers' local, deserve particular mention. President Sigman issued this week, in connection with these decisions, a statement which fully covers the point of view of the G. E. B. in this matter.

The statement affirms among other things that past experience has taught us that there is nothing in common between Locals 5 and 90 out of which the present Local 3 was formed. Instead of harmony, this amalgamation has developed endless friction and acrimony. These dissensions have only weakened the influence of the local on the trade and it is therefore highly desirable to obviate the source of this friction and to separate the ladies' tailors from the sample mak-

ers, giving them two separate locals and the same status as existed before they were merged.

Concerning the decision to unite the two dressmakers' locals of New York into one local, a decision which was already sanctioned at the last regular convention of the International, the Board adopted a final resolution which is embodied in the following extract from President Sigman's statement:

"It is the desire of the General Executive Board that Locals 22 and 23 should combine and that there shall be one dressmakers' local in Greater New York, such local to be affiliated with the Joint Board of Cloakmakers' Union. The reason for such an affiliation lies in the fact that a very large and growing number of cloak manufacturers are also manufacturing dresses on their premises in the form of special dress departments, which are under the control of the Cloak Joint Board. It is also an undisputed fact that a substantial number of sub-manufacturers and contractors who make cloaks for cloak jobbers are also making dresses for these same cloak jobbers as well as for dress jobbers. It is obvious therefore, in the interests of economy of control as well as of unity of control, that the affiliation of the one dressmakers' local in Greater New York be with the Cloak Joint Board."

## TORONTO CLOAKMAKERS TO RAISE BIG ORGANIZING FUND

**LOCALS SHOW MARKED IMPROVEMENT**

The organizing campaign in Canada, under the leadership of Vice-President Sol Seidman, is being energetically prosecuted with gratifying results.

The cloakmakers of Toronto and Montreal have had enough of the open-shop plague which infested the cloak trade during the last two years, particularly in Toronto. Signs, however, are not failing that very soon the Toronto cloakmakers will have a strong fighting organization like the one they had in former years.

Last week a mass meeting was held at Toronto at which the principal question was the raising of means for making the local organizations self-sustaining and independent. The meeting adopted in principle a resolution to levy a special assessment on the members for the raising of a \$25,000 fund. This resolution was accepted by the members with remarkable unanimity and will quite likely very soon be put into action.

### AN ENGLISH LOCAL

Sometime ago Brother Seidman, organized in Toronto a new local of English-speaking workers employed in the cloak trade. This local is gaining strength from week to week and has enrolled a goodly number of members already.

The work in Montreal is continuing at a similar pace. There is a good deal to be done in that city, too, before a one-hundred-per-cent organization is achieved. Between this season and the coming one, it is expected that every effort will be made to gain for the Montreal local a position of undisputed control in the local cloak industry.

## Secretary Baroff Leaves for Pacific Coast

### In Interest of San Francisco Cloak Strike

**WILL VISIT LOS ANGELES AND SEVERAL IMPORTANT WESTERN CENTERS TO ADDRESS UNION MEETINGS**

The strike of the cloakmakers in San Francisco is now a few weeks old. It is being fought out on the issue of the recognition of the union, which is stubbornly resisted by the local employers. Not a striker has left the ranks and none of them expects to return to work until the open shop idea is eliminated root and branch from the San Francisco cloak trade.

The strike in San Francisco is led by Vice-President Max Gorenstein, International organizer on the Pacific

Coast. Brother Gorenstein requested the General Office that either the President Sigman or the General Secretary Baroff come to San Francisco in the interests of the strike. Last week the Board decided to send Secretary Baroff to the Pacific Coast and on April 5th he left for San Francisco. In a telegram which reached New York on March 30th, Vice-President Gorenstein wired the General Office as follows:

"The strike is in excellent condi-

tion. We have no deserters. The manufacturers applied for injunction. Hearing on this matter postponed for two weeks. Influential persons made attempt to mediate without results.

## President Sigman Pays Visit to Boston

President Morris Sigman left on Tuesday of this week for Boston to look over the condition of the local organizations since the last strike.

As our readers know, Boston has recently had a very busy strike period

of the expenditure. Invitations, with one ticket each, were sent out by the Committee to our students with a request that payment of tickets and additional reservations be made before Thursday, April 12th. This is absolutely necessary if our Committee is to make proper arrangements and have ample provisions for the gathering.

in the dress and waist shops and in a number of cloakshops. These strikes, led by Vice-Presidents Perlestein and Mossman, terminated very successfully and have immeasurably strengthened our Boston locals.

The activity of the union in Boston, however, still requires considerable coordination and a good deal more system than heretofore. The Boston locals have asked President Sigman to visit their city and to help them in this work. While in Boston, President Sigman will address several member meetings and will also meet with the executive boards of the locals and of the Joint board.

## Our Students and Teachers Will Entertain Labor Education Delegates

Final arrangements have been made for the Reception and Get-Together to be held on Sunday, April 15th, in the auditorium of the I. L. C. W. U. Building, 3 West 16th Street. On this occasion, the students of our Workers' University and Unity Centers, the teachers, and their friends, will assemble in an informal way. They will spend a few hours in sociability and exchange views on our

activities. The gathering will extend its welcome to the delegates and guests of the Third Annual Convention of the Workers' Education Bureau of America, which will meet in this city on Saturday and Sunday, April 14th and 15th.

The Arrangements Committee, which was elected by the students, decided to charge our members an admission fee of 25 cents to cover part

# Topics of the Week

By N. S.

## VIOLENCE VS. NEGOTIATION IN THE RUHR

ON Easter eve when love and forgiveness are said to pervade all Christendom, when the gospel of humility and self-sacrifice is preached from all pulpits, Catholic French soldiers fired on a crowd of German workers at the Krupp works. The number of dead and wounded is variously estimated.

The Krupp riot is treated by the Germans as a French massacre which has definitely broken the negotiations between the two countries. It is significant that this action of the French closely followed an order by General Degoutte summoning all railroad workers of the Rhineland and the Ruhr to return to work at once under penalty of expulsion from the district. This decree, that the workers must either obey French orders or be killed from the occupied territory, will doubtless lead to serious consequences.

A few days ago a Labor and Socialist Conference was held in Paris. British, French, Belgian and Italian delegates were present. Its aim was to work out a basis for the settlement of the Ruhr situation. Although the full program has not been made public, it is known that an agreement between the English, Belgian, French and German Socialists was reached regarding a drastic revision of the reparations and debt problems which form the basis for the Ruhr settlement. The question, however, remains to what extent the governments will follow the advice of the Socialist and Labor parties.

## PRESIDENT HARDING AND THE OPEN SHOP

PRESIDENT HARDING does not spend his vacation in reckless abandon and freedom from all cares and duties. He cannot afford to do it.

Together with trusted advisers he carefully surveys the political field, takes inventory of his accomplishments during the past two years, weighs and measures the various political and economic forces, and shapes his future policies.

One of the President's chief concerns is the labor problem. The railroad shopmen and coal miners' strikes last summer and their aftermath have profoundly disturbed the equanimity of the Administration. It has aroused the opposition and enmity of the labor movement and the contempt of the privileged classes. Its policy was that of hesitation and belated acts of desperation against labor.

Close advisers of the President urge him to repair his broken prestige by declaring himself in favor of a new, unequivocal labor policy. Instead of compromising and dilly-dallying, trying to placate divergent interests, the President is urged to adopt a clear-cut program. It is the open shop program.

The issue of the open shop is not new in American industrial history. But hitherto the two major political parties found it more convenient to remain obscure on this issue. In planning to champion the open shop interests in the next Presidential election campaign, the Republican party will merely bring into the open the policies it has always consistently followed. It may therefore be expected that the Manufacturers' Association will in the near future run its open shop campaign from the White House.

## THE TRIAL OF THE PRIESTS IN MOSCOW

THE trial of the Catholic priests in Moscow evoked world-wide interest, but their death sentence caused a storm of denunciation. Protests and appeals poured into Moscow from the Pope of Rome and the Reform Bishops of the United States; from numerous ecclesiastical denominations and lay bodies; from the League of Nations; from the British and Polish governments, and even from Secretary Hughes. The Soviet Government was deluged and overwhelmed.

This passionate concern about the two divines presents a glaring contrast to the frigid indifference toward the murder of the common people by the "civilized" governments. The question naturally arises why these governments, churches, public bodies, etc., do not express similar concern about the lives of the peoples and thereby prevent wars.

## PEONAGE IN FLORIDA

FLORIDA has been known to most people as the place where President Harding is enjoying his vacation, where Mayor Hylan, like so many money aristocrats, spends part of his winters, and where oranges and flowers grow all the year around. During the last few weeks, however, this State of glorious sun, blue skies and white surf has appeared in a new light. It is revealing a state of industrial slavery where men are leased out to labor under guards in lumber camps and phosphate mines.

A single tragic incident brought to light the mediocrity of Florida laws of Florida. The only extraordinary thing about the incident is that it forced national attention to the labor conditions of that State. Here in short is a brief account of the incident: Caught in the attempt to ride on a train without a ticket, a North Dakota farm boy was sentenced by a local judge to pay a fine of \$25 or to 90 days' imprisonment. The Putnam Lumber Company leased "all able-bodied male prisoners for a term of one year," and the prisoner was taken to one of the company's camps. His family forwarded the money to pay his fine and bring him home, but the Sheriff sent the money back. The boy was taken ill and was unable to work, and one night in the presence of 85 convicts he was called-out and given from "thirty-five to fifty licks with a four-inch strap, five feet long." "The whipping boys," according to an eye-witness, "put his feet on his (the victim's) neck to keep him from moving out of his position as he whipped him." The next day he died.

This case is "outmatched literally a thousand times," according to a

## A LETTER AND A REPLY

March 21st, 1923.

Editor of Justice:

The officers of the International Fur Workers' Union of America caused the editor of the "Freiheit," a Jewish Labor Daily published in New York City, to be subpoenaed by the District Attorney of New York to explain, and produce evidence to substantiate, a statement contained in a letter from a group of fur workers, members of the union, published in the "Freiheit" on February 28th. This statement said in effect that on a number of occasions members of the union had been beaten up merely for expressing disagreement with and criticism of the policies of the officials of the union. Commenting upon this statement, the editor of the "Freiheit" appealed editorially to the Fur Workers' Union to put a stop to such practices.

When questioned by the District Attorney, the editor of the "Freiheit" explained that it was not the intention of his paper to cause the punishment of particular individuals, the only aim of the "Freiheit" being to awaken the trade union itself to the fact of irregularities and to the danger of such practices as were mentioned in the above statement. At the second hearing the editor of the "Freiheit" also stated that, if compelled by the representatives of the Fur Workers' Union, he would have to produce all the necessary facts to prove the truth of the statements contained in the statement. Finally, after due consideration of everything that is involved in an investigation of this sort, the editor of the "Freiheit," at the third and last hearing, definitely refused to submit to the District Attorney any evidence whatever against the union.

Here is my reply to your inquiry:

"Do you approve or disapprove of the action of the 'Freiheit' in refusing to submit evidence against the representatives of the Furriers' Union to the District Attorney and in demanding that these representatives bring their grievances to an impartial committee of labor representatives?"

But before we reply to this question, as formulated by you, we must, as briefly as possible, touch upon a few very important points closely connected with this whole matter. You confess in your letter that you have published in your paper a letter from a group of workers in which it is alleged that upon various occasions, members of the union to which they belong had been assaulted because they had dared to criticize the policies of the officers of this union. Let us put to you the following questions:

Did you, as editor of the "Freiheit," investigate the truth of all that this group of members had told you in that letter? Did you, at least, think it necessary to telephone to the union officials a question asking them what they had to say concerning these charges?

It is an irrefutable fact you did not do this. A few persons forwarded to you a scoundrelous letter, a mischievous

At the same time, and right after he had been subpoenaed, the editor of the "Freiheit" addressed a letter to Mr. Morris Kaufman, President of the International Fur Workers' Union, requesting the latter to submit his alleged grievances against the "Freiheit" to a committee of labor representatives. The editor of the "Freiheit" pledged himself to accept and carry out every decision of such labor committee. The president of the International Fur Workers' Union refused to submit his case to a labor committee. The "Freiheit" continues to demand of the officials of that union that they submit their case to a committee of labor men. In doing this, the "Freiheit" takes the position that only a labor committee is qualified to investigate and impartially decide upon internal labor affairs. We believe this position to be the only one to be taken by a labor organization, whatever its politics or general views.

We are anxious to have the opinion of the Labor Press of this country on this vital issue. We, therefore, submit for your consideration the following proposition:

"Do you approve or disapprove of the action of the 'Freiheit' in refusing to submit evidence against the representatives of the Furriers' Union to the District Attorney and in demanding that these representatives bring their grievances (alleged or true) to an impartial committee of labor representatives?"

Kindly give this matter the earnest consideration it deserves and let us know your opinion of the matter.

Fraternally yours,  
(Signed) M. J. OLGIN,  
Editor "Freiheit."

tends to besmirch the reputation of an entire labor body, and you, without the slightest investigation, gave it quick and ready publicity. Would a newspaper with a sense of decency and responsibility act like this? But you were not deterred. You wrote an editorial in which, upon the facts alleged in that letter, you appeal to the Furriers' Union to make an end to such "activities." In other words, you have assumed publicly to assume a role, without hearing or desiring to hear what the other side had to say, that the leaders of the Furriers' Union have been employing their title as "argument" against criticism. Such was your action as editor of the "Freiheit"; how after that you could have expected any person with a trace of common sense or a spark of decency about him, to go with you to an "impartial labor committee," is beyond our grasp.

(Continued on page 3)

correspondent, "By Negro victims of the chain-gang system and under the crop-sharing system prevalent in the cotton-raising sections of the United States." By mere chance the death of the farm boy has aroused general indignation against the system of peonage existing in different parts of the country and particularly in Florida.

## THE RISE IN WAGES

IT is a sure sign of growing prosperity when the New England textile manufacturers are raising the wages of their workers. At this writing the Fall River manufacturers are ready to offer an increase of 12½ per cent to 36,000 operatives in the 111 cotton mills. New Bedford manufacturers are admittedly awaiting adjustment in Fall River. Notices of wage increases of 12½ per cent affecting 14,000 operatives were posted in Rhode Island mills. Similar increases were granted in Maine, New Hampshire and New Jersey.

It must not be forgotten, however, that during the business depression the wages of the textile workers were cut 20 per cent, and the present increases are not only due to the fuller employment but to the vigorous fight of the textile union.

The longshoremen in the Port of New York also won an increase in wages. In the award of General Goethals, who acted as arbitrator, the longshoremen won increases of 8 cents an hour on straight day work, and 7 cents an hour for overtime. That is, the hourly rate is increased to 79 cents, and \$1.07 for overtime. The increase applies also for cargo repairers. Although the decision was made solely for the New York Port, Joseph P. Ryan, Vice-President of the International Longshoremen's Union, said it would have an effect on the pay of dock workers in other ports.

## Union Health Center News

### THE UNION HEALTH CENTER DEVELOPS

Because the Union Health Center of the I. L. G. W. U. has developed so rapidly, it has been compelled to ask the Joint Board of Sanitary Control to seek other quarters. The Joint Board of Sanitary Control occupies the third floor of the Health Center, but in order that the Physiotherapeutic Department of the Union Health Center has adequate room, it has been compelled to take this floor.

On this floor there will be installed a complete electric baking and massage department. It will undoubtedly be of great interest to the members of the I. L. G. W. U. to realize that their Health Department has developed so rapidly and so successfully.

The X-ray Department on the fourth floor is one of the most recent additions to the Health Center and proves to be an extremely important one. The new electric baking department is also extremely popular among the workers.

The Joint Board of Sanitary Control will move its office to 31 Union Square, probably by the end of May.

### EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A series of excellent lectures have been arranged at the Union Health Center, 131 East 17th Street, for the month of April. These lectures, given every Friday night, at 8:15 o'clock, will begin Friday evening, April 6th, with an illustrated lecture on "The Teeth and the Bugaboos—Fryer's." Dr. Max Price, chief of the Union Health Center dental department, will be chairman.

On Friday evening, April 13th, there will be given a lecture entitled "Glands and Personality," by Dr.

Benjamin Rosenblatt, of Mount Sinai, related with neatly publishing this Health Center, specialist in gynaecology.

On April 20th, Dr. Dana Atchley of the Presbyterian Hospital of New York City will lecture on "Fighting Man's Invisible Enemy," a discussion of how physical examinations are given and should be given, including a description of what every worker should know when he is given a physical examination by his physician.

The Union Health Center will continue its course in "Constructive Exercises" and give the last lecture of the series on April 10th, on "Fifteen Minutes a Day Drill," exercises every worker should take every day. This series is given by Dr. Ward Cramp-ton and is proving a great success.

The fifth course of the Union Health School will be given by Dr. Jago Goldstein of the New York Y. M. C. A. Association. His lecture on "Recent Unprecedented Points of the Freudian Psychology," and will take up questions which the members of the Health Class have been eager to have answered.

### SPECIAL CONVENTION PAGE IN "JUSTICE"

The Educational Department invited a number of persons, prominent in the labor and the workers' education movements, to write short articles on Workers' Education. These are to appear on the educational page of the "Justice" in the issue of April 14th—the opening date of the Third Annual Convention of the Workers' Education Bureau of America. We are certain that these articles will be of great educational value to our members.

## A Letter and a Reply

(Continued from page 2)

Granting for argument's sake that assault had taken place in that union, and that you are interested in possession of "evidence" to that effect. But this alleged proof, as you yourself had admitted, you obtained only later, after you had been called to the District Attorney. When you first published the letter of that group of workers, and when you gave your editorial comment upon that letter, you only acted upon the say-so of that group. Would a person with a sense of honor, with any love or respect for the labor movement, act like that? Why do you request from us, in your letter, an expression of opinion on your action in refusing to submit evidence to the District Attorney. Why don't you invite the opinion of the labor press upon your prior action which compelled the Farmers' Union to announce you to the District Attorney? It would appear as if you consider the publication of that letter and your subsequent editorial a very ordinary and righteous thing. This is very characteristic indeed; it is to us the best evidence of your lack these essentials of responsibility and honor, that in the above where is the basic prerequisite in an editor of a labor newspaper.

Indeed, while the editor of every publication which makes up opinions and minds of thousands of readers is required or at least expected to be a person of honor, thoughtfulness and deliberation, the editor of a labor paper must be a hundredfold more so—upright, careful and deliberate. The editor of an ordinary newspaper may from time to time be called to legal responsibility—he expects it and is therefore very cautious. The editor of a labor paper is in less danger of being dragged into court by those whom he is likely to attack. He knows that the people with whom he deals, organizations and the labor movement, will not start lawsuits against him. And when such an editor, on the strength of such a belief, persists in a campaign of character assassination, he puts himself beyond the pale and he need not expect self-respecting persons to appear at a "court of honor" with him.

If for a moment you believe that, be-

cause you did not "submit the evidence against the representatives of the Farmers' Union to the District Attorney," you have acted as a noble Roman, you are sorely in error. To begin with, according to your own letter, your first impulse was "to produce all the necessary evidence to prove the truth of the statement contained in that statement." It was only after the third hearing that you definitely refused to submit any evidence whatever against the union. It remains therefore optional with you to produce either the you were prompted thereby by your communicative "conscience," or that you have "refused to submit evidence" for the simple reason that you had none to offer. As to your demand for a "court of honor" it is quite obvious even to you by this time that the leaders of the union will consider it below their dignity to go with you to such a trial, and, secondly, that it was inspired by the hope that at such a trial you might manage to muddle through somehow with "evidence" that would hold no water in the District Attorney's office.

Again we feel to mark how low, after all, failed to bring forth your evidence before the District Attorney. If you did not hesitate to attack the leaders of the union by slanders, as "strong-arm men," in the columns of your paper, why hesitate to say so before the prosecuting officer of the country? If you did not hesitate to bring forth the banner of a union before the entire labor movement, the proving of your case before the District Attorney would be a small additional matter indeed. The District Attorney might perhaps have punished at the time you alleged them to be in your paper, they should be punished and eliminated from the union. Which leads us to believe even more firmly that, if you had any "evidence" against them, you would have presented it; the only reason why you abstained from doing so was that you never had a scintilla of such proof.

Let us now consider the other side of this affair. A group of men came to you and told you a story that, because they had criticized the policy of the union, they

had been beaten up. If true, we say, it is a crime and an abomination. But the question is, what do you imply by the term "criticism"? Let us assume that your critics adopted the same tactics against the leaders of their union as you yourself apply against your opponents, when instead of debating with them, you declare them to be "traitors," "counter-revolutionists," "fakers," "labor misleaders," etc., etc. Now, we are decidedly opposed to "striking" arguments; we always have been and always shall be. But we must admit that there are times when frail human nature, bitterly assaulted and provoked, finds no other outlet than in that sort of thing. If it is a fact that in the midst of an acrimonious debate, some hot-headed members of the union occasionally permit themselves at a union meeting the undignified and harmful practice of exchanging blows—words, working class and otherwise—then the leaders of the union to be blamed for these occasional "strong-arm" outbursts? Did you take all this into consideration before you decided to publish the letter from that group of workers? Of course not, for, if you had, you would have sent a reporter—a reliable man—to investigate this very serious charge and only then would you comment upon it editorially.

But your paper lies only upon scandal and its entire stock in trade is to discredit and drag into the mire the leaders of the union movement. According to your gospel, every labor leader who does not swear by the Red Trade Union International is a traitor and a traitor. Can you expect these men whom you so readily denounce to go with you to a trial of honor?

You write in your letter that you pledge yourself to "accept and carry out every decision of such labor committee." Honestly, it is to laugh. What is your pledge worth anyway? We will trust that you will keep your word; but don't pledge-keeping one of these con-

temptible "bourgeois prejudices" that you so despise? How can one rely upon the word of honor of one who day in and day out, writes columns of articles merely because they believe otherwise than himself with regard to matters affecting the labor movement—matters of which he himself is the greatest conception? Frankly, what do you know of the labor movement? Have you ever worked in a shop or did you ever belong to a union? Have you ever in your entire life breathed and lived the life of a worker except in some intellectual glimmer over, above and at a respectful distance from them? It would be, indeed, a pity were we to regard you as an editor of a labor paper. The conclusion is that your paper is not a workers' organ. It is only a cancer upon the labor movement and for such a sheet you are truly the most fitting inspiration.

This is my reply to your inquiry.

S. YANOFSKY.

### OUTLINES

We shall continue the method which we adopted a few years ago, of providing our students with an outline of every lesson. These outlines are, as usual, carefully prepared by the teachers to meet the need of our students. There are hardly any text books written for workers, and these outlines therefore are used instead of text books. They help the students to follow the discussion and serve to recall what they learned.

Last week the teachers prepared descriptions of their courses. These were mimeographed and distributed among the students, and will also be published on the educational page of "Justice" together with outlines of the lessons.

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## Winning a "Woman's Place"

By SYLVIA KOPALD

Mrs. Ida Jerome was one of those aggressive old-fashioned women. "She loved her children and was proud of it," they would let you understand. The sight of a young girl who appeared to be self-reliant made her bristle like a hedgehog who scents attack.

"I don't know nothin' 'bout business," she would snap. She bit off each word from its place in her sentence until the whole sounded like a quick succession of hammer blows. "Aw, 'a I don't wanta know nothin' 'bout it. I want my husband to feel he must support me. Independence, hah! Woman's place is in the home."

Each time she repeated her conviction it possessed a new and unfaded freshness for her ears. But of late, something had been happening to other folks. When she hammered forth her emphatic warnings, more people with men than Annie. For Mrs. Jerome this was the acid test. She would watch the two girls together in a group of young folks, and she could not help noting that Helen usually had much more to say. Annie could sit helplessly waiting for someone to approach her and yet dreading the moment she hoped for. These terribly facile and knowing young people talked glibly of ideas and events that were utterly strange to her. Mrs. Jerome once heard two youngsters discussing her daughters in their own home.

"The little cads!" was her first angry reaction. But then she listened intently to catch what they were saying.

"Say," remarked one, "where did Helen ever pick up that dumb Lizzie of a sister? I started telling her about my accountancy but I'm studying evenings and she said 'My, ain't you wonderful!' Say I don't mind a girl telling me I'm wonderful but I like her to look as if she knew what she was admin'ing me for. I bet her Ma told her to tell men they're wonderful every time they open their mouths."

"Yes, I guess that's right," replied

the other. "She's not a bad kid, but nobody home. Helen's got heap more stuff."

And they were off. Mrs. Jerome winced. She had taught Annie the "My, ain't you wonderful" tactics. And here they were making her a laughing stock. Maybe she was a little behind the times. Certainly Helen's work had not seemed to have taken any of her charm from her; indeed, it had given her the kind of "stuff" folks admired nowadays.

But she could not give up as easily as that. Maybe women should mix a bit more with the world. But in the end God had meant them to stay in the home. So she began to discover that they really weren't fit for other things. Her arguments took on a new tone.

"Now take business ability," she argued with Mrs. Baumann, a neighbor at Messing's grocery store. "I ask you, have women got that shrewdness, that sharpness you need in business? They're always sheltered and taken care of. Any swindler could get the best of 'em."

"Just a minute, Mr. Messing (to the grocer) I wanted a pound of butter, not 7/8 of a pound. Oh, excuse me. I thought you were going to wrap that up already."

"But what was I saying, Mrs. Baumann? Oh yes. You know how it is. Swindlers can always get the best of a woman. And it's not just that they ain't used to business. They're not sharp. And between you and me who wants them to be? Let the men take care of the money. They know how to better —"

"Well Mr. Messing, how much is my bill? What! \$1.08! How do you make that out! But sugar was 9c. a pound only yesterday. Well, no wonder we stay poor. And look here I can get mushrooms at Bulner's for 9c. an ounce. I thought there was some mistake. Ninety-nine cents is better. Here take it out of this dollar bill!"

As the two women left the store together, Mrs. Jerome concluded, "I'm glad to see you agree with me, Mrs. Baumann. God made women one way and men another. Let each

the other. "She's not a bad kid, but nobody home. Helen's got heap more stuff."

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stay in his or her place, eh!"

She made her way towards home. Annie was sitting listlessly in the kitchen. As Mrs. Jerome began to bustle about the room, she looked up and began to speak.

"Say, Ma, there really ain't enough for the two of us to do here."

"But, Annie, you're a 'great help to me.'"

"Aw, I don't know. Here Helen got us that vacuum cleaner, and we got all improvements, and there's just the first of us to cook for. I'm gettin' sick of just hangin' around."

"Annie, has Helen been puttin' her ideas into your head?"

Annie became suddenly articulate. At last she had something to talk about.

"Aw, ma," she blurted out. "You 'n me understand each other. I feel like you do that nothin' can make a woman really happy without she's got a home and babies. 'N' ma, I think Helen feels that deep down in her too. But nowadays the stick-at-home girl ain't got half as much chance as the other kind. It ain't so important nowadays to know how to sew and cook and wash. 'Specially in the cities. But you gotta understand things what's goin on and be able to help save to buy the furniture and things like that. I feel all out there. Men think I'm dumb. 'N' I am. I got nothin' to talk about."

"But, Annie —"

"Yes, ma, I know what you was going to say, but she'll always stick in the same home unless she gets out a bit."

A great light dawned upon Mrs. Jerome. Woman's place was in the home, maybe. But to get a home of her own nowadays she has to get out of the home. This new-fashioned business was just the new wrapper for the old package. She felt vindicated. Her philosophy seemed still true.

Today Mrs. Jerome still argues about woman's place. But she is very knowing. One of her epigrams on the subject has won her a sort of fame in her own circle. She says, "Woman's place is in the home, but a girl's got to get out in the world looking for one."

## The Conference of the Naturalization Aid League

The fourteenth annual conference of the Naturalization Aid League took place on Sunday afternoon, March 11th, at which 340 delegates representing 170 labor and fraternal organizations met to consider ways and means of increasing the activity of the League among immigrants, to aid them in becoming citizens.

The particular features of the conference were the speeches of Judge Jacob Fanken, ex-Congressman Meyer London. Both speakers dwelt on the importance of naturalization for the labor and Socialist movements. They underscored the point that the League must not limit its activities to helping only the Jewish immigrants to acquire citizenship. It must conduct its work also among the Italian, Russian and Polish immigrants who arrive in this country to help them to become Americanized, as to join the family of American citizens.

"The trouble with America," said Congressman London, "is that it had entirely neglected the immigrant in spite of the fact that it was the immigrant who had helped to build up this country. But if the politicians have neglected this task, the labor movement must see that all those who are enrolled in its ranks become citizens of this country. This is the best method of obtaining power and influence in the legislation of this great republic, and this work can best be

done by the Naturalization Aid League."

From the report submitted by Henry Fruchter, manager of the League, it appears that over 17,600 men and women have in the course of the last year obtained their first or second papers with the aid of the League. Of the applicants more than 600 were women.

The financial report was by far not as cheering. The income of the League does not suffice to cover all its expenses and last year left it with a deficit of over \$2,600. The manager made an appeal to the delegates to raise the membership dues and make it possible for the League to conduct its work on a wider scale.

Among the organization members were fourteen central bodies, joint boards, ten locals of the International, four of the Amalgamated, nineteen other labor unions, 113 workmen's circle branches, and ten independent societies.

Resolutions were adopted to increase the dues of the affiliated organizations; to attract new organizations as members; to thank the labor press for aid rendered; to express gratitude to the naturalization courts of New York, to the chief of the naturalization examiners and to the Commissioner in Washington; to make a special appeal to women to become citizens and to ask the State and Federal governments to appropriate a suf-

## "The Plight of Europe and Awakening at Home"

The Rand School of Social Science has issued invitations for a dinner on Friday evening, April 6th, at 6:30 p. m., at the Aldine Club, 200 Fifth Avenue. "The Plight of Europe and the Awakening at Home" is the topic to be discussed by an unusual array of eminent speakers from various walks of life. Among those who have been invited to share in the discussion are the Reverend Percy Stickney Grant, of the Church of the Ascension, whose recent controversy with Bishop Manning and whose liberalism in the field of theology have made him an outstanding figure; in the established church and won for him the respect of all those interested in a broader interpretation of religion; Mr. Ludwell Denny, Far-Eastern correspondent of "The Nation" who has just returned from abroad; James H. Manning, one of the political prisoners who has completed a five-year term at Leavenworth Penitentiary, and has been raising a tempest in the Boston tea-pot, during the last few weeks, by speaking in the homes of the Boston 400; Morris Hillquit, so well known to New Yorkers that the description

of him as International Secretary of the Socialist Party seems quite unnecessary; Robert Bruere, the Director of the Bureau of Industrial Research; and John P. Burke, president of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers.

Any and all who are interested in the school, in its purposes, and its achievements are cordially invited to the dinner, reservations for which (at \$2.25 per plate) can be had by writing to the Rand School at 7 East 15th Street. Every effort will be made to reserve special tables for the various labor unions and other labor and radical organizations.

PROFESSOR G. VON KLENZE AT THE WORKERS' UNIVERSITY ON SATURDAY, APRIL 21st

Professor G. von Klenze of the College of the City of New York will lecture on "Hauptmann—the Proletarian Dramatist" at our Workers' University, Washington Irving High School, on Saturday, April 21st, at 1:30 p. m.

Professor von Klenze is one of the best qualified men to discuss Hauptmann.

### NOTICE

The report of the Trades Union Congress General Council will be continued in our issue of April 20th.

Resolutions were also adopted against the limitation of immigration and against the planned registration of all immigrants.

# Loss of Life in American Mines

By L. BORODULIN

A few weeks ago, two horrifying mine tragedies took place in America resulting in a loss of about 200 miners' lives. One of these occurred in Dawson, New Mexico, where 120 coal miners were lost due to a subterranean explosion; the second, in Cumberland, Canada, where several dozen miners were killed from a similar cause.

Both tragedies have taken place in the course of one week. Generally speaking, such industrial catastrophes are a frequent phenomenon in the mining industry, but the year 1922 was particularly rich in them. The unfortunate thing about these horrors, however, is that as long as they are fresh in the public mind, the newspapers write about them and describe their details with exact minuteness. But after the reader has satisfied his morbid curiosity and becomes indifferent, the newspapers cease to dwell any longer on these horrible mishaps until the next misfortune, which, as a rule, is not long in following.

The newspapers stop writing about these horrors and the great public forgets about them. The only ones who do not forget are the widows and

orphans of the victims, and the number of these widows and orphans is growing rapidly from year to year. How great is the number of miners that perish annually in the coal mines? The physical, statistical reply to this question is—about 2,500 miners' lives every year in the coal mines of the United States. Here are some figures: In 1907, there were killed in the mines 2,252 miners; in 1909, 2,642; in 1910, the figures reached 2,821; in 1915, 2,269; in 1918, 2,580, etc. These are official figures gathered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington. In addition to these dry figures we are also supplied with some other facts that throw light upon them and their relation to other facts in the coal industry.

We are told that in the year 1910, for instance, there have been employed in the coal fields of the United States 725,030 workers. Of these, 2,821 were killed. It would appear, therefore, that one miner out of every 275 employed in the mine industry was killed in the process of industry in 1910. It must also be kept in mind that in the total number of those employed in the industry there are included a great many who do not work

under ground and who therefore are not subjected to the customary hazards of mining. These same figures tell us that, measured by the total volume of mined coal in the year 1910, for every 177,895 tons of coal, the life of a miner was forfeited.

Again we ask the question.—How great is the number of miners who lose their lives annually in the coal mines? This time we might say that it is all a question of relativity. One may say that the number is very large and, if 1910 is to be taken as an example, the 2,821 miners killed in the mines during that year present a very large figure. If, on the other hand, we consider that in that year, there was only one miner's life lost to each 275 employed in the mining industry, one life for each 177,895 tons of coal, the number of those who perish by mine accidents might not appear as great.

So much for statistics and for the principle of relativity. The truth remains however, that not one of this unfortunate one-third of one per cent of miners who perish in the mines has the slightest desire either to be buried alive, torn into pieces by explosions or suffocated by poisonous gases for the sake of his own life. All they want is to live. All they want is to see their families and their children. All they want is to see their wives and children have the

slightest desire to offer themselves as sacrifices to the hazards of this perilous industry, whether as a part of one-third of one per cent of the inevitable toll of mining victims, or as a part of any infinitesimal percentage of accidents that are considered as all but unavoidable in coal mining.

The actual number of coal-mine victims in the United States is, however, far greater than 2,500 per year. This figure represents only the number of those killed outright, and this does not include the maimed and crippled, whose number is surely far greater than that of the killed. Again, this figure only represents victims of accidents in the coal mines and does not include the victims in iron, gold, copper and other metal mines, where there are additional hundreds if not thousands of victims of accidents. For it is well known that in the metal mines there is even less protection of the workers' lives than that existing in the coal mines.

We do not wish to imply that there is nothing being done at present to prevent accidents and to protect the mine workers from mishaps. A great deal has been done and is being done now in this respect,—but the preventive measures are far from enough, and the dangers to the lives of the miners, that lurk in the mines are still great and varied.

## The Open Shop—a Campaign Issue for 1924

By J. CHARLES LAUE

The dominant capitalist interests of the United States would like to make the "open shop" a national issue of the Republican campaign in the election of 1924. The labor movement would like to see that issue carried before the electorate, for the more confident leaders believe that if the suggestion is accepted by the Republican party it will be wiped out at the next election by an aroused farmer and industrial vote.

It is easy to see why a militarist and railroad man like Charles G. Dawson, while sojourning with other Republican politicians on the Presidential houseboat in Florida waters, should cherish such an idea. It represents not only his views but that of the arrogant Steel Trust, the Pennsylvania Railroad, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Beef Trust, the Anaconda Copper Company and the big industrialists generally. They reason that since capital had paid the freight to put the G. O. P. in the White House they might as well exact a pledge that there will be no more shilly-shallying on this issue. Campaign funds are now being collected, and this is the psychological moment to reach an understanding. Much cash will be needed for the next Presidential election which is expected to be close.

Coupled with the "open shop," these gentlemen would have the Republican party commit itself also to a policy of "law and order," to protect aliens during strike period in order, as they express it, to prevent a recurrence of such affairs as the Herrin massacre when a number of hired guards fell in a pitched battle with enraged miners after union men had been murdered by these strike guards.

There is, however, one deterring aspect to this situation for the corporations. They failed to crush labor in the drive of 1920-1922, and while the railroad shop strike gave them some advantage, that battle has not yet ended and will have to be fought all over again. Still it is evident that the big capitalists have worked out their national campaign issues and are already preparing for 1924. That their main demand is the "open shop," a direct challenge to the existence of the

labor unions, is in line with the recent decisions of the United States Supreme Court limiting picketing and making unions liable for strike damages and is proof of their supreme confidence and faith in further protection from that source.

These outspoken enemies of organized labor are the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Founders' Association, the United States Steel Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the National Erectors' Association, and hundreds of other organizations of employers that will lend their support to the campaign against the trade unions.

The Standard Oil interests, while more liberal in their spoken utterances, are but slightly removed from the most hostile employers' groups in their resistance to further progress by the organized workers. Lined up with this group are also the "die-hard" railroads that refused any compromise settlement with the striking shopmen, the rubber interests, the ship building corporations allied with the Steel Trust, the metal mining companies and the packers.

These capitalists control the basic and unorganized industries, employing approximately 4,000,000 workmen. In this list can be included one third of the railroad workers who have been bludgeoned out of the union ranks since 1920. The total number of their employes as roughly estimated in the various non-union groups is as follows:

Steel .....	300,000
Railroad .....	500,000
Meat packing .....	200,000
Rubber .....	100,000
Metal work .....	200,000
Automobile .....	1,000,000
Telephone .....	220,000
Oil field, etc. ....	150,000
Cement and fertilizer ..	100,000
Textile .....	1,000,000
Total .....	3,770,000

Some of the skilled workers in these industries are organized but the bulk of them, the unskilled labor group, are entirely at the mercy of the "open shop" employers.

The only big industry that remains

unorganized, although it was attacked in the memorable lockout of 1922, is coal mining. Even the Steel Trust has been compelled to come to an agreement with the United Mine Workers' union of the better-organized fields although the biggest coal and coke supplies are still drawn by this powerful corporation from the non-union fields of Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky and the South.

A glance at the above tabulation will give a bird's eye view of the future battle-ground between the dominant trusts and the advancing labor movement. There are approximately 5,000,000 organized workers in the United States and Canada today. They have immediately before them the task of winning over the 4,000,000 that are employed in the basic steel, metal, meat, textile, rubber, telephone and telegraph, automobile, cement, chemical and fertilizer industries. They must be brought into union ranks to make the organized workers safe from attack.

Should the big interests carry out their intention to make the "open shop" a national and public issue, it will immediately become the burning question for all trade unionists to consider. As the employers rally in groups to foster their interests, so the workers are organized and will organize to resist and to attack. Nationally they must rely upon the American Federation of Labor for counsel and for legislative and political assistance. Their international unions, and certain powerful independent organizations like the "Big Four" railroad brotherhoods, and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, must meet the situation in each industry as it arises.

So far the power of the organized workers has not yet been developed sufficiently to defeat a trust. Only once was a concerted attack in that direction made when 24 international unions of the 118 chartered by the A. F. of L. attacked the Steel Trust. It failed after an auspicious beginning and a brave fight. The necessity of making the labor movement more compact to successfully oppose the giant trusts is generally admitted, but by the very nature of the movement the unions can only slowly adjust themselves to make this fight.

The miners have an effective union of 600,000 members that has successfully resisted a national attack; but then the coal operators are not

all in one corporation. Like the clothing manufacturers they compete ruthlessly with each other. The packing house workers were in one union before they were defeated by the Beef Trust in 1921. The textile workers have the possibility of forming a powerful organization out of the senseless rivalry of the A. F. of L. and a number of struggling independent unions.

A union of rubber workers is in process of formation; the oil field and refinery workers' unions have been organized for two years and are slowly making headway. No single union has come to the fore yet to organize the important telephone and telegraph industry, other than the potentially powerful electrical workers' brotherhood. There are 12 separate unions of railroad mechanics and miscellaneous crafts, and the metal workers are divided in about a score of unions, from as small as 2,000 members to 150,000 for the machinists.

In bringing forward the issue of the "open shop" as a possible major question in the next presidential campaign, the big corporations will have started something. It will arouse the labor movement as no other challenge could. By facing this issue squarely the labor movement will not only win politically, but it can start the greatest drive for members in the history of the organized workers of America and break up the solid block of "open shop" territory.

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# JUSTICE

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## EDITORIALS

### THE EVIL OF TOO MANY STRIKES

Vice-President Seidman, in his report on the rather gloomy condition of the Cloakmakers' Union of Montreal, hazarded an opinion that it was entirely due to the fact that the Montreal cloakmakers had been striking too often. We believe that there is in this assumption a good deal of truth, something which all our unions might keep in mind.

The strike is of course the sharpest and most important weapon in the hands of organized workers. That its edge might not be blunted, it must not be used too often. Else it might very soon become a useless chunk of iron, unfit for the very purpose it was originally intended to serve.

We must never forget that a strike is not a plaything to toy with. A strike demands untold energy, lots of money, and above all it requires self-sacrifice on the part of the strikers. There is however, a limit to human endurance, and not many of us are capable of standing a strain for a long while. Still less are we fit, after a strike, let us say, of a month or two, to face another battle. The result of too much striking is frequently the conversion of men and women, otherwise honest workers and moderately good union people, into that abominable genus which passes under the term of "scab" in the fighting vocabulary of labor.

We would not like to be misunderstood as defenders of strike-breakers. We do not have it in our mind to whitewash that species — by any means.

We desire, however, to point out that it is the duty of the labor movement not to put any temptation, any pitfalls, in the way of our workers. The leaders of every union must bear in mind that frail is the human kind and great are the lures of a worker's cheerless existence. The union must therefore see that no possible shadow of excuse or justification be given any worker for betraying the interests of his fellow-workers.

For this alone the union must endeavor to avoid too much striking, which taxes and often overwhelms the endurance and the fighting ability of the workers. The union should not do it even when it is perfectly confident of the loyalty and the devotion of its members. Too many strikes must, in the nature of the thing, create a lack of spirit and fire. A strike, in order to have sway and solemnity, must not be an every-day, a common occurrence, — something that happens every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The greater the intervals between one conflict and another, the more resistance they possess and the more secure is their outcome.

A strike requires, aside from energy and endurance, a great deal of money. Strikes as a rule drain to the bottom the treasuries of labor organizations. If a long enough respite between strike and strike is given, the labor union might have a chance to recuperate its financial standing. Too frequent strikes inevitably condemn the union to eternal poverty, to never-ending want. It might probably appeal to other labor organizations for aid, but even when given, such aid only tends to demoralize the union in question. In the history of the American labor movement, there has been more than one labor organization, at one time strong and influential, weakened and demoralized through too many conflicts which have in the end robbed it of all powers of resistance and doomed it to extinction.

Capital knows of this secret and it therefore provokes frequent strikes in some industries in the hope of exhausting the strength of the workers and thereby ensuring its grip upon them. The leaders of labor unions must therefore be on guard not to be trapped into playing the game of the employer and they must also be wary of the various phrasemongers of every shade and hue who keep parroting of strikes in and out of season, not knowing themselves how much they help, by their irresponsible prattle, the wicked plan of the employers to break their union.

Another factor must be taken into consideration. A strike, to be truly successful, must have, if not the good will, at least the interest of public opinion. It must be, if you will, a novelty or a sensation in this sense. If workers in a certain industry fall into the custom of habitual striking, their grievances and fight, as a rule, lose their importance and interest in the eyes of the general public.

It is at times, paradoxical as it might sound, even in the interest of a union to overlook or to ignore a grievance rather than to convert it into a fighting issue. It is particularly expedient to do so at the time when its members have not entirely recuperated from a protracted struggle and had not fully recouped their strength. At such a time, it is wise for a union to act with tact and diplomacy, and to endeavor to acquire at the conference table what is risky or impossible to acquire through a fight. Our fiery "revolutionists" might make a sour face at this, but men possessed of common sense,

men who know how supremely important it is to have a strong union when a fight is inevitable, will realize that this is the only right policy for a trade-union.

Of course, a time comes when a strike is absolutely unavoidable, when it must be called out and fought out to a finish. But it is just because of this very fact that a labor union must see that its strength is conserved and its weapons are sharpened when the emergency arises. The lesson of the Montreal cloakmakers is at this time of particular significance to many of our unions who have only recently gone through victorious strikes. After they have won a number of improvements in their working conditions, they need not assume that such strikes can be had to order every day in the week.

Such a delusion might prove to be disastrous. Now is the time of peaceful negotiations and settlement of all disputes or grievances that might arise. The more deliberate and calm they are, the greater strength will they lend our union, the more prepared will it be when the fight against the enemy becomes inevitable.

### THE FASCISTI EPIDEMIC AND OUR ITALIAN LOCALS

At the last quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board, a new issue was placed on the order of the day by Vice-President Salvatore Ninno and Brother Arturo Giovannitti.

It seems that Italian Fascism is today imbued with the ambition of conquering new worlds. Mussolini, the dictator of Italy, is not contented with holding only Italy under his iron heel; he would spread the influence of his vicious despotism far and away beyond the boundaries of Italy. The Fascist pest is beginning to be felt in the United States. Mussolini's agents are operating here under a multitude of masks, and matters are reaching such a pass today that several of them have already found a way into one of our Italian locals, No. 48, of which Vice-President Ninno is manager.

These fellows have already begun their nefarious work of assailing the good names of our best-known Italian labor leaders. No means is too low for them to break and destroy all that has been, after years of struggle, built up by the radical Italian workers in America. Moreover, these Italian Black Hundreds have in more than one instance, prevented Italian labor speakers and agitators from holding meetings and have behaved as if they really governed this land.

That the situation is really serious, we have hardly any doubt. The Fascist invasion comes at a psychological moment when the general spirit of reaction in the country has in a way prepared the ground for it. The labor movement must not wait until Mussolini's agents become stronger and stronger in America. It must begin at once waging an energetic fight against this miscreant, this ugly aftermath of the World War. The immediate danger from this invasion lies in the direction of our Italian locals, and we must do all in our power to help them fight this epidemic.

Local 48 has certainly accomplished wonders for the Italian workers in the cloak industry of New York City. Men and women who have come to these shores from Italy without the slightest knowledge of unionism, who have become the worst victims of the merciless exploitation, have, with the aid of our International, become good union people, working shoulder to shoulder and side by side with the entire labor movement of America. The imposing building, the Labor Temple erected by Local No. 48 on East 14th Street in New York City, is a living monument to its enterprise and virility. Locals 48 and 49 together form a substantial part of our union, one of its strongest divisions.

The leaders of our International unions have a right to resent the frequent allusion to our International Union as a Jewish labor union. This is not true, in point of fact. Years ago when practically all cloakmakers were Jews, there may have been reason for such an assertion; today, however, the Italian workers form a substantial part of this International and, now that the malady of Fascism is threatening this integral part of our union, it is the sacred obligation of every member of our organization, nay, of every man and woman belonging to the labor movement in America, to help them destroy root and branch this imported black-shirted reaction.

It is indeed more than a mere duty prompted by idealism or fraternal feeling. It is a matter of self-interest for all our unions. Fascism is making a beginning with our unions but it has far greater ambitions. Its aim is to destroy, to eat into the heart of the whole labor movement. Its breath is poison to organized labor. There is every reason for the A. F. of L. to take a hand in this struggle, and we are confident that the very next meeting of the Executive Council of the Federation will take up this question and properly deal with it.

Moreover, we believe that the resolution adopted by our General Executive Board must at once be carried into practice. A strong fight must be launched against this new-fangled attack upon labor; mass meetings must be called protesting against the barbarities of Mussolini and his bands, and the horrors committed by them against all that is progressive and forward-looking in Italy must be laid bare.

Publicity is beyond doubt one of the strongest means of combating Fascism in America. Already Fascism has a subsidized press, which does its worst to poison the minds of its readers. The general American press is as a rule silent about Fascism, except that from time to time one finds here and there favorable comment upon it. To this there must be an end. We must have a strong and influential press of our own to present Fascism and its misdeeds in their proper color before the public and particularly before the Italians living in America.

In his speech before the General Executive Board, Brother Giovannitti proposed that our weekly Italian organ, "Giustizia," be enlarged to enable its editors to devote more space to the educational

# THE G. E. B. AT WORK

By S. YANOVSKY

I.

The reader quite likely still remembers our report of the last quarterly meeting of the Board in Montreal, with all the tales of woe told at that meeting, including the individual reports of Secretary Baroff, the Vice-Presidents and of the various committees. How dark and dismal things looked at that time! Not only did the situation seem critical everywhere, it actually appeared as if the only stronghold we had was contained in the cloakmakers' organization of New York. Everything looked so loose and out of gear that our General Secretary was justified in exclaiming: "Is this the result of our propaganda for many long and arduous years? In this the reward we are reaping—group of insecure, weak organizations ready to topple over at the first blow!"

True, we were getting ready for a strike here and there. But we lacked the faith that the planned strikes would bring the desired results, and while no one spoke his mind freely on this matter every one of the 17 members of the Board appeared to be discouraged if not despondent over the situation. Small wonder that the atmosphere at that meeting was permeated with gloom as never before in the history of the International.

And now, only three months after it, three months full of stress and storm, when every one of the leaders of the organization had worked with zeal and fire, with devotion and self-sacrifice in the task allotted to him,—the skies of our International have cleared entirely, and the tales of woe have given place to messages of cheer and victory! The apathy is gone, the indifference of the membership is vanished. There is life and action everywhere. Despair has disappeared and every heart is full of joy and hope for greater achievements. This is the outstanding difference between the Montreal meeting and the New York gathering of last week. The members of the Board left Montreal in January with embittered hearts, all but broken in spirit over the bleak prospects that hovered over the head of our organization and seeing no light ahead—while the New York meeting wound up in rock-ribbed conviction that our International is invincible and that no storms can hurt it; that our vessel is seaworthy, and our captain able, and tried and his arm is fast and firm at the helm.

Indeed, the last meeting of the Board was in every respect the very opposite of the meeting that preceded it. Every report at the New York meeting was a story of triumph and accomplishment, a story of conquest of conditions which seemed insurmountable. Let us have these facts speak for themselves in the order as they came to our attention at that meeting:

For the first time the General Executive Board met in regular session

fight against Fascism. The Board has not yet finally decided in this matter: we are nevertheless certain that this proposal will be accepted. We are not, however, convinced that this alone will be enough. A more extensive agitation, by word of mouth and by the pen, will have to be launched to counteract the black labors of the "Fascisti."

In the meantime, we appeal to all our Italian members not to allow the black-shirted messengers of evil to mislead or delude them. Our Italian workers will remember how relayed and exploited they had been before their strong and great union was built up. They will know their Fascisti countrymen aim only at the destruction of this union. They will not wait until others might help them to get rid of this calamity.

As intelligent and right-thinking workers, it is their duty to lead the fight for the protection of their union, for unity in their aims and against reactionary and dark Fascism.

not in a distant city, not in a hotel room, but in our own splendid home, in the Council Room of our building. No matter how comfortable the appointments at a hotel are, they cannot even approach the accommodations that our beautiful Council affords. The room is big and airy, the long council table and furniture in general fit and appropriate, and everything is arranged to give the maximum of comfort and convenience. And the intimacy of the room fully harmonized with the character of the sessions from first to last. We felt like being home, in our own sphere, not devoid however of that feeling of comradeship, self-respect, yet easy-going, appreciative and mutually agreeable.

Let us say a word here about our new chairman, President Sigman. He is indeed an ideal chairman at such meetings. One feels, on the one hand, that he is a co-worker, a comrade in arms and a fellow veteran of past battles, and, on the other hand, we feel in him the president, the leader who will assert his power and prerogatives when need be and who conducts business with a strong will. The impression at these sessions was therefore a double one, as matters were. One felt free and at ease, particularly when it came to expressing opinions, but these discussions were all permeated with a business-like spirit and restraint.

The confidence between the President and the members of the Board remains mutual. He confides his plans to them and wants their opinion and advice. He asked every member of the Board to render a report at the meeting, as he regarded their personal experience and impressions gained in the course of the last few months as of prime importance for arriving at decisions on the momentous problems before the Board. And every member of the G. E. B. did say whatever he had in his mind and freely rendered his opinion on all matters that lay closer to his heart and of which he knew most. The result was a complete exchange of opinions on all and everything that occurred in the life of our organization in recent months.

The first session of the Board opened on Monday morning, March 26. It opened somewhat late, and lasted not long. At this session the situation in the New York white goods trade was taken up, one of the last fights waged by our organization this spring. President Sigman called upon Vice-Presidents Lefkowitz and Halperin, who had been in charge of the campaign in Local 2, to give a report. Readers of "Justice" know by this time the results of this activity among the white goods workers. We can only add from the report of the two vice-presidents that the local had gained heavily in membership and took in "in initiative fees alone during the week of the strike about four thousand dollars. Vice-President Hal-

## JOTS and DOTS

By EMDEE

Job open!

Harding wants a press agent. That is a piece of news "fit to print," we'll tell an "open-shop" world. The pity of it! Here was a fine upstanding citizen in our ungrateful midst who has all but gone to rest on account of natural shyness, ship subsidies, and things of that sort.

But it cannot be allowed to go on thus. Nineteen twenty-four is in the offing; the spirit of the Open Shop is already gembolling on the playgrounds of the G. O. P. trotted out as the mighty colt upon which Harding will ride to glory into another term. But Harding is "the greatest adversary" in the United States, says no less an authority than Secretary of Labor Davis. He simply does not know how "to sell himself."

What a lopsided phrase! What a elegant, tasteful, one-hundred-percent expression! It remains to be hoped at least that what Gold Dust Twins did for washing powder, what Lucky Strike did for Navy Flagg, and what Castoria did for sleepless children, the "Open Shop" slogan will do for the candidacy of the man who simply could not "sell himself."

Believe us or not, all these days while the British were locking horns with the Angora Turks about the Mosul oil fields—an unsoldiered humanitarian venture on the part of our transatlantic cousin—we have felt sort of left out of the game.

Here we have, thanks to every line that pipes oil to 26 Broadway, an octopus of our own, reared and made great by the unanimous, if not cheerful contributions of every son of our soil and a few other continents to boot. Yet, during all this period of Great Britain's humanitarian exertions to retain Mosul for the white man and for his civilization, it did not look even for a moment that we were in the reckoning at all.

Now it warmed the cockles of our hearts, therefore, to read one morning this week that at last Ambassador Child is going to Lusanne to protect the so-called Chester claim upon some of the juiciest spots of Mosul. We do not know a thing and we care to know still less about what this claim amounts to. We are even less worried by that subtle statement that this claim is "instigated by the Angora Turks to play the United States against Great Britain." We feel happy, nevertheless, because we know that we are no longer neglected. We have a hunch that, when it comes to cutting the Mosul motor, our own dear Standard Oil, directly or indirectly, will come in squarely on the party.

This 300th anniversary business of Little Old New York, which is raising so much cash in Hylanston, is getting tanner from day to day.

For ourselves, we honestly cannot make up our minds whether this "bottle is being staged as a mere advertising stunt for the old burg or that all these hot-up warriors are in dead earnest. For the love of Jubilee!" Here is a town which has won 300 years straight without interruption the most of the time under Tammany rule and yet virtually alive to tell the tale, and a bunch of hatchet-faced Silbustons won't let us celebrate the event.

Watch the move! The Aldermen passing a resolution for a \$300,000 bond issue to celebrate the event and incidentally to immortalize Hylan for an entirely unsuspecting and gullible posterity; a group of public- or otherwise-spirited crads enjoining the Board of Aldermen in the courts from passing the ordinance; third, the unsoldiered celebrators determined on passing the hat and incidentally milking the city employees for the fund; and lastly, Comptroller Craig holding up the "boys" pay if they dare work for the show!

Such is the up-to-the-minute report from the bottle-front. The future is dark and soaked in uncertainties; yet, deep down in our hearts we have a feeling that we should like to place our little nose on the jubilee gang's winning.

We say, jubilees must take their course; anniversaries cannot be stopped by injunctions.

"Criminally is a business, and, like other business fluctuates from day to day."

Coming from no less a crime-posted contemporary of ours than Commissioner Knight, these words are both enlightening and reassuring. We humbly confess that we are not much on crime "news" or "booms." Frankly, we haven't it in our hearts even to connect them invariably with the variations of either Commissioner Knight or Mayor Hylan, as some less good-natured folks would. But we have a right to be amused at these, we think, just the same.

Criminally is a business, but, gosh, how we are tempted to reverse this terse little sentence! With the flaring up of handily in telephone rates, sugar prices, ingalsine and coal, who would not say that "business" is fast evolving into criminality?

perin's work in this strike was of great importance, which was emphasized in Secretary Baroff's report, and was reiterated by Brother Lefkowitz.

The second session opened with a report by President Sigman. He began with the New York dress strike which was already in full swing when he entered office. He naturally had to accept the strike as it stood, with all its issues, and to endeavor to make the best and most of them. The results were quite gratifying, of this there can be no doubt; nevertheless, he would caution that in the future strikes in our organizations be not declared on issues concerning which neither the membership nor the leadership of the union are fully and clearly determined, lest it lead the union to disastrous consequences. In the case of the last strike too much was left to chance, to good luck, and that was essentially wrong.

From the New York strike, Brother Sigman went over to the situation in

Philadelphia. He told in detail all the events that led up to that struggle and what was accomplished by it. From the first day, he determined that it shall not be unduly prolonged; and in conformity with the plan which we have stated already in the columns of "Justice," the strike was settled a couple of weeks after it had been declared. The results speak for themselves. The dressmakers of Philadelphia have now a strong union and most of the dress shops are under union control. The only shops that remain outside of the union are those which did not respond to the strike call from the very outset. There remains, however, but little doubt that with the new organizing tactics adopted by the union and its uninterrupted activity, these shops will soon fall under the control of the union.

President Sigman issued a word of warning and caution with regard to

(Continued on Page 2)



## Co-Operative Notes

### ITALIAN COOPERATORS RUN HOTELS

A model workmen's hotel run on cooperative lines and providing all the modern conveniences and comforts has been established by the Italian co-operators at Milan. It is run by the Cooperative People's Hotel, which is one of the notable enterprises of the Milanese cooperators.

Every evening the "Dormitorio," which is named after Buffoli, a pioneer of Italian cooperation, is full and many applicants have to go away. With a capacity of 339 beds, 113,000 lodgers were accommodated during 1922. The large swimming pool was especially popular with the cooperators of Milan. It is open to the public as well as to the guests of the hotel, and last year it refreshed over 21,000 cooperators. Another feature of this cooperative hotel is the model kitchen, which serves the guests of the inn and as well cooperators living in their own homes who want their food economically prepared and cooked for them. The Milanese cooperators can even buy their dinners prepared and delivered to their own doors by the cooperative delivery wagon.

Dormitorio Buffoli is just one of the chain of People's Hotels maintained by the cooperatives of the city. Still another one, operating on one of the main thoroughfares of the city, lodged 193,775 persons during the past year.

### COOPERATION SAVES PHILIPPINE FARMERS

Philippine farmers' first step in co-operation has proved so helpful that a widespread movement is opening up throughout the islands. The small farmers who constitute a large portion of the 11,000,000 Filipinos, are nearly all in a chronic state of indebtedness, due to the wicked exactions of money lenders. To help them solve their credit problem, the Philippine legislature passed an act in 1915 permitting farmers to form credit associations and to conduct simple co-operative banks managed by themselves and adapted to their own needs. There are now 540 rural credit associations in operation, which are managed by some 2,600 directors without remuneration for the benefit of the 80,000 members. From cooperative credit the Philippine farmers have advanced to cooperative marketing. A movement is now on foot to organize groups of farmers throughout the islands into producers' cooperatives to sell their own products, and already twenty villages boast of such cooperatives.

American farmers have learned by long and expensive experience that cooperative self-help is the greatest hope of the producers. They therefore commend the sturdy young co-operative movement of their comrades across the seas and wish for them the great success which well-conceived co-operative endeavors in America have won.

### A CENTURY OLD COOPERATIVE STORE CELEBRATES

A hundred years ago, eighteen weavers who "viewed with serious concern the many disadvantages in purchasing the necessities of life" put their premises together and started a little store in the highlands of Scotland. They organized the "Larkhall Victualling Society" in Lanarkshire, Scotland, which starting with the noble band of 18 members, now has more than 2,500 on its rolls. Its initial capital, which amounted to no more than \$95.00, has now grown to more than \$100,000. One salesman was able to manage the business in the little Victualling Shop, when it opened its doors, and he was

paid \$4.00 a week for his services. Now the weekly payroll of the employees in the shop totals \$1,500.

Strict and precise rules governed the members of this society in its early days, and explain its long and successful life. Penalties were provided for any disloyal members. The by-laws stated that "every member shall be bound to purchase the whole of his goods from the society, and failing to do so, shall lose his proportion of the profits on the two succeeding balances and if found guilty a second time the managers shall have no alternative but to exclude him from the society." As late as 1864 two members were expelled "as their purchases were not up to the standard set up by the committee." Other penalties were provided. If a member refused to serve on a committee he had to pay a fine of half a crown. If he was late to meeting, he was fined a shilling.

In the early days of the cooperative, the profits were distributed according to the number of shares each workman had invested. In 1892 the society changed its by-laws providing for dividends to be paid on the purchases made.

### TWO YEARS' COOPERATIVE CONGRESS

The Cooperative League, the national educational center of the cooperative movement, announces the publication of a report that sums up the progress of cooperative activities in the United States during the past two years. This publication is the report of the Third Cooperative Congress recently held at Chicago. It contains an instructive discussion on Cooperation and Labor Banks by Walter F. McCabe, Manager of the labor bank now being formed in New York City, and valuable reports on cooperative restaurants, cooperative housing, coal distribution, agricultural cooperation, the promotion of cooperation by trades unions, and papers on many phases of cooperative administration.

The report is sold at cost, and may be ordered from The Cooperative League, 187 West 12th Street, New York City. It is one of the most valuable cooperative documents that has been published in years.

### MUTUAL TELEPHONES FOR SERVICE

Hundreds of telephone companies are being operated by the farmers of the country for mutual service, on the cooperative basis, according to a bulletin just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is reported that in 1912 there were 368 mutual telephone companies, operating 125,956 telephones, with 95,033 miles of wire. During the past ten years, these figures have no doubt been greatly increased.

Certain it is that the cost of service on cooperative telephone lines is far below that of the private companies, for all types of service. While the joint-stock or profit-making companies charged \$16.00 for service on each telephone, for every type of line involved, the mutual companies with capital stock charged \$11.70, and those without capital stock charged only \$7.25, or less than half the rate charged by the private companies. There is no question of the efficiency of the cooperative companies. They operate at a lower cost per telephone, as the number of parties served increases, while the companies organized for profit report an increased cost for service, as the number of telephones increases.

The Department of Agriculture describes the cooperative telephone company as "operated solely for the convenience of its members. All

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members share in the management, either directly or through their representatives, and each bears his pro rata share of the expenses of the enterprise." The farmers are demonstrating their ability to operate telephone companies successfully themselves, just as they are conducting elevators, live-stock agencies, warehouses, wholesale and retail stores, and thousands of other cooperative enterprises on the basis of service.

### "OUR CO-OPERATIVE CAFETERIA"

"Our Co-operative Cafeteria" is the name of a highly successful organization in New York City, that is everything that its name implies. It is owned and controlled by consumers, it is thoroughly cooperative in form and spirit, and it is a model cafeteria. This organization has three cafeterias operating in crowded business districts of New York. Wholesome, tasty food is supplied at the usual prices prevailing, but members receive rebates on their meals. Membership is open to all consumers.

During the past eleven months, the sales of the three branches of the cafeteria have totalled to almost \$300,000. Patronage dividends of 9, 7 and 7 per cent respectively, were returned to members. Since the cafeteria came into existence, about three years ago, a reserve fund of \$25,000 has been accumulated, for the extension of the business. The cooperative has total assets of \$48,816. It is interesting to note that the general manager and most of the members are women.

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# LABOR THE WORLD OVER

## DOMESTIC ITEMS

### SUGAR PROFITEERS ROB PUBLIC.

"For every 1 cent advance in the price of sugar the people are robbed at the rate of \$90,000,000 annually," said United States Senator Ladd in a statement in which he warns politicians, warning storms on the political field if profiteering is not curbed.

Mr. Ladd said Chicago packers are buying hogs about 10 per cent below pre-war prices and selling lard at 10 per cent, ham at 35 per cent and bacon at 20 to 25 per cent above pre-war levels.

### EMPLOYMENT GAINS.

Employment gained 2.3 per cent in February over January, reports the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The largest increase in employment, 17.2 per cent, was in the fertilizer industry, followed by agricultural implements with 12.3 per cent and automobiles with 9.1 per cent. The largest decreases in employment were in slaughtering and meat packing and in car building and repairing, being 4.4 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.

### SOUTHERN NEGROES "STRIKE" AGAINST POOR CONDITIONS.

The exodus of negroes from Mississippi has caused a panic among plantation owners. There are 1,000,000 negroes in Mississippi, and it is estimated that one-tenth of that number has left the state within the past six months. At that rate it will be but a short time until the state will be stripped of its plantation labor. Plantation owners see visions of bankruptcy. That they are genuinely alarmed is indicated by their willingness to make an effort to stop the migration by improving conditions on the plantations.

### STATE INSURANCE PAYS.

The surplus in the State compensation fund last year increased \$346,000 over the preceding year, reports a committee of business men who represent the policyholders in the state fund. Private compensation companies are devoting every effort to destroy the state compensation fund, as they well fear it will eventually develop into state monopoly of workmen's compensation insurance. The state fund report, however, is a blow to the campaign of the private companies.

The state fund has a surplus of \$1,930,000, and of this \$850,000 is set aside for a catastrophe surplus, leaving a net divisible surplus applicable to the policy holders of the fund amounting to \$1,080,000. The number of policies increased from 10,756 to 11,401, showing a wider participation in the fund on the part of the employers of the State.

### STEEL TRUST'S PROFITS REACHES INTO MILLIONS.

Last year's profits of the steel trust were \$39,453,455, according to a report issued by the Steel Corporation. This is after deducting interest on bonds and other charges. President Gary relates a mournful story to stockholders that high wages have reduced the earnings. He says the earnings were "relatively small for the volume of operations conducted and were not commensurate with the investment employed."

The judge did not indicate what production by sweated employees of the steel mill infernos would be satisfactory to him.

### LEADS IN TEXTILE MILLS.

North Carolina has more textile mills than any other state in the Union. While this state leads with 383 cotton mills, Massachusetts holds first place in the total value of textile products manufactured.

Trade unionists are associating these figures with the present unionization agitation among textile workers. The textile manufacturers have made profits through their fondest dreams, but they pay no attention to employer, who at last are beginning to realize that they must depend upon themselves. The mill barons are using every device and appealing to every prejudice to stay this movement, but their efforts, of course, will fail because they run counter to economic necessity. Trade unionists are urging the far-sighted employers in the textile industry to accept this fact rather than waste time and energy in quarreling.

### MINERS SECURE CONTRACT IN WEST VIRGINIA.

Organized miners and coal owners of the Kanawha district have signed an agreement. Both parties are determined to make the coming year a successful one, though surrounded by anti-union coal owners who call on the federal judiciary on the slightest occasion to aid them in their union-busting, low-wage campaign.

The Ohio river coal owners have also signed an agreement, which is another evidence that some coal owners in this state have not permitted profits to blind every sense of justice.

### \$11 A WEEK IS WAGE.

The weekly wage in 1921 for employes in the cloth glove and mitten industry averaged \$11, according to the United States Bureau of the Census.

### DEFECTIVE LOCOMOTIVES.

Nearly one-quarter of the railroad locomotives on the railroads of this country are in need of repair. The actual number of defectives on March 1 is reported at 15,367, or 23.8 per cent.

## FOREIGN ITEMS

### MEXICO

#### MEXICAN OIL INDUSTRY OWNED BY FOREIGNERS.

Mexican citizens have been crowded off the oil lands of their country, and out of the Mexican oil industry, according to figures made public by the Mexican consul. It is shown that Mexican citizens own but one per cent of the oil lands of that country, and that they own and control one and one-tenth per cent of the Mexican oil industry.

The figures show that the Mexican oil industry is valued at \$1,050,000,000, of which American oil magnates own \$606,043,239, or 57.7 per cent. British capital has \$354,776,190 invested, or 33.8 per cent of the total; Holland has 6.7 per cent of the total; Mexico, 1.1-10 per cent; France, Spain, Norway and Cuba combined hold the remaining value, seven-tenths of one per cent.

### NEW SCHOOLS IN MEXICO.

The Mexican government is establishing hundreds of new public schools, according to reports received by Spanish Language Secretary Vargas of the Pan-American Federation of Labor.

"During the months of January and February of the current year," said Secretary Vargas, "over 600 new schools have been established throughout the southern republic. Villages and hamlets that have been neglected by previous governments in the matter of public schools are now receiving attention by the federal department of education. Over 50,000 children are receiving instruction in the new schools. The department of education is planning to provide facilities for the children of every village and hamlet in Mexico."

### AUSTRIA

The menace of the Austrian Fascist organizations and their aggressiveness during recent weeks have led Austrian Labor to retort by the formation of a Republican Defense League. The first executive meeting of the new League was held recently, and the Socialist ex-Minister of War, Herr Julius Deutsch, was elected president. The League is reported already to possess 20,000 members, and its activities will extend throughout Austria. It is determined not to provoke violent conflicts, but is equally determined to resist the armed attacks of Fascists on Socialist workers.

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### NO RAND AMNESTY.

A motion proposed by the Nationalists and the Labor Party, asking for a general amnesty for all who were convicted in connection with last year's strike on the Rand, was rejected by the South African Union House of Assembly by 60 votes to 44.

### CHINA

#### CHILD LABOR IN CHINA.

Women and children of tender years by the tens of thousands are being drawn into the newly created industrial system in China without the protection of legislation or public opinion, according to a report cabled from Shanghai by Miss Mary Dingman, representative of the World's Committee of the Y. W. C. A. in China.

### JAPAN

#### FACTORY REFORM IN JAPAN.

A bill to reform the Japanese Factory Act, now being introduced in the Japanese Parliament, proposes to reduce women's hours of work from 12 to 11, and in silk yarn factories from 13 to 12, and to prohibit women and young persons from working at all between 10 p. m. and 5 a. m. Protection for child workers up to the age of 16 is also sought.

#### WORKERS AND THE RUHR.

The workers' conference, called by a committee of 23 trade unions' representatives in the Ruhr, to be held in Cologne on March 18, has been prohibited by the British authorities. It will probably take place elsewhere.

An appeal has been issued to all railwaymen by the German Railwaymen's Union, asking them to raise a voice against the barbarity of Franco-Belgian militarism, which has been shown recently in the French decree in the Ruhr imposing the death penalty for sabotage by workers on the Rhine-land lines.

## The G. E. B. at Work

(Continued from page 7)

the future of Local 62. The strike of the white gown workers ended well enough indeed, but the local must guard against the repetition of its fate in the last few years during which it suffered greatly through neglect and mismanagement. There are other locals in New York which will require similar attention on the part of the International.

Concerning Chicago, from where President Sigman came straight to the meeting of the Board, and where he had spent a couple of weeks, he declared that discussions still prevail in some of the locals, and this friction taxes heavily the energy of their

most active men and interferes greatly with the work of the union. Chicago wants today an energetic and tactful person who would take the situation in his hands and make the local unions real fighting labor bodies. An active organization campaign among the dressmakers and the skirtmakers is also needed; but like every other city Chicago is covered in the general organization plan worked out by the president and adopted later at this meeting.

The last matter was by far the most significant achievement of the meeting; we shall enlarge on this subject in our next issue.

(To Be Continued.)



# EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM, THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WORKERS' EDUCATION BUREAU OF AMERICA

To Be Held Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15, 1923, in the Auditorium—New School for Social Research—469 West 23rd Street, New York City

### FIRST SESSION

Saturday, April 14th, 10 A. M.  
Convention opened by John L. Sullivan, President Central Trades and Labor Assembly.  
Address of Welcome to Delegates—Governor Alfred E. Smith or representative. (Tentative.)  
President's Address—James H. Maurer.  
Executive Committee's Report—Secretary.

### SECOND SESSION

Saturday, April 14th, 2:30 P. M.  
Address—Prof. Harry Overstreet, College of the City of New York—"The Importance of Educational Methods."  
Subject: Curriculum—Discussion opened by Chairman of Curriculum Committee.

Problems: What in general are the present courses offered in the various workers' educational enterprises? How far do these serve to provide a full balanced curriculum? What are the particular curriculum problems for adult workers' classes? What distinct contribution to a synthesis in the curriculum can be made by the workers' educational movement?

Discussion limited to one hour.  
Address—Prof. H. J. Corman, Columbia University—"The Text-Book Problem."

Subject: Text-books. Discussion opened by Chairman of Text-Book Committee.

Problems: Are the present college text-books adequate for adult workers' education? What are the essentials in the preparation of adequate text-books for adult workers' education? To what extent has the Workers' Bookshelf fulfilled the requirements for such text-books? What are the suggestions for the future volumes? Discussion is open to all.

### THIRD SESSION

Saturday, April 14th, 7 P. M.  
Annual dinner at Yorkville Casino, 210 East 64th Street.  
Toastmaster—James H. Maurer.  
Subject: "Education and Social Progress."

Speakers: Samuel Gompers, President, American Federation of Labor, "Education and the Future of American Labor." Morris Sigman, President, I. L. G. W. U., James H. Robinson, Historian, Author, "Mind in the Making." "Humanizing Knowledge." M. Royal Meeker, Pennsylvania Commissioner Labor and Industry, formerly Chief of Statistical Division International Labor Office. "Workers' Education and the International Office." Miss Mary Goff, Student, Brookwood Workers' College—"The Student's Point of View." E. H. H. Holman, Chairman Educational Committee, Twin City Brotherhood of Railway Clerks—"How People Think." Dinner ticket \$2.50.

### FIFTH SESSION

Sunday, April 15th, 2:30 P. M.  
Report of Officer's Committee.  
Report of Constitutional Committee.  
Report of Finance Committee.  
Report of Membership Committee.  
Report of Nomination Committee.  
Election of Officers.

### SIXTH SESSION

Sunday, April 15th, 8 P. M.  
Address—Mr. E. E. Schwartztrauber, Chairman, Portland Labor College, "Educational Value of Dramatic Work in Labor Colleges."

Subject: Teaching Methods.  
Problems: What is the essential difference in teaching methods between adult workers' education and collegiate education. Relative value of discussion vs. lecture methods. Has the lecture method any place? How can the discussion method be vitalized?

Address—Mr. Toscan Bennet, Brookwood, The Workers' College, "The Problems of a Resident Workers' College."

Subject: Study Class Organization.  
Problems: How should a student organization be organized. What is its function? What is the limit of its services?

Subject: Membership.  
Problems: How can people be interested in workers' education? What methods have succeeded best?

Subject: Publicity. What is the relation of publicity to workers' education? What methods are most effective? How generally does the press carry material on workers' education? Discussion is open to all.

## INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

Ever since human beings began to associate in groups, the problem of proper relations between individuals and society has been the center of thought, discussion and action.

Not only have many volumes been written on this subject, but rivers of blood have been spilled in various attempts to solve this problem.

Next Saturday, April 7, Alexander Fickandler, Educational Director of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, will discuss this question at the Workers' University of the I. L. G. W. U., Washington Irving High School, at 1:30 p. m. He will take up with the class the point of view presented by Ibsen, Shaw, and other writers, and expressed only a short time ago by Laurence Housman in his "Last Poems."

These views will be compared with the conclusions of modern social psychology, as formulated by such writers as McDougall and Dewey.

It is hoped that the discussion will help the students to formulate a working philosophy which will aid them to adjust their own life.

## Weekly Calendar

### WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

Washington Irving High School  
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Room 603

SATURDAY, APRIL 7th, 1:30 p. m. Alexander Fickandler—"The Individual and Society."  
SATURDAY, APRIL 21st, 1:30 p. m. Professor C. von Klenze—Hauptmann and the Proletarian Dramatist.

### UNITY CENTERS

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

MONDAY, APRIL 9th, 8 p. m.: Waistmakers' Unity Center—P. S. 40—320 East 20th Street—Room No. 305.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10th, 8 p. m.: Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 61—Crotona Park East and Charlotte Street—Room No. 501.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11th, 8 p. m.: East Side Unity Center—P. S. 63—4th Street near First Avenue—Room No. 404.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11th: Waistmakers' Unity Center—P. S. 40—320 East 20th Street.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 12th: Waistmakers' Unity Center—P. S. 40—320 East 20th Street.

6:00 p. m. Jacob A. Rebel—English—Room No. 403.

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

## A COURSE ON SOCIAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

By Dr. H. J. CARMAN

Gives at the  
WORKERS' UNIVERSITY  
of the

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION  
Season 1922-1923

LESSON 3—THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE ORIGIN OF POLITICAL PARTIES, 1776-1789.

I. The drafting of the present Constitution of the United States.

1. The weakness of the Articles of Confederation.

(a) In the course of the Revolutionary War, the thirteen colonies became independent states and then bound themselves together in a republic by a contract called the "Articles of Confederation."

(b) But things did not go well. Under the "Articles" there was no executive officer such as the President of the United States today; there was no system of national courts to which citizens could appeal for protection of their rights, or through which they could compel obedience to law. A Congress was provided for, but it had no control of military and financial powers, which are the two great powers of any government.

(c) Therefore, all sorts of financial and commercial disorders arose and for a time it appeared as though the American people were incapable of governing themselves and that English authority would be re-established.

II. The Constitutional Convention.

1. At this juncture Alexander Hamilton, realizing that a stronger government was needed, proposed a general convention for the purpose of drafting a new Constitution.

2. The Constitutional Convention assembled in 1787. Those who composed it were practical men of political experience who had definite reasons for desiring a stronger government.

III. The making of the present Constitution.

1. In drafting the present Constitution, two important contests developed which resulted in heated debates.

(a) The first of these, which centered about the method of selecting federal officers, revealed that there were two very definite groups of people in America, viz., people with large properties who distrusted the mass of the people who had little or no property.

(b) And, secondly, that great fear and jealousy existed between the southern agricultural states and the northern commercial states, just as today there is intense rivalry between the agricultural West and the banking commercial East.

(Continued Next Week)

# With the Waist and Dress Joint Board

By **My K. MACKOFF, Secretary**  
(Minutes of Meeting March 21, 1923)

Brother Berlin in the Chair.

## OUTSIDE COMMITTEES

A committee from the United Workers Co-operative Association, Inc., appeared before the Board stating that the organization they represent was recently organized for the purpose of building homes for the workers, establishing factories and many other things desired by the advocates of the co-operative plan. As they are a young organization and in need of funds they appealed to us to buy tickets for an affair which they had arranged. The Board decided to buy \$10.00 worth of tickets.

## FIRST OF MAY

Brother Reisel called the attention of the Joint Board to the short time left before the First of May and urged that arrangements be made on time. It was decided that a committee consisting of Sisters Kaplan, Kronhardt, Wolkowitz Antonini, Reiff and Reisel work out the necessary plans and submit their recommendations at the next meeting of the Joint Board.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Board of Directors' reported on its meeting of March 10th as follows:

Brothers Essendell, Halpern and Sister Winnick appeared before the Board as a committee representing the executive board of Local No. 66, stating that the number of open shops in the embroidery industry continues to increase. Their local, the committee stated, did all a local can possibly do to organize the non-union shops and during this campaign they succeeded in organizing about 25 shops. However, as the number of open shops is so large, it is impossible for their local without the aid of the Joint Board, accomplish much, and they therefore requested that the Joint Board, first, make suitable arrangements to enforce the clause of our agreement that embroidery should be done in Union shops only and, secondly, that the organization department of the Joint Board should enlist the services of three members of Local No. 66 who should be assigned to doing organization work for the embroidery workers.

A discussion brought out the fact that all the workers in the embroidery open shops are not members of the Union due to the rule of Local No. 66 not to permit any of its members to work in open shops. The Board of Directors' disapproved of this rule on the ground that unions find it more favorable to approach open shops when some Union members are found among the unorganized.

Upon motion the request of Local No. 66 was granted. The opinion of the Board of Directors' was that Local No. 66 should change its policy in regard to its members working in unorganized shops.

The Board of Directors' then took up the request of the Hias that our Joint Board give proper publicity to the decision reached some time ago to help the Hias. Upon motion the request was granted.

A committee from the General Board of Bookbinders' Union appeared before the Board stating that, as our organization from time to time has printing done which requires binding of various kinds, the officers in charge should see to it that the binding is done in Union shops and bears the Union label. Upon motion the request was granted.

In regard to the request of the International about our participating in the bank which is under formation by

them, upon motion the Board of Directors' decided to concur in the request, it being understood that the secretary will make all the necessary arrangements.

Brother Hochman, manager, reported the number of shops in contractual relations with the Union independently or as members of the associations. According to our records of the year 1922 about 600 union shops, independent as well as association, either went out of business, were bankrupt or were lost for other reasons. However, as a result of the organization we had from time to time and the last general strike, the Union has succeeded in retaining as many shops under its control as in the beginning of 1922.

There are many difficulties which arise from disputes in the shops and in order that the work may be taken care of properly the districts were redivided, ten business agents being assigned to take care of the Association shops and five to take care of the independent shops.

In regard to the routine work, the Board was informed that the organization campaign had been launched anew beginning Monday, March 19th. As soon as settlements were made it was disclosed that some of the jobbers, members of the Association, were working with non-union contractors and some of the business agents were assigned daily to visit the shops in order to make them sign agreements with the Union. In connection with this it was reported that the Jobbers' Association appointed additional clerks to accompany our investigators in their investigations of the books as well as of the sample rooms of the jobbers, and to urge the sample-makers to join the Union.

In regard to the organization campaign which we are now carrying on, Brother Hochman maintained that it was necessary on account of the large number of open shops, and in order to balance the shops which for one reason or another are lost to the Union. As to the special circular which was printed for the present organization campaign, Brother Hochman stated that these circulars have been and are continuing to be distributed in the open shops and there is no doubt that there will have an effect upon the workers employed in these shops when they learn of the 40-hour week and the other stipulations carried out in the union shops. As a matter of fact, he stated that some large shops which have been put under pressure, are now introducing the 40-hour week.

## IN RE REVISION OF CONSTITUTION

The Joint Board then took up the advisability of revising the Joint Board constitution and upon motion a committee consisting of Brothers Antonini, Berlin, Reisel, M. Schechter and Sisters Goodman and Wolkowitz was appointed to revise the constitution and submit their recommendations to the Joint Board.

## WORKERS' EDUCATION BUREAU OF AMERICA

### THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION

NEW YORK

April 14-18, 1923

Sessions to be held in Auditorium of New School for Social Research, 409 West 23rd Street, New York.

# My Drifting Boat

By **EVELYN GROSSMAN**

The open lake brought a soothing feeling over my whole being as I beheld the surrounding scenery, which suggested that I name it My Goddess.

In her head to the right was a shimmering streak of golden ripples; to the left was the green moving flow before me. Looking steadily into it, I soon felt that I was elevated, I had wings, and was soaring with the unknown elements. I saw myself above the sky and above the thin white clouds. Everything was continually changing. Various forms were created and beautified by that great artist, the Sun, changing into designs on one side and into graceful figures on the other. They all moved about slowly as if not knowing where, but they had to go on, nevertheless.

I heard a countless orchestra of sweet melodies, and saw perennial green woods, which looked merely like a wreath around my Goddess' head. Yet it was a dwelling place for those little songsters whose lives, as ours, are crowded with ups and downs. The situation is similar to ours; a world that speaks of love, life, and romance.

Little breezes ran through my hair caressingly and touching my face, seemed to bring new information to me, causing a restlessness, yet positive, mood. The sun shone on me and made me feel joyful as he sent his loving rays on everything below.

Everything around and about me spoke of a beautiful march everywhere,—everything was in motion. It made me feel like the deprived child who gazed in amazement at a wonderful show for the first time. I wanted to know what was going on in the deep water, but there was darkness—mystery. I tried hard to penetrate it with my eyes, but it was all left to my imagination. It seemed to say, "I do not reveal myself."

Suddenly I saw a dark cloud covering the sun. My boat was drifting. A sadness sank into my heart, and filled me with gloom. Leaning on my hands sideways, I was watching the changes both in my Goddess and myself. It made me understand our relationship to each other. My questions still remained unanswered.

The branches were bending lower in command of nature's forces, and hummed something to each other. I

was pushed on further. The wind sang a lullaby to me and rocked my boat in a swaying motion. The green woods lost their pretty, golden touches, and were ready to weep; the water flowed much faster. The wreath on my Goddess' head became dull. Everything changed in a few moments. Why do we get Rain, and Sunshine, Pain, and Pleasure? No answer came at first, yet the remote silence was golden just then, and spoke more loudly than words to me. I wanted to understand what I saw, and Nature's actress gave me Joy and Pain and Restlessness. She changed my moods as often as she wanted. Such was my reaction; that in all I knew about her. The majority of us never question, while those who do are doomed to extreme pain, yes, pain. I felt almost forlorn and again expected some information. My familiar sigh from within answered me, the sigh which came from deep, inner regions.

My boat drifted. A few minutes later I perceived smiles again before me for the sun came out and brought love to everything below. Joy for me. My face brightened up, and new hopes came to my mind. A golden reflection illuminated the lake and warmed my heart. The very air seemed to be more fragrant. Still, I drifted . . . Little white heads peeped from the water. A few seconds later I felt a very pleasant sound, and saw that I was on a bed of lilies. The branches embraced my boat, partly hiding it from view. I felt the tender arms of my Goddess bringing a desire to abandon myself to the solitary and beautiful surroundings. Leaning my head on the extended hands, I felt infinite Love and Pain penetrating me. First the former, then the latter. Tears, streamed down my cheeks, but my head was erect. Grabbing my oars, I began hastily to throw the branches from me.

I faced the sun in demand of an answer. "Ha, ha, ha," laughed he, and said, "So long as I remain the unknown to you you worship me for being clandestine." I felt that I lived when my boat brought me to the shore.

The few hours with nature, and the lesson she taught me will always linger with me.

## BRIDGEPORT MASS MEETING VERY SUCCESSFUL

### INCREASES GIVEN BY EMPLOYERS TO CORSET WORKERS HELP ORGANIZATION DRIVE

The mass meeting called by nine trade unions in Bridgeport for Thursday, March 29th, brought out hundreds of workers. The speakers of the evening were George J. Bowen, organizer for the International Association of Machinists, and our own general organizer, Arturo Giovannitti. "Our young girls in New York are working 40 hours and getting \$44," Giovannitti said, in the course of his speech. "The campaign of killed machinists for \$44 for 44 hours is indeed modest."

Increases to various operations in the several corset factories have been granted voluntarily by the employers in the last few weeks. Instead of making the workers lose interest in the organization, these increases have speeded up the organization campaign, as our members and the Bridgeport corset workers in general realize that it is the organization which has been

responsible for these improved conditions.

"When the employers made their wage cuts in 1920 and 1921, they did so on a collective and general basis. Now they must make their increases through collective bargaining; if the workers are to be satisfied."

The next event of interest will be the dance to be given by Local 33 on April 15th. It is expected that over five hundred members and their friends will attend this dance.

## LECTURE AT WORKERS' UNIVERSITY, SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH

A lecture will be given at our Workers' University, Washington Irving High School, on Saturday, April 7th, at 1:30 p. m. The subject will be announced later.

**STUDENTS OF UNITY CENTERS AND WORKERS' UNIVERSITY WHO HAVE CHANGED RESIDENCE ARE REQUESTED TO SEND NEW ADDRESSES TO OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.**

# The Week in Local 10

By JOSEPH FISH

## GENERAL

The notification by the Record Department of the International that 766 members are nine months in arrears prompted Manager Dubinsky to send a circular letter to all those men advising them that the Executive Board has granted them seven days grace to meet their obligations before their names are dropped from the membership roll. According to the records compiled, which the department says is a preliminary report, there is a total membership of 3809.

An analysis of the report shows a good standing membership of 2048. This number consists of members, some of whom are paid up in advance and others who do not owe more than 12 weeks' dues. Then it shows 1761 members who owe from four to nine months' dues. The majority of this number are those who have been suspended. A smaller number consists of those men who owe from seven to nine months' dues and who are about to be dropped from membership unless they appear within the next week or two to pay their dues.

Of course this report is by no means complete. A good many of the members dropped have already paid their dues which puts them in the good standing column. Then there are the new members who are coming in each month. Taking this into consideration, the Local may claim a membership of about 3500 who are employed in the cloak and dress industries. Adding to this some six or seven hundred members who are working in the trades not controlled by any Joint Board, the union may claim a membership of about 4200 in normal times.

A good many of the 766 dropped, whom Manager Dubinsky has notified of this effect, have responded already to the letters. It is not often that grace is allowed dropped members, but, owing to the fact that the members of Local 10 have not yet become used to the nine-month period, Dubinsky decided to familiarize them with the change and incidentally grant them grace.

According to the old clause of the constitution of Local 10, a member was not considered dropped until he owed one year's dues and more; in order to comply with the rules of the International the local changed this clause. The manager wishes to direct the attention of the members to the fact that this unusual procedure will not be repeated. Hence the members should bear in mind that part of the constitution governing arrears.

The Secretary reports unusual activity for the month of March in the finance department. The month showed 125 applicants who have paid up their application fees and who have been obligated as members. This number is by far the largest in any one month during the past few years.

This unusual activity is the result of the stoppage in the cloak trade and the strikes in the dress and miscellaneous trades, which brought new members into the union and which compelled ex-members to reinstate themselves.

Considering everything, it will be very likely that when the International sends out the next report of the membership standing, Local 10 will have more than regained its losses. These losses, by the way, are not at all surprising when the employment conditions of the past two years in the ladies' garment trade are recalled.

## CLOAK AND SUIT

In spite of the fact that the slack season is about to set in this trade

the office of Local 10 as well as the Joint Board are preparing for the coming season and are effecting such plans as will enable the union to cope with some of the problems.

One of the immediate questions with which Manager Dubinsky is taken up right now is the old question of division of work. In spite of the fact that Brother Dubinsky has in the past taken rigid steps with a view to strictly enforcing this point, there are still some firms and members of the union who insist upon exceptions to the rule. Although the slack season is not yet in full force, the manager has already begun calling shop meetings of such shops as do not strictly adhere to the rule of equal division of work.

Another question with which the union is confronted is the jobbing industry. The writer has on previous occasions touched upon this question in these columns. He has stated that the organization is perfecting plans for the control of the jobbers.

One of the first things now under way is the creation of the jobbing department under the permanent supervision of Vice-President Harry Wander, formerly manager of Local 23. That the cloak industry is faced with a jobber and contractor problem has long been in evidence, and nothing but an organized concerted effort will check the evils arising from the contracting system; this is the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Unions has in mind in the establishment of a single department to devote its energies to the problem.

One of the big problems for Local 10 in the contractors' shops is the placing of men to cut the work. Manager Dubinsky has done a great deal towards following these shops up, but he realizes that a central control is necessary. He is therefore devoting a good deal of his time just now to the studying of a system which is in use in a kindred organization.

It is somewhat too early to go into detail concerning this system. It will be necessary to change the character of the present system to a considerable degree in its application to the cutting trade. Hence the need for time and careful study.

The coming-on of the slack season is not preventing the union from going on with its organization work. Just now the Joint Board has decided upon a campaign for the reorganization of the shops in Brooklyn which are run by contractors. Brother Arthur Weinstein has been appointed special organizer for the Brooklyn office. Weinstein needs no introduction. He is one of the "old-time" members of Local 10 and is quite well known to the members, and the trade is well known to him.

An extensive report of the campaign in Brooklyn will be given here in the next issue.

## WAIST AND DRESS

Organization work in the dress and waist industry did not cease with the ending of the last general strike. This is largely due to the contracting system which has made considerable inroad in this industry.

At the last meeting of the Joint Board of the Dress and Waistmakers' Union, it was reported that investigations are being made in all of the shops for the purpose of checking up the sources from which the work comes. It is expected that the results will be strikes against a number of jobbers. These jobbers, the reports of the investigations will show, are violating

the agreement by sending work to non-union shops.

The waist trade is also occupying the attention of the union at the present time. Some of the waist manufacturers in this trade have organized an association and have sought conference with the union. An informal gathering already took place.

The union has made the signing of an agreement with this association conditional upon the deposit by each employer of \$100 as security for its faithful performance.

The office expects to be taken up with shop meetings, now that the slack season is on. Instructions will have to be given the men with regard to slack time problems. However, it is best that the men appear in the office without waiting for calls. This applies especially to the men who are working in shops with two cutters and in the one-man shops.

Attention has already been called to those of the men who work in such shops to the need for following up their places of employment. While the union has its business agents and controllers who make periodic visits to the shops, the cutters employed therein are very often in a better position to know what goes on in the shops. They can very often enter the shops for the purpose of looking around.

After such visits the men should come to the office and report what they find, for very often enough operators are employed to warrant a little work for the cutter.

## MISCELLANEOUS

That the strike in the white goods trade ended in a victory for the union was reported here last week. Now the office is taken up with the regular routine work, that is, it is now canvassing the shops with a view to seeing that union cutters are employed and that the agreement is lived up to generally.

Members should not fail to attend the special meeting of this branch on Monday, April 16th, in Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place, at 7:30 p. m. While membership meetings are attended by members of the union only, in this instance those who have declared their intention of becoming members will also be admitted. This is done in order that the men may get used to the idea of regularly attending meetings. To this end the office will send, in addition to the notices posted here, postal cards notifying them of all meetings. Members of the Union should ask applicants, with whom they may be working, to attend the next meeting in the event that they do not receive a notice.

This meeting will be an important one. Manager Dubinsky will address the men and will go into details regarding the placing of this branch on a permanent footing.

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# 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