

"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. 18.

Monday, April 27, 1923.

Price 2 Cents

A MAY DAY MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SIGMAN

To the Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Sisters and Brothers:

Wherever you may be found, and whatever your feelings and beliefs may be concerning all other problems of life and labor, today, the First of May, I am confident you are all like one inspired by one dominating and great desire and hope for labor's unity: for unity in our own organization; for unity among workers in other labor bodies, and for unity among workers all over the world.

For today, the First of May, more than at any other time, it must be emphasized as strongly as we know how, that the only path that leads to the emancipation of the working-class from all the plagues and woes that beset it, is the path of unity. Today we can agree at least on this point, that our common enemy cannot and never will be defeated as long as the workers remain split in numerous contesting and fighting camps, arrayed against each other.

Today's celebration of the First of May, as I understand it, cannot as yet be regarded as a demonstration of labor's unity, but rather as a demonstration for labor's unity. How can one speak of unity when the workers everywhere are engaged in a senseless, brutal fight against each other? Instead of this desired unity, we only see the disheartening spectacle of fratricide—in one land brutally in the open, and in another under a veil. In the face of this stupid slaughter of comrades, is it to be wondered that reaction is raging so brazenly all over the world?

No, as I understand it, the May Day celebration cannot as yet be regarded as a demonstration of solidarity. It can be viewed merely as a wish, as a yearning, an aspiration towards this great ideal of unity. Also as a powerful protest against all the dark powers who, under this mask or another, are striving to split the force of workers and to degrade it into dust.

In this sense, brothers and sisters of our International, let us celebrate the First of May. Let us solemnly pledge to do all in our power to convert this ideal of labor solidarity into a reality. Let us pledge today, on the First of May, to root out from our hearts and minds all petty personal ambitions which lead to misunderstanding between workers and workers. Let us strive to remember each day in the year, not only on the First of May, that our unity is our most priceless treasure and we be unto him who lifts a hand to destroy or desecrate it!

In this spirit the First of May was proclaimed by the congress of the world's workers in Paris in 1889, and in this self-same spirit let us celebrate it today, until labor's solidarity ceases to be a mere striving or ideal, and the world and all within it will belong to the men and women who work.

With fraternal May Day greetings.

MORRIS SIGMAN,
President I. L. G. W. U.

Greetings from Sec'y Baroff

Los Angeles, Cal., April 27, 1923.

I send greetings to all the members of our International for the First of May. May I hope that the life of the workers, the creators of all that is good and great in our world, shall be as beautiful and ennobling as Nature is in this part of the world, on the shores of the Pacific Coast, where I am at present?

Sincere greetings to all friends.

ABRAHAM BAROFF,
Secretary-Treasurer, I. L. G. W. U.

May Day Message From Morris Hillquit

With a feeling of deep satisfaction and a spirit of joy I join my hundred thousand comrades of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in the celebration of this First of May, for once again our international holiday is assuming its wonderful and magic meaning for the militant workers of all lands.

In the last eight years the day which the progressive working men and working women of the world have by common accord set apart for demonstrations of their common struggles for

a purified and regenerated society and as a symbol of their international solidarity, was desecrated by fratricidal slaughter between the workers of different nations and by destructive feuds in their ranks within each nation. The ugly nightmare is rapidly lifting. From the other side of the Atlantic come the glad tidings that the Socialist workers of the world are to be reunited within a few weeks—a formidable army of millions and millions of toilers of all countries of the globe banded together for aggressive battle against the united world-power of capitalist reaction. May the Socialist union of international scope prove the forerunner of a speedy, genuine and lasting merger of all proletarian forces in each and all countries including our own, and may the brave members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union lead in the glorious process of labor's awakening.

MORRIS HILLQUIT.

Cleveland Cloakmakers Win 15% Wage Raise

President Sigman and Vice-President Perlstein Make Impressive Statements Before Board of Referees—Wage Increase to Become Operative May First—Wage Scales for Men and Women More Equal—Workers Elated Over Great Victory of the Union

The cloakmakers of Cleveland will this year celebrate the First of May with a wage increase of 15 per cent. This raise extends to the workers in all the branches of the cloak trade, and is a great victory for the Cleveland organization.

President Sigman came to Cleveland from New York specially to attend the sessions of the Board of Referees. It is the first instance in Cleveland cloak negotiations that the President of the International Union attended a Board of Referees hearing and it has obviously contributed a favorable element to the situation. All aides involved were impressed by the fact that they were dealing in this case not only with the Cleveland Cloakmakers' Union but with the International as a whole, of which the

Cleveland workers are an integral part.

Vice-president Perlstein presented the case of the union before the Board of Referees, delivering an impressive, masterly array of facts, which had a strong effect upon all present. After him President Sigman took the floor and described the situation of the cloak workers of Cleveland, emphasizing the point that they were entitled to receive equal pay with the workers in other cloak centers. The union also presented a lot of statistical data and findings prepared for it by the Labor Bureau, Inc., of New York, pointing to the necessity of a wage raise in the cloak industry of Cleveland.

Nevertheless, the representatives of
(Continued on page 2.)

Cloak Joint Board In Own New Home

MOVES NEXT WEEK TO LEXINGTON AVE. AND 50TH STREET

The Joint Board of Cloakmakers' Union recently purchased a home of its own, consisting of an eight-story building located at 25th Street and Lexington Avenue. The building is only six years old and is equipped with all modern improvements. It has enough space to house the offices of all the departments of the Joint Board.

The building has now been cleared of its former tenants and the officers of the Joint Board are ready to move. Beginning Monday next, the big job of moving the executive machinery of the Cloakmakers' Union will begin. Secretary Langer of the Joint Board forwarded the following announcement to all the members of the locals affiliated with the Joint Board apprising them of this change of headquarters:

CLOAKMAKERS, ATTENTION!
Beginning Monday, April 30th, all the offices of the Joint Board will be

located in our new home, Lexington Avenue and 50th Street.

Brother Slutsky's office, controlling all independent and American Association shops, from 25th Street to Harlem, including the referee shops, will be located on the fourth floor.

Brother Praisman's office, controlling all skirt and dress shops, will also be located on the fourth floor.

Brother Hunter's office, controlling all independent and American shops from 11th to 25th Street, will be located on the fifth floor.

The Jobbing Department, under the control of Brother Wanderer, will occupy part of the sixth floor.

The offices of the president, secretary, general manager and treasurer and also that of the Russian-Polish branch, will be located on the sixth floor.

Dues will be collected temporarily on the third floor, until the regular dues department will be completed, which is expected to be about June 1st.

Topics of the Week

By MAX D. DANISH

UNIONS AS SHIP-OWNERS.

ON a par with the banking ventures recently launched by labor unions, the offer made by the Marine Engineers' Association of the Port of New York to the United States Steamship Association, of \$300,000. for the purchase of three vessels, has aroused a great deal of interest in labor circles all over the country.

The Engineers' Association, in beginning negotiations for the ships, states that they essentially hope to buy a fleet of vessels for trans-Atlantic and Lake trade. It is a thoroughly cooperative and constructive undertaking, intended as an entering wedge into the realm of marine transportation hitherto controlled by a powerful group of shipping interests, otherwise known as the Shipping Trust.

The offer of the marine engineers, as was to be expected, has been rejected. Chairman Lasker declines to sell the three ships to the engineers' union on the ground that the sum offered is too small. The fact that over 900 ships owned by the United States are today rotting away in the ports of the country and will quite likely, after a year or two, be sold as junk to the first taker, does not seem to disturb Chairman Lasker, though it is notorious that the shipping interests are for the time being refusing to buy this great armada of government-owned ships in order to grab them at their own price at the proper moment.

This is what the engineers' union is pointing out in a spirited rejoinder to the Government's refusal to sell them the ships in question. Of course, hardly anything better could have been expected of the Shipping Board, typical adjunct of the Harding Administration that it is. The Engineers' Association, however, is not discouraged over this first rebuff. When the facts surrounding their offer and its rejection by the Shipping Board are given greater publicity, the pressure of public opinion might yet force the Shipping Board not to stand in the way of this great cooperative venture undertaken by the Marine Engineers' Union.

GERMAN LABOR AND THE FRENCH.

THE true attitude of the organized workers of Germany towards the occupation of the Ruhr by France has been the subject of some speculation, even in the labor press. An impression was sought to be created that the workers of Germany were not entirely unanimous in bitterly opposing French invasion. It was asserted that the Ruhr debacle was being viewed by labor in Germany as merely the sequence of a quarrel between the German and the French industrialist groups, and that the German workers do not care which side won, feeling sure that they stood nothing to gain thereby.

The letter forwarded this week to Senator Borah, by the General Federation of Trade Unions of Germany, which represents the views of the twelve million organized women workers, substantially clears up the position of German labor with regard to the French invasion of the Ruhr. In clear, terse language, it recites the fact that, since 1918, the workers of Germany have borne the entire brunt for the establishment of a republic and for its safeguarding against the heaviest odds. The advance of the French into the Ruhr with the obvious intention of annexing Germany's richest industrial resources, the statement says, is stabbing the German labor movement in the back, weakening its efforts for maintaining the republic and playing obviously into the hands of the Monarchists, anti-Semites, and the German Fascists of the Bavarian variety.

The German workers, of course, are not blinded to the fact that German capital is battling for its supremacy, if not life, in resisting the attempt of the French industrialists to grab the Ruhr iron and coal in addition to the Lorraine coke, already absorbed by them with the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France. They, however, regard this merely as one of the aspects of the general situation. The march of the French into the Ruhr to them means not only the crippling of German industry, the augmented misery of the working classes, and the further lowering of the already abysmal purchasing power of the workers' earnings in Germany. To them it means also, if not most of all, that the black monarchist forces of the Fatherland have been given greater strength to plot against and to destroy the young German republic—fought for, nurtured and sustained from the day of its creation almost exclusively by the blood and nerve of the German workmen.

THE "CLEAN BOOKS" CRUSADE.

WITH film censorship, drama censorship, drink censorship, press censorship already in full swing in a land notoriously the habitat of the "brave and the free," there is required only the additional touch of general book censorship to round out the picture and to make these United States the happiest domain for snooping censors, intermediaries, and private life controllers the world has ever seen.

The ease with which these unending abridgments of our elementary liberties are being sought and achieved is indeed staggering. One cannot help wondering if these liberties, supposed to be greatly cherished and valued by the American people, really ever meant anything to them. Take, for instance, this new crusade against "unclean" books. The movement for it, started only a few months ago after Judge Ford's daughter of New York had complained to her father that D. H. Lawrence's book, "Women in Love" had offended her sensibilities, has by today assumed such proportions that it will probably require every effort on the part of publishers, book lovers, authors, editors, and book printers to smother the bill which, if enacted into law threatens to remove from library shelves some of the world-renowned classics and the finest jewels of world literature.

The after-war hysteria, of which this censorship business is but one aspect, which many of us thought has subsided, is still pervading the land. Witness the spectacle of the so-called "Daughters of the American Revolution" convention which was devoted almost exclusively to denouncing the labor, radical and even the liberal movements. Witness the vituperations this year with even greater venom than ever before, at the annual confab of the National Civic Federation where everything and anything that av-

Cleveland Cloakmakers Win 15% Raise

(Continued from page 1)

the employers made a strong fight against the granting of the request of the union. The Board of Referees, after listening attentively to both sides, granted the demand of the union and ordered a wage increase for every branch of the trade. The raise ranges from 10 per cent to the highest paid workers to 25 per cent to the poorest paid. Here is a table of this wage increase as it affects the workers in all the branches of the trade:

COAT AND SUIT

	1922	1923	%
Pattern-grading	\$22.00	\$24.00	10%
Full-skilled cutters	37.00	42.00	10%
Finishers—male	29.00	34.00	15
Skilled operators—male	40.00	46.00	15
Sample tailors—male	35.00	40.00	15
Full pressers—male	35.00	40.00	14
Sub-pressers—male	32.00	36.00	12%
Button-sewers	17.00	20.00	18
Finishers—female	23.00	26.00	15
Operators—female	23.00	26.00	20

DRESS INDUSTRY

	1922	1923	%
Full-skilled cutters	37.00	42.00	13%
Skilled operators—male	40.00	46.00	15
Full-top pressers—male	35.00	40.00	14
Machine pressers	23.00	26.00	14
Sample makers—female	24.00	28.00	25
Skilled operators—female	25.00	30.00	20

SKIRT INDUSTRY

Full-skilled cutters	34.50	39.50	11.4%
Skilled operators—male	38.00	42.00	10%
Skilled operators—female	38.00	42.00	10.5%
Sample tailors—male	33.00	37.00	12.1%
Full pressers—male	32.00	36.00	12.5%
Special machine operators—female	15.00	17.00	13.3%

The sessions of the Board of Referees took place on Saturday and Sunday last, April 21 and 22. This was the first hearing of the Board under the chairmanship of Mr. Morris L. Cook, well-known industrial engineer and lecturer on economic subjects. The entire Board attended.

On Sunday evening, after the Board of Referees had rendered its decision, the Joint Board, together with about sixty active members of the union, tendered President Sigman a farewell reception. On this occasion the Joint Board presented to Vice-president Perlestein a gold watch in recognition of his splendid work for the union when he was its manager.

From Cleveland, Sigman and Perlestein left for Chicago to organize the Western Department of the International, of which Vice-president Perlestein will be the manager in accordance with the decision of the last meeting of the General Executive Board.

ored of progress, advanced thought and independent political and economic action on the part of the workers was howled down as traitorous!

So—whether this censorship of the written word is actually enacted into law or killed in committee for the time being—the very attempt to introduce it is a sign of how infested is the atmosphere we live in these days and how ready and eager the forces of intolerance and fanaticism are to choke and smother every bit of light and freedom that still flickers in our midst.

THE END OF THE CAPMAKERS-HATTERS FEUD.

THE news that the President of the United Hatters' Union recommended last week, at the convention of the hat workers, that the controversy between the hatters' organization and the United Cloth Hat and Capmakers' Union be brought to an end, is certainly glad tidings to the organized labor movement of this country—and to the ladies' garment workers in the particular.

The news is still more pleasing, because this settlement is recommended, and will quite likely be so adopted, on a basis that grants the capmakers full jurisdiction over the millinery trade, a contention which was at the bottom of this controversy and which has caused this quarrel lasting several years and has put the capmakers outside the American Federation of Labor. The recommendation of President Green of the Hatters that they turn over the millinery workers to the capmakers and hereafter work in perfect harmony and unity with them is a generous, manly and square statement.

The workers in the needle trades have for years watched with aching hearts this quarrel, knowing full well that it means only harm to the interests of the organized workers in both trades and a waste of precious effort and energy that could be used with far greater advantage in the fight against the common enemy. The settlement of this big controversy will automatically take the capmakers back into the fold of the Federation and will release their entire activity towards the single aim of making their union stronger and of greater effect and value for the workers in the cap and millinery trades.

ATTENTION, RUSSIAN-POLISH CLOAKMAKERS!

THE RUSSIAN-POLISH BRANCH of the Cloakmakers' Union of New York invites all its Members and their Families to a

CONCERT AND ENTERTAINMENT

Arranged by the Branch in Honor of the

FIRST OF MAY

on Tuesday Evening, May 1, 1923, at 7 p. m.

AT THE
PEOPLE'S HOUSE, 315 East 10th Street
ADMISSION FREE

The Concert promises to be a very interesting affair at which the members of the Branch will spend a pleasant time with their friends and comrades.

With fraternal greetings,

ARRANGEMENT COMMITTEE,
A. E. SAULICH, Sec'y.

Eugene V. Debs Greets Our International

May Day, in the mouth of a typical proletarian, has a significance.

In the first place it speaks in an International tongue, and to all the toiling masses of the world. It blots out all boundary lines, and all national distinction so far as these obstruct or interfere in the slightest degree with the International Solidarity of the working-class.

In the next place, May Day, appropriated by the workers for themselves and not patronizingly granted them by their benevolent masters as a boon to wage slavery, draws the line of the class struggle sharply between the proletariat and their capitalist rulers and exploiters.

May Day, to the understanding mind and heart of the class-conscious workers, is dedicated to the International class struggle, and issues its clarion call that thrills like a bugle blast to all the workers of all nations to unite for the overthrow of capitalism and wage slavery, and for the emancipation of the toiling and producing millions throughout the world.

It is this monumental fact that gives May Day its significance.

It is above all a revolutionary holiday.

May Day is written in scarlet letters in the proletarian calendar. It is the flaming symbol of the social revolution that is shaking the foundations of capitalism wherever its iron heels are felt upon the neck of labor, and every awakened worker hails it as a sign and promise of his coming liberation.

It is the first day of the year chosen by the workers to signalize the beginning of the conquest that will end only when all the days of the year are days of freedom and peace and happiness for all the workers of the world.

On this day our hearts are with our imprisoned comrades and with those under arrest and on trial for having manfully stood for the working class, and we pledge them as we clasp their hands through prison bars that we will not abate our devotion to them nor relax our energies in their behalf until the last of them has been rescued from the despicable grasp of the infamous capitalist masters and their disgusting official henchmen. As long as these comrades of ours, these fearless fighters for the oppressed and down-trodden, are in the pestiferous black-holes of capitalism, the government under which we live and which gags our lips in the exercise of our constitutional rights, presents a disgraceful spectacle to the world.

To the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union special greetings are due for the progressive spirit so manifest in its activities, and for the promise it gives of the May Day coming in the near future, when all the needle trades will be embraced in the grand industrial organization standing staunchly and battling bravely for the victory that shall crown the class struggle, and glorify the age of industrial freedom and world-wide brotherhood.

May Day Greetings

From Abraham Cahan

MAY DAY GREETINGS TO THE INTERNATIONAL

Accept my May Day greetings and best wishes. This is the Festival of International Labor. The working-class of all countries is united under the flag of Socialism whose power is asserting itself today with greater emphasis and with a surer sense of approaching victory than ever before. The voice of labor is speaking out in triumphant accents in the halls of parliament in England, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and other countries. If we in America are behindhand, this backwardness of ours is due to causes of a temporary nature. There are, however, encouraging exceptions in the United States and one of the most glorious among these is your great organization.

ABRAHAM CAHAN, Editor-in-Chief, Jewish Daily Forward.

To the Members of the International

By SIDNEY HILLMAN

(President Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America)

Comrades, Brothers and Sisters:

It is my great pleasure to extend to you fraternal May Day greetings. May Day is the great festival of working men the world over. On this day all differences, all division of opinion and policy, are forgotten. Labor everywhere demonstrates its fundamental unity, its solidarity and brotherhood which no divergence of doctrine

can sever, no conflict of sects can break.

May I not, on the eve of our great world-wide workers' holiday, stress the need of maintaining this unity all the year through? Labor must be at one throughout the Labor Movement. Each group, each industry, must be at one within its own ranks. This May Day is the first after a long and

difficult depression in which employers throughout our country, and especially employers in the Needle Trades, have sought to break down that which tens of thousands of men and women have built up through years of overwhelming struggle and sacrifice.

Of course, they have failed. Our Unions have withstood the assault of the open-shop movement, and of the other enemies of organized labor. We have withstood the attacks because we have presented against them a united front. Our ranks were closed, and being closed, were impregnable.

At the present time each industrial unit of the Needle Trades is face to face with new problems. It is my deepest hope that every man and every woman in each industry of the Needle Trades and in the Needle Trades as a whole will refuse to allow accidental differences to frustrate the essential unity of interest and purpose in our ranks.

Labor's successes of the past have been the result of the unity within its ranks. Its hope for the future rests upon this unity. I am certain that the Needle Trades, as so many times in the past, will serve as pioneers and pathfinders for the realization of this hope.

SIDNEY HILLMAN.

From Joseph Schlossberg

(General Secretary-Treasurer Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America)

I was glad of the opportunity given to send a message of May Day greetings to the members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. My first contact with the labor movement was when I joined the Cloakmakers' Union in New York over 33 years ago.

Shortly after I became a member of the Cloakmakers' Union, I found myself in the great lockout struggle of 1890. A number of the workers had been organized in ineffective shop organization, which bore the names of the employers, who were willing to have it so. It was different when the workers formed one union for all the cloakmakers in the city, regardless of shop or branch of trade. That had to be crushed quickly. The employers instituted a general lockout. It was a most interesting situation, as both the employers and the workers were novices in the struggle. The employers had the advantage of wealth and long residence in this country. The workers were poor and new arrivals, ignorant of the language and the ways of the country. All authorities agreed that the workers would lose. But the workers set up a new authority, their united power, and overruled all others. After three months of intense suffering the workers won. That was the first class struggle and the first class triumph that I had participated in.

That was my introduction to the labor movement. It remained indelibly impressed on my soul.

You will, therefore, not wonder that my interest in the progress of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is so great. The Cloakmakers' Union and the International have fought great struggles and made steady progress. Looking back upon these decades of progress and achievement, I feel proud of our sister organization.

As a representative of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, I can joyfully join to the members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, "Your efforts have given us courage in our own work. Your moral and financial aid has contributed greatly to our own success. I am happy in the consciousness that our success has likewise been of help to you."

On the occasion of this May Day celebration I send the greetings of the Amalgamated members to the members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers, of all needle trades unions and organized labor generally.

May next May Day find us nearer our ultimate goal—the emancipation of the working class from capitalistic oppression.

All our Locals Celebrate May Day By Concerts and Mass-Meetings

May First, the great international holiday, this year be celebrated by concerts, mass meetings, dances, and similar entertainments by practically every local of our International in Greater New York.

Local No. 1 will have a concert on Tuesday evening, May 1st, at Lexington Theatre, Lexington Avenue at 51st Street. Talent of note has been engaged for the occasion. President Sigman will be the principal speaker. Brother Shane will also address the meeting and Brother Levy will be its chairman.

Local No. 9 will have a concert and mass meeting at the Lexington Theatre on Tuesday afternoon. It will begin at 1:30 sharp. Brother L. Hyman will be chairman.

Local No. 11, the Brownville Cloakmakers' Union, will celebrate the event on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the Brownville Labor Lyceum. A concert will be given in which the chorus of Local No. 11 will take part, under the direction of the well-known leader, Mr. L. Lioy.

Local No. 17, the Reftemakers' Union will have a concert and mass meeting at Kessler's Second Avenue Theatre, in which a number of the leading

actors of the Jewish stage will take part. The meeting will be addressed by ex-Congressman Meyer London and Editor S. Yanofsky. Vice-president Heller will act as chairman.

The Waist and Dress Joint Board will celebrate May Day by a mass meeting at the Central Opera House, 67th Street near Third Avenue. Among the speakers will be Brother Arturo Giovannitti and the chairman will be Brother Harry Berlin.

Local No. 35 will have a concert, mass meeting and dance at Tammany Hall, 14th Street and Third Avenue, beginning at 7 p. m. Speeches will be given by President Sigman, S. Yanofsky and J. Feinberg. Vice-president Breslav will preside.

Local No. 66, the Bonnaz Embroiderers' Union, will have a concert on Tuesday afternoon at Park View Palace, at 110th Street and Fifth Avenue; in the evening the Local will have a banquet to celebrate its tenth anniversary.

Local No. 90 begins May Day celebrations on Monday evening, April 30th, at a Mayflower Ball, which will take place at the Harlem Educational Center Building, 63 East 109th Street.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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

MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor

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5% instead of 7%

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103 East 14th Street, corner of Fourth Avenue and Union Square

This May-Day is Pay-Day

By J. CHARLES LAUE

It is customary in celebration of May Day to write and orate on its spiritual significance to the workers; to compare the rebirth of Nature and the revival of all things that grow after the winter's sleep to the coming emancipation of the toilers in the Industrial Commonwealth of the future.

There is something more material to jubilate about, however, for those inclined that way, for this May Day is pay-day. It marks one of the most remarkable waves of wage increases for workers yet experienced in the economic life of the United States. Practically every industry has been afforded almost simultaneously, a casual review of the news of the last three weeks showing that 1,807,000 workers have been offered voluntary increases of about 10 per cent approximating an annual wage increase of more than \$222,000,000.

It is true that this amount restores what has been taken away during the depression period and that prices are rising to take away the benefit of the raise, but if one despaired over the wage reduction in a period of falling prices, as many did during 1920 and 1921, then by the same reasoning one can view with satisfaction the recovery of the old wage levels.

The big industries, started it, and the little ones and miscellaneous manufacturers are following suit. It really began last fall when the great mass of unskilled labor, the coal miners, successfully withstood the onslaught of the "open shop." Almost immediately Judge Gary was forced to advance the wages of the steel workers 20 per cent (that was last August) and now another 11 per cent increase has been granted.

The largest and the worst paid of all industries, the textile, has lifted

wages generally about 12 per cent; the packing-house workers were given a general increase that was approved by the company unions as a generous action on the part of their employers; and an advance in wages for the great mass of railroad workers and the marine workers is under way.

Naturally the increased wages ranging from \$160 a year to the poorly paid weaver to the \$100 increases obtained by the more fortunate building mechanic will increase the purchasing power of the workers. But prices have risen. In the clothing industry prices for garments are already 16 per cent over those of a year ago, while the advance given to the steel workers has already been added to the cost of manufactured steel.

Wages in general are not yet up to the war-time peak although in many industries they are approaching it. Using steel as a base example, the current wage is still 55 per cent below the war level. Most other industries are well above that; some, like the women's garment industry, that resisted any reduction, maintaining their wage standard while others have recovered it. The building trades as a result of the phenomenal construction boom are well above the war peak.

The experts are now trying to guess how long it will last and in this instance every one is qualified to venture. Already production is near the maximum and the Federal Reserve Bank has issued a warning against over-production. But conditions are said to be materially different now from those of three years ago when the post-war boom collapsed. Then the demand for goods was not sufficient to sustain the market. Now the demand is outrunning the supply.

Charles Schwab, Henry Ford and other industrialists see a five-year boom, dry goods men see brisk competition next year, especially since European industries are slowly recovering.

The steel trust which began the wage-cutting movement also set the pace in making the wage increases.

The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, the big expert link of the Rockefeller octopus, was not slow to follow the example to woo unskilled labor, and offered one week's vacation with pay to all its workers. This is an innovation reserved until now for office workers and the salaried employees but now the still-cleaner and the common laborers are to share in this bounty of the company. The other portions of the refinery ring are likely to continue the concession to pacify their employees, especially in the eastern territory where the workers are most susceptible to organization ideas.

Hundreds of factories in the Naugatuck and Connecticut River valleys, where there are hundreds of thousands of specialized workers on metal work have granted increases. Similarly the 7,000 workers of the Waltham Watch company, in Waltham, Quincy and Gardner, Mass., were given an increase that went into the envelopes this week.

The wages of building trades workers are being pyramided rapidly in all metropolitan districts. "Brickies," as the fortunate bricklayers are known, are being offered \$16 a day by speculative builders who are putting up dwellings by the square block. Plasterers are making as high as \$20 a day by working at a phenomenal rate of speed, while generally the mechanics are asking a \$2 a day bonus or an increase of \$11 a week, and they are getting it. Some opposition has developed, the large employers refusing to make the bonus part of an official wage scale as they expect

that the high cost will stop the building boom before very long.

The clothing industry is also affected. The Amalgamated in the New York market has asked for a \$2 increase over the minimum to become effective without delay; in Rochester, 7,000 workers of Michels, Stern & Co., and Keller, Heuman & Thompson, have been granted an increase to become effective the first week in May, while wage negotiations for an increase are under way in the Chicago, Rochester and Baltimore markets generally.

The Illinois Central railroad has raised the wages of its shop mechanic 2c an hour without the formality of going before the United States Railroad Labor Board, although it availed itself of that authority to cut wages 12 per cent last July. Now the wage cut is automatically revoked. The Big Four railroad is considering granting a "voluntary" wage increase to the poorly paid track and maintenance of way laborers.

Oil field as well as refinery workers have received substantial increases. They are also in the ranks of unskilled workers and but poorly organized.

Silk ribbon workers in Bayonne, Passaic and Paterson, N. J., have been advanced to the war-time rate of pay in some instances, while the Singer Sewing Machine Company at Elizabeth, N. J., granted a 10 per cent increase to all its mechanics.

The United States Navy Department has recognized the trend and lifted wage rates from 2c to 6c per hour for some employees, but provoked unrest by not raising the pay of the machinists and other numerically large groups of ship builders.

A 10 per cent wage increase is pending for the 10,000 officers as well as seamen, firemen, sailors and stewards of the American Merchant Marine to induce the mariners to remain on the ships.

Weekly Boston News-Letter

By A LOCAL OBSERVER

Another year has rolled by and once more the great Labor Day of the workers, the First of May, is approaching. On this day, labor the world over takes stock of its accomplishments and gains of the preceding year. On this day in the spring, when everything in nature begins life anew, the workers count their numbers and prepare for further battles with employing classes.

The ladies' garment workers of Boston have gone through two general strikes during the year and were successful in both. The victorious members of the International extend, on this occasion, their greetings to the workers of the world and hope that the time is not far off when all workers will join hands to fight the final battle for industrial democracy.

In Worcester, Mass., the Cloakmakers' Union, Local No. 75, has started a campaign to organize the cloak and dress industry. Vice-president Fred Monahan was in Worcester last week and held a meeting there. He outlined to the members the necessity for such a campaign in the cloak and dress industry. The members of Local No. 75, knowing of the successful campaigns carried on in Boston, Philadelphia and other cities, have unanimously voted to levy upon themselves a tax of 15 per cent of their week's wages in order to raise a fund for organization work. After the regular membership meeting, the executive board met with Vice-president Fred Monahan and arrangements were made to start an organization campaign on a large scale. In general the local is in very good standing. The cloakmakers are working under a time agreement for twenty-five weeks each season. The officers of the local, from the president down to the sergeant-at-arms, are very enthusiastic and are doing splendid work for the organization.

We hope that in the very near future, Local No. 75 will succeed in its campaign and that the International will be proud of the cloak and dress-makers in the city of Worcester.

WAIST AND DRESS

Our agreements with the manufacturers call for arbitration of disputes that cannot be adjusted otherwise by the union and the employers. An interesting dispute arose in the shop of the Freeman Dress Co., 40 Harrison Avenue. Mr. Freeman is one of the better type of employers. At a shop meeting, however, we discovered that a number of workers in this shop did not receive their proper increases according to agreement. When the union called the attention of the firm to it, the matter was adjusted for all the workers concerned with the exception of two girls. This dispute was taken before an arbitrator in Cambridge, Mass., who in this case was the well-known Professor Sheffield of The Harvard Law School.

The firm claimed that these two girls, who were non-union workers before the last general strike, had refused to go down on strike; that all through the strike they had stayed home and that only after the strike was settled did these two girls join the union. He, therefore, could not

see why their wages should be increased in the same proportion as those of the rest of the workers in the shop.

The union claimed that, if a worker is to be punished for refusing to join the union, it is the union that would have to decide on it, and if the union is willing to forgive and forget a wrong act on the part of a worker, it surely is not the business of the firm to mete out punishment to him. The arbitrator gave a decision in our favor. The membership of Local No. 49 more than trebled during the last general strike. The members, old and new, are very well satisfied with what the union has accomplished for them. And now that the struggle is over, the members, it seems, are willing to leave the conduct of the union's affairs in the hands of the office staff and a few active workers.

The attendance at the regular meetings, which are held every Monday evening, is very light,—so light, in fact, that the executive board found it necessary to seek ways and means of forcing the members to come to the meetings. With that in view, the executive board decided after a lengthy discussion to make attendance at meetings compulsory upon the members. It was also decided to have only two meetings monthly,—on every first and third Monday of each month. Any member who failed to attend at least one meeting in a period of two months, would be fined fifty cents. The office will see to it that this innovation, which goes into effect beginning Monday, May 7, 1923, is made a success. No excuses will be accepted from any one for failure to attend at least one meeting every two months.

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The Skirt and Dressmakers' Union, Local 23, greets all its members and the entire Labor Movement on this First of May, the only true holiday of the working-class throughout the world!

We wish success to our brothers and sisters and the working-class in general, because we are convinced that this is the only class that will be able to perpetuate human society on such a basis as will make human life a bliss and a happiness.

EXECUTIVE BOARD,

Local 23, I. L. G. W. U.

H. Greenberg, Chairman

M. Lind, Manager

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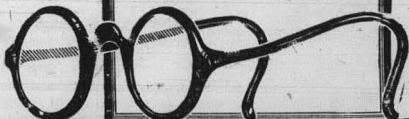
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May Day—A Holiday of Dreams

By JACOB HELLER

The First of May is my best holiday. I love the First of May. I love everything that belongs to the future. Nothing of the past holds any charm for me.

I appreciate greatly the struggle for freedom of the Jews in Egypt. They fought valiantly for their emancipation. I rejoice over the fact that they succeeded in freeing themselves from that historic thralldom. But this is all. The entire event fails to call out a thrill in my soul as does the First of May.

The birth of Christ was a great historic event. His death was a still greater epoch-making occasion. Millions upon millions of human beings have since learned to idolize his name. Millions celebrate his birthday, and millions yearly announce his spiritual rebirth. But to me it all appears as but admiration of a beautiful past and no more. I abhor the past. It is to the future that my heart sings songs of happiness, expectations, of passion and temptations.

The American Revolutionary War is the greatest historical event on human record. "Liberty," "Independence," "Equality" and the phrase "We are all born free and equal," had an entirely different appearance in their theoretic shell from what they have now in their realistic garb. What is Liberty today? Liberty to look for a job twelve months in the year—without being arrested for vagrancy? Liberty to starve and—be within the law? The liberty to strike—subject only to the limitations and interpretations of the courts!

Poor, miserable, free and independent creature that I am! A starving, starving freedom—there is your past for you.

No! I do not care for historic splendors. The FUTURE is what I like.

Abraham Lincoln. I love him. He liberated the negro slaves. He eradicated a blot off the American republic. The United States was given a soul by his action. Before his day, America was a sorry combination—a mixture of liberty and slavery, independence and ownership of human chattels, of the absolute rule of the cotton planters. Lincoln abolished it all. But of what practical value is it today?

The negro has a nominal freedom only. He is, for that matter, on the same level with the white man. For in reality, we are all chained today, by invisible, yet very real chains, to the workbenches of our industrial bosses. Those who owned slaves in bygone days own them today. They have simply trained us into eager, willing slaves. We must work for others, create for others, accumulate riches for others—or starve. Lincoln's name is today a profitable asset in the hands of politicians. They label their mediocre puppets "second Lincolns," and thereby more often than not get the confidence of the people and continue their misrule over them.

Oh, give me a holiday that is not marred by the finger of reality. Give me a holiday that spells hope for the future. Give me a dream. Give me colorful images. Give me a celebration of "a glorious day that will be."

The First of May is my best holiday. I love the First of May. This day gives full swing to my imagination. For it holds out a great and glorious promise for the entire working class.

The ideal of the First of May is based upon the idea of justice and equality of all mankind. It has as its foundation the principle that "the world belongs to all." It is a principle that no one can dispute. It is just. More than that—this world, with its riches, wealth and joys, belongs to the creators of wealth. None ought to belong to idlers.

The First of May calls for the abolition of private property, for the abolition of the present capitalist order. Centuries of misery, of starvation, of unemployment, of struggle, of death, of living slavery, of poverty, have implanted a hatred against the present order of things that cannot be eradicated by any picture of fear for the possible consequences that is held out to the worker by the defenders of the present system. The work-

er of the world makes his declaration today to the capitalist of the world: I have had enough of your threats. I have nothing to lose but my chains. I have decided to bring about this change. Nothing can hold me back from pursuing this path. Nothing but death.

What a wonderful day the First of May is! It purifies the soul. It clarifies the mind. It calls up such wonderful visions. I see a world without oppressors and oppressed; I see a world without slaves and slave owners; I see a world without poverty; no jails, no gallows, no implements of torture and submission.

I love the First of May. I love everything of the future. I love the First of May—it is the holiday of my dreams.

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May-Day Since 1914

By MAX PINE

Secretary, United Hebrew Trades

May Day was decided upon in 1889 at Paris not merely as a labor holiday, not alone as the celebration of a lofty working-class ideal, but as a constructive measure for the purpose of achieving far-reaching results. It was mentioned primarily as a day of protest against world-wide militarism; and secondly, it was consecrated to the propaganda for an eight-hour work day. With the growth of socialism and trade-unionism, the interest in May Day and its importance grew correspondingly. May Day was celebrated in various lands, under various skies, through parades, general strikes, mass meetings and by song. Even in the farthestmost corners of cold Siberia, Russian political exiles would celebrate the First of May.

Then came the war of 1914. That same year the Socialists and trade-unions of the entire world were to have a congress in the month of August in Vienna. The congress, however, did not take place. Instead of it, the executive board of the Second International held a meeting in Paris and decided that the delegates should return to their respective countries and begin a war against war.

Unfortunately the Socialists did not carry out their plans. The English Socialists and labor leaders were the longest in maintaining a stubborn opposition to the war. Practically all other Socialist parties supported the war in their countries—with the exception of the Socialist Party in America and the Socialist Party of Italy.

Quite naturally, this brought about a moral collapse and tragedy in the labor movement. The Second International became weak and weary. The black reaction on one hand and the Third International on the other had done all in their power to destroy, annihilate and sow distrust in the International labor movement. Such is the history as it has been for the past seven or eight years. Today, however, a new chapter is beginning in the history of the labor movement. True, we are still celebrating the First of May today in the heavy shadow of reaction. In America, the sword of the open shop is still hanging over our heads while in Europe the signs of war have not as yet disappeared. Still there is light in the offing. There is a promise of renaissance and signs that the world-wide labor movement is coming back to its own.

And just as the First of May in 1889 was born together with the Second International, so will the celebration of the First of May in 1923 mark the rebirth of a new international—Berlin this month at the Socialist and Trade-Union Congress, which will assemble there.

The labor movement received during the war powerful blows which ought to sober it and make it see clearly and straight. The leaders and active workers in the labor movement can see clearly now that our salvation will come neither through the magic forces of diplomatic speculators, through the unhealed sword, nor the moral preachings of this or that group. It can only come

through the pressure of the organized proletariat, through its ability to strike and win, and to make an end to the war.

The workers of America have a good deal with which to feel contented this First of May. Their economic organization has gone through

the storm of the black reaction as well as a "revolutionary" reaction. The effects from within and without have remained intact, and, as the organized workers are the foundation upon which the structure of the future is to be built, we have every reason to be happy at this fact.

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Among the Bonnax Embroiderers, Local 66

By MAX M. ESSENFELD, Manager

We have reason to feel somewhat apologetic for not having written a line about the activities of our local in the last few months, notwithstanding the fact that we have lived through many live and interesting events which deserve mention.

Our local, though not very big numerically, has succeeded in gaining a number of improvements in labor conditions which many other unions much larger than this would be very happy to have achieved. We

have an active element in our local and to this we can ascribe the fact that in the last few years we have succeeded in becoming a strong labor organization. Such reforms as week-work in a 44-hour week, minimum scales, equal distribution of work, no discharge without a trial—such standards we have had for a long time in our trades; and while other unions are today warmly discussing the question of labor bureaus, we have had one in our trade for years.

This labor bureau of ours has helped the growth of the organization and given the union the desired chance to control the trade, contributing a great deal to the independence of our workers. The perennial search for a job has become a matter of the past in our shops. Standing in line in response to an advertisement, in anticipation of being the lucky one to be selected by the boss, is something which exists no more in the Bonnax embroidery trade.

It is the union, that is responsible for supplying all our workers with jobs and labor. That is why our members are loyal and devoted and are literally ready to sacrifice themselves for their union. Our last general strike, when our workers so manfully defended the demands of the union after the employers had refused to consider them, amply proved how willing and able they were to stand by the guns of the organization. True, the strike did not last very long, that was because our employers knew the embroiderers and they would not play a losing game.

In the last few weeks, we conducted an energetic organization campaign and succeeded in obtaining control over a couple of dozen new shops. There are still many other shops to be organized and, with the readiness of our members to co-operate in the work, there is hope that we shall succeed in getting this within the fold of the union very soon.

Our season is practically at an end. When compared with the few seasons that preceded it, this last one can be regarded as one of the best we have had. Our members have worked for a number of months and their earnings have been good. Wages have been increased considerably and, as there was a scarcity of workers in

the trade, a wage from \$10 to \$15 a week above the minimum was the rule in the shops. The general working conditions are comparatively good.

The prospects for the coming season are fine and, if this hope of our workers materializes, we shall utilize it for further improvements. It is expected that the slack season will not last very long; yet we wish to warn our members that this is not the proper time for changing jobs. Many employers will be glad to let their old workers go and take on new ones in their place, in the expectation that they would not have to pay the new workers the price old employees used to receive. It is therefore necessary to be careful to maintain the conditions which the union has gained for our workers after so much effort.

There has been a custom in our local for many years past to celebrate the First of May. This year May Day will have a double significance for us, as not only will we celebrate the International labor holiday, but also the tenth anniversary of our existence as a union. Our executive board decided that this celebration should be commensurate with the gains we have made in this decade. The committee has arranged a concert for Tuesday, May 1st, to be held at Park View Palace, 110th Street and Fifth Avenue, to begin at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, engaging the best artists obtainable. The concert will last until 6 o'clock, and will be followed by the most important event—the banquet. We desire to assure our members that no means will be spared to make them remember this jubilee of Local 66. The local has invited the representatives of the parent body to take part in our anniversary and we hope that the representatives of the International will on this occasion once more learn that Local 66 deserves a place of honor among other locals in our International union.

GREETINGS

on the

FIRST OF MAY

The International Labor Holiday

EXECUTIVE BOARD

BONNAZ EMBROIDERY UNION

Local No. 66

Z. L. Freedman, Pres.

Max M. Essensfeld, Mgr.

Emil Auerbach, Secretary

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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

THE FEST-DAY OF LABOR'S SOLIDARITY

This issue of our journal is full of May Day greetings—from our old standard bearer, Eugene V. Debs, from President Morris Sigman, from Secretary Baroff, from many of our locals in and outside of New York, and from the heads of many other labor unions and labor institutions, among them Abraham Cahan, editor of the "Forward"; Max Pine, the old veteran of the Jewish labor movement; Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated; Morris Hillquit, legal adviser to the International; Joseph Schlossberg, secretary of the Amalgamated.

In each of these greetings and May Day articles the reader will find some food for thought. The background of each and all of them is nevertheless the invaluable solidarity and the unity of the workers.

It is the principal idea running through all these articles—and well might it be. For solidarity is the underlying idea of the First of May. Given unity and solidarity—what is there that could stand between the worker, the creator of all wealth, and a real, human, decent life? Without this priceless cement between worker and worker, all individual effort is entirely worthless. With unity the workers can gain everything—without it they will never achieve a thing.

The reader will observe another thing in all the articles and messages to which we wish to draw their attention. While most of all of them speak of the solidarity existing among the workers in our own unions, they mention but little the solidarity among workers the world over. The reason is very simple. It is generally felt today that, valuable as this spirit of solidarity is for the great struggle of labor all over the world at any hour, and priceless as this unity might be at the final hour of the emancipation of the proletariat—it is primarily important that this spirit begin and find its real expression first at home, in each country, in each city, and in each labor union. It is being realized that labor's solidarity cannot be built up from above and downward, but from below and upward. Just as one cannot build a house from the roof but from the foundation, so it is impossible to talk and dream of a world-wide solidarity of labor without having first laid its foundation—the solidarity of the workers in their labor unions and in their other fighting and relief organizations.

Only when, in these organizations of labor there exist harmony and solidarity, and a consciousness of unity of interests, can there be talk of a widening out of this solidarity to the world over. If, however, it is lacking in the primary labor unit—in the union, the very cornerstone of the labor movement—all that is reared upon such a cornerstone is in immediate danger of being overthrown by the first light breeze.

That's why the call for solidarity of the current May Day, while not perhaps as universal in its tone as in former years, is nevertheless more fundamental. The sparkling phrases may not be as plentiful, but there is a great deal more substance, more maturity which would not be blinded by a winged word.

We only hope that our workers will begin to work in the direction of ever broadening and deepening this sense of our solidarity and will just as energetically seek to remedy our unions all that impairs and hinders this unity. With these few words we desire to greet our workers upon this great and glorious holiday of ours, which, distinct from all other holidays, is our own fest-day.

THE LATEST ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR INTERNATIONAL

We, of course, refer to our bank, the International Labor Bank (so it will be named), which will be opened very soon in New York City. Last week this plan was at last firmly sanctioned—after President Sigman and Morris Hillquit had stated before a representative meeting of New York labor representatives the plan for this bank in all its details.

The International Labor Bank will be more than a bank for our own Union. It will be, in point of fact, the bank of the entire labor movement of New York. The stockholders of this bank will consist not so much of individual workers as of the various labor organizations of this city. The International Labor Bank will be a cooperative bank, in which every local union may and will have its share and voice, and this will serve to all as the best guarantee that the bank will be one of the strongest financial institutions in New York.

At the meeting there were represented by their leading officers, in addition to our own locals, most of the important labor bodies in New York—the Capmakers' International, the Furriers' Union, the

Fancy Leather Goods Workers, the Neckwear Workers, the Forward Association, the Workmen's Circle, the Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Fund, and the Workmen's Furniture Fire Insurance Fund. After many questions relating to the form and method of organizing the bank had been answered by Mr. Hillquit, all those present fully concurred with the plan. Right then and there it was decided to adopt the name of "International Labor Bank," to fix the capital stock of the bank at \$250,000 and its surplus stock also at \$250,000—thus making the deposits doubly safe and protected.

Some time will have to elapse before the bank is opened for business for the following reasons: First, the legal procedure for chartering the bank has to be gone through and it will have to receive the sanction of the State Banking Department. As this bank will be owned not by one single union, but by practically the whole labor movement of New York, the Superintendent of Banks will have to be supplied with all the required information regarding all these labor bodies, their financial standing, their membership, and their income. All this, of course, takes time.

Another thing is the selection of a suitable place for the bank. This matter is being looked after now by the provisional committee, and will probably be settled without undue delay. It is quite certain that, before a couple of months are over, the International Labor Bank will be a functioning reality. We take particular pleasure in conveying this information to our readers in this issue of our journal, which is devoted entirely to celebrating the solidarity of labor. For, as it seems to us, this bank more than any other factor will unite all our unions into one great strong force which our enemies will begin to reckon with and feel before long.

THE NEW HOME OF THE CLOAKMAKERS' UNION

We haven't as yet visited the new home of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union of New York, but reports tell us that it is a great, spacious home, a veritable labor mansion.

This leads us to a thought which is quite appropriate for the May Day holiday. One hears continually of the slowness, the tardiness of human progress—how tortoise-like, how barely visibly 'things move forward! But is it really so? Hardly, we may say. When one only takes a closer look about oneself, one is bound to come to an entirely different conclusion. How long was it, for instance, since cloakmakers used to hold their meetings in saloon backrooms and frequently would not have the few pennies to pay for even such a dismal assembly place? Not more than ten or twelve years ago, to be sure. And today the Cloakmakers' Union is the owner of a home second to none belonging to any labor union in the country. And all of this was accomplished not by one superhuman effort, not by beating of trumpets, by arranging tag days, city-wide collections, or by similar methods. It all came about in the simplest of ways—from the weekly dues payments by the members.

Keep in mind, too, that only a few months ago the cloakmakers of New York had gone through a battle which cost them almost a million dollars. Consider all these facts together—and you yourself will reach the inevitable conclusion that all these sad ditties by our perennial or professional pessimists about the slowness and tardiness of progress are entirely unfounded. If anything, it is the steady, fast march of our advance that should provoke our enthusiasm and give us inspiration.

Union Health Center News

HAY FEVER SEASON

The Union Health Center, 131 East 17th Street, will celebrate its third year of health education activities. Health Education, when it was started among the members of the I. L. G. W. U. was a comparatively new thing. Now it has developed to the point where workers realize its great importance and have taken advantage in an extraordinary fashion of the Health Lectures and Health Nights given at the Union Health Center.

Barely has any movement been so appreciated as this program of Health Education with its special appeal to the workers of the industry. As an appreciation of a successful year the executive committee of the Union Health School have arranged a real party and celebration for Saturday evening, April 28th, at 8 P. M. in the auditorium of the I. L. G. W. U.

The physicians and lecturers who helped make this term a success have been invited to attend the party and many have signified their interest and expressed the hope that they might be able to come.

All members of the Union Health Center and all friends of the Union Health Center are cordially invited to attend.

Appointments are now being made

at the Union Health Center, 131 East 17th Street, for treatment of patients suffering from hay fever. This is the season when workers suffering from this most annoying malady begin to worry about what is in store for them in June. It is also the season when the doctor at the Union Health Center can accomplish the most toward effecting a cure if treatments are begun at this time. Make your appointments now for treatment against hay fever.

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The First of May

By S. YANOVSKY

It is 34 years since May First had been proclaimed by the more advanced representatives of the working-class movement as a labor holiday to be sacredly observed by the proletariat all over the world, a holiday fixed by the workers and for the workers whether the present-day masters of the earth liked it or not.

The First of May was to be the day on which the workers of the world were to demonstrate their will to have a right to life and liberty as they themselves define and understand it. The proclamation of the First of May of 24 years ago had the character of a challenge, a call of defiance to the world-grabbers, and a warning that their rule shall not last forever. It sounded a note that the worker, whom the masters have forever regarded as a spineless, inarticulate tool, has at last awakened to a sense of his importance in the social organism and to a recognition of his human self-respect. And those who lived during that period will never forget that great enthusiasm which permeated the hearts of all honest and thinking men when the International Socialist Congress in Paris had announced that decision. Not only the hotheads and the dreamers began to see in this decision the beginning of the end, but even the cool-minded and the deliberate heads could not resist the charm of that step. A joy, unbounded and filled with hope, captivated all the oppressed and enthralled classes of the world.

And just as this May Day decision has enthused the workers, so it has struck terror at the bourgeoisie. It was easily to be seen from the way the ruling classes in every country began to arm themselves to the teeth for that day, with soldiers, police, gendarmes—in every one of the big cities in Europe such as London, Paris, Berlin, Barcelona, Rome, Vienna, and others. Unfortunately, however, the fire and enthusiasm soon waned. The great masses of the workers became either entirely indifferent to May Day or began to celebrate it on the first Saturday in May. Only small groups here and there still celebrated May Day on the first of the month—and dearly they had to pay for it! How many noble and courageous souls had actually paid with their lives in these early May Day demonstrations! Still the masses remained callous, in which they were to no small degree encouraged by their leaders who sought and found a multitude of excuses why too much emphasis should not be laid on the celebration of the First of May.

And so it came to pass that, while in one country the workers took part in May-day celebrations on the first Saturday in May, in another the workers celebrated it in the evening of the First of May after they had spent the whole day in the factories. In still others the workers forgot entirely about the First of May. This of course weakened and cheapened, so to say, the First of May idea. It was supposed to be the day for the proletariat of the entire world to come out simultaneously upon the streets and squares and to proclaim its determination to win a new life and a new freedom for itself in a world that knew no racial or national boundaries. Such was the great idea of the First of May, and it set millions of hearts beating with the hope for the early liberation of the proletariat. But as the results have soon shown, this idea, great and noble as it was, came a little too soon. Neither the great masses nor their leaders were ready for it yet. And that's why the First of May, though already 34 years old, still remains no more than a beautiful wish.

Does that mean that the significance of the First of May has been entirely lost in the labor movement? By no means. It can be said without exaggeration that the entire labor movement as it is today drew its earliest inspiration from the May Day idea. How small, insignificant and unimportant were the labor unions in England, France, Germany and all over the world at that time! The proclaiming of the First of May gave a new soul to the working-class movement. The ideal of a united working class all over the world, if it has not yet materialized, received its sharpest expression in the May Day thought, and it is quite certain that had everything in the world proceeded at the normal pulse, they would have been much farther on the way to liberation. But in the midst of it all, there burst out upon the heads of the workers the unfortunate world war, which was partly engineered as a means of combat against the fast-approaching working-class revolution in Europe. The enemies of the labor movement and of its ideal were not dis-

appointed this time. The unity of the world-wide labor movement was shattered to pieces in one blow. Those who only yesterday regarded themselves as brothers, as fighters for the same cause, became deadly enemies and for years murdered and slaughtered one another. The enemies of progress, the Pharaohs who feared the growing power of the workers, attained their aim—the unity of the labor movement was drowned in the blood of millions of human beings.

But that was not enough. Very soon, the Bolshevik Revolution occurred in Russia, and, if the labor movement and the Socialist movement could have hoped to come into their own after the horrible carnage, the Moscow rulers have done their worst to split our labor movement into more splinters. The result was that, not only was it impossible for instance for a German worker to come together with a French worker, but the French and German workers became split

within their own ranks. Various internationalisms sprang up like mushrooms and the labor movement, weak from all these blood-testings and shattered to bits, remained so helpless that the idea of the First of May celebration began to appear like a bitter and ill-fated joke.

The celebration of the First of May, as it was kept up by many labor unions in various countries, has lost real enthusiasm. It became a sort of tradition to have First of May celebrations at which speakers talked of unity even though there was not a trace of it anywhere. The labor movement was passing through the most critical period of its history.

It would seem, however, that this crisis is approaching its end. The Bolsheviks have lost the beneficial influence of their early days. Men who in the beginning were intoxicated by bombastic phrases are coming to their senses. Our labor movement is becoming more and more clear as to its aims and purposes. The wreckers and splitters within the union have been found out, regardless of the masks they are still wearing. It seems to us that it is again time to begin the celebration in earnest of the First of May as a labor holiday.

And just as 34 years ago the May Day idea brought a new spirit into the movement and strengthened it spiritually and physically, the same May Day idea will again call out light and idealism among the workers. The same clarion call, "Workers of the World, Unite!" will again make toiling men and women cease hating one another, splitting their energies over unessential day-dreams. They will again direct their united efforts to fighting the exploiters and usurpers of our rights and liberties. This is our wish. This is our hope. This is our faith. We call upon the members of our international to celebrate the First of May with enthusiasm, without being disturbed by the fact that the large mass of organized and unorganized workers still remain indifferent to the idea of May Day celebrations. It is only a question of time when their brave example will be followed by those who still lag behind.

Such is the fate and the privilege of our workers—to bear and do the pioneer work in the labor movement, not only in this, but in many other efforts and endeavors.

International May Day Greeting MAY 1, 1923

In greeting the workers of all lands on this May 1st, Labor's INTERNATIONAL holiday, let us, the workers who create the world's wealth, determine to unify our forces with a view of becoming the owners of what we create.

Amalgamated Ladies'
Garment Cutters' Union
Local 10, I.L.G.W.U.

Ladies' Waistmakers'
Union, Local 25
I. L. G. W. U.

extends

May Day Greetings

to its membership, and requests that all members of Local 25 partake in the

May Day Demonstrations.

For details, see announcement of the Joint Board

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Exclusively

The Same Old Road

By AL GURIA

"Mother, will I ever be as big as you?"

"You will, my child, you will."
"And will I ever wear nice clothes, mother, beautiful clothes? I shall have lots of money, mother, yes?"

"Sure, my child, sure."

The mother, with a wilted, wan-looking face, sat bent over the sewing machine working at full speed over cut remnants of cheap goods. The little girl was picking remnants from the floor, laying them out on a chair and cutting out dolls' dresses and aprons. The little girl's work seemed to satisfy her very much—far more than her own work satisfied the woman who sat bent over the machine.

Mother and daughter were very poor. The rooms they lived in were ugly and cluttered with their cheap belongings. The constant whir of the machine gave the room its only breath of life and activity, for both mother and little girl spent their time largely in silence over their work. Rarely did the mother sing, in a weak though not unpleasant voice, songs that she had known long before she became the mother of the little girl, and, singing, she would bend her head even lower as if she meant to breathe them into the ceaseless noise of the machine.

But the greatest part of the day they did their work in quiet—the mother with hate and the little girl with love.

The mother died.
With her darkened, weary face, she lay full-length in her bed with a peace she had never known before in her life. It seemed as if she had at last decided to take a good long rest. The funeral was a fitting finale of her life—a stunted poor lonehouse life. The hearse traversed a quiet, muddy, broken road which leads to the graveyard of the poor, and somewhere in a corner her grave was soon lost and still sooner forgotten.

The girl, a thin, tall figure, with a pale face and steely blue eyes, sat at the machine and sewed. Her

fingers moved swiftly and her eyes looked sad.

When the rays of the sun would beat slantly against the windows of the shop, cutting through the transparent dust in the huge factory room, her eyes would twinkle with glee. The girl would observe spots of sunshine dancing upon the black machines and upon the backs of the persons in the room here and there. If not for the fear of the foreman, how she would like to close her eyes, lean against the back of the chair and thrust her young breast toward the oncoming softness of the spring evening!

It was the little girl who used to make dresses and shirts for her imaginary dolls. She now lived with a poor old woman for whom she would do housework at night in part lieu of room-rent.

He would call her "beloved." He was a tall man with soft, restrained movements and a full round voice. He would call her "sweetheart" and look softly into her eyes.

He had requested that she move into another house, where she had a little room to herself. In the evening he would come to her, smiling and happy. Frequently, he would stretch out on the couch and smoke. Occasionally, he would take her to the theatre—until once, when he got tired of her, she felt again as she did when her mother left her for the little old cemetery—alone. He who used to call her "beloved" disappeared.

The other—the one who took her for his wife—was a townsman of hers. He was a sheet-metal worker—a crude fellow with a red face and big coarse hands. As the custom was in the little town in the old country, he would invite to the flat, on days of rest and holidays, fellows of his own type. They would drink heavily and gamble, and sing songs that she neither liked nor could take part in, and from day to day her eyes would open wider and wider until she saw a chasm gaping wide before her.

It was the same thing repeated. She was now with the man, worried face, the scissors, the sewing-machine, the remnants on the floor—and a child.

Her husband reminded her so much of her own father and his behavior brought back so closely the scenes that she had all but forgotten—and at times it seemed that she herself was that little mother who used to sew garments for some people when she was small, eager and inquiring.

Now she sits at the machine and sews.

She must earn.
The husband is out of work—bad times have not spared them. So she came to the rescue. She rented a

machine and sat down to work.

On a chair near her, there is a little girl with scissors. The little girl is cutting into little baby caps and dresses remnants that fall to the floor.

The little one threads a needle and sews. And from time to time in a young, ringing voice inquires:

"Mother, will I be dressed as beautifully as this doll when I grow up as big as you?"

"Of course, my child, you will."

"And will my cheeks be as rosy and will I be rich, mother?"

"Oh, yes, oh, yes, my child."

Years begin to rush to the mother's eyes. The little girl laughs with a happy chuckle. Hasn't she succeeded in fixing up a perfectly real little dress for her doll?

COSTUME DRESSMAKERS' UNION LOCAL NO. 90

May Day Greetings

to the

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION
AND THE WORKERS OF THE UNITED STATES

COSTUME DRESSMAKERS' UNION,

Minnie Chaikin, Chairlady

Anna Kuhn, Secretary

I. Bernadsky, Manager

RAND SCHOOL

7 E. 15th St.

Saturday, April 21, 8:15 P. M. . . . HARRY DANA
"The Adding Machine"

Fri., Apr. 27, 8:15 P. M., MARION C. WENTWORTH
"The Sunken Bell"

Saturday, April 28, 1:30 P. M. . . . SCOTT NEARING
"The Science of Happiness"

Saturday, April 28, 3:15 P. M. . . . MRS. H. S. SKEFFINGTON
"The Irish Free State vs. Irish Republic"

Light At Last

By ELSIE GLUCK

In the shop she was known as "The Quiet One," or to be more exact in translation, "The Dumb One." Dazed and silent, she came and went, attending her shop meetings, paying her dues—but silent always.

The new factory routine dazzled her. Some ten years back, when she was young and unmarried, she had worked in the shop. But conditions were so different; even then she had been quiet and slow. The long twelve-hour days spent over her machine added to that quietness a touch of stolid suffering. She was young enough, but always she felt weary and broken. At night she tossed about on her uncomfortable, unsheeted bed, and dumbly reflected on her misery, her hunger, on the fiery bitterness in the eyes of the consumptive prisoner which softened only when they looked at her, on the savagery of her boss, himself tired, bedraggled. And her home—her father bending over his books, filled with some secret glory she could not sense; her mother old for her years, embittered and scolding; the noisy younger brothers and sisters who needed so much food, so many clothes—all out of her six dollars and the few pennies her father earned from his stand. How her youth had been wasted!

She had married the prisoner though she knew he was doomed. For that matter, something must have been

wrong with her—else why had both her children died? The machine, the pressing board, the shop, they had been her destroyers; but they were her bread and butter, her life. Ah, well, no good to think about such matters!

After the death of her husband, she went back to the shop. Eight hours a day, thirty-five dollars a week—these were the wonders that greeted her. Of course, her husband had been through strikes, had been a union member; the union had helped him in his idleness. But herself to

experience this new order! An inarticulate belief that perhaps the misery of the world could be lessened arose in her. These young girls in the shop had a far brighter life before them. Had they known her, her companions in the shop would have noticed that the look of dumb animal suffering had left her eyes.

Ah, well, the winter was always long. March—April, spring would be here soon. The season would be over soon but she would not need to starve. She might even go out to the country to see the trees, the grass.

"No work tomorrow!" sang the little finisher joyfully. And, answering the question in the older woman's eyes, she went on: "May Day. Come

and march with the shop. . . . to celebrate our freedom. It's a labor holiday. . . . you know. . . . Remember tomorrow morning, ten o'clock, Union Square. Wear a white dress."

May Day. Next morning she watched the marching lines of workers, painfully trying to read the banners. "What is it all about?" Someone tried to explain. . . . Liberty, the working people of all nations standing together. . . . Yes, that was it. . . . there were some Italians, some Hungarians, Russians, all people.

At last she saw the girls of her shop. She stepped self-consciously into line and dragged her heavy form along. She marched. Music. "The Internationale," whispered her marching partner. . . . She forgot the dead weight of her body. How beautiful was the sun! And how happy she felt! She remembered vaguely a big union meeting at which some one had said—what was it? Ah, she had it, and sang it out, without fear, "Workmen of the world, unite!" That was what this parade meant. She said it over again, out loud, and then lapsed into silence again.

"The dumb one has found her tongue," laughed one of the girls. But another put her hand up warningly. They marched on in silence, touched. And she marched with them, happy and proud, unashamed of her outburst.

May Day!

CELEBRATION of the THIRD YEAR of HEALTH EDUCATION of the UNION HEALTH CENTER of the INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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People's Educational Camp Society

7 EAST 15th STREET

NEW YORK CITY

The General Executive Board at Work

By S. YANOVSKY

IV

Like all other meetings of the General Executive Board, the last one did not lack its quota of committees appearing before it for various requests or grants. We shall mention only the most important ones.

A committee from Local 1 and Local 9 appeared with regard to the reorganization of Local 3. They asked that the decision be reconsidered, and, as all of them wanted to speak on the matter, the committee took up almost a whole session. The arguments against the reorganization of these locals, at present already an accomplished fact—are now of little importance. It can only be emphasized that, if there had been any chance whatever of this decision's being modified or postponed, the interference of an outside group styling itself the Shop Delegates' League only made the G. E. B. more determined to carry out the decision fully and quickly.

It is important that our members at large should know what the whole thing is about. One fine morning, Vice-Presidents Breslaw and Heller received a letter from this league, in which they were called upon to come to a meeting and to defend, if they could, their shocking decision with regard to Local 3. This brazen intermeddling from a source which is neither officially or unofficially related to our union, naturally made these members of the board quite indignant, and they brought the entire matter before the G. E. B. Moreover, the same group also forwarded a letter to President Sigman, declaring that, since they are the salt of the earth, the guiding light, so to say, of our union, and its most progressive element,—so runs its modest introduction of itself in that letter—they demand that he come to a meeting at which the Local 3 problem will be discussed.

It became clear to the members of the Board that they had to do here with a body which considers itself superior to the union and which pretends to formulate policies for it. The result was that, even to those members of the Board who had thought that other methods could be applied first in solving the conflict within Local 3, there came the conviction that, because of this irresponsible action of a group outside of the union, the decision of the committee must be carried out.

As for the Shop Delegates' League and its ambition to play the role of super-state over the union, it provoked a considerable debate,—not that any one of the vice-presidents had a favorable word to offer for these self-anointed "ultra-progressives." The discussion centered on the point of how to make an end to this brazen usurpation of authority. Have union members a right to organize in a body and attempt to lead the union from the outside or not? The reply to this of course can only be a firm and decided No. The union cannot and must not tolerate the intermeddling of any outside persons under whichever name they may choose to sail. The question, nevertheless, arose: Can the union, according to its constitution, make it possible for union members to affiliate with such an organization as the Shop Delegates' League?

It is clear that in its essence, the Shop Delegates' League is an illegitimate body. Since the convention had very definitely voted down the plan of shop delegates as an undemocratic institution entirely contradictory to the spirit of our union and one that only leads to demoralization in its midst, it would stand to reason that

an effort to bring about such a "League" is against the decision of the convention and the International. The logical conclusion is that any one who joins such an organization declares himself in opposition to the union, and arrays himself against the law-making power of our convention. The entire Board was therefore of the opinion that the International has full right to take steps against those members who have formed themselves into such a league, ostensibly for the purpose of helping the union to become more progressive, but obviously for the purpose of harming it. However, as many members of the Board have doubted whether the International should at the present moment undertake to deal with this matter, it was decided to refer it entirely to President Sigman for action according to his best judgment and discretion.

A warning, however, should be given here to those "reformers" that their intermeddling activities and their desire to steer the union away from its legitimate course, will not be tolerated. If the union permits that, it can be easily foreseen to what this might lead. One day an organization like the Workers' Party might pick the union meetings with its blind followers; tomorrow it will be done in the name of a so-called shop delegates' league; the day after, the Socialist party will attempt a similar maneuver, and with all these cooks, we can readily imagine how the union will be broiled and stewed until it is hardly recognizable. It is clear that the union cannot permit any

such practices and every labor organization must fling back this gratuitous interference of all outside uplifters and spreaders of light. If this gentle reminder does not have the required effect, the International will no doubt use its full right under the constitution to make an end of these union-destroying elements.

Another important question which occupied a great deal of the time of the Board was the problem of Locals 23 and 22. That the dress industry cannot continue to be split between two locals stepping on each other's toes and creating situations that are awkward and entirely out of accord with the principles of unionism, has become clear to everybody.

At first it was Local 23 that put obstacles in the way and would not unite with Local 22. This situation, however, is now changed. The dressmakers of Local 23 have come to realize that the abnormal state of affairs must be changed in the interests of all sides concerned. The dressmakers of Local 22 probably realize that as well. Unification of forces must take place, and the question arises, under which control the United Dressmakers' Local should be placed, under the Joint Board of Cloakmakers or the Joint Board of Dressmakers. This question has only one logical answer. The dressmakers' union must affiliate with the Joint Board of Cloakmakers' Union for the following simple and clear reasons:

There was a time when the dress industry was entirely different from the cloak industry. At that time it was good sense for the dressmakers

to have a union of their own and to be affiliated with their own joint board. This situation has changed entirely in the last few years. In the same shop in which cloaks are being made, they are now also making dresses. The same workers who are engaged at certain periods on cloaks make dresses at another time. In order that the dress industry may be properly and fully controlled, it is necessary therefore that it be placed under the control of the Cloakmakers' Joint Board. This was the general opinion of the members of the Board, and President Sigman was instructed with the consent of all the members to carry out as soon as possible this much-needed union of the dressmakers of Locals 23 and 22 and of all other dressmaking locals into one local, and to see likewise that this self-styled local be placed under the control of the Joint Board Cloakmakers' Union.

The question of an International Labor Bank on a cooperative basis was very thoroughly gone over by the members of the Board. It was considered generally that such a bank would be of importance to our union, and a committee was appointed, in addition to President Sigman, to work out the details of the plan and to raise the required sum necessary as working capital for the bank. At the time of this writing, practical steps towards the realization of such a bank have already been taken and the readers of this journal have been duly informed concerning it.

For instance, there is hardly a meeting of the G. E. B. before which a committee from the New York Call does not appear to request financial assistance. This time, however, it assumed a somewhat different aspect. Of course the Call, the only Socialist daily in New York that is written in the English language, must be aided,—but in what form? To give once more a few hundred or a few thousand dollars? But this donation will naturally be consumed very soon and the Call will be as hard-pressed financially as ever before. The Board decided therefore to seek means of making the Call independent of such casual money donations, and the president of the International was authorized to call a conference of all our locals to devise means of securing assistance for the Call.

Another committee which came to the meeting and which quite surprised us, was one from the American Federation of Laborers. At the first time that the A. F. of L. has appealed to our G. E. B. for financial assistance. President Gumpers was to have appeared before the Board, but, as he was convalescing at that time from an attack of pneumonia, his place was taken by General Organizer Frayne, who declared that the Federation needed special funds for carrying on a concerted defensive and offensive campaign for labor legislation over the country and against the rampant injunction abuses. The Board decided to contribute \$100 monthly to this fund of the Federation until such time as the assistance would not be necessary.

Judge Panken appeared before the Board for the Naturalization Aid League of New York and it was decided to grant the League the sum of \$100. An equal amount was given for the Los Angeles Sanitarium, and the attention of the locals was drawn to the urgency of the support of this institution.

Let it be mentioned here that the committees from Local 41 and 50, who used to appear at meetings of the Board with requests for money, came this time to thank the International for the help given them in their last strike and to tell the Board that they have a substantial treasury and are on the way to complete financial independence.

A Message for May Day From Chicago

The Chicago Joint Board of the Cloak, Skirt and Dress Workers' Union, I. L. G. W. U. is glad to take this opportunity to express its greetings to the ladies' garment workers of this country and to the workers of the world in general on the occasion of this International Labor Holiday.

The Joint Board expresses its hearty desire for unity in the Labor Movement and trusts that the spirit of this international holiday will inspire the various factions in the ranks of the workers along such lines.

Long live the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union!

Long live the solidarity of the workers and the emancipation of the working class!

JOINT BOARD
CLOAK, SKIRT and DRESS WORKERS' UNION,
Locals 5, 18, 59, 81 and 100, I. L. G. W. U.



DOMESTIC ITEMS

TEXTILE WORKERS WILL NOT SUBMIT TO 54-HOUR SCHEDULE.
President McMahon of the United Textile Workers said that he was prepared to wage a fight against mills operating on a 54-hour week schedule if the general assembly of Rhode Island fails to pass the 48-hour bill. In case the 48-hour bill is defeated we will fight every 54-hour mill in Rhode Island, says Mr. McMahon.

LOSS OF TIME BY WAGE EARNERS.
Industrial wage earners lose on the average 10 per cent of their working time through unemployment due mainly to lack of work; one half per cent through sickness, another one per cent because of strikes and lockouts and ten per cent through part time employment, according to figures compiled by Ernest S. Bradford, member of the Economic Advisory Committee of the President's Conference on Unemployment. The findings are published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

INCREASED PRICE OF BUILDING MATERIALS.
Another rise of 1 1/4 per cent in the general level of wholesale prices for March is indicated in U. S. Department of Labor Statistics, the most pronounced advance being in building materials, metals and metal products. Of the 464 commodities covered increases are shown in 189 and decreases in 79 instances. In 136 there was no change in price.

COOPERATIVE MARKETING BY MAINE FARMERS.
The farmers of the United States are about to undertake the cooperative marketing of the country's largest food crop in the number of pounds consumed. With the organization of the Maine Potato Growers' Cooperative Association just completed, the first step in marketing the nation's 350,000,000 bushel potato crop entirely through farmers' selling organization, has been taken.

RAILROAD EMPLOYEES WANT WAGE INCREASE.
One railroad union following close on the heels of announcements of wage increases among steel and packing house workers has started a movement among rail employees for higher wages. The move is expected by the Railroad Labor Board members to become general by the middle of the summer.

INDICTMENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA COAL CASE.
Thirty-two men were indicted on four separate counts each for alleged complicity in the armed march of the Southern West Virginia coal fields in 1921 by the Logan County Grand Jury.

**Ladies' Tailors, Theatrical Costume and Alteration
Workers' Union, Local No. 38**

"Not a Stitch on the First of May"

This is our legal holiday for which every one working in a ladies' tailors' shop must be paid. The First of May is the day on which the workers of the world send forth the clarion call—"Workers of the World, Unite." Long live the International Workers' Holiday! Long live the united working class!

F. ROSENFARB,
Acting Secretary.

**A MAY DAY MESSAGE FROM THE
CLOAKMAKERS OF CHICAGO
LOCAL NO. 5**

Upon this day of days for the Labor Movement we are happy indeed at this opportunity to express to our fellow workers all over the United States, as well as to our brothers and sisters who toil for a living in every trade and occupation all over the face of the earth, our feelings of solidarity and the hope that the coming year will find greater unity and more comradeship and solidarity in the front ranks of organized labor.

Long live the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union!
Long live the emancipation of the working class!

**Chicago Cloak Operators' Union,
Local No. 5, I. L. G. W. U.**

FOREIGN ITEMS

ENGLAND

FREE EDUCATION.
A resolution has been passed unanimously by the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers, calling for the correlation of primary and secondary schools, throwing them open, free and compulsory, to all classes, and unifying control both national and local; also for the optional attendance of children from the age of three and compulsory attendance between the age of 5 and 16, transferring them from primary schools to secondary schools at the age of 11. At present education in the primary schools is compulsory only until the age of 14 and free places in the secondary schools are limited and competitive.

WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.
The League of Nations Council, which meets shortly, will be asked to discuss certain drastic proposals sent up from the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children, which has just closed its second session at Geneva. Amongst other measures dealing with emigration of women and children, the collaboration of the International Labor Office of the League is to be asked in connection with the employment of women, as well as men among the police engaged in dealing with prostitution.

AUSTRIA.

TO UNITE THE SECOND AND VIENNA INTERNATIONALS.
The committee of ten, who are paying the way to the amalgamation of the Second and Vienna Internationals, is now meeting at Bruggen, and has already confirmed May 31 as the opening day, and Hamburg as the place of the European Socialist Conference, at which the two Internationals shall unite.

ANOTHER COUP D'ETAT IN GERMANY?
Signs are not wanting that another reactionary coup d'etat is being planned in Germany. . . . The Fascist organizations are standing by, ready to threaten the Cuno Government if it shows signs of listening to the demand throughout the country for a reasonable solution of the Ruhr problem, which might involve sacrifices for the oligarchy of capitalists who control German industry. . . . As the Ruhr situation develops more and more into a deadlock the Fascist organizations are certain to become more active.

Saar Miners Underpaid Over 70,000 miners in the Saar have been on strike over two months. . . . The principal cause of the strike is the dual currency; the result of which is that prices are up to the French level while wages	are still not much above the German standard reckoned in marks. The Saar miners get 7 francs a day less than the Lorraine miners. Thus it is clear that the French Government, which owns the State mines, is keeping the Saar miners down to a level below that of the miners of France.
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YOUR DENTIST

Have your teeth thoroughly examined, without cost to you, by your own dentist at the Union Health Center, 131 East 17th Street.

The Dental Department of the Union Health Center served 10,000 workers during the year 1922, members of the I. L. G. W. U. and their families.

The Dental Department is equipped to serve EVERY member of the Union this year.

The Dental Department of the Union Health Center is Your Dentist. Charges are based on costs, not profits. Remember, a small cavity today means a bad tooth to-morrow.

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES

First of May Reflections

By FANNIA M. COHN

It is not a mere accident that the First of May was chosen as the Workers' Holiday. The coming of spring awakens in the human heart new hopes and fresh yearnings for noble, exalted and great ideals. In the spring one's fancies are rich in color, love and tenderness. Nature awakens in us a strong desire for joy and for a life in which every legitimate want may be satisfied, unhampered.

It is 34 years since May First was proclaimed as an international labor holiday. Workers could not have chosen a more beautiful symbol of their unity and solidarity than this day. It is the day when nature adorns itself in holiday attire. Its magnificent rays shed light where darkness prevails, bring hope where hope is dead, and generate courage and energy for the struggles that are to come.

On such a day there is no place for thoughts of despair and pessimism. We feel the approach of new forces. Hopes rise higher and higher, and call to us and inspire us with a greater desire to enjoy life.

It's the spring in the life of workers that makes us feel so happy and hopeful. Under the influence of rebirth in nature, workers forget, be it even for a short while—the unpleasantness, the despair and suffering of every-day existence.

The First of May is the international holiday of labor,—the very emblem of unity and solidarity of labor the world over. It fills our soul with hope. The budding of new life in nature brings us a message of rejuvenation, and imbues us with new spirit, new vision, and a new hope that the ideals which have been cherished for ages by men and women of toil may be realized soon. This is enough to fill our hearts and minds with joy, tenderness, and a determination to carry on the age-long struggle for a better world.

The First of May is the holiday of internationalism. It instills in us the hope that real brotherhood of nations will be established. In addition to its demonstrative character, the First of May always had a practical value. On this day, workers throughout the world advanced economic demands, chief among them the enactment of the eight-hour work day and other similar labor legislation. The eight-hour work day is practically achieved by organized labor the world over, and in many industries the 44-hour week is established.

But these demands were only a means to unite labor, to bind together the workers of all lands. It was a means to unite the workers in their struggle for a better life and for a more just form of society. It was a means to educate them, to show them that the interest and aims of the workers of all lands are identical.

The question arises: Can we unite the great masses on a program of the future only? We can unite small groups, but not the masses as a whole. It is for this reason that we must strengthen our ranks and see that workers the world over are better organized, more closely united, and enlightened on their own conditions. A great social class that embraces millions of men and women must include in its program immediate demands and must deal with the every-day life and problems of its members. It must have something to lean upon. It must report some concrete achieve-

ments. It must point to definite gains and accomplishments. It must consider every-day realities of the great masses whose interest it represents.

Never will organized labor lose sight of its idealistic mission. It will always carry on the fight for the workers' ultimate aim, which will ever be the inspiration in its struggles. But it also draws its strength from the fact that it deals with the workers' immediate needs as well.

The First of May is the day when workers the world over demonstrate their strength and show to their opponents how powerful their trade unions are, how victorious they have been and will be. Not only do they urge for a better future, but they also demand improvements for the present.

The working masses realize that their power lies in the organization of strong unions. But they are also beginning to realize that there is another power equally important,—the power of knowledge.

Through their trade unions, workers are fighting for more power, for a greater share of the wealth of the nation, and for a bigger place in our social and economic structure. They realize that this cannot be accomplished by mere sentiment, but that they must be prepared to assume greater responsibility.

Workers realize that the greatest strength of a group lies in its accumulated knowledge. They realize that unless they master the highest culture, which is the basis of our modern industrial civilization, they cannot become masters of their own lives.

Hence, the movement for workers' education. But this means much more than establishing classes and organizing courses. Workers' education is the symbol of the desire of organized labor to create new cultural values, which will tend to serve mankind as a whole and not individual groups. Its object is to adjust the environment to the needs of modern life, rather than the individual to the environment.

With heads raised high, and with a firm conviction in the final triumph of their mission, the workers leave their work-shops and factories on the First of May to celebrate the holiday of their class.

The First of May, the first of the month of nature in bloom, gives us greater hope and courage in future contests and our great aim to restore the wealth of the world to those who create it.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST, 3:15 P. M.

SAM SCARLETT

(Former Political Prisoner)

"Why I Went to Jail"

FRIDAY, APRIL 27TH

MARION CRAIG

WENTWORTH

will read Hauptmann's
"Hansen Bell"

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 3:15 P. M.

Mrs. HANNAH SKEFFINGTON

"The Irish Republic vs. The Free State."

RAID SCHOOL, 7 EAST 15TH ST.

Weekly Calendar

President Sigman's Letter to Workers' Education Bureau's Dinner

"It is with deep regret that I find myself unable to attend the dinner of the Bureau. Organization matters demand my presence elsewhere. However, I am certain that nothing would give me greater pleasure than to be with you and participate in this gathering.

"I have watched with keen interest the growth and development of the Workers' Education Bureau. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and its officers have always realized the importance of workers' education. We have proved our interest by initiating the educational activities of our International some eight years ago.

"In my judgment, education for workers is essential, because it keeps them in touch with the development of our social and economic institutions. Workers are the all-important part of our work. Whatever happens there concerns them vitally. It concerns them not only as units in the productive processes, but also as men and women, fathers and mothers. For that reason, it is of utmost importance that they be aware of all that is going on in their environment, particularly of those things that affect most vitally their working-class interests.

"It is also important to emphasize the fact that, for the successful growth of trade unions, workers' education is of prime importance. A stream does not rise above its source. The character and integrity of the individual members who compose a

trade union make up the character and integrity of the trade union itself. It is obvious, therefore, that an intelligent, well-educated, clear-thinking rank and file is the basis for an effective, far-seeing and intelligent trade union. Our efforts to spread education among the members of trade unions are therefore a necessary part of trade-union activities. If for no other reason than to preserve a healthy and effective trade-union organization.

"One more thought enters my mind—that in our efforts for the development of labor education, we must keep in mind the truth, that workers' education must remain within the Labor Union Movement, controlled by it and responsible to it. It is only with trade-union control that we can be assured that the advantages of workers' education will accrue to the benefit of the workers themselves and to that of their organization.

"This is not a narrow and one-sided thought. We must realize that, whatever accrues to the benefit of the worker and his organization is at the same time a benefit to society as a whole. The working-class constitutes almost all of society, and it is therefore obvious that anything which will raise their level and standard of life, anything which will make their lives richer and happier, will be a blessing not only to them but to society as a whole.

"Please accept my best wishes for your continued success in this important field of labor-union activity."

Our classes in English meet in every CENTER of the
I. L. G. W. U. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.



CRITICS OF HUMAN PROGRESS

With the Waist and Dress Joint Board

By M. K. MACKOFF, Secretary
(Minutes of Meeting of April 11, 1923)

Brother Berlin in the Chair.

OUTSIDE COMMITTEES

A committee representing the Young People's Socialist League of Greater New York appeared before the Board requesting financial aid so that they may be able to spread their propaganda among the young people and make them understand the importance of organization and solidarity. Upon motion the request was referred to the Finance Committee.

In a communication the Workers' Education Bureau informed the Joint Board that their Third Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 14th, at the Yorkville Casino and requested the Joint Board be requested. The subject of discussion will be "Education and Social Progress" and among the speakers will be Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor; James H. Robins, historian and author, and Royal Meeker, Pennsylvania Commissioner of Labor and Industry. Upon motion it was decided that a committee of three, consisting of Brothers Hochman, Berlin and Mackoff, be sent to this dinner.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Board of Directors submitted a report and recommendations of their meeting of April 9th. In substance the report is as follows:

COMPLAINT OF

BROTHER SHERMAN

Brother Sherman appeared before the Board against Brother Freeman, business agent of Local No. 23, stating that Brother Freeman gave him misleading information in stating that the Alice Costume Company was unionized. When the general strike was declared Brother Freeman, Brother Sherman claims, willfully neglected to see to it that the workers joined the strike; in addition, when the workers of that shop were taken down through the efforts of our Joint Board, Brother Freeman advised the workers to look for other jobs, telling them that the Alice Costume Company was going out of business. When a committee of our Joint Board came up to the shop a few days later, they found a new set of workers who presented working cards issued by Local No. 23. Upon motion it was decided that a committee consisting of Brothers Stein and Sisters Goodman and Wolowitz be appointed to investigate these charges and submit a report to the Joint Board.

ORGANIZATION DEPARTMENT

Sister Wolowitz reported for the committee appointed to make suitable arrangements for the Organization Department. She stated that though they did their best they could find no one to take charge of this department. The Board of Directors decided to place two additional members on the committee so that every possible effort may be made to secure the right person.

LABOR BUREAU

A report was submitted by the committee which was appointed to look into the advisability of establishing a labor bureau. The committee reported that they had investigated labor unions which operated labor bureaus and that they had also consulted with President Sigman who was heartily in favor of our Joint Board's installing a labor bureau. A lengthy discussion followed, and upon motion it was decided to approve the recommendations and report of the committee. A committee was appointed consisting of Brothers Farber, Portnoy and Milazzo, who were to try, in conjunction with the local secretaries and the Joint

Board managers, to secure a suitable room and someone to take charge of the labor bureau.

COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was received from Sister Trachtman tendering her resignation as business agent of the Joint Board. Sister Trachtman verbally explained her reasons for this action and, after careful consideration, it was decided to accept her resignation with regret, it being understood that Local No. 22 will be notified to send another business agent to replace Sister Trachtman.

Local No. 66 in a communication requested the Joint Board to put additional investigators to work to see that the clause providing for the protection of the interests of the embroidery workers is enforced. A discussion followed which brought out once more the regrettable stand taken by Local No. 66 in not permitting its members to work in non-union shops, despite the fact that it is much easier to organize non-union shops where some of the workers are members of the union. Brother Hochman informed the Board that the business agents were instructed last week to see that all the clauses of the agreement were observed.

In a communication the New York Call requested the Joint Board to send in an advertisement for their special edition in celebration of their 15th anniversary. Upon motion it was decided to insert an advertisement for \$50.00.

At present there are ten shops on strike, which involve about 73 people. As to the new shops which were taken down since the general strike was given up, there are 11 shops on strike involving 129 people.

Brother Horowitz reported that the Association will send out circular letters to all its members informing them of the various changes in the new agreement with the union. Brother Horowitz noticed that the provision about paying 15 per cent to workers who are discharged during the trial period was misinterpreted by the Association. He therefore took this matter up with the Association. Brother Horowitz also reported that he has made arrangements which will enable him to submit weekly reports to the Board of Directors of the most important doings of the Association department.

Upon motion the report of the Board of Directors was taken up verbatim and after due deliberation the report was approved.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Brother Berlin informed the Joint Board delegates of the presence of Brother Sigman at this meeting, and, in the name of the Joint Board, welcomed President Sigman and expressed the hope that the Joint Board would have the opportunity of obtaining information from him as to the decision of the General Executive Board in regard to the request for a unified control of the dress industry.

Brother Sigman at first expressed his regret that he has been unable to attend our Joint Board meetings since he took office. This, he explained, was due to the fact that from the very outset he was kept very busy with matters pertaining to organization, particularly organization work out of town.

However, on the very first day of his arrival in New York he got in touch with Brother Hochman about the general strike which we were con-

ducting, since, from what he gathered from the newspapers in the Middle West, the issue was far from being clear to him and his impression was that there was a general lack of policy. In Brother Sigman's opinion Brother Hochman had his hands full in taking care of the independent jobbers, the jobbers' association, the association of dress manufacturers and the independent shops.

Brother Sigman therefore felt that it would be advisable for him to try to bring the strike to a settlement and from the very first day he assumed office he did everything possible in that direction. Brother Sigman then went on to state how great an achievement he considered the 40-hour week, expressing his opinion that the 40-hour week and the week-work system should be introduced throughout the entire industry. He gave an elaborate outline of the situation in the ladies' garment industry throughout the country and particularly in the eastern states. He stated that it rests with the International to make special efforts to organize the unorganized workers who are undermining the prevailing union conditions. Brother Sigman also made it clear that all organizations affiliated with the International should put

their shoulders to the wheel in the launching of the organization campaign. Brother Sigman believes that, in proper agitation were carried on in all the country places where ladies' garments are made, employers would be obliged to give better working conditions and it would be a step forward in the right direction. Nevertheless, Brother Sigman stated that the New York ladies' garment center is very important and all efforts should be made to have union conditions prevail in the shops.

To begin with, Brother Sigman suggested that in the future all unions should try to reduce the growth of the cost-of-living to the minimum and agitate for the introduction of the week-work system and the maintenance of union conditions. Brother Sigman appealed for our cooperation in carrying on the work of organization.



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First of May Greetings

FROM

DRESSMAKERS' UNION

LOCAL NO. 22

On this day of our cherished holiday of Labor, the First of May, we send a message from the depth of our hearts to our fellow-brothers in America and to the toilers in all other countries.

We call to you, creators of all wealth: Lay aside scissors and iron, and let us together celebrate this workers' holiday and demonstrate our unity and solidarity.

We greet you, builders of this world of ours. Make use of this day, to strengthen the ranks of the workers' army and let the world feel our power and reckon with it.

Let us, in this day of nature's rebirth and the revival of the spirit of the workers, unite all factions of the working class into one strong union, and oppose the common enemy in one strong phalanx.

Long live the First of May!

EXECUTIVE BOARD, Local No. 22,
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

I. SCHOENHOLTZ, Sec'y.

The Week in Local 10

By JOSEPH FISH

GENERAL

For the past few months the office of our organization has been kept constantly busy. This is true of the manager's as well as of the secretary's office. Part of the activities of the office seems to be coming from the Miscellaneous Division, which has recently been reorganized.

Brother Dubinsky, who has been attending to some cases at the Cloak and Suit Joint Board, had a pleasant surprise the other day in the form of a gift presented by several cutters after the final disposition of their case by the Executive Board, by whom they were each fined \$25 for violating the agreement in working excessive hours of overtime. It is very seldom that an officer of our organization is presented with a gift in gratitude for service rendered.

A few months ago the Executive Board decided that our union was to have a half time next year, and since it is necessary that a half be hired at least a year in advance, our General Secretary was instructed to find a suitable place for it. He subsequently reported to the board that he had secured Tammany Hall for the ball, which will be held Saturday evening, March 29th, 1924. The organization has decided that every member must purchase at least one ticket for it.

CLOAK AND SUIT

Rarely have we quoted here any cases that have come up before the executive board. In this instance we wish to quote two cases to show our members how strict the executive board sometimes is in enforcing the rules of our organization.

The first case is that of Julius Yankelowitz, Ledger No. 3154, Isidore Graff, No. 3312, and Harry Teitel, No. 2814. These three cutters are employed by the firm of Phil Shelanaky, 128 West 25th Street. They appeared originally before the Executive Board on Thursday, November 16, 1922, charged by Manager Slutsky of the Joint Board with working illegal hours. It was shown at the time that these men worked about 16 or 17 hours overtime for a few weeks. At that time the case was held for further investigation, as these men were suspected of working either Saturday afternoon or Sunday.

The investigation now shows that the three brothers in question worked an illegal amount of overtime for about two weeks, and that Brother Teitel has an additional charge against him, namely, that of not reporting the employment of a non-union man in the house.

These three brothers admit the charge of working an excessive amount of overtime, but gave an explanation the fact that one of them had been married at that time and remained away for a couple of days. As the house was very busy, just then, they had to work overtime to make up for the time lost by this third brother.

The executive board decided in this case that Brothers Yankelowitz and Graff be fined \$25 each, and that Brother Teitel be fined \$35.

A shop meeting of the cutters employed by Phil Shelanaky was held in the office about three months ago, at which time the cutters informed the office that they intended looking for jobs elsewhere since this, like all plush houses, has no work for the spring season. At the same time, however, they wanted to return to the firm when the slack season was over. The office instructed the cutters to inform the firm to that effect, stating that, when work was resumed,

the cutters should be asked to return.

About four weeks ago the office received a complaint that the firm had engaged a new cutter who had been there for a few weeks and that these cutters had not been called back to work. When the manager questioned the firm he learned that in the middle of the season the cutters had been called to the job, but, since it was only for a day or two, they did not care to lose their present jobs. The firm, therefore, refused to reinstate them.

Since the two cutters neglected to follow up this shop, the firm hired a new cutter, who had been working there for a period of six weeks. When the office learned of this, the cutters were informed that it was their fault for not watching the house, and therefore one of the two would have to lose the job and make room for the new man. They duly raffed, and it was thereby decided which was to have the job.

When the other cutters were ordered not to work in this shop unless the cutter who had won the raffie was called in, the firm, after a stoppage lasting one day, offered a settlement of \$300 to the two cutters for their claims. The cutters agreed to accept and therefore the new man who had been working there for six weeks remained in the house and this office was asked to send another man.

It is in regard to this case that Brother Dubinsky received the token of appreciation previously mentioned. The second case we wish to quote is that of Brother Abe Denbaum, Ledger No. 231, who appeared on summons before the executive board, charged with permitting the employment of a non-union man as well as with hiring him below the scale. He was also charged with working overtime without pay. Brother Denbaum is at present employed in the house of Frederick and Chota, 18 West 21st Street.

The brother admitted hiring the man involved, but as to the wages of this man, he claims that this was done under instructions from the firm and that he had nothing to say in the matter.

Regarding the overtime question, he states that he is a widower with four children, and usually comes in late, as he must send them off to school. He therefore generally makes up for lost time in the evening.

The executive board imposed a fine of \$25 against Brother Denbaum and further decided that he is to leave the job before June.

The office has received a report from Brother Rubin, manager of the association department of the Joint Board, covering the activities of his office for the period extending from November, 1922, to March 1, 1923. The following are the number of complaints filed during this period and their classification:

Discharge cases	178
Claim of wages	67
Non-union employees	80
Unequal distribution of work	364
Non-union and unregistered contractors	110
Paying below scale	30
Discriminating against inside people	32
Discriminating against outside people	8
Lockouts	28
Reduction of wages	11
Working illegal hours	40
Abusive treatment of employee	19
Non-compliance with terms of adjustment	16
Collections for workers of sub-manufacturers' shops	17

Miscellaneous	30
Working by piece	1
Pending cases	86

Total number of complaints. 916

Of the 178 discharge cases, there were involved 54 operators, 115 finishers, 28 pressers, 20 cutters, 23 tailors, and three bushmen. The cutters were discharged as follows: In favor of the Union . . . 104 cases In favor of Association . . . 46 cases Withdrawn 26 cases

Out of the 20 cutters who were discharged, 13 were reinstated, four were not reinstated, and three cases were withdrawn.

Of the four cutters in whose cases the discharge was upheld, two were for incompetency, one for insubordination, and one was for being absent from the job for two months. The other three cases that were withdrawn were those in which the complainants did not show up at the investigation, or in which they were taken back to work before the investigation.

The Protective Department has succeeded in collecting \$1,208.76 in back pay on account of complaints filed for the following reasons:

Not paying agreed price.

Not paying at holiday rate.
Not paying the proper scale.
Not paying proper rate for overtime.

This includes in addition to the cutters all the other crafts controlled by the Joint Board.

The office has received a report from Brother Slutsky, manager of the independent American Association and reffer shops. This report shows a control of 208 independent cloak shops, 118 independent reffer shops, making a total of 326 independent shops controlled by the office.

It also controls 140 American cloak shops and 62 American reffer shops, totaling 202 shops.

A total of 526 shops controlled by the independent, American and reffer departments is shown, which shops employ 10,438 persons. Of these the independent and American cloak shops employ 6,499, and the independent and American reffer shops employ 3,939. Of these the cloak shops employ 424 cutters and the reffer shops 363, making a total of 787 employed in 526 shops. The cloak shops employ 2,307 operators and the reffer shops employ 1,923, all totaling 4,230 operators, which shows an average of about one cutter to every five operators.

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CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

Notice of Regular Meetings

GENERAL	Monday, April 30th
CLOAK AND SUIT	Monday, May 7th
WAIST AND DRESS	Monday, May 14th
MISCELLANEOUS	Monday, May 21st

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place