

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

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

Vol. VI, No. 33.

New York, Friday, August 2, 1936

Price 2 Cents

Unemployment Insurance to Start Next Day

Cloak Joint Board Again At Work—Sanitary Label Will Be Functioning Soon—President Signman Addresses Last Meeting of Strike Committee—Warns Union Against Sister Elements Seeking to Demoralize Organization—Shops Not Yet Settled Will Be Picketed All Season If Necessary—Impartial Chairman Not Yet Selected

General Strike Committee Disbands

The formal calling off of the general strike committee was held under the chairmanship of President Signman, who listened to the reports of all the sub-committees and thanked them for their loyal and conscientious work. Vice-president Israel Feinberg, chairman of the Settlement Committee, reported on the work of his group. Vice-president David Dubinsky reported on the work of the Organization Committee and the arduous task which confronted it in supplying the reorganized shops with work-stuffs so as to conform to the new terms of the agreement. He expressed special thanks to Mr. Nathan F. Wolf, International Auditor, for his hard and ef-

ficient labors in connection with the work of the Organization Committee.

Vice-president Joseph Breslaw, chairman of the Hall Committee, reported on the work of his committee. He stated that the workers of the shops which remain unsettled will be located in Manhattan Lyceum until they are assigned to some bigger settled shops. The workers of R. Sadow-sky, Rothman, Reisman and Beaver

and a few others of the bigger unsettled shops remain at Bryant Hall. These workers will receive strike benefits until they return to work after their employers concede the full terms of the Union.

Picket Committee To Function
The Picket Committee, under the management of Vice-president Wander, will remain for the time in full (Continued on page 2.)

Baltimore Cloak Makers Wage Bitter Fight

Brother Sol Polakoff, the leader of the Baltimore cloak makers, informs us that the strikers in the Baltimore cloak shops are putting up a splendid fight determined not to go back until they have won a complete victory.

The fight is directed not only against former "open shop" owners but also against firms which had agreements with the Union. The Union insists on a number of vital improvements which these firms refuse

to grant. The strikers remain steadfast on the picket lines and are not daunted in the least by the persecutions of the regular and "private" police.

At the moment of this writing, eight firms have already settled with the Union. Raises in wages have been granted to the workers and the unemployment insurance fund arrangement has been adopted. Mr. M. Moses, a prominent Baltimorean, had

Raincoat Makers Renew Agreements

As reported in JUSTICE several weeks ago, the Raincoat Makers' Union, Local 29, forwarded a communication to the employers in their trade asking for the renewal of the agreement which expired on August 1, 1934.

We can report now, that the waterproof garment workers of New York have again succeeded in concluding peacefully an agreement with their employers for the coming year. The Union is also able to report that it entered agreements this year with some firms which have not until now been in contractual relations with it. The local has thus gained control of work conditions in several new shops against which it was compelled to wage a bitter fight in the past.

Local 29 is affiliated with the Miscellaneous Trades' District Council of New York, and Vice-president Lefkowitz, the manager of the Council, took part in the renewal of the raincoat agreements together with the management of the local.

been agreed upon as trustee-of the fund.

The workers in the settled shops have voted to aid the workers still on strike by picketing the struck shops and by contributing ten per cent of their earnings towards the relief of the more needy strikers. The International has also forwarded a sum of money to the strikers and in case of need the Baltimore strikers may safely count upon the support of their sister organizations in the International Union.

Union Label In Swiss Embroidery Trade Effective Sept. 2.

Union Confers With Employers' Association On Hours and Wages

The union label in the Swiss embroidery, lace and other ornamental accessories is now a fact. At a conference held last Tuesday, August 12, at 1 Madison avenue, between the Allied Lace and Embroidery Manufacturers, the organization of the employers in the Swiss embroidery trade and representatives of Local 6 and of the International Union, this matter was definitely decided upon and, beginning September 2, the placing of the label on every piece of embroidery, lace and every other accessory manufactured in the factories controlled by the members of this association becomes obligatory upon them.

Both sides agreed upon the design of the label which has already been ordered in large quantities and will be in the hands of the shop chairmen in the embroidery shops who are to act as the label custodians on the morning of September 2. A set of rules

has been adopted by the International for the guidance of the label custodians in the shops which will make for strict control of the use of the label and its proper application. The next step which the International will take in order to insure the success of the label in the Swiss embroidery trade will be a systematic campaign of agitation and instruction to all the shop

chairmen in the cloak and dress trades wherever embroidery and laces are being used as accessories, that none but such as bear the Union label be sewed on the garments. Under the special clause of the Union with the Protective Association and with the American Association the Union label on garment accessories such as embroidery, buttons, etc., is obligatory

and with the aid of the shop chairmen its use can become general and permanent in a brief space of time.

In addition to the label this conference also discussed the request of the Union for an increase in wages and a shorter work-week. The conference elected a sub-committee of six to consider these demands and to report to a later session. Representing the Union at the conference, besides a committee from the local, were President Morris Signman and Manny Weiss, the manager of the Swiss Embroidery Workers' Union.

Intern'l Locals to be Present at La Follette Labor Conference

Meeting To Take Place Next Wednesday, August 20, At Beethoven Hall

The campaign for the candidates nominated on July 4 at Cleveland by the progressive Labor and farmer bodies of the country is starting in real earnest.

The endorsement last week of La Follette-Wheeler candidacies by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has given the nationwide drive to elect La Follette and his running mate a tremendous impetus. In New York City, in particular, Labor is astir, and though it is still very early in the campaign signs are not failing that for the first time in its history Labor, this year, will be solidly united for independent political action and against both old parties.

On Wednesday next, August 20, the Labor bodies of New York will assemble in convention to discuss the

candidacies and platform of La Follette and Wheeler under the auspices of the Conference for Progressive Political Action of Greater New York. Every local and central body in this city have been invited to come and the invitation has been generally accepted.

General-Secretary Baroff forwarded on August 9 the following communication to all the Greater City locals of our International calling upon them to be represented at this convention:

Greetings:
The Conference for Progressive Political Action, with which our International is affiliated, has called a convention of New York City Labor organizations for Wednesday, August 20, at Beethoven Hall, 210 E. 5th street.

Your local has received an official invitation to this convention and I am writing to urge upon you the necessity of a strong representation from our International.

The Labor movement of the United States is assuming an aggressive attitude in seeking its political advancement. Our International Union has always been in the forefront of every progressive movement in America and we should not lag behind at this time when our efforts of the past years are beginning to bear fruit.

Please see to it that your local union has its full representation present at the convention called by the Conference for Progressive Political Action.

With fraternal greetings,
ABRAHAM BAROFF,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

The excursion of the Students' Council of the I. L. G. W. U. in a private yacht with a capacity of 100 will be held on Sunday, September 7. Tickets \$1.50. Reservations must be made at once at the office of the Educational Department, 2 West 16th Street.

Unemployment Insurance Fund to Start Next Monday

(Continued from page 1)

operation against the small non-Union shops. The committee will keep an eye on them even if it takes the entire season. Other reports were rendered by Louis E. Langer for the Law Committee, Joseph Fish for the Finance Committee and L. Levy for the Relief Committee.

President Sigman's Closing Remarks
The meeting was closed with a lengthy address delivered by President Sigman. He pointed out in detail the

significance of the campaign just closed and struck a balance of the gains acquired by the workers. "We have scored two significant gains," he stated, "which, though still not fully appreciated at this moment, will receive due appraisal in days to come. It is the unemployment insurance fund and the sanitary label. It is only after these two reforms have been given sufficient time to function and to prove their great value will

our workers learn their significance and importance to their own welfare and to the progress of the entire cloak industry."

Unemployment Insurance in Operation Since August 4

President Sigman informed the members of the outgoing general strike committee that the functioning of the Unemployment Insurance Fund has begun on Monday, August 4, and the payments towards this fund which amount to one per cent of the workers' weekly earnings and two per cent of the employers' pay rolls, will commence on Monday, August 18. He expressed it as his opinion that the overwhelming majority of the cloak makers will contribute gladly to this fund to insure unemployment in their midst.

Scab Agencies Bankrupt

In the course of his remarks, President Sigman pointed out that the scab and Union-smashing elements

which have been aiming their poisoned arrows at our organization with particular vehemence and venom during the reorganization strike, have proved to be without any influence upon our workers; and all their slanders and mud-throwing notwithstanding they could not succeed in demoralizing the ranks of our fighting army.

The moral bankruptcy of that gang which, while parading as "reds" and "communists" has been doing loyal service to the homes in this strike, proved to be particularly crushing. All their attempts to sow distrust and discord among the striking workmen proved invariably a failure and were repulsed with disgust by the cloak makers.

Impartial Chairman Not Yet Chosen
At the time of this writing, the impartial chairman, for the cloak and suit industry of New York has not been selected yet. Several names are under consideration and it is expected that before the week is over the choice will have been made.

Meanwhile, two members of the Governor's Commission have undertaken, pending the selection of the chairman, to act in the capacity of trade umpires upon cases which require urgent and immediate attention.

Morris Sigman Arraigns Davis for Stand on Labor

The much-heralded speech of acceptance by John W. Davis, Democratic candidate for President, which was anticipated with some curiosity in Labor circles because it was expected to contain some strong bait to Labor, came off according to schedule and, of course, did not shock nor even mildly surprised anybody. From Washington, from the headquarters of the Federation, the reply to Davis' remarks on Labor came swift in the form of a statement which disposed in a few sentences of his over-night friendship for the "poor working man." In New York, the glib utterances of Morgan's and the Telephone Company's attorney also came in for a share of unmitigated criticism from some of the best known Labor leaders of the metropolis.

Among these statements by representatives of Labor, the New York papers last Wednesday morning, August 13, carried prominently a statement by President Morris Sigman of the I. L. G. W. U. which read as follows:

"As expected, Mr. Davis 'glides smoothly and easily over the Labor issues in this campaign in two short paragraphs replete with non-committal and unoffending generalities. He

speaks of a 'sincere desire to make Labor part of the grand council of the Nation,' he concedes its patriotism, and its 'right to share in all decisions that affect its welfare.' But he does not recommend prompt ratification by the States of the Child Labor amendment to the Constitution; he does not pledge his party to the abolition of the Railroad Labor Board; he does not propose any measures to annul the power of the Supreme Court to declare laws permanently unconstitutional; he does not even recommend such 'democratic' law as the direct election of President and Vice-president and the election of Federal judges. And he does not emphatically condemn the wholesale and general use of injunctions in Labor disputes nor advocate the abolition of this gross abuse of the elementary rights of the workers.

"Mr. Davis' utterance on Labor in his letter of acceptance does not differ in the least from the stand adopted by his party last July. Organized Labor scornfully rejected that program and the masses of American workers will continue to support steadfastly and wholeheartedly the truly progressive candidacies of Senators La Follette and Wheeler."

A. F. of L. To Push La Follette Campaign To Raise Funds

Matthew Woll, who has been acting as spokesman for President Gompers, said the question of an effective La Follette campaign had been taken up.

"The Non-Partisan Campaign Committee has been authorized by the council to provide ways and means for putting the endorsement into effect," said Mr. Woll. "That means we will issue a call over the country for all our affiliated internationals and locals to aid."

"We shall begin the collecting of funds. Although we do not expect to raise millions, like other factors in the campaign, we expect to have enough to provide for the publication and distribution of campaign literature. One of our principal contributions will be that of volunteer speakers."

"The American Federation of Labor National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee fully expects that there will be a coordination of effort between that organization and that national committee having Senator La Follette's campaign directly in charge. Those having like aims will naturally make every effort to harmonize their activities for the success of the national campaign."

"Labor has gone into this campaign to secure victory for the national ticket and victories everywhere in Congressional campaigns. There are tremendous issues around which to unite and we are confident that there will be not only no difficulty in securing smooth operation of campaign machinery, but that there will be enthusiastic cooperation and coordination throughout."

Cloak Salespeople Renew Agreements

The District Council of the New York miscellaneous locals has succeeded last week, after several conferences with the East Broadway Association, an organization of cloak and suit store owners, in renewing the agreement between this association and their salespeople who are organized as the Salespeople's Union, Local 131, L. L. G. W. U.

The agreement was renewed practically on the old terms, save for two modifications in favor of the workers. A similar agreement was entered between the Union and the other store owners in that locality who do not belong to the association. Vice-president Lefkowitz, the manager of the District Council, conducted the negotiations.

Are you receiving the Justice each week?

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Take the matter up with your secretary, or write to

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TRADE ORGANIZATION PROBLEMS

Letters to the Editor

The Out-of-Town Cloak Shop and Its Effect On the Cloak Industry

Dear Editor:

Allow a rank and file member to touch upon a subject which is not often referred to in our midst and which, in my opinion, deserves much more consideration. I have in mind the out-of-town shops.

On the front page of last week's issue you describe how carefully and earnestly the Settlement Committee of the Union is treating every application for settlement from an employer. You state that this committee investigates whether the applicant in question has in his shop the required number of machines, and that only after the Union makes sure, by receiving from the employer a substantial cash security, that he will live up fully to the conditions of the agreement, are the workers allowed to go back to work.

I have concluded therefore that the Union is in real earnest about strengthening its position and doing away with the abnormal conditions which have affected our trade in recent years. But elsewhere in the same issue of our paper I find a statement that the Union is settling up with equal speed with the cloak employers of Yonkers and Hackensack and other small places. And so I wish to say that while the settlements in New York may be practical and well enough, the settlements with the Hackensack employers are nothing but a farce. And why?

1. No cash securities are exacted and general leniency is shown in this respect.

2. The employers are allowed to have women operators who work for little money, notwithstanding the assurance that the workers in these shops obtained substantial raises.

3. The Union allows these employers to operate their shops on the section work system. (I can substantiate my statements by facts if asked to.)

In a word, the Hackensack contractor can compete with the legitimate Union shops and the results of such "legitimate" competition are as follows:

1. If we demand from our boss pay for legal holidays—to which we are entitled under our agreement with the New York employers—our work is being sent out from Hackensack.

2. If we do not want to work overtime at single time pay we find that our work goes out of Hackensack.

3. If we, in general, desire to make

the shop a better Union shop so that the work is not sent out during the slow season—our efforts fall flat and the work is made up in Hackensack anyway.

The sum total is that we work no more than eleven or twelve weeks during the season and our earnings never exceed \$50 a week during the season. For the year our average is about \$22 or \$23 per week.

Can anything more concrete be stated that would show what these out-of-town settlements amount to, settlements which reduce to nothing all the gains which we acquire after many long and short strikes and years of sacrifice? If the Union did succeed in compelling the jobbers to make their work in Union shops, why was it necessary to put the Union's O. K. upon shops that are not union at all and thus take the bread out of the mouths of the workers who have been doing their utmost to preserve the Union?

Shall we ever give this matter serious consideration and adopt a different attitude and method?

J. SHUCHALTER,

Member, Local 17, Ledger No. 1768.

(REMARKS BY THE EDITOR—)

Your letter, while containing a small grain of truth, defeats its very purpose by its gross exaggerations. One would think, from your remarks, that the little cloak trade of Hackensack is likely to swallow the New York market or is at least likely to become a competitor to New York. We have made a special inquiry of this matter from Brother Halperin, the manager of the Out-of-Town Department of the International, and he informs us that the facts are entirely contrary to what you allege them to be. Thousands of dollars in security for faithful performance of the agreement have been exacted from the Hackensack and Long Island employers, and the conditions in the Hackensack cloak shops are as completely Union as in any New York shop. If women operators are being employed in these shops it is, of course, not a violation of Union rules. And even if we should admit that the conditions in the Hackensack shop, or for that matter, in any small town shop are not as fully good as in the old-established Union shops in New York, we must bear in mind that Rome was not built in a day. It is better that we gradually, step by step introduce union conditions and the union spirit in these

outlying places, among an element which until now would not listen at all to the message of the Union, rather than leave them work under hope-

lessly inferior non-union conditions. The sanitary union label, among other things, will surely enable us to make headway in these small towns.)

Cannot Grasp the New Cloak Order

Dear Editor:

Permit me to ask you a question with regard to the new point in our agreement with the employers stipulating a minimum of fourteen machines in each shop.

I wish to introduce myself, first, as an everyday worker who mixes very little in politics, is not very active though always loyal to the principles of his Union. I believe that a bad Union is still better than no Union at all. I like to ask questions in the paper because I know you are not fond of theories and always give a sensible, practical answer. I should like to find out therefore how you believe this point will work out. I don't want to give many illustrations but here is one.

We all know that the majority of the cloak makers work in small shops where the equipment consists of about ten machines and where from six to ten operators are employed. Most of these shops are good Union places except that they have not much work. I admit. Well, imagine such a shop where six or seven operators have been employed barely making a living when of a sudden fourteen men are

sent up there by the Union. Suppose the work requires a lot of finishing and tailoring, what will then happen? Even if the boss should have plenty of work, he will have no room for the additional workers and as a result they will be compelled to work two or three days a week.

Now, you may tell me that a boss who cannot fully comply in this way with the rules must go out of business. Well, I believe that is not such an easy thing to do. You cannot chase such shops out of the trade. Don't for a minute believe that I am against the fourteen machine clause. Quite contrary! I wish we could make it so that no shop would be permitted to operate with less than forty machines. But as conditions are now I should like to know how this point can be carried on for long. Every cloak maker individually wants to make a living and the Union wants the workers to earn a livelihood. And at this moment, without a guarantee, I cannot see how such shops will have enough work for fourteen operators.

M. SCHORR,

Member, Local 1, Ledger 4330.

Los Angeles Unions Warn Workers to Stay Away from California

Some of the leading papers in the Middle West and the East have recently carried advertisements and news stories describing the glories of California—particularly Los Angeles and San Francisco—and inviting workers of all trades to come to the sun-bathed shores of the Pacific where they would find work, health and happiness. This stream of publicity has been directed from the San Francisco Industrial Association and from the Los Angeles Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, two of the most bitterly anti-Labor bodies in the country. Obviously the purpose of these alluring invitations is to attract workers from the East and the Middle West to California where they might be used as tools for smashing up the Labor organizations on the Pacific Coast, a task to which these two capitalist bodies have devoted themselves persistently for a number of years past.

The Needle Trades Council of Los Angeles, a central body of the garment and clothing trades unions of that city, this week forwarded to all needle trades locals all over the country an appeal calling upon the work-

ers in other sections not to come to Los Angeles and to ignore the siren voice of the California Labor baiters. Needless to say that our workers will take heed and stay away from California. The message from the Needle Trades Council reads as follows:

To All Members of the Needle Trades Organizations:

The capitalist press throughout the country is carrying advertisements from the Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants & Manufacturers' Association of Los Angeles, calling on all workers to come here and enjoy the glories of California.

The object of the employers is to flood the Labor market and have an army of unemployed in order to keep wages at the lowest possible level and to make a union shop impossible.

You must understand that sunshine does not pay the rent nor buy food. We, therefore, advise you that if you intend to come to Los Angeles, communicate with the Information Bureau of the Needle Trades Council. This was organized by the Needle Trades Council for your benefit and for that of the organized Labor movement.

Address all communications to

NEEDLE TRADES COUNCIL,
1384 Spring Street,
Los Angeles, California.

JUSTICE

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FROM OUR JOINT BOARDS AND LOCALS

Union Events in the Middle West

(By a Special Correspondent)

In Chicago

The wounds of the Chicago dress strike are not yet healed. The courts are still busy with our strike cases. No need denying, our beloved State's Attorney did "deliver the goods" to the employers and dozens of cases have been "framed" up against our members. These cases are now approaching trial; they are in the verbiage of the State's Attorney's office "criminal" cases.

In addition there are still a number of injunction cases against dozens of our members. In these instances the workers have already received sentence, but these sentences have been appealed from and they will soon come up in higher courts.

The dress trade is in unusually slow state. There is no work anywhere; most of the shops are idle, and this, of course, offers the employers an opportunity to "square" things up with their workers, the former strikers. The Chicago dress employers, you must know, are a special lot. Most of them have received their social and business education in the pool rooms and gambling haunts of Chicago's worst sections, and that explains why every strike we conducted against them has of necessity been converted into a real bloody battle. Each of these bosses would in strike time be sworn in as a "deputy sheriff" and would carry a gun; and as each of them is a member of this or that gang or gang he could naturally rely on his fellow gangsters to help him in time of trouble.

Now that the strike is over and those employers who have fought the Union to the end are half ruined, these cultured captains of industry are trying to avenge themselves upon the workers. But the former strikers, together with Local 100, know their bosses and are accustomed to their gentle ways. Local 100 is already making preparations to continue the work and not to allow these die-hard too long a respite.

If the Chicago dress manufacturers will some day make dresses in this city they will have to make them in Union shops. As yet, however, there is no work and the local industry is waiting for the season.

The Chicago Cloakmakers

The cloakmakers of Chicago are also waiting for the season. There is little work; in some of the bigger shops work has started a few weeks ago but this work lasted only about two or three weeks. Now there is nothing to do anywhere. The situation is unbearable and the want is growing daily. The workers live in the hope that the season will eventually arrive, but meanwhile the situation is real bad.

The organization is doing something to relieve the suffering of some members, especially Locals 5 and 59. Thousands of dollars are being distributed among the most needy of the workers and executive boards are continually busy acting upon appeals for help. It is really to be admired—this loyal and fraternal activity of the locals on behalf of their distressed members. There has hardly been a case where an appeal was rejected.

This week the locals will have special meetings to decide upon a raise in dues. The time is approaching when the International per capita will have to be raised. The Joint Board held a special meeting and decided to increase the dues ten cents a week,

and now the locals will have to vote on this matter at special local meetings.

In Cleveland

In Cleveland also most of the shops are waiting for the season, with the exception of two big shops. Keller & Kohn and Sunshine—which are busy. In Cleveland the situation is, therefore, not as strained, as in Chicago, but here too the majority of the men are still without work.

This week there occurred here an interesting arbitration case. The dress firm of A. Sperling quit business last spring leaving nearly five thousand dollars in the Employment Guarantee Fund. The Union demanded that this money be turned over to the workers as the firm had promised them forty weeks of work in the beginning of the year and gave only eighteen. The firm on the other hand argued that by quitting the dress business at the end of the first half-year it has discharged its obligations to the workers and could not be held responsible for more than twenty weeks for the first six months, as it is not in the dress manufacturing line any longer. The impartial chairman sided with the firm and now the Union is appealing the case to the full Board of Referees.

First Woman President of a Joint Board

Cleveland has always been a pathfinder in our International Union.

Cleveland was the first city to establish standards of production in the cloak industry, to introduce a work-time guarantee, and now Cleveland is the first city to elect a woman as chairman of the local Joint Board.

This happened rather unexpectedly. The women got the office while the men candidates were playing politics. It took place Wednesday a week ago and Vice-President Perlstein installed the new Joint Board and all the elected officers.

B. Goodman, the chairman of the pressers' department of the Korach shop, died here suddenly. He was fifty years old and one of the most devoted members of the local organization.

In Toledo

Cloak circles in Toledo have not seen as much activity in a long while as they see now. A few years ago when the cloak trade in Toledo was organized cloakmakers were evident everywhere in the local labor movement. With the breakdown of the cloakmakers' local, the rest of the movement here in Toledo became practically dead.

But the recently begun campaign of the International to reorganize the Toledo cloakmakers has already produced a change, a marked change for the better. The chief talk in Canton street today among the workers is again the Union, and while the manufacturers are doing their utmost to prevent the cloakmakers from organizing and while some of the cloakmakers have not yet picked up enough courage to go against the will of their bosses and become Union men, conditions in general here have become so bad that the drift is now irresistibly towards the Union. The bosses keep on discharging the workers for joining the organization but the movement is on foot and nothing seems able to turn it back.

In Cincinnati

We used to have a good organization in Cincinnati, not a big one but

one that was very influential in the local trade.

That was during the days when Cincinnati amounted to something in the cloak trade; but the Cincinnati market is dying out very fast. Until a few months ago the Union controlled there three shops; now two of these gave up business and there is only one Union shop left. There is a local in Cincinnati; the local has some funds too, but the cloak trade has all drifted out of that city. But the dress industry in Cincinnati is showing remarkable growth. But it is still a young trade, only a few years old, and as yet the Union has had no opportunity to begin organizing the workers engaged in it.

New York Cloak Settlement

In Chicago, like in Cleveland, the recent settlement in the New York cloak industry has made a favorable impression. Our members here recognize the importance of unemployment insurance for our trades. What interests them most, however, is the introduction of the label. They firmly

believe that the label is the proper method for a thorough control of the trade.

The local cloakmakers, like those of New York, have been suffering from the petty shops brought into existence by the rapidly growing jobbing system in New York City. No local manufacturer could compete with these jobbers and the work from the shops where standard union conditions exist has therefore been driven out into the sweat shops. The introduction of the label has given the Union a powerful weapon and that eventually spells the death of the sweat shop.

We congratulate the New York cloakmakers upon this truly constructive settlement—not only for New York but for the whole country. And we hope that the New York organization will now establish such excellent machinery that the label will actually become a stabilizer and a controller of the trade standards in the cloak industry and make it possible for our men and women to make a living in the cloak shops.

The New York Times on our Unemployment Insurance Fund

Of the unemployment insurance fund established by the recent agreement between the International and employers' associations in the cloak and suit industry of New York, the New York Times expresses itself editorially as follows:

"The appointment of Arthur D. Wolf as director of the Unemployment Insurance Fund Bureau in the cloak and suit branch of the women's clothing industry marks the establishment for the first time in New York of a system of insurance against unemployment by means of a contract between organized Labor and employers. This plan has developed rapidly in the United States during the past three years, largely through the initiative of the so-called 'needle trades unions.' Prior to 1921 only a small union in the wall paper industry had been a party to an agreement of this sort with employers. Less than four hundred workers were affected. With the fund of which Mr. Wolf is director, and another soon to be established in the men's clothing industry in New York, there will be a total of about 150,000 workers protected in this way.

"Unemployment insurance on a large scale, as first introduced in the Cleveland women's garment industry in 1921, placed the burden of support for the fund entirely on the shoulders of the employers, who contribute ten per cent of their total payroll to insure their employees payment of one-half of their wages after twelve weeks of enforced idleness as long as the fund holds out. In the Chicago men's clothing industry the fund amounts to three per cent of the payroll and is maintained by equal contributions from the employers and the workers. Forty per cent of the workers' wages are paid up to five weeks and after one week of necessary unemployment. The New York plans follow the Chicago precedent in joint contributions to the funds. The capmakers and lace operators have also secured unemployment insurance agreements during the last year or so, and it is well known that several other important unions, both in and out of the needle trades group, are working in the same direction.

"The development of unemployment insurance in the United States has been much slower than in Europe and has followed a different course. As early as the beginning of the last century Labor organizations in England had established funds of

their own to protect their members. Following a precedent set by the city of Ghent in 1901, the system of public subsidy of union unemployment funds by local or national Governments soon spread to most of the countries of Europe.

"In 1911, however, unemployment insurance was made compulsory in England by Act of Parliament. English employers are compelled to share with the workers and the Government the burden of supplying the necessary funds, which are supervised and administered by the Government. Compulsory insurance laws have since been enacted by Austria, Italy, Bulgaria, Russia and Queensland, Australia. While compulsory insurance bills have been introduced in Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and also in Congress at Washington, none has been enacted into law.

"There is little room for doubt that working men and women should be protected in some way against enforced idleness, just as they should be protected against too great losses from industrial accidents. The National Industrial Conference Board estimates that 'in the mechanical and manufacturing industries alone lack of work causes an average normal unemployment of about 1,536,000 out of a total of 12,860,000 workers.' Enforced idleness saps the strength of both employer and employee. For the worker it means privation, ill health, lowered morale, child labor. For the employer it means high labor turnover, slackened production, decreased efficiency, reduced profits. The only question is, how can protection best be provided? With the actual experience of the clothing industry in joint insurance by voluntary employer-union agreement, as an example, European precedent may not be followed in this country."

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Exclusively

State Legislatures and Working Women

By FLORENCE P. SMITH

Fifty-three State Legislatures met in 1923, and thirteen have met in 1924. But the acts of these legislative sessions in so far as they directly affect working women can be counted on the fingers of two hands. By no means, however, does this indicate any lack of activity on the part of the women in the States and their organizations, for their record is one of incessant and tireless effort to improve conditions for the millions of women workers throughout the country by tightening up existing laws or by passage of new laws.

Progress Made

Nor does this mean that aside from the educational value of legislative campaigns there have been no definite gains. For instance, with the reactionary and deplorable behavior of New York and Illinois, where political maneuvering and the organized opposition of manufacturing interests have repeatedly prevented legal reduction in the hours of work of women, compare the success of Rhode Island, Wisconsin and Michigan in stepping out of the ten-hour category. In Rhode Island the persistent campaign of the women for the shorter work day resulted in legislation, effective June 1, establishing a nine-hour day and a forty-eight-hour week for women in factories, manufacturing, mercantile and business establishments. Wyoming in 1923 put into effect a night and one-half hour week with a weekly limit of fifty-six hours, and Wisconsin set up a nine-hour day and a fifty-four hour week, the night work limitation being eight hours for forty-eight hours per week. Another new law in Wisconsin, which, if less commendable, nevertheless is worth noting, regulates hours of work in hotels which heretofore have been under no legal restriction whatever. The limitation is ten hours a day and fifty-five hours a week, or, if the work is at night, nine hours and fifty-four hours a week. Minnesota, too, has a new law which establishes a nine and one-half hour day and a fifty-four-hour week for "any business or service whatever" throughout the state, excepting only telephone operators in towns of less than 1,500 inhabitants and certain occupations such as domestic service and care of the sick. The old nine-fifty-four-hour provision was less inclusive, covering as it did only mechanical of manufacturing, telephone or telegraph establishments in the four largest cities. Elsewhere in the state a weekly limitation of fifty-eight hours applied to mechanical and manufacturing industries, but not at all to telephone or telegraph establishments, while mercantile houses and restaurants anywhere in the State could operate fifty-eight hours weekly and hotels were without any legal regulation of hours.

South Dakota, which tried in vain to secure an eight-hour day, did succeed in amending its existing ten-hour law with its possible seventy-hour week so as to limit the week's work to fifty-four hours except for telephonic and telegraphic operators and in towns of less than 2,500 population. The constitutionality of this law has just been upheld by the Supreme Court of the State.

In New Jersey after a long and bitter struggle the women's organizations have succeeded in securing a law prohibiting the employment of women between 10 o'clock at night and 6 o'clock in the morning. Excepting canneries, this law applies to any manufactory and mercantile establishment, any bakery, laundry and restaurant. It goes into effect December 31, 1924. An attempt by its enemies to amend the law this year met with overwhelming defeat.

In addition to amending its hour law, South Dakota also enacted a

minimum wage law fixing a minimum rate of \$12 a week, and Arizona advanced its statutory minimum from \$10 to \$16. As an amendment to Minnesota's minimum wage law provides that publication of orders in one daily newspaper in each city of the first and second class, twenty days before the order becomes effective, is prima facie evidence of the existence of the order. In other words, an employer is not relieved of responsibility to comply with the law because a copy of the order fails to reach him through the mails.

Massachusetts has acquired no new laws, but has refused persistently to backslide. Again this year as last bills to repeal the forty-eight-hour law and the minimum wage law were defeated. In fact, repeal of the hour law has been attempted at each session of the legislature since the passage of the law in 1919. Another bill this year asked for suspension of the law for four years and another sought to remove the night work restriction for textile mills. An attempt to repeal the minimum wage law resulted in postponement of the bill for consideration at the next legislature.

While in New York attempts at legislation regulating hours or wages of women were unsuccessful, there was created in 1923 a bureau of women in industry headed by a chief with six investigators whose duty it is to collect data on the employment conditions of women and to make recommendations to the legislature for their improvement.

Legislative Efforts Lost

Turning now from the record of actual achievement in seven States, we find that fifteen additional States have reached out in the last two years for some improvement in working hours alone—but without success. In ten of these States—Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Virginia and West Virginia—the eight-hour day was the goal; and in two others—New Hampshire and Pennsylvania—the forty-eight-hour week while three States—Connecticut, Georgia and Iowa—sought a nine-hour day. In several of these States the same or similar bills have been before more than one legislature.

In New York the forty-eight-hour bill was defeated again this year as it has been for nine successive years. Again the Senate pined it and again the Assembly defeated it by a narrow margin. Recommended by the Governor as in 1923, this year the bill also had the endorsement of the Republican majority. After the Senate passed it, Assembly Republicans conferred and agreed to pass it. They conferred again, however, and agreed not to pass it. The bill was lost in the final hours of the session by but two votes. In 1923 one vote was lacking.

Eight-hour legislation in Illinois in 1923, introduced and ably piloted by a woman member of the House, after passing the House and being crippled in the Senate by amendments which included a nine-hour day and a fifty-six hour week, even then was voted down. The present law in Illinois allows a ten-hour day and a seven-day week, but efforts year after year on the part of women's organizations toward reasonable hours meet always with the bitter opposition of the organized manufacturers of the State.

Maine's legislature took no action on the question of the forty-eight-hour week except to pass a resolution submitting it to a referendum vote. At the special election in October, 1923, the forty-eight-hour week was defeated and the legal hours of work of women in that state remain nine daily and fifty-four weekly.

Women of Georgia, where the existing law covers only cotton and woolen manufacturing and allows a ten-hour day and sixty-hour week, have attempted at two successive sessions of the legislature to secure a nine-hour day, but their efforts have been futile.

In addition to the efforts to shorten hours two States—Rhode Island and West Virginia—tried and failed to make illegal the employment of women at night. Rhode Island's bill was introduced and failed both years. In Rhode Island in 1923 another bill also was introduced, and by the only woman member of the legislature, to prohibit the employment of women four weeks before and four weeks after childbirth.

Minimum Wage Laws

Seven States have tried to pass minimum wage legislation. Two of them—Nebraska and Oklahoma—sought to set up a statutory wage; and five—Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Texas—to establish minimum wage commissions. In the latter class New York and New Jersey attempted such legislation both last year and this. In Ohio the strenuous efforts of the women of the State to establish a minimum wage commission were countered by the opposition's proposal to authorize three members of the House and three members of the Senate to investigate the necessity of legislating for a minimum, its probable effect on Ohio in-

dustries, the character and effect of the laws where they have been tried, and the legal history of such legislation. This measure was successful.

California, although its laws have not been changed, has suffered a severe blow to enforcement of present laws through reduction to less than half of the former amount of the annual appropriations for two years for the Industrial Welfare Commission. In North Dakota also the appropriations for two years for the Minimum Wage Department have been reduced.

Thus the story of the legislative achievement and failure directly affecting women in industry in the United States during the two years of 1923 and 1924. Three-quarters of a century ago legislative action first was taken to regulate conditions of adult labor and this action, we are told, was the result chiefly of the "vigorous personal effort" of an organized group of women workers. Ineffective though this law proved it nevertheless marked the beginning, but not until 1879 was enforceable legislation regulating women's hours of work secured. Today, forty-five years later, while no State is without a law of some kind bearing on women's employment and forty-four regulate to some degree their working hours, nine States only have set the daily limit at eight hours, and but thirteen States have legal wage standards.

And so there is much yet to be gained. But the women of the country are on the job. They know what they need and how it can be got. They have courage, persistency, experience—and the ballot—Life and Labor Bulletin, August, 1924.

Too Late, Mr. Davis

By NORMAN THOMAS

John W. Davis is trying hard to square himself with Labor. Mr. Morgan's attorney explains that he isn't opposed to unions and that he owns no coal stock. It is an extraordinary state of affairs when it is recommended to Labor organizations that a Presidential candidate should not be opposed because he favors the existence of Labor unions and does not happen to own stock in a non-union coal mine. Coal stock in bituminous mines is very unprofitable anyway, and Mr. Morgan's attorney probably has better investments.

The Labor complaint against Mr. Davis is that he has never used his great ability constructively for the interests of the people. He accepted without a word of protest the support of the West Virginia delegation, which contained Sheriff Don Chaslin of Logan County, the most autocratic tool of absentee ownership in America. As a nominal West Virginian, Mr. Davis never put forward any continuing denials of civil liberty and the right to organize which have made West Virginia's record a blot on the American escutcheon. In the face of these facts, Mr. Davis's letter is ridiculously inadequate.

Clever But Untrue

Some of the papers opposed to La Follette and Wheeler are adopting a line of argument more clever than convincing. Thus the New York World argues that the "only effects of the La Follette campaign will be to throw the election into the House of Representatives, where the confusion would be appalling." In its opinion, progressives should have waged a congressional campaign this year and in 1925. By 1925 they might have captured one or another of the old parties.

Wrong all along the line. In the first place, there is no inherent reason whatever why the best that the La Follette forces can hope is to throw the election into the House of Representatives. The people can if they

will elect La Follette and Wheeler. If they do not, and if under some cumbersome Constitution the election is thrown into the House of Representatives that is not the fault of the progressive movement, nor will the resultant confusion be so great as to nullify the gain of an outspoken progressive campaign. That this is not the time for action is always the cry of the timid or of the indolent enemy of progress. The World knows better than to believe that by 1925 one or another of the old parties may be captured. The attempt to capture one of them has been going on for years. The result, in spite of progressive gains in certain local elections, was the nomination of the Siamese twins, Coolidge and Davis, by the two old parties. And neither party after all the many attempts to capture them for progressive purposes could be persuaded to adopt even a moderately progressive platform! Inertia, money, the power of organization, the vested interest in jobs all combine to make our parties mere vote getting machines, in which divergent elements are held together by the sole desire for office and embezzlement by the interests which pay their bills.

The times are ripe and more than ripe to challenge the unreality and hypocrisy of our sham political contests by the one most effective method—a nationwide presidential campaign. It is as necessary to form a new party now to deal with the economic enslavement of the people as it was in 1856 to form a new party to deal with the extension of chattel slavery on free soil.

The man or woman who for the sake of some imaginary immediate gain as between Davis and Coolidge votes an old line ticket this year in preference to supporting La Follette and Wheeler is like the man in the old story who shut out the sight of the sun by fixing a nickel firmly before his eyes.

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

THE LAMENT OF THE PETTY CLOAK EMPLOYER

The reorganization of the cloak industry in New York has resulted in a multitude of small cloak employers losing their business, and these are now raising the cry that the Union has ruined them and robbed them of their means of livelihood. They are planning, so we hear, to appeal to the Governor's Commission for aid in the hope that some relief might come to them from that source.

Frankly, we do not blame them. From the point of view of their own interests, small as they might be, these petty employers are justified in lamenting over their present plight. But in order that they might better understand and, after having understood, submit with a lighter mind to the inevitable, we should like to tell these men that in the history of industrial development they are not the first nor the last victims. In their eclipse as cloak "employers" they will find themselves in a pretty large company—save that in other industries this process of elimination had taken place long before it became a fact in the cloak industry. And from the moment the cloak and suit trade began to demand greater concentration in larger productive units their fate became sealed. The petty boss had to go, all lamentation and crying notwithstanding.

These erstwhile cloak employers surely know that only not so many years ago the type of a master tailor in the clothing trade employing a few journeymen and apprentices and eking out a more or less tolerable existence from their labor was the prevailing type of a boss in the industry. To be sure the same type of master running a small shop was the rule in every trade—carpentry, locksmithing, shoe making, cabinet making, etc. The development of machinery and the advent, first of coal and later of electricity in industry, and the resulting quantity production have driven the small employer out of the market to make room for the big shop against which he could not compete. The horse-driven cab and coach surely could not last in the race with the railway, motor car and aeroplane.

We do not doubt that these small-way masters did not at all cherish the prospect of leaving the field to their modern competitors. They surely complained loudly enough and have cursed the advent of machinery and the speeding up of the productive forces without end. But their curses and their cries did not change matters to any extent. They may have deserved sympathy as the victims of a pitiless industrial development, but in the end they had to disappear as factors in industry as they have never existed.

And it was not the masters alone who have suffered such a fate. The workers in many an industry and trade have met with similar reverses as their trades and vocations disappeared by force of modern development. These workers had to take to other occupations as a means of livelihood—a tragedy in the existence of many a trained craftsman after having devoted half a life-time in order to learn his trade. And the workers in many instances protested vehemently against drastic industrial changes, the protest at times taking the form of smashing machinery and destroying labor-saving inventions. Yet, all of this was in vain. The machine, the new motive power, quantity production and division of labor proved stronger than the protests of both masters and workers. Sooner or later they had to submit to the inexorable laws of industrial progress and adapt themselves to new conditions.

From all of which we must conclude that whatever stands in the way of progress in any industry is bound to be swept aside in the long run. In the life of man, and of human institutions there is no room for what may have been useful some time ago but today has lost its place and function.

Well, the petty cloak boss, whether he knows it or not, is a hindrance to the development of the cloak industry. We do not, of course, charge him with deliberately obstructing the progress of the cloak trade, but that does not minimize his uselessness in the least. It was they, the petty bosses, who introduced the so-called social shop or "corporation" shop in the cloak industry, veritable sweat shops and scab-nests. It was they who brought about the miserable work conditions in the shops, though they themselves have profited very little by it as the lion's share of the spoils went to the big manufacturer or jobber for whom they worked. It was they who have brought the cloak trade to the verge of ruin and disaster.

Obviously such a state of affairs could not go on much longer. The cloak workers, threatened with the complete return of the sweatshop and the demoralization of the entire industry, decided that the petty boss must go, that the man who had to extract from the toil of a few men and women enough to main-

tain himself and his family could not possibly keep up a Union shop with Union work standards that he must of necessity cheat and defeat the organization of his workers and that in the long run such an "employer" was a curse to himself and the entire industry.

That is what sealed the fate of the petty employer in the cloak trade. His decline is an absolute necessity to the welfare of the fifty thousand workers in the cloak shops; it is a necessity too for the industry as a whole. We may be inclined to consider his present plight from the general human point of view, bearing in mind that he always was only a blind tool in the hands of the bigger exploiters; but the Union must fulfil its big historic mission, it must make impossible the existence of the petty boss and destroy root and branch the sweating system which this petty employer has helped to foster in the cloak industry.

Under the circumstances, we should advise these small employers not to waste useless effort in a fight for a lost cause. Such a hopeless fight will only weaken them and make them less capable of trying their fortunes in some other fields. They cannot and will not get competent workers to run their shops with, even if they make such an attempt, and, secondly, the bigger manufacturers and jobbers will not give them work being under strict obligations to the Union to give work to Union shops only. And if they succeed in obtaining some work from a stray jobber, they might know in advance that they could not rely upon such a source of work supply for any length of time. We may assure them that these few outside jobs will soon be brought in line and made to settle with the Union.

The wisest course for these "employers" to pursue would be to liquidate, as quickly as possible, their assets, and, if they are not cloak makers and are not eligible for joining the Union, to look for some occupation elsewhere. We say it without the least bit of vindictiveness, as we know that they themselves have been the victims of shameful exploitation. We are not quite certain that these petty bosses will follow out our advice. Of one thing, however, we are confident: There is no room for them any longer in the cloak and suit industry.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE LABEL DEPARTMENT

Next in importance to the introduction of the sanitary label, one of our principal demands, as a regulating and controlling factor in the cloak industry, was the task of selecting a manager of the department which would have charge of the distribution of the label and would guard against any misapplication and wrong usage of it. At the head of such a technical bureau the industry required a person whose honesty was unimpeachable and who would be capable of exercising the vigilance of an argus to see that the label is not diverted into improper channels.

In our opinion, Dr. Henry Moskowitz meets these requirements ideally. No better choice could have been made.

Dr. Moskowitz is no newcomer in the cloak industry. Wherever and whenever there was unostentatious, yet highly useful work of a public nature to be done, one could always find Dr. Henry Moskowitz. The most outstanding feature of his work perhaps is that he seldom if ever pushed himself to the front so that the man in the street rarely knew how much of his personal endeavor and energy had been invested in this or that achievement and undertaking.

We shall refrain, therefore, from recounting here the numerous public services Dr. Moskowitz had rendered in the past to this community. We only know that he is endowed with the great gift of making fast friends among every class of people and in every walk of life. We know he is personally magnetic and indefatigable and we are firmly convinced that under his management the sanitary label department will bring innumerable benefits to the Union, the industry, and each and every cloak maker in the shop.

We have already pointed out on more than one occasion that the best decisions and gains scored by the Union cannot become effective and real unless the workers themselves take care that these acquisitions do not remain a dead letter. The same applies with equal force to the label. The label may become the greatest blessing to the Union if it will truly serve as test of good union labor, of genuinely true sanitary conditions. Under such circumstances it may soon come to pass that the consumer will refuse to purchase a garment unless it bears the label.

The workers can contribute very substantially towards this great possibility. They must, on the one hand see to it that the garments bearing the sanitary Union label are worthy of the label; and, on the other hand, they must watch that shops which do not deserve this label should not obtain it until all Union conditions are lived up to in that factory.

We certainly expect Dr. Moskowitz and his staff to do all they can in that direction. But he must get the fullest cooperation from the workers, if he is to make the sanitary label the great success we all expect it to be. We hope that our men and women will give Dr. Moskowitz the aid he is fully entitled to in carrying out the important duty placed upon him.

WHAT ABOUT THE CLOAK MAKERS OF CANADA?

International organizers Julius Hefchman and Mary MacNabb are doing good work in Montreal and Toronto.

They have begun by arousing the dormant conscience of our cloak makers in these cities and the signs are not failing that these workers are already shaking off the slumber into which they had fallen. They are already beginning to realize their lack of judgment in having left the Union and having abandoned

The Progress of Workmen's Compensation

By DR. HERMAN FRANK

The business of insurance is today one of the most important for the individual as well as for society as a whole. The scope of this industry is growing in the United States from year to year and embraces a considerable portion of the money resources of the country. The big insurance companies accumulate colossal funds which are to safeguard individuals against natural or economic affliction or to ameliorate the fate of their dependents in such an event.

Workers, however, cannot, as a rule seek assurance against the hazards of life and occupation with these companies. Their small earnings prohibit them from paying the high premiums which these private companies charge.

Another reason is the proverbial difference of the individual worker towards such things as accident insurance. It required the collective effort of organized labor to compel the states to adopt measures for the protection of workers against industrial hazards and injuries in the form of compensation laws. Such compensation laws have been adopted by most industrial countries to protect workers in industry against accidents, frequently with obligatory participation on the part of the employers. Only thus, it seems, has it been possible to obtain insurance against industrial accidents and hazards for the great masses of the people.

The compulsory system of collective insurance is called otherwise social insurance, and in the course of the last 25-30 years it has come to be recognized as one of the important factors in the life of the workers. Social insurance can be divided into the following classes in accordance with the hazards they involve: insurance against industrial accidents, insurance against sickness, unemployment, disability and insurance against old age. Only one of these branches of social insurance has so far been introduced on a wide scale in America—insurance against accidents, which is also familiar here under the name of "workmen's compensation" or liability insurance.

Industrial accidents are unavoidable in the modern factory system, though they can be materially reduced through preventative measures. In 1923 there have occurred in the United States 2,453,000 industrial accidents causing 21,530 deaths and 1,800 cases of permanent disability. It can be seen therefore that 10 per cent of the accidents cause the permanent loss of chief support in a working class family. Small wonder that the problem of protecting the workers' health has lately drawn to itself the attention of all Labor leaders in the country.

Another illustration. During the years of America's participation in the World War the number of industrial accidents at home exceeded more than ten times the number of casualties in the American army. As we consider respectively the numbers engaged in industry and in the armies at that time we shall find that the workers engaged in "peaceful" occupations have been exposed to twice as great a hazard of injury as the soldier on the battle lines. We must keep in mind also that these figures apply to a period when the slogan "safety first" was resounding far and wide across the land and several national organizations were exceedingly active in promoting safety conditions in mines, fields and factories. In the last few years, however, the great catastrophes in the mines have begun to recur with terrible regularity and hundreds of coal diggers are paying again with their lives for the criminal callousness of the mine owners who would rather shirk on safety appliances at the risk of the workers' lives than spend the money necessary for their installation.

We can thus see that the question of industrial accident insurance is of paramount importance to workers and deserves their undivided attention. After preventative measures that might help workers avoid accidents, the next best thing to make the consequences of such accidents less appalling is workmen's compensation. We shall therefore touch upon this branch of social insurance in connection with two important amendments to this law adopted in the State of New York a short time ago.

About ten or twelve years ago, before the compensation laws first became operative in America in the State of New Jersey, the American worker had been practically wholly unprotected from the consequences of an accident. The formerly existing laws based upon the "fellow-servant" principle made him and his fellow workers solely responsible for an accident. Only in cases where the guilt of the employer was as plain as daylight was it possible to extract any compensation from him and that too after years of protracted litigation and after the lawyers had absorbed a goodly portion of the verdict. This practice was going on in the United States at a time when in Europe the system of social insurance in all forms has already made big strides. At last, it was abolished in America through State legislation, first, as we mentioned above, in New Jersey, and in the course of the last twelve years in other forty-four States and territories. In 1922 only five backward Southern States (both Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Arkansas) did

not have workmen's compensation laws on their statute books. The Federal Government also adopted a similar insurance system for its half million employees and the higher courts in the various states have strengthened these laws by favorable decisions.

These laws place upon the employers an obligation to pay their workers a certain compensation in the event of industrial accidents. This compensation has a double purpose: to give the workers medical aid so that they might recuperate their impaired working power, and to support their dependents during disability. Most of the States specify in their laws that the employers must be insured against risk of industrial accidents so that the workers might obtain compensation without difficulty. Other States, like New York and Pennsylvania, have introduced special State funds and a State control over accident insurance making it thus much more effective and reliable.

Not all states guarantee in their laws medical aid without time limitation. In some States such treatment is limited to ninety days only and its cost must not exceed two hundred and fifty dollars. To make the administration of the law less costly and to prevent interruption of work in cases of minor accidents, the laws provide for a waiting period of from three days to two weeks, for which no compensation is allowed. But from the statistics pertaining to industrial accidents it would appear that only one-quarter of applicants ask for more than two weeks' medical aid and that, with a waiting period of two weeks in the law, the majority of workers suffering accidents are liable to be left without compensation. Obviously, the waiting periods must not be so long if the compensation laws are to have any meaning for the workers.

A short time ago several changes in the compensation law were adopted in New York State, the most important among them being the reduction of the waiting period from two to one week. This is a step forward, but the workers must demand the entire abolition of the waiting period. Only then will the workers be sure of medical aid in time of accident. A shorter waiting period will also lead to better and more thorough cure. The employers or the insurance companies will see to it that in cases of minor accidents the workers also get quick and effective treatment and not be neglected as the case is today when they are compelled to wait a long time before they can claim any medical aid.

The rates of compensation in case of total inability vary in the different States. In New York and Ohio the workers get fully two-thirds of their

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

By H. SCHOOLMAN

This Week Twelve Years Ago

The shop of Altholts & Co., which moved to Passaic, N. J. in order to escape union conditions, is declared an strike. The firm ordered a cut of from twenty to thirty per cent of the settled price. Business Agent Catoia is arrested in course of strike and fined one hundred dollars or six months in jail. Brothers Kleiman and Perlestein later pay fine and he is released.

The financial report of Local 1 states that the income of the local from April 1, 1910, to July, 1912, amounted to two hundred and thirty-five thousand seven hundred and seventeen dollars. The expenditures for the same period reached a total of one hundred ninety-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-one dollars. The treasury of the local on that day consisted of thirty-eight thousand two hundred and twenty-eight dollars.

Railroad makers are beginning energetically to organize the trade in which there are employed about nine thousand workers. Brother Harry Dubinsky, International Vice-president, is appointed organizer for the industry.

wages during the entire period of their disability, which in the event of disability for life means a similar pension for life. There are, however, limits of not less than five dollars and not more than twenty dollars a week in such cases. In the event of death the same amount is to be paid to his widow for the remainder of her life unless she remarries. The compensation law in New York is by far the most liberal in America and resembles very much the accident insurance law in Germany, the mother country of social insurance.

Right now, a new important amendment to this law is being enacted in New York. Heretofore the New York law would not recognize the claims of such families of workers killed in industry as live abroad. This obviously was a discrimination against the families of the immigrant workers. Now this feature of the law is to be abolished. The Joint Legislative Committee on Exploitation of Immigrants prepared a report on this subject to the Senate and an appropriate bill was adopted to do away with it.

It is only right that the families of workers killed in accidents be protected regardless of whether they live here or abroad as long as the death of the provider of such a family falls directly upon American industry.

every attempt to fight against the exploitation of their brazen masters.

There is an excellent chance of the organization in Montreal coming back to life in the very near future. It is high time for such a revival among the Montreal cloak makers, for they have suffered long enough and surely they cannot cherish the prospect of becoming the complete chattel slaves of their bosses. In Toronto the Union is in much better shape though far from fulfilling the task for which it has been organized. The fact that in Toronto they are still making cloaks in windowless rooms, in "kitchen" shops and tenements is sufficient proof that the local organization is not having the influence in the Toronto cloak market it should have.

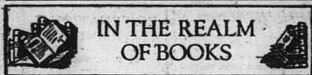
Organizers Hochman and Miss MacNabb have now brought out these facts in the open and public opinion seems to be quite aroused by these disclosures. Some prominent personages in Toronto are making an attempt to apologize for these conditions though they are unable to deny the charges. This is the time for our active workers in Montreal and Toronto to forge the iron while it is hot. This is the time to gather force and strength so that they might soon be in a position to dictate their demands to the employers.

The cloak makers of Canada ought to realize by now that their indifference and disloyalty have brought misery and degra-

dation upon them. Of course, there are excuses and alibis galore. Some would cast the blame upon the element of French workers in Montreal; others point to the women workers as an obstacle to organization. But are the French workers or the women workers devoid of mind, soul and the ability to respond to the right kind of appeal to enlist under the banner of our Union. Is it impossible to achieve in Canada what was possible in other districts and cities?

Some also speak of the stringency of laws affecting Labor in Canada. We should like to know what country there have not existed and still exist laws against Labor associations. Nevertheless, such discriminatory legislation has not daunted Labor anywhere and the workers have gone on fighting until their organizations have become firmly entrenched in the soil of the land. We believe that the human will to be free and to organize for the attainment of freedom is invincible, far stronger than any set of laws or restrictions and the Canadian workers are surely not less freedom-loving than their fellow workers in other lands.

It is about time that our Canadian cloak makers cease looking around for handy excuses. Let them build up again their unions; let them begin the fight for their rights as workers and they will quickly bring to an end the abominable conditions which prevail today in the cloak industry of Canada.



IN THE REALM OF BOOKS

The Cherry Orchard—American Style

A Lost Lady. By Wills Cather. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1923

By SYLVIA KOPALD

The stir created by Wills Cather's work, "A Lost Lady," has subsided. In the ensuing literary hush, this slender novel joins the growing ranks of American classics. Wills Cather has contributed notably to the new development of American art. The deep-understanding of the snap-shots of "Youth and the Bright Medusa," "My Antonio," and now Marian Forrester give to the gallery of American portraiture figures which catch much that is most significant and most native to American soil.

As is usual in all Miss Cather's work, "A Lost Lady" is far more than the story of an individual life. In this swiftly moving, delicately hinted story there is caught the history of an entire phase of American culture. Through Marian Forrester's tragic tale we watch the hopeful rise and hopeless decay of a mushroom city thrown up and then discarded in the rapid unthinking sweep of our industrial development. Sweet Water is an American Cherry Orchard, and the Ivy Peters, who court and displace the Captain Forresters are far more hateful and ruthless than their Russian prototypes. There is in the bitter courage and startled resignation of the Forresters a poignancy as sharp as anything that Cather ever wrote. And Forrester goes down with his flag flying; he loses all only because he cannot win over the new order of men to his old-fashioned integrity nor head that ethic to fit the new order in which he coddles finds himself.

But Marian tries to become part of new things. She is brave, this lost lady, but in her courage there is an hectic quality that has no real endurance in it. It breaks in the end, breaks under the sensual selfishness of Frank Ellinger and the driving inevitably of Ivy Peters. It breaks because Sweet Water is a Cherry Orchard and Marian Forrester's bloom and decay with the civilizations in which they live. Marian was lost because Sweet Water was lost; anywhere else she might have found herself. Or perhaps another type of man could have helped her to true discovery.

For certainly Marian had qualities. There was in her a charm, a delicate vitality, and color and even courage that belong only to fine humans. But her very strength makes her story a tragic one. It needed not the bleakness of Sweet Water but the movement and gaiety and admiration of crowded cities. For Marian was pretty and fatally attractive. She won men to her with too easy facility. And she was forced to grow old in Sweet Water. Her story was a simple one, and terribly inevitable and ruthless. A beautiful young girl, she was married to epic Captain Forrester; and kept to happy staidness by him. His money enables them to divide their time and lives between Sweet Water and California in each of which they find their different satisfactions. But Captain Forrester has sunk most of his money in a mid-western bank whose depositors are poor workers, whose small savings have been drawn to its vaults chiefly by their confidence in his name. The bank's money is caught by an industrial crisis in unrealizable investments. None of the new order directors are ready to pledge their money fully to pay out depositors. Captain Forrester gives

his all; his name is saved, his and Marian's lives are lost.

Marian has had lovers before this major break in their lives. There is under all her fineness and beauty this strain of doom, ugly as the mud in which Nell hurled the roses picked for her when he discovers it. But after their money is lost, they are chained to Sweet Water. She tackles her job bravely and bears—though frantically—even the gloating solitude of neighbors. But her slight ballast is gone; Ellinger marries and the Captain dies. She is completely lost—and to Ivy Peters. But splendid Nell was glad he had known her.

A fascinating lady; poor lost Marian. And a fascinating story, this epic of a passing civilization. Simple frontier character; Captain Forrester, defeated, utterly defeated by Ivy Peters. But the Ivy Peters are not the final inheritors of our American civilization. If there were no other assurances of this fact, Miss Cather's novels would be almost sufficient to down the sharpest scarp on this score. For there is in them always the same epic background that shadows Marian's moving tragedy. Such critical, conscious art can be born only in a civilization that is on the up-grade.

Miss Cather, moreover, does more than mirror the profoundest currents stirring our complexly growing life. This, by itself, would be a notable contribution. But Miss Cather, in addition tells what she sees with a simplicity that is akin to all that is noblest in art. Only 172 pages give this significant chapter of American life, paint this fascinating, complex woman. Light strokes, yet all revealing, Miss Cather's mastery is sure and brilliant. "A Lost Lady," is fitting successor to "My Antonio," and fine index of the miracle of becoming now anywhere apparent in American life. That ugly industrialism which Miss Cather portrays in its first insolent triumph over frontier America is now itself tasting defeat. And that defeat has been born in men's souls—in the souls of workers, the minds of thinkers and the imaginations of artists like Miss Cather. Every worker, therefore, should refuse to let the summer pass without meeting the "Lost Lady." Her creator is sharing the task which American workers, consciously or unconsciously, have undertaken.

THE WAY TO WIN

It ain't the guns nor armament

Nor the funds that they can pay,

But the close cooperation

That makes them win the day.

I ain't the individuals

Nor the army as a whole

But the overcastin' team work

Of every bloomin' soul.

—Kipling.

Review of the Month

A Bird's Eye View of Industry

All eyes are now upon the question, will industrial depression continue to increase, or will a revival of industry appear in the near future?

No betterman has yet appeared in the statistics of production and trade. Employment is some twelve per cent less than last year at the same time, and the average weekly earnings of those employed are about five per cent lower than a year ago, due chiefly to part time, but also in slight degree to scattering wage reductions. Production and trade still continue to fall. The cost of living is down about one per cent from a year ago, and wholesale prices about seven per cent. These figures do not spell a severe crisis, but they do show a dangerous tendency.

Those who rely upon the customary rules of thumb for prediction are hopeful. The New York Stock Exchange is supposed to anticipate industrial developments by about six months, and stock prices have shown a steady and strong rise ever since the middle of May. Rising crop prices have improved the purchasing power of the farmers somewhat, and they may be in still better position as the year wears on. Credit is plentiful and cheap, and easy money usually tends to stimulate production. Unfilled stock orders have shown a rising tendency in recent weeks, and there are signs that iron and steel production is beginning to pick up.

Others who have special theories about the business cycle are not so hopeful. Analysis of the possible market for iron and steel does not reveal where any large new volume of orders is coming from. There is lit-

tle doubt that the productive equipment of the country in many lines is too large for the normal demand of consumers, and the stocks of commodities built up during the heavy production of 1922 are still great. They are showing a slight decrease, but it is difficult to tell when they will decrease enough to make necessary any great expansion of production. If our information on such stocks were better than it is we should have been able to predict the exact time when the present business slack would begin, and likewise we should be able to predict the time when it will end.

There is no doubt that those in control of industry and capital want a prompt revival for political reasons. They can do something to bring it about, but not a great deal. If wages are kept up and interest rates are kept low, if new projects are undertaken involving large expenditures, if the railroads increase orders for new facilities and equipment, the revival may be hastened or the decline mitigated.

On the whole, it looks as if we were not in for a real industrial depression such as we suffered in 1921. Certainly we are not in for any such deflation of prices and reduction of wages. It also looks as if the recession would not go much farther than it has already. Production and employment may continue on about the present level for five or six months. They may revive in two. Scientific information about economics has not yet progressed sufficiently so that anyone can tell with certainty.

Riches to the Rich

Publication of the Federal income tax figures on 1922 incomes (taxes on which were paid in 1923) bring out many interesting facts.

First, the total tax receipts were \$861,057,308, or over \$150,000,000 larger than the receipts from 1921 incomes. This throws out Secretary Mellon's argument that tax receipts would continue to fall because of the issuance of tax-exempt securities and the high surtaxes. Tax receipts fell from 1919 to 1921 on account of industrial depression and falling prices, and rose in 1922 because of a reversal of the same process, as anyone with common sense might have expected. Tax exempt securities had little to do with it, and Mr. Mellon's "scientific" predictions of a deficit are punctured.

Next is the comparative increase shown in the total of very large incomes. The total of incomes reported by all those receiving from \$1,000 to \$150,000 each was smaller in 1922 than in 1920, the year which saw the peak of the post-war boom. But the total of incomes reported by those receiving \$150,000 to \$1,000,000 and over was larger in 1922 than in 1920. The higher the income, the more was the increase. Those who had incomes of over \$1,000,000 received altogether \$141,386,993 in 1922, against \$77,078,139 in 1920 and \$49,411,329 in 1921. Thus they received nearly twice as much as in the boom year of 1920, and three times as much as in 1921. It is almost certain that 1923 will show still larger figures for the giant incomes. It is therefore impossible to believe that there is any lack of profits or that taxes are discouraging the accumulation of wealth which the conservatives say is the necessary basis of prosperity.

Equally striking is the growth in number of those with large incomes. There were fewer incomes reported for 1922 than for 1920 in each class from \$1,000 to \$150,000. From \$150,000

000 up, there were more incomes reported in each class in 1922 than in 1920. Although the total number of reported incomes above the exemption limit was some 470,000 smaller in 1922 than in 1920, the number above \$150,000 was 1860 in 1922 against 1458 in 1920. This means, if the figures are correct, that while about 470,000 people who were subject to income taxes in 1920 dropped below the exemption limit of income in 1922, 202 people who received less than \$150,000 a year in 1920 jumped above it in 1922. The number receiving over \$1,000,000 each was sixty-seven in 1922 against thirty-three in 1920, and was as large as in the highly profitable year of 1918.

—Facts for Workers, August, 1924.

The creation of the *Studenius* Council of the U. S. G. W. U. is a private yacht with a capacity of 100 will be held on Sunday, September 7. Tickets \$150. Reservations must be made at once at the office of the Educational Department, 3 West 14th Street.

"Step by step the longest march
Can be won; can be won.
Single stones will form an arch
One by one, one by one.

"And by union, what we will
Can be all accomplished still.
Drops of water turn a mill,
Single men, singly none."

—Aron.



FOREIGN ITEMS

CANADA

Frontier College

Frontier College, of Toronto founded in 1900 to educate illiterate immigrants, is this summer sending out instructors to the lumber camps, mines and railway construction camps of the Canadian Northwest. The instructors are university men who are required to do pick-and-shovel work with the men, as the College has decided that this is the best way of getting the confidence of the men whom it is desired to educate.

ENGLAND

British Mine Wage Dispute Settled

A wage settlement considered a partial victory for British coal miners follows the report of the court of inquiry that practically every class of day workers was worse off under the current 1921 agreement than in 1914. But the miners still believe, according to Secretary A. J. Smith of the Miners' Federation, that the only solution of the wage question is voluntary unification of the industry or else nationalization. The court found that in certain districts miners were receiving less than prewar earnings while owners got profits in excess of those prewar years.

DENMARK

Denmark's Woman Cabinet Officer

The kingdom of Denmark has the distinction of being the first among Western European countries to nominate a woman as a full-fledged cabinet member, according to press dispatches. Mrs. Nina Bang, a veteran in the Socialist movement of Europe, has been made minister of education, the Socialist Premier, Stauning, thus eclipsing Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald of Great Britain, who made Margaret Bonfield minister but under-secretary of Labor.

School Theaters in Denmark

The thirty thousand school children and high school students of Copenhagen are to have their own theater, and will see plays there just as regularly as they now have their lessons. The idea originated with a Dutch teacher named Hejle who realized that it is tedious for school children to read classical plays merely as literature without seeing them dramatized. He made special arrangements for his pupils to see a certain number of plays, but this benefited too small a proportion. Hence the new venture whereby it will be possible to give all the city's children an opportunity to augment their studies of literature and history by witnessing and by helping to produce both Danish and foreign classics.

FRANCE

The National Economic Council

Herriot, the French Prime Minister, before going to London, asked the Minister of Labor to "prepare" at once for the formation of an Economic Council.

Godart, the present Minister of Labor, has therefore appointed a research commission to study the question of how best to represent the workers and their organizations on the Economic Council, and what shall be done to safeguard public hygiene. The commission also has to prepare a program for the Economic Council, delimiting its duties in the domains of public hygiene, social welfare and social institutions in general.

The commission consists of representatives from agriculture and industry (employers), the French Confederation of Labor, the workers' productive cooperative societies, and also representatives of manual and non-manual workers, and cooperative societies. There will also be experts in hygiene and jurists, and a representative of the International Labor Office. The French Confederation of Labor will be represented by Jouhaux, Lenoir and Millon.

The Council will have to deal with the impending collapse of France's present administration, which dates from Napoleon and was all very well for the last century, but does not meet the needs of the new age. Today France is in the midst of an economic feudal system, a system which has managed to harness the whole of the economic apparatus in the country to the chariot-wheels of the new feudal barons of finance, who are thus able to accumulate profits at the expense of the workers and consumers.

GERMANY

The Eight-Hour Day—A Critical Moment

The recent meeting of the Executive of the German Federation of Trade Unions discussed mainly the question of working hours, which has now become yet more acute in consequence of the announcements of Great Britain, France and Belgium concerning the ratification of the Washington Convention. The Executive passed a resolution calling upon the trade union members of the Reichstag "to introduce into Parliament a resolution proposing a bill for the regulation of working hours in Germany; the bill to be such as will secure the ratification and practical execution of the Washington Convention in Germany within a reasonable space of time."

The Executive also discussed the report of the commission appointed to take preliminary steps towards the holding of a referendum on the eight-hour day question; it recommended that the executives of the affiliated unions should be urged to decide at once what line they mean to adopt.

It also asked the Unions to pass the necessary resolutions to raise funds for propaganda in favor of a referendum.

The hypocrisy of the employers, with their "recognition in principle" of the eight-hour day, is now at last exposed. By means of the Decree on Working Hours which recognizes "in principle" the eight-hour day, the employers can fix the working day at nine and even ten hours, and they can do this arbitrarily off their own bat, without any sanction from the authorities,

and without consultation of the workers, although the rights of the workers to economic equality are laid down both in the Constitution and in the Works' Councils' Act.

GREAT BRITAIN

The Eight-Hour Day Bill

The text of the British Eight-Hour Day Bill (called the Hours of Industrial Employment Bill) has now been published. It includes in its scope mining, manufacturing in general, shipbuilding, building, transport enterprises, and enterprises of public utility. Eight hours may be exceeded by agreement on certain days, but not more than one hour; in shift work, the hours may be exceeded in one week, but must not be exceeded on an average. Employers must post up a notice of hours of work. Payment for overtime must not be less than at the rate of time and a quarter.

The bill does not apply to supervisory workers, or to seamen, agricultural workers, and home-workers. The railwaymen however are anxious to be exempted from the operation of the bill. In reply to the question on the subject of the railway workers, the Minister of Labor declared that the proposed bill would deal with the provisions of the Washington Hours Convention, and that during its discussion the conditions of railways and in other industries had been considered. It was held desirable to leave further consideration to the House when it debates the bill.

Efforts to Improve Organization

Various unions of workers in the dyeing, bleaching and furnishing industries have for some time past been engaged in negotiations with a view to amalgamation. Draft rules for this change have been approved by the executives and the matter will now be referred to the members.

The T. U. C. General Council has been giving special attention to the organization of women workers. A women's demonstration is to be held during the forthcoming congress at Hull, and after the congress a conference will be held of representatives (women, if possible) of unions who have a large number of women members.

JAPAN

The Trade Union Movement

The Japan Federation of Labor has a membership of about 24,000. The most powerful organization in the Federation is the Mechanics and Machinists' Union, which represent about twenty per cent, while shipbuilding workers represent fifteen per cent and miners twelve per cent of the total membership. Other unions cater for printers, ship carpenters, textile workers, watchmakers, etc. Another important union is the Japan Seamen's Union, which cooperates with the Federation of Labor, and has a membership of about 25,000. The largest union in Japan is, however, the Land-workers' Union, with about 45,000 members, which although not affiliated with the Federation of Labor, is nevertheless linked up with it inasmuch as several members of its executive committee are also members of the executive committee of the Federation, and Sasaki, president of the Federation, is also on the executive of the Land-workers' Union.

In general, however, the number of organized workers is very small in comparison with the whole number of the working population. Thus, out of 400,000 miners, only about 3,000 are organized. Then, again, 5,500,000 families are engaged in agriculture, 3,800,000 of these are, it is true, tenant farmers, but nevertheless they are of the proletarian class, and are forced to struggle desperately merely to sustain life.

The program of the Japan Federation of Labor, as explained by Mr. Suzuki, its president, is the following: an eight-hour day and a forty-eight hour week; a minimum wage scale; the abolition of night work; the abolition of the police regulations permitting interference with Labor meetings and demonstrations; the diplomatic recognition of Russia; the proclamation of May Day as a national holiday throughout Japan, and the cooperation of all workers in Japan in a national economic movement.

DOMESTIC ITEMS

Women Officials in Wisconsin Municipalities

The University of Wisconsin has compiled an interesting report of the number of women officials in Wisconsin cities and villages. The record is made from information received from 100 cities and 194 villages; while thirty-seven cities and 159 villages failed to fill out and return the questionnaire sent them. An examination of the tables shows that on January, 1924, there were over four hundred women holding municipal offices in the State. Had replies been received from all the cities and villages, this number would undoubtedly have been appreciably increased.

Crandon is the only city reporting a woman mayor. Eight cities report alderwomen, one an auditor, five report women city clerks, nine have women treasurers and nine have policewomen.

And so the record goes on to tell of women justices of the peace, post commissioners, park commissioners and members of boards—school boards, library boards, health boards and cemetery boards.

The Speakers' Service Bureau

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, over the signature of its vice-president, H. H. Broach, is sending out word of the Speakers' Service Bureau, a non-profit making Labor institution founded at Minneapolis several months ago.

The idea is to create a mail service agency to assist in training and developing Labor speakers and to furnish Labor students and officials with all kinds of speaking material, with addresses, debates and so on.

The Speakers' Service Bureau proposes to help fill the great need of the Labor movement for more and better speakers. The Bureau is to be addressed at the Duley Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES

Economics and the Labor Movement

By SYLVIA KOPALD

Given at the

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

of the

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Sessions 1922-23 and 1923-24

(Continued from Last Week.)

8. It must be evident at once that private ownership itself is a development which has changed with the changes in the tools themselves. From the wider spread of ownership among primitive hunting tribes we have gone from flock ownership to land ownership to machine ownership. Always, those who owned also controlled and ruled. But although private ownership also is a development, its development is different in nature from the development of the tools. The latter was a social, cumulative development. Private ownership is an institutional, legal development. Serving definite functions, its role in social growth is different because of this.

9. Of the three bases of economics, then we note these important characteristics at the outset:

Man, an animal, made we know not how, changes slowly and not by human agency. We cannot, that is, determine to change human nature and proceed to do so. Man has not changed in his wants, instincts, urges, capacities for thousands of years. But society has changed; institutions have changed. We may say, therefore, that changes in the future may be expected in material and social environment, as in the past, without changes in human nature.

The tools of production also change, but not solely by human agency. We cannot decide to harness the tides or cure cancer and then proceed to do so. We must await the necessary prior accumulation of knowledge which will finally permit us to make the great leap, the integration which will be a great invention.

Private ownership of the social tools of production also has changed its "complexion" through the ages. It always has been changed solely by human agency following changes in the social tools of production. Man-made laws and institutions finally undermined absolute monarchy, medieval guilds, the "robber barons," the English owners of the American colonies, the brewery owners in the United States (confiscation by prohibition), the owners in Russia. This basis of economics alone is entirely under human control, a purely man-made institution built upon the social tools of production. (Thorstein Veblen, "The Vested Interests and the State of the Industrial Arts.")

10. Our course will be a study of the nature and interrelations of these bases of economics. We will see how the tools of production work today, how private ownership is organized, how private ownership has been getting in the way of the social tools, how human nature is revolting against the present economic system, how the industrial groups are organized about the tools, how the present system measures up socially. We must approach our work with the historic (indeed better the geologic and anthropologic) viewpoint, seeking always first to understand how things have come to be as they are, and then to evaluate them from the criteria of social welfare.

Educational Season About To Open

The educational season is approaching. Teachers will soon be returning from their well deserved vacations. Workers will soon take leave of the hot summer spell, and those active in the workers' educational movement will soon be "on the job." We are confident that now, as Workers' Education is taking an ever greater hold of the Labor movement, this group will be imbued with a spirit of hopefulness in its future. They will carry on the work with renewed courage.

During the summer the Educational Department has been busily engaged in preparing the courses for next season, and the announcement of these courses is now in the hands of the printer. The curriculum offers a wide variety of choice in subjects dealing with social, economic and labor problems, as well as with litera-

ture, health and physical training.

Men and women prominent in the educational field and sympathetic with the aims of workers' education have been secured as teachers. The educational department has held numerous conferences and kept up a continual correspondence with these teachers all summer, discussing the subject matter, the arrangement of material and the method of presentation. Every course is specially prepared to meet the needs of our members. The courses will be given in the English, Yiddish, Italian and Russian languages.

Of great importance to our members are the courses to be given for Executive Members, Officers and Active Members of our International. For this purpose class rooms will be equipped in some of the offices of the

What the Labor Movement Expects of Workers' Education

By JOHN P. FREY

Why should the worker expect an education beyond that now offered to him? Our high schools have night classes; many of our State universities give extension courses. The worker has at his disposal institutions of learning in which he can study the arts and sciences, in which he can prepare himself for one of the professions. Our public school system extends greater opportunities for education than are to be found in any other country. Why then should the wage earners endeavor to establish another educational institution? Is it the wage earners' intention to enter into competition with existing educational institutions, and if this is their desire, have they the necessary knowledge or training to qualify them to launch such an undertaking, or is it the wage earners' desire to build up a propaganda system under the name of workers' education.

The leaders of the Workers' Education Bureau as well as those of the American Federation of Labor, realize that nothing has been more fatal to the wage earners' welfare and progress than propaganda, for propaganda has filled the minds of some wage earners with ideas which rested upon a pseud foundation, and which made it impossible for them to exercise their influence in a beneficial manner for themselves or their associates. Education for propaganda purposes is, in reality, not education at all. It is nothing but the spreading of misinformation and old woman's tales.

We are not competing with any existing educational institutions. Instead we are endeavoring to give to wage earners an education which they cannot secure except through the channels which we provide, and furthermore we are endeavoring to provide for the wage earners education through democratic methods under which Labor has a voice in determining

what it desires to learn. The wage earner going into industry from the primary school grades acquires a certain practical type of knowledge which higher schools cannot teach, but these very experiences which come from the necessity of laboring in industry prevent the securing of some knowledge which is of the greatest importance.

We need to know the origin and development of our social, industrial and political institutions. It is necessary that we should know the part that Labor has played in these developments. We cannot hope to secure this information in the ordinary class room or in the text books, because these do not contain the well-balanced and thoroughgoing statement of all of the facts. The standard text books and histories fail to deal adequately with Labor's part in building up civilization and Labor's problems. They fail to open the wage earner's mind to those fields of knowledge which are so essential if Labor is to understand intelligently its problems. The organized wage earner realizes that the assistance of trained educators, can secure all of the essential knowledge which Labor requires, taught in a manner which is best adapted for wage earners to grasp. Education freed from unnecessary technicalities; education freed from bias; education which will teach the truth and nothing but the truth concerning all of its subjects which are of particular importance to Labor.—Workers' Education Quarterly.

Excursion up the Hudson, Sunday, September 7

Are you planning to go on the excursion of the Students' Council up the Hudson on the private yacht "Annis" on Sunday, September 7, 1924? Then hurry and make your reservations, for the yacht can only accommodate one hundred persons. It

will leave from 158th street and Hudson River at 9:30 o'clock sharp on September 7. Tickets cost \$1.50 and are on sale at the office of the Educational Department, 3 West 16th street. It will be a gala event. Don't miss it.

locals and in the I. L. G. W. U. building, where these members will meet from half past six to nine o'clock one evening in the week. The two and a half hours will be divided into two periods, one hour and a quarter for the study of the English language and the second hour and a quarter for a discussion of the American Labor Movement, with special reference to the problems of our own I. L. G. W. U. The twenty-four week season will be divided into three parts. The following subjects will be studied:

1. English, oral and written.
2. Problems, aims and policies of the American Labor Movement, with special reference to the I. L. G. W. U., David J. Saposs and Max Levin.
3. Psychology and the Labor Movement, Alexander Fickander.
4. Social and Political History of the United States, H. J. Carman.

5. Economic and Labor Problems of the Working Woman, Theresa Wolfson.

Similar instruction will be arranged for promising young men and women members of our organization. These persons will be selected with the assistance of the executive boards, the officers of our local unions and the Educational Department. Courses of a more advanced character will be organized for the business agents and officers of our local unions, to be given at a time most convenient for them. Not only will these courses be given by the very finest instructors, but they will be assisted by officers of the union. With such a combination and the keen interest of our members in these classes, these courses are bound to be of incalculable value to our Union as well as to the individuals who take them.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

An endless walking in and out of the manager's office began immediately upon Brother Dubinsky's return from his duties as chairman of the Organization Committee on Wednesday, August 6.

The fact that the reorganization campaign terminated successfully for the union in no way means that the great work which the union has undertaken is at an end. In fact, upon the manager's return to the office the real work began. He ordered a list of shops which were suspected of not employing cutters. Controllers were at once appointed, and the reports of the controllers have shown that some men had not secured working cards. These men are going to be dealt with in a manner that will impress upon them the importance of securing working cards as soon as they report on a job.

Members Hear Manager's Report
The first regular member meeting following the termination of the organization campaign gave the members a good deal to think and talk about. The meeting was held on Monday, August 11. At first it was thought possible that the meeting would go on with regular matters, as Dubinsky was not present at the opening of the meeting, having been compelled to attend the final meeting of the General Strike Committee. Following the reports by the Judiciary Committee on a number of cases referred to them on appeals, Manager Dubinsky appeared, and his report was rendered at once.

He touched upon many interesting matters. The question of the increase in dues took up the greater part of the evening, the manager being constantly interrupted by questions. Dubinsky told the members that a special meeting is being called for Monday evening, August 18, to take action on this question. He said that the International's, as well as the Joint Board's, constitution clearly specify that the Joint Board has a right to increase its dues and assessments. However, Local 10 will act on this question in the same way as it has always acted. It will be up to the members to decide on this point one way or the other.

It will be recalled that the Boston Convention of the International had decided to increase its per capita. Because of the then impending situation in the cloak and suit industry, the General Executive Board postponed the payment of the increased per capita until August 15.

Now that the industry is almost back on a normal footing, the Joint Board as well as the various locals have before them this question: These organizations constitute fixing the rate of dues at 50 cents per week. Local 10 naturally is compelled, under the order of the International, to pay after August 15 the increased rate. Hence the need on this question for action by the members.

Letter Addressed to Members

The manager informed the members that the Executive Board had decided to send out letters to each and every member of the union, notifying them of the action of the General Executive Board and urging them to pay up their arrears.

Dubinsky was emphatic in his statement that the members would be the sole judges as to whether they want to pay 50 cents per week as their dues. But whatever the outcome," he told them, "and no matter how you feel about it, one thing I ask of you, and that is that you act upon this matter in the way the members of Local 10 always did. There

will and must be the usual discipline and orderliness in the consideration of this question. It is your union, you legislate for it, and you will be called upon to decide this as well as all other matters.

One of the members asked Dubinsky as to what a man should do who cannot afford to pay his dues, that is, one who cannot afford to take advantage of the grace allowed for the payment of arrears at the present rate of 35 cents per week. To this he replied that any man who because of protracted unemployment, or because of illness, cannot pay his dues should report to him, and he will be instructed accordingly.

Replying to the question why the International was compelled to increase the per capita, the manager told the men that the union is compelled to keep up a constant organization campaign in outlying districts in order to maintain union standards. Brooklyn presents one of the biggest problems in this respect. Baltimore, Philadelphia, and other cloak centers in nearby states also act as a drain on the organization's funds.

The meeting went off nicely. There is no doubt that at the special meeting on Monday, August 18, when the members will act on the increase in dues, they will have a comprehensive idea as to the reasons for such an increase. In fact, the manager told the members that his report was intended for this point only. He knew that no action would be taken at the meeting.

The letter which was sent to the members reads as follows:

At the last convention of the International held in Boston a decision was reached to increase the per capita dues towards the International. Due, however, to the slackness in the trade and the recent strike in the cloak and suit industry, the General Executive Board decided to postpone enforcement of this decision until August 15.

In accordance with this decision, the Executive Board of Local 10 has decided to notify every member that after August 15 all payments on dues, including arrears, will be charged at the increased rate.

You are advised of this decision in order that you may make immediate payment of all your arrears. In this way you will save yourself a considerable amount of money, as after August 15 all dues will be charged at the new rate.

Fraternally yours,

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 10.

Philip Ansel, President.

Benjamin Evry, Chairman, Executive Board.

David Dubinsky, Manager-Secretary.

Members Warned Regarding Working Cards

Incidental with the letter quoted, the manager is sending out another letter to the members in connection with the control of shops and the importance of securing working and returning working cards.

Dubinsky stated that immediately upon his coming into the office he sent out controllers to the two hundred shops which, according to his records, did not employ cutters. Among the reports which he received from the investigators he found that in quite a number of these shops cutters were employed but they had failed to secure cards. This led him at once to institute a similar control in about seven hundred shops. He said that he was certain he would find a large number of cutters without cards in

the supposedly legitimate shops. In this letter he makes it very plain that he intends to discipline every member who fails to secure a card.

The matter of the working card is of greater importance than some of the members realize. By securing it when a member obtains a job and by renewing it when the season begins, and by returning it when he is laid off, the manager is enabled to tell at a glance whether or not a particular shop is supplied with a cutter.

Another reason why the need for taking out cards and returning them when a cutter is laid off was stressed is that the cutters who work in shops employing one man, very often "jump" to another shop. The failure to comply with this rule makes controlling very difficult.

Another matter which the manager touched upon were the shops which formerly contained less than fourteen machine operators. A large number of these shops have now hired fourteen operators to comply with the terms of the new agreement. These employers will no doubt attempt to do with one cutter and help the cutter in some details of cutting. The men found guilty of this violation will be dealt with very severely.

There is no doubt but that many additional cutters will find room for themselves in some of these so-called one-man houses.

About Unemployment Insurance

A question was asked of the manager concerning the collection of the 3 per cent towards the creation of the Unemployment Insurance Fund. Some members said that the workers' share of one per cent was already being collected.

Manager Dubinsky told the men that the date as to when the fund is to be collected will be made public shortly. In the meantime, all of the employers who deducted from the workers one per cent of their wages will be informed to refund the amounts collected.

To Call Many Shop Meetings

In connection with the control which is being instituted, plans have been perfected for the calling of the meetings of the cutters of large shops. These shop meetings are called for purposes of control.

At the Executive Board meeting, August 7, Manager Dubinsky informed the Board of his plans and at the same time called upon the Board members and other officers to volunteer their services for a few nights a week.

There was a ready response to the manager's request.

In connection with the attendance by the members of the shop meetings, their attention is called to the fact

that they must have their books and working cards with them at the time.

Members Discuss Judiciary Reports.
As was stated before, the Judiciary Committee which was appointed to hear the appeals of a number of members who were fined by the Executive Board reported on the hearings they held.

Except in two cases, the original decisions were sustained by the committee. No doubt the committee concluded that proper hearings were given the appellants in the first instance by the Executive Board. One of the cases in which the committee recommended a reduction in the fine resulted in some interesting discussion. The case relates to Max Grablowsky, who was fined \$25 for having worked on Washington's Birthday. He was seen in the shop by a business agent at 11:30 a. m. The Appeal Committee recommended that the fine be reduced to \$15. The moment the case had been made clear to the members, they moved to reject the report of the Appeal Committee and to sustain the original decision of the Executive Board.

During the discussion of this motion some of the members seemed incensed as a result of the leniency shown by the Judiciary Committee. Manager Dubinsky remarked that he did not know who the man was whose case was being discussed, nor did he remember the case when it was originally tried by the Executive Board. However, he said that he entirely disagreed with some of the speakers who felt that the Judiciary Committee did not act properly. A man who admits his guilt and expresses regret for having committed a violation is entitled to leniency. It is the man who stubbornly lies who is deserving of severe punishment. The final vote showed that the members were in favor of the lenient course recommended by the Committee.

Considerable discussion ensued also over the case of the cutters of A. & S. Oppenheim, the cutters of which shop, five in number, were fined \$25 for working day work. At the Executive Board, when this case was taken up, the manager had stated that these men were guilty of a similar violation last season. At that time they were merely instructed against repeating this offense.

However, they did not consider this a sufficient warning. They were brought up on this charge by Business Agent Nagler who remembered the first warning. The Judiciary Committee recommended a reduction in this fine too. But the members felt that the punishment meted out by the Executive Board was the proper one, and sustained the original action of the Executive Board.

CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

CLOAK AND SUIT cutters are not to return to work or accept a new position without securing the necessary permission and working card from the office of Local 10.

DRESS AND WAIST cutters must renew their working cards beginning now. All cutters found working on the old card are liable to a fine.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Special controllers will be sent out during next week to visit the shops. If any member will be found working without a working card he will be summoned before the Executive Board and fined, as per the constitution.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

REGULAR MEETING.....Monday, August 25, 1924

SPECIAL MEETING.....Monday, August 18, 1924

The purpose of this meeting is to take action on the matter of an increase in dues.

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Mark's Place