

"My righteousness I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."

—Job 27.6

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' G'...

...KERS' UNION

"Workers
of the world
unite! You
have nothing to
lose but your
chains."

Vol. V, No. 60.

New York, Friday, December

Price 2 Cents

INTERNATIONAL UNION BA ANNOUNCES LIST OF DIRECTORS

To Be Officially Elected Next Week—Bank Office Being Rushed to Completion

Early this week the International Union Bank, the financial institution organized by our International Union in conjunction with a number of other labor organizations, gave out a tentative list of its Board of Directors which is to be officially elected next week. The list includes the following names:

Abraham Baroff, President; Phillip R. Rodriguez, Vice-President and General Manager; Phillip Kaplowitz, Cashier; Joseph Breslaw, Joseph Fish, Israel Feinberg, Jacob Heller, Morris Hillquit, Morris Kaufman, Salvatore Nisio, Isidore Schoenholz, Morris Sigman, H. C. Vladeck, Max Zuckerman and Joseph Wolinsky.

The imposing premises to be occupied by the Bank at 147 Fifth Avenue, southeast corner of 51st Street, are being rushed to completion, and will be ready for occupancy before Saturday, January 5, the date set for the formal opening.

The members of the union and their friends are invited to inspect the premises on the opening day and at any time thereafter. An entertaining and instructive program for the formal opening has been arranged.

Vice-president and General Manager Phillip R. Rodriguez announces that the selection of a staff of expert banking specialists has been completed. All of the special departments planned for the bank, as well as the usual banking departments, says Mr. Rodriguez, will be in full swing on the opening date.

Full details have already been worked out for special departments for the transmission of American dollars to Russia, Ukraine and other central European points, for arranging passage to the United States for for-

sign relatives of the bank's patrons, and for expert advice to workers on all financial matters.

The bank will start with a paid-in capital and surplus of \$50,000. In-

dividual members of the union may purchase stock in the bank at \$200 a share from any union office or by writing direct to the International Union Bank, 147 Fifth Avenue.

Button Workers Will Have Carnegie Hall Concert for Crippled Members

The famous singer, Isa Kramer, and the celebrated violinist, Mischa Mischakoff, will participate in a concert at Carnegie Hall on Sunday evening, December 22.

Isa Kramer will delight the audience with her most successful folk songs. This concert is arranged by our Button Makers' Union, Local 132, and it is a benefit for their crippled members. It has a double purpose. First, to bring together a number of

our members and to spend the evening listening to a program rendered by genuine artists, and second, to help a number of needy members of the local.

Tickets can be obtained at our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street and at the office of the local, The People's House, 7 East 15th Street. Those who procure their tickets early, will be certain to obtain good seats.

Unusual Installation Meetings in Locals 23 and 35

Addresses Made By Sigman, Baroff, Feinberg, Breslaw and Yanofsky

Two meetings of unusual solemnity and impressiveness marked the life of our locals in New York City—the installation of officers' meetings of Locals 23 and 35. Both these locals have undergone considerable changes of late as a result of some decisions by the General Executive Board.

Local 23, formerly a local of skirt and dress makers, has now become a local of skirtmakers only, its dressmaker members having been transferred to Local 22. Last week Local 23 had elections for executive board members, and it appeared that 14 of the former members of this board

became ineligible for it as they had since become members of Local 22. Their places were filled by other men who work on skirts.

The meeting took place last Saturday afternoon and was marked by a festive and solemn spirit. President Sigman installed the new officers and pointed out to them the responsibility and importance of their posts. Israel Feinberg, S. Yanofsky, H. Schuster, and Meyer Lind, manager of Local 23, also spoke. In the evening a banquet in Manhattan Lyceum was arranged in honor of the newly elected board of Local 23, with Vice-president Harry Wander as toastmaster. Among those who responded to the toasts at the banquet were President Sigman, Abraham Baroff, Louis Pinkovsky, S. Yanofsky, Louis Langer and several other of the leading members of the Union.

The installation of officers in Local 35 was no less of a festive affair. This meeting was more in the nature of a celebration of the amalgamation of Locals 60 and 35 into one local.

On the new executive board of Local 35, the dress pressers have now five members representing their branch of the craft. The installation meeting took place in Beethoven Hall and was crowded. Vice-president Breslaw, the manager of the local presided, and after a brief introduction by him, Secretary Baroff, President Sigman, Israel Feinberg, and S. Yanofsky delivered short talks. A number of active members of former Local 60 spoke on behalf of the dress pressers and pledged their active and undivided loyalty to the organization with which they had been merged.

Baltimore Cloakmakers Begin Building Up Locals

Strike for Election Day Pay Averted

The coming of Brother Sol Polakoff to Baltimore as manager of the local organization, has livened up things quite a good deal in that city.

When Brother Polakoff first came to Baltimore, the workers in most of the cloak shops were about to go on strike because their employers refused to pay for Election Day, which, according to the local agreement, is a legal holiday. The new manager asked for an opportunity to straighten out the dispute peacefully and, after an effort, he succeeded in making these employers pay their workers for Election Day and the strike was averted. There are still a couple of firms who object to paying but these will probably have to follow suit.

In the shop of Louis Marcus, the biggest cloak shop in Baltimore, Brother Polakoff also succeeded in averting a clash. The firm wanted to cut down the wages of six workers and to install a pressing machine which would do away with the work

of three men. After several conferences, Brother Polakoff succeeded in inducing the firm to withdraw its demand for a wage reduction and the pressing machine.

In general, the reception accorded Brother Polakoff in Baltimore has been very friendly. At the meeting which was arranged by the local organization right after his arrival, all the active members of the local pledged themselves to assist in putting the organization on a more sound basis.

President Sigman Speaks in Philadelphia on G. E. B. Program

Last Wednesday evening, President Morris Sigman went to Philadelphia to attend a joint meeting of all the executive boards of the Philadelphia locals of the International.

The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the new pro-

Cloak Joint Board Continue Discussing New Program

The special meeting called by the Cloak and Dress Joint Board in New York last Friday evening to discuss the remaining points of the constructive program submitted to it by the General Executive Board of the International was unusually well attended.

On the order of the day was point 4 of this program calling for the establishment of a higher minimum

scale in the cloak industry and stipulating that the Union would not undertake to protect any other wage scale but that one. A very heated discussion centered around this clause and the arguments pro and contra were flying thick and animatedly. President Sigman delivered the main argument for the acceptance of this clause and pointed to the adoption of this wage reform as one that will materially improve the condition of the workers in the industry.

A roll call vote was finally taken when the clause was adopted by a majority vote, several delegates voting against it, unlike the decision on the first three points of the program which were adopted unanimously. The other subjects of the G. E. B. program will be taken up at the next meetings of the Joint Board and will be subjected to just as thorough an analysis as null they are finally disposed of.

Topics of the Week

By MAX D. DANISH

THE SIXTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

CONGRESS finally opened this week, after an adjournment of eight months—a Congress elected thirteen months ago, but, owing to the outworn and archaic regulations governing the summoning of the National legislature in the United States, forced to remain in inactivity all this time.

What may the organized workers of America expect from this new Congress? It is best not to indulge in any illusory expectations. For the truth is that Labor is but faintly represented in this Congress despite the fact that there are probably as many "union-card" men in it as in any former Congress, and despite the election of the two Farmer-Labor senators from Minnesota and the group of progressive insurgents from the Middle and North West.

Just the same, while we need not expect notable labor victories from it, the 68th Congress promises to be a spectacular fighting term. With the Presidential campaign but a few months off, this session is bound to become largely an arena for shrewd political maneuvering, moves and counter-moves, concessions, compromises and grandstand plays. And what with demands for farmers' relief, the curbing of the courts, the checkmating of French militarism through a new foreign policy, a child labor amendment and a multitude of others—there are enough fireworks in the offing to keep the Old Guard of both old parties on the alert and hustling until the final gavel of the session falls upon the Speaker's dial.

The 68th Congress may not prove to be a history-making term in the sense of concrete achievement, but it surely will pave the way for stirring Congressional days to come. That much the arrival of the new Farmer-Labor and radical-insurgent faction has made certain.

TEN HOURS IN THE RUHR

LAST-DAY dispatches from the Ruhr indicate that the agreement between the German industrial group and the French-Belgian military command to begin work in the mines and steel factories has been reached on the basis of the ten-hour day. The workers' unions, abandoned to their fate by Berlin, half-starved and with empty coffers, decided to submit to the joint dictation of their German and French masters.

The mine and steel magnates of the Ruhr will now be able to hand over with hearty much more ready, considerable portion of the output, in kind and taxes, to the French invaders, as the increased volume of production on account of the longer day will leave enough surplus to make up for the levy. For these industrial magnates this settlement was perhaps a good bargain all around, as it opens a door for the invasion and eventual breakdown of the eight-hour day in the unoccupied regions of Germany—a goal for which these patriotic gentlemen have been striving with admirable zeal and consistency for several years past.

In Berlin the picture is no less gloomy. From day to day the forces of reaction move steadily onward and occupy more and more vital positions. The new Marx cabinet, in which the recently deposed Stresemann occupies the post of foreign minister, is but another makeshift—another page from the same reactionary folio, which is pulling Germany towards the Right and into the arms of the inveterate enemies of the Republic.

But the most disconcerting feature of the German situation is that, while only a year ago the world at large felt confident that, come what may, the great trade unions of Germany stood steady and able to repel and render all any effort of the Black Camarilla to crush the Republic, today this assurance is greatly diminished, if not entirely gone. The German trade unions have suffered incalculable injury in the last few years, and while numerically perhaps as big, they are economically and financially but a shadow of what they formerly were.

IMMIGRATION AGAIN

IT IS admitted by all that one of the most important problems facing Congress today is settling the immigration question. The present quota law will expire next June and the national legislature must provide for a new law to take its place without delay.

Congressman Johnson, chief of the restrictions and chairman of the Immigration Committee of the House, has already announced that a bill has been prepared and will at once be introduced for certain changes in the present law. Some of the modifications indicated suggest that at any rate the most obvious absurdities and the worst inhumanities of the present quota law will be eliminated. It is now proposed to exempt parents and children of American citizens from the quota count; it is likewise intended to permit aliens who have taken out their first papers in the United States to apply for the admission of husband, wife and children.

These changes are a material improvement on the old law, but the new bill contains one iniquitous feature that should meet with the strongest opposition. It proposes a shift from the census of 1910 to the census of 1890 as a basis for fixing the quota for each national group, together with a general percentage reduction from 3 to 2 per cent. But 2 per cent of the foreign-born population of 1890 would be less than half of 3 per cent of the foreign-born population of 1910. Moreover there would be a very distinct shift in the relative numbers of the various nationalities. The foreign-borne from the northern European countries were of about the same number in 1910 as in 1890, but the vast increase during the two intervening decades came largely from Southern and Eastern Europe.

In other words, Mr. Johnson's bill aims not only at cutting down the number of admissible immigrants but it proposes a policy of "favored nations" and the "weeding out," as the genial Congressman from Washington puts it, of the "socially inadequate" immigrants from Eastern Europe, presumably Russians, Jews, Italians, and those from the Balkan countries. This is a new dangerous departure along lines of racial discrimination which must be fought at all hazards. Already Secretary of Labor Davis had given the country a taste of this offensive policy when last month he admitted some 1500 Englishmen who came in above the quota and then retroacted a similar order affecting some Russians, who arrived after the quota was closed, and ordered them deported.

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How the New York Shops Are Rated

The Joint Board of Sanitary Control has just completed the general fall inspection of the shops in the cloak and suit and dress and waist industries.

The inspection was made during September and October. During these months the inspectors found 1939 shops in the cloak and suit, and 2281 in the dress and waist trade, a total of 4220 shops. This shows a general increase of shops in both industries.—275 in the cloak and suit, and 738 in the dress and waist.

The total number of workers in both industries was 56,425—30,937 men and 25,488 women. The number of workers in each industry is as follows: cloak and suit industry, 27,987—21,577 men and 6,410 women; dress and waist industry, 28,438—9,360 men and 19,138 women.

The most notable feature of this inspection is the very large number of new shops found by the inspectors. These are shops which were not in existence last year and of which there was no record in the lists submitted by the Unions to the Board. Of the 1,286 new shops, there were 701 in the dress and waist industry and 585 in the cloak and suit.

As to the sanitary conditions of the

shops in the industries, 2,762 were in Classes "A" and "B", showing that the percentage of good shops in the industries is 64. There were 215 or 5 per cent in Class "C", which includes shops with slight minor first defects, and there were 1,303 or 31 per cent in Class "D" which denotes shops with sanitary defects.

As to the "D" shops, the percentage of these is greater in the cloak and suit trade, viz. 35 per cent, than in the dress and waist where there are 27 per cent.

It is noteworthy that of the 1,286 new shops found 699 or 54 per cent were in "C" and "D" class.

As far as the bulk of the "C" and "D" shops is concerned, they are being constantly re-inspected and most of them will be attended to within the next two or three weeks. There are a certain number, however, of the worst shops that have been found in the industry, the owners of which were unwilling to comply with the requests of the Board and of the inspectors to remedy the defects, which are so serious that they should be turned over to the New York State Industrial Commission and to the New York City Fire Department for proper action.

CORRUPT VOTES

LAST week Ramsay MacDonald, the leader of the British Labor Party, was reported to have stated in a campaign speech that, "they have more corruption in Washington than they have in London." We do not know what the actual point was that provoked this remark by MacDonald, but as it was made by the leader of His Majesty's Opposition, it was in due order taken notice of by Speaker Gillett of the House of Representatives who retorted by saying that "in the four years of his Speakership, he doesn't remember an instance where he suspected or had reason to suspect any man in the House of being influenced in his vote by corrupt motives." Furthermore, "the use of money or its equivalent to secure votes is as little attempted in the House of Representatives as in any legislative body in the world."

Most people will probably agree with Speaker Gillett that recent Congressional history is quite clean with regard to any House or Senate member being charged with taking money for voting or influencing any other member to vote in a certain way. But few people will withhold a smile when Speaker Gillett tries to lift Congress on a pedestal of disinterested purity and to convince the country that the members of Congress are absolutely unlearned in the arts of voting for the predatory interests of wealth, plutocracy and the labor-driving kings of industry, finance and commerce.

It may be that the hold of these sinister forces is no less strong in London than it is in Washington, but that's exactly why the British Labor Party is organized and why it is fighting them so uncompromisingly. But it is, indeed, nothing short of laughable to attempt to parade Congress before our eyes as a lily-white aggregation of hard-working patriots. Ask the swarms of lobbyists in the halls of Congress—they know!

FROM OUR JOINT BOARDS AND LOCALS

In Local 17

By JACOB HELLER.

We are confronted today with the ordinary slack-time problems in our local. To the reformer the term "slack" is, of course, an old word, and these recurrent seasonal slumps we have always had with us. Nevertheless, the present stretch of unemployment has a new and a more serious significance to us.

"Slack" used to mean good-bye to the shop for a couple of months. It was not a pleasant thing; our workmen never could save up enough during the "fat" months to afford a forced vacation lasting weeks and months. Yet, in years gone by the worker could at least hope to return to the shop as soon as the season opened. He at least knew that his shop remained a shop, and that he had a place ready for him when work began.

Today it is altogether different. "Slack" nowadays means moving days. To many the end of a season now means the packing up of "tools" and the giving up of the shop entirely. At the end of the season the worker is startled with the pleasant news that this employer has become a jobber, the other has given up business, and the third is "reorganizing" the shop—and depressing stories which break down the spirit, spread pessimism, and leave in their wake crowds of jobless workers.

The beginning of the slack period this time is bringing these problems to the front. Here is the firm of Kaplan Bros., for instance, a firm with a reputation and a standing in the fur trade. Today this shop too has become infected with the "jobbing" microbe and they are rushing headlong after it; as if it were a gold mine. The same is true of the Edelson & Hand shop. There, too, the firm wants no longer to operate a shop, and thus we get almost every day news that this or that firm is on the verge of giving up manufacturing

or that they have changed their mind again concerning it. It is an indefinite, shaky situation that makes one feel as if the trade were standing on quicksand.

Nevertheless, it would be folly to become deheartened and desperate over it. The Union will not allow these firms to consign their workers outright to the army of the jobless without an accounting. These firms will undoubtedly hear from the organization in due time. We have given these facts to the readers only as a portrayal of the difficulties which we are compelled to meet and as a reminder that during these strenuous months the workers must remain close to the organization. "Slack" time must become the period of the greatest activity and loyalty on the part of the workers, as during this time the employers attack us with their heaviest weapons.

Besides, we have some cheerful news to tell, too. The members of our local probably remember that about a year and a half ago the firm of Louis Weinstein & Bros. went out of the manufacturing business and into jobbing in quest of "easy" money. Well, they have tasted it and now this firm notifies us that they desire to get back into manufacturing and pretty soon they will probably be in line again.

We are now discussing in our local the program submitted by the International for the cloak industry. During the last two weeks we have been debating these problems before packed meetings. This debate will continue for another few weeks until every member of the local will have had an opportunity to take part in discussing this program from every angle.

In Chicago

By M. RAPAPORT

At the regular meeting held on Friday evening, November 16, 1923, the members took up the discussion of a union-owned factory which was outlined by Vice-president Perlestein last week. The proposition submitted at this meeting was that \$100,000 should be appropriated to start this factory and that shares should be sold to the members at \$25 each. The Chicago Joint Board, together with the affiliated locals, should be the controlling power in this union-owned factory, and shall hire the best people available to manage it.

It was decided unanimously to start a union-owned factory where ideal conditions should prevail and where the sanitary label of the International will be advertised extensively in producing and selling garments made by the workers of the Union. It was also recommended that all members of the Union should buy at least one or more shares. A card and stamps will be made at \$2.50 per stamp which will be sold at the office of the union, and when a member will have a card filled with stamps which will amount to \$25, he will surrender that card to the office and a share will be given in exchange. The name decided upon for this factory is the International Union-Owned Garment Corporation.

A communication was read from Local 100, the Skirmishers' Branch,

stating that the employers are taking advantage of the skirmishers who come to work in the respective shops after being away for a length of time by refusing to put them to work. These skirmishers were forced to leave their various positions, having no skirts to make, and went to work elsewhere in order to make a living. When they came back to work at their old places, the bosses refused to take them back as old help, claiming that they had lost their tenure of employment. The Skirmishers' Branch feels that this is an injustice to their members and requests that the Joint Board take action in their behalf. The Joint Board decided that those skirmishers who are denied their former places are entitled to their jobs, and that no other skirmishers should be put to work before the old workers are placed.

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Local 11 Items

By HARRY CHANCER

Our members have been complaining that those of them who are working on dresses have recently been stopped because they would not transfer to Local 22. It is true that the General Executive Board has ordered all the dressmakers of Local 22 to transfer to Local 22, but, ask our members, in what manner does this order affect our local?

And as the justice of this complaint appeared to us obvious we demanded from the Board of Directors of the Cloak and Dress Joint Board that they adjust this case. The Board appointed a joint committee from Local 22 and our local to settle this matter, and an understanding has now been reached to the effect that any member of Local 11 belonging to it for more than three months is entitled to a working card in any Brownsville dress shop.

Complaints have also been broadcast recently that some of our union workers are being employed in open shops. To get to the truth of this charge, our executive board decided to register all our members and their places of employment. Those of them who will be found not registered in union shops will be called before the executive board to state where they are employed.

We are in the midst of a very critical time now and it is important that our members attend the meetings of the local faithfully. As a matter of fact, the executive committee of Local 11 decided to fine members who do not attend meetings at least three times every six months.

Next month we have elections in our local, and in connection with this I desire to make the following known to our members.

Lately it has become a custom among us, as it has become in other locals, for candidates or groups of candidates to print cards for distribution among the members soliciting their vote for this or that candidate or group. They would also print "literature" along with it denouncing the opposing candidates in true "political" style.

Well, we have done away with this practice. We decided to hold every candidate responsible personally whenever we discover that he permits his name to appear on any such cards or leaflets.

Our local, like all other locals of the International, is conducting educational work every year. We used to have lectures at member meetings, but we now decided that we can carry on this work on a larger scale and we united with the Educational Center of the Brownsville Labor Union to carry on the work jointly. We are giving each Friday evening a lecture and a concert made up of very at-

tractive programs. Each member of the local is entitled to a free admission card which can be had at the office of the Union.

Our educational committee also succeeded in organizing a splendid chorus under the direction of the noted artist, Mr. Leo Lior. The Chorus has already taken part in several concerts with success. It was present at the opening exercises of the International Education Department at the Washington Irving High School, and also took part at the opening concert of the Brownsville Educational Center. Members of the International who are interested in choral work are eligible to join this musical organization.

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Will There Be Another Coal War?

By JOHN LA RUE

Coal operators and miners appear to be marshalling their forces for another coal war. This time it will come in the soft coal fields—the date April 1—and it will affect every coal field in the United States with the exception of the anthracite district, if a strike is declared. It is predicted that for the miners to win they must strike at least six months.

Preparations have already been made to throw the entire resources of the United Mine Workers into the West Virginia section. This will be preliminary to the big test between the miners and the union operators. The knowledge that the operators, heeding the advice of the big non-union interests, are likely to precipitate another strike does not distress the coal trade, however. For a strike never hurts the coal business. It boosts prices and the operators, railroad companies, middlemen dealers always make good their lost profits. With the glut of coal on the eastern seaboard now, these interests would welcome a strike it appears.

The United Mine Workers are determined to organize West Virginia and it is only a question of the psychological time when they will step in, according to men in touch with the situation. There are 125,000 miners in that state. Of this number, 50,000 are union members, organized ten years ago by Mother Jones, John Brown and other miners' leaders.

Just recently there has been a sweeping wage reduction in the non-union fields (as high as 25 per cent is reported), and non-union men who reaped the benefit of the 1922 strike when they got as high wages as union men for digging scab coal, are repenting, for they are back to the 1915 wage level.

Meanwhile the persecution of the miners' leaders resulting from the march of the miners on Mingo in May, 1921, continues. The Logan County coal operators have been successful in securing the conviction of a number of men that took part in the march, charging them with the death of certain mine guards that fell during the fighting along the Spruce ridge, but they have not caught the miners' leaders. This is what they desire.

But the coal operators banked behind the prosecution of Frank Keeney, Fred Mooney and William Blizzard, leaders of the West Virginia miners, suffered a reverse recently in their fourth attempt to bring indictments to trial. The pending trial in Greenbrier county has been denied by Judge Samuel H. Sharp after the miners' attorneys presented 280 affidavits to show they could not get justice there, even from the farmers, whose minds have been poisoned against the union by adroit propaganda of the coal operators.

The case may come up again in Fayette County, where the union influence is strong and there the coal operators are likely to object. Possibly the case will revert back to Logan where the grand jury indictments were originally brought a few months after the spectacular march which brought out Federal troops to restore order.

The indictments against Keeney, Mooney and Blizzard are in identically the same status as they were two and a half years ago when they were first returned after the fighting. On five different occasions in the courts of three different counties, the case was brought up. William Blizzard has been acquitted on a charge of treason and President Keeney has been acquitted on a charge of being an accessory to murder.

About 540 men were indicted as the result of the march and a small number of men have been sentenced to

minor charges. The operators are concentrating their attention on the leaders with the object of staving off the inevitable drive to unionize their properties.

President Keeney recognizes that the prosecutions are intended to intimidate the leaders, but declares the union drive will be carried on just the same. Its progress will depend entirely upon the situation affecting the entire coal industry.

While the coal operators are dissatisfied with the result of their last effort to break the miners' union and would try once more to give it a thorough trouncing, the United Mine Workers is declared now to be in better shape than at any time in its turbulent career to unionize the "slave" territory. Internal dissension has subsided and harmony prevails for the first time in twenty years. This presages great activity.

The principal non-union fields are in West Virginia, Maryland, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky and Colorado. Millions of dollars have already been expended to enter these fields. That the miners would organize if the union forces could enter is generally admitted. They are kept out by armed guards and it is this blockade that gives the mine leaders the greatest concern.

Nothing has occurred to show that the mine guard system or the control of the police powers by the coal operators in these states has been weakened. The result is that forty per

cent of the bituminous coal of the country is produced in non-union districts, leaving the balance of the production, sixty per cent, in union control.

If the strike should occur next spring, it will require at least a six-months' shut-down of the union mines to exhaust the surplus and to finally bring about a situation in which the deadlock must be ended just as in 1922, according to those in a position to know.

These considerations, not forgetting the attitude of the government in a presidential year, will have much to do with deciding whether there will be another coal war next spring.

MAX LEVIN BEGINS HIS COURSE ON MODERN ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF LOCAL NO. 9

Max Levin will begin his course of six lessons on Modern Economic Institutions this Saturday, December 8, at 1 p. m. The class will meet at the headquarters of Local 9, 228 Second Avenue.

The object of this course is to acquaint the students with the foundations of our present industrial system and its influence on society in general and the labor movement in particular.

HALF-RATE TICKETS FOR OUR MEMBERS TO SYMPHONY CONCERTS

Our members can obtain cards which will entitle them to half-rate tickets to some of the symphony concerts. These cards may be had at the office of the Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.

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WILL THEY LET HER IN?

Who is to Blame?

(Not a Fustleton)

By A. LEBEDIGER

After all these wallings and recriminations I still fail to know: What do they want from the medical practitioners?

False diplomas, bought licenses—perhaps. But even without spurious diplomas and licenses—do we like them, the doctors? For, if the truth be told, the medical profession as practised today is a profession of martyrs—almost as nasty a vocation and as generally hated a one as that of being a landlord.

Homes and medical aid should be had free—and human beings revolt when they are forced to pay and pay heavily for them. Landlords and physicians are both disliked. The only consolation a doctor may have in this respect is that a landlord is more hated than a physician.

Society should provide its members with free housing and medical aid as it provides them with free schools. When a physician is the servant of the State and like the teacher gets his pay from the community, we shall

have a better type of doctor, and shall learn to like him better. Without private physicians, there will be no fake diplomas. Medicine would become, perhaps, less of a lucrative profession but a better one for the community.

Medicine would become a scientific vocation for which one would have to have a special gift and liking. Men with ideals would then devote themselves to the practice of medicine—not luxury-seekers, real estate operators and joy riders.

Medicine must not remain in private hands if only for the hatred we have for the doctors. Heaven knows there is enough hatred in the world without it. And besides, we all feel that illness must be cured without pay. Disease must not be made the subject of barter and trade, like shoes and clothing. The curing of ills is a general social problem and care, and we all are kin and partners to the afflicted in our midst.

That's why I have a sort of compassion for the doctors. They, I know, should be in line with their calling be idealists, but we ourselves have converted them into tradesmen. A physician who listens to a tale of pain, fear and woe and afterwards stretches his hand out for a fee is a tragic figure. A physician should stretch his hand out to help only but not to collect money.

And in addition to this, he is comical too. A doctor is awaited in the house like an angel and is ushered out like a devil. He is met with a blessing and is sent off with a curse. What a dissonance there is between his duty and his acts, between what he should be and what he is!

Therefore I say: Don't let us worry ourselves about the few fake doctors we have among us. Every physician is in a false position anyhow, the best, the most scrupulous among them included. The entire medical profession as at present situated is false. And furthermore I say, it is society that is at fault in this case, not the physician. Under our system we convert the doctor, even the idealist, into an ugly miscreant, practically a hold-up man.

Our system of medical practice is distributing these fake diplomas right and left and it is society that is on trial in this instance and not the comparatively few fakirs with spurious diplomas.

Can you deny it?

RAND SCHOOL NOTES

This evening at 8:40 o'clock Clement Wood is lecturing at 7 East 15th Street, on the topic "The Martyr in Fiction."

On Saturday, December 8, at 1:30 p. m., Scott Nearing will discuss "The President's Message" in his Current Events class.

At 4 p. m. on the same day Mr. Syd Hosiak will speak at the Saturday Casperaderie, held in the Debs Auditorium, People's House, under the auspices of the League for Industrial Democracy and the Rand School. His subject will be "The New Negro East."

On Tuesday evening, December 11, Dr. John B. Watson will give a lecture on the topic, "Behavioristic Studies on Instinct and Emotions," illustrated by motion pictures of infant activity.

On Thursday evening, December 13, Mr. Herman Epstein will give a lecture, illustrated at the piano, on "Tristan and Isolde."

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EDITORIALS

UNION POLITICS

Let the reader not confuse "Union Politics" with "Politics in Labor Unions." Concerning the latter there exists within the labor movement a pronounced difference of opinion, and while the majority of us believe that the less a labor union is inclined to go in for politics the better for it, there are many who think that though a trade union is essentially an economic organization it is in duty bound to interest itself in politics, for its economic weapons in its struggles with the master class are limited and can be made stronger when augmented by political power.

What concerns "Union Politics," however, there seems to be a unanimity of opinion that it is a matter closely bound up with union activity and quite inseparable from it. Let us illustrate this as simply as we possibly can.

The local executive boards in our union are elected, as a rule, for a whole year. It is a responsible and difficult job, and often very thankless in addition. Nevertheless, rarely if ever is there a scarcity of candidates for these jobs of men and women who honestly believe that they are just cut out, better than anyone else, for such a post. Of course, they have the full right so to believe and to entertain such a legitimate idea of service to their union. The members equally have their right to determine the eligibility of these candidates by selecting those whom they deem fit. And as not all candidates can be elected, there naturally arises an alignment of factions within the organization that is usually classified as union politics, an integral part, as it were, of the life of the trade union.

The same holds true during elections for the various other union officers like local managers, secretaries, business agents, etc. Our unions are founded on the principle of democracy, on the rule of the membership. We have no dictatorship in our ranks that would pick by hand the officers of the organization to the dictator's taste. After a man or woman has served a term as an officer, he or she returns to the ranks and, if they desire reelection they have to go through the same process as any other aspiring candidate would and receive the verdict of the members in a similar manner. In our union every officer, from the President of the International to the sergeant-at-arms of the smallest local, has no mortgage on his job and must invariably stand for reelection at the end of each term. This makes union politics inevitable, as no union which is based on the principle of democracy can get along without it.

Yet, there is a difference between politics and politics. There is union politics that is clean and honest and of which a union even can be proud. But there is another brand of union politics which is abhorrent and which smacks of that cesspool of iniquity which is practiced as a profession by the old political parties. Such politics trade unions must not tolerate and must make every possible effort to eradicate from their midst as an ugly and demoralizing force.

In the next few weeks there will take place elections for officers and executive committees in a number of our locals. A few months hence our locals will be electing delegates to our next convention. It is timely therefore to warn our unions at this time against the grave menace of allowing impure union politics to pollute their ranks.

The crudest form of corrupt politics is, of course, fraudulent elections. Tampering with the ballot constitutes open treason against the union as a whole. The dirty work of stuffing the ballot boxes not only defeats the will of the members but makes a mockery of the whole election and in a stealthy, sneaking way usurps the power of control and management of the labor body.

There can be and will be no two opinions in our union on this matter. Whether in the past there have been any such flagrant examples of corrupt politics in our union is not the question at this moment. We dare confident, however, that this ugly form of politics does not exist in our union any longer and that everything has been done to make the practice of this evil impossible.

There are, however, other forms of union politics which are not less menacing though they cannot be indexed as ballot stealing or open fraud. It is to this sort of politics that we desire to draw the attention of our members because they are often indulged in by men who flirt with lofty ideals and who employ these ideals as a cloak for rather unclean union politics.

For instance, it has become quite an ordinary thing for the contesting sides in union elections to put forth "slates" of candidates and to agitate for such "slates" as a whole. In the course of agitating for their respective "slates," both sides would make it appear that the candidates on the opposing tickets are the worst criminals that ever drew the breath of life. In fact, not

so long ago, a point was reached when the chief executive of the International refused to run as convention delegate from his local as he would not have his name appear side by side with the other candidates picked together with him on such a "slate." Another high officer of the union, who was not on any "slate" and who made an attempt to run, was defeated by this "slate machine," though he was one of the oldest and most respected leaders of our union.

It implied, in other words, that those who cast their votes in the ballot boxes were asked to vote not for this or that person, but for the whole ticket put forth by the "party." In brief, the entire balloting was turned into a mockery, as the majority of the men who took part in the balloting displayed no more intelligence than what is usually termed "voting cattle." It is needless to say that the results of such voting are both disheartening and shameful.

Such "politics" are likely to turn our union into a political bargain-counter where everything is for sale and which must receive the unqualified condemnation of every honest person. It is praiseworthy and inspiring to see men fight for principles and "idealistic" ideals are trampled into the ground when questionable and shameful methods are employed to advance them. A communist may have a right to desire to have a different executive board in his local and no one can honestly object if he votes for such persons as he might think better fitted for the office, but when this selfsame communist unites with some of the worst elements in the union, former strikebreakers, men without principles, men whom the union must tolerate because they are working in the trade, though in their hearts and hidden thoughts bitter enemies of the union—such a combination of a "principled" communist with the erstwhile scab for the purpose of overthrowing the present administration which is not "red" enough for the communist and too honest for the scab, is in our opinion the ugliest and most nauseating form of union politics. This union of the "reds" and the "blacks" naturally implies a bargain, a price which the "black" has received for delivering his part of the "goods." This price can be nothing else but a share of control of the union—in other words, the selling out of the vital interests of the organization to the most dangerous element in the trade for the sake of carrying out their ambition to smash the present administration of the union.

It is against such politics that our members must be warned in advance. There are signs that some of the "politicians" in our unions will resort to such methods in the coming elections, and our union must leave nothing undone to prevent it. It must be made clear that such campaigning will not be tolerated by the union and the International and that the result of such campaigns will not be recognized by the organization. Our election contests must be conducted in a clean and honorable manner and campaigns of mudslinging and slander, no matter from what side, will not and cannot be tolerated. Neither will "slate-campaigning" be commenced, and the candidates for the various offices shall not be permitted to run under flags and slogans which have no direct connection with the union. A candidate whose only virtue is that he is or is not a communist cannot and will not be a good union officer. He must have his merits as a union worker to appeal to the members for their vote. He must prove that he seeks the office not for the sake of "ideals" that have no connection with the union, but for the sake of the union itself, for the welfare of the workers in the shops.

Only along such lines must these election campaigns be carried on and fought out. Such contests managed cleanly and honestly, and exclusively on the basis of union problems, will bring the desired results.

FORTY-TWO YEARS OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT

On November 15, the American Federation of Labor was 42 years old, and on this occasion, Samuel Gompers, the President of the American Federation of Labor, issued a statement to the press. We are not in accord with all that Gompers says in this statement, but in its main features he is completely right. We reprint this statement for our readers and leave it to their own judgment.

"Conditions today, after forty-two years of effort and organization, are vastly different than they were when the American Federation of Labor was organized. At that early date the wage earners had almost to begin at the beginning in the effort to remove injustices, many of which were the heritage of the European feudal system and many more of which were the result of ignorance and of carelessness of human life.

"Employers took thought only of wage earners as instruments to be used as tools were used—to be used and cast aside. Legislators gave no heed to the needs of the toiling masses. The whole field was a field in which labor's contentions had to start at the very bottom.

"Gradually abuses have been eliminated. The 12-hour day has gone. The conception that a worker is a piece of property, or a piece of merchandise has gone. The contention that a worker is entitled to no voice in determining the conditions under which he shall give service to society has all but gone. It lingers only in the darkest corners of our industrial order.

"Largely as a result of the struggle by the wage earners for a better living and working conditions, for a more adequate wage and for a fairer opportunity, the United States stands head and shoulders above other nations, the world in point of average human happiness and human well-being.

"We still have our problems, and among them are some of the first magnitude. But they are not the problems of the early days when it was necessary to fight for a chance to exercise a voice, for a chance to speak. We have established fundamental principles; and the problems of today are largely problems of how to apply established principles of justice and freedom in

Anti-Jewish Pogroms on the Rise in Germany

By LEON CHASANOWICH
(Special Correspondence to Justice.)

Berlin.

The reaction in Germany, which lazily and with head erect proceeds from one victory to another, presents in itself the greatest menace to the Jewish population.

The Jews in Germany are in a condition of intense nervousness from the constant fear which in places assumes the proportion of a veritable panic. Bavaria, the center of the German counter-revolution and the first German country where the black forces have succeeded in laying their hands upon the governmental machinery, has made the initial step in this direction—a weak beginning to be sure when regarded from the point of view of purely animal anti-Semitism—but one that is likely to develop into a bloody massacre should the present German situation ever reach the stage of a civil war. As yet they are only exiling Jews by the hundreds from Bavaria, but it may end up in the slaughter of thousands.

Kahr, the Bavarian dictator and the coming dictator of all Germany, a typical representative of German Fascism, has a very original plan for solving all problems of the Fatherland. His program is brief, to the point, and a marvel of simplicity!

1. To maintain by force of bayonets the low price of beer (solution of the social problem);

2. To stop the payment of taxes to the Central Government and the same time, of course, continue receiving from Berlin mountains of paper money (Bavarian independence), and

3. To banish all Jews and confiscate their property (the cleansing of the Christian country from "Jewish ma-

terialism") and "Jewish Mammonism").

Kahr has so far had little success with the first point on his program, and as yet the inordinate thirst of the Bavarians for beer is supporting the brewers and their pockets in a far greater measure than even the coffers of their dictatorial deliverer. His second plank is a success and will continue to be so as long as the central government in Berlin, in its superhuman patience, keeps on sending money to Munich to maintain a government and an army which is openly in rebellion against it. And the carrying out of number three is now being pushed forth with the greatest energy. The "Christian cleansing process" in Bavaria is on and is rushing full-stream ahead. Thus far over two hundred Jewish families have been driven out of Munich, some of them old residents who have lived there for twenty to thirty years, largely Austrian Jews though some of them German citizens, who, according to the German constitution, have a right to reside in every part of Germany. In violation of the fundamental law these were arrested and by force brought to the Austrian border, in the middle of the night, cast over across the boundary, and left to their fate. Needless to say, most if not all their belongings were left behind.

These banished Jewish families leave behind them vacant residences which are quite a much-sought-after article in Germany today. First, because in Germany since the war housing facilities have been very bad with not slight construction of new houses. Secondly, the law which placed a

drastic curb on rents has served as a powerful check to house construction for profit. This great scarcity of living quarters is playing some part in the banishment of Jews from Bavaria, as, from the point of view of the narrow-minded Bavarian anti-Semite, the evacuation of several hundred of homes formerly occupied by Jews is regarded as nothing short of a shrewd political and social move. In these vacant houses the Bavarian authorities are now placing either their true and loyal henchmen or those who promise them loyalty in the future. This "housing policy" is on the one hand confiscation of property pure and simple, directed against a definite group of persons, an anti-Semitic "Bolshevism" as it were, and on the other raw "patriotic" bribery at the expense of the Jews.

The brazen cynicism of the monarchist-patriotic anti-Semitic expropriators stands out in unmasked and bold relief in a "ukase" which was handed out to all the unfortunate banished families, which reads:

"No. 2.—An Order by the Police Concerning Deportation.—Mr. . . . you are herewith informed that you are forbidden to take along from your present business any goods, raw materials, unfinished, or finished products, parts of machinery, or other wares. Your establishment must be kept up as heretofore and you are ordered to put a manager in charge of it and give his name to the Police. In case of failure the Direction of the Police will itself put such a manager in charge. In such a case the business will be kept or sold for the benefit of the Bavarian State Treasury.

Should your appeal against deportation be granted, this order will automatically become void.

"Police President Mantel."

It is clear enough, therefore, that these exiled persons are deprived even of the right of selling their Bavarian property with the proceeds of which they might be able to establish themselves elsewhere. The religious Bavarian defenders of the rights of property would not permit them to sell their businesses, even at the inevitable great loss, but compel them to keep up the business and the management of strangers and without being able to control it in the least. They dare not put in appearance in Bavaria to take a look at their abandoned property and are therefore practically compelled to abandon it entirely. Thus grind the wheels of anti-Semitism in Bavaria, of that ugly product which August Bebel once called the "Socialism of the stupid."

And this is merely a beginning. The "moderate" wing of the Bavarian reactionaries is still strong enough there not to permit too great excesses and the local Fascism is still compelled to make compromises here and there. But the German civil war is in the offing, and when it flares up and the reactionary anti-Semitic beast gets his first taste of blood, the wildest of brutalities may be expected to occur.

It must be kept in mind that a very deep and pronounced feeling of desperation is today embracing large sections of the German population and filling it with despair and bitterness. This despair is seeking an outlet somewhere and the black demagogues will find it easy to divert it towards the Jewish quarters. The war and its aftermath have hardened many hearts and have cheapened human blood.

The clouds over the heads of the Jews in Germany is indeed dark and depressingly low.

order to continue the wonderful progress that has been made in our country and by our country.

"In 1881 there were but a handful of organized wage earners. Today there are six millions of them, numbering in their ranks the finest citizenship in America, men and women capable, alert, understanding the needs of our time and having the determination and the intelligence necessary to cope with the great problems of our day.

"Most of the great contentions of the trade union movement have won general public approval and support. Most of the important contentions of the trade union movement have dealt with questions of vital importance to the whole citizenship and not only to wage earners. Such a one was the movement for universal suffrage and such a one was the movement to abolish exploitation of prisoners for private profit. Such a one was the effort, still continued, to prevent a flooding of our country with unassimilable immigrants.

"We continue and we shall continue to struggle for those things that mean a better citizenship everywhere and for all, though our first concern is the protection of the rights and interests of the wage earners.

"Truly there has been progress—wonderful progress—in the forty-two years of American Federation of Labor existence and activity. There is in the whole world today no organization so powerful, and yet so disciplined and restrained in the use of its power. And there is none that uses its power so consistently for the general good of all.

"This anniversary is merely a milestone; it is not a stopping point or even a breathing point. The issues of the day are pressing and ever-changing. A new congress is about to come into being, necessitating the utmost vigilance. The childhood of our nation must be freed and this freedom for childhood, anachronism as the issue may be in this advanced age, is one of the great issues that must confront that congress.

"Industrial changes are taking place, presenting great issues, not only of labor organization, but of general policy. The arena is filled with issues that demand thought, vision and constructive action. In forty-two years of continuous struggle and effort the labor movement has given a guarantee of its character, stability and purpose. It stands forth as a protector of the institutions of freedom, a guardian of the bill of rights, a great protagonist of equality of opportunity, and an unfaltering champion of the principles of democracy as the guiding principles in the great affairs of our political and industrial life."

THE "AMERICAN PLAN"

The "American plan," as known, is merely another name for the "open shop," and the "open shop" it but another name for the non-union shop.

In other words, the "American plan" was but a cunning, well-sounding device for the patriotic ear designed for the purpose of breaking up the American labor movement. When the

war came to an end, this campaign against the unions broke out with unrestrained fury and for a time it looked as if the unions were in real danger. But the labor movement was too deeply rooted in our economic and industrial life for any attack, no matter how strong and well-supported, to wound it mortally.

Nevertheless, in some sections and cities this anti-union campaign has caused considerable harm, particularly on the Pacific Coast and in San Francisco. Not so long ago San Francisco was the best organized union-labor city in the United States. The building trades in that city were particularly strong, and against this fortress the "American plan" campaigners concentrated all their forces. Our readers doubtless remember the recent fight of our cloakmakers in San Francisco, and how the Industrial Association of that city made it impossible for the cloak manufacturers to settle with their workers and to recognize the union—much as these hard-pressed employers may have desired it themselves. This Industrial Association represented the combined power of capital on the Coast and its purpose was to terrorize anyone and everyone who was against it on the "American plan" and showed any sympathy for a labor union. It went so far that building contractors who dared to employ union workers could not purchase materials in San Francisco unless they received a permit first from this Association, and such a permit could not be obtained unless the contractor obligated himself to adopt the "American plan," that is not to employ union workers.

The "American plan" was essentially a widespread conspiracy against the labor movement and it was practiced with particular brazenness in San Francisco. This scandal recently assumed such proportions that the Federal Government was compelled to take a hand in it and filed charges against the San Francisco Builders' Exchange and the Industrial Association for violation of the inter-State commerce laws. A few days ago, Federal Judge Deering declared the entire "American plan" a conspiracy in restraint of trade and forbade all these "American" groups to continue their work of issuing permits to those only who would subscribe to their "American" tenets.

This verdict makes an end to this black conspiracy of capital against Labor on the Pacific Coast. For twenty years the minions of capital have employed every foul means to strangle and destroy the labor unions of San Francisco. They surely have spent a fortune to promote their nefarious job, but in the end the labor movement has survived their machinations and is again on the upgrade in that city. As a matter of fact, despite the boycott, many building contractors cannot help hiring union workers, and so far the net result of this union-baiting campaign to San Francisco amounts to a serious loss in business, industry and commerce.

Judge Deering's verdict is the last spade of soil upon this contemptible conspiracy against the right of the workers to form unions and through these unions to obtain the best possible labor conditions for themselves.

THE STAGE

Pity But Not Terror

Maxine Schwartz Presents "Sabbata! Zevi," a play in four acts, at the Yiddish Art Theatre. Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

By SYLVIA KOPALD

To attend a performance of "Sabbata! Zevi" is to be present at a church service rather than a dramatic production. The drama is there, no doubt; but above all the Yiddish Art players reveal how insidiously religion can become as "opiate of the people." You pride yourself on being a sophisticated New Yorker, brought up on Marx, Darwin, and Freud,—until the curtain rises upon the story of Sabbata! Zevi, born in Smyrna, Turkey, during the year 1641, less than three hundred years ago. Centuries are but a weak shield against the onslaught of age-old passions and fears. Reason is man's most recent acquisition. Where intervening centuries prove a weak stockade, it is the frailties of defenses.

Pallid candle-lights quivering in the growing darkness; moaning voices crying out to a hidden God; cold temple steps leading up to stained glass windows behind which frustrated men make prayers; ritual hoary with years, impressive as gnarled trees and moss-covered rocks are impressive; from these things are born vague stirrings and choked emotions that ally the external man again with the elemental within him. As the curtain falls upon each act, one actually shakes off the effects of these trappings of unreality; their hold upon the imagination is as tangible as a physical clutch. The sing-song lamentations of the suffering Jews follow you from the theatre even into the "rush hour" subway of the prosaic morning after.

This is certainly good theatre. It is the frame in which the Yiddish Art Players set the picture of a moment in men's lives. It is a frame

well able to bring out all the lights and shadows in that moment.

That it fails to do so is the fault of the pictures they chose for framing. There were lights and shadows enough in the moment itself. But when the artist lifted the moment out of life and placed it on the stage canvas, he omitted the shadows. The lamentations of the Jews and the bitter tragedy of Sabbata! are heavy enough. But they do not belong to the true story. The artist here has been guilty of that saddest weakness of man. He forgets; he softens the harsh truth of history in the tender glow of memory. He eternalizes the pleasant features of a historic figure, and only the pleasant. He takes a man and makes a myth.

All the essentials of the story of Sabbata! Zevi as his history records it are in the play. Sabbata! are told by the historians, was a false messiah, the founder of a wide-spread sect of semi-Christians and semi-Jews. He was born in 1641; when he was twenty-three his following numbered about 80,000 and extended through Europe, Asia, and Africa. A year later he walked through the street of Alexandria with six disciples and proclaimed the approach of the Messianic reign. The Sultan's disposition was part of the new era and Sabbata!'s head was to hold the monarch's crown. Within six years the resurrection would come. But three years later (1667) he was taken into custody by the royal forces and terrified into recantation. The sole object of his mission, he had said, was to embrace Islam and carry the Jews into the new faith with him. The Sultan was satisfied with this

explanation and honored Sabbata! with the title of emend and an honorary post. Sabbata!'s followers refused to accept this betrayal. They explained it away by stating that a false Sabbata! had embraced Islam; the true Messiah had ascended heavenward. Sabbata!'s "good fortune" proved false however. He was again imprisoned and died behind prison walls in 1677, either by poisoning or execution.

There is a glimmering significant story here for the dramatist. So much of man's past has been a pitiful, terrible crucifixion on the bars of reality. Moreover, history tells us little of the hopes and aspirations, the fanatic self-faith and the human fears that moved Sabbata!. It has no sources from which to draw them, and history must list its sources. Art alone can supply them. If art is able to infer and build upon the facts of life. It may even choose and change those data to gain its effects if only it does not do violence to the essential design of life's pattern. The play at the Yiddish Art Theatre commits such violence—and in the most dangerous way.

In that play, Sabbata! is a figure of heroic mould. Fanatic, narrow, perhaps even pathetic, but of that basic stuff of which heroes are made. The miseries of his people sear his soul; he hopes, almost believes, that he is the Messiah whom God has sent to deliver them from their sufferings. To be worthy of his mission, however, he must make some sacrifice. The deepest which he can offer is the denial of his frail humanity. He pleads with his beautiful young wife, vital with youth and gloriously beautiful, to remain a stranger to him until his mission has been accomplished.

In the first strength gained from this bitter triumph he faces the Sultan and stuns terror into the hated foe. The Jews take heart. As the Sultan proceeds to test his defiance with poisoned arrows and glowing irons a terrible storm hits the palace. A miracle wrought by the hand of God. Even the Sultan is impressed, and in an agony of that fear that begs a respite he shouts, "Tomorrow, tomorrow, I'll test you!"

That night Sabbata! begs, prays that his strength last one more day. Doubt has seized his mind; God has never granted his pleas for "an answer." His body is rebelling and he attempts to beat his unwilling flesh into submission. In the midst of this self-flagellation his wife enters. After a tense struggle the woman finds the man and with him conquers the Messiah.

The next morning Sabbata! is a tortured spirit. The chance to save his people has come and he has been unable even to complete his sacrifice. He is no Messiah; only a man, only a man. Led by his joyous people to the Sultan, he confesses the emptiness of his pretensions and snatching the turban from the head of one of the Sultan's advisers he puts it on his own head, the symbol of the world of a terrible defeat (also the artist's softening of Sabbata!'s actual recantation).

I do not know whether this version of Sabbata!'s story is the artist's alone or belongs to Yiddish mythology. But it has many inconsistencies. If Sabbata! was not the Messiah, how account for the miracle of the storm? Did he fall only because he succumbed to his flesh? Then how account for his vain pleas to God for "an answer"? But if he was not the Messiah, what is the true significance of the old delusion "cherches femme" motif. ("Can one's own wife be a Delilah?") Some old religions, e. g. much of orthodox Judaism and St. Paul's Christianity, make violent "anti-feminism" one of the words of God. But at least they are clear cut in their meanings. In this version, the role of the temptress is a blurred and hazy thing. Finally, Sabbata! is an artistic creation, a myth that suffers a far harsher truth. In the play, too, he is a "false Messiah" but he is undoubtedly a Jewish hero. Art accomplishes a far higher service to man when it renders asunder the veils in which men hide the truth.

Thus the current play at the Yiddish Art Theatre becomes a truly memorable performance of an unworthy myth. Neither traditional church services nor false and musty legends are the materials of art.

In Local 38

By B. DRASIN

This time I have some cheery news to tell you and that is that our local has gone on record for reducing the taxes of our members.

Our local has entirely abolished the Sanitarium Assessment. After January, 1924, no more collections of this assessment will be made. At our last general member meeting, which took place at the Harlem Socialist Educational Center on Tuesday, November 20, after I presented our financial report and a detailed explanation of that report, the question of the million dollar fund was raised and discussed. It was decided that this tax be reduced \$5,000, which means that members will have the pay \$35.00, instead of \$40.00. Those members who have paid the full \$40 will receive a refund of \$5.00 in the form of dues stamps.

At the same meeting, Brother Goldstein, who is doing organization work in our trade for the general office, reported on his activities. He enumerated the shops which he and I, with the aid of a few active members, have succeeded in organizing and bringing under the control of our union. Some of them were completely organized as far as the workers are concerned, but as the end of the season was already at hand, it was deemed impractical to approach the employers and induce them to sign agreements with the union. This work was left over for a more opportune time.

Brother Goldstein also reviewed the existing conditions in the trade and made special notice of the fact that styles in ladies' wear nowadays are of such character that garments can be made and are being made by female labor. The employers are using this to their own advantage when we approach the tailors in an attempt to unionize the open shops. The competition between the male and female hands is particularly felt in our trade for the reason that the female worker contrary to the male worker is unorganized, and it is therefore a prime necessity to organize them and raise their standards. It is a hard task, but sooner or later it must be undertaken if we are not to lose the conditions which we have gained by years of struggle, though these conditions are far from what they should be.

The organization of private dressmakers in this city, Local No. 90 of our International, has succeeded in organizing a part of the girls in the trade, and is making further efforts to organize the remainder. We know it will take a long time before they can succeed in organizing the trade as a whole, and since we are so closely related to that trade and since very often we work together with them in the same room, producing exactly the same garments, those girls are becoming direct competitors of our men. We, therefore, believe that we ought

to extend a helpful hand to our sister local in order to obtain better conditions for them and ourselves. President Sigman and Secretary Baroff are giving this matter serious consideration.

A joint executive session of the two locals was held recently in the office of the International with Brothers Sigman and Baroff participating. Nearly every member and official present participated in the discussion. All agreed that quick united action of both locals is absolutely necessary if we desire to present demands to our employers in the autumn of 1924, when our agreements expire.

Plans for united action are already under way and will surely be discussed at our coming local and branch meetings. Those who have the interest of the union close at heart will surely attend these meetings and take part in these discussions. The next meetings will take place as follows:

December 14, 1 p. m., at the office—Italian Branch meeting.

Tuesday, December 18, at 62 East 106th Street, 8 p. m.—Member meeting at which second nominations for paid and unpaid officers will be made.

BUY

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UNION HEALTH CENTER NEWS

On account of the sickness of Dr. George M. Price, the lecture on the "Health of the Workers" which was scheduled for Friday, November 30, was delivered by Dr. Iago Goldstein.

An interesting motion picture on "Working for Dear Life" was shown and was of great interest to the class.

This Friday, Hon. Bernard L. Shientag, Industrial Commissioner of New York State, will give a talk on "State Protection of Workers."



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POLAND

GENERAL STRIKE THREATENED.

Economic conditions have caused the outbreak of a great strike in the most important branches of industry. 70,000 miners in the coal districts of Dabrowa and Cracow, 130,000 textile-workers of Lodz and the neighboring districts, and the railwaymen from four railway districts have gone on strike. The strikers demand a non-recurring increase of wages according to a fixed percentage, the statutory introduction of a minimum standard wage, and a weekly compulsory adjustment of wages to the cost of living index.

In reply to these demands, which have been submitted to the Government by the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Trade Unions in the form of an ultimatum, the government has prepared and submitted to the federation a draft scheme of concessions. This scheme has, however, been deemed unsatisfactory, and the federation has called upon all the unions to prepare for general action. Unless all demands are granted by November 15, a general strike will be proclaimed.

FRANCE

THE INCREASE OF ARMAMENTS.

At the present moment France is negotiating with Poland, Roumania and Yugoslavia on the subject of loans: She is to grant Poland 400 million francs, Yugoslavia 300 millions, and Roumania 100 millions. All these three states are receiving these subsidies for purely military purposes; that is to say, they must all purchase war material from France to the amount of their respective loans. Moreover, these loans involve, especially in the case of Poland, financial vassalage. Czechoslovakia is compelled to pay dearly for the aid she received from France in establishing her independence.

BELGIUM

REVIVAL OF TRADE UNION INTEREST.

As Belgian workers have recently been displaying a very lively interest in trade union organization, the General Council of the Belgian Federation of Trade Unions has decided to organize an important "Back to the Unions" campaign. In view of past experience it has been resolved to conduct the campaign according to districts. The chief methods to be employed are: the creation of Committees of Action in the various districts, the organization of meetings for the various trades and industries, the instituting of classes and schools for canvassers, leaders, and the members of local executives, the establishment of "Trade Union Days" in the chief towns of the districts, the appointment of local committees, the organization of social evenings, entertainments, etc. It is also intended to inaugurate during the winter months new campaigns in support of the eight-hour day, social insurance, and holidays, and against the universal reaction; a special effort will also be made on behalf of the anti-war campaign.

BELGIAN LABOR CONDEMNS FRENCH POLICY IN GERMANY.

At the recent meeting of the General Council of the Belgian Labor party, the chief subject of discussion was a letter which had been received from Comrade Weis, condemning the policy of France and Belgium in the occupied territory. Comrade Bondas, the rapporteur, discussing recent developments in Germany, made the following remark: "Today no one feels the slightest doubt that the French and Belgian governments care little or nothing for reparations, their real object being the dismemberment of Germany. But this means the victory of reaction in Germany, and the destruction of the Socialist and trade union organization. There cannot fail to be corresponding retrogression in every other country of Europe."

The opinion expressed by Bondas, that the Separatist movements have been aided by French, and probably also by Belgian money, is reflected in the resolution adopted, which calls for an immediate inquiry into the proceedings of the Belgian military authorities in the Rhineland, and the intervention of some of these authorities, especially those of Duisburg and Aix-la-Chapelle in favor of the Separatists. The resolution further protests against any interference by the Belgian army in Germany's domestic affairs, and goes on to express the hopes that all the Entente governments will accept America's proposals for an inquiry concerning Germany's capacity to pay. The parliamentary groups were instructed to urge, immediately upon the opening of the parliamentary session, a debate on the policy of the Belgian government, and its attitude to the incidents which have taken place in the Rhineland.

SWITZERLAND

THE INQUIRY INTO PRODUCTION.

The first volume of the "Enquiry into Production" of the International Labor Office has just appeared. It will be remembered that this inquiry was instituted during the June session of the Governing Body of the International Labor Office in the year 1920, at the suggestion of the Italian employers' delegate Pirelli.

Instructions were given that in this inquiry attention should be focussed upon those elements of labor, such as the 8-hour day, the abolition of piece-work in certain countries, etc., which might affect the shortage of production prevailing at that time, a special study being made of such factors as are directly related to the decline in production, such as the difficulty of obtaining raw materials, and other difficulties connected with transport, rates of exchange, credit, and the securing of markets for goods.

The inquiry will appear in four volumes in the French language, and, in summarized form, also in the English and German languages. The first volume will deal mainly with the origin of the inquiry, the difficulties encountered, and the various controversies to which the theme gives rise. The second volume is in the hands of the printers, and the third and fourth volumes will appear in the course of a few months.

Unemployment in European Countries

During the summer months there has been a certain decrease in unemployment, which in the case of some countries has been very marked. With the approach of colder weather, however, this decline has come to an end, and the usual winter increases in unemployment have set in.

In comparison with last year, there is in nearly all countries (with the exception of Germany) a notable decline of unemployment. In some countries the unemployment figures are even approximating to the pre-war percentage; or, to use the official phraseology of several countries, it is "normal" again. But in this connection it must be borne in mind that unemployment benefit has been greatly restricted in every country, so that the names of those unemployed who have been deprived of benefit no longer appear in the unemployed lists. It must, on the other hand, be admitted that statistics of unemployment are in general much more accurate and comprehensive than before the war.

The fall in the value of the Belgian franc has apparently caused a great revival of Belgian industry. The total number of unemployed persons was on September 1st, 12,368 or 1.9 per cent of the number insured against unemployment, as compared with 2.2 per cent in August, and 4.4 per cent in the same month of 1922. This improvement is also due in part to the extensive migration of Belgian workers to Northern France, a migration which is great enough to give rise to lively complaints of a shortage of labor among Belgian employers.

In France, also, the economic situation is highly satisfactory. Exact statistics of the unemployed are unavailable, but in January, 1923, the number of unemployed persons receiving benefit was 2,665, while in September it was only 1,363. In the same month in 1922 the number was 2,800.

In Holland there has been but little change in the labor market during the last few months. On October 13, 1923, the number of totally unemployed persons on the registers of municipalities with over 5,000 inhabitants was 47,147. There were also 35,074 registered persons applying for work, who were only partially unemployed. On September 15, these numbers were respectively 47,683 and 33,429. On September 1st, the percentage of persons insured against unemployment was 9.9 per cent totally unemployed, and 3 per cent partially unemployed. On October 1st these percentages were 10.2 and 2.9 respectively. In October, 1922, the total percentage was 8.4 per cent.

In Italy there has been a steady decrease in unemployment since the beginning of this year. The number of unemployed was on January 1, 381,968, in May, 243,928, and on July 31, 231,590. The decrease is most marked in agriculture.

In Great Britain on January 1st, 1923, the number of unemployed members of trade unions was 165,342, or 13.7 per cent of the total membership. In September this number had fallen to 129,245, or 11.4 per cent. In October 1922, the number was 180,589 or 14 per cent un-

employed trade union members. The total number of unemployed in Great Britain was on October 1st, 1923, 1,285,000 (of whom 865,000 were men) or 11.4 per cent as compared with 12.2 per cent in the same month of the preceding year. On October 22, 1923, there were 1,249,500 registered unemployed.

The number of unemployed in Poland, exclusive of the former Prussian territory and Eastern Galicia, was at the end of May, 87,000, against 120,000 at the beginning of the year, and 128,916 in the same month of the previous year.

In Denmark there were 20,754 registered unemployed at the end of October as compared with 33,000 in the same month of the previous year. The percentages were as follows: September, 1923, 7.4; January, 1923, 21.5; September, 1922, 10.6 per cent.

In Norway the number of unemployed increased in September by 3,000; on October 10 it was 12,540, as compared with 9,880 on September 10, and 7,600 or 6.4 per cent on August 10. In October, 1922, there were 21,400 registered unemployed. There were also 7,000 persons engaged in relief work in October, against 12,500 in the same month of the preceding year.

For Sweden the figures are even more satisfactory. At the end of September there were 11,009 members of trade unions unemployed, or 8.7 per cent, as compared with 21.4 per cent at the beginning of the year, and 34.9 per cent in January, 1922.

In Switzerland unemployment has been gradually decreasing for months past. The number of totally unemployed was in April, 35,512; in August, 22,554, and at the end of September, 22,830. The numbers of partially unemployed were in the same months 17,767, 13,507 and 14,422 respectively.

In respect of Czechoslovakia, exact statistics are only available concerning the number of unemployed persons receiving benefit either directly from public funds or indirectly through the employers. On September 15th, 67,000 persons were receiving benefit from public funds, and 41,700 from employers. But these figures do not give an idea of the real number of unemployed, which is estimated at about 300,000.

In Austria, too, unemployment is steadily declining. Whereas at the end of March, 1923, there were still 152,828 registered unemployed, at the end of July there were only 87,349, at the end of September, 79,556, and in the middle of October, 77,923.

In Germany the development is in the reverse direction. The official reports of the Ministry of Labour Gazette show that the industrial situation is changing for the worse in every branch of industry. The number of totally unemployed persons in receipt of benefit on October 15th was 660,788, and the number of those employed on short time work was 1,375,499. It is to be feared that these figures will get higher during the next few months.

According to the official figures, the number of unemployed persons in 52 towns of Russia at the beginning of May, 1923, was 443,000, or 14 per cent more than in the previous month.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES

A Timely Warning

The growth of our educational activities can be seen from the interest shown in them by officers and active members of our out-of-town local unions. From almost every city where we have local unions come requests for the organization of educational activities.

It was natural that our work should start in New York, where the majority of our members reside, and where also intellectual and physical facilities are more readily available. But this was always done with a view to spreading these activities in the "country"—in other cities where our members reside. We were, however, awaiting the time when they would be ready for it. It seems as if this opportunity is now with us. Our members will be glad to know that educational activities have been started in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Boston and Worcester.

In all of these cities, joint educational committees of our local unions have been formed, and our Educational Department conducts educational activities through these committees.

It is opportune to warn those in charge of our activities in the above-mentioned cities not to anticipate that great numbers will be attracted by our activities. This should not be

taken to mean that we intend to limit the attendance. On the contrary, we wish all our members to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered them by our International Union. But this is a warning against undue optimism, against expecting great numbers to respond suddenly to our educational activities.

No adult group in society, whether it belongs to the middle or the professional class, displays too much eagerness to study, and the adult worker is not exempted from this general rule. And if those in charge of our educational activities will take cognizance of this truth, it will save them unnecessary disappointment.

Those who plan workers' education should do it with a view of expecting many and keeping the doors wide open for every worker. But they must keep the truth in mind, that comparatively few will respond—those who are blessed with energy and intellectual curiosity. They should also bear in mind that the educational activities within the trade unions are of recent origin. Workers' education is in a pioneer condition. For its success, we must peer into the future, and our vision must inspire us to carry on this work despite apathy and indifference on the part of some.

MAX LEVIN WILL LECTURE ON THE AIMS AND PROBLEMS OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT FOR OUR MEMBERS IN PHILADELPHIA

Max Levin will lecture on the Aims and Problems of the American Labor Movement for our members in Philadelphia on Fridays, December 7 and 14. The purpose of this series is to study the underlying principles of the Labor Movement; its aims, methods and forms of organization—the Labor Movement as a factor in the political and economic life of the country. In this series will be included a brief study of the I. L. G. W. U.; its development, aims, methods and problems; its place in the American Labor Movement; its place in the A. F. of L.

PROFESSOR H. OVERSTREET WILL LECTURE AT OUR UNIVERSITY THIS SUNDAY A. M.

Professor H. Overstreet will start his course on the Foundations of Modern Civilization this Sunday morning at 10:30 o'clock, at our Workers' University, Washington Irving High School, 16th Street and Irving Place, Room 529. This course, which consists of six lessons, will be continued on Sunday mornings, at the same place and time.

Admission free to the members of the I. L. G. W. U.

A COURSE ON AMERICAN CIVILIZATION BY H. ROGOFF BEGINS SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 16

H. Rogoff will give a course, in Yiddish on Civilization in America. The course will be given on Sunday mornings at 11 o'clock. The first introductory lesson will take place on Sunday morning, December 16, at 175 East Broadway. This course was specially prepared for our members, and it will be a discussion of what we understand of the life of this country and its material and spiritual condition. The lecturer will stress the fact that to understand the development of the civilization of a country we must have some knowledge of the growth and developments of its industries, of its political institutions and social tendencies, and of its spiritual achievements. The object of this course is to acquaint the student with these phases of the life of the American nation.

The course will be divided into three parts consisting of five lessons each: 1. The Europeans in America. 2. The Economic and Political Development of the U. S. 3. The Cultural Development of the U. S.

Admission is free to the members of the I. L. G. W. U.

Weekly Calendar

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

Room 529

Saturday, December 8

- 1:30 p. m. Bird Stair—Social Forces in Contemporary Literature. John Galworthy, the tenderhearted humanitarian, appalled by the gulf between the classes.
2:30 p. m. David J. Sapos—American Labor in Modern Civilization—Economic Attempts of Labor to Reorganize the Existing System.

Sunday, December 9

- 10:30 a. m. H. A. Overstreet—Foundations of Modern Civilization—Advances in the Practical Arts: Its Significance.
11:30 a. m. H. J. Carman—Political and Social Institutions in Modern Civilization—The Era of Social Control.

UNITY CENTERS

Monday, December 10

- Harlem Unity Center—P. S. 171
1034 Street near Fifth Avenue, Room 406
8:30 p. m. Margaret Daniels—Trade Unionism in the United States—The growth of modern industry and the resulting expansion of labor unions.

Lower Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 43

- Brown Place and 135th Street, Room 305
8:30 p. m. Sylvia Kopald—Economics and the Labor Movement—The production of human want satisfaction.

Tuesday, December 11

- Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 61
Crotona Park East and Charlotte Street, Room 511
8:45 p. m. Sylvia Kopald—Economics and the Labor Movement—The distribution of human want satisfaction.

Wednesday, December 12

- East Side Unity Center—P. S. 63
4th Street near 1st Avenue, Room 404
9:00 p. m. A. L. Wilbert—Modern Economic Institutions—Labor and the Bank.
English is taught for beginners, intermediate and advanced students, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

EXTENSION DIVISION RUSSIAN

Friday, December 7

- Russian-Polish Branch—315 E. 10th Street
8:30 p. m. K. M. Oberuchoff—Cooperative Organizations—The importance of the cooperative movement to the workers and the place it will occupy in the trade movement.

YIDDISH

Saturday, December 8

- Local 9—228 Second Avenue
1:00 p. m. Max Levin—Modern Economic Institutions.

ENGLISH

Thursday, December 13

- Local 17—Reefer Makers' Educational Center
142 Second Avenue
6:00 to 8:00 p. m. Mr. Goldberg will instruct in the English language.

YIDDISH

Sunday, December 16

- Forward Building, 175 E. Broadway
10:30 a. m. H. Rogoff—American Civilization.

Friday, December 7

- 8:00 p. m. Concert and Meeting to Celebrate the Reopening of the Educational Season of the Cloak Finishers' Union, Local 9, Stuyvesant High School.
Labor Lyceum, 219 Sackman Street, Brooklyn
8:00 p. m. Rehearsal I. L. G. W. U. Chorus. Members of the International are invited.

OUT-OF-TOWN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

BALTIMORE

YIDDISH

Tuesday, December 18

- 8:00 p. m. N. B. Fagin—How to Understand the Social and Economic History of the United States.

CHICAGO

Monday, December 10

- Office of Joint Board, 328 W. Van Buren Street
8:00 p. m. Arthur W. Kornhauser—Social Psychology.

Wednesday, December 12

- Lawson School, 1256 S. Homan Avenue
7:30 p. m. English.
Thursday, December 13
Office of Joint Board, 328 W. Van Buren Street
8:00 p. m. Paul M. Douglas—Labor in Modern Economic Society.

Friday, December 14

Sabin School, 2216 Hirsch Avenue.

- 8:00 p. m. Gymnasium work.

CLEVELAND

Monday, December 10

- Office of Joint Board, 203 Superior Building.
8:00 p. m. E. L. Oliver—Aims, Problems and Tactics of the American Trade Union Movement, with Special Reference to the I. L. G. W. U.

PHILADELPHIA

YIDDISH

Friday, December 7 and 14

1035 Spruce Street.

- 7:45 p. m. Max Levin—Aims, Problems and Tendencies of the American Labor Movement.

ALL LECTURES IN ENGLISH UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.

The Autocracy of Judges

By NORMAN THOMAS

Labor has cause to be interested in the case of Comptroller Craig of New York City, who at the present time seems likely to spend sixty days in jail for contempt of court.

One can see some reason for giving a judge a right to punish men for what is called contempt of court. For instance, if a man refuses to testify in a trial or raises a disturbance in a court room, or flouts disobey an order of the trial judge, he does impede the course of Justice.

But Mr. Craig did none of these things. As a fiscal officer of the City of New York he was directly concerned in the affairs of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company which went into bankruptcy. The city was a partner of the company. Judge Mayer of the Federal Court was the man before whom the bankruptcy proceedings were brought. Mr. Craig charged him with preventing the city administration from getting certain information concerning the affairs of the B. R. T. This charge Judge Mayer ruled was untrue and constituted contempt of court. Whereupon he sentenced the Comptroller of the city to jail. Mr. Craig took various appeals. But the end of the matter is that the Supreme Court has upheld his conviction although Chief Justice Taft expressed certain sympathy for him because his lawyers took the wrong technical course.

It is not often that so clear a case of judicial tyranny comes to light or one which creates so dangerous a precedent. It was emphatically Mr. Craig's business to protect the city's business in bankruptcy proceedings. If he made false charges against

Judge Mayer in the course of his work the judge should have been allowed to sue for criminal libel. If an appointed judge can imprison an elected official for criticizing him—even falsely—criticizing him—without recourse to jury trial, a judicial tyranny of the first magnitude is set up. In this particular case Judge Mayer was plaintiff, judge and jury.

The odious character of such tyranny is emphasized if even the Supreme Court is unable to bring relief because the victim's lawyer has followed the wrong technical procedure. Justice Taft has added one more to the lengthy list of decisions which write him down as serving the people worse in his present position of Chief Justice than even in his unsatisfactory work as President of the United States. As usual, Justice Holmes upheld the doctrine which a layman might reasonably when he said: "Unless a judge while sitting can lay hold of any one who ventures to publish anything that tends to make him unpopular or belittle him, I cannot see what power Judge Mayer had to touch Mr. Craig." But as usual Justice Holmes is in the minority.

There is this silver lining to the cloud. Such high-handed acts as Judge Mayer's and such extraordinary subversion to the technicalities of law rather than justice as characterizes the majority of the Supreme Court may tend to make the American people think seriously and act vigorously on the whole matter of the encroachment of the judiciary on the rights of the people. This is a matter of particular importance to the labor movement.

РУССКО-ПОЛЬСКИЙ ОТДЕЛ

Выпущены кандидат в члены Русско-Польского Отдела.

Отдел просит всех членов, имеющих имена или фамилии против неконформных кандидатов, предоставить поручить их в комитет секретариата отдела А. Саукина, на место 13-го Декабря, так как исключительная комиссия будет заседать в Четверг, 13-го Декабря, в 5 ч. вечера, в котором Деловой Журнал, 130 Нет 25 ух, Нью Йорк. Все кандидаты обязательно должны явиться в указанный день и место, а также иметь при себе членские книжки. В противном случае имя кандидата будет снято с листа.

Имена кандидатов:

А. Анисимов, Л. Андреев, П. Алачев, А. Борковский, М. Пашаутин, К. Бугорский, М. Волков, А. Воронин, А. Давыдов, Н. Давыдов, Н. Демьянский, В. Кавский, К. Кореньский, Я. Крамлюков, В. Ковчин, К. Красовский, Н. Марковский, В. Марковский, А. Мороз, Л. Новиков, В. Нарский, Л. Овсенко, А. Саукин, Г. Финский.

В Русско-Польском Отделе Давыдов Пашаутин.

В пятницу, 30-го Декабря, в Народно Дом, 315 Нет 10-4 ух, состоится генеральное собрание отдела.

Отдел будет обращаться и представлять с просьбой о помощи.

Был сделан финансовый сбор, данный \$3.30.

В порядке дня был прочтен протокол Исп. Ком. от 26-го Декабря, в котором рекомендовано посетить депутатов и в другие локации, кроме тех в которых уже посетили. В протоколе были и другие рекомендации, которые подлежат рассмотрению после работы должностных лиц на 1924 г.

Все рекомендации Исп. Ком. были приняты единогласно генеральным собранием.

Был оглашен годовой доклад секретариата. Секретарь подробно доложил в следующем порядке:

Был собран 22 членских собрания, из которых 20 состоялось, 2 не состоялось из-за низкой явки (пожаловало). Также было собрано 5 массовых мероприятий обсуждения положений, как в своей организации, так и в организации наших организаций, которые прошли весьма успешно. Также были приняты членские собрания в дискуссии и старались воздержаться в строгую форму, оставляя в стороне всякую личную и партийную сторону.

Состоялось 2 собрания Исп. Ком. на которых обсуждалось важное предложение в связи с индустрией и выносились практические рекомендации для общего собрания.

Был устроен 2 концерта, на которых было собрано \$187.85. Средства эти переданы для помощи сирот.

Далее секретарь доложил, что в истекшем году был устроен 10 митингов, которые были прочтены комитетскими материалами и опубликованы членами с большим вниманием.

Лекции читались на следующие темы: "Лекция членской массы", "Труд-Воспитание и политическое действие", "Политическое и экономическое развитие России", "Трудовой, его причины и меры предотвращения от него", "Важные вопросы рабочего движения", "Путь к власти", "Политическое развитие России" — для лекции.

Секретарь коснулся также библиотечного. Он указал, что имеется 17 новых читателей, которые читают книги с большим интересом и актуально возвращают их в библиотеку. Остала одна книга в том, что до сих пор не было возможности купить новых книг, которые будут куплены в ближайшем будущем.

Четко не хватает старых читателей, которых имеется 77, но некоторые из

них держат книги на руках уже по два года и их не возвращают. Причиной является то, что не удалось приобрести, или не получили книги. Некоторые не имеют возможности получить книги из-за большого количества книг, которые не возвращают.

Население политической работы, секретарь указал, что кроме записки в библиотеку, передала протокол Л. Я. и П. и в английской книге на русский, мы проводили расследование много членских жалоб. Он указал, что в 1922-м г. было в три раза больше жалоб различного характера, нежели в 1922-м г., в котором имелось 118, тогда как в 1923-м г. — 317 жалоб. Все жалобы расследуются в таком порядке:

Жалобы на членов и рабочих, 74; На индустриальных рабочих, 52; На устроителей на рабочих, 25; Выпущенные в жалобу комитет (Пашаутин), 53; Помощь в связи с членскими жалобами, 48; Финансовая помощь, 17.

Был выпущен \$210.00 и около выслан на посылку на 3 недели в предвидении.

Пытались в индустрии и неконформных мастеровских 35, на которых посетили 17 индустриальных и 18 неконформных.

После 6 индустриальных конференций на обсуждениях с тем, что проводится в индустрии и рабочие в индустрии, для того чтобы дать представление об условиях членов и том, что они получают, интересуются в членов, так как их жалуются с точки зрения рабочих.

Далее секретарь заявил, что если бы ему не пришлось посетить мастеровских и быть по делам дня в комитете, то нет сомнения, что жалобам увеличился бы в два раза, потому что часто члены жалуются в комитет и не выходят секретаря.

Но этого нельзя было сделать, так как часто получаются жалобы, что устроены и высланы членов работать в неконформных мастеровских и общности секретариата — стараться организовать их и доказать, что для их же собственной пользы индустриальные рабочие неконформных.

В заключение секретарь сказал, что можно было бы гораздо больше сделать в смысле организации неконформных мастеровских, если бы члены принимали участие в этом. Но была в том, что они не могут сделать того, что они делают в своем кругу, тогда как индустриальные, что они не могут и хотят как жалуются, что им не удается сделать, а им приходится на собрании и в других случаях, как начальство, за то, что имеются неконформные мастеровские.

При таком положении вещей, не только не удовлетворяет себя мастеровские, но еще больше развивается, и тогда только члены могут, что тем скорее они возмущаются дружно на работу, тем скорее их положение улучшается.

После доклада секретаря приступили к номинации кандидатов.

Секретарь Саукин отдал свое последнее место и передал кандидатуру в председатели отдела, объявил, что большинство не будет работать для дела организации, так что работа рабочих невозможно будет сделать, что ты работаешь на деньги а не на принцип.

Номинация прошла довольно успешно. Хотя в Русско-Польском Отделе по тем же причинам людей для должности, как для "критики", то все же в этом году достигаются больше интереса со стороны членов и организации, чем в предыдущие годы. Это доказано тем, что имеется 24 кандидата для выборов.

ВНИМАНИЕ!

В пятницу, 7-го Декабря, в Народно Дом, 315 Нет 10-4 ух, состоится заседание Русско-Польского Отдела.

Тема лекции: "Профессионализм и коммунистическое движение". Лектор — К. М. Обертин. Начало ровно в 8 ч. веч.

Brotherhood of Firemen 50 Years Old

Since Sunday, December 2, meetings have been held throughout the United States and Canada celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. On December 1, 1873, eleven locomotive firemen in the service of the Erie Railroad met in Port Jervis, New York, and under the leadership of Joshua A. Leach, started this great organization on its career of service to humanity.

The Brotherhood now has a membership of 118,000, who are enrolled under the banner of "Protection, Charity, Sobriety and Industry," the motto of the organization since its

beginning. Through the beneficiary department there has been paid in death and disability claims to the members and their dependents more than thirty million dollars. The order has in force \$150,000,000 in insurance, and its total assets are \$11,438,037.78. In recent years there has been established a pension, accident indemnity and funeral benefit department to further aid the membership.

To the locomotive fireman and engine hostlers this great institution has meant reduction of working hours, increase of wages, the dignifying of their toil, and improved conditions of health and home. It has steadfastly advocated a saving wage, because a saving wage means a comfortable home, educated children, self-respect and good citizenship.

Through its national legislative department, in conjunction with other organizations of labor, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen has advocated legislation of benefit to all the people. An investigation of such legislation will show an unselfish purpose in view. It will show that in practically all instances public safety, education and health are the controlling idea and purpose of their legislative measures. All bills considered by Congress to improve health conditions and the extension of educational opportunities in the public free schools have had their hearty support. The Federal Safety Appliance Law, that placed air brakes and all other safety appliances on railroad trains, was obtained by these organizations after ten years of struggle and sacrifice. Its approval is said to have been the last, official act of President Harrison.

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

By H. SCHOOLMAN

This Week Twelve Years Ago

Local 25 organizes an English-speaking branch of wait and dress-makers with Josephine Casey as organizer, and Molly Schepke and Jennie Noorsky as secretaries.

The New York Stock Joint Board decides that all labor prices for garments must be fixed by a joint committee of operators and finishers. This resolution was adopted after it was shown that in a great many cases the operators not only did not help the finishers to get better prices but forced them to settle at any price in order to rush the beginning of work in the shops.

The Italian members of the New York local organizes sections in all parts of the city. They elect an executive board and a press committee, which, together with the publishing committee of the "New Post," begins the issuing of an Italian publication decided upon by the Joint Board.

The Week In Local 10

By JOSEPH FISH

GENERAL

In accordance with the newly revised constitution, the election of officers will take place on Saturday, December 15, and obligation of officers will take place the following Saturday. The Executive Board has therefore decided that the installation of officers shall take place on Saturday, December 22, at 1:30 p. m.

The meeting will be held at our regular meeting rooms in Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place. Among the speakers invited to address the members will be the President of the International, Morris Sigman; Secretary-Treasurer Baroff of the International, and Brother L. Feinberg, general manager of the Joint Board.

Aside from the obligation of newly elected officers, the members will have to vote on the next convention city. Secretary-Treasurer Baroff has sent in a communication to our organization to that effect, requesting that the results of the balloting be sent in not later than December 31, 1923. The two cities that have been recommended by the General Executive Board are Boston and Baltimore. The Executive Board has taken this into consideration and recommended to the membership that the city of Boston be chosen as the next convention city of our International.

Our installations of newly elected officers have been taking place on Saturday afternoons for the past few years, and we are not going to deviate from this procedure this year. We expect that the members will lay aside all matters and be present in large numbers at the obligation of their new officers, and listen to the addresses of Brothers Sigman, Baroff and Feinberg, which, we are sure, will be of great interest to the members.

CLOAK AND SUIT

The last meeting of the Cloak and Suit Division took place on Monday, December 3. In accordance with the revised constitution, it goes away with the branch meetings and substitutes the membership meetings, which, beginning with January, 1924, will always take place on the second and last Mondays of each month.

The meeting was a very well-attended one. Not only was this due to the fact that it was the last meeting of the Cloak and Suit Division for this quarter, but also to the fact that this is the last meeting of the Cloak and Suit Branch to be held.

The honor to preside at this last meeting devolved upon Vice-president Morris Jacobs, due to the absence of President Philip Ancel, who has gone to the country on a vacation. Brother Jacobs, although practically a newcomer in this organization, proceeded with the regular business of the union in a very efficient manner and quite a large amount of regular business was disposed of.

The minutes of the Executive Board which had accumulated since September were read and disposed of. In conjunction with this it is noteworthy that there were about sixteen requests for Judiciary Committees filed with the secretary at the meeting. In all of these requests the cases of the brothers concerned were read off at the meeting and not one of them deemed it advisable to take up his case on the floor and leave it to the judgment of the membership, but would rather have the case tried by a Judiciary Committee, with the exception of one case; i. e., that of Gottlieb Schiffer, No. 9052. This brother took the floor in his own defense.

The charge against Brother Schiffer was that he had intentions of going

in to work for Samuel Cohen, 114 West 26th Street, on a Sunday. This brother was stopped by a committee at the Lexington Avenue exit of the 28th Street subway station, and his defense before the Executive Board as well as before the members on Monday night was to the effect that he needed some money and went up to see a cousin of his who has an office somewhere on 25th Street. However, after the explanations of Brothers Fish and Dubinsky the decision of the Executive Board was sustained.

Brother Schiffer's case is only one of the many cases that appeared before the Executive Board in the month of September. The members will recall that the month of September contained the two Jewish holidays—New Year and the Day of Atonement, and since the organization had the experience that a number of cutters would want to go in on Sunday to make up for these holidays, the Board decided that for committees be sent out on these particular Sundays to apprehend all members who intended to work on those days.

The general procedure in these cases was that committees were stationed at all subway and elevated stations of the shop districts and those who were found getting off at the various exits were charged with working on Sunday, just as though they had been found at work in their shop. And until such time as these brothers will be able to prove their absolute innocence of the charge the penalties imposed upon them by the Executive Board will stand.

The question has been raised by some brothers as to the habit of some of our members of playing cards in the shop on Saturday, or any other game, for that matter, during the hours when they are supposed to be out of the shop. This point was very ably covered by Brother Dubinsky, who claimed that although some members who make this a habit may actually not be guilty of working, the Executive Board, on the other hand, has the full right to suspect that the man in question actually was doing cutting. Furthermore, it sometimes takes a few minutes until the doors of the factory are opened and the committee on investigation is permitted to enter the cutting department. By this time one may have the opportunity to put on his hat and coat and make it appear that he has been playing cards.

The Executive Board therefore cannot give any of our members the benefit of the doubt. Anyone who will be found in the shop at any time when he is not supposed to be there will be charged with working on that day, irrespective of what he may really have been doing, and a fine will be imposed upon him. There are a number of cases on record where men have been fined who were found in their shop, and their defense was that they were playing cards.

Another point that the members may question is the fact that some cutters are fined less than others, whereas the charge is identical. The explanation for this may be covered very briefly by the fact that the Executive Board judges each case on its own merits. One member may secure leniency for the reason that he has committed his first offense; another, that he has been but recently obligated as a member, etc. Others, on the other hand, receive heavier fines for the reason that it is not their first offense, and, as in the case of Brother Schiffer who was fined \$25 for being found in the neighborhood of the shop, it was mostly due to the fact that

Brother Schiffer's behavior in the shops where he is working is not to the satisfaction of the organization.

These cases that appear before the Executive Board are large in numbers and it took the Executive Board considerable time to dispose of them. The excuses offered by the men were various. The board, from its experience, had but one alternative, and that was to find these brothers guilty and levy punishment against them.

It is to be assumed from the actions of the members at Monday's meeting, that they fully concur in the action of the Executive Board, as not one of the decisions was overruled by the members.

The requests of all of the members who filed appeals for Judiciary Committees were granted, and the following brothers were appointed to serve in that capacity:

Ildore Reisman, No. 1300.
Sam Greenberg, No. 792.
Max Lippman, No. 3053.
Max Silverstein, No. 1470.
Gus Wolf, No. 3709.
Morris Gass, No. 9435.

General Manager Dubinsky then proceeded with his report on the activities of the office, and dwelt at length on the difference between the cutters and the other crafts in the shops. He mentioned the pressers who are members of Local 35, whose minimum is below that of the cutters. Nevertheless, the average wage of the presser in the shop is generally higher than that of the cutter.

The manager also mentioned the fact that the other crafts in the shop utilize their organization one hundred per cent. No operator or presser will ever give up any of his rights in the shop that he has gained through the efforts of his organization, whereas the cutters are generally the ones who forego the privileges wrested from the managers after years of struggle. This exists mostly in cases where double pay for overtime is not received, and various others.

This, Manager Dubinsky explained, is due to the fact that the cutters are in closer contact with the manufac-

turers and they are most often the ones who become soft-hearted when the firm tells them that they cannot afford to meet properly all union conditions. There is no such thing among the other crafts.

We hope that the cutters will take heed of Brother Dubinsky's remarks and utilize their organization to the utmost whenever opportunities present themselves for bettering their own conditions as well as those of their coworkers.

The new year is rapidly approaching and the cutters are again urged to pay strict attention to the matter of their working cards. All cutters having working cards have them stamped across to the effect that they are to be renewed at the beginning of the 1924. It is very important for the organization that we have as near a perfect system of working cards as possible in our local, as it will facilitate the work of the office in compiling records as well as following up shops where cutters are not employed.

It very often happens that a cutter has taken out a working card and after being laid off from the shop is neglectful in his duty to return the working card to the office. In looking over our records we find that the firm is employing a cutter, whereas in reality the cutter is out of the shop, and the boss very likely is doing his own cutting.

It sometimes takes quite a number of weeks until a controller or business agent is sent up to the shop to investigate conditions in it, whereas, if the cutter would have returned the working card, the office would have immediately been able to send an investigator to the shop to see if any cutting was being done and by whom.

The Executive Board, as time goes on, is getting stricter in fines imposed against members who fail to take out or return their working cards. And we believe that the members will take this as well as the manager's remarks into consideration and will adhere strictly to the working card regulations.

CUTTERS, MEMBERS OF LOCAL 10, ATTENTION!

Election of officers for the ensuing term will take place on Saturday, December 15, 1923, in Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place.

Polls will be open from 12:30 to 6 p. m.

Members must be in good standing and have their dues books with them in order to vote.

CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

Notice of Regular Meetings

WAIST AND DRESS.....Monday, December 10th
MISCELLANEOUS.....Monday, December 17th
SPECIAL GENERAL.....Saturday, December 22nd
at 1:30 P. M.

Special Order of Business: Installation of newly elected officers. Also balloting for next I. L. G. W. U. convention city.

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.
AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place