

"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."

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## PRESIDENT SIGMAN LEAVES FOR CANADA

Cloak Shop Strikes in Montreal and Toronto—Situation Growing Grave—May 1 Strike—Anti-Injunction Fight to Be Taken Up in Canadian Parliament by a Labor member.

We reported in the pages of this Journal last week that a number of shop strikes have been going on in the cloak trade of Montreal and Toronto. This week there was added to these strikes a lockout by the cloak firm of Gould & Samuel of Montreal.

These conflicts are in part due to the organizing campaign started by Vice-president Seidman in these two cities early last fall. The employers are naturally very displeased with this activity of our union and are trying their best to hamper it. The relations between the workers and the cloak manufacturers in Toronto and Montreal have as a result become very much strained.

In addition to these strikes, the union is involved in an injunction suit brought by a Montreal firm. This firm is also suing the union for damages to defray the cost of hiring strikebreakers, which it declares it was compelled to do on account of the strikes. The first instance of this suit was won by the firm. The judge before whom the case was tried gave the firm a verdict against the union, but the cloakmakers' joint board is now taking the case with the Canadian Labor Council, which decided to make the fight its own and will appeal it to the highest court, if necessary. The case will also be brought up at an early date in the Canadian

Parliament by a Labor member.

Vice-president Seidman came to New York this week especially in regard to this matter, and President Sigman called a meeting of the General Executive Board to confer on the Canadian situation. The Board

decided that President Sigman leave for Montreal to look over the field and to take personal charge of the situation. President Sigman will therefore leave on Saturday morning for Canada with Vice-president Seidman.

## Fresh Activity Started Among St. Louis Garment Workers

Vice-President Perlestein Visits City

Vice-president Perlestein went to St. Louis last Wednesday and at once started new organizing activity among the local ladies' garment workers.

St. Louis has a cloakmakers' local, No. 76, which consists of several hundred members. There are in St. Louis, however, several thousand skirt and dressmakers and sewer makers still unorganized, who are working long hours for a mere pittance. It is among these that the organizing work has now been started.

Brother Perlestein had a meeting with the executive board of Local 76, and on the following day a general member meeting was called at which an organizing committee was elected.

Brother Ben Gilbert, business agent of Local 76, was elected chairman of the committee and Brother John Dean, a young active member, was elected secretary.

Labor conditions in the skirt and dress shops of St. Louis are very much inferior to conditions in the same trades in other cities. Forty-eight and fifty hours a week are the rule and an iron discipline prevails in all shops. Upon coming to St. Louis, Brother Perlestein gave a statement to the press in which he pointed out the unbearable labor conditions in the local ladies' garment shops, which forthwith drew a reply from the manufacturers denying Perlestein's allegations. According to them, the St.

## Dress Waist and Dressmakers to Have Spring Dance

Will Raise Money to Fight Reaction

The Harlem and Bronx branch of the dressmakers' union will have a May Dance on Friday evening, May 25th, at Laurel Garden, 179 East 116th Street.

The dance has been arranged for two purposes: One, to give the dressmakers of Harlem and the Bronx a chance to spend an evening together with their friends and families; two, the proceeds of the evening will be turned over for the benefit of the "H. I. A. S." and for the movement launched by our Italian members to fight the Fascist agitation in this country and abroad.

Tickets for this dance are only 35 cents, and, as the purpose of this entertainment is laudable and worthy, it is expected that the attendance will be very large and that the Harlem members of the Dress and Waist Joint Board will have a real good time that evening.

St. Louis garment shops are a veritable paradise and the relations between the workers and the employers are nothing short of idyllic.

The St. Louis organization committee is now preparing a series of agitation bulletins appealing to the workers to join the union and pointing out the benefits of organization. These bulletins will be distributed regularly by the committee in front of the shops and are expected to bring quick and tangible results.

## Come to Greet Labor's Champion-Eugene V. Debs

First Time in New York in Many Years

Next Tuesday evening, May 22, the workers of New York will greet that old lion-hearted fighter for liberty, Eugene V. Debs, at the Madison Square Garden. This meeting is one of a series which Debs will address in some of the biggest cities in the country.

Since Debs was liberated from the Atlanta prison, where he spent several years under a sentence for violation of the infamous sedition laws, the workers of New York have not had a chance to hear him speak, and,

while the Garden can accommodate thousands of people, the rush to hear Debs is expected to be so great that only those who provide themselves with tickets in advance may have the opportunity to gain admittance.

Tickets for the Debs Garden meeting can be had in the office of the People's House, 7 East 15th Street; at the Harlem Education Center, 62 East 106th Street; in Brooklyn at 147 Tompkins Avenue; and at the Brownsville Labor Lyceum, 219 Seckman Street.

## International Invited to Attend Clothing Federation's Meeting

Will Be Held in Stuttgart, Germany, July Next

Our International received a letter from Amsterdam this week, from Theodore Van Der Heeg, secretary of the International Clothing Workers' Federation, inviting our union to send delegates to the congress of the Federation which will be held toward the end of July in Stuttgart, Germany.

At the last congress of the Clothing Workers' Federation in Copenhagen, it was decided that the next meeting be held in Switzerland. As

the currency rates in Switzerland are very high, which make that country practically inaccessible to the delegates of the clothing organizations in other parts of Europe, the executive committee of the Federation decided that the congress be held in Germany.

The communication also asks the International to forward a report of the most important events in our union during 1922-23.

## Unity House Registration Begins on May 28th

Restriction on Children Lifted

All preparations are being made for the opening of the splendid estate owned by the union of the dress and waist makers of New York in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Pennsylvania. The place will be opened on Friday, June 15th, with a concert and dance. May 28th is the date set for the beginning of registration for the members of the locals affiliated with the Joint Board, as well as for members of other locals of the International.

It is now in place to remind the members of the cloak locals of New York that as the season in their trade starts in full swing about the middle of July and August, and as they cannot spare time for a rest and vacation during those months, it would be the sensible thing for them to have their vacation during June or the first half of July, when the grind of the season has not yet fully set in.

There is another point that requires to be called to the attention of our workers. For years the management of the Unity House has restricted the number of children to be allowed on the grounds to ten, which of course prevented a great many families from coming to the House.

This restriction has now been entirely lifted. The Unity grounds are big enough to take in members of the International together with their families, and now these mothers and fathers who come to Unity will not be compelled to part with their children during vacation.

The price at Unity remains the same this year as last year, even though the cost of food has risen considerably. The price for children has even been reduced this year and they will not be charged anything for registration.

## Hike to Silver Lake

This Sunday, May 20th, the students of our Workers' University and Unity Center will have their hike and outing to Silver Lake, Staten Island. All arrangements for the day have been made. The program will include games, readings, singing, etc. The committee will meet the hikers in front of the St. George Ferry

House, South Ferry, at 9 o'clock in the morning. Those wishing to join are asked to bring along food for the day, including a potato.

In case of rain, the outing will be held on the following Sunday, May 27th.

Come and bring your friends.

## Topics of the Week

By MAX D. DANISH

### THE MURDER OF VOROVSKY

THE murder of Envoy Vorovsky in a Lausanne restaurant by an ex-"White Guard" officer, the son of a former Petrograd candy manufacturer, is the overshadowing event of last week.

That it was inspired by the callous, if not criminal, neglect of the Swiss authorities to protect the life of a foreign envoy who came to participate in a conference, there is little doubt. But life in Europe is generally cheap, and regard for orderly, stabilized living cannot be high on a continent that is shattered, unnerved and fairly engulfed in a sea of hatreds and vendettas.

The assassination of Vorovsky is in line with similar murders that have shocked the world during the last two years—the killing of Rathenau, Erberger and Raschin, and the wholesale murder and imprisonment of Socialists and trade-unionists all over Fascist Italy, and for that matter Russia too. It will probably cause reprisals against Swiss citizens living in Russia and will make relations between the East and West in Europe even more galling, tense and strained.

### WARD BAKERIES' LOCKOUT

THE announcement last week that the Ward Bakeries, with huge plants in New York, Pittsburgh and other cities, would be operated as "open-shops," and that the company would make a ten-per-cent cut in the pay of night-workers and abandon the eight-hour day, did not come as a surprise to the general public. The Ward Bakeries, employing 5,000 union men, and commonly referred to in the trade as the Bread Trust, has been enduring its collective agreement with the union obviously with little patience. It was forced to unionize its plants during the war-years and has since been gnashing its teeth against that arrangement.

The Ward Baking Company last year paid a 13 per cent dividend to its stockholders, in addition to a 20 per cent stock dividend. Last year it carried out a 15 per cent reduction in the wages of the bakers. But the heads of the Ward concern apparently need more money these days, and they obviously intend to "take it out" of their workers.

The Bakers' Union, however, seems to be determined that the Ward bakers shall not be scalped any further. They are left no choice, but to fight to a finish. The thousands of men and women employed in the Ward bakeries will be supported by organized labor and their families in every big city where Ward bread is used.

### DISTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS

THOUGH Congress is not at work, immigration seems to be still attracting attention in wide circles, and well it might. Immigration has been one of the most potent factors in molding American industrial conditions for generations past and upon its handling will depend to a considerable extent the next chapters in American national development. One of the principal aspects of immigration, the distribution of immigrants, is again being heatedly discussed among other legislative plans to be enacted by the next Congress.

It cannot be said that it is being approached with intelligent forethought. In talking of the necessity of switching sections of the immigrant mass east, west, north or south, it is being assumed that these immigrants are so many pawns on a chess-board that can be moved around at will and planted, as it were, for future growth wherever desirable from the standpoint of the planters. The facts, however, are quite contrary. The German or Swedish farm-hands invited by their relatives in the Northwest to come to Minnesota or Wisconsin, do not as a rule land in a New York garment shop; nor can the Lithuanian and Polish petty tradesmen and garment-workers become fit over night, or by the say-so of a bureaucratic commission, to take the place of a Hungarian miner in the Alleghenies.

The overwhelming majority of the immigrants in the last few years in particular have been relatives of immigrants already residing in America, and these will naturally stay close by and work out their New World destiny alongside their kin who have preceded them—whether in the New York garment shops, the wheat fields of Nebraska and Iowa, or the coal pits of Pennsylvania.

### BUILDING EMPLOYERS SABOTAGE CONSTRUCTION

NEW YORK, and for that matter many other big centers in the country, are face to face with a builders' strike—not a silent, underground contest between the employers and the workers, but an out-and-out refusal of the big building interests to continue operations unless the unions come to their terms.

In the course of one week, builders in New York alone have suspended operations involving over thirty million dollars. It is interesting to note that among these suspensions there is one by the trustees of Columbia University involving ten million dollars. The builders and their "friends" are determined to "get" the unions by sabotage if they cannot accomplish it by means of a lockout.

Of course, the builders' move is feverishly explained by them on the ground of exorbitant wages and building costs. The union side of this controversy, however, is clearly characterized by the head of the Building Trades' Council in New York as "an attempt to beat down wages by the club of decreased employment."

This policy of sabotage may cause a considerable amount of misery among the building trades workers in the large cities. In the long run, however, it will defeat its own end, at least as far as wages are concerned. It may even cause an exodus of workers from the big Eastern centers to other sections particularly to the South and West where a great building boom is on and skilled mechanics are very much in demand.

The attempt of the Lockwood Committee to solve the building and housing problem in New York was a move in the right direction, but its results were reduced to a minimum by the political embroglio which it created. A thorough and impartial investigation of the important elements in building costs—material prices, fees of architects and engineers, contractors' profits and wages, can alone bring out the vital facts covering

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housing and building construction in the great cities and form the basis for an intelligent policy in the building trades.

### THE LONDON-MOSCOW NOTES

THE tension created last week by the sharp ultimatum forwarded by Lord Curzon, the British Foreign Secretary, to Moscow, in which satisfaction within ten days was demanded for alleged grave wrongs committed by the Moscow Government against British property and rights and which threatened a break of relations and perhaps war—has been considerably eased by the Moscow reply. The Soviet answer speaks the language of peace and proposes round table conversation to iron out whatever "unimportant misunderstandings" there have recently arisen between the two powers.

There will be no war between Great Britain and Russia on account of the twelve-mile fishing zone dispute along the Murmansk coast. England cannot afford to go to war now—and surely Russia cannot foot war bills these days. Two things, however, stand out preeminently in connection with this spectacular clash. First, the general assumption that the extreme, uncompromising wing is in full sway in Soviet Russia and is "ready to meet all comers," is not borne out. In spite of very belligerent reports from Moscow on the day the British note was received and reputed statements by Trotsky that the "Red Army is ready,"—the reply to the British ultimatum is exceptionally pacific and soothing.

The other very important thing is the dominant position of the British Labor party in national affairs—never as clear and poignant as during this collision between the Tory cabinet and Moscow. The firm attitude of the Labor party spokesmen in their unflinching opposition to a break with Russia, their direct communication with Russia in order to avoid such a rupture and possible hostilities—has doubtless served to spike a great many of the Tory guns.

But the Labor party of England does not hesitate, at the same time, to express its aversion and censure with similar frankness and firmness towards such practices of the Soviet rulers which in their honest judgment deserve condemnation and rebuke.

# FROM OUR JOINT BOARDS AND LOCALS

## In Local 17

By JACOB HELLER

The concert and mass meeting which we arranged this year for May First turned out not entirely to our liking.

We were disappointed with Mr. Lebedev, whose hoarse voice prevented him from singing, but who instead assayed to tell some stage and "witty" stories from the state which cast a deep gloom upon the audience. Then Miss Lubritsky failed to appear on account of face swelling—a special May Day gift, it would seem. Mark Schweld, however, appeared and as his recitations, greatly appreciated by the crowd, were beginning to dissipate the heavy cloud overhead, the management of the National Theatre took a hand in our celebration and threw the final spade upon the program of our concert. Here is the tale in brief:

Miss Bella Finkel, who was to follow Schweld, was scheduled to appear in a number of imitations of prominent Jewish stage stars—quite an innocent business, one would think. So, however, thought the high-spirited management of the National. They would not desecrate their footlights with such a vulgar pastime and they issued a "ukase" that if Miss Finkel only dared to "imitate" they would lower the curtain at once. No appeals or arguments would avail, and as we did not desire to start a row or a panic in the crowded theatre we were forced to submit.

The autocracy of these managers, however, will not be forgotten or forgiven by our local. After all, these theatres live and subsist only by the grace of our workers. We have forwarded a spirited protest against the action of these petty autocrats to the press and we hope that our labor movement will yet lift this Palmerian censorship from the Jewish theatre. We expect the United Hebrew Trades and the Joint Board of the Clockmakers' Union to take a hand in this matter. Nevertheless, we desire to emphasize the point that this entire unpleasantness had nothing to do with Brother Rubin Guskin, who did his best to help arrange our celebration.

All is ready for the new season—what sort of a season shall we have? It is the same old question—which takes more than an ordinary human being not endowed with prophetic powers to answer. We can only assume to say the following: Clothing, of course, depends for its prosperity upon general conditions in American industry. It also depends on the specific conditions in the cloak industry proper. And taking both these things as criteria, we cannot escape the hopeful conclusion that a general industrial prosperity prevailing all over the land, the booming of building, the tremendous movement of freight, and other encouraging signs, the prospects for a lively and prosperous fall season for our industry are certainly very bright.

Regarding the special situation in our industry, it can be stated in a few words that, during the past season, our employers have made a good deal of money. The demand for women's wear was quite big, and the textile mills have been going at full blast in recent months to meet the coming demand. So here too the prognostication for a good season finds substantial support.

Will it be so? Surely it must be so—or else there is something radically the matter with the cloak industry.

## From Local 35

By JOSEPH BRESLAW

Our May Day celebration was a huge success. The members of the local and their families filled the huge hall to capacity. Tickets were actually at a premium a few days before the concert.

The affair ran off with excellent smoothness. Among the artists that took part in the affair were Mme. Zuckenberg, Morris Schwartz, Hymie Jacobson, Samuel Rabinowitz, the well-known violinist, in addition to the Papparella Orchestra. Among the speakers we had with us President Sigman and Israel Feinberg, whose messages rang with enthusiasm and were received with a stormy ovation.

We desire to thank all the artists that came to our meeting and likewise Mr. Rubin Guskin, the manager of the Hebrew Actors' Union, for the cordial cooperation we had in this affair.

Members of Local 35 are getting ready for the Bear Mountain excursion. On Sunday morning, June 3, a large steamer will take the thousands of our members and their families for a merry junket up the Hudson to the landing place at Bear Mountain—and rest assured that nothing has been omitted by the arrangements committee to make this a corking day for our folk. We are only warning our members that, if they don't want to be left out of this affair, they should hurry to reserve tickets. Remember,—first come, first served!

Our local has ordered a change in the section meetings. Some in our midst have complained from time to time that our affairs are not conducted democratically enough, as if they themselves were doing all they could to improve matters. The fact remains that these same men fail to come to meetings when they are called to discuss the very matters they are kicking about. Others say that the meetings are not interesting enough, as most of the work is done by the office and they are not concerned with "politics" that are noisily being discussed at the meetings.

The local has therefore decided to test the sincerity of these "kickers." First, we shall now have our meetings every other week instead of once a month—the second Monday of each month in New York and the second Saturday of each month in Brownsville. Second, we shall entirely change the order of the day at these meetings and eliminate the reading of minutes and similar routine matters which used to consume all the time at the meetings. Right after the report of the manager, we shall proceed to the discussion of new business and "good and welfare" proposals and recommendations.

The future will show whether these changes will make a difference in the attendance at the meetings and whether our perennial "kickers" will abandon outside complaints and come to the meetings to talk matters over and try to solve them by mutual effort and discussion.

## In Canada

By SOL SEIDMAN

I have not written for some time about our work in Canada among the cloak and dress makers of Toronto and Montreal.

We had quite a busy season but the workers benefited little from it. With overtime and a rush in the shops, they hardly made enough to make ends meet until the next season. The reason is plain—while we have in the

last few months strengthened our locals in both cities, we have not as yet an agreement with the employers. Towards the end of the season we were compelled to have a clash here and there in the shops in order to check a little the arrogance of the bosses and the maltreatment of our workers. In Toronto we have had a strike for the last three weeks in a shop which employs fifty workers. The strikers are firm, and we expect to win regardless of all the efforts of the firm—the Society of Ladies' Wear—to get strikebreakers from New York and Philadelphia.

We also have a strike on in Montreal with the National Rubber Company which employs fifty-five workers, where the firm wanted to introduce piece-work and the open shop after the season. The union did everything to avoid a strike in this shop, but it became inevitable after the firm flatly refused to deal with us. The cloakmakers are determined to organize the entire cloak trade so as to be able to force the employers to sign a union agreement under union conditions when the season begins.

We made a good beginning in Montreal on April 19th the meeting addressed by Brother Giovannitti who came especially from New York for this purpose. Brother Rombach, the business agent of the union, and the writer of these lines also addressed the meeting. The following Sunday Brother Giovannitti addressed a meeting of the Montreal Joint Board and later, on that same day, a mass meeting arranged by the Italian local of the Amalgamated in Montreal to protest against the activities of the Fascist in America.

On Monday, April 23rd, Brother Giovannitti came to Toronto and addressed Local 14, where he was received with quite an ovation. It is stated here that the Giovannitti meeting was the best the Toronto cloakmakers had ever had. Lately the special meetings of the locals and the Joint Board have been very well attended; our English-speaking local is making fine progress, and we have organized one of the largest embroidery shops in the city.

All told, we have a very fine union here and it is the belief and hope of everybody that we shall soon be able to resume our former position among all organized cloakmakers in America.

## Boston News

By A LOCAL OBSERVER

The raincoat trade is slowing down a bit at present and our members are working part time. The office is enforcing rigidly the rule of equal division of work, and all complaints to this effect are adjusted satisfactorily. We are now preparing plans for the renewal of our agreement with the manufacturers which expires on August 16 of this year.

## WAIST AND DRESS

The first of the bi-weekly meetings of the Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local 49 was held on Monday, May 7, at the office of the union, 919 Washington Street. Attendance at these bi-weekly meetings was made compulsory by the Executive Board some time ago, and the number of members present at this meeting was surprisingly large. Of course many of those who came were just to have their union tickets stamped "present," in order to avoid paying the fifty cents fine, which it was decided to levy upon all members failing to attend at least one meeting in a period of two months. It is the intention of the union to have very short meetings during the summer months, to make it as easy as possible for the members to attend. All these meetings are scheduled to start right after work.

At the meeting of our Executive Board on Thursday, May 3, 1923, a committee of Italian workers in the dress industry appeared. The committee requested that, in view of the fact that the Italians constitute an important element in the trade, and since many of them do not understand English, the Executive Board cooperate with them in the organization of a branch of their own, which will hold regular meetings once every two weeks. This committee also asked that the Italians be represented at our Executive Board by three delegates. They pointed out that the Italian workers in some of the dress shops are not as well off as the rest of the workers, this being due to the fact that, because they cannot speak English, they have had no opportunity to learn much about the principles of trade unionism, and the employers are not slow to take advantage of them. So they find that some Italian workers are receiving less pay than others for the same class of work. The Executive Board agreed with them fully and promised to help them build up an Italian branch. Their request for representation was also concurred in and their delegates will be seated just as soon as the newly-formed branch elects them.

## CLOAKS AND SUITS

At the meeting of the Joint Board, the question of the skirt contractors and jobbers was taken up. It is a hard proposition to deal with contractors generally; it is doubly hard to control the skirt contractors, for while some sort of an organization is required in a cloak and suit and contracting shop, it rarely occurs that more than three or four persons are employed in these shirt shops. As a result, the skirt shops are in a deplorable state so far as union conditions are concerned. The Joint Board decided to begin an intensive organization campaign among these contracting skirt shops, and the office was instructed not to spare any effort in bringing about good results.

In last week's JUSTICE, we mentioned the fact that the Cloak Contractors' Association, at a conference (Continued on Page 11)

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# The New European Tragedy

By LEON CHASANOWICH

(Special European Correspondence to JUSTICE)

## IV.

The international Socialist movement, in its present passive role as onlooker of the French Ruhr adventure, is smarting under its second biggest defeat since 1914.

Since the end of the war, Socialism in various countries has received one blow after another. Among the most important of these setbacks were the collapse of the Soviet republic in Bessarabia, which converted that section of Germany into a hotbed of reaction; the horrible finale of the Soviet system in Hungary and the subsequent triumph of the darkest elements in that country; the victory of Fascism in Italy, the present-day pride of international bourgeoisism; and, above all, the trying fight for existence which Soviet Russia is compelled to wage inside and outside of its borders.

All these, however, were local events, to an extent, though they are all of great significance in the general trend of the workers' movement. The brazen invasion of the Ruhr, the life-nerve of Germany's economic life, and the depredations practiced by the invaders upon the local unarmed German population have, however, struck Socialism a blow of universal magnitude. There was talk of resistance; there were plans for a general strike in case of the occupation of the Ruhr by French forces, but when it came to action, French imperialism with triumphant cynicism reaffirmed the force of the complete impotence of international Socialism.

The single redeeming feature about this present situation is that we have not as yet lived to see again the shame of 1914 when Socialists went out to fight their comrades of other countries, and when Socialist parties became the intellectual victims of "sacred national unity" and "sacred national egoism." The Socialist and Communist parties in France condemned the French attack and the French plans of annexation in unmitigated terms. And even though the German workers are compelled to remain in the front lines in defence against the French in the Ruhr, the German Social Democratic party is, nevertheless, constantly underscoring the point that it is far from the idea of a new entente with the German bourgeoisie and of an even temporary obliteration of class antagonisms.

Fortunately, the hands of international Socialism remain unstained with blood. In many countries, the workers have sharply protested against the occupation of the Ruhr and, what concerns the moral verdict on the French attack, the socially inclined proletariat all over the world has, in a degree, formed an undivided front about it. This consolation, however, is not sufficient to give contentment to those who expected so much of the historic mission of the international labor movement. Of what value are paper resolutions and paper movements at a time when violence is enthroned everywhere and when only concrete and real acts amount to anything? It is the burning shame of our day to see that, while the French imperialism is developing a maximum of activity in its will to enslave Germany and to establish world dominion, the international working class, with the exception of the German and partly of the English, displays a maximum of passivity. The cause of this deplorable phenomenon one must seek on the one hand, in the lack of unity within the international labor movement, the direct result of the dissensions and splits which have occurred in the last few years. On the other hand, there

is a lack of clarity of purpose, the fountain source of energy in the Socialist movement, in places where it had the opportunity to influence the fates of nations. Instead of one international, we still have three; which in practice means that we have none. The idea of a "united front," which came up to the surface about a year ago, for the purpose of definite joint action, came quickly to naught. The Labor Party of England, of all other workers' parties, can be least reproached for the failure to accomplish unity. Of all other labor parties, it has shown on various occasions a commendable measure of common sense and solidarity. We owe to the Labor Party of England the change of policy on the part of the English Government from intervention and blockade to the formation of a trade treaty with Russia. Its great electoral victory has no doubt influenced the negative attitude of the conservative English Government towards the occupation of the Ruhr by the French. The saddest part of all in the present moment has fallen to the French and Italian Socialists. If Jaurès could at one time maintain with a semblance of right that the weakness of German Socialism is fatal to Europe, we may assert today that the impotence of French Socialism is at the bottom of the world's misfortunes. The French imperialism has no earnest enemy "within," and that is why it

is overconfident and sanguine. In Italy the situation is still worse. Mussolini's victory has practically driven the Socialists and the Communists out of active public life.

A good deal of the guilt, however, should be ascribed to the German Social Democracy, too. The example of German Socialism in the new French-German conflict, brings out in striking relief how true Socialist policy can go hand in hand with genuine national interests and how a spurious Socialism acts not only against the interests of the propertyless class but also against the true national interests. We have already shown in these columns how the sabotage policy of the German bourgeoisie with regard to taxation and reparation payments serve only as grist to the mills of French imperialism, and how the German bourgeoisie has through its narrow class egoism helped to bring the present catastrophe upon Germany.

But is the German Social Democracy entirely free from guilt? It is the strongest party in the Reichstag. It took a leading part in the Government, yet through its weakness and lack of ability, it allowed the bourgeoisie to escape scot-free from all obligations after a lost war. German Social Democracy retains the point of view of a "fulfillment policy"—that is, that Germany must, as far as its means permit, pay the reparations imposed by the Versailles Treaty. But how can the country pay reparations when its wealthier classes sabotage all taxation laws and use every misfortune befalling their own nation for their personal ag-

grandizement? The Catholic leader, Erzberger, who was later killed by a chauvinist bullet, understood that, in order that Germany might fulfill the Versailles obligations, its wealth-owning classes must shoulder the great financial burdens. He was the father of that legislation which threw the German bourgeoisie into convulsions of fear. For this "treason" Erzberger paid with his life and his taxation plans remain on paper—in so far as they affect the richest classes. With regard to the working classes, however, they are being carried out with the utmost strictness.

The German Social Democracy has seen all this. Its representatives sat on the ministerial bench and tolerated these depredations. This social, and at the same time national, guilt is weighing heavily upon the shoulders of the German Social Democracy. The acts of the German bourgeoisie are not only acts of enrichment at the expense of the people; they are acts of national treason. It is true, French imperialism would not have been a whit better, had Germany tried to fulfill the Versailles obligations to the best of its ability. But its position with regard to the French people itself would have been quite a different one, if Germany would not have supplied it with the required argument to feed the popular prejudices and cruder instincts. The German trade unions have recently come out with a strong protest against the raising of all revenues through direct taxes imposed upon workers, salaried persons and officials. But when did they wake up to make this protest? Only

(Continued on page 9)



Drawn for LABOR AGE by Art Young

## THE SPECIALISTS AT WORK

Let the immigrants flow in, says Gary in his latest utterance, but be sure that they are "politically healthy."

L. P. E. 118

# Screen Life

(A Sketch)

By ABRAHAM RAISIN

Gitel, a young woman of twenty-four, came here from a small Lithuanian town where she had been raised in poor circumstances. She got her passage-fare across from Yohke, a girl chum who had come to America a couple of years before. Gitel, when she received that steamship ticket, concluded that her friend was richer in wealth and was very happy. She discovered her mistake only when she arrived here and saw Yohke—pale, thin, and with lustreless eyes.

"So this is the golden land?" she asked Yohke a few days later—after she became aware of how her chum lived and thrived.

"Yes, Gitel—that's about all there is to it!" Yohke said with a bitter smile—and added a little later:

"You know, Gitel, you'll have to be paying up that steamship ticket a dollar a week."

And so it dawned on Gitel that things are not quite as they look or are made to look in this land. In the old home, she thought that Yohke had become a wealthy girl, and she had looked the part on the picture they received from her. Regrettably, that was only paper riches.

\*\*\*\*\*

In America Gitel began reading novels, stories, and from these books she learned of the existence of nice, beautiful things. People fell in love, became wealthy and famous—but

after she had finished reading these stories, she would look around and observe that life was not at all as it was written about in books.

So Gitel gradually became disgusted with realities around her. She commenced to look for something that would take the place of the ugliness that hemmed her in on all sides—that would color it up and conceal it. But how could a poor little immigrant girl run away from all this sordidness? The street on which she lived was one of the most poverty-stricken on the East Side. She had no room of her own and lived with a middle-aged woman whose sleeves were always rolled up and whose hair was always upset. The husband—an old worked-out creature, always in the same bedraggled suit of clothes—was a disgusting sight. Outside of the barren tenement, on the sidewalk, there were those perennial rows of garbage barrels and cans.

Gitel would be eager to go outside of the big city, where, so she was told, things were beautiful and green. But she had no one to go with; she had lost all interest in Yohke. She saw her but once a week, and then their conversation was limited to an inquiry about a letter from home, a short walk on Grand Street among jostling mobs—after which it was the same continuous drab existence alone. Yohke was gone.

Gitel felt lonesome in America. From time to time she wrote a few words home: "Dear folks: I am so happy here—I work in an office and earn fifteen dollars a week—I only work four hours a day. The rest of my time I spend in studying and in the company of girl friends." These little fabrications inspired her for a short while—until they began to scare her. Wamn't it stark crazy to tell people that she was working in an office when she was working in a shop and hardly knew any English; when she had neither the time nor the patience for study, and had no girl friends to associate with?

She learned about the movies as soon as she landed. It was a likable thing—and within reach too—but at first she refrained from frequent visits. Watching pictures all by herself was not too cheerful either. But later, moving pictures had become her sole mental food—and she learned to enjoy them all the more when she was alone.

Of course, she could not read nor understand the titles and subheads. It was a pity, but somehow it did not detract from the interest and mystery of it all. The principal thing was to look at things that she could not find nor dream of finding her own existence. The life on the screen became the central point of interest in her life and at the first free moment Gitel would rush off to a movie theatre. Across the screen a new, enchanting world was passing before her eyes. . . . There were great, speeding motorcars filled with beautiful men and women, gardens with a wealth of trees and flowers. . . . Men and women embracing, loving. . . .

angry parents remonstrating. . . . and then a mother intervening. . . . and all ending so sweetly under the altar—and from there again in an automobile for a honeymoon. . . . Gitel was wholly caught by this panorama of anxiety, love and entrancing finales. The minutes between the reels dragged out so long, so unnecessarily long, punctured by the rasping shrieks of the boys peddling gum and fruit along the aisles. The screen was alive again. This time it was the story of a staid Indian who had taken captive a beautiful white girl. Then a cavalcade of white riders swarm upon the mighty savage, the girl is recaptured and they all flee. . . . The Indians are pursuing the rescue group; they are hot on their heels. Gitel's heart is in her shoes—but the square little screen is good to the white girl and her lover—who are hiding in a little cabin off the main highway. Gitel is happy. Nothing could suit her better than the end of this wonderful story.

And thus Gitel's real life became a series of screen films. Gitel forgot her shop in the movie-house, forgot her tired listless friend Yohke, her landlady, and the series phalanx of garbage cans lining the sidewalk in front of the tenement house in which she lived. Gitel dwelt in a world of fancy, filled to the brim with beauty, dreams and riches. . . .

To be sure, from time to time Gitel came to believe that her daily life, the gray and drab reality, was a mere dream, something that had to be gone through and survived somehow. Gitel's real existence, her better life was way up upon the square, white little screen of the movie-house.

## What's to be Done with the Children?

By MATILDA ROBBINS

"For the sake of my child, I need  
to know to  
all the children of earth from the  
East and the West."

I do not now remember the author of these lines that years ago indelibly impressed themselves on my memory. I had no child then. Indeed, I did not even dream of having one. Motherhood and its problems did not enter into my personal consciousness. And yet now, as I begin to write on a subject that lies so near the heart of every mother, and every working mother particularly, those noble words of a brave soul illumine my mind.

For the sake of my child? A million women go forth every day for the sake of the child to earn a livelihood in mill, factory and office. Everywhere in this vast United States—in the New England mills; in the Eastern clothing factories; in the coastal canning industry; in every commercial house in the country; in the big cities.

But whatever the differences in the economic status between an occupation and another are, whatever the straits of intellectual development of these groups of workers, the problem that they share in common and in common find difficult of solution is: What to do with the child while the mother is away working.

There are still a great many persons who meet such a question with the answer that woman's place is in the home. Among them is the man who could not do without his stenographer and draws the line at women workers who hope to have homes; the woman who is so overworked in domestic slavery that an eight-hour day would seem like the millennium; those who have perhaps never had the care of a home; and, of course, the perfectly well-meaning and hopelessly reactionary individual, who re-

peats a formula when it is no longer possible to fill it.

But formulae and attempts to go back to grandmother's day notwithstanding, the disconcerting fact is very obvious that thousands of mothers in every large and small city in the country must leave their children in charge of some one while they spend their hours in the factory or at the desk.

Not so long ago this condition was considered by charitable ladies as one peculiar to the slum proletariat. The concern of philanthropic souls for it often resulted in abominable nurseries where the child is usually treated with the same consideration as cheap automobiles parked in a garage. Such checking places for children every self-respecting mother rebels against. Where, then, is she to put her child? Where is the intelligent, conscientious mother—and she can be found among all classes of workers today—to find a place that has not the atmosphere of charity? A place that is equipped to give the child a wholesome physical and moral environment for a fee commensurate with the mother's earnings?

Let those who know of such places in New York City or elsewhere speak up. I shall tell my story and the stories of others similarly situated. I have talked to scores of mothers—factory workers, office workers, artists, writers, teachers—types representative of the new economic life of woman, and I have selected from among them a half dozen so typical that mere multiplication by hundreds or thousands would give one a fair estimate of the problem of the working mother.

### THE FACTORY WORKER

Mrs. Brown is a highly paid skilled worker with a child two years old. Until the child was old enough

to permit return to the factory, she lived somewhere in the Middle West with her family. Then she came to New York to take a job and her troubles began. Unacquainted with the domestic help problem in New York, Mrs. Brown advertised for a nurse. There were numerous replies, but the kind of nurse Mrs. Brown wanted—she was an intelligent mother—demanded sixty to seventy-five dollars a month, room and board. Mrs. Brown's income was about forty dollars a week and, of course, such expensive service was out of the question.

She turned to the nurseries, but found many difficulties there. Some were so far away from her place of residence that she would have made her own workday from eight to five impossible. Others, within reasonable distance from her home, were crowded beyond capacity, and still others were so flagrantly neglectful that Mrs. Brown could see nothing but death and destruction in them.

After a diligent, but futile search for two weeks, during which time she could not do her work at the shop, Mrs. Brown was forced to make the distressing decision to board the child in the country. But any mother who wants to be with her child during those delightful years when every day is filled with wonder and every night with fairyland knows that Mrs. Brown's resort is no solution.

### THE OFFICE WORKER

Mrs. Gray is a stenographer who has never earned more than thirty-five a week. Her little boy was three when the mother returned to work in the office. She has a huge home to whom she pays sixty-five dollars a month and whose working hours are from half past eight to half past six and no Sundays. This leaves the care of the child to Mrs. Gray every evening and her only free day, Sunday.

A very uneconomical way, you say? Why? Won't the nurse live at Mrs. Gray's home and so afford the mother some relief? Because, my dear lady, Mrs. Gray lives in New York where kitchenette less two-room-and-

bath apartments rent for twenty-five dollars and more. No room for a nurse. Barely room for the three members of the Gray family.

### THE ACTRESS

Mrs. Hanks gave up the stage for two years after her child was born, lived in a suburb and gave the child her undivided attention. When she decided to return to work, she came back to New York to live. Being of the opinion that it is not good for a child to be growing up without other children and knowing that New York City does not allow the natural homogeneity to the children of apartment house dwellings, she was very eager to find a suitable group, or a school that would provide both physical care and desirable companionship.

She searched. For weeks she made extensive inquiries into every possibility for such child-group life, but the results were discouraging. There were just three places in the whole of New York City, according to her story, that had provision for children of the pre-school age. One was a small Montessori School that took children of three for the morning, one a very expensive private school, and one an inexpensive and well-equipped private school, but with a waiting list and no vacancies.

Mrs. Hanks gave up her notions about group life for children for the time being, engaged a nurse at seventy-five a month, room and board and is subject to the fear that the nurse might decide to leave just as she is rehearsing the very part she has always wanted.

(Continued Next Week)

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# JUSTICE

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## EDITORIALS

### THE VOROVSKY TRAGEDY

The tragedy at Lausanne consists not in the fact that a person in a fit of insanity had managed to convince himself that, by shooting the Soviet envoy, he would "commit an act of justice" and would thereby "free Europe from the Bolshevik plague." Maniacs who believed that with the murder of an individual they could destroy an entire social system, there have been at all times; and today, when we find ourselves in the midst of probably the craziest period humanity has ever lived through, there is little surprise that an act based upon such a belief had been perpetrated.

Neither does the tragedy lie in the fact that the Swiss Government did not accord the Russian envoy the required protection. First, as is known, the Swiss Government did not want him at Lausanne, and Vorovsky came at his own peril. It would, perhaps, be more correct to say that Vorovsky was sent by the Russian Government as its representative to Lausanne at the peril of his own life. Nor does the tragedy consist in the bare fact that a human life was destroyed. At this time, when human life is so cheap and when human blood flows like water; when capital punishment has become a common daily occurrence, in the very land which is ruled by persons who have all their lives claimed to have been Socialists and have condemned the death penalty as atrocious barbarism—the murder of another person, however innocent personally he may be, cannot stir us to the degree of regarding it as a tragedy. Nevertheless the killing of Vorovsky in Lausanne is a real tragedy.

Murder is murder, no matter who the victim or who the assassin. Yet, after we have read the statement of Vorovsky's murderer made right after the shooting, we asked ourselves: If all that Conradi states is true, can we unqualifiedly condemn him as a murderer? Have we a right in this case too to adhere closely to our rule that murder is murder, no matter by whom and upon whom it is committed? According to the assassin's story, the Bolshevik Government had killed his father and uncle. Place yourself for a while in the assassin's situation—assume that the Bolshevik Government had had the best reasons for the killing of these two men. Assume that they were counter-revolutionists and the bitterest opponents of the new régime and that they had to be killed because the Revolution is compelled to defend itself against its enemies. But for the son of the murdered father, this is no excuse. To him his father was the embodiment of all that was good, virtuous and noble, and it was his father and uncle that the Bolshevik Government had killed and from whom they had taken away all they ever possessed. Why should such a person as Conradi not regard it as an "act of justice" when he finally obtained an opportunity to murder the representative of that government? And this is the element of tragedy in the Lausanne occurrence. The murder of one by the hand of another, who had never met him before and had no cause for personal enmity against him, is a barbarous thing. One's first impulse is to declare the assassin insane or a wild maniac, who knew neither the meaning nor the purpose of his act. But after one has read that brief statement, one begins to feel the rule that murder is murder and must under all circumstances be condemned does not uniformly hold water.

No matter how useless and vain such a killing is, and regardless of the incontestable truth that the murder of an individual has never yet served any social system, and granting that the victim may personally have been quite innocent, one cannot at the same time entirely condemn the assassin when one considers that it was an act of vengeance—wild, savage, yet natural vengeance—for the blood of his father and uncle and for lives broken which to him were the dearest and the most sacred.

And as one thinks a little deeper into the situation, one can see in this single murder the entire bloody tragedy which can and perhaps must constantly recur all over Russia. In this killing of Vorovsky, one may foresee the sign of an uprising and of a rebellion of those in Russia who have heretofore been so bitterly and cruelly persecuted, arrested and murdered through that mechanism of communist violence which passes in Russia under the name of Bolshevism. One is shaken with horror at the spectre of these numerous Conradi's, after they had somewhat overcome the fear which holds them smitten now—what a bloody and horrible spectacle all of Russia will present at that hour! What an ocean of blood will burst upon the great plain of that unfortunate land! Therein lies the meaning of the tragedy of Vorovsky's murder—a tragedy which in its characteristic feature is perhaps the forerunner of one of the bloodiest catastrophes humanity may be forced to go through.

We read in the newspapers that in Russia there have taken place great protest demonstrations against the killing of Vor-

ovskiy. The responsible leaders of the Government deemed it necessary to throw the guilt upon the English Government, which has through its recent ultimatum incited such a man as Conradi to action. Others are accusing the Swiss Government of this murder because it did not give Vorovsky the necessary protection. Assuming that there is a dose of truth in all these charges—yet it is not the whole truth. The full truth is that the governmental terror in Russia was bound to breed such Conradi's in the hundreds, in the thousands and in the millions. And right as the Russian Government may be from its own point of view, it cannot be right from the viewpoint of these multitudinous Conradi's. In their eyes Bolshevism with its terror is a plague of which the world must be freed. And the pity of it is that no one in Russia has dared to say a word concerning it even though this should have been the very first thought to come to their minds.

May we hope that the murder of Vorovsky will make the present rulers of Russia give serious thought to this matter, and that the horrible terror which is in many instances so barbaric, so unnecessary, so inhuman, will finally be halted? We do not know; but were we to believe in a God, we would pray to Him with all the fire in our hearts: O God, infuse a new sentiment into the hearts of the Russian rulers, a sentiment of humanity, a sentiment of compassion that would stay the bloody hand that has converted Russia into a slaughter-house! Let the death of Vorovsky lead the ruling Russian Communists not to the sanguine feeling of revenge but, on the other hand, let them perceive that their dead comrade Vorovsky has fallen as the victim of their own wild depredations; and that, so that no more of their own may be destroyed in the strife, an end must be made to the present despotism under which the entire Russian nation is groaning.

### ENGLISH LABOR CHAMPIONS WORLD PEACE

However little or much one may think about the achievement of British labor through its various economic and political organizations, there can be no two opinions that, since the armistice, it has been the English workers who have safeguarded the world, as far as it was possible, from a new cataclysm, which from time to time has menaced all Europe. Only a few years ago, it looked as if a conflict were to break out between Russia and England which would doubtless involve the rest of the world. To the great glory of the English workers, it must be stated that they were the first and the only ones who rose with all their might against this bloody design and smashed it to bits.

English labor lifted the barbarous blockade of Russia which condemned innocent millions to death from starvation. English labor brought an end to the interventionist adventures into Russia and the aid given to Wrangel, Denikin and other Czarist officers. They forced England willfully to enter into closer relations and to conclude a commercial treaty with Russia. That treaty practically meant recognition of Soviet Russia by England and brought an end to the pariah existence of Russia in the family of nations.

Well, another tangle has now developed on the political horizon. The Russian Government sent a note to the British agent at Moscow which, judged by diplomatic standards, was not polite. In addition, several English citizens were arrested in Russia and British trawlers had been seized on the Murmansk Coast. The kettle of diplomacy began to sizzle and the English Foreign Secretary, Lord Curzon, forwarded an ultimatum to Russia. For a moment, it looked as if a conflict was near, but the English Government reckoned without the English workers, who raised a thundering protest against this new blood adventure. The reverberation of the voice of the English workers went far beyond the walls of Parliament, and the result will probably be that the English Government will be compelled to change its policy towards Russia as it has already done on former occasions. The stand of the English workers is still more admirable when one bears in mind the fact that the greatest majority of them are by no means sympathetic towards the present Russian régime. Moreover, the English workers regard this régime as a misfortune for the world in general and the Russian people in particular. But these English workers know that the Revolution in Russia is not yet at an end, and that all that concerns Russia can only be determined by the Russian people themselves. Because Russia is weak and in great want today, there is no reason why any other power or a combination of powers should be permitted to make the great Slav country their colony and a field for their exploitations.

Therein lies the great and wonderful service of the English labor movement not only to Russia but to the whole world. The English workers are the only ones about whom it can be rightly said that they have learned a profitable lesson from the world war. This cannot, however, be said about the French workers or the workers of any other country.

Let us hope that this firm and unflinching attitude of British labor will sooner or later have an effect upon the workers in all other countries. Why indeed should English labor be an exception? Why should not the French workers be as strongly organized and play as important a role in the social scheme as the English workers? Why cannot the workers of other countries in Europe and America develop such strength and influence as the laborers in the British Isles?

When that time comes, we shall have not only a world without wars, without bloodshed, but an entirely new world in every other respect—a world of workers and for workers.

### THE HISTORY OF OUR INTERNATIONAL

At the last convention of the International in Cleveland, a decision was adopted that a comprehensive history of our International should be written in the form of a book and completed

# The A. F. of L. and the "Lefts"

By B. MAIMAN

(Special Washington Correspondence to JUSTICE)

The fight of the American Federation of Labor against the propaganda of the "Lefts" in the union, is now in full swing. The order forwarded by the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. to the Central Labor Union of Seattle, Washington, to "withdraw its endorsement of the Soviet autocracy of Russia" and to "conduct itself in conformity with the policies of the A. F. of L." and similar action taken with regard to the Minneapolis central body—appears to be only the beginning of the fight decided upon by the leaders of the A. F. of L.

How much a Socialist might dislike this crusade of the official leaders of the American labor movement against the "Reds," against the "unpatriotic and un-American elements," it must be admitted, nevertheless, that Gompers and his co-leaders have the right to demand that the "Lefts" shall not speak in the name of the American trade union movement, but in their own name. Any organization has the right to protect itself to the extent of not permitting any other group to use its name or any other name which would lead others to believe that it is a part of the same organization.

Whether one likes or dislikes the leadership and the principles of the A. F. of L., and whether or not some would like to change the route along which the American trade union movement is traveling, it would be ridiculous to demand that the A. F. of L. is today the body of the American trade union movement, with all its virtues and defects. So that when others come and call themselves by names which make, or are liable to make, people believe that they are the trade unions of America, the A. F. of L. has the moral right to come forth and state that these persons are sailing under false colors, and should be fought to a standstill.

Everyone in the labor movement has a right to preach his ideals and to advance his point of view. These, however, should be done under a distinct flag,—that of the group or organization sponsoring such ideals or viewpoints. If done under a flag already adopted by another organization, it can be regarded as nothing but an attempt to deceive. What, for instance, would the ordinary American understand by the name "Trade Union Educational League"? Wouldn't this name convey an organization of the American trade unions? Wouldn't it create in his mind a natural connection between this organization and the generally recognized organization of the American trade unions—the American Federation of Labor? And what about the official organ of this "Trade Union Educational League," which styles itself the "Labor Herald," "the Inter-

national Press Correspondence," and similar other channels of publicity? We cannot, therefore, help agreeing with that part of the report of the A. F. of L. Executive Council, issued last week, which states that, while there can be no question of the right of any organization to endeavor to have its point of view presented in the labor press, an attempt to conceal such a purpose under a false name is wrong and unjustifiable.

Frankly speaking, it is difficult, in general, to understand the way of thinking of the present-day "Lefts." Years ago, when the Socialist Labor party decided to make an attempt to take over the leadership of the American trade union movement, it did so openly and courageously. When it organized its own trade union organization, it named it "Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance," with the word "Socialist," as you will observe, leading off the name. That organization did a great deal to hamper the spread of Socialist and radical ideas in the labor movement. A quarter of a century has gone by since then and the wound of that breach is not quite healed yet. At any rate, DeLeon and his followers cannot be accused of cowardice. They paraded their principles and policies in the open. Our modern "revolutionists," however, always find a way to conceal themselves behind a veil, so that they may not be recognized. They parade under all sorts of euphonious names except those that might tell the world the principles they stand for or the viewpoint that they espouse. Are they ashamed of their ideals, or do they really believe that they can sneak the revolution through a backdoor?

The report of the Executive Council, of which we speak here, is the report which President Gompers made last Saturday at a meeting of the Council in Washington. He reported to them the results of a long investigation which was conducted by the Information and Publicity Service of the A. F. of L. concerning the propaganda material which is being sent to the trade union papers of the country.

There are in the United States approximately 290 trade union journals. These labor papers receive approximately 25 "propaganda" sheets monthly from various sources. The report states that this "propaganda material" is being forwarded by employers, by certain so-called liberal journals and by a large group of Communists and pro-Soviet organizations. The report of the A. F. of L. which was given to the press dwells but little on the propaganda material sent out by the employers and the liberal magazines. It, however, lays a great deal of emphasis on the work of the Communists. About the Federated

Press, the statement says that "an official investigation has been ordered by the A. F. of L." yet it hastens to add that the Federated Press can "easily be criticised as a propaganda organization." This sounds somewhat illogical. If an investigation has been ordered, why should this news agency, before the investigation is completed, be condemned as a propaganda organization? It would stand to reason that the verdict could have waited until the investigation had been made.

The statement contains a number of things which invite contradiction, particularly the tone in which they are written. One certainly will sharply disagree with the advice that the union press abstain from printing anything that is being forwarded to it by the liberal and radical magazines. Conservative leaders of the labor movement have exhibited in the past a tendency to condemn as too "radical" every free word with which they chose to disagree. We also know

that the labor press is far from ideal and that it can stand a great deal of improvement. Nevertheless, the main argument against the work of the Lefts is doubtless quite justified.

The more conservative members of the Executive Council seem to be "scurrying it up" now with Gompers, whom they consider some sort of a radical. One frequently hears a caustic remark by the older vice-presidents of the Federation about Gompers, who only recently, they say, kept Foster so close to his bosom and allowed him to be one of the leaders of the Steel Strike. Many of them were at that time strongly opposed to Foster, but Gompers shielded Foster, who told the old chief that he was one of his great admirers and that he himself had discarded a great many of his former radical beliefs. Now Gompers is being reminded with a substantial dose of sarcasm that he seemed to have lost sight of the fact that one who has changed his spots at one time is likely to duplicate the stunt upon another occasion. Gompers remains the same old Gompers as of yore, but Foster cannot be relied upon to remain the same. He has not enough ballast, neither on the "right" side nor on the "left."



By Courtesy of The American Federationist

## Union Health Center News

The Union Health Center of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 131 East 17th Street, is at present arranging its Health Education Program for next year and this program will be more intensive and will reach more workers of the I. L. G. W. U. than ever before. These courses will be announced within a few weeks.

A special Women's Clinic will be started at the Union Health Center within a few weeks. This Women's Clinic will take up special problems of married women and will be given in addition to the Gynecological Clinic which is being held on Tuesday,

Thursday and Saturday at 12:30 p. m.

The Joint Board of Sanitary Control, which for three years has had its offices on the second floor of the Union Health Center Building, 131 East 17th Street, is moving on May 16th to its old offices at 31 Union Square. This removal was necessitated by the fact that the Union Health Center has outgrown its present space and must use the second floor for electro-physio-therapeutic purposes.

Hereafter the Joint Board of Sanitary Control can be reached at 31 Union Square.

in time for the 1924 convention, which will be a jubilee convention, commemorating the 25 years of existence of our Union.

That such a history would be of interest and use not only to our members but to the labor movement in general, there can be no doubt. This decision was adopted unanimously by the convention and we can now break the glad news to our readers that the work on this book has already begun.

It is an important piece of work and a responsible one. Our historian will have to take care to present all facts as impartially as possible. When one recalls all the struggles that have transpired in the history of our International—struggles of an internal nature, between the various tendencies and conflicting opinions in the organization, and struggles on the outside, with our employers, which eventually brought the cloak industry to its present status; when one considers how many active workers have participated in the upbuilding of this International and their individual influence for good or bad—one can easily grasp what a difficult task confronts our historian.

It was not so easy to find the right person for this work. We have finally located him in Dr. Louis Levine, who is quite well

known in the trade union world as a writer, lecturer and former professor in the University of Montana—which he was compelled to leave because he said some unkind words about the Rockefeller interests in one of his books. The University authorities could not forgive him that offense and he was compelled to leave the faculty. After an energetic and rather remarkable fight, he succeeded in regaining his position in the university, but afterwards voluntarily declined the post.

Dr. Louis Levine is also known as the author of a book on syndicalism, which is regarded as a classic in this field and which is often quoted. He is by far not a novice in trade union matters and is in addition a very fine writer and a conscientious investigator. For a long time he contributed to the New York World and to a number of important periodicals.

We are confident that under his pen the history of the International is safe and that he will leave no source of information untapped that might be used for the book. We expect that the history of our International as written by Dr. Levine will be an important contribution to the labor literature of America.

The preparation of the book is expected to take at least ten months and will appear about next May in time for our 1924 convention.

## Six Months in Local No. 3

By S. LEFKOVITS, Mgr.-Sec'y

Since my last report appeared, so many things have happened in the life of our organization that space is not available for any but the most important of them.

On November 16th last a fire occurred in the building in which our office had previously been located and we were compelled to vacate the premises. Through the courtesy of the Joint Board and Brother Kaplowitz we were temporarily housed in the new building of the Joint Board at 130 East 25th St.

In November the sample makers decided to request the General Executive Board of our International Union to grant them a separation from the ladies' tailors, as they could not work in harmony with them and believed it would be for the best interests of both organizations if they were to be separated again. It was decided to send a committee of two to the General Executive Board meeting in Montreal, Canada, one of the sample makers who favored the separation, and one of the ladies' tailors who opposed it. The General Executive Board appointed a committee, with full power to go over the claims of the two contending parties and render a decision. Then, on March 8th Brothers Perlstein, Breslau and Heller came to the executive board of Local 3 and gave both parties a hearing. After a careful study of the information received, they decided that the locals should be separated, in the belief that it will be for the welfare of both organizations, that, instead of quarreling and fighting amongst themselves, they will work for the interest of the workers whom they represent. The separation became effective April 1,

1923. Local 3 was granted a charter under the name "Sample Makers, Cloak and Suit Tailors' Union," and the ladies' tailors were chartered under the name "Ladies' Tailors, Theatrical Costume and Alteration Workers' Union," Local 38.

The auditors of our International were instructed by the committee to audit the books, take census of the membership, and divide the membership and the assets and liabilities proportionately. I do not want to take up too much space with the details of the report but I will give only figures which are important for the information of our members. According to the census, Local 3, the sample makers, had on April 1, 947 members in good standing owing less than 39 weeks' dues, and 258 owing more than 39 weeks' dues. Local 38, the ladies' tailors, had 648 members in good standing owing less than 39 weeks' dues, and 267 owing more than 39 weeks' dues. The assets amounted to \$6,069.55, of which Local 3 received \$3,603.68 and Local 38, \$2,465.87. The local also has a sick fund amounting to \$7,767.21, of which Local 3 received \$4,611.63 and Local 38, \$3,155.58. We may remark here that before the ladies' tailors were amalgamated with Local 3 they had no sick fund and no money in their local treasury. Now, when they are leaving Local 3, we are glad that they have money in their treasury and also an established sick fund with a substantial sum of money.

After the separation, we immediately made arrangements for the election of officers, which took place on April 24th. The following officers were elected:

S. Lefkowitz, Manager-Secretary; Executive Board, H. Bauch, M. Billig, H. David, B. Fenster, A. Hecker, M. Kurtz, L. Peakin, O. Pick, S. Pitchersky, C. Post, D. Rubin, L. Schwager, D. Schwartz, E. Siflinger, M. Wertheimer; Sick Committee, H. Bernstein, M. Lerner, and H. Post.

On April 10th the new local and its officers were installed and we had the pleasure and honor of having as our guests Brother Sigman, president of our International Union; Vice-president Heller, who acted as chairman of the installation meeting; Brothers Schuster, Kaplowitz, Slutsky and Stankewitch. Brother Breslau sent a communication expressing regret at his inability to be present. Our President, Brother Sigman, and all the other guests, as well as some of the members of the organization, made very interesting addresses, all wishing the new local success and expressing the hope that Local 3 will remain, as heretofore, a loyal and devoted member of our International Union. They promised their aid and cooperation whenever Local 3 required it.

We have elected in addition the following committees:

Joint Board Delegates—D. Rubin, S. Pitchersky, M. Wertheimer, L. Schwager, and M. Kurtz; Organization and Grievance Board—L. Peakin, D. Schwartz, M. Billig, H. Bauch, and C. Post; Membership Committee—M. Kurtz, A. Hecker, and B. Fenster; Finance Committee—O. Pick, D. Rubin, and H. David; Trustees—B. Fenster, and H. Berkowitz; Sergeant-at-Arms—A. Hecker; Central Trades & Labor Council Delegates—B. Fenster, and H. Berkowitz.

In spite of the inside local affairs and disagreements, we did not forget our duty toward our members who are working in the shops. As I reported previously, we gained a great victory during the last strike for the sample makers working in

the cloak shops. You know, however, how hard it is to put a new reform into practice, and this was no exception to the rule. The Protective Association objected strenuously to it and advised its members that they have the same right to discharge a sample maker at the end of every week as they had before the strike. Accordingly, we had disputes with three firms of the Protective Associations which discharged their sample makers, and, when the cases were decided in favor of the Union, they refused to give back pay. Finally, however, we did succeed in collecting back pay from the following firms: Chas. Kondasian, 112 Madison Avenue, \$345.00; Herman Ziegler, 1157 7th Avenue, \$180.51. We also had the following two characteristic complaints of sample makers: The firm of A. H. Gittelson discharged sample maker Glickman because they changed their designer. We took the stand that, as the sample maker had worked in the shop a long time we did not recognize the designer as the employer and therefore, although a new designer was engaged, Glickman was entitled to the job. We are glad to report that Glickman was reinstated. We also had a case with the firm of Philip Cohen, which had discharged sample maker Warshafsky for the same reason that they had changed their designer and the new designer wanted to employ a sample maker of his own choice. We made the same contention as in the foregoing case and it was agreed that, as the firm needs two sample makers, they shall permit the sample maker of the designer's choice to work the first week and sample maker Warshafsky to work the second week. In case, however, there would not be enough work for the two, the work should be equally divided in weekly shifts. In this case it happened that there was enough

(Continued on Page 11)

# EUGENE V. DEBS

WILL SPEAK AT

## MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

Madison and Fourth Avenues, 26th and 27th Streets

### TUESDAY, MAY 22nd, 8 p. m.

GENERAL ADMISSION 55 CENTS

RESERVED SEATS—\$1.10 and 85 cents, including tax

RESERVED SEATS AT ROOM 505, 7 East 15th Street, New York, N. Y.

### TICKETS ON SALE AT

RAND SCHOOL, 7 East 15th Street  
JEWISH DAILY FORWARD, 175 East Broadway  
SOCIALIST PARTY, 167 Tompkins Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Western Electric Amplifiers Guarantee Speakers Will Be Heard In All Parts of the Garden

Special arrangements are being made to enable all Local Unions and Shops of the I. L. G. W. U. to be seated together

## ORDER YOUR SEATS IN BLOCKS!

# LABOR THE WORLD OVER

## DOMESTIC ITEMS

### WAGE STANDARD FOR MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

"Underprivileged" men and women, even if only 5 per cent efficient, are entitled to \$20.00 and \$18.00 a week respectively for their services in the opinion of Bishop Henderson of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Detroit. By "underprivileged" the Bishop means persons who are not possessed of full physical and mental capacity.

### GOMPERS ENDORSES WORLD COURT.

The proposal for entry of the United States into the World Court was endorsed by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor in an official statement. "With the proposal for the United States to enter the international court of justice I am in full accord," Mr. Gompers said. "That is an initial step that will inevitably lead to participation in all efforts to maintain peace within nations."

### 20,000 RAILROAD SHOPMEN RECEIVE INCREASE.

Twenty thousand maintenance of way railroad shopmen employees of the Atchafalaya, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway have been granted increased wages effective May 1st, through an agreement just negotiated. It was learned from A. P. Stout, vice-president of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and Railroad Shop Laborers. The raise ranged from 1 to 3 1/2 cents an hour.

### RATIO OF INFANT MORTALITY TO PARENTS' EARNINGS.

In a survey of conditions surrounding infant life made by the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor, in Gary, Indiana, it was found that when the earnings of the parents amount to \$1,850, the infant death rate was 89.4 and when the earnings fell below \$1,000, the rate rose to 137.8.

### 68 PER CENT INCREASE IN LIVING COST SINCE 1913.

The cost of living in the United States last March was 68.8 per cent higher than the average for the year 1913, according to a computation announced by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics based on retail commodity prices and housing costs in 32 cities.

### MASSACHUSETTS SENATOR ADVOCATES GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF COAL.

Governmental regulation of the coal industry is seen by Senator Walsh of Massachusetts as the remedy for the situation in which the people found themselves last winter. The Senator, however, declared that the Republicans in Congress would be opposed to interfering with the business.

### U. S. LABOR SITUATION GREATLY IMPROVED.

Data gathered by the Associated Press from every state in the country show great improvement in the labor situation nearly everywhere, a shortage of workers in farm hands existing in several states. Increases in wages are noted in so many states and in so many different trades and occupations that they point to a general trend in that direction.

### ONE-FIFTH OF FEEBLE MINDED ARE FOREIGN BORN.

Secretary of Labor Davis, in an address before the League of Women Voters at Pittsburgh, declared that 20.63 per cent of the inmates of institutions for feeble-minded, insane asylums and jails of the United States are foreign born. The percentage of persons of foreign birth or having one or both parents foreign born in the institutions he estimated at 44 per cent.

### NEWSPRINT WORKERS RAISED FIVE CENTS AN HOUR.

Eleven Canadian and American paper manufacturers producing nearly half the newspaper consumed in the United States, signed agreements with union representatives increasing wages for all classes of labor five cents an hour. The agreement affecting 50,000 people goes into effect May 1st.

### ACTORS' ASSOCIATION AGAINST SUNDAY VAUDEVILLE.

Steps were taken by the Actors' Equity Association toward the formation of a new organization among the 15,000 performers of the United States having for its main objective the accomplishment of a six-day week in the realm of the "two-a-day" circuits. If successful this will eliminate Sunday vaudeville.

## ATTENTION

### Russian-Polish Cloakmakers

A very important meeting of the Russian-Polish Branch will be held on Friday, May 18, at 8 p. m. sharp, at the People's Home, 315 East 10th Street, New York. It is the duty of every member of the Branch to be present at the meeting.

G. E. SAULICH, Secretary.

## FOREIGN ITEMS

### ENGLAND

#### THE COST OF COAL.

Three colliery accidents happened within six days in the month of April, each having fatal results. This gives point to the official statistics which show that, last year, the fatalities in the coal pits of this country apart from the casualties not resulting in death, amounted to 1,100 as compared with 755 in 1921.

#### POVERTY AND CHILD DELINQUENCY.

The recently issued Report of the Children's Branch of the Home Office states—"Poverty seems to be undoubtedly at the bottom of much of the delinquency among children." Speaking at a Manchester conference of women councillors and guardians, A. M. Paterson, chief inspector of Borstal institutions, declared that while the Borstal system was an experiment and changing every day, 60 per cent of those who came out of Borstal institutions in 1912 had never offended again; and 75 per cent of those who came out in 1922 had never offended again.

#### WAR AND PASSIVE RESISTANCE.

Colonel Wedgwood, M. P., speaking to the Women's International League on the Ruhr problem, said that peace was impossible so long as one nation believed there was something to be gained by dominating another by military power. Hence the importance of the Ruhr test, which until now had displayed the fallacy of military power, and the urgency for united action in face of French militarism on the part of the non-militarist powers, England and America.

#### GERMAN SUBMARINE COMMANDERS.

In answer to a question by Mr. E. D. Morel, M. P., Commander Eyeress-Monsell stated that he could not accept the statement of Admiral Sims, of the U. S. Navy, that the press stories of German submarine atrocities were nothing but propaganda. He admitted, however, that many German submarine officers behaved with as much humanity as possible, subject to the general order given to sink merchants at sight.

#### MOTHERHOOD A LUXURY.

A local Councillor having said that "motherhood is, after all, a luxury," "Tomfool," the poet of the labor press in England, writes thus:

Sable coats and diamond stars,  
And strawberries out of season,  
Pedigree Pekes and motor-cars,  
And everything out of reason;  
Persian rugs and a Persian cat,  
Sandown or Cowes as may be,  
Paradise plumes in a Paris hat—  
Lady, go buy a Baby!

A coat too thin, and a room too small,  
And a loaf that just stays hunger,  
A heart hard living deprives of all  
The hopes which it had when younger;  
An iron spoon for the scanty stew  
Instead of a silver ladle,  
Too much work and too little screw—  
Woman, go pawn your Cradle!

#### COMBATTING MINIMUM WAGE DECISION.

Labor's fight against prospective cuts in the wages of working women in the District of Columbia began yesterday when the drive to organize the women and girls in all trades and employment began with a conference of the committee of five headed by Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor. The Central Labor Union has agreed to cooperate with the A. F. of L. in the organization of the workers.

## The New European Tragedy

(Continued from Page 4)

after the Social Democrats were pushed out of the Government because, through its union with the "independents," it became an "unsafe" element in German politics.

The weakness of the German Social Democrats has strengthened the hands of the German owning class; the policy of German bourgeoisie has strengthened the hands of the French chauvinists. The French chauvinists on their side have re-created a wild nationalist wave in Germany. We are as a result face to face with a charmed circle in which the chauvinists of one land are working for the strengthening of the unbridled nationalism in the other.

What an odd situation! In the front lines of the defensive fight against the French occupation in the Ruhr, there stand the German workers. Without them, this passive resistance could not last a single day. Nevertheless, the fight seems to be led by the "upper 10,000" as they say in Germany, to whom the interests of the nation mean only the interests of their own money-bags.

The political and organization weakness of the French proletariat, the lack of energy within the German Social Democracy and the absence of unity in the world-wide labor movement are at the bottom of Germany's and Europe's misfortunes.



# EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



## 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 7—THE OLD ORDER AND THE NEW DEMOCRACY.

1. Up to 1825, the government of the U. S. had been in the hands of the aristocratic East—in other words, in the hands of the holders of large landed properties.
  - (a) When the first state constitutions were framed, the owners of property, fearing the "excesses of democracy," limited the right to vote to those who owned property.
  - (1) Pennsylvania, New Hampshire and Georgia gave the ballot to all who paid taxes, without reference to value of property.
  - (2) Virginia, Delaware and Rhode Island denied the vote to all except owners of landed property.
  - (3) Other Eastern states restricted the suffrage by various property qualifications.
2. There were also religious disabilities in the old aristocratic order.
  - (a) Catholics and Jews were either disfranchised or excluded from holding office.
  - (b) North Carolina and Georgia denied the ballot to any one who was not a Protestant.
  - (c) Delaware withheld the vote from all who did not believe in the Trinity and the Scriptures.
  - (d) Massachusetts and Maryland limited the ballot to Christians.
  - (e) Only Virginia and New York made no restrictions on account of religion.
3. From what has been said, it can easily be seen that a great number of people, especially those who did not own land or who were laborers or who held some particular religious view, were excluded from all participation in the government, either state or national.
- II. Attacks upon the old order.
  1. The old system of class rule by property holders was attacked by those who were without property, and especially by the laboring class.
  2. As a result, property qualifications for voting were abolished. The laborers and disenfranchised individuals won a great victory.
  3. They used this victory by joining hands with the frontiersmen of the West to elect Andrew Jackson, who was truly a man of the people.
- III. Andrew Jackson.
  1. Born in the frontier of South Carolina, schooled in poverty and adversity, without advantages of education or the refinement of cultivated leisure, a firm believer in equality, he was the very embodiment of the frontiersmen and the spirit of American democracy.
  2. Early in youth he had gone to a new frontier in Tennessee where he won fame as a fearless Indian fighter, and endeared himself to his men by sharing their hardships.
  3. He soon won fame as a military hero and became the idol of all frontiersmen. The newly enfranchised voters—in other words, the laborers—also had confidence in Jackson, for Jackson believed in the "rule of the people."
  4. In 1828, therefore, Western frontiersmen and Eastern laborers together with Southern plantation men elected Jackson as President of the United States.
  5. The aristocratic capitalist East was terror-stricken. It feared government by the common people. Control of the government had, for the time being, slipped out of its grasp.

READING: Beard, History of the United States, Chapter XI (first half).

### Local Educational Committees

The Educational Department will soon call a conference of representatives of local unions to decide on educational plans for next season.

As usual, we must have the help, cooperation and ideas of all of our members, and we cannot obtain these ideas and wishes unless we hear from the representatives of the members.

The educational committees of our local unions have an important function. They are the mouth-piece of the members and transmit to the Educational Department what is in the mind

of the men and women of the local unions.

We urge all of our local unions to select their educational committees at once. These should be prepared to meet as soon as the call for the conference is sent out, and to give us suggestions and advice in order that our work next season may be more successful than it has ever been before in the history of the I. L. G. W. U. The local unions are urged to send to the Educational Department the names and addresses of members of educational committees just as soon as they possibly can, so that we may communicate with them in regard to the conference.

## Can You Run A Meeting?

No one will dispute the fact that before running an automobile a person must learn how to do so. It is quite true that, before mending a pair of shoes, a person must know something about shoe mending. It is funny and very often pathetic, however, to see earnest and sincere people trying to do things for which they are not qualified.

Such a spectacle is frequently seen at meetings of various organizations and particularly of labor unions. Few persons realize that, to run a meeting properly, one requires not only natural ability, but also experience, skill and training. Whenever a number of persons come together and wish to exchange thoughts and act on certain matters, there must be definite rules of procedure. Without such rules there can be no order or efficiency; without such rules, there is chaos, disorder, and loss of effort and energy.

In our local unions, this problem is a very serious one. We have a great many members who have the energy and ability to do many important things, but unfortunately they have not had the time, opportunity or the proper training to do these things efficiently.

The Educational Department feels it is of importance to organize groups where members of our unions who are interested in this problem can meet and have practical instruction in the conduct of meetings and in the study of parliamentary practice; that is, of the rules which must be followed if a meeting is to be run successfully.

At such meetings instruction should be given by experienced chairmen, and each member should be given an opportunity to take the chair, to run the meeting, and to become familiar with parliamentary procedure by actual experience.

If this is done, not only will the meetings of many of our local unions be improved, but the business of the union will be benefited because of the better management of their affairs.

We should like to hear from our members who would care to join such groups. Rooms and instructors will be provided for them by the Educational Department. The meetings can be conducted in English, Yiddish, Italian or Russian. The needs of the local unions will determine which language should be used.

## Saturday Mornings

The winning of the 40-hour week has brought new problems for our members. But these problems are not unpleasant. On the contrary, they suggest very agreeable ideas. One of them deeply concerns our Educational Department.

What are you going to do with your freedom on Saturday mornings? The Educational Department naturally urges you to utilize that time for increasing your educational equipment. Can you make better use of this newly gained leisure than to read the books which you always wanted to read but for which you did not find time? Or can you make better use of this time than to attend courses in subjects which have interested you for many years, but which you did not have time to follow? Or can you make better use of this time than to take up some new study which will make your life richer and happier?

We have no doubt that all of our readers will agree on the answer to

these questions. There is only one answer possible. This time should be utilized as far as possible for increasing our stock of information and making clearer our understanding of the important problems with which we are confronted as workers, citizens and human beings.

The Educational Department wishes to help by organizing for the next season as many suitable educational activities as possible. We want to hear from all who are interested in this matter. Let us know immediately what you would like to do with your Saturday mornings, what kind of courses you would like to see organized, which subjects you would like to study.

Tell us what you want, and if possible we shall satisfy your desires. If you are interested, write to us immediately, answering this question: "Which course would you like to attend next season on Saturday mornings?"

## Art—Past and Present

Lecture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Saturday, May 19th

Our members who are planning to attend the lecture on art to be given by Michael Carr on Saturday, May 19th, at 1:45 p. m., at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, have a treat in store for them.

Mr. Carr will discuss for them the important changes that have occurred in art in the past 100 years. He will show that, while there has been a complete change in the subject matter and the popular significance of

art within the last century, the craftsmanship or method of work remained about the same. In addition, Mr. Carr will give such an outline of modern painting as will help our members to understand it. Finally, Mr. Carr will show what is necessary to be able to appreciate painting.

The group will then proceed to the galleries where Mr. Carr will go on with his talk and answer questions.

The lecture will begin promptly at 1:45 in Classroom A of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Members of the International are invited to attend.

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

## With the Waist and Dress Joint Board

By M. K. MACKOFF, Secretary  
(Record of Meeting held May 10, 1923)

Brother Berlin in the Chair.

Brothers K. Keretsky, Jackman Harris, Geretsky and I. Feinstein, members of Local No. 60, appeared before the Board in regard to the preparations made by Local No. 60 for its local elections. The committee stated that two of their number as well as four more members of Local No. 60 had been nominated, among others, as Executive Board members; later at a membership meeting, when second nominations were made, the chairman announced that all those who had been members of the Union for a period of six months and over were eligible as candidates.

However, when the above said members appeared before the Objection Committee, they were told they were not qualified on the ground that they had not been members of the Union for two years. As far as they know, the constitution of the International does not require two years' membership for service on the Executive Board. The committee further stated that they believed that, as the local did not pass any by-laws to the International Constitution, they would be greatly wronged if they should be deprived of their candidacy as Executive Board members. They therefore appealed to the Joint Board to appoint a committee to investigate the statement made by the committee and present the case for interpretation to President Sigman of the International.

A warm discussion arose and after due deliberation, it was decided upon motion to grant the request of the committee, and a committee consisting of Sister Kronard and Brothers Egitto and George Halperin was appointed, it being understood that this committee will have its first meeting on Friday, April 11th, right after work, in order to work out a plan of action.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Local No. 89 informed the Joint Board that it "will again this year celebrate its annual festival." Due to

the general strike which caused a delay, we have decided to run a picnic on Saturday, June 2nd, at our Unity House, Villa Anita Garibaldi, near Midland Beach.

For the occasion the Arrangement Committee is preparing a program that will make the day a memorable one for all those that will be present, a day full of joy and merriment.

There will be games, contests, fire works and other amusements, and dancing all day long. The income will go to the benefit of our Unity House. The secretary was instructed to give the tickets sent in by Local No. 89 to all the delegates and officers of the Joint Board.

A communication was received from the Debs Meeting Committee in which the Joint Board delegates who were appointed to attend the meeting were requested to be in their seats not later than 8 p. m. Brother Berlin called this to the attention of all those who are going to attend that meeting.

The Board of Directors decided to grant the request of the "Labor Age" to give it \$25 for a number of subscriptions.

### THE LABOR BUREAU

Brothers Farber and Portnay reported for the committee which was appointed for the establishment of the Labor Bureau as follows:

Taking into consideration the fact that Rose Perr resigned, they recommended that Sister Rose Minsky who was formerly connected with the Labor Bureau should be temporarily re-appointed. In regard to the securing of jobs by our members, the committee considered how best to do away with the securing of jobs through signs and through acquaintances in other shops. The committee is also aware that members will be called upon to register, and they considered the method of notifying them when positions are available, of the registration of members from local unions other than those affiliated with our



Joint Board, and of other plans that have to be worked out systematically. Besides, the Joint Board will have to make suitable arrangements with the independent employers to secure their help through the labor bureau. The shop chairmen will also have to be notified that no one is to be permitted to work unless he produces a working card issued by the labor bureau.

The Board of Directors, after careful consideration of the plans outlined by the committee, decided upon motion to accept the report of the committee with thanks, and a committee consisting of Brother Berlin and Sisters Wolkowitz and Banano and the managers and secretary of the Joint Board was appointed to work

out all the necessary plans for the functioning of the labor bureau. It was further understood that the labor bureau is to be under the supervision of the manager of the Joint Board.

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

**THE MESSENGER**  
The Only Trade Union Publication for Negro workers in America  
2305 Seventh Avenue  
New York City

## News from Boston

(Continued from page 3.)

### News of Local No. 3

(Continued from page 8)

work for the two sample makers, and the case is satisfactorily settled.

We are reporting about these cases solely because we believe that many of our sample makers are not yet well informed about the victory which we gained during the last strike; some are still skeptical and are working under the misapprehension that the sample maker cannot get the protection of the union. I think that these cases are sufficient proof of the position of the sample maker, and it is time for them to rid themselves of the delusion that they are weak and unprotected; they must assert their manhood and independence as every Union man should. Local 3's members are just as well protected through the Joint Board as any member of any other local.

I am glad to report here that we are already permanently located in our new office which is in the beautiful and large building of our Joint Board. I have sent letters to this effect to our members and have invited them to come and visit their new home. I am sure they will like it, and they are welcome to come and stay there at any time. They are now to bring whatever complaints they have to their manager-secretary, with the help of Joint Board, will purely attend to their needs. The

Executive Board has also decided that hereafter the meetings of the local will be held on the first and third Saturdays of each month, in our own headquarters, 139 East 25th Street. We believe that the location of the meeting rooms at the present time will make it convenient and possible for every member to attend meetings and take an interest in the affairs of the Union.

On May 5th we had the first meeting in our new headquarters, which was a well-attended and interesting one. We had the pleasure and honor of having with us Brother Feinberg, general manager of the Joint Board, who gave a very instructive address. After the meeting, refreshments were served in celebration of the opening of our new headquarters.

We celebrated May 1st by having a picture of the entire Executive Board and officers taken, following this with a small banquet at which the utmost harmony and good faith prevailed.

Local 3 members, bear in mind that the regular local meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month in our own headquarters. The next meeting will take place on Saturday, May 19th, and I hope to greet you here.

with the union, agreed to cooperate with the Joint Board in enforcing standards and conditions in the shops of their members. During the week, to show its good faith, the association paid to the union the sum of \$250 as liquidated damages for violations of the agreement on the part of some of their members. The association in its turn collects this amount from the contractors who were found guilty of violating the agreement. This will serve as a lesson to all other contractors and will tend to improve relations between the latter and the union.

Local No. 56 of the Joint Board is comprised of creak and suit operators and finishers. These finishers, who make up quite a proportion of Local No. 56, at one time applied for a separate charter which was granted them at one of the International conventions. But somehow or other this concession was never made use of by the finishers. For a few years they were represented at the Joint Board by five delegates who had a voice but no vote in all matters, so they again decided to request the International office for a charter. An application for the charter is being prepared and will be sent to New York during the week.

### WORCESTER NEWS

The dress manufacturers in Worcester are beginning to feel the effect of the organization campaign con-

ducted there at present. One of these manufacturers, in whose shop the employees are still working forty-eight hours a week, stopped the power last Monday at 6 p. m., treated the girls to a box of chocolates and the men to some "hoehi" and then delivered the following lecture: "I was contemplating shortening the hours from 48 to 44 per week. I also intend to increase your wages, so why go to union meetings?" And with that he let them off at 4:30 instead of 6 p. m., knowing that there would be pickets around his shop to take his workers to a meeting of the union. But in spite of all his precautions the workers appeared at the meeting. Should the union call a strike, we feel sure that these workers will respond to the call. Miss Sarah Harwitz, business agent of Local No. 48, delivered a speech at this meeting and promised they would get full cooperation and support from the local in their coming fight with the employers.

Some of the Worcester manufacturers expressed a desire to discuss terms, and these Vice-president Monomom of Boston agreed to meet. If an agreement is reached with them, their shops will be the first ones to return to work, when the strike call is issued. Brother Monomom left for New York Thursday, May 10, to go over the entire situation with the International office and we can expect good results in the near future.

# The Week in Local 10

By JOSEPH FISH

## GENERAL

It is with deep regret and a shock that Local 10 received the sad news of the death of the venerable brother, Andrew J. Smith. Death came to him in his sixty-eighth year, as a result of pleurisy and pneumonia.

There are few members of Local 10 who did not know Brother Smith, either directly or indirectly. He was a member of every cutters' organization which existed. He had been president of Local 10 and a delegate to some of the conventions of the I. L. G. W. U. In 1884, Brother Smith became a member of the Knights of Labor. In 1895 he was one of the organizers of the Gotham Association, which was the first organization of cutters and was composed entirely of short-knife cutters. In 1901 Brother Smith helped organize and was a charter member of Local 6, which is the present Local 10.

When the news reached the large gathering of members at the dress and waist meeting, they, upon motion, expressed their sorrow by rising in memory of the deceased. At the same time, the Chairman appointed the following as a committee to express condolence for the organization and attend the funeral: Philip Ansel, Chas. W. Serrington, John W. Settle, Edw. J. Fruisen, Herman Rosenblum, Sam Barnett, Joseph Fish, John C. Ryan, Chas. Nagel, Delly Levine, Henry Robbins, Philip Weiss, Max Stoiser.

## WAIST AND DRESS

As soon as one entered the meeting room in Arlington Hall last Monday night, May 14th, one immediately became aware of the fact that the air was charged with some unusual current. Whether the members merely sensed this or whether they were aware of the important questions which were to be taken up is a matter of conjecture.

Among the great number of Executive Board reports there were two questions, a discussion of which promised to carry the meeting late into the night. These questions were:

(1) The action of the delegates to the Joint Board in the waist and dress industry with respect to a communication sent by the Executive Board, and (2) the recommendation of the Executive Board in the matter of the labor bureau.

Before the floor was given over to a discussion of these questions, the chairman called upon the delegates to report on the activities of the Joint Board for the past month. Brother Henry Robbins, one of the delegates, confined himself to the action of some of Local 10's representatives on one of the communications of the Executive Board.

Brother Harry Berlin, who is the president of the Joint Board, touched upon the activities of that body and also upon the question referred to by Robbins. The president, however, decided that since these questions would come up during the reading of the Executive Board reports, the delegates should confine themselves to the report of the actions of the Joint Board.

Brother Berlin reported on the meeting of the shop chairmen in the waist and dress trade. The meeting mainly was taken up with the question of the bosses doing their own cutting. The keynote of the manager's address to the chairmen was a plea for cooperation with a view to placing cutters to work in all those shops where this violation occurs. The attitude of the Joint Board is that, where such violations are found, there the strictest measures for the enforcement of union standards should be adopted, because to condone for one

reason or another of to overlook such breaches of the agreement is the beginning of a non-union shop. It was also announced at the meeting of the chairmen that the Joint Board finds it constantly necessary to carry on an organization campaign against non-union shops and against union jobbers who send work to these shops.

After these reports, the members decided that the reading of all reports of the Executive Board be postponed until the next meeting and that the recommendations respecting the labor bureau and the actions of the delegates on Local 10's communication to the Joint Board be taken up.

The first question which was considered was the labor bureau. That those favoring the proposition would find only one spokesman was quite a surprise, since it was expected that the question would be discussed by more than one who favored the labor bureau.

The writer led the discussion against the labor bureau. In general, he believed that the proposition for the present is not practicable for the cutters and would spell havoc were it instituted. This was practically a summary of the opinion of the Executive Board which finally led to the recommendation that the Executive Board go on record as not favoring the institution of the bureau at the present time.

The second speaker for the recommendation was Brother Charles Stein. He stated at the outset that the only time he would favor such an institution would be when the trade was thoroughly organized and when the union would be in a position to say to the employer that the cutter whom it sent to apply for a job was qualified for the work, because the cutter had been given a careful examination and was, in the judgment of the organization, proved competent by the examiners. However, the speaker stated that he was not absolutely against it and would favor the adoption of the proposition if it were amended to the effect that Local 10 should receive from the Joint Board calls for jobs and should distribute them.

The speaker who followed was Brother Berlin, who favored the proposition and who stated, during the course of his remarks, that he would be satisfied should the members adopt the proposition as modified by Brother Stein. During the course of his remarks on the question, he stated that he did not believe the union should go on with the proposition because of present conditions, citing as an instance the forty-hour week. He believed that it was degrading to see such scenes as are witnessed daily by cutters applying for jobs where sometimes fifty applicants respond to a call for one man.

In speaking in favor of the proposition of the Executive Board, Manager Dubinsky said he wanted to urge the members either to accept the Executive Board's proposition, which applies to the cutters, or the proposition as it was amended. He believed that it was degrading to see such scenes as are witnessed daily by cutters applying for jobs where sometimes fifty applicants respond to a call for one man.

As a concrete example of how matters of this sort work out in practice, he cited the example of one of the managers of an out-of-town local. The manager in question told him that the labor bureau was an institution that had been created some time ago and should by this time be working

properly. However, when a certain firm in the city determined to hire a certain cutter, it kept asking the union for men and kept laying them off until the bottom of the list was reached, where the cutter whom it desired to employ was listed, and the firm finally hired him.

In speaking of how it would affect the cutters, Dubinsky mentioned the fact that there were 750 shops which were listed in the dress and waist division as not employing cutters; these were constantly followed up by controllers, who succeeded in placing cutters for odd jobs. Were the labor bureau created, the men listed as employed would refuse to go to any of the 750 shops but would rather wait until a call for a good job came in.

In directing the attention of the members to the need for control by means of working cards, the manager said that he was convinced that this means would be considerably weakened. He believed that even with the adoption of the amendment, in time to come Local 10 would even be deprived of the working card system.

Dubinsky recalled to the members the fact that, when all of the crafts in the waist and dress unions in the last general strike were merged in the various halls Local 10 was given a separate one, which fact he believed, is simply proof of the need of Local 10 for a greater measure of control of cutters than is possible in other crafts.

There is hardly a shop of any worth which employs three or more cutters that is not known to the Cutters' Union, the manager said, adding that in almost every strike large shops were organized solely as a result of the constant work kept over the cutters in these houses. This he attributed entirely to the absolute and direct control maintained by the Cutters' Union.

It should be borne in mind that, as the recommendation of the Executive Board is worded, it does not mean that the dress and waist cutters are absolutely and for all time opposed to a labor bureau. The adoption of the Executive Board's recommendation by the members by a vote of 100 against 5 puts the members on record as not favoring the proposition at this time.

The adoption of the recommendation as stated here means, in other words, that the Executive Board may bring in an adverse recommendation or the body may adopt, if conditions warrant, a reversal of the stand taken.

Due to the lateness of the hour, the second question, which referred

to the division of the vote by the delegates at the Joint Board on a communication of the Executive Board, was not taken up. It will come up for discussion and action at the next meeting of the branch.



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# CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

## Notice of Regular Meetings

### 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

WAIST AND DRESS ..... Monday, June 11th

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place