

"My righteousness
I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."
—Job 27.6

JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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SPRING

Rich and poor, young and old, man and woman—all welcome eagerly the coming of Spring.

True, Winter with all its frosts and blizzards held no terrors for those who could extract joy and gaiety from its rigors. Yet, everyone seems happy that Winter is gone. The dying season is still showing signs of struggle; it is tardy in departing and would still hold the world in its icy grasp if it could. But it is the last convulsion of an expiring giant. Soon it will be his turn to go.

The great outdoors is again smiling bewitchingly upon us and the heart smiles back in response. In the general process of nature's rejuvenation, man—in common with all nature's creations—is also being reborn.

The gravity, the dreariness of the wintry days are making room for a desire to live, for the beautiful, alluring joys of life. Apathy is in retreat, as if put to flight and shame by the Spring sun, and the human heart is filled again with new, strangely new hopes. The entrancing Spring breeze fills the heart with new longings, and where heretofore man saw only the dark and shadowy side of things, he begins to discover hues of optimism and springs of hope and promise.

The Spring winds exercise startling sorcery upon man and nature alike. Both nature and the human species discover within themselves under the influence of the balmy breezes new strength, new sources for fighting and progress. The idea of decline, the thought of let-well-enough-alone does not in the least harmonize with the life-giving Spring air.

No wonder most revolutions in our times have occurred in Spring. It would seem that when Nature is about ready to break the ironclad bonds in which it is held by Winter, the down-trodden and the man-with-the-hoe begin to stir and chafe against their age-old chains.

No wonder the holidays of Spring partake of the nature of the holidays of freedom! The tyrants of all ages have always feared this time of Spring when the forlorn, apathetic sentiment gives way to a fighting will to make life better and of greater content; when the enterprising spirit of man to begin life anew is at its height.

And never, in all the history of mankind, was this spirit, this will of steel to dare and do more urgent than now.

For, while many a thing in our lives may appear good upon the surface, they are thoroughly turpid at heart. The moral rot fairly stifles the soul. Our reputedly best and noblest institutions are in their essence nests of corruption and vice. Even the truth under the banner of which many are coquetting, is a mere mask for lies and deceit. Our so-called morality is another mask for a tribe of profligates. Very frequently the person among us who pretends to be the acme of virtue is the filthiest, and of the sinning the most sinful.

But the Spring calls to mankind: Enough! To live as you have lived until now, to wallow in the mire as heretofore, is to condemn yourself to the eternal stagnation of Winter. It will spell your inevitable decline. You must get together every atom of your resistance and remove the death-bearing rot from your midst. Banish the prejudice, the inheritance of an old and dark age which keeps you bound hand and foot. Have the courage to reevaluate old standards which in the past you have held as either unquestionably good or bad.

It is Spring. How beautiful and enchanting is nature reborn! Why make life ugly by dragging it out in the old stupid, meaningless ways?

See how everything is stocking up with new and fresh strength; see how everything strives for a revival. Why not you, too?

S. Y.

Union Health Center Dance

A week from next Saturday, on March 29, the first annual ball of the Union Health Center will take place at the 71st Regiment Armory, 34th street and Fourth avenue.

This ball from all indications is bound to be an unusually interesting affair. The most active representatives of the labor movement in New York City and all the active workers of the International locals in Greater New York have promised to attend.

Remember, it is the duty of all of us to make this undertaking of the Union Health Center a success in every sense of the word. Do not forget that it is our own Health Center, a place to which we turn in time of need, an institution that we are obliged to generously support.

Cloak Manufacturers Ready to Confer With Union

Jobbers' Association, Wednesday, March 26

President Sigman received this week from all three employers' associations in the cloak industry of New York to whom he forwarded last week invitations to begin conferences on the renewal of the agreements in the trade which expire at the end of next June.

The Union sent letters to each association individually, namely the Cloak Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective Association, the Merchants Ladies' Garment Association, and the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association. Their replies state that they accept the invitation of the Union and that they are ready to confer with the representatives of our organization. Vice-president Israel Feinberg, manager of the Joint

Board of the Cloakmakers' Union, is now arranging with each association separately for the final preparation of these conferences.

The Merchants Ladies' Garment Association, like jobbers, in their reply suggest Wednesday, March 26, as the date for the first meeting. President Sigman accepted this suggestion and the meeting with the jobbers has been definitely set for that date.

The letters of acceptance of the Union's invitations were signed as follows: for the Protective Association, by George Jablow, chairman; for the Merchants Ladies' Garment Association, by Secretary V. A. Beronio; for the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association, by President Charles M. Sassman.

Boston Dress Strike Settled

Secretary Baroff Succeeds in Reaching Agreement With the Boston Dress Employers—Union Scores Excellent Gains

Last Tuesday at a final conference between a committee of the Boston Dress Manufacturers' Association and the settlement committee of the Boston dress strikers headed by Secretary Baroff, the strike in the dress trade of that city which has lasted nearly three weeks came to an end. Both sides reached an agreement and, as these lines are being written, the workers are returning to the shops.

The principal demand of the Boston strikers was a 40-hour week to consist of five days. The employers unconditionally rejected this demand and insisted upon the retention of the old terms. Under the terms of the new agreement, the work hour has been reduced to 42 per week, distributed over a five-day week. The strike committee accepted the settlement unanimously and the workers approved it

subsequently at a big meeting in Paine Memorial Hall.

The leaders of the Boston strike were Vice-president Fred Monomon, Brother Israel Lewin, manager of the Dress and Waistmakers' Union, Local 49, and Harry Frank, business agent of the local. The members of the Boston Joint Board and the strike committee of the local loyally cooperated with them in the strike.

Secretary Baroff's handling of the negotiations with the employers during the last six days of the strike contributed materially to its settlement. Brother Baroff held several conferences with the employers at Mayor Curley's office in Boston in an endeavor to straighten out the issues of the fight. He finally succeeded in bringing the strike to an end and his skillful handling of the negotiations was heartily appreciated by all the members of our Boston organization.

Tuckers, Hemstitchers and Pleaters Out in General Strike

Demand 40-Hour Week and Uniform Wages and Work Standards

The strike of the tuckers, hemstitchers and pleaters and other workers in novelty shops who supply the cloak and dress trades in New York, was finally called on Thursday morning, March 20. The recently organized union in the novelty trade, Local 41, has conducted a vigorous drive among the workers for several months under the supervision of Vice-president Halperin and Organizer J. Goldstein, who was especially assigned by the International for this work. Shop and general meetings were held nightly in the district where the novelty shops are located, mobilizing every man and woman in the trade for the coming fight.

As the preparations for a strike were going on, Vice-president Halperin learned that an association of employers had been formed in the trade who soon began to seek to negotiate with the Union. The negotia-

tions which started and continued for over a week failed, however, to result in an understanding for a majority of the employers in the trade and as a result the workers were called out.

At this writing, the reports are that the entire trade has been seriously affected by the walkout, as shop after shop is leaving the machines and marching down to the strike halls where they had been ordered to assemble. The strike is not expected to last long, as the workers are well organized and negotiations may again begin with the employers for a settlement. The principal demands of the Union are the 40-hour week to consist of five working days, a minimum wage scale of \$60 per week for tuckers, \$50 for hemstitchers, \$45 for pleaters and \$50 for general novelty workers. The Union also demands seven legal holidays and several other minor provisions.

Chicago Dress Strikers In Brave Winning Stand

President Sigman Returns With Good News from Chicago—1,000 Strikers Back to Work in Settled Shops—Cloakmakers Give Every Possible Aid—Every Dress Shop in the City Badly Affected—Employers Desperate and Seek More Injunctions—College Students on the Picket Lines

Last Sunday morning President Sigman returned from Chicago in excellent spirits concerning the state of the dressmakers' strike in that city where he spent several days in consultation with the leaders of the strike, visiting strike halls and addressing the meetings of the strikers.

The dressmakers are waging a splendid fight which is calling forth admiration not only among the workers of the city but which is receiving support from the best elements in Chicago, who are encouraging the strikers to fight to a victorious finish for their just and fair demands. Not only has every labor union in the city gone on record as favoring the cause of the strikers, but even a number of students in many of the colleges and universities in the Windy City have volunteered aid for the picket lines; many of them have actually joined the girl pickets and, together with the strikers, are braving the assault of the "private" police army hired by the manufacturers as well as the regular police and detectives who are as ever showing flagrant partiality in favor of the bosses in this strike.

The strike is proving daily to those dress manufacturers who still maintain an obstinate front that they are in a real fight such as they probably never anticipated at the beginning. But they are still obdurate, particularly the few who have the bigger shops, and they still repeat the old hackneyed vow that they would rather go out of business than deal with the Union. But in this fight they have against themselves not only the dressmakers — there are arrayed against them every man and woman employed in the cloak shops of Chicago who are giving their all to help their fellow-workers in the dress shops to win this fight for amonism in their

city. The workers in most of the Chicago cloak shops have already taxed themselves one dollar a week for the strike fund, no matter how long the strike might last, and the Chicago Joint Board is not failing in its duty to encourage the remaining cloakmakers to follow suit and do their duty by the strikers.

The number of the strikers who returned to work in settled shops is now well in the second thousand, which means that a considerable portion of the workers have already achieved their purpose and these will now support those who are still out to the best of their ability. Before the strike was called, many of the more haughty manufacturers in the trade insisted that "their" workers would not be affected by the strike. But even in these hide-bound shops the number of the workers who joined the strike at the first call of the Union is alarming for the "big" fellows. So now they are chasing around to every court for injunctions to prevent the pickets from approaching their factories and, as Chicago judges are inclined to be tender-seated to the pleas of these bourgeois, the dress district of the city is all plastered up with the injunction writs which give one the impression that a plague had struck that section, and the populace is being warned to keep away from the badly infected locality.

But these injunctions entirely fail to intimidate the workers on strike or to produce either dresses or strike-breakers for the strike-bound firms. Moreover, some of the workers who failed to respond to the first strike call are now joining the ranks of the strikers, disgusted with the bloody tactics of the employers and unwilling to be made a party to their brutal

assaults upon the girls. As far as the strikers themselves are concerned, these injunctions have only served so far to solidify their ranks and to hold them more firmly together.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS OF THE WEEK

On Monday last, March 10, the Citizens' Committee organized the week before, appeared at City Hall asking Mayor Dever to make an attempt to bring the strike to an end through a public hearing where both sides would lay the issues of the conflict before the public. The committee consisted of a group of men and women widely known in Chicago and representative of the best civic elements of the city. The Mayor listened very attentively to the committee and instructed Miss Mary MacDonnell, Commissioner of the Public Welfare Department, to arrange for such a conference without delay. The conference was called on Thursday, March 20, at City Hall, and Vice-president Perstein, the leader of the Chicago strike, sent notice that he would appear without fail.

UNION PAYS STRIKE BENEFITS
Last Friday the Union began to pay strike benefits, though the majority of the girls refused to make any applications for it in spite of the fact that the Union is fully aware that they are in need of it.

At a meeting of Polish workers in Schoenbren's Hall on Tuesday last, called for the purpose of discussing the dress strike, a number of addresses by speakers representing prominent Polish organizations in Chicago were delivered which enthusiastically endorsed the stand of the strikers and promised them support.

SIGMAN'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS
Before President Sigman left Chi-

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

By H. SCHOOLMAN

This Week Twelve Years Ago

After a week of striking in the shop of Manhattan and Kasey, in Perth Amboy, N. J., the firm is compelled to concede the demands of the strikers. It places the firm of Hensley, Teller & Co. on its unfair list. The committee is also instructed to use every means available to acquiesce the general public with the mean treatment this firm is according the garment makers it is employing.

A local of ladies' tailors is organized in Providence, R. I., which succeeds in concluding a union agreement with all the local employers.

Local 9 sends a committee to the New York Central Federated Union to ask that it place the firm of Hensley, Teller & Co. on its unfair list. The committee is also instructed to use every means available to acquiesce the general public with the mean treatment this firm is according the garment makers it is employing.

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"The International is determined to prove to the dress manufacturers of Chicago," he said, "that there cannot be autocrats in the dress shop who like despots dictate to their workers the conditions under which they may work. The dressmakers will fight with the aid of the International until these employers become convinced that this strike is not called out for the sake of satisfying a capricious whim on the part of anybody, but is a fight for the right of workers to labor under human conditions and under a system of collective bargaining. If these employers desire to conduct their business in a civilized manner, they will in the end have to listen to the terms of the workers."

and the General Executive Board.

Though no actual work by the Council is contemplated before the convention, it is planned to make this new central agency in the miscellaneous trades an active factor. Its particular aim is to coordinate organization work in all the smaller ladies' garment trades in New York City.

Joint Executive Council of Miscellaneous Trades Formed in N. Y.

Several weeks ago, we made mention in these columns of the proposed formation of a joint executive council of the locals in the miscellaneous trades in New York City. This movement, which was sponsored by President Morris Sigman, is not entirely a new one in our Union. Several years ago, a plan to form a district council in these trades was broached, but this plan did not materialize. The plan for a joint executive council, however, met with greater favor among these locals and, after several weeks of

conferring and discussion, it has now become a fact.

At a meeting held on Wednesday, March 12, the council was officially organized. Harry Greenberg, manager of Local 91, was elected chairman, and I. Bernadsky of local 90, vice-chairman. Philip Soldner of Local 6 was elected recording secretary, and William Sacks of Local 132 secretary-treasurer. Carl Grabner of Local 6, Minnie Chalken of Local 90, Edward Levy of Local 132 and Becky Levy of Local 91 were chosen as a

committee to formulate by-laws for the Council.

The temporary office of the Council will be located at 3 West 16th street. Vice-president S. Lefkowitz was instrumental in organizing the Council at the request of President Sigman

Local 25 To Nominate Convention Delegates

The Executive Board of Local 25, the Waistmakers' Union of New York, is calling a special meeting for Tuesday evening, March 25, at 7:30 p. m., in the Auditorium of the International Building, 3 West 16th street, to nominate delegates to the Seventeenth Biennial Convention of our Union.

The election of delegates will take place at another meeting the following week.

PRESIDENT SIGMAN TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF THE TEN DEMANDS

President Sigman will discuss some of the points included in the demands accepted by our Union for submission to the cloak manufacturers, this Sunday morning, at 10:30 in the club

The executive committee of the local is anxious to have as large an attendance of waistmakers as possible at these meetings. Local 25 is looking forward to the Boston convention with high expectations. The convention will be asked to sanction the final move for organizing the waistmakers of New York and the local should be represented at the convention by a strong and wide-awake delegation.

rooms of Local 1, 1581 Washington avenue.

This will be President Sigman's third discussion on the cloak situation. These discussions called forth great interest from our members who reside in that part of the city and hundreds of them assembled and asked questions which were answered by President Sigman.

Local 62 To Elect Officers Next Thursday

On Thursday, March 27, the White Goods Workers' Union of New York, Local 62, will have elections for officers, paid and unpaid,—a manager, a business agent, a financial secretary, and an executive board of twenty-one members will have to be chosen.

The same meeting will elect delegates to the coming convention of the International in Boston. Four polling places have been assigned for hallooting for the officials and convention delegates. Members of the local are requested to watch the daily papers for

announcements of the location of these polling places.

The present executive board of the local expects a heavy vote to be cast next Thursday. The coming election is as important as one has taken place in Local 62 in a long time, and the active workers in the organization are anxious that the rank and file of the members turn out and register their will with regard to who is to run the local for the next term and who is to represent it at the coming convention in Boston, from which Local 62 expects a great deal.

Have You Already Opened an Account in the International Union Bank? If You Are a Depositor in Any Other Bank, You Have Only to Bring Your Bankbook to Our Bank. We Will Do the Rest.

TRADE AND ORGANIZATION PROBLEMS

What the Next Convention Shall Do

A Symposium of Opinions

PAID AND UNPAID OFFICIALS

Dear Editor:

Did you ever consider the puzzle of a union member holding at the same time two offices—one that is paid for and the other unpaid? I have in mind members of executive boards in locals, unpaid officials, and to my mind the most important officers in our organization, who should have enough to do in being entrusted with the task of keeping the local together and maintaining a vigilant watch over the interests of its members, to look for other work in the Union.

And now consider the members of the General Executive Board of our International. They surely have enough responsibility and their task is surely big enough. They have to treat with problems affecting our industry as a whole in every city where ladies' garments are made. They have to be on guard over the welfare of tens of thousands of families; they have to carry out all the plans and decisions of conventions; they have to organize all the industries under our jurisdiction, and at the same time take care of the educational activities of our members and of the raising of their general cultural level. And if this be the case, I fail to see how the members of the General Executive Board can at the same time be the organizers and the persons to carry out the work which they themselves decide upon.

The 1924 convention ought to continue to make a change in this policy. We have developed a great deal since 1919; the International has reached a point where it is daily compelled to take close care of the lives of tens of thousands of persons. Let the delegates try to find a way to run this business differently than it was run in the past.

ONLY ONE LOCAL IN AN INDUSTRY

Our constitution strictly provides against two locals in the same trade in one city. This, however, is not being carried out. I suggest that either our by-laws be changed or that this point be lived up to.

That rule in our constitution, though adopted many years ago, was a wise one. It was put in there so as to prevent too much harmful local policies and useless scrapping. But in practice we find things are different. In New York, for instance, we have eight branches in the cloak trade—operators, finishers, pressers, cutters, skirtmakers, examiners, designers and buttonhole makers. Accordingly we should have eight locals in the trade, yet we have twelve instead. We have five operators' locals in New York, and there is no reason for it, as they bring harm instead of benefit to the trade and to the organization.

Local 1 conducts its branch meetings all over the city and there is no reason whatever for the existence of a separate operator's local in one section of Brooklyn—Brownsville. In Local 3, hardly a third of the members make samples; the rest are operators or finishers and there is no necessity for a local for these members. I do not have to say anything concerning Local 17. This question

has been dragging from convention to convention, and the readers probably still remember the referees that were brought to the Boston Convention in 1918 as exhibitors. The charter of Local 17 calls for children's cloaks, but everybody knows that by this time these children of many years ago have grown up and some of them are wearing size 48 cloaks.

The members of Local 48 are not entitled to a separate charter. They make the same cloaks as the other operators. They should be a branch of the operators' local but nothing else, just as the Russian-Polish branch is functioning. In general the "democracy" of allowing a local of 500 members to have equal representation at the Joint with a local of 12,000 is something the delegates to the next convention might do well to look seriously into.

S. ROTHMAN,

Member Local 1, Ledger 8014.

A REPLY TO BROTHER ROTHMAN

By M. J. ASHBES

Dear Editor:

In his second letter on "What the Next Convention Shall Do," Brother Rothman touches on three subjects: 1. Vice-presidents should not be organizers; 2. The dissolution of the four "duplicate" locals in New York; 3. Proportional representation for locals at the New York Joint Board.

I will not deny that Brother Rothman is theoretically right when he says that those who control the work of the Union should not be the ones who are doing the actual practical work. As a matter of principle I agree with Brother Rothman, that vice presidents should not be the same as general organizers. In practice, however, things run counter to theory very much; and you cannot adjust existing things to theories, you have to do just the opposite. Besides, there is a big difference between the small locals in the country town and the locals in New York.

In New York, where the movement is bigger and older, and where the material from which we might pick our organizers is greater, there may be talk of separating the controllers from the organizers. In the cities outside New York such a policy would be unthinkable as it would lead to either putting men of a mediocre calibre from those localities on the General Executive Board or being compelled to get second rate persons to do organizing work in these territories.

I am not at all, however, willing to agree with Brother Rothman's assertion that members of the General Executive Board cannot at the same time be capable of carrying out the work which they decide upon. On the other hand, they would say that if the members of the General Executive Board had to work all day in the shop, it would be physically impossible for them to do the work which he himself describes as so highly responsible and taxing all the energies that a human being can give to such a task.

It is not a fact that even in the big New York locals it is the manager who practically controls the work,

and who proposes new plans at the same time; that the executive boards only supervise the work of the paid manager? The same would have been the case with an unpaid G. E. M. which would meet once every three months and would have to consider what its paid officer had achieved during that period and, as a rule, to concur in it. It is not only the case in our Union; in every organization where the manager is an outstanding figure, the executive boards are serving only an ornamental purpose to sanction everything done by him.

I am aware of the fact that Brother Rothman is an opponent of paid officials in general, and if left to him he might introduce in the labor movement some other executive agency in place of the paid officer. But why be blind to realities and not see that the trend in the Union, in New York and elsewhere, follows an entirely different course? There was a time, for instance, when the Joint Board had no general manager and when its work used to be carried on by committees. But we later found out that under such circumstances the Joint Board was a slow moving vehicle and that important questions could not be solved with the members of these committees able to attend meetings only occasionally in the evenings. The business of running the Joint Board was therefore turned over to a general manager, for him to decide whether strikes are to be called, to take care of and discipline officials, to deal daily with individual employers and associations, etc., etc.

Subsequently, the locals, in the in-

terest of speedier and more efficient transaction of business, appointed managers. Local 1 having fallen in line too after hesitating for some time. The paid managers of the locals, together with the general manager of the Joint Board, are actually the executive directors of the cloak and dress makers' organization and Brother Rothman would find it very hard indeed to prove that an act of management was ever turned down by his executive board. On the other hand, these executives as a rule are always eager to preserve the dignity of such a manager, even if he commits a mistake.

I understand, of course, that it is the morale of the union that Brother Rothman is concerned about primarily. But to do this and to guard against the lowering of the spiritual level of our organization, we must keep the affairs of our organization constantly open to our membership and widely discussed by it. Let us abandon partial and one-sided treatment of the problems and questions that affect our members and our union. Let us discuss every subject on its merits and let us abandon the ill feeling which some are prone to display in the discussion of the problems that confront us. We have a general labor press and our own publications where we can discuss our affairs in the widest possible way. The taking over of most of the executive of our locals by the local managers has been a blessing for our unions and a means of accomplishing the good for our workers for which our organization was built.

Wages of Postal Clerks

A bill to readjust compensation of postmasters and reclassifying and readjusting salaries and compensation of employees in the postal service was introduced in the House on December 20, 1923 (H. R. 4123) and in the Senate on January 10, 1924 (S. 1898), and is known as the Edge-Kelly bill.

This bill adjusts the compensation of various classes of postal employees. However, the widest publicity is being given to the section which grants an increase in pay to the postal clerks and letter carriers. At present the maximum pay for these employees is \$1,800, with a rating of \$1,500 for "special clerks." The Edge-Kelly bill would provide a minimum of \$2,000 and a maximum of \$2,400, with \$2,500 for the "special clerks."

The bills in both Houses have been referred to their respective committees on post offices and post roads. The House bill was reported out on March 3.

In urging the passage of these bills their advocates point out that postal employees are "compelled to seek outside work after their daily employment and in many instances the wife and mother of children has been required to work in order to keep the home together. Many trained employees are leaving the service because of

this condition and in many cities the Civil Service Commission has been unable to secure a sufficient number of eligibles to take their places or meet the demands of an ever-growing postal service."

The postal employer's appeal also argues that in the last four years \$143,000,000 of the postal deficit was absorbed in the service by reason of granting postal employees a living wage would again be absorbed inasmuch as it is expected that the postal service will soon be self-sustaining and the business continue to increase.

—Federal Council Information Service, March 8, 1924.

Increased business, economies effected and the low wage scale of postal workers. The expense involved in

UNION HEALTH CENTER NEWS

On Friday evening, March 21, the last health lecture of the season will be held at the Union Health Center, 131 E. 17th street. Dr. Dorothy Becker of the American Health Control League will give a very interesting lecture on the subject of Birth Control and members of the International are all cordially invited to be present and bring their friends. The lecture will begin promptly at 8:30 p. m.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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Impressions of the Youth Conference

By REBECCA SILVER

The Youth Conference held at Bear Mountain on Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2, which it was my privilege to attend, was one of two delegates of the Students' Council of the Workers' University, was as unique and unusual a gathering as it promised to be.

There were about one hundred and fifty delegates representing thirty-two organizations ranging from educational groups in labor unions, young people's Socialist leagues, Women's Party leagues, Young Men's and Women's Christian and Hebrew Associations, to the Fellowship of Reconciliation, various church groups and Negro organizations.

Reading over the list of all these delegates, it seemed that the creation of a bond of common interest among all these groups was a rather doubtful undertaking, but I was completely convinced to the contrary after having spent twenty-four hours with them. Open-mindedness and a sincere search for the truth among all of them towered far above the petty differences in class, religion, race and

the principles of their several organizations. They soon came to one general understanding—that the structure of this society with the competitive system is all wrong—and they emphasized their common purpose of together effecting a radical change, first, by working out a plan for educating American youth to this new idea, and then working towards a change in the present order of things.

At the first session on Saturday afternoon, George Soule reported on the standard of living, giving startling statistics that had been collected even by employers' associations which showed that even the skilled workers in this prosperous country were not receiving a wage that made a standard of health and decency possible. Mr. Soule incidentally brought out the fact that the standard of living is considerably higher in industries under union control than in those that remain unorganized. The rest of the session was devoted to a discussion of this subject.

"The Human Cost of a Low Standard of Living" was the subject of the

Sunday morning discussion, which was led by Dr. Patty, a minister in New York City, who ably described the life of underpaid, working men and women and the price humanity pays for unjust distribution of wealth. These Christians, although they may not be Socialists, believe in socialistic principles in the name of Christianity.

The platform adopted at this conference, indorsed trade unions as the chief agency to raise the standard of living among workers, and the conference declared itself in favor of civil liberties, the child labor amendment, workers' education and many other progressive measures. No permanent organization was formed, but an executive committee was elected to continue work along these lines.

With the exception of the Communist delegates, who were disappointed that the conference did not readily accept their proposed program which included the immediate overthrow of the government by violence if necessary, all other radical groups including the young people's Socialist

leagues, the educational department of the Amalgamated, and our delegation felt very hopeful that this conference would be the nucleus for a great general movement to enroll the bulk of those Americans who are in such professions as teaching and preaching, into the fight of the working-class for a better world to live in.

WOMAN'S COMMITTEE TO AID NATURALIZATION OF WOMEN WORKERS

Under the old law, a woman of foreign birth who married an American would automatically become a citizen, entitled to a vote and all other prerogatives of citizenship. The Cable law passed in 1922 has, however, deprived hundreds of thousands of married women not born in this country of citizenship, and the Naturalization Aid League of New York, realizing the great importance for women, particularly women workers, of the right to vote, has called a conference of a number of active women to discuss ways and means of meeting the situation.

The women called upon met at the Civic Club and organized themselves into "The Woman's Citizenship Committee." It is the aim of the committee to enlist at least 500 individuals and organizations into the work of helping foreign born women to become citizens of the United States.

It is the aim of the "Woman's Citizenship Committee" first to apply to the Government Naturalization Bureau for a list of all newly declared citizens who are married and to get into direct touch with their wives urging them to follow suit. The committee intends to organize a number of classes throughout the city where women will be given instruction in English. The Board of Education will cooperate.

The Committee also intends to lend its support to the bill introduced in the House by Representative, Sabath of Illinois which proposes that any woman who herself might be naturalized and who is now or who may hereafter be married to a citizen shall become a citizen upon taking the simple oath of allegiance prescribed by the naturalization law without having to go through all the other rigorous and very exacting regulations of the law.

It is also proposed to appeal to the trade unions to help in a campaign among the trade union women of foreign birth who have failed so far to take out their citizenship papers.

Mrs. Harriet Stanton Blatch was elected Chairman of the Committee and Mrs. Theresa S. Malkiel, Executive Chairman. Lena Morrow Lewis is secretary. Miss Helen Stokes, Mrs. Frances Moss, Mrs. Miller, Finance Committee; Miss Jessie W. Hughan, Miss Mary Sanford, Mrs. Morris Hillquit, Mrs. Rose Kahn, Education Committee; Mrs. Alexander Kahn, Mrs. Jacob Panken, Miss Bella Cohn, Miss Evaline Hughan, Publicity Committee; Mrs. Adolph Held, Miss Rebecca Silver, Miss Olga Long, Mrs. A. Belloff, Miss Anna Dubrowitz, Organization Committee; Miss Sarah Volovick, Mrs. Anna Traup, Mrs. Bella Zilberman, Mrs. J. Orenberg, Membership Committee.

Three Things to Remember

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New Aspects of the Ten Demands

By ISRAEL FEINBERG

The more the demands which the cloakmakers' organization of New York intends to put to the employers ~~the cloak trade becomes known~~, the greater is the interest which they evoke. The interest, as a matter of fact, goes beyond the limits of our industry inasmuch as, in addition to attaining the immediate well-being of the tens of thousands of men and women in the cloak shops directly, these demands stress the point that the cloak trade has been brought to a parting of the ways and that the upheaval in work conditions in the cloak trade which the introduction of these reforms must bring about is bound to have an effect on other trades.

There seems to exist a wide difference of opinion on this subject. Some believe that the entire program of the Union is but a pious wish that cannot be carried out. Others say—and these are financially interested in the trade,—that the program of the Union is "against the interests of the industry and of the general public." President Morris Sigman has discussed these subjects very lucidly in a series of articles in these columns, but this of course has only whetted the interest in these demands among large masses of our workers, and the trade is all stirred up about them. Let us first of all enumerate these demands:

1. Limiting the jobber to a certain number of contractors or sub-manufacturers during each season.
2. The establishment of a guaranteed time period of employment in the industry, for which the manufacturers and jobbers shall be responsible.
3. The absolute right of the Union to examine all records which are necessary, in the opinion of the Union, to ascertain that the work is being done in accordance with the provisions of the agreement.
4. An increased minimum wage scale, this scale to become the standard wage in the industry and the only one which the Union will protect.
5. The establishment of a joint insurance fund for unemployed workers, to which the jobbers as well as the manufacturers shall contribute, and from which the workers totally unemployed shall be paid certain definite sums per week for a certain period of the year.
6. The reclassification of the finishers in the trade in view of the changes that have taken place in that branch of the industry.
7. The establishment of certain disciplinary measures against such jobbers or manufacturers as may evade any of the provisions of the agreement.
8. The adoption of a sanitary and union label to be used on all garments union-made and under sanitary conditions.
9. The formation of a labor bureau by the Union, from which the employers shall secure all their workers.
10. The establishment of the 40-hour week.

Such are the reforms which the Union proposes to adopt in the trade. Naturally there must be substantial reasons why we are demanding their enactment. What are they? Let us bear in mind the following situation:

The work produced by New York market is distributed among too many shops. On the face of it, this may not look threatening at all. It can be said that the fact that we have too many shops in the industry must not necessarily mean that work conditions in them are worse, if in all these shops the same work standards prevail. This, however, is not the case and the work conditions are not alike in all shops. Under the circumstances, nothing else can be expected. It is

well-nigh impossible to control such a huge number of small shops efficiently. In the small shops where the number of workers can be counted on the fingers of one's hand there cannot be such a thing as a feeling of class interests. A sense of intimacy is created between the employer and the workers, and the worker, knowing that the contractor who employs him is often pressed hard by his jobber or manufacturer, is just as often ready to help him in the belief that, if he does not, the contractor is likely to lose the work and the worker might thereby lose his job.

There are in the cloak trade of New York about 3,000 shops. Of these, 700 are manufacturers and jobbers who have no shops, so to say. In my mind, this number would be sufficient for the cloak industry if they were to employ their workers directly. At the utmost, another few hundred firms or contractors would be required to produce all garments for the New York market. In 1910, when there were about 60,000 workers in the trade, the situation was about as follows: The settlement was made with the Protective Association which at that time had only 75 members

and employed about 40 per cent of the workers in the trade. In 1912 the first signs of sub-manufacturing and the splitting up of the trade began to appear. Contractors of various types came into the trade and the number of shops began to grow rapidly. An interesting situation developed which has already been touched upon by President Sigman in his article.

Capital began to concentrate in the cloak trade and a group of big manufacturers and jobbers became its true masters. There is a large number of middlemen in the cloak trade, too many of these go-betweens, to be sure, but these are only the tools of the group in whose hands the big capital in this trade is now concentrated.

This was one of the chief reasons which caused the revision in the entire policy of the Union. This brought it about that the Union turned first of all to consider the problem of production control of cloaks, suits and dresses. An argument is being advanced that by attempting to limit the number of contractors to be employed by the jobbers, the Union is trying to restrain trade and commerce. This argument is largely used for the purpose of manufacturing adverse public sentiment against the demands of the Union. Nevertheless, this argument has no substance to it. Had the Union actually intended to restrain trade, it would have sought a way to limit production, which is obviously against the interests of the Union and its members. What the Union wants to limit or restrain is the ugly and injurious competition which is going on between the contracting shops and which breeds similar competition between worker and workers.

Again it is said that if the Union introduces these reforms, garments will rise in cost. We claim that the contrary is the truth. Today garments must cost more because we have in New York 3,000 cloak and suit shops. The cloak output of New York, however, can very comfortably be produced in 1,200 shops, and the cost of maintenance of these 1,600 extra shops naturally falls upon the consumer. Another thing,—in practically all of these shops there are as a rule two partners, and that means if we had 1,200 less shops in the industry there would have been in our trade about 3,000 persons less who produce nothing but derive profits as if they were a useful and integral part of the industry.

Little wonder that the demands of the Union have created such a sensation in all circles in the women's wear industry. These demands, indeed, aim at a fundamental upheaval in the trade, but it is an upheaval that will rebound to the relief of all those who are dependent for their living on the cloak trade.

RAND SCHOOL NOTES

On Thursday at 8.40 p. m., Mr. Joseph Jablonowicz will lecture on "The Drama of Social Conflict" at the Rand School, 7 East Fifteenth street.

Tomorrow, Saturday, March 22, at 1.30 p. m., Scott Nearing will discuss "What's Wrong With the Farmer," in his Current Events lecture.

At 4.00 p. m., B. Charney Vladesch of the Forward, will lecture on "An American in Politics," before the Saturday Afternoon Cameraderie in the Debs Auditorium, 7 East Fifteenth street.

On Wednesday evening, March 26, at 8.40 p. m., Willy Pogany will lecture on "Development of Art."

On Thursday, March 27, at 8.00 p. m., August Cieslenski is lecturing on "Sex and Society," and at 8.40 p. m., Mr. Herman Epstein will continue his illustrated lectures on "The Meaning of Music."

THE IMMIGRANT

None of my forefathers landed
On Plymouth's gray rock
Or helped to dump tea in the Bay.
None of them marched to the life
With Washington's ragged militia men,
Or fought under Grant or Rob Lee,—
None of them did.

As peasants they lived in Europe
East of—well, east of most everything shown
In your little old geography book.
They embraced the Faith from the Greeks.
Many centuries back
And they've kept it intact ever since—
Yes, they have.

And I wasn't raised as a boy
On a farm in New England or the West.
Nor sent to a little red schoolhouse
To be pampered by a kindly schoolmarm
And to be told to get rich
Like old Carnegie, Goulds, and them all,
And to honor the Red, White and Blue,—
No, I wasn't.

I was taught by hawklarked teachers,
Midst cruelty, ignorance, dirt,
And I still get confused
Between short English I and long e,
While my tongue will not twist for t-h.
For in boyhood I spoke quite a different tongue,—
Yes, I did.

To this country I came as a man
Twenty-five years ago,
And I promised the judge not to have
More than one legal wife at a time.
So he let me become a U. S.
And I helped you good people
To get what you need,—
Dry laws, woman's vote,
Good roads, a big tax on the rich,—
Yes, I did.

And I love this great country of mine,
With its forests and rivers and farms;
I love all her people, of all colors and creeds.
Active, progressive and kind.
No schoolmarm has drilled this creed into me.
I just learned to love common folks
By living and working with them,—
Yes, by gosh, so I did.

I know that not all is yet well
In this country of ours,
And that much is still here
That ought not to exist.
But I know in my heart,
If we push all together,
We shall get these good things.
Yes, I know this for sure,
You can bet your sweet life
That I do.

VLADIMIR KARAPETOFF.

—First published in *Trade Journal News*.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office, 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2148
MORRIS SIGMAN, President.
S. YANOFKY, Editor.
A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer. H. A. SCHOOLMAN, Business Manager.
MAX D. DANIEL, Managing Editor
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EDITORIALS

FROM THE CHICAGO BATTLEFIELD

We are using the term battlefield in this instance not for the sake of metaphor, but as the only word that can fittingly describe the state of affairs in the big strike of the Chicago dressmakers.

It is actual warfare. On the one hand are the city police and the numerous detectives from the State's Attorney's office supplemented by an army of private slugs hired by the Chicago dress manufacturers to harass and assault the women strikers—and on the other are these brave, fearless girls who despite mean and despicable treatment, and numerous arrests and handicaps are standing firm at their posts, not yielding an inch of ground to the enemy.

President Sigman returned from Chicago early this week enthused over the remarkable fight the strikers are putting up. In its principal features, the strike reminded him of the great battle the waist and dressmakers of New York had put up in the winter of 1909-10 which served as one of the main cornerstones in the foundation of our Union. It certainly is a strike that cannot be said to have been "provoked" by union agitators or leaders. The Chicago fight is one in which every one of the strikers is vitally concerned and which they are firmly determined to see through no matter at what cost or price. Neither prison nor assaults, nor any other form of intimidation or insult will halt them. It is a real war in which one side is using foul and inhuman methods of warfare, while the other relies principally upon its enthusiasm, faith in the justice of its cause and an inexhaustible amount of endurance to wear its enemy down.

No wonder President Sigman is so elated with the conduct of the Chicago strikers. It is a fact that there is hardly an upright person in Chicago familiar with the issues of this strike who is not on the side of the strikers and who fails to recognize their splendid fighting qualities. The fair-minded public opinion of Chicago is just as strongly outspoken in its condemnation of the despicable course of the manufacturers, but these gentlemen obviously belong to the thick-skinned variety whose hides are not easily penetrated by adverse criticism. The only thing they really fear is the prospect that sooner or later they would have to bow before the demands of the Union.

Meanwhile their calculations have all gone hopelessly awry. They first expected that their workers whom they had kept under the heel for many years would not dare leave the shops at the call of the Union. This they realize by this time to have been a sad mistake. Again they figured that if the workers did leave the shops they would come running pell-mell after a few days of striking. This also proved false. Another one of their hopes was that the dressmakers would fail to show solidarity and unity of action because of the differences of opinion on political matters which have existed in their organization. But even in this were they bitterly disappointed as the workers have displayed rare unanimity in the face of the common enemy and, having forgotten their recent disagreements, are now united in this strike.

The employers also figured that the dressmakers would be too weak to carry through such a big undertaking as a general strike. But they left out of the reckoning the Chicago cloakmakers, who are giving the strikers every possible assistance, and the whole labor movement of Chicago together with every section of the enlightened public opinion of that city. As a result, the strike-bound dress employers are being universally viewed with scorn and contempt while the more decent and humane among them have settled with the Union. At this writing about half of the strikers are back at work already under union terms of labor and the other half finds itself in an excellent strategic position.

The stubborn faction among the Chicago dress employers by this time know already that their battle is lost. Their stiff attitude is considerably weakened and as the strike progresses their ranks are thinning more and more. The workers, on the other hand, are becoming more energetic from day to day. They wage their strike with dignity and pride; they are the heroes of the hour in Chicago, and they have no more misgivings about

winning the fight even against the stiff-necked of their opponents, those who can stand the maximum of punishment.

True, they still have the police, the slugs and the injunctions on their side, but this savagery also has its beneficial side. The inhuman treatment of the strikers by the police has inflamed the strikers to resistance and an undying determination to win. It has also outraged public opinion which must in the end exercise some moderating influence even against Chicago judges and police officials.

MAJORITY OF LOCALS FAVOR TEN DEMANDS

Secretary Langer of the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board forwarded to us a report containing the announcement that until now the following cloak locals have accepted the new program of demands prepared by the General Executive Board to be incorporated in the new agreement with the employers in the cloak trade of New York: Locals 1, 3, 10, 23, 35, 45, and 82. Those which have not as yet adopted a decision are Locals 9, 17, and 48.

This information, confirming as it does that the majority of the most important locals have unqualifiedly adopted this program, will serve to dispel the impression entertained by some that the members in New York are decidedly not in favor of the program of industrial reforms. The majority of our locals have voted for full approval of the program. The imperative necessity of these changes and the weight of this approval is by no means lessened because occasionally we receive a letter or two dissenting from the majority opinion.

We deemed it necessary to call attention to this point so as not to allow the impression to remain in circles outside of our Union that this program is still to be adopted before it can become the fighting slogan of our organization.

It must be added, too, that even the locals who still hesitate to give their final approval to the entire program are only divided on the question of one standard wage scale for the industry which the Union would undertake to protect, but they are fully in agreement with the General Executive Board on the other nine demands.

Let it be stated that, on the surface, this demand for a single wage scale might appear to some as unfavorable to those cloakmakers who until now have been earning more than the minimum wage scale and whose higher wage scales were protected by the Union. They might be inclined to believe that the Union would do them an injustice to leave their above-the-minimum scales to the mercy of the employers.

That is how this matter may look at first glance, for those who would not look deeper into this demand, particularly as it aligns itself with the other part of the program. The fact that the majority of the locals have adopted this point is in our mind excellent proof of the high intellectual level of the majority of our cloakmakers. For there is no doubt that, had they failed to understand it in its proper light, they would have rejected it as something ostensibly opposed to their interests.

We have explained this demand in these columns more than once, and, in trying to elucidate it, we have, it seems to us, used every argument at our disposal. It is difficult to expect, therefore, that by repeating once more the arguments in favor of it, we might help to make the opponents of this point "see the light." We shall do it nevertheless.

We are firmly convinced that the specially skilled and fast worker will obtain a higher scale above the scale of the average worker even when this demand for a higher wage scale goes into effect. He will get it whether the Union will interfere in his behalf or not, whether the employer likes it or not. To be sure, as the minimum wage in general will be materially raised, the wages of that class of workers will even be proportionately increased above their wages of today. What concerns those who are getting higher scales as a matter of tradition only, not due to particular speed or ability, we believe that the policy of the Union to protect their wage scales at all costs was always an injurious one and one that eventually must lead to considerable demoralization. The Union has no right to extend to any individual worker its protection in the case of wages to which that worker is not entitled in comparison with the wages of all the other workers in the shop.

The fear that the faster and abler workers in the trade would suffer through the adoption of this demand is therefore entirely unfounded. Equally groundless is the fear of the average worker that as long as all the men in the shop will get the same scale, the employer might seek out the faster and abler workers and leave the average worker out in the cold. First, it must be had in mind that the number of extra-skilled workers in the trade is by far not sufficient to meet the production requirements of the industry. Secondly, should these speedy workers not get more than the standard minimum scale, we may rest assured that they will cease to be speed demons and will very soon adjust themselves to the average speed of the ordinary cloakmaker. Cloakmakers will not drive themselves to death working for mere glory. They will demand their money's worth and will get it, when the employer is in need of their speed and ability. We must not lose sight of the fact either that in this program of demands there is one which insists upon a guaranteed number of weeks of work for every worker in the shop, so that the average worker would not have to fear that he might be compelled to go idle on account of his speedier and abler neighbor.

STRIKE OF THE TUCKERS, HEMSTITCHERS AND PLEATERS

As the strike of the dressmakers is coming to an end in Boston and the battle still rages in the Chicago dress trade,

Union's Plan Only Hope For Cloak Industry

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

The program adopted by our General Executive Board for reforming the industrial evils of the cloak trade holds out the only hope for the women's garment industry to pull itself out of its present chaotic state. The jobber and the manufacturer should, for their own best interests, accept the Union's plan.

It is not a philanthropic impulse that makes the Union think so tenderly of the employers' interests. Nor is it a desire to make the dose we are going to administer a more palatable one that makes us insist that what we ask for ourselves is also the best thing for them.

It is for a far better reason than any of these that the Union, in deciding upon its program, took into account the needs of the jobber and manufacturer as well as of the worker. It is because the Union wants the industry to be a healthy one.

An industry that is rapidly being disintegrated; that is being disgraced; that is turning into a mad and unsuccessful scramble for money; that finds the quality of its product constantly growing worse, is a bad industry for a man to labor in.

WORKERS HAVE BIGGEST STAKE

The Union has a bigger stake in the industry as a whole than any other factor in the trade. The manufacturer and the jobber have only their money invested. If the industry goes bad they can get into another one. But the worker has his life invested. If the only industry in which he is a skillful worker goes bad, his means of livelihood is gone.

I go through this explanation to show that the Union knows the wisdom of not making any demands upon the industry which it would hurt the industry to meet; more, to show that the Union knows that a program which results merely in obtaining somewhat better conditions for the worker will in the long run do the worker no good.

Now, we, in the Union believe that our program is an approach to a solution of the fundamental evils in the industry—evils from which the manufacturer, the employer, suffers as much as, or more, than the worker.

PERIL AHEAD

We believe that, unless our program is adopted, the industry within a few years will be in far worse shape than it ever has been before, and that the jobber, who today believes that as a result of the present disorganization of the industry he is a gainer will find himself the greatest sufferer.

For, after all, what are the alternatives that face the industry unless our program of contractor limitation is adopted?

As I see them, there are two, neither of them pleasant for the jobber to contemplate. The first of them, a decline in demand for the products of our cloak industry, which I believe must eventually come about, will result from the evils attendant upon the skimping and faking that is more and

more being forced upon the jobber to meet price competition.

The second, a growth in the number of jobbers, will result from the peculiar ease with which one can become a jobber in the industry.

ARISE FROM SAME CAUSE

Now, skimping and jobber competition, the one present and growing, the other bound to grow, and both potential, if not actual, menace to the whole cloak industry arise from the same cause: Lack of regulation of the relationships between the jobber and the contractor, or sub-manufacturer.

Unless that relationship is regulated with certain definite ends in view, the industry is in for some disastrous experiences which will drag jobber, manufacturer, contractor and worker all down. Our program is the only attempt, to my knowledge, to provide a constructive solution.

I said that we are in for a period of declining demand for the products of the cloak industry. We are; we are in for a return, within the next few years, either of the inside shop or the ladies' tailor, or perhaps both.

For consider the anomaly presented by our cloak industry. At a time when the consumer is demanding better and better workmanship, we are turning out worse and worse.

PRESENT COMPETITION UNHEALTHY

Nor is there anything to wonder at in that. Competition in our industry is absolutely unhealthy.

Competition, price competition, is a necessity in industry, but in a healthy industry prices are lowered through increased efficiency, or greater turnover. The most efficiently organized unit in that industry, therefore, sets the standard and wins the trade.

But in our industry competition is based upon price alone and the price can be shaved only by saving on labor.

That is why we are turning out an inferior product. We are getting the price for it—we use good cloth, we trim it and decorate it, and put rows of buttons on it.

GOOD WORKMANSHIP LEFT OUT

In fact, we give our customers everything but good workmanship. Contractor A. does a job cheaper than contractor B., and to make a profit on the business he must skimp on the labor in the garment.

He skimps in sewing, makes as few stitches as possible without regard to wearing qualities; he skimps on the foundations of the garment and doesn't give his workers time to work out the buckram properly; in short, he skimps on every kind of labor, which, though concealed, is necessary if the garment is to wear well and retain its shape.

A garment so made can be, and is, sold cheaply by the jobber and the department store buyer, seeing what to him seems to be a good value, buys it. Now the buyer is guided not by

price alone but by the fact that the garment seems to be well made.

But when it gets on the back of the consumer, the tale is a different one. The lapels lose their original smartness, the sides bulge or sag, and sometimes the stitching doesn't even hold. To keep the garment in shape, it has to be continually pressed and, after repeated pressings, it loses whatever shapeliness it once had and becomes practically a rag.

CONSUMERS WILL REBEL

How long do you think the women are going to stand for that sort of thing?

You know, it wasn't such a long time ago that women who could at all afford it had their suits made by the ladies' tailor. They were induced to change to the ready-made garment because they found that in all essential respects they were getting as good quality, as good wear and as good workmanship from the ready-to-wear manufacturer as from the ladies' tailor and at a considerable difference in price.

But what made it possible to give the women a satisfactory garment during the early days of the industry?

It was the element of personal supervision by the manufacturer during the making of the garment. The work was done under his immediate care, he knew all about the garment and was responsible for its quality. So carefully did the old time manufacturer supervise this work, so excellent a garment did he put out that, within a few years after the beginning of large scale production of cloaks and suits, the ladies' tailor became almost as extinct as the dove.

CONDITIONS HAVE VANISHED

But the conditions that made the women of that time leave the ladies' tailor and get their garments in the ready-to-wear field are now non-existent. The inside shop has passed out. Instead, we have a system where the jobber, claiming to be a mere distributor, each year contributes more and more inferior merchandise, and where the manufacturer, so-called, has to follow the jobber's lead if he wants to retain his business.

Now, this is not a plea for a return to this inside shop. There is no point in trying to turn back the hands of time.

But it emphatically is a plea for the employer to realize that we must bring back that element which made possible the phenomenal growth of our cloak industry a few years ago; that factor, the absence of which is going to force the consumer to turn her back on our industry and go back to the ladies' tailor.

It is a plea that the jobber and the manufacturer, too, take thought and realize that he must accept responsibility for the garments he turns out and that he can do so only if he gives

out work to a few good sized shops which he is able to supervise.

QUICK END TO INDUSTRY

It is a plea for them to realize that, unless the conditions that make possible skimping and bad workmanship are done away with, the industry is going to be through very, very soon.

After all, it must be remembered that labor costs, union and non-union alike, cannot go below a certain minimum. Beyond that point, labor is not cheapened, it is merely eliminated.

The most disastrous after the contractor who can make up a garment for less than the other fellow, ends up in the finding of a contractor who knows how to eliminate workmanship, who glues a suit together instead of sewing it together.

If the jobber, who is now the biggest factor in the trade, wants that trade to be a prosperous one, he must take thought of possible solutions to the problems of the industry.

LIMITATIONS ONLY SOLUTION

Limitation of contractors is the only solution; certainly the jobbers can offer no other. For, if you limit the number of contractors you at once make it possible to demand satisfactory workmanship and proper construction of the garment.

Today, if a contractor is forced by the price he has quoted to skimp so much that even the distributor can't see it, what can the distributor do about it? Refuse to accept the garments? That doesn't help him because the cloth is there in his, and the garments themselves are practically his. If he does refuse to accept the garments, he loses more than the contractor.

He must accept them, possibly paying less than the agreed price. But what good does the saving do him? He has a collection of inferior merchandise on his racks that he must move. He cuts the market out from under himself.

All these evils arise from the premium that the manufacturer and distributor put upon the contractor skimping labor. If he gave out his work to a few large contractors, acknowledged that the contractor was in reality his agent, undertook to pay him enough to make a decent living and assumed the responsibility for meeting the labor costs, such conditions would be done away with.

MAY LOSE CONSUMER

The peculiar type of contractor competition that has resulted in the skimping would be removed, and the contractor would have every incentive to turn out an excellent garment for the jobber.

If the large factors in the cloak trade do not bring back the conditions that swung the women of the country to ready to wear, the retail buyer will begin to confine his purchases more and more to the shop where the employer really knows what has gone into the garment.

This the buyer will have to do, unless he is willing to stand by and watch the consumer leave the ready-to-wear department and go to the ladies' tailor.

Giant Power

another fight is breaking out in New York, the general strike of the new division of workers which joined the International in recent months, the tuckers, hemstitchers and pleaters.

As we go to press, these workers are leaving the shops. It is a comparatively young trade and the people employed in it are a young, vigorous crowd. They have not the slightest doubt that they will come out on top from this encounter. The International Union is with them. They are part and parcel of our ladies' garment trades and as such they are entitled to the same living standards and terms of labor which other workers under our jurisdiction enjoy.

This strike, as well as the preliminary organization campaign conducted among the novelty workers, is managed by Vice-president Jacob Halperin, the head of the Eastern Organization Department. The strike is in good hands, and we can safely assume that nothing will be left undone to make it a swift and sure success.

The Giant Power number (March 1) of The Survey Graphic contains an array of very significant articles for students of social problems. Robert W. Brucere, who conceived and organized the number, says in the introductory article that: "We are on the threshold of a technical revolution. Through high voltage transmission lines, the mechanical engineers are harnessing the rivers and the coal seams to electrical generators having the capacity of hundreds of thousands of horses. They are gathering the stored energy of the sun into reservoirs of power that compare with the isolated steam engine as a mobil-

ized nation compares with the minute man. The forces for good and evil latent in Giant Power surpass those ushered in when Watt's engine harnessed coal to the looms of England." Mr. Brucere states that the mechanical engineers have made great progress in harnessing giant power but he believes the human engineers are unprepared to solve the social problems which will arise as a result of the technical revolution. "Shall we," he asks, "by taking counsel together, seek to win the nascent blessing of the new technical revolution without turning loose its potential plagues?"—Federal Council Information Service, March 2, 1924.



IN THE REALM OF BOOKS



Humpty-Dumpty

Money and Foreign Exchange After 1914. By Gustav Cassel. London: Constable & Co., 1922.

By SYLVIA KOPALD

*Humpty-Dumpty sat on a wall.
Humpty-Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's scientists
And all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty-Dumpty together again.*

Even though Humpty-Dumpty remains a broken parody of a thing that once was, one can admire the brave and skillful attempts to repair him. Foreign exchange and the money mechanism on which it sat have tumbled and are still on the ground. Yet one stands in breathless admiration before so fine an effort to pick up the pieces as this of Professor Cassel. There is a real beauty in so well knit a structure of reasoning, a burning emotion in so severely cold an analysis of a sick patient by a doctor who loves him. Professor Cassel is truly an expert; his work is a most persuasive argument for the long process of acquiring skill.

No one has been more bewildered and aghast before the collapse of foreign exchange under the burden of the war than the men who used it continually. But Professor Cassel, accepting most of the fundamental premises from which they reckon, knew just what was happening. He analyses what happened in this book and writes a prescription. In that analysis he goes counter to many of the explanations: of the destruction offered by those most directly responsible for it. In his description he offers nostrums too unfamiliar and novel to win ready acceptance among the business and banking fraternity. Nevertheless, Professor Cassel insists upon declaring in his own field: "Now it can be told!"

For Professor Cassel is, as he points out, an economist. And economists, as he says again, face facts, "Facts," like charity, have covered a multitude of sins. But Dr. Cassel pulls no wool. He does face facts. Here they are:

By 1914 the giant tools of production developed through the Industrial Revolution had made the world an interdependent economic unit. China helped feed London, Alabama helped clothe Berlin, Baku helped heat Norway. Every year the foreign trade of the world amounted to about \$35,000,000,000; "foreign" investments recognized no national frontiers and an immensely complicated, delicately adjusted mechanism kept the wheels a-turning. That mechanism was money and foreign exchange.

In a profit system business men consent to production only when it pays. The standard in which they measure values is money. Money through a long development has acquired marked national characteristics. England's pounds are one measure; America's dollars another; France's franc, Germany's mark, Italy's lire, etc., still others. But England is an entity only in the political sense; economically she is a fragment. To exist she must trade with the world, and measure values in the multiple units of the world's money. But by 1914 most of the large countries of the world had adopted what

was known as the gold standard. The dollar represented 23.22 grains of gold; the pound 113. Therefore one pound was worth \$4.86. The franc, containing something less than 5 grains of gold, was valued at 19.5 cents. And so on. Thus the currencies of the world valued their various business exchanges in terms of the commodity, gold.

But, as Professor Cassel points out, the development of industry had brought with it a tremendous credit development. Practically no country had its total value of currency (notes, bank deposits, etc.) covered by its full value in gold. The law requires the Federal Reserve banks, for instance, to maintain against their deposits a gold reserve of 35 per cent; against their notes a gold reserve of 40 per cent. Consequently, what was ultimately involved in the foreign exchange rates was a comparison of the purchasing power of each country's money within its own boundaries. Traders want commodities—the purchasing power of money, not money itself.

Then came the war! Almost immediately every belligerent country abandoned its gold standard. Denials of this fact have been made repeatedly. But a gold standard involves not only the maintenance of paper money in a certain fixed ratio to gold, it demands as well the right to free import and coinage of bullion and free export and melting down of coins. The rights of export and import were immediately curtailed. The banks throughout the world hastened to maintain their "gold reserve"—as though the presence of gold imparted some magic strength to a weakened economic system.

But the belligerent countries wanted goods, not gold. They had to buy, buy, buy. And to buy one needs purchasing power at once. Since the government has the sole unqualified right to issue money and controls the bank's qualified right to issue paper money, what more natural than that the printing presses should be started on their busy turning. Money was turned off in huge volumes; this money enabled the government to bid for goods; the competition of this newly created money in bidding for commodities raised prices; the purchasing power of each country's currency fell; its value in foreign exchange fell. Thus the cycle was completed.

The effects of the cycle, of course, extended to neutral countries. In their attempts to capture belligerent trade, neutral business men extended long credits to the belligerents and supplied them with goods while their own people felt the pinch of want. The belligerent governments, controlling the gold supply of the countries, sent out huge shipments of bullion to replace the goods they could not effect in exchange for what they were getting. And so we witnessed the strange spectacle of Swedish paper money rising above its gold value and Sweden attempting to exclude gold from the country. Truly capitalism contained tricks in its crazy-bag which only such a Barnum as war could make it reveal.

When the war ended capitalism,

rolling down hill, continued to roll just because it was easier to go on to the bottom than to get up. Credits were extended further; the world, hungry for raw materials, bought extensively; more money was printed; the victors demanded impossible reparations; Germany attempted to get money by selling huge blocks of her currency to speculators; buying in German markets became as cheap to foreign money that Germany was almost stripped bare; the world collapsed. Our masters of finance looked on, scared and bewildered. The sum of the wisdom which they could bring to the problem was this: The way in must be the way out. Inflation must be cured by deflation. They deflated. Prices fell sharply, production stopped, unemployment and misery spread; the crisis of 1921 which broke the economic structure and the labor offensive rewarded their wisdom.

The details and the processes of all this, Professor Cassel sets forth in his existing, impressive book. To the government and bankers' arguments that scarcity of goods caused high

prices which in turn made inflation necessary he brings figures proving that abundance of money came first and was far greater than the scarcity of goods. To arguments that deflation of money followed the fall of prices, he brings statements from the bankers themselves proving how deliberately they "cut their" upon this policy.

Professor Cassel doubts whether the economic machine can ever return to its 1914 status. Nor does he see it necessarily. He advocates instead the stabilization of the exchanges at their present purchasing power parities; the tying up of all currencies to the pound and the dollar (gold exchange standard); the extension of United States cooperation to England and its aid to the world; the revision of the treaty and the balancing of budgets by abolishing war preparations, armaments, tariffs, revenge, hatred, etc. That's all, well, maybe it might be made to sit the light! The Morgan interests are helping France save the franc.

But Humpty-Dumpty is Humpty-Dumpty. Not all the king's scientists nor all the king's men . . . And why patch up Humpty, anyway?

Making Ford A Christmas Present

By NORMAN THOMAS

If any man in the country except Henry Ford had made his offer for Muscle Shoals it would have been laughed out of Congress. But Mr. Ford is a legendary figure, popularly accredited with almost supernatural powers and with a reputation for fair dealing with workers and the purchasing public. Page after page of testimony and editorial comment in favor of his Muscle Shoals offer boils down to this: "We trust Ford. He has made cheap cars. We believe he will make cheap fertilizers." (Most of this testimony is honest. Some of it we suspect comes from the swarm of real estate sharks who are responsible for a brazen speculation which would make Get-Rich-Quick-Wallingford look like a piker and a humanitarian.)

Now, if this extraordinary trust in Ford persuades the Senate as it has persuaded the House to accept his offer for Muscle Shoals, we might as well say good-bye to the hope of government ownership and operation of water-power. For Henry Ford's proposition means that to his corporation will be turned over for one hundred years one of the most valuable units of a public water-power system. He will not have to sell that power as public utility companies do. At the end of the hundred years his corporation will be in a privileged position for renewal of the lease. This means not only the alienation of an important unit of a superpower system but the establishment of a most dangerous precedent. It is a step backward and not forward. At present water-power cities are leased for only fifty years and the government has more control over the lessee than it will have over Ford.

The financial terms of Ford's offer are ridiculous. He will get outright some \$90,000,000 worth of property for \$5,000,000. He will pay on rent of various sorts for dams a wholly inadequate sum—perhaps \$250,000,000 for one hundred years. His supporters argue that if certain of Mr. Ford's payments are set aside at interest, eventually the government will be paid for its outlay. Which is to say that if Mr. Ford will sell one of his Lincoln cars for the price of a flivver eventually he can get full value for the Lincoln car by creating a sort of sinking fund out of the money paid by the purchaser. An interesting article in the New York Nation for March 26 will explain that the Associated Power Companies have made a better offer than Mr. Ford. It asks

only for a fifty-year lease. It guarantees \$0,000 tons of nitrate for fertilizers as against Mr. Ford's \$0,000. It makes better financial terms, offers to sell its surplus power instead of monopolizing it, and is under more effective government control.

We do not, however, think that the true choice lies between Ford's offer and another. Rather the government should develop the plant itself and make a beginning of the superpower system. If its engineers are good enough to build the dams and the plant, they are good enough to carry them on for the manufacture of nitrates and for the sale of power. If Mr. Ford is the disinterested public servant that his friends picture, he can accept service under the government to develop this power for the people. If, on the other hand, Mr. Ford is primarily interested in power conveniently located for the manufacture of aluminum cans and for other processes in his increasingly vast network of industries, he will continue to work for this bargain sale of government property to him.

At the very least, we should think that those who advocate the government sale of government property on his terms would demand that he guarantee his own immortality here on earth. Supposing that Ford himself is a superman and a disinterested friend of the farmers, is there any reason to think that his corporation, which is to have control of Muscle Shoals for at least one hundred years, will after his death act differently than any other corporation possessed of enormous monopoly rights?

If in view of these facts men still say "trust Ford," that is their business. But let them not forget that in saying it they are declaring at best for a benevolent industrial autocracy, not democracy, and that they are lining up definitely for private control of superpower.

THE GET-TOGETHER

The annual get-together of the students, their friends and teachers of the Workers' University, Unity Centers and Extension Division will be held on Saturday, April 5, 7 p. m., in the dining room of the Washington Irving Hotel, Schenectady.

Admission 25 cents. Make reservations with the Educational Department, 3 West 16th street, and spend a few hours in sociability and good fellowship.

LABOR THE WORLD OVER

FOREIGN ITEMS

FINLAND

THE TRADE UNIONS IN 1923.

The trade union movement of Finland has never quite equalled the Labor Party of that country in influence or significance. When the National Federation was founded in 1907, it had a membership of 25,197. This had however declined to 15,346 in the following year. The membership reached its maximum in 1917, the year of the revolution, when it numbered 160,695. When the trade union movement set about reconstruction after the failure of the Communist rebellion in 1919, they counted a membership of 40,000. At the end of 1923 there were 47,653 members, as compared with 48,176 at the end of 1922. The year 1923 was distinguished by important strikes and lock-outs, which affected some 70,000 workers. The attempts of the employers to cut wages were frustrated, but the workers only succeeded in raising them to a slight degree in a few industries. Unemployment has now declined and is not in excess of normal pre-war figures.

The trade unions are for the most part under Communist leadership, but they are not affiliated with the Moscow Red Trade Union International. In 1922 a referendum was taken to decide the question of affiliation with Moscow. As, however, only one third of the members voted, the executive decided not to affiliate, for fear of a disruption of the federation.

A separate secretariat has now been established for Swedish workers who are members of the Finnish Federation.

NORWAY

THE TRADE UNIONS IN 1923.

The report of the Norwegian trade unions for 1923 has just been published. It shows that, now that unemployment is declining and more workers are being taken on, the trade union membership is again increasing. During the year under review the membership of the Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions increased by 5,057, so that it had at the end of 1923 reached the total of 88,697. There were important wage conflicts during the year, and in view of the prevailing conditions, the general results of these may be regarded as satisfactory. Increases were obtained in several trades. The eight-hour day was maintained, and so were the summer holidays, which averaged about nine working days. The expenditure of the Federation in strike and lock-out pay is estimated at about two million kroner. The employers have refused to renew any of the collective agreements which expire next spring, so that the trade unions have to look forward to fresh conflicts. Progress is being made with the conversion of the trade unions into industry unions, in accordance with the resolution adopted at the last congress. Four industry unions have now been formed, but these do not comprise all the trade groups employed in the industry in question, as some of the unions refuse to give up their independence. More industry unions will shortly be created.

The question of industrial relations, which by the congress resolution was to be settled by October 1, 1923, at latest, is still in suspense. The Executive of the National Federation has now referred the question to a referendum. A majority of nine members of the executive recommends the trade union members to vote, not for affiliation with the Red Trade Union International, but for the maintenance of a loose kind of connection with this body. The minority of four recommends affiliation. The trade unionists who adopt the Amsterdam platform have combined to form a "trade union opposition" which issues a journal of its own, for the purpose of promoting reaffiliation with the Amsterdam International.

GERMANY

CONGRESS OF THE FURRIERS' INTERNATIONAL.

The Seventeenth Congress of the Furriers' International will be held at Berlin from Monday, June 23 to Wednesday, June 30, next. The most important subject coming up for discussion is amalgamation with the International Clothing Workers' Federation.

CUBA

THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN CUBA.

In Cuba there is a labor movement which, although comparatively small so far as numbers are concerned, yet consists of class-conscious members. One of the strongest unions is the railwaymen's organization. The movement in general would gain in fighting capacity if there were more concentration. The fact that Cuba was represented only by a government delegate at the previous International Labor Conference at Geneva is due to the local character of the organizations.

The Socialist Party and the trade unions issue an official journal jointly. The labor movement in the island adopts the standpoint of the I. F. T. U. and the Socialist Labor International.

SPAIN

THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN SPAIN.

Urged by the Labor representatives of the Institute for Social Reforms, the Spanish Directory has adopted a resolution to appoint a commission to study new labor legislation. The commission will first of all study legislation dealing with workmen's accidents, factory inspection, labor conflicts and the State authorities and public services which are concerned with labor questions. The commission consists of one representative of the employers, one labor representative, and one representative of the other members of the Council of Administration of the Institute for Social Reforms. The Director of the Institute and two officials of the Ministry of War and the Admiralty will assist the commission with technical information, on questions concerning their departments.

Press Bureau, International Federation of Trade Unions

DOMESTIC ITEMS

NEW YORK WAGES DROP.

Factory pay rolls in this state showed a reduction of almost 2 per cent in January from the December figures, according to the New York State Department of Labor. The result was a decrease of 17 cents in the average weekly earnings of employes now on the pay rolls.

CONVICTS ARE LASHED.

Convicts in the Tennessee penitentiary at Nashville are lashed, according to David Hanley, of the legislative committee, state federation of labor, in his address before the trades labor council.

The unionist said that this brutality goes hand in hand with convict labor, which is exploited in Nashville by the Alliance Textile Manufacturing Company. This concern, said Mr. Hanley, started operations 25 years ago with a capital of \$25,000. Today it has contracts in nearly a score of prisons, and reports an annual profit of nearly \$1,000,000.

HUGE TELEPHONE PROFITS.

Last year's net profit of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company was \$9,299,678.

TAX-EXEMPT BONDS MEAN SOCIAL GAINS.

State and municipal bond bankers of New York, deny the claim that taxes will be reduced if the issuance of tax-exempt securities is prohibited. Opponents of these securities say investors buy them instead of placing their money in industry. Advocates of the tax-exempts reply that this money is used for permanent social improvements which tend to better the health, the prosperity and the business of the state, counties and municipalities.

One banking house makes this point: "If by constitutional amendment the State of Illinois, instead of being able to borrow money at 4½ per cent, might have to pay 5½ per cent, that would mean an added cost to the people of 20 per cent for that bond issue."

WIN FOURTEEN MONTHS' STRIKE.

Officers of the International Fur Workers' Union report a successful ending of the fourteen months' strike against the Gable Company at South Norwalk, Conn.

The agreement calls for the union shop, reduction of working hours, reinstatement of all strikers, and no discrimination.

STOP COMPENSATION TO 4,000 EMPLOYEES.

Compensation payments to 4,000 former federal employees throughout the United States have been stopped following a dispute between the federal employees' compensation commission and Controller General McCarl.

The commission has been paying benefits to persons suffering from vocational diseases contracted in the course of employment with the government, such as tuberculosis, etc. Controller McCarl holds that under the law compensation can only be paid to those who are actually injured. He has refused to honor requisitions on the treasury for the vocational diseases.

Congressman Dallingier has introduced a bill that is intended to curb the powers of the controller general. That official has insisted his powers are greater than executives of government departments, and he has even gone so far as to declare that the President of the United States has no control over his office or activities.

WARNS OF "CURES" FOR CONSUMPTION.

There is no specific cure for consumption, according to officers of the New York Tuberculosis Association, who say: "We warn the people of New York City to have nothing to do with 'cures' for consumption; there are none. Careful living in every way is the best corrective of the disease."

The officials say that climate is not so important a factor as it is popularly supposed.

COTTON CROP JUGGLED.

The last ten-million bale cotton crop has been sold by Wall street three times. This means that on paper the crop has become thirty millions, says President McMahon of the United Textile Workers, writing in their official magazine. This gambling makes a stable market impossible, said the trade unionist. Added to this condition is the closing down of factories when the products of these factories are limited.

"There is some collusion somewhere between employers to restrict production," said President McMahon. "If this restriction were caused by the workers, what a howl would be heard throughout the land at the number of working days lost and the millions of dollars sacrificed on account of the desire of some labor agitator or agitators to secure a livelihood."

LIVING COSTS GO UP.

Living costs increased from February 15, 1923, to February 15, 1924, in the twenty-one cities reporting to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Peoria led with an 8 per cent increase. Other cities gained as follows: Newark, 5 per cent; Atlanta, Buffalo, Detroit, Kansas City, Louisville, Pittsburgh and St. Louis, 4 per cent; Baltimore, Minneapolis, New Haven, New York, Philadelphia, Rochester and Salt Lake City, 3 per cent; Boston, Richmond, St. Paul, Washington and Portland, Me., 2 per cent.

LABOR EDITOR APPOINTED.

Governor Pinchot has appointed David Williams on the Pennsylvania State Industrial Board. The appointee is editor of the Pennsylvania Labor Herald, published in Harrisburg, and vice-president of the International Association of Machinists. The industrial board makes rules and regulations for carrying into effect Pennsylvania labor laws.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES

A Course in Trade Union Policies and Tactics

By DAVID J. SAPOSS

Given at the

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

of the

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Seasons 1922-23 and 1923-24

LESSON I—(Continued)

4. Likewise, the financial and numerical strength of a union will decide whether it can extend its activities beyond merely organizing shops which are owned by friendly employers, or by employers operating on a small scale and consequently financially so situated that they are unable to fight even a weak union.
 5. Strong unions are sometimes baffled in extending their activities, because of the incapacity of their leaders to cope with problems which attend an organizing campaign in large scale and trustified plants. Often, powerful employers' associations can withstand all attempts to organize their workers. The metal trades are notoriously "open shop," and also boast of the most powerful employers' associations.
- III. In no instance can one force be abstracted and used to explain the complicated social phenomena which affect trade union policies and tactics, but a close scrutiny of any situation will generally reveal that some or all of the above described forces enter into it.

What Some Distinguished Educators

Say of Dr. Carman's Outline

[Outline of a Course on "Social and Political History of the United States" given at the Workers' University, Season 1921-1923]

Enthusiastic comments were received by our Educational Department on Dr. Carman's outline on "Social and Political History of the United States" from men and women of prominence in the academic world. The limitation of space will not allow us to do more than quote from some of the messages.

(Continued)

Amy Howe, Mount Holyoke College:

"I recently received Professor Carman's 'Outline of Social and Political History of the United States' in your educational series, and want to send you my thanks for it, and to tell you that it seems to me excellently done. I am delighted that you have selected for study the political and industrial background against which the trade unions have developed, and that nothing could be of much greater importance for workers' classes."

Edward M. Earle, Columbia University:

"I consider it an admirable arrangement of the subject for students at the Workers' University and I hope it will be but the first of many similar studies which you will publish."

William R. Shepherd, Columbia University:

"As a colleague of Dr. Carman, I am glad to learn that the work done by him, in collaboration with his students, has produced the fruit of a series of pamphlets which I trust may promote cooperative education along the lines you indicate."

William F. Ogburn, Barnard College:

"I appreciate very much the copy of Dr. Carman's syllabus of the Workers' University of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. This is an excellent piece of work. I congratulate you on the success of your educational program."

Everett Dean Martin, Cooper Union Forum of The People's Institute:

"I found it very good. I think that Dr. Carman and the class should be congratulated upon the preparation of such an outline. I like its point of view and I think it covers the ground very well indeed."

Two Weeks Remain to the Reunion of Our Students, Their Friends and Teachers

Two weeks only remain to the reunion of the students, their friends and teachers, which is arranged for Saturday, April 5, at 7 p. m. Our students and teachers will be joined by the members of the educational committees of the local unions, by International local officers, and by other persons interested in the workers' educational movement.

At the meeting of the Arrangements Committee of the Students' Council, it was decided that due to the fact that the seating capacity of the dining-room in the Washington Irving High School is limited and that as in the past there will be a great demand for tickets, preference will be given to students and members of the local educational committees.

It was decided to send the following communication to the students:

The Arrangements Committee spares no effort to make this celebration a memorable one. The dining-room will be especially decorated for this occasion. Refreshments will be served, musical numbers will be performed, and the evening will end with dancing.

To cover some of the expenses, the Students' Arrangements Committee has decided to make a minimum admission charge of 35 cents, and we enclose two tickets for your use.

As in the past, we expect that there will be a great demand for tickets. Unfortunately the space is limited and therefore the Committee has decided to give preference to our students in making reservations.

Weekly Calendar

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

Washington Irving High School

Irving Place and 16th St.

Room 529

Saturday, March 22

1:30 p. m. J. H. H. Lyon—Social Forces in Contemporary Literature—The Modern Novel—Hardy.

2:30 p. m. David J. Saposs—The American Federation of Labor—its Structure and its Policies.

Sunday, March 23

10:30 a. m. A. W. Calhoun—Social Institutions—Institutions as Challenges.

11:30 a. m. H. J. Carman—The Development of Modern Europe.

Wednesday, April 2

1:30 p. m. I. L. G. W. U. Building—West 16th Street.

8:00 p. m. Prof. J. Salwyn Schapiro—Modern Tendencies in History.

UNITY CENTERS

Monday, March 24

Brownsville Unity Center—P. S. 150

Christopher Avenue and Sackman Street, Room 204

8:30 p. m. Sylvia Kopald—Economics and the Labor Movement.

Tuesday, March 25

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.

Wednesday, March 26

East Side Unity Center—P. S. 63

4th Street near First Avenue, Room 404

9:00 p. m. A. L. Wilbert—Modern Economic Institutions.

English is taught for beginners, intermediate and advanced students, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

EXTENSION DIVISION

YIDDISH

Saturday, March 22

Local 9—228 Second Avenue

1:00 p. m. Max Levin—Modern Economic Institutions.

Sunday, March 23

Club Rooms, Local 1—1581 Washington Avenue

10:30 a. m. President M. Sigman will discuss some of the points included in the demands accepted by the union for submission to the cloak manufacturers.

Clinton Hall—151 Clinton Street, Room 47

12:00 p. m. Max Levin—Economics of Present Day Society. Will be continued on Sunday, March 30.

ENGLISH

Thursday, March 27

I. L. G. W. U. Building—3 West 16th Street.

6:00 p. m. Lecture for Shop Chairmen and Executive Members, Locals 91 and 62.

6:15 p. m. Sylvia Kopald—Economics and the Labor Movement.

Local 17—Reefers' Educational Center

142 Second Avenue

6:00 to 8:00 p. m. Mr. Goldberg will instruct in the English language.

YIDDISH

Local 20—Manhattan Lyceum—64 East 4th Street

8:00 p. m. Dr. Hoffmann—Social and Political Responsibilities of a Modern Trade Union and its Relation to the Class Struggle.

RUSSIAN

Friday, March 28

Russian-Polish Branch—315 E. 10th Street

8:00 p. m. P. A. Sorokin—Sociology of the Present Day Society.

ALL LECTURES IN ENGLISH UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. ADMISSION FREE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE I. L. G. W. U.

Friday, March 21

Labor Lyceum, 219 Sackman Street, Brooklyn

8:00 p. m. Rehearsal I. L. G. W. U. Chorus. Members of the International are invited.

Saturday, April 5

Washington Irving High School

7:00 p. m. Re-Union, Students of the Workers' University, Unity Centers and Extension Division and their friends. Teachers will be guests of the student body. Reservations can be made now at the Educational Department on payment of 35 cents.

BEGINNING THIS SUNDAY MAX LEVIN WILL GIVE A SERIES OF THREE LECTURES ON "ECONOMICS OF PRESENT DAY SOCIETY"

Max Levin will start a series of three lectures on the "Economics of Our Present Day Society," this Sunday morning, March 29, at 12 o'clock.

at Clinton Hall, 151 Clinton street, Room 47.

In his discussions, Max Levin will stress the principles on which our present industrial system is organized and the influence it exerts over society in general and the working class in particular.

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

Cooperative Notes

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

There is a great deal of excitement prevailing in the organization this week over two important events which follow in weekly sequence. One is the election of delegates to the Jubilee Convention of the International, which is taking place this Saturday, March 22, in Arlington Hall. The other is the Fourteenth Annual Ball of the organization which is taking place on Saturday evening, March 22, in Tammany Hall.

At the time that the committee having charge of the annual affair settled on March 22 it did not for a moment think that an important election would precede the affair by one week. However, a more fitting day could not have been chosen. The affair, in addition to the regular merry-making, will practically serve as a send-off for the delegates.

In order to bring home to the cutters the realization of the importance of the convention and the election of delegates, Manager Dubinsky has addressed the following letter to all shop chairmen of cutters:

Dear Sir and Brother:

Your attention is called to the important election of the Cutters' Union, which will be held on Saturday afternoon, March 22, 1924. Nine delegates to represent our local at the 17th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. is Boston, Mass., on May 5, will be elected.

This convention will be the most important in years, because it is a Jubilee Convention—celebrating the twenty-fifth year of the birth of our International. It will be a celebration of achievements and progress in the organization and the industry. This gathering becomes still more important because the future policy of our industry will be determined by it. The outcome of this will be anxiously watched in the entire ladies' garment industry.

Because of this, the Executive Board is desirous that every member of our Union should participate in this election and choose the very best material, so that the delegates elected should represent not a small group, but the vast majority of the members—their opinions and their sentiments.

A large vote polled in this election would evince the interest taken by every member in the welfare of our local as well as the International, and would lend prestige to our delegation at the convention.

You, therefore, as the representative of the cutters in your shop, should make it your duty to see to it that every cutter working in your shop comes down to ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE, on SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 22, to cast his vote.

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) DAVID DUBINSKY,
Manager.

The importance of this convention has been outlined in these columns on at least two occasions. What will lend color to the seventeenth gathering of the International is the fact that it will mark the twenty-fifth year of the birth of the parent body. For this reason all known ex-officers of the International will be invited as guests of the convention.

One of the first Presidents of the International about twenty or twenty-three years ago was James McCauley, a member of Local 10, who is at present employed by Ben Gerschel. Records do not disclose whether McCauley was the first president. However, there seems to be little doubt that he at least was the second president. Some twenty-four years ago John C. Ryan, who, as is well known to the entire membership, is still an active member of the organization,

was a vice-president of the International.

The Arrangements Committee for the convention, one of the members of which is Vice-president Dubinsky, has been trying to locate one Julian, who was a member of the Cutters' Union about twenty-five years ago, and was the first treasurer of the International. However, he could not be located as his whereabouts are not known. Andrew Smith, who recently passed away, was also one of the presidents of the International. His memory will be honored by the convention. The same is true of Jesse Greenberger, who passed away a couple of years ago and was one of the vice-presidents of the International.

The recent vice-presidents who were members of Local 10 and not connected in any way with any of the International unions, or the International, will also be invited. They are Elmer Rosenberg, who served as a first vice-president, and Max Gorenstein, who resigned as a vice-president some months ago.

Another one of Local 10's members who served as a first vice-president was John P. Pierce. An invitation will not be extended to him, however, because of his questionable activities in the dress and waist strike of 1919, as a result of which he was expelled.

In the past two years, as well as in the years gone by, Local 10 has had one of its ranks serve the International as vice-president. At the time that Max Gorenstein was appointed organizer for the Pacific coast and left the local for that reason, Manager Dubinsky at the convention two years ago was elected a vice-president, and as long as Local 10 will maintain its present standing in the International there is little fear that it will be without one of its own members on the General Executive Board.

Taking into consideration the number of members and ex-members of Local 10 who will be invited as ex-officers of the International to the convention, there is no doubt that Local 10 will occupy a prominent place at the convention. Its activities in the International during the twenty-five years have been rich in color and material.

In the last week's issue of this publication there were contained the names of the candidates who had signified their willingness to run as delegates. The list contained twenty-five names. But when, at the special meeting of the Executive Board which took place on Saturday, March 15, the names were pooled on slips of paper in a hat for the purpose of determining the order of the names on the ballot, this number came down to seventeen. Seven of the candidates withdrew their names. These are:

Michael Ondusko, Louis Forer, Morris Jacobs, Benjamin Sachs, Harry Zaslowsky, Jacob Kopp, and Louis Panken.

The 7th, Isidore Sfass, who accepted as candidate, will not appear on the ballot as he was found guilty by the Executive Board of a violation. According to the constitution of the Local he automatically becomes ineligible as a candidate. The following is the list of those who will appear on the ballot and the order in which they will appear:

Isidore Cohen
David Dubinsky
Nathan Starr
Samuel Perlmutter
Sam Mendelowitz
Joseph Fish
Isidore Nagler
Ben Krakower
Benjamin Evry
Meyer Skluth
Chas. W. Serrington
Sol Levin

Sam B. Shenker
Jacob Lubin
William Fein
David Fruhling
Phillip Ansel

A few days ago there appeared a committee of the cutters of the shop of Ben Gerschel at the office of the Protective Department of the Joint Board, and presented to Brother Jacob Rubin, the manager of this department, a gift consisting of a gold fountain pen and pencil set. The gift was accompanied by a resolution, in which the thanks of the cutters were expressed. This was the manner in which the cutters, through their committee, which consisted of Brothers James McCauley, Sam Rosen, Isidore Cohen and Mannie Kopp, showed their appreciation to Brother Rubin due to the fact that they succeeded in getting a \$5.00 increase.

It will be recalled that upon the refusal of the men to grant the increase to the men, this having been the first shop to submit such a demand, the cutters left their jobs. And after about four days the firm called them back and granted them the increase. The cutters knew that they had the whole-hearted sympathy of the officers of the Joint Board, and Brother Rubin, manager of the Protective Depart-

ment, in particular. This was due to the fact that the cutters of this shop were subjected to very low wages and short periods of employment.

Especially are our officers and our local gratified that the cutters of Ben Gerschel, twenty-two or twenty-four in number, have expressed their appreciation to an officer of the Joint Board in this manner, considering that this is practically the first time that cutters have presented an officer of the Joint Board with a gift. And Brother Rubin is surely the one that is deserving of this appreciation, because of the cooperation that he has always extended to the cutters.

The cutters were not merely satisfied with tendering Brother Rubin a gift. They had therefore drawn up the resolution, in which they expressed thanks for the sympathetic attitude of the manager of the Protective Division. When the committee was elected by the cutters of the shop, it was requested by the rest of the men that a resolution should also be drawn up.

Elias Lieberman
LAWYER

366 Broadway Tel. Franklin 2283

For many years manager of the Dress and Waist Makers' Union

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Brother Richard Marks, No. 2578. Brother Marks passed away on March 11, as a result of pneumonia. He had been a member of this organization since July, 1918. Our sympathy is extended to the bereaved.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

SPECIAL MEETING.....Monday, March 31st, 1924

Special Order of Business: Discussion on the report of the General Executive Board for the renewal of the agreement.

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Mark's Place

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL BALL

of Cutters' Union

SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 29, 1924

AT TAMMANY HALL, 145 East 14th Street

Tickets—50c in Advance 75c at the Door

CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

ELECTION OF DELEGATES

To Convention of I. L. G. W. U.

THIS SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 22, 1924

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE

Polls Open at 12:30 and Close at 6 P. M.