

"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. 20.

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## CAMPAIGN AMONG DRESSMAKERS

Vice-President Perlstein, Dress Manufacturers—Union Wants Peace but is Ready for Action

The campaign to organize the thousands of dressmakers in Chicago has started in full swing. Vice-president Meyer Perlstein, in charge of the Western Office of the International with offices in Chicago, is conducting the drive with the aid of a large and active committee of workers, members of Local No. 100 and of the other locals affiliated with the Chicago Joint Board.

Vice-president Perlstein is determined to abolish guerrilla warfare which has been going on between the union workers and the manufacturers in the dress industry in Chicago, and to substitute for it contractual relations on the basis of collective bargaining. The individual shop strikes, ruinous both for the workers and the employers must give way to ordered commonsense relations. Last week Brother Perlstein forwarded, in the name of the Union, a letter to all the manufacturers in the trade in which this point is clearly emphasized. The letter reads:

"Gentlemen:

"We desire to call your attention to the following:

"The Dressmakers' Union of Chicago is engaged at present in working out plans for a definite method of cooperation to be established between the employers and the workers in the industry. The proposals which the Union will have to make will be submitted to you for your consideration.

"During the bad industrial times, the workers have suffered a great deal. The employers too have been hard hit, and the industry in general was quite demoralized. Now, however, that conditions have changed, the future is more promising and there is an excellent opportunity for both sides to come together and to take up collectively the problems confronting the workers and the employers. The industry must, after all, be considered as a joint enterprise. The workers are organized and are ready to give their best collectively to the industry, but they expect to get in return a living wage and democratic shop conditions.

"We are sending you this letter

and desire to impress upon you the fact that we are earnest in our wish to establish in this industry the round-table conference rather than work-stoppages and strikes which have occurred so frequently in the past. Both sides will be required to show industrial statesmanship, and the union will feel very much grieved if it should have to take recourse again to strikes and stoppages rather than to conferences and discussions."

It is as the readers will judge for themselves a mild statement, expressing a desire for conferring upon the burning problems of labor in the industry—but it nevertheless contains a warning that the refusal of the employers might bring trouble for them in the near future.

Next week Vice-president Perlstein will visit Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Toledo to confer with the local executive boards on the conditions prevailing in those cities and on the steps to be undertaking for starting organizing work there.

## Dress and Waist Joint Board to Aid Call Bazaar

Issues Request to All Shop-Chairmen

The New York Call, the fighting labor daily of this city, will celebrate its 15th anniversary by a bazaar and concert lasting several days. The Dress and Waistmakers Joint Board has decided to take an active part in this affair and to call upon the members of its affiliated locals to do their best to insure its success. The Bazaar will open on May 25, at the Central Opera House, 67th Street and Third Avenue, and will last until May 29th.

The Joint Board decided to have a booth of its own at the Bazaar, and it now appeals to the members to furnish the office with articles to fill up this booth and to continue replenishing it as long as the affair lasts.

Brother Mackoff, Secretary of the Joint Board for this purpose addressed a letter to all shop chairmen of the dress and waist shops in Greater New York, urging them to aid the undertaking of the New York Call.

## A Historic Day at the Capmakers' Convention

Samuel Gompers Greets the Coming of Peace Between the United Hatters and the Capmakers—President Sigman Speaks at the Convention in the Name of Our International.

The morning session of Saturday last, May 5, of the convention of the Capmakers' and Milliners' International Union, still meeting in New York City, made history in the labor movement. It was converted entirely into a demonstration for the peace treaty between the organized hatters and capmakers in this country.

The jurisdiction fight over the millinery workers—which led to the exclusion of the capmakers from the A. F. of L. a few years ago—now comes to an end with the recognition of the authority of the capmakers over the millinery workers. The final curtain upon this fraternal feud fell last Saturday morning when President Gompers of the Federation came to greet the capmakers' delegates and their invited guests—President Green and Secretary Lawlor of the Hatters—upon the era of harmony and cooperation which finally dawned upon the workers in both these trades.

Gompers delivered an inspiring speech—one of the best he had made in many years, according to the unanimous opinion of all who were present. He made a strong point in referring to certain groups within some unions who attack the Federation because of its alleged policy of opposition to "amalgamation." He asserted

that the Federation never was nor is it now opposed to amalgamation; that it is in favor of it—but that it is only opposed to forcing amalgamation upon such unions and trades as do not yet desire it. He cited a number of facts in support of his statement and pointed to the printing trades in which all crafts were united in one allied body and were acting like one—because the printers had themselves desired such a union and such an amalgamation of forces. He referred to the past controversy between the capmakers and the hatters as a case in point, where the amalgamation proposed by the capmakers to the hatters was rejected by the latter—yet both sides are ready to enter a friendly alliance today and the entire labor will applaud them.

## Elections in New Ladies' Tailors' Local this Saturday

Local's New Office at 877 Sixth Avenue

This Saturday afternoon, May 12, there will take place the first election of officers in the newly formed local of ladies' tailors, No. 38. The balloting will take place in Bryant Hall, 725 Sixth Avenue, near 42nd Street. An entire set of officers, paid and unpaid, will be chosen.

Until this election, the affairs of this local had been managed provisionally by a committee elected at one of the first organization meetings. The persons that will now enter office will be elected for a full year. The office of Local No. 38 has heretofore been temporarily located at the office of Local 3 in the new building of the Cloakmakers' Union, at 25th Street and Lexington Avenue; it is now at its own headquarters at 877 Sixth Avenue.

Ladies' tailors are requested to bear in mind the date of the election and not to fail to take part in it. To insure the election of proper persons to administer the affairs of this organization, it is imperative that as great a number of members as possible participate in this election.

## Hike and Outing to Silver Lake Sunday, May 20th

On Sunday, May 20th, the students of our Workers' University and

Unity Centers are to have their hike and outing to Silver Lake, Staten Island.

We had a number of calls asking us how best to reach the place. These are the directions:

Meet the committee on the New York side of the St. George Ferry, South Ferry, at 9 o'clock. After crossing the ferry, take the car marked FOUR CORNERS, ride for about 25 minutes, and get off at Silver Lake. There take the road on the left and follow the trail into the woods.

All those wishing to join are asked to bring food for the day and meet the committee promptly at nine in the morning. The committee will see to the rest.

## FOREST PARK UNITY HOUSE WILL OPEN ON FRIDAY, JUNE 15

Friday, June 15th, will be the opening day of the beautiful summer home of the workers in the dress and waist industry of New York—the Unity House in Forest Park, Pike County, in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Pennsylvania.

The Office of the Dress Joint Board, at 16 West 21st Street is already open for registration for vacationists. Make your plans early—the earlier the better both for the management and for the vacationers and rest seekers.

# Topics of the Week

By MAX D. DANISH

## NEGRO WORKERS MOVING NORTHWARD

THE migration of Negroes from the South to the North, which set in shortly after the beginning of the world war and was checked at its close, has again been resumed within the last few months on a scale that is exciting interest throughout the country.

The cotton fields of the sunny South and the mining lands and iron boundaries of Alabama and Tennessee are losing their semi-enslaved workers who, notwithstanding the spectre of race-riots and the inhospitable climate of the North, are packing up their meagre belongings and moving in their tens of thousands beyond the Mason-Dixon line. The cotton planters and the mine owners of the South are naturally alarmed and their press reflects this uneasiness. The loss of such docile, plentiful and free-from-the-influence-of-unionism labor it will be impossible to replace.

The influx of a large army of Negro workers into the channels of Northern and Middle-Western industry will doubtless present some serious problems to organized labor. The employing interests will no doubt welcome these Negro workers in the hope of substituting them for the masses of foreign workers who left the country during the war and who have since been prevented from re-entering it by the more stringent immigration laws. How great an obstacle these Negro workers will prove in the path of the trade-union movement in the North and Middle West is difficult to forecast. There is no reason on earth, however, why the labor movement of America should not open its gates wide to the Negro workers and show them a cordial, fraternal attitude. Of the response to such willingness to admit Negro workers on terms of equality into the labor union, there can be little doubt. Then, instead of a liability, the masses of the colored workers in the North and Middle West will become an asset to the labor movement. The story of the rise of labor unionism in many of the trades with a preponderance of foreign workers who at one time were deemed unorganizable and are now among the best divisions of organized labor in the country, is an excellent example to have in mind.

## DRY LAW REPEAL IN NEW YORK

THE sensation of the week in New York still continues to be the repeal of the State prohibition enforcement law by the New York Legislature during the closing days of its session.

The "dry" realize that, if New York is left without an enforcement act, the Volstead law will become a dead letter in the principal states of the Union. They will doubtless do their utmost to influence Governor Smith to veto this repeal. The "wets," on the other hand, are confident that the repeal will stand, and that prohibition, so far as the State of New York is concerned, will become a toothless measure.

Whatever selfish interests there may be back of both the prohibition and anti-prohibition forces—and there is no doubt that huge opposing capitalist combinations are interested for or against it—organized labor will derive considerable satisfaction from the repeal of this vicious law. In the matter of prohibition and the colossal network of corruption and graft which it has produced, organized labor has maintained a very definite and steady attitude. While it is opposed to the saloon, it is equally set against the disgusting censorship of life and thought which has all but swamped our country since the war-days and of which the prohibition business, particularly its enforcement features, is part and parcel.

## WORLDWIDE FINGER-PRINTING

TRULY these are days of internationalism. In vain did we hope that at least our blue-covers army would escape the danger of association with "reds." But it was not thus to be. Last week witnessed the get-together of the police chiefs of the proverbial "every civilized country in the world," right here in New York.

It was an ambitious gathering. Among the proposals advanced were such as the exchange of police ambassadors between each country, a plan which, if carried out, would create for instance such a post as the Police Plenipotentiary to the Republic of France or to the Court of St. James,—a giddy, dazling project. The Scotland Yard chief told of a plan now being carried out by the British police organization to compile a Who's Who of "radicals of every description," the world over, and asked the cooperation of the American police in this ennobling undertaking.

The climax, however, came with the proposal by the Argentine police chief that every person in the world be finger-printed, so that police action everywhere might be made efficient and practically unfailing. It is this proposal above all the others that captivates our fancy. Think of it—a finger-printed world! Not enough to have a card-indexed, tabulated, pigeon-holed, classified and censored world,—the police idea is to have a finger-printed community; to have each infant as it first opens its eyes to look upon this universe, finger-printed and marked for surveillance, lest it might stray as it grows from the path of righteousness, particularly in a direction commonly catalogued as radical and non-conformist.

## THE CLOUD ON THE COAL HORIZON

LAST week President Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America, upon his return from a trip to Europe, where he attended the international mine workers' congress, was asked whether there are any prospects for strife in the coal fields by the end of summer. He replied that he hoped for none, but, if the mine operators attempt to reduce wages, the union will resist.

There seems to be ground enough, indeed, for the inquiry and for the answer. There are rumblings in the mine districts, particularly in the bituminous fields, of another contest that might be re-enacted on a huge scale early this fall unless the operators recede from their determination to force a wage-cut. In this they were licked after a six months' strike last year. But the mine operators, in spite of the huge profits reaped by them during the long cold months of last winter, appear to be eager for some more trouble. The victory of the union is obviously galling them.

The United Mine Workers, on the other hand, are not content to remain

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in a defensive role. Complete unionization of the bituminous industry and the abolition of the open shop operations in West Virginia and a few other states is the goal of the workers' organization. The miners intend to utilize every public and individual agency to bring about this end. In a statement addressed to the U. S. Coal Commission last week, they bring this idea forcibly into view:

"We are living in an age of organization—at a time when the tendency of human effort and social endeavor is towards organization, cooperation and collective action. To deny the workers the right to organize is nothing more than improper interference with the exercise of an inherent right and the normal activity of every people."

It remains to be seen whether the coming few months will give sufficient time for second thought to those mine operators who would again let loose the dogs of war in the mine lands next September.

## THE VALUATION OF THE RAILROADS

HOW much are the railroads of the country worth? The valuation of railroad property is now before the Interstate Commerce Commission. The railroads claim that their property is worth \$28,000,000 and they base their right to impose passenger and freight rates on the assumption of such value. On the other hand, a number of responsible public authorities place a valuation of only \$10,000,000 on railroad property—about half of the railroad-owners' claim. This controversy has been raging in the public press and before State and Federal commissions ever since the railroads were returned to their owners in 1920.

A conference of the progressive bloc in Congress has been called for May 25 and 26 in Chicago to meet and to launch the fight on the high freight and passenger rates exacted by the railroads and to expose the invalidity of the railroad-owners' exaggerated valuation of the railroads. Seven governors and a number of U. S. Senators and Representatives, headed by LaFollette, will attend this conference. The conference intends to have the true value of the railroads made known to the public, to have railroad rates fixed on this true valuation, and to remove the unwarranted burden of hundreds of millions of dollars annually from American agriculture, industry and the great consuming public.

LaFollette and his co-workers did not pick a soft spot in declaring war upon the railroads and their rate-making powers. They have invaded the lion of American capital in its very den and they will probably be roundly and vociferously abused by all and everything that caters to and supports the "vested interests" in America. The progressive bloc is, however, on the right track, and LaFollette and his associates will, among others, receive hearty support from the organized workers for their courage and hard-hitting tactics.

# FROM OUR JOINT BOARDS AND LOCALS

## CLOAK EXAMINERS, LOCAL 22

By N. J. ASHPIZ, Sec.-Mgr.

The lean period has now begun in our shops and as usual no one can tell how long it will last. Judging by the way the employers are making their preparations, we should be inclined to believe that we shall have a good fall season. But of course it is all problematical.

The union, nevertheless, and each local in particular, is placing great hopes on the coming season. We are working out plans which, if carried out, will make it certain that each and every legitimate shop in the trade will have at least one examiner. We emphasize the term "legitimate" as we do not want to be misinterpreted to mean that each and every one of the shops in the trade, no matter how small, can afford to have an examiner. But with the gradual and persistent elimination of the bigger shops and the substitution of smaller units, it becomes a matter of vital importance to our men that the employment of examiners in the shops be strictly enforced.

If the business agents at meetings will dwell upon this matter in their dealings with the workers, we believe that the question of employment of union examiners could be favorably settled with the employers. Our agreement calls for union examiners, and the failure to carry out this provision is in our opinion a blow at the prestige of the Union.

We are now conducting lectures for our members under the auspices and with the aid of the Educational Department. Mr. Max Levin is delivering a series of talks on the history, aims, and problems of our international at our member meetings. We forwarded letters last week to all the shop chairmen of the larger shops in New York City in which several examiners are employed, asking them to call the attention of the examiners to lectures at our member meetings, and inviting them to come. We regret to say that the attendance was far from satisfactory. We hope that at the next meeting our members will show up in larger numbers and will make an earnest effort to become acquainted with the origin, status and present problems of our large organization.

We are now meeting in a new hall in the Italian Labor Center, 231 East 14th Street, on the 5th floor. Our office is located on the same floor.

Our member meetings will be held during the summer and fall months but once monthly. They will take place on the following dates:

May 17; June 4; July 2; August 27; September 17; October 8 and 29 and November 19. Aside from that, all members in good standing will receive letters notifying them of every meeting in advance.

## LOCAL 23 AND THE PROBLEM OF ONE DRESSMAKERS' LOCAL

Manager Meyer Mind of Local 23 writes:

The old question of one dress local in New York City is nearing solution. Thanks to the efforts of President Sigman, we shall have, so it looks today, one dressmakers' local in this city much sooner than many of us have expected.

Sure enough, all of us realized right along that one local is the best, if not the only means of controlling the dress trade in New York; yet, there were always obstacles in the way,—at times objections of merit,—and until now the getting together of Locals 22 and 23 seemed to be an unrealizable thing.

Local 22, for instance, would argue that the dressmakers of Local 23

ought to be transferred to it, as numerically they have far more dressmakers than the latter body. Local 23 would reply to this argument that it had been the original dressmakers' local in the city for fifteen or sixteen years past and that today as many dresses are being produced in shops under their control as in those under the control of Local 22. We have had several conferences between these two locals during the last year at which the desirability of uniting both locals and placing them under the jurisdiction of one joint board was fully agreed upon in principle. We also obtained the undivided sanction of the General Executive Board to this plan—after the Cleveland convention had voted for it.

But passing resolutions and agreeing in principle is one thing, and carrying out these resolutions is quite another. Pessimists among us have been saying, and not without justification, that this question of one dressmakers' local will probably be debated again at the next convention, and will again be favorably voted upon. Fortunately, President Sigman took a firm hand in this situation. He means business, and he faithfully promised us to begin the job of amalgamating these two locals within a month or so. And those who have heard Brother Sigman's promise are beginning to believe that it will be carried out in good faith and that the end of the problem is finally in view now.

To those dressmakers, members of Local 23, who have in mind but one thing and that is making a living at their trade and occupation, we want to say the following: Give us help. Put everything aside, and this highly important and burning problem will soon be solved. We faithfully believe that one local in the industry will mean a great deal for the welfare of the workers. There is no doubt that it will give the union full control over work conditions in the shops, something which we have not had in the dress industry since the first day of its inception and growth.

## Boston News

By A LOCAL OBSERVER

### CLOAKS AND SUITS

As our members were informed some time ago through the columns of JUSTICE, a number of violations of our agreement were uncovered by our office in some of the contracting shops. Some of these grievances were adjusted amicably between the union and the employers; other complaints are still pending, and it is because of these that a conference between the Contractors' Association and the representatives of the Joint Board was held on Monday, April 30, at the Hotel Brewster. At this conference, the entire situation was gone over thoroughly by the representatives of both sides and measures were adopted for the creation of a better machinery for the adjustment of complaints. The spirit that prevailed at this conference was a very friendly one, and the association agreed to help the union enforce the agreement in all shops belonging to the members. One of the serious grievances that the union representatives brought forth was the fact that in some instances it was found that shops had employed their workers on a piece-work basis. This, it was pointed out, is a violation of the very foundation and the basic principle of the agreement. The association, headed by Mr. Bernard Rosenberg, promised to cooperate with the Joint Board and do all in its power to en-

force this and other evils in the shops of its members. The union was ably represented at this conference by Brothers Elias Finkelstein and J. Mowabit, chairman and secretary of the Board of Directors respectively; J. Schneider, Chairman of Local No. 66; A. Taudiker and Meyer Frank.

The Board of Directors of the Joint Board was instructed by the latter to take up the question of the renewal of the agreement, which expires on July 1st of this year. They were also requested to bring their recommendations and findings to the Joint Board as soon as possible. The Board of Directors has already had one meeting at which the agreement in its entirety was taken up. A number of suggestions were made by different Board members, but no definite conclusions have been reached as yet. At the next meeting, the details of the new agreement will be discussed and recommendations made to the Joint Board. Our members will be informed of the progress of these meetings through JUSTICE.

### WAIST AND DRESS

The regular monthly meeting of the shop chairmen of the Ladies' Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 49, was held on Wednesday, April 25, at the office of the union, 919 Washington Street. This meeting was the second of its kind since the last general strike. The first shop-chairmen's meeting in March was very interesting, because of its novelty. Many of these shop-chairmen were members who joined the union recently, and while they were all eager and anxious to do their utmost for the organization and the workers in their respective shops, they did not possess the experience which is needed in the performance of their duties. The officers of the union and some of the active members of the executive board then explained to the assembled chairmen the objects of these monthly meetings. They were to serve as a sort of training school and a medium of exchange of opinions. Reports of the doings within the shops were to be submitted by the shop chairmen with the suggestions proposed by them for the remedying of different evils and troubles that may arise from time to time. These suggestions are to be taken up by the executive board of the union and acted upon whenever possible. All our shop representatives had their reports ready for the last meeting, and although the meeting lasted rather late in the evening, not a single shop chairman left the hall before its adjournment. The majority of the representatives reported that conditions in their shops are pretty fair and that the manufacturers are trying more or less to live up to the terms of the agreement. Some told of certain difficulties that occurred in their shops, which had to be straightened out by the office. Many of these complaints arose in shops where the employers had never before dealt with the union, and therefore, did not know how to act. The shop chairmen expressed their satisfaction with the work of the of-

fice and the manner in which complaints are adjusted. The next shop chairmen's meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 23rd, at the office of the union.

The dress branch of the Pressers' Union, Local No. 12, held a special meeting on Wednesday, May 2nd, at the headquarters of the Joint Board, 17 Essex Street. This meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the advisability of Local No. 12 being represented by three delegates at the Executive Board of Local No. 49. For many years the pressers' local, while working harmoniously in conjunction with Local No. 49 in all matters affecting the welfare of the workers in the industry, was not represented at the joint executive board sessions of the latter. The meeting was well attended and was addressed by Brother Meyer Frank, business agent of the joint board and the manager of Local No. 49. After a thorough discussion it was unanimously decided to elect three delegates who will in the future represent Local No. 12.

### WORCESTER

The organization campaign among the dressmakers in Worcester is progressing rapidly. Meetings of the workers of the trade are called frequently, and these are well attended. Thursday, May 2nd, all the cloakmakers in Worcester stopped work an hour earlier and went "en masse" to the different dress shops, to approach the non-union girls and ask them to come to a mass meeting which had been arranged for the same evening. They were very successful in this respect, and as a result quite a number of these non-union workers joined our organization. It is well worth mentioning the fact that the pants workers of the Amalgamated are helping along in this campaign and even went so far as to stop off some of their members the evening of the mass meeting. It happens that these Amalgamated members own their own cars, which they put at the disposal of the campaign committee. Some of the non-union girls were taken in these machines to the hall in which the meeting took place.

The Central Labor Union of Worcester promised to give its full cooperation and support to the dressmakers, and Monday evening, May 7, when another mass meeting will be held at the headquarters of the Union, 83 Green Street, President Daniel Donovan of the C. L. U. will address it in person. Miss Sarah Hurvitz, business agent of Local 49, Boston, who is well known among the dressmakers of Worcester, is scheduled as one of the speakers of the evening. Brother Daniel Goldman, a member of the Cloakmakers' Union, who was chairman of the organization campaign committee, is doing an enormous amount of work. He is very enthusiastic and confident that his committee—which consists of cloakmakers and a few dressmakers—will be very successful, and that in the very near future the ladies' garment industry in Worcester will be thoroughly organized.

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# Los Angeles Labor Unions Form Labor Party

By JOS. LEVITT

(Special Correspondence to JUSTICE)

The two conventions of the Los Angeles city organizations held during last March for the purpose of forming a labor party can be termed as a little short of a political revolution.

The party, which includes in addition to the F. of L. bodies, the Socialist party, the Workmen's Circle, and the unions which do not belong to the Federation such as the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' locals, the Capmakers, and even loggers of the railway brotherhoods,—is now an active reality.

The job at these conferences was a complete one, and today we are already in the midst of a municipal and congressional campaign. The facts which attended the formation of this party we believe will not be uninteresting to readers of JUSTICE.

Until recently the Los Angeles labor unions were classed among the most conservative in the country. It was generally admitted fact that the Labor Temple and all that guides it and rules therein was conservative from cellar to roof. From time to time Los Angeles labor would "endorse" this or that old-party candidate, secure his election—only to be perennially disappointed in the elected official, as has been the case in similar instances in many other cities in the country. These deals would be carried out by the Joint Council—an alliance of the Central Labor Council, the Printing Trades Council, and a few other groups. This conservative group, by the way, is still opposed to the recently formed independent labor party.

Meanwhile, the economic and political situation of the workers in the city was growing worse and worse. Los Angeles was always regarded as a "rich" city where the Mercantile Association and the Chamber of Commerce, inspired by the Los Angeles Times, have fought the organized workers with unparalleled brutality and brazenness. The "American shop plan" originated in Los Angeles and has found support and application in this city more than anywhere else perhaps in the country. Wages in Los Angeles are lower than they are anywhere in the country, and most strikes in this city have been lost on account of the anti-picketing ordinances, the criminal syndicalism laws, and the animus of the local judges—most of them elected by the votes of the workers themselves.

The masses of the workers were discontented, but they did not know how to give expression to this dissatisfaction or how to remedy their situation. The news from England concerning the great strides made there by the party of the organized workers, and the interest in the possibilities of a labor party here at home, were about the only gleams of hope on the horizon.

Meanwhile the municipal campaign was approaching, and, in an effort to enlist the interest of the unions in this election, the Socialist organization of Los Angeles invited the Central Labor Council to take part in a conference of workers for independent political action. Much to their surprise, this invitation was not only accepted by a big majority of the Council but a decision was adopted by it to call upon the "political joint council" to summon a convention for this purpose.

The joint council had no other alternative but to obey. They called a convention of the labor unions affiliated with the central labor body on a week day morning, obviously for

the purpose of making as little of it as possible. In spite of that, over two hundred delegates, representing 54 of the largest trade unions in the city, came to that conference on March 18th. At that first conference the leaders of the joint council openly admitted that, in endorsing old party candidates in the past, they had been invariably duped and deceived and got nothing for the workers in return. Nevertheless they claimed the time was not yet ripe for independent action. This report was received by the conference without spirited comment.

On the other hand, the delegates

carried practically without opposition a resolution to form a labor party in Los Angeles. A remarkable discussion on the situation of the workers in the city and country from every conceivable point of view preceded the adoption of this resolution. The résumé of the debate amounted to a complete arraignment of the bi-partisan political rule in the past and pointed to the Labor Party of England as a muster and example for the workers of this country to follow. A committee of fifteen was elected to call a second convention and to invite to it all labor bodies, including unions not belonging to the Federation.

This second convention took place two weeks later, and was attended by delegates from two hundred labor unions and labor political organizations. Dr. Eugene Brown, a delegate of the moving picture operators, was chairman of the provisional committee and, in the declaration of principles which he read and which

was accepted by the convention, he came out flatly for the class struggle and for independent political action by labor. The convention decided to nominate candidates for the city council, for the board of education, and for the board of freeholders.

There is in Los Angeles a vacancy for a Congress seat caused by the death of Representative Osborne of the 16th District. The convention nominated for this post the well-known Socialist leader and writer, Upton Sinclair, whose acceptance of this candidacy was received by all the delegates with a storm of applause. The chairman of the Labor Party of Los Angeles is David Gorman, president of the Electrical Workers' Union; vice-chairman, Irvin Sewell, of the Railway Carmen; secretary, Joseph Valentine of the Carpenters' Union; assistant secretary, Emanuel Levy of the Office Workers' Union; and treasurer, William E. Robertson of the Railway Carmen's Union.

## The Dental Department of the Union Health Center is Six Years Old

On May 7th the dental department of the Union Health Center celebrated its sixth birthday, having been established on May 7th, 1917.

Readers of JUSTICE will remember the agitation during 1915 and 1916 as to the need of dental clinics among workers. The examination of the Public Health Service in 1913 showed that most of the workers in the trade were suffering from dental defects and most of the dental work done for the workers was faulty and defective.

Members of Local 22 were the first to get interested in the dental department and authorized its establishment as the work of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control. During the spring of 1917 Dr. George Price borrowed \$2,000.00 from the Joint Board of Sanitary Control, and \$2,000.00 was donated by the Board and a clinic was established with three chairs at 31 Union Square.

The necessity of the clinic was marked from the outset. The first week the income of the clinic was \$65.00, the second week it jumped to \$100.00 and after that it gradually increased until the Department was overtaken by the Union and afterwards removed to the Union Health Center Building in 1920.

The clinic has grown steadily since then and has become more and more popular among the workers until now

it has reached a high state of development. The clinic possesses ten chairs with ten dentists under the supervision of Dr. Max Price. In 1920 the clinic treated more than 10,000 patients and took in \$50,000.00. The growth of the clinic and the rise of the income since the first week is indicated. The income of the first week was \$65.00; while during the last week of April the clinic took in \$1,586.00 or about \$300.00 per day.

It is easy to cite figures as to the growth and success of the clinic, but it is not so easy to depict the trials and tribulations through which the clinic passed and the troubles and many headaches it has given to Dr. George Price, director of the Union Health Center, whose mind conceived the clinic and who has been the director and supervisor from the beginning and is responsible for its growth and success.

The many changes of chiefs of the clinic, which were necessary, and the many changes in personnel were a part of the trouble. Dr. Price's aim and purpose was to render the best work possible at the most reasonable rates and unfortunately, not being a dentist himself, he could only work through his subordinates, —not always successfully.

In the past there were a number of complaints from unskilled workers, and many of them were justified.

However, since the appointment of Dr. Max Price as chief of the clinic, it is admitted that the clinic has entered into a more clean and constructive period and attained a success hitherto unbelievable. The dental department of the Union Health Center has at present the confidence of the workers, the chief of the clinic is a widely experienced and scientific dentist and surgeon, and the staff is highly competent and experienced, so that at present the dental department is ready and able to do a large amount of dental work. There is no reason why the dental department should not continue to grow until it is able to treat all the workers of the International.

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

THE MESSENGER

The Only Trade Union Publication for Negro workers in America

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### O, JOYOUS SPRING

But to the children working in the cotton mills, the coal breakers, and cooped up in the city tenements, Spring is not much different from other seasons.

# The New York Legislative Retrospect for 1923

By J. CHARLES LAUE

Six months ago the labor movement in the State of New York was optimistic that the overwhelming election of Governor "Al" Smith to replace the reactionary Mr. La Follette would inaugurate an enlightened period of labor legislation. The session at Albany has just closed with labor's program placed in the discard by the partisan tactics of the Democratic and Republican parties.

Still more striking than this signal failure of the high hopes of the workers to see the Empire State again take the lead in the matter of helpful laws for the wage workers was the fact that, although many "friends" of labor were elected last November, not one of the speakers could be found either in the Senate or the Assembly who would voice the disappointment of the wage-earners at the bitter rivalry of the two old parties to the disregard of the welfare of the producing public; or who would proclaim

## Legislation Proposed

1. Incorporation in State Anti-Monopoly Law of Declaration: The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce .....
2. No court injunctions to be issued in labor disputes unless authorized by verdict of a jury after trial of the facts .....
3. Establishing the State Insurance Fund as the only form of insurance for Workmen's Compensation in this State .....
4. Restoration to the State Department of Labor of the power of effective enforcement of the labor laws; restoration of the original penalty stopping payment on contract when 8-hour and prevailing rate of wages law is violated .....
5. Eight-hour day for employed women and minors and a commission with women workers represented to fix minimum standard wages .....
6. Free textbooks and medical, surgical and dental treatment and care for all school children; with school lunches at cost .....
7. Restoration of direct primary nominations of state officers, Judges and United States Senators .....
8. Repeal of motion picture censorship law .....
9. Repeal of laws suppressing freedom of speech, opinion and of publication ..
10. State and municipal development and distribution at cost to homes, farms and workshops of electrical light, heat and power generated from water-power, as opposed to present policy of corporate exploitation .....
11. Legalizing of light wines and beers as beverages in the interest of health, temperance, morality and law enforcement (Petition to Congress to liberalize Volstead act) .....
- (Repeal state prohibition enforcement law) .....
12. Defeat of any proposal to compel labor unions to incorporate and of any proposal to limit right of wage workers to strike .....

The keenest disappointment was that of the women who saw their minimum wage bill and eight-hour bill defeated by a strict partisan line-up, the Republicans voting solidly against it although, in the second year of Governor Smith's first term, the Republicans broke ranks completely on welfare legislation and the Assembly came so near doing so that their program almost succeeded.

New York has not dared to go as far as Massachusetts, in this form of social welfare legislation, although California, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin and six other states have gone further to compel the payment of a living wage to helpless women and children who have no union to defend them.

The one distinct gain was the repeal of the Liquor Law to which the Republican majority in the Assembly

the disapproval of the masses with the political football the Democrats were playing in the Senate, which they controlled by one vote, and the butchery of progressive legislation perpetrated in the Assembly by the dominant Republican leadership.

At the close of the session an indignation meeting was held at the Capitol by the labor leaders of New York City and State, at which an ultimatum was delivered on behalf of the 1,250,000 trades unionists by William F. Kehoe, secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Council, to Governor Smith, on whose behalf the New York State Federation of Labor has had conducted an energetic election campaign.

Twelve labor planks had been formulated by the joint labor forces for inclusion in the platform of the major political parties and enactment into law. This is what happened to them in the session just ended:

## Senate Action Assembly Action

Passed	Defeated
No Action	
Smothered	
Passed	Passed (first session only)
Passed	Smothered in Rules Committee
No Action	
Passed	Defeated
Passed	Defeated
Passed	Passed
Passed	Defeated
Passed	Passed
Passed	Passed
Carried out	

contributed in order to rid themselves of the incubus which the worthy "Silverback" Senator had loaded on them.

To restore efficient operation to the State Department of Labor, the Legislature passed a bill for more adequate appropriations but, with respect to the important improvements asked in the Workmen's Compensation law, three proposed amendments were defeated in the Assembly after having been passed in the Senate.

One bit of welfare legislation that became law was an act to permit the State to avail itself of a Federal subsidy for maternity and infant welfare, while the operation of child welfare laws was extended.

Governor Smith, in announcing the failure of his program which included many of the labor planks, denounced the Republican party for having lined up with the corporate interests. The

# The Labor Party in the Forefront

By EVELYN SHARP

(London Daily Herald Service)

In the House labor continues to be most effective. The result of the all-night sitting of the Commons over the Army Bill when Labor Members kept a constant vigil and fought for reforms without ceasing, is seen in the abolition of the barbarous field punishment for soldiers, known as "Crucifixion," and in the better provisions for the illegitimate children of private soldiers. The bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to all women of the age of 21 and over, on equal terms with men, is, it is believed, favored by a Liberal Member, Mr. Isaac Foot, but it is backed by many Labor Members and is certain of the unanimous support of the Labor party which will materially help it to become law. The Labor party is, indeed, the only party that entirely and wholeheartedly believes in full and complete adult suffrage, and does not merely call manhood suffrage "adulthood."

Over housing, labor is now making its hardest fight. The government bill will have a difficult passage through the House, if it passes at all, and that mainly owing to the opposition of Labor members who have already moved a powerful amendment to its mean little provision and will doubtless vote against the second reading. Naturally, no other party has the intimate knowledge of the housing conditions now prevailing, and no other party can speak with such authority of the need of the working-classes for what is called the parlor type of house. The new bill subsidizes only those builders who put up a house of a superficial area limit that does not allow the inclusion of a parlor as well as a kitchen-living-room, although the Minister of Health has not, of course, ruled out the parlor in so many words. But it cannot be included in the superficial area allowed for in the bill, and, but for the existence of an active labor opposition, it is probable that the public generally would have been left in ignorance of the growing and intense need in working-class families for a second room in which, as it is commonly expressed, children can study and young people can see their sweethearts with some privacy. The whole standard of living of the workers is under discussion in the House this week, both with reference to the Housing Bill and to the budget; and labor alone is able to supply vivid instances of all that both measures mean to the mass of the people in the country.

## THE BUDGET

The budget, as has been pointed out again and again not only in labor's two papers, the Daily Herald and the New Leader, but also by labor speakers in and out of Parliament, is a rich man's budget. It relieves the bigger incomes of tax in a measure that is out of all proportion to the relief given to those who have far less capacity to pay, and it does not raise the exemption limit at all. It lowers the price of beer, but largely by subsidizing the brewers, and it leaves sugar and tea taxed as highly as ever. It devotes a surplus, largely obtained from miserably economies over the feeding of school-children, over health and education, only partially to reduction of debt, which would relieve the whole country, and uses the rest in helping the rich to go on being rich.

Here again, Labor acts as a searchlight. Mr. Philip Snowden's denunciation of the budget as a rich man's budget was masterly; but the real contribution of labor to the debates was even better seen in little intimate details that no member of any other party would have known. It was Mr. Charleston, himself an engine-driver, who spoke of the value of tea to the railwayman as being the only drink that enabled him to keep awake on night duty. His mention of the difficulties experienced by the young men in keeping awake when they first do this kind of work, was a revelation not only of the meaning to a large class of workers of dear tea as compared with cheap beer, but was also a poignant exposition of what the public owes to the men who work for them and ensure their safety.

## LABOR IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In foreign affairs, too, labor has been well to the fore. The little labor deputation which returned from the Ruhr valley issued one of the best reports on the situation that has yet appeared, and their emphatic demand for a new treaty of peace, made with the German people themselves and made without delay, shows that they have grasped the soul of the problem. At the moment, there is a general expectation that Germany may take the hint contained in Lord Curzon's speech, and make a decided move towards negotiation with the French in the form of a new repatriation offer that Great Britain will be able to support. The Social Democrats in Germany have always been in favor of opening negotiations with France.

## Books

Our members should remember that the Educational Department has made arrangements with publishers to obtain books for them at greatly reduced prices.

Now is the time to take advantage of this and to start reading. During the past season the teachers in the various classes recommended a number of books to their students. Mr. Fichandler advised the students of psychology to read Edman's "Human Traits and their Social Significance." Dr. Craman recommended Beard's "History of the United States." Mr. Saposs suggested Hoxley's "History of

Trade Unionism." The students in our Unity Classes were urged to read Mary Beard's "Short History of the Labor Movement in the United States."

Our members are urged to obtain these books immediately and read them in connection with the notes which they received in the classes.

There is no doubt that this will be extremely useful, and will help our members to understand more thoroughly a great many problems which they are called upon to decide in their daily life in connection with their work and organization.

Citizen's Union blamed the Governor for dooming his program to failure by making partisan issues of many measures that had been sponsored by liberal Republicans in the past. Both sides are working for the campaign next fall. The Republicans feel that, since it is an "off" year with

no race for governor, they can gain in the Assembly while the Democrats will do their utmost to win a majority in both houses. Meanwhile, between the two groups the major portion of the labor program, so carefully prepared before the last election, has fallen to the ground.

# JUSTICE

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## EDITORIALS

### HOW MAY DAY SHOULD NOT BE CELEBRATED

Most of the locals of our International in New York celebrated the First of May last week with proverbial "pomp and circumstance." Yet, having witnessed with our own eyes several of these gatherings, we desire to state that as far as we personally are concerned, these May Day celebrations did not impress us very favorably. There were large crowds in these halls and theatres, and the public seemed to have amused itself with programs composed principally of songs, dancing, and similar entertainment. But very much to our regret the spirit of the First of May was conspicuous principally by its absence at these festivities.

Let it be stated here frankly that at most of these meetings the invited speakers, supposedly the principal feature of the gathering, who came there to expound the significance of the workers' holiday, had a rather meagre "show." They proved a total failure in competition with the singers and dancers who held the center of the stage. The crowds displayed very little desire to listen to speeches, but were quite overcome with eagerness to follow the miscellanies of footwork on and off the platform.

Heaven knows we haven't the slightest desire to be classed among the ascetics who would damn joy and glee out of existence. On the contrary, we believe in real jolly-making, happy-go-lucky holidays. But is it asking too much that a holiday like the First of May find its expression principally in a heightened, strengthened and purified spirit and morale; and less in cheap and rather vulgar stage downfalls?

The First of May, entirely apart from all other holidays, is dedicated to the idea of labor's solidarity, to the pledge of combating all that is mean, vicious, destructive and vulgar in our lives. The First of May is the herald of a future that is to be so different from the day we live in as light differs from darkness. How, then, can such a fest-day be celebrated in the coarse and silly way in which it was celebrated at some of these gatherings?

At the risk of incurring the displeasure of some of our locals, we might even say that we doubted then and doubt even now whether the men and women who gathered in those halls and theatres on May Day last had the slightest inkling of what it was all about. And let us be even more frank and state that, judging from the way the assembled public enjoyed the various "artists," and from the scant patience which they exhibited towards the May Day speakers, we had our doubts as to whether these crowds were even capable of grasping the idea of the First of May. For a while we doubted whether these masses were union folk altogether. We were rather inclined to believe that it was a helter-skelter crowd who came to listen to a free cheap show and to watch lively if not elegant dancing on the stage.

We have witnessed many a May Day gathering of workers in our day and have watched them listening with rapt attention and enthusiasm to speakers. It is difficult to conceive that thinking organized workers would behave in the manner the crowds behaved in our halls last Tuesday. We only wonder how these outside crowds managed to break in and flood the halls and so violate the spirit and meaning of these gatherings.

We write these lines not for the purpose of criticizing only. The blunders of the past May Day cannot now be rectified any longer. We only hope that by next May Day everything that is cheap and vulgar will be eliminated from our assemblies. We would therefore propose:

First, our unions should in the future exercise greater care in distributing tickets for May Day celebrations so that it might be made more or less certain that mere of our own people, of our organized workers, will take part in these festivities.

Second, there must be a more discriminate choosing of talent and "amusers" invited to take part in this holiday. Clowns, vaudeville singers, and such like—who might be all right for other occasions—can be safely left out of May Day celebrations. There are enough artists of the better class who could lend a more exalted and appropriate tone to these affairs and they can be easily obtained.

Third, we suggest that these meetings be opened with speeches and not with a dance or song leaving the speaker to the very end, or having him sandwiched between girl variety singers and "artistic" dancers.

We are certain, of course, that the locals who spent so much effort and money in arranging these gatherings meant well. But they have failed to provide the things which alone can give a May Day festivity its distinct flavor of spiritual loftiness. Let us hope that these unpleasant features will be entirely removed from such celebrations in the future and that our May Day meetings will henceforth be beautiful and inspiring affairs in the truest sense of the word.

### ORGANIZING WORK IN THE WEST

The western office of our International, with Vice-president Perlstein at its head, is already an accomplished fact. We are ready now to receive good tidings from the West. First, we should like to hail with particular joy the news that the unions in the Middle-Western cities, which have suffered heavily in the last few years and are now at best functioning without any influence on the local industry, have come back to life and are being reckoned with again as a substantial factor in determining labor conditions in the shops.

This need not be an idle dream, either. Our workers in Toledo, Cincinnati and St. Louis must rouse themselves from the stupor into which they had sunk during the past few years. The feeling of apathy and hopelessness which permeates their midst must vanish. Then they will have their unions back and their say in how and under what conditions they shall work.

The comparative prosperity which is now prevailing in American industry is a good thing in the hands of our workers in the Middle West. This prosperity affects our trade as well. A scarcity of labor is manifest everywhere and employers are throwing sopas to the workers here and there in order to keep them contented. If our cloakmakers in the above-named cities will not take advantage of this opportune hour to rebuild their weakened organizations and to make whatever gains are possible under the circumstances, it will be no one's fault but their own.

There is another new factor which should stir these workers to greater activity. It is the appointment of Vice-president Perlstein as manager of the western office. They should know that Brother Perlstein speaks and acts in the West for the full tire International and that he will, when necessary, get the full support of the International in every important step he undertakes. They must also rest confident that Vice-president Perlstein with his long experience as a union builder and leader will not drag them into any detrimental adventures. With such a leader and the advantages of the present opportune period, we have every reason to believe that very soon we shall hear from these cities that the work of reconstruction has at last begun.

We expect to hear good news from Chicago too. Only until recently, Chicago was one of our main strongholds, the cradle of our union, as it were. We shall never forget the impression of strength and influence which our Chicago union made upon all of us only three years ago when the International convention was held in that city. Unfortunately our Chicago organization has been considerably weakened in the last few years. The principal cause, of course, was the bad times in the industry. To this, however, were added other reasons: factional fighting, acrimonious differences of opinion, and a silly local patriotism masked under all sorts of meaningless phrases. Perhaps, these wranglings were also the result of the bad times. But be it as it may, they have seriously damaged our Chicago locals.

An end must be made of the misunderstandings and the bitter recriminations within these locals. A strong organization drive must be carried on among the workers in the dress and skirt industry and all these locals must be united under one strong joint board.

Work in this direction has already begun. Vice-president Perlstein writes us. His energy and zeal seem to have infected a large number of active union workers who have heretofore wasted their efforts in the absence of proper guiding leadership. We earnestly hope to receive very soon from Chicago and other cities in the West bright and encouraging news. If every thinking union man and woman in those cities, old or young, will help in the great work of agitating and organizing in and out of the shops, the work is bound to yield gratifying results.

### THE OPEN SHOP IN SAN FRANCISCO

The messages received from time to time from Secretary Baroff in San Francisco are very discouraging indeed. Secretary Baroff went to San Francisco in the bright hope of quickly settling the strike of our cloakmakers. It would seem, however, that he has not as yet succeeded in this attempt,—notwithstanding all his efforts. He now left that city with hopes and expectations shattered, and the pessimistic tone of his letters does not surprise us.

The truth, however, is that it is not his fault nor the fault of our brave fighting cloakmakers that this strike has not as yet been settled. The fault lies with the general atmosphere in San Francisco which is sodden with the poison of the open shop. It is a situation which should give food for much thought to the leaders of our labor movement. Only a short time ago, San Francisco was one of the strongest union cities in America. In no other city were the workers so solidly organized as in San Francisco, and nowhere did they have such strong influence, politically and socially, and such control over industry. Today, judging from Secretary Baroff's letters, the situation there is well-nigh intolerable. The open shop is running wildly amuck there. What has brought about this startling change? Who is responsible for it?

We shall perhaps return to this subject in greater detail when Secretary Baroff comes back to New York and we are in a position to learn more about it from him direct. One thing is certain meanwhile — the open shop pestilence has smitten everything in San Francisco and that is why the fight of our cloakmakers in that city is so bitter and protracted. In this present struggle, they are looming up as the only labor organization in San Francisco which would not submit to the unbridled force of reaction, and that is why they deserve even greater support and admiration.

# A Girl's Laugh

(A Sketch)

By LEON CUSSMAN

When Lena Edelwitz, a girl on the shady side of the twenties, comes home alone from a walk with a girl friend or from a meeting, crosses the threshold of her narrow little room, sheds her top clothes in a hurry, snatches a passing look in the mirror, and flings herself upon the single iron bedstead—she oftener than not remains lying awake, for hours, thinking, as a rule, along the following lines:

Were she like the other girls in the shop—forever thinking and fretting about "catching" a man to marry—oh, how long ago she might have been happily married! Instead of a single narrow room her home would probably consist of a flat of four or five rooms; her bed would be wider and softer; her head would rest upon the strong chest of a man; and along in the room there would have been lying asleep at this hour a couple of little angel-heads, her children.

How could it have been otherwise! She remembers too well how young, fresh and attractive she was, and the scores of young men who were after her! Oh, those love outpourings! Weren't they at the beginning and at the end of all her troubles and theirs? She would chase them all away with her laughing. She would leave them standing there dazed and confused; she would laugh heartily, and disappear without even saying good-bye.

That's how she treated all of them. No, there was one exception, and this case caused her an endless measure of anguish. Yes, she still remembers that. She was at the stage knew that she could laugh so heartily, so passionately. In her early youth she was given to but little mirth. She took the world terribly in earnest, and her round full child-like lips rarely quivered with anything but a smile. She could not understand stupid, vicious jokes, and heard little of the better grade of humor. She remembers that when she was a very small girl, she could never grasp the silly grotesque things which amused her friends so much. They would just annoy her.

It happened first when she was about sixteen or seventeen years old. She was already full-grown, and young fellows were beginning to cast eyes upon her. She became acquaint-

ed with a boy of eighteen, a tall, blond, very naive and very silent lad. They would spend days and nights together—mostly in silence. When they would talk it would be about things that seem so terribly important and novel to the lovers—the gifts of nature, the skies above and stars beyond them. They would sit close together but never would their shoulders meet—and when their fingers occasionally touched each other, what a tremor that would send through them! Yes, she remembers when they would sit down upon a bench or even a rock—they would manage to leave some space between them. True, she felt that at times her heart beat faster, warmer—and his heart too. Her face, her cheeks, her brain—how they would ignite of a sudden and carry her off into what it seems to her today was a realm of rhythm and sound.

On one such occasion it happened that the silent lad opened his mouth. He took her by the hand, stroked it and stammered incoherent words, looking into her eyes. And as she did not release his hand, he seemed to have gained courage and took her other hand in his, as he continued his prattle. She still maintained silence, looking at him and listening. She heard him talk about love, about gods and winged angels, about sunrise and sunset, about her living and coming, in choppy, halting sentences. And it was peculiar, the more he talked, the less she heard him. She only watched his face, which appeared to her silly and awkward, and his eyes, which it seemed to her had lost their bright glare and became dull and calf-like. Something began to press against her heart; something began to choke her as if she wanted more air, and, all of a sudden—she really could not account for how it happened—she broke out into wild uncontrollable laughter. She laughed long and looked upon him with fear but kept on laughing. Nothing in the world it seemed could keep her at that time from laughing at the poor lad as he stood before her, smitten, with his mouth open, and waited.

Sure enough, the thunder of her laugh smote him into nothingness. She left him standing there and went away. She was too heartless. She knows it now, when the younger play-

All and everything is up in arms against them, but they will not give up their weapons. We hope that, great as the odds are against them, they will come out victors in this fight sooner or later. Perhaps, their victory will bring a revival in the entire labor movement in San Francisco which at this moment appears to be very, very sick.

## A WORD OF GREETING TO OUR BRIDGEPORT SISTERS

From the news item in last week's JUSTICE, it appears clear that the Out-of-Town Department of our International under the management of Vice-president Halperin, has done an excellent piece of organizing work among the thousands of corset workers in Bridgeport, Conn. It is thought that this work can best be appreciated by the fact that the owners of the Warner Brothers corset factory there have found it expedient to grant the demands of the workers rather than to start trouble with their organized employees.

The corset workers deserve our sincere congratulations upon their quiet and substantial victory. Let us remind them, nevertheless, that only a few years ago they had had a strong union and even better working conditions than they have now. Lightmindedly, however, they allowed their union to become weakened until it all but fell to pieces. After that began a series of exploitations and mistreatment of the workers. Will the women workers in the Bridgeport corset shops remember this? Will they now hold fast to the union and take care that it becomes ever stronger? We wish to hope that they will bear their recent experience in mind and that very soon the organization in the corset industry will occupy a prominent place in our International Union.

## THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS IN LOCAL 89

Local 89 is composed exclusively of Italian waist and dressmakers. We never were invited heretofore to an installa-

## 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 tomorrow.

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Saturday, 10 A. M. — 5 P. M.

of impulse is gone and the head takes the upper hand. She repeated the same process with many other lads and grown-up men who declared their love for her. Peculiar how even those whom she respected would become comical and sort of foolish in her eyes when they talked to her of love. How stupid they would look when she could greet their outbursts with a laugh! Why couldn't they keep silent about their feelings? Why did they have to deprecate the delicate, sacred sentiment of love with words, so many words and so many declarations? Oh, how little men understood of the ways of love!

Yet there was one of them who was different. He was a young man of medium height, about 25, with black, burning eyes and very talkative. That was not so long ago. He was the last one, at any rate. They met somewhere at an entertainment. He would not leave her alone and kept on amusing her with polished, rather interesting talk about matters that seemed new to her. Somehow he managed to give a different impression to things that she had known for many years. He would come to see her almost every day and she knew that he trembled in her presence, that he was very fond of her. Yet he would talk about abstract things and world problems, but never about his own problem—about him and her. Every time before parting they would shake hands, look at one another for a fraction of a second as

if about to say something, then part with the ordinary "good-night."

And so, day in and day out, oh how she wanted him at least once, even passingly, to speak of his feeling for her. Somehow she believed that she would not have laughed at him. She was confident that this young man would not have looked silly in her eyes. Nothing he said about other things sounded even remotely foolish or unbecoming. But he did not say anything. He kept his mouth shut and tortured her. Why did he keep silent—he whom she would have

One time she all but burst out herself. She wanted to tell him plainly about her feeling towards him—her mouth opened to say something, and then she started to laugh. This time her laugh was really hysterical, wild and queer—and how her heart pained and something beat about her temples with the force of a sledgehammer. She asked him to excuse her, which he readily did without asking for an explanation, but his face somehow changed. He grew sadder and one day soon after that he came to bid her good-bye and left.

He did not come back. It injured her deeply, and she still feels the sting of that pain. Were she to meet him today, she feels she would give him a full and frank explanation of why she laughed straight at his face that day. She is confident that he would understand her. Heaven, there ought to be someone who could!

tion of officers in this local, and we have always ascribed this to the fact that Brother Antonini, the manager of Local 89, is aware of our definite backwardness in the Italian language.

We were slightly surprised, therefore, when we received an invitation to come to such a meeting several days ago. Out of sheer curiosity we came to the meeting—but, as we heard Brother Berlin, president of the Waist and Dress Joint Board, deliver an installation speech in English, and later heard President Morris Sigman deliver an address in English which was vociferously applauded at its most telling points, and as we heard still later Vice-president Nimfo and Brother Arturo Giovannitti—both Italians—speak to the audience in English,—we understood that we were present at a meeting of Italian workers who have definitely become assimilated and have adopted the language of the land.

There is no doubt, therefore, that most of our Italian locals are by this time real American workers who speak and understand the language of the country. As we learned later during the brief entertainment which followed the meeting, they all prefer to speak English than Italian. It appears that the process of assimilation among our foreign-born workers is proceeding fast space without the interference of the professional assimilators.

We say this only in passing, of course. We desire to add that our impression is that Local 89 is one of our liveliest and advanced organizations. It is composed largely of young men and women who are imbued with high and noble strivings but who nevertheless possess the energy and ability to attend to the daily tasks and management of a strong, influential union. We congratulate the newly elected officers of Local 89 chosen to fulfill the high obligations which the onward surge of their union brings along in its course.



# The Labor Press for April

By BERTHA WALLERSTEIN

We have heard a lot about public opinion and its influence on the Supreme Court Justices in their decision against the minimum wage. Let us hope that those nine gentlemen read the labor journals in April. If they did, they know at least that they were not echoing labor opinion. "Labor," the weekly organ of the railroad brotherhoods, condemns the system by which a five to four vote of the Supreme Court can veto an act of Congress, and announces that the progressives in the new Congress are going to demand that a vote of six to three be necessary. "Labor" then recalls a long list of decisions in which the Supreme Court has thwarted the will of the people. Incidentally, the present decision has cut the wages of women in the District of Columbia from \$16.50 to \$6 or \$9 per week.

The "Amalgamated Journal" (of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers) points out that the decision defies the Clayton Act, which declares that labor is not a commodity. The Court has declared that there must be freedom in buying and selling labor as in buying and selling any other commodity. (Will the next step, we wonder, be to declare the Clayton Act unconstitutional?) There is only one way to meet the decision, the "Amalgamated Journal" holds. Women must be organized. The law of the land will not protect them. They must protect themselves.

Ben Hooper, chairman of the Railroad Labor Board, wants an anti-strike law, the "Belted Makers' Journal" tells us. If you haven't the wisdom of a Supreme Court Justice, you may think that this interferes with freedom almost as much as a minimum wage law. Freedom is a difficult thing to understand,—especially the judicial notion of freedom. For instance, in the interests of freedom, the District of Columbia Supreme Court granted an injunction to the Maynard Coal Company, restraining the Federal Trade Commission from investigating costs, prices, etc., of the company in connection with its study of the coal industry. You see, a Government commission must not interfere with freedom. It is a wonder that the police are allowed to go on doing it. Quite aside from this curious idea of freedom, however, the "United Mine Workers Journal" thinks it looks rather bad that the Maynard Coal Company is afraid to be investigated.

The "Locomotive Firemen and Engine-men's Magazine" shows a good deal of interest in the Huber Unemployment Bill before the Wisconsin legislature. There is no knowing what the Courts may ultimately have to say about this bill, and the sacred freedom to be jobless. At present the Locomotive Firemen and Engine-men are interested in the bill, because it penalizes the employer in proportion to the degree of unemployment that his men suffer. He would have to pay them an unemployment benefit of \$1 per day. While that is not so much to stand between a worker's family and starvation, it is a guarantee against unemployment, simply by making unemployment hurt

the boss. The union believes that it will work, as do the workmen's compensation laws, for "prevention."

The Workers' Education Bureau held its third conference in April, and a large number of labor journals give an account of it this month. The "American Federationist" answers attacks on the Workers' Education Bureau, charging it with being Socialist or radical. Education is not socialism, replies the "Federationist," but the natural second step of labor after the first, organization, has been taken.

Whatever may be said against it, workers' education is growing, often in new forms. The organ of the Women's Trade Union League, "Life and Labor," announces a short course from three to six weeks in Chicago, to which women's unions all over the country may send their members. The short course has been adopted for the sake of working women who cannot hold their jobs over a long absence, but who can get a short leave. The school does not pretend to give an education in six weeks or less. But it aims at least to open various doors to its students, in the hope that they will go on by themselves, or with the aid of local workers' classes.

You may remember the story in the papers some months ago that 5,000 Negro miners had been selected to dig coal in the Ruhr for the French—the coal that German miners refused to dig. The "Messenger," the Negro trade union paper, rejoices that these 5,000 Negroes have refused to dig that coal.

"Our hats off to the Negro miners," says the "Messenger." "They have saved the race from an international disgrace—the disgrace of being recognized as international scabs. The Negro workers of the world are not interested in scabbing on the white workers. They want to join hands with them. Negroes do not court the

business of becoming the international black guard of capital. But they must be encouraged by the white workers." While workers cannot lynch Negro workers, debar them from joining their unions, and expect them to show the spirit of cooperation when white workers are sore pressed by the brutal hand of capital."



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# LABOR THE WORLD OVER

## DOMESTIC ITEMS

### WARD URGES SELECTIVE IMMIGRATION LAWS.

Restrictive and selective immigration laws which will close this country to promiscuous low-grade immigrants for all time were urged by Professor Robert Ward of Harvard University in an address before a meeting of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters. "Most of the evils which have resulted from the enormous immigration of the past 25 years have been due to the reckless greed for 'cheap labor'." Large industrial railroad and mining interests have set pocketbook above patriotism," said Mr. Ward.

### EMPLOYMENT INCREASE IN MARCH.

The United States Department of Labor through the Bureau of Labor Statistics presents reports on the volume of employment in March, 1923, from 5,453 establishments in 43 manufacturing industries covering 2,135,564 employees whose total earnings were during one week \$54,538,778. There was an increase over February of 2.1 per cent in the number of employees, and an increase of 5 per cent in the total amount paid in wages and an increase of 2.8 per cent in the average weekly earnings.

### MEXICANS USED AS STEEL LABORERS.

President Grace of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation announced that the corporation recently had put to work in its plants about one thousand Mexicans as unskilled laborers. He pointed out that as there was no restriction on immigration from Mexico that country was a source of supply of unskilled labor.

### FIGURES GIVEN ON NEGRO EXODUS.

Approximately 32,000 or 13 per cent of the Negro farm hands and laborers in Georgia have moved north in the last 12 months; since last September, 22,750 negro farmers have left South Carolina according to figures made public by the Department of Agriculture.

## Camp Tamiment Opens Decoration Day

Camp Tamiment will open as usual for Decoration Day with a special rate from Saturday, May 26th to Wednesday, May 30th. The next feature will be the annual convention of the League for Industrial Democracy—June 20th to 24th—with its interesting program, the general subject of which will be "Next Steps." The camp's summer school will follow, beginning July 2nd, and continuing through July and August. Among the speakers will be Scott Nearing, Ludwig Lewisohn, and Harry W. L. Dana.

The camp has undergone many improvements during the past winter,—the paths everywhere have been made nice and smooth, a new road has been built from the mess hall to the lake and on to Mally Hall, and the other roads have been improved.

A few bungalows for two have been built, besides seven new bungalows in Sandville.

The tennis courts will be in perfect condition; canoeing, rowing, swimming, gymnastics and hiking are among the other daytime activities, and at night there will be campfires, theatricals, dancing and novel parties of all kinds. Many interesting trips may be taken both by foot and automobile, for the neighboring country abounds in lovely falls and other spots of great natural beauty.

Registrations are now being taken both for the Decoration Day week-end and for summer vacations. Those interested may have a bulletin with detailed information by sending to People's Educational Camp Society, 7 East 15th Street.

## The Mutual Leaguers Celebrate for Spring

With Art Young telling the old stories in a new way and Heywood Brown on the job and Agnes Armstrong Laidler singing Russian folk songs, the spring festival and dance to be held by the League for Mutual Aid on Friday, May 11th, should be one of the jolliest of the season. The affair is to be at Bethoven Hall, 210 East 5th Street, 8 p. m. The Cio Negro Club is to supply the music which will appeal to the young people. The idea of the event is to welcome the new members who have been gathered in lately.

What is the League? What does

it do? It gets you jobs, lends you money (without interest) and puts you in touch with people who can help you, where otherwise you would be lost. All sorts belong to it, radicals, liberals—even the converted and inverted kinds, plain ordinary folks, artists, painters, poets, writers, organizers, bricklayers, hod-carriers, and—lawyers.

The League wants new members, and plans to start branches in every town in the country. It will answer all inquiries fully, and will cooperate in every way with those who wish to assist in this work.

## A Resolution

On April 21st the employees of L. Kahn had a little banquet at the Women's Trade Union League, 147 Lexington Avenue, in celebration of their winning the eight-week strike and obtaining their demand for the 40-hour week and week-work. Many officials of the Joint Board were present at this banquet and it was

generally felt, in view of the hardships gone through by this shop and the stubbornness of the employer, that the victory was a great one and that much credit is due to the determined and intelligent workers. Were there more of this type worker in our industry, there would be no question about getting week-work and the

## FOREIGN ITEMS

### CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

#### OLD AGE INSURANCE IN BOHEMIA.

When the Czecho-Slovakian Social Democrats were invited to enter the present Coalition Government at Prague, they accepted with one proviso: namely, that the State would pass an old age and invalid insurance law. This measure, now drafted, is one of the most advanced attempts at social legislation ever contemplated by a Central European State. The State will construe "invalid" as applying to an incapacitated person who is no longer able to earn two-thirds of a specified living wage. The old-age pension will be granted to all insured citizens who have reached the age of sixty-five. Orphans will be provided for until their seventeenth year.

### ITALY

#### ITALIAN SOCIALISTS CONVENE.

The annual congress of the Italian Socialist Party has been held during the past week at Milan. Lazzari seems to be the man who, in the present difficult and dangerous circumstances, has the best hope by his moral force and widespread influence of uniting the Socialist forces of Italy. His motion, which was carried, provides for "federation" between the Socialist and Communist parties with equal representation for each on a joint committee of management. At this congress the voting strength was 10,000 compared with 220,000 at the Leghorn Congress two and a half years ago.

### ENGLAND

#### BRITISH TRADE AND THE RUHR.

At the conference of British Chambers of Commerce held in London, on April 19, a motion was carried unanimously declaring that "the present uncertainty with regard to reparations is detrimental to the peace of the world and is preventing the improvement of industry and commerce." Sir A. Shirley-Benn, M. P., in his presidential address, said that, if Europe today had its pre-war purchasing power, it would be buying British goods at something like \$4,000,000,000 a year.

In answer to a question in the House, it was stated on April 19 that the number of complaints received from British firms whose business was seriously affected by delays in transport consequent upon the occupation of the Ruhr, was now more than 600.

#### BLACK-COATED WORKERS.

A motion calling for the recognition generally by employers, of the trade unions of "black-coated workers" (clerks and school teachers, etc.) was brought forward in the House of Commons on April 18 by a Labor member and passed without a division.

#### THE NEW INTERNATIONAL.

The Congress of the Swiss Socialist Party has decided to participate in the joint international congress at Hamburg on May 21, for the purpose of forming a new united international. The International Transport Workers' Federation charges the Dutch Federation of Transport Workers with recruiting blacklegs for work in the Ruhr. The French Socialist Party has again rejected an offer of the French Communists to form a united front for the purpose of celebrating May Day and inaugurating a joint campaign against the French Ruhr policy.

#### HOUSING AND OVERCROWDING.

The Independent Labor Party has issued a statement showing that the housing shortage is not owing entirely to the war, as before 1914 building rings were being formed to control the price of building materials; and it calls upon the Government to break the rings by replacing shell factories by housing factories. Meanwhile, a report that in one town, Chester-le-Street, the shortage is so great that "even a fireplace in a bedroom has been sub-let to a tenant," has produced the following witty poem from "Tomfool," the poet of the DAILY HERALD:

Oh, no! we really can't complain of overcrowding yet!  
We're still on Hanging Cupboard, fitted shelf above, to let;  
Our Gas-oven (two storeys) has "a home from home" been styled,  
We've a large Waste-Paper Basket that would house a good-sized child.  
Our Zine Bath (an agreement) makes a refuge full of grace;  
We've a Hollow Oak we're letting on a long repainting lease;  
We're hiring by the foot the Walnut Strippling round the door,  
And we're renting out the Dormant to a man without a door.  
Overcrowding? What a notion! when you see on every side,  
Convenient Mantelpieces that are still unoccupied!  
Why should the Government on Housing Bills expend their dreams  
While we've still got shelves for Heroes—and for Heroes Housing Schemes?

40-hour week they knew what they wanted and would not quit until they got it.

In appreciation of the help they received from the Joint Board, the workers decided to send the following resolution:

We, the workers of L. Kahn, who were on strike for ever eight weeks and who had to go through the bitter struggle with our employer, wish to express our appreciation for the help

the Joint Board Dress and Waist-makers' Union has given us, both morally and financially, and pledge ourselves always to be ready to participate in the activities of the union whenever we are called upon to do so.

Signed,

MINNIE HUMMEL,  
SARAH BLOOM,  
LENA SIMON,  
PAULINE SHAPIRO.



## EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES

### The Chorus of Local No. 11

How many of us know that a group of active members of our Cloakmakers' Union, Local 11, are busily engaged in developing their own chorus? I must confess that I did not think much about it either until I attended a rehearsal on Friday evening at the Brownsville Labor Lyceum. This I did to satisfy our good brother, Chancer, who is heart and soul behind the enterprise.

On Friday, when I approached the room and heard the chorus rehearsing for their first of May appearance, I was certain that the group consisted of "youngsters." How pleasantly surprised I was to see men and women ranging in age from 18 to 35, under the able leadership of Mr. Leo Low, laboring hard to make the chorus a success!

They were greatly inspired by the success of the last two appearances—the one at the Hippodrome where they sang with the other Jewish choruses, and the other at the First of May Festival.

It is their ambition that this chorus become a factor in the social life of our large membership. They hope in time to entertain our members not

only in time of peace, when they get together socially, but also in time of "war" in the halls where strikers may be assembled.

It is interesting to note how willingly these men and women members of our International union pay the weekly dues of 25c for the upkeep of the chorus. They feel, however, that if the chorus is to develop, they must increase their membership and they have started a drive for that purpose. The appeal is made to the members of our numerous local unions, as it is their desire to keep the chorus within the "family." Brother Chancer assures us that any member of the International who is willing to study and attend rehearsals might well join the chorus. No one, he says, should be kept away by a doubt as to whether he has a good voice. He is certain that everyone has a voice good enough for a chorus.

For further information we refer you to Brother H. Chancer, secretary of the chorus, Labor Lyceum, 219 Sackman Street, Brooklyn. Telephone Dickens 0882. The rehearsals are held every Thursday evening.

C.

### Latest Publications for Our Members

As many of our readers know, the Workers' Education Bureau has published several valuable pamphlets and books.

One of the most important is "The Control of Wages," by Walton Hamilton and Stacy May. Both of these authors have taught labor classes at Amherst, Massachusetts, and because of their training and ability can be regarded as authorities on the subject. This book will be of interest to every intelligent worker. It deals with the problem of wages, and covers the subject thoroughly. It is beautifully written and reads almost like a story. It will be reviewed in our pages in a subsequent issue, but our members are urged to purchase a copy immediately for reading during the summer. The Educational Department will furnish them to its members at 50 cents a copy. This book contains 180 pages, and covers the subject completely.

A series of smaller pamphlets is also recommended to our readers. They can be obtained in our office at 10 cents apiece. One tells how to Start Workers' Study Classes. This will be particularly useful to those who plan to organize such classes for their own locals. The information gained from this booklet, together with such help as our Educational Department is always ready to furnish in organizing classes, will be of value.

Another pamphlet entitled, "How to Run a Union Meeting," is written by Paul Blanchard, Secretary of the Rochester Labor College. We recommend it highly to all union of-

ficials and to those who are interested in conducting their business meetings successfully. This book is very practical and deals with actual problems confronting the members at an union meeting.

Dr. Leo Wolman's "An Outline of the American Labor Movement" is a syllabus for study classes. It is the result of several years of work which Dr. Wolman had with the classes in our Workers' University. It contains a complete list of books dealing with labor problems and suggests wider reading for those who wish to go on with the study of any special subject. We urge all who are studying the labor movement to obtain a copy of this book.

Our members will find particular interest in the pamphlet published by the Workers' Education Bureau which contains a review of the First International Conference on Workers' Education held in Brussels, Belgium, in August, 1922. This review was written by Miss Fannie M. Cohn, Vice-president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and secretary of the Educational Department, and shows to what extent the workers' education movement is part of the international labor movement. It also contains the address made by Mr. Spencer Miller, secretary of the Workers' Educational Board, to the delegates at that conference.

All these can be obtained in the office of the Educational Department, 3 West 14th Street, at 10 cents a copy.

Mr. Carr will continue his lecture and answer questions.

It was interesting to note how many of our members responded to the lecture last Saturday. Long before the talk began, the class room was filled with men and women eager for the opportunity to learn something about art and get a clue to an understanding of it. They all felt that, living in one of the largest cities, one has an opportunity to enjoy art—even though not possessing it—if only one has the clue to its approach.

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

By Dr. H. J. CARMAN

Given at the

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

of the

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Season 1922-1923

#### LESSON C—THE SOUTH AND THE PLANTATION SYSTEM.

I. In our last lesson we were concerned with the life and problems of the farmer of the frontier. In this lesson we turn to the second important group of farmers in the United States between 1790 and 1850, namely, the Southern planters. Even though their social life and economic interests differed in many respects from those of the frontier farmer, they, nevertheless, cooperated with the frontiersmen in their common struggle against the commercial and financial North.

II. The South, in sharp contrast to the North, remained an agricultural region until almost our own time largely because:

1. Topography and climate especially fitted it for an agricultural region.
2. It was capable of producing great staples like cotton, rice and sugar.
3. The industrial Revolution and the growth in population increased the demand for these staple products.
4. For the South, agriculture was more profitable during this period than manufacture.

#### III. Life on Southern Plantation.

1. Size of plantation varied; usually from 400 or 500 acres to 5,000 acres. Something like estates of English noblemen.
2. Owners lived in big roomy houses, usually surrounded by trees and flower gardens; Negroes in cabins in rear of owner's home.
3. Number of Negroes on each plantation varied from 20 to 1,000.
4. Hours of labor of slaves and their social and economic conditions were regulated by the master, or his superintendents and overseers.
5. Factory system as compared with slave system.

#### IV. Market for Southern Products.

1. Approximately two-thirds of the cotton and other products were exported to foreign countries, especially to England; the remainder were used in the United States.
2. It was natural, therefore, that these Southern farmers should buy their manufactured goods from England (1) because England bought most of the Southern products, and the price for her manufactured goods was less than that charged by American manufacturers.
3. Therefore, we should note that the South was bitterly opposed to any protective tariff.

#### V. Expansion of Plantation System and Slavery into the New West prior to 1860.

1. So profitable was the growing of cotton that the southern planters desired to obtain additional territory, just as today the Standard Oil Company reaches out

(Continued on Next Page)

### THE WORKING WOMAN IN MODERN SOCIETY

Lecture for Ladies' Branch of Local No. 9, May 17th

"The Working Woman in Modern Society" is the subject of a lecture to be given by Max Levin for the Ladies' Branch of the Cloak Finishers' Union, Local No. 9, on Thursday evening, May 17th, in the Italian Cloakmakers' Building, 251 East 14th Street.

Max Levin, in his talk, will trace the position of women in our modern industrial society and compare it with her position before the introduction of machinery in production.

This is the third lecture arranged by the Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U. for this organization. Members of the International are invited to attend this lecture.

### WOMEN'S TRADE LEAGUE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The White Goods Workers' Union, Local No. 62, has granted permission to the Women's Trade Union League to visit shop meetings during the coming month. As a means of cooperating with the League in carrying on its four weeks' membership campaign, the representatives of the League, among whom are Rosa Schneiderman, Maud Swartz, Ruth Burnan, Celia Chanowitz, and Mabel Keellie, will visit meetings to tell the girls about the work of the League and particularly about the Club House, where rooms are open for social gatherings, as well as union meetings. Dues are \$2.00 per year.

### MICHAEL CARR WILL LECTURE ON FAMOUS PAINTINGS, MAY 19TH

Inspired by the success of the first lecture on art given by Michael Carr on Saturday, May 5th, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Students' Council, at the request of the audience, decided to arrange a lecture on the Renaissance for Saturday, May 19th, at 1:45 p. m., in Classroom A. After the introductory talk, the group will visit the galleries where

# With the Waist and Dress Joint Board

By M. K. MACKOFF, Secretary  
(Record of Meeting held May 2, 1923)

Brother Berlin in the Chair.

## COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was received from the Italian Chamber of Labor, which read in part as follows:

"If you discovered a movement to break up your union, to lower your wages, to increase your working hours and to place you at the mercy of the employers, WOULD YOU NOT OPPOSE IT?"

"If you learned that the leaders of this movement are skilled in inciting race and nationalist hatreds among workmen and plan to bring race issues to the forefront in your union, WOULD YOU NOT FIGHT THEM?"

"If you learned that the most powerful employing interests of the nation, the government of a great foreign power and its ambassador in the United States, and a compact and growing organization in America and in your own city, are financing and organizing this campaign to break your union, WOULD YOU NOT FIGHT THIS ENEMY TO THE FINISH?"

"The Fascisti have destroyed the labor movement in Italy and have organized in America to spread dissension and destruction in the labor movement here. The establishing of national headquarters of the American Fascisti organization directly opposite the building of Local 48 of your International, where many of the large needle trade unions are housed, portends that the first attack

of the Fascisti union-busters will be directed AGAINST YOUR INTERNATIONAL.

"THE ANTI-FASCISTI ALLIANCE has been organized by the Italian Chamber of Labor and is endorsed by your International in the resolution enclosed.

"The Anti-Fascisti Alliance has opened national headquarters in New York in the building of Local 48, 231 East 14th Street. An information and publicity service has been established to inform the American people of the dangers of Fascism and to expose the American Fascisti wherever they may organize.

"The Anti-Fascisti Alliance is labor's own defense against any enemy that seeks to destroy the labor movement. Its effectiveness in combating your enemy will be determined by the resources placed at its disposal by organized labor.

"Join in labor's war on the Fascisti strike-breakers! Contribute to the support of the Anti-Fascisti Alliance! You have spent hundreds of thousands in building up your unions. You are now called upon to finance a campaign for the preservation of your union. Contribute liberally! Forward all contributions to make all checks payable to the Anti-Fascisti Alliance of North America, 231 East 14th Street, New York."

Upon motion it was decided to donate \$100 towards the Anti-Fascisti Alliance campaign.

## SOCIAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY

(Continued from Page 10)

to every corner of the earth wherever it may find petroleum.

2. Therefore, between 1803 and 1821 the semi-civilized Indians were driven out of the present states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Western Tennessee and Missouri, and their lands were transformed into cotton plantations.

3. Not content with this territory, they pushed farther West, going into the present state of Texas which was then Mexican territory. These cotton growers were largely responsible for the revolt of Texas and its annexation to the United States.

4. By thus extending the scope of the plantation system, the southern planters gradually became very powerful, and as we shall subsequently note, they vigorously resisted every tendency that threatened to undermine the plantation system or work hardship upon the planting class. In other words, they were class-conscious and, as such, they did everything in their power to protect their social and economic system. Examples of this same class-consciousness are manifest today in (a) The southern attitude toward the Negro.

(b) The Agricultural Bloc.

(c) Capitalistic organization.

(d) Labor groups.

5. We should note, too, that these planters were found in one geographical region of the United States, namely, the South; and that they opposed another section of the United States—the capitalist Northeast—in its demands for such measures as protective tariff, the abolition of cheap money (paper money), limitation of slavery extension, subsidizing of a merchant marine, a United States bank.

6. Further, we should observe that the South agreed with the western farmer in demanding territorial expansion, protection from Indians, cheap money, internal improvements and better market conditions.

VI. In one respect the southern planters and the wealthier individuals of the Northeast were in agreement—they both distrusted political democracy. Or, to put it another way, the large planters of the South distrusted the small farmer class of that region, and the eastern capitalist feared the growing labor population of the cities.

VII. It was the combined efforts of these two distrusted classes, plus the West, that elected Andrew Jackson president of the United States in 1828, an event which, as we shall see, caused consternation in the ranks of the "old order."

READING: Beard, History of the United States, Chapter XI.



## NEW HOME OF CLOAKMAKERS' UNION

Brother Berlin informed the Board that the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union have moved to a spacious new building. The secretary was instructed to send flowers and an expression of the good wishes of our Joint Board to the Cloakmakers' Union.

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In regard to plans for the future, Brother Hochman stated that he feels a week's rest in the country would do him a lot of good and would enable him to make preparations for carrying on the organization work in the near future. In connection with this Brother Hochman advised the Board that, owing to the changes in the seasons which for the last couple of years have occurred in the months of July and August, the staff employed by the Joint Board should be given their vacations very soon so that the work of organization would not be neglected when the season approaches.

## THE LABOR BUREAU

The Board of Directors then took

up the question of the Labor Bureau and decided to call a meeting of the original committee which was appointed to make all the necessary arrangements, in connection with the managers of the Joint Board.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Organization Committee reported that a shop chairman meeting was held on April 26th and arrangements were made to have a meeting of the colored workers on Thursday, May 10th. The officers and delegates were urged to see to it that other members as well attend that meeting. In particular Brother Amico, who is in charge of the Harlem and Bronx offices, was urged to instruct the workers of that district to attend this meeting.

The Finance Committee reported that a committee representing the Freie Arbeiter Stimme requested the Joint Board to purchase tickets for the theatre benefit which is going to be given on Wednesday, May 9th. The Finance Committee recommended that we purchase \$25.00 worth of tickets.

## Health Educational Conference

The special health education conference is to be held at the Union Health Center, 131 East 17th Street, on Friday, May 11th, at 2:30 p. m. To this conference are invited all of the doctors who participated in the health teaching at the Union Health Center last year. The purpose of the conference is to plan a bigger and better program for the following year and to secure the advice and cooperation of the leading physicians and health workers, so that a successful and useful program will be assured for our next year's activities. Among those physicians who are to be present are Dr. Haven Emerson of the Columbia University Medical Department; Dr. Jacob Goldberg of the Committee of Health Education among Jews; Dr. Iago Galdston of the New York Tuberculosis Association; Miss Fannia M. Cohn, secretary of the Educational Department of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and many others.

Although the program of health education of the Union Health Center has been completed for this

spring, nevertheless the executive committee of the Health School has planned a series of hikes during the summer in order to keep the student body together and to put into practice the suggestions of various lecturers to the effect that the workers indoors should do as much as possible to spend all their free time in the great outdoors during the spring and summer seasons.

Announcement of the first hike will be made in JUSTICE, and cards will be sent to the members of the Union Health School.

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# The Week in Local 10

By JOSEPH FISH

## CLOAK AND SUIT

In last week's issue of JUSTICE, we reported that the general meeting which took place last week was a quiet one, and that it adjourned very early. It was also reported that a number of our members complained about its ending so early and surely believed that this condition would last for some time.

However, it seems that they were wrong, as the last cloak and suit meeting, which took place in Arlington Hall last Monday, did not end until 10:20. The meeting, which would ordinarily take up the regular business of the organization such as the manager's report, reading of the executive board minutes and obligation of new members, included this time in addition the appointment of a judiciary committee on a number of cases. Quite a few requests for judiciary committees have been received from our members, who were fined recently by the executive board and deem the fines unjustifiable.

A little discussion which took up some time was the question raised by Brother Meyer Tanick that the minutes of the Board of Directors as well as of the Joint Board be read before the membership. General Manager Dubinsky then explained to the members that this would take up too much time adding that the members get fifty when a late hour arrives and wish to have their clocks stamped so that they may go home. He therefore suggested that, should any member of our organization desire to take up any particular section of these minutes, i.e., either those of the Board of Directors or the Joint Board, he may come to the meeting and do so, then, if the members so desire the question can be discussed at length. This suggestion was accepted in the form of a motion, and will serve as a precedent in our organization for the future.

Below is a copy of the report of complaints for the period of January 1st to March 31st, 1923, as rendered by Manager Dubinsky at Monday's meeting:

## COMPLAINTS

Filed from January 1 to March 31

### 1. Boss is doing the cutting.

No cutter employed.	
Unfounded - cutters were found working	65
Cutters were placed to work	11
Cutters were paid for work cut by firm	2
Firm paid fine and cutters were placed to work	6
Firm paid fine	4
No work in shop	13
Shops on strike	2
Non-union shops	3
Receive cut work	1
Out of business	4
Security forfeited and stopped off shops (Jobber)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112</b>

### 2. Boss is helping cutter at table.

Unfounded, as cutter is doing all the cutting	20
Instructed	13
Paid fine	1
Agreed to employ an additional man	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>

### 3. Non-union cutter employed.

In favor of union	24
Unfounded	23
No work in shop	1
Non-union shop	1
Out of business	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>

### 4. Cutters were not properly paid for overtime.

In favor of union	11
5. Firm refuses to pay wages due cutter.	
In favor of union	11
Firm failed (case referred to Mayor London)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>

### 6. Firm refuses to pay cutter the minimum scale of wages.

In favor of union	2
7. Firm refuses to pay at holiday rate.	
In favor of union	1
8. Firm deducted for mistake.	
In favor of union	2
On strike	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>

### 9. Cutters were discharged.

In favor of union	18
Unfounded	5
Dropped (men failed to appear at office to take up case)	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>

### 10. Equal division of work.

In favor of union	1
11. Cutter is member of firm.	
Unfounded	4
12. Cutters violating union rules.	
Adjusted in favor of union	8
Unfounded	9
Cutter summoned before executive board (case held for further investigation)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>

### 13. Cutters to be stopped off from work for failing to take out their union books.

In favor of union	29
Cutter is out of shop	18
No work in shop	6
Out of business	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>

### Total Number of Complaints Filed

310
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### As may be seen from the first part of the above report, there were 112 complaints filed to the effect that bosses were doing their own cutting and that no cutter was employed. Of these more than half were proved unfounded, when cutters were found working in these shops. As for the rest, an explanation was given by the manager.

### This large number of unfounded complaints is due mainly to the fact that the cutters employed in these shops did not secure working cards and the office therefore has no record of their employment. There are a number of shop records in the manager's office which have no record of a cutter being employed, and when an investigation is made, a cutter is found working who has no working card.

### Up to the present time a man who failed to take out a card was fined \$1.00 by the Executive Board; but if the cutters continue to neglect taking out working cards, the Executive Board will strictly enforce the constitutional provision which permits a \$5.00 fine against any cutter who works and fails to take out a card.

### JUSTICE has already touched upon the question of working cards previously, but as we are again dwelling on this question, as the office is interested to see that each and every cutter has a working card from this office.

### The second part of the manager's report deals with the matter of bosses helping cutters at the table. Of these

there are about 28 complaints, of which 13 are unfounded. Some of these unfounded complaints are due to the fact that a few cutters are trying to protect the manufacturer in this respect, and it is very often difficult for the business agent to "get the goods" on a manufacturer in such an instance. Some, on the other hand, claim that the boss merely cut a sample, or a lining, or a suit for his wife, or some other such thing. At any rate, these excuses will not be accepted by the organization, and the manufacturers are being instructed that, should a similar occurrence take place, they will be penalized to the full limit. However, the Executive Board has taken very drastic measures in attempting to eradicate this evil, and a number of cutters who have been found protecting their firm have been removed from their jobs.

Another significant and interesting item in the report is the fact that there has been but one complaint on the question of the equal division of work, and even that complaint was adjusted in favor of the union,—this, as far as the independent manufacturers are concerned.

As for the manufacturers' Association, Brother Nagler, who is working for the protective department of the Joint Board, in a conversation with the writer cited some instances where cutters who have been employed by certain manufacturers for a number of years, and have never divided work with their co-workers in the shop, have been compelled to realize that it is their duty to divide work with the rest of the cutters in the shop.

It is pleasing to note that the manufacturers are getting used to the idea of dividing work among their cutters; and not alone this, but our cutters themselves have been educated to the point where they realize their duty toward their fellow-workers.

## WAIST AND DRESS

The next meeting of the waist and dress division, which will be held on Monday, May 14, will be a special meeting for the purpose of discussing the advisability of participating in the employment bureau organized by the Joint Board of Waist and Dressmakers.

The Executive Board, at its meeting last Thursday night, invited the delegates to the Joint Board to participate in a discussion of this matter. This question was discussed by the Executive Board from all angles and a unanimous decision was reached to the effect that we will not participate in any question that will come up concerning the employment bureau.

A number of speakers dwelt on this proposition, urging the Executive Board not to participate, as the whole thing, as started by the Joint Board, has been from its very inception a fiasco. They also pointed out various reasons why we should not participate in this labor bureau, such as the nature of our industry, where instead of the big shops we have small shops in which one cutter is employed and in which there is sometimes not even a full week's work for that cutter.

On the other hand, Brother Berlin, president of the Joint Board, who is the only one favoring our participation, argued in favor of it, although admitting that the way this bureau has been started by the Joint Board indicated that it would be a failure. Nevertheless, he believes that this should not deter us from joining it. Brother Berlin also outlined a number of reasons why we should participate, as it will prevent the cutters from being idle or answering advertisements in the newspapers.

At the last waist and dress meeting this question was touched upon but slightly, and at this coming special meeting of the dress and waist cutters, the members will be afforded an opportunity of discussing it at length and either concurring in or rejecting the recommendation of the Executive Board.

Due to the fact that a Jewish holiday falls on Monday, May 21, the next meeting of the Miscellaneous Branch will be held on Wednesday, May 23rd, at the auditorium of our International, 3 West 16th Street. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30.

Ex-Assemblyman August Glessens, who is a well-known lecturer, will address the meeting, and all cutters of this division are urged to be present.

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# CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

## Notice of Regular Meetings

SPECIAL WAIST AND DRESS.....Monday, May 14th

Order of Business: Final decision in the matter of the Labor Bureau.

MISCELLANEOUS CUTTERS, ATTENTION!

The next meeting of the Miscellaneous Division will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 1923, at 7 p. m., in the Auditorium of our International, at 3 West 16th Street.

GENERAL.....Monday, May 28th

CLOAK AND SUIT.....Monday, June 4th

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place