

"My righteous-
ness 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. VII, No. 6.

New York, Friday, February 6, 1925.

Price 2 Cents

General Strike in Montreal and Toronto Cloak Industry

Workers Leave Montreal Shops on Tuesday, February 3 — Union Issues Stirring Call To Workers — Hochman Reviews Strike Issues and Gives Final Instructions To Strikers — Toronto Workers Quit Factories on Thursday, Feb. 5

In accordance with plans previously laid out, the Montreal Joint Board, under the leadership of General Organizer Julius Hochman, I. L. G. W. U. representative in Canada, called out the workers in the cloak and suit industry of Montreal, Canada, on strike on Tuesday morning, February 2.

The strike call of the Union was obeyed practically by every man and woman in the Montreal cloak shop. The response to the Union's message was magnificent, especially in view of the fact that only until recently the outlook for a mildly founded trade union in the Montreal cloak trade did not seem especially bright. But the heavy toll which the Union-hating employers of that city have been taking from their workers because the latter had failed to support their own union for some time in the past has now told upon these workers. The cloak makers having shaken off their apathy and indifference, are now resolved never to re-enter their shops except as recognized union workers, and under union conditions.

The strike call was issued to the workers in the early hours of the morning as they were about to enter

the shops. Soon after, streams of cloak makers began vending their way to the strike headquarters, Auditorium Hall on West Ontario street, which soon became filled to capacity. The call of the Union reads as follows:

Cloak Makers' General Strike Declared Today, February 3, At Eight o'clock in the Morning
TO ALL CLOAK AND SUIT MAKERS OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL.

REAL:

Sisters and Brothers:
The time has come, the hour has struck, when all cloak makers of the City of Montreal will prove to the cloak manufacturers their determina-

tion to establish standards and conditions of employment befitting self-respecting workers.

Our International has, through its representative, made every effort, did everything humanly possible to convince the employers of this city of the practicability and advisability of negotiating a peaceful understanding between the employers and our organization. We have communicated with each and every employer of this city twice, we have in the most clear and dignified manner explained our position to the employers of this city. Not only did the employers fail to set upon our invitation for conferences and negotiations, but they have even refused the ordinary courtesy of a reply. By their unwillingness to discuss our grievances and proposals for their ad-

(Continued on page 2.)

Agreements Signed With N. Y. Dress Jobbers and Contractors

Dress Makers Halt New Pact—Workers Win Large Wage Increases—Piece Workers Guaranteed Minimum Earnings—A Fixed Average for Shop Earnings Assured—Label, Unemployment Fund Introduced

The signing of the two agreements in the New York dress industry this week, one with the Wholesale Dress Manufacturers' Association (the jobbers) and the other with the Dress Manufacturers' Association (the con-

tractors), brings to an end negotiations lasting for ten weeks between the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board and these associations on the subject of renewal of agreements in the industry.

The agreement with the jobbers' association was signed on Tuesday, February 3, and that with the contractors' organization on Wednesday, February 4. A short delay in the signing of the agreements was caused by some dispute between the jobbers and the contractors during the final hours of the negotiations, but these were quickly put out of the way and the signatures of the respective organizations were affixed to the contracts.

The new agreements are being hailed in international circles in this city and throughout the dress trade

as a remarkable achievement for the workers. It has gained an astounding wage increase for all the men and women in the trade and it incorporates into the industry a number of first-rate industrial reforms which cannot fail to have a highly beneficial effect upon the workers and the trade as a whole.

A complete discussion of this agreement and its significance for the dressmakers of New York the reader will find on the editorial page of this issue. The chief negotiators for the Union were President Morris Sigman, Vice-president Israel Feinberg, the general manager of the Joint Board, Vice-president Harry Wander, Isidore Horowitz, manager of the Dress Division of the Joint Board, and Morris Hillquit of counsel for the I. L. G. W. U.

Philadelphia Cloak Contractor Shops In Strike

Agreement Signed With Association — Contractors' Shops Called Out Wednesday—Conference With Jobbers Next

In the Philadelphia cloak trade affairs have been moving quite rapidly during last week. The agreement with the local employers expired some time ago and in the last few weeks the Joint Board has conducted negotiations with the Cloak Manufacturers' Association of that city for its renewal. The Joint Board demanded that the new agreement conform to all the standards incorporated during the past year in the New York contract.

Last Saturday, President Morris Sigman went to Philadelphia to take part in the final stage of the negotiations with the Association. As a result an agreement was reached which is in all respects similar to the New York pact except for the unemploy-

ment insurance fund which was left for the time in abeyance. Later in the day, at a meeting of the Joint Board which was attended by President Sigman, it was decided to call out all the workers employed in the contractor shops working for jobbers on Wednesday morning, February 4, and also all the workers in the independent shops, to make these firms comply with the new terms included in the agreement with the Association.

President Sigman expects that before the week is over a conference will be held with the jobbers' organization in the Philadelphia cloak trade; at which an effort will be made to reach an agreement in this branch of the trade as well.

Sixty Chicago Dress Firms Sign Agreements

Sister Mollie Friedman Reports Excellent Progress — Dress District Inundated With Union Literature—President Sigman Expected In Chicago Next Week

The news reaching the General Office from the Chicago dress field continues to improve from day to day. Sister Mollie Friedman, who is conducting the organizing campaign among the dressmakers for the International Office, is making steady gains in the tremendously

difficult job she has been entrusted with to infuse new fire in the ranks of the workers of the Chicago dress industry who only recently had undergone a bitterly-contented struggle with a group of their employers for nearly twenty weeks.

(Continued on page 2.)

So. Norwalk Shops Settle With Union

Last week saw the end of a fight carried on for a number of weeks in South Norwalk, Conn., between the workers employed in the D & S Raincoat Company's shop and the firm. The strike was for a union shop and for the maintenance of union work conditions. It involved about fifty people.

It was settled jointly by Organizer Bernard Shub of the Out-of-Town Department and Abraham Weingart, Secretary of the Waterproof Garment Workers' Union, Local 20, to which local the D & S workers belong. The firm signed a regular union agreement.

Organizer Shub also succeeded last week in closing an agreement with the Norwalk Cloak Company, a shop employing about thirty people, which has for some time past resisted union recognition.

Silk Underwear Workers on Eve of General Strike

Big Mobilization Meeting Next Tuesday in Beethoven Hall—Sigman, Baroff and Panken to Address Workers

The white goods workers, members of Local 62, are busily engaged making final preparations for the planned general strike in all silk and muslin underwear shops in Greater New York.

Last Tuesday, February 3, Local 62 held a conference with a committee from the Cotton Garment Manufacturers' Association at which the demands of the Union were presented (Continued on Page 2)

Bonnaz Embroiderers Strike In All New York Shops

On Thursday, February 5, at 10 o'clock in the morning, the Bonnaz embroidery trade in New York came to a standstill. The walkout was ordered by the Bonnaz Embroidery Workers' Union, Local 66, with the sanction of the District Council of the Miscellaneous Trades.

As reported in Justice two weeks ago, Local 66 renewed its agree-

ment on very favorable terms with the employers' association in the trade. As only a portion of the trade is controlled by the firm belonging to the association, it became imperative to bring the whole industry to a stop in order to equalize conditions in all shops.

The workers in the settled shops (Continued on page 2.)

General Strike In Montreal and Toronto Cloak Industry

(Continued from Page 1)

judgment, the employers have amply demonstrated that they have no conscience in the justice of their position. As last great mass meeting, we instructed the officers of the International, in the event of our efforts for a peaceful settlement failing, to order a cessation of work. We are therefore now carrying out your decision. We are certain that a unanimous walkout at the cloak makers' meeting this city today will bring about a speedy removal of our just grievances.

And we therefore call upon cloak makers, cutters, operators, sample makers, tailors, fashions, button sewers, every worker employed in a cloak shop on Thursday, February 5, at eight o'clock in the morning at the Auditorium Hall, 229 Ontario street West, where a great mass meeting will be held and instructions to the workers will be issued.

Sisters and Brothers, remember, Do not report to work on Tuesday morning. Come direct from your home and join the other workers. This order is directed to each individual worker. Above all do not cause any disturbance. Do not give an opportunity to your employers and other interested parties to accuse you of any breach of the law which might lead to arrests.

By order of
THE JOINT BOARD AND THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION.

In addition to this strike call, Brother Julius Hochman issued the following statement to the strikers which was distributed widely to them as they were leaving the shops:

Statement by General Organizer Julius Hochman

TO ALL THE CLOAK, SUIT AND SKIRT MAKERS OF THE CITY OF MONTREAL.

Sisters and Brothers:

We have come upon your invitation and request to organize the workers of this industry by that through your collective efforts you may improve your condition of work, raise your standard of living and get the elementary rights conceded to workers by every fair-minded person.

You have responded in great numbers to every call I issued. Each of every mass meeting was larger and more enthusiastic than the previous one. By hundreds you have joined the union until today practically every worker of this city is a member of the Joint Board of the Cloak Makers' Union of Montreal affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

You have come to the Union with a purpose. The purpose is to be able and clear. You realize that individually you are helpless in facing your employer. You saw the industry to which you have given many years of training and which is the only means from which you draw a living far poorer and dependent upon the whims of the retailer, and in the eyes of the consumer. Your wages have become smaller and your hours have become longer in number. You are all this in the absence of an organization of workers to check it.

You are determined to make an end of this condition. You have spoken to the employers, we have asked them to come together to discuss matters and to face facts and to put the in-

dustry back on a sound and solid foundation.

Public-minded citizens of high standing and reputation saw the justice of our grievance and realized the advisability of the employer and workers to come together and reach an understanding by negotiation and peaceful settlement.

They have approached us and we have expressed our willingness and readiness to negotiate. They have approached the employers but they have stalled.

They have failed to agree to this reasonable and just proposal. They refused all our efforts to see them in person. The only conclusion that we can logically draw from this attitude of your employers is that in their heart of hearts they have no intention of making any concession.

A man with clean hands is never afraid to meet another man, a man with a clear conscience is never afraid to discuss any proposition with another man, and acting the way the Montreal manufacturers have done, they have pronounced condemnation upon themselves. They have convinced you, the able and every fair minded and thinking person the absolute need of an organization to check the avarice and greed of some of the employers in this industry and to put the welfare of human beings in its proper place.

You have walked out as proud men and women should. Your walk-out has been glorious and inspiring demonstration. We are sure that you will keep this solidarity, this cooperative spirit up for as long as it will be necessary, and there is nothing in the world to prevent you from returning to work with the same jubilant spirit, with the pride that you have demonstrated today. Discipline, order, devotion and solidarity are the words for you to keep in mind all the time. You have the right to picket and do it peacefully, lawfully and orderly.

We are proud of your demonstration. Let us work hand in hand with union of heart and mind for a speedy and effective victory.

JULIUS HOCHMAN.

General Officers Send Greetings

When the news of the Montreal strike was received at the General office of the International, President Sigman and Samuel Baroff were forwarded at once the following dispatch to the strikers:

February 3, 1925.

Mr. J. Schober,
Montreal Joint Board,
37 Prince Arthur St. E.,
Montreal, Canada.

We are rejoicing with the Joint Board Cloakmakers of Montreal in the splendid walkout of the cloak makers. We are sending heartfelt congratulations to the Joint Board and the strikers. We sincerely hope that by this act they will be able to establish humane conditions in the factories and bring about healthy conditions in the industry. The International Union will do its utmost to help the strikers to realize the great aim of bringing about a one hundred per cent organization.

Morris Sigman, President,
Abraham Baroff, Secretary.

Toronto Cloakmakers Leave Shops On Thursday, February 5

As we go to press, we received the information by wire from Toronto that all the workers in the local cloak industry have responded to the call of the Union and quit the shops on Thursday morning, February 5.

On Wednesday, February 4, in the evening, the Toronto Joint Board held a great demonstration mass meeting in Spadina Hall. The workers voted unanimously to declare a general strike and to leave the shops

the following morning. The strike is under the supervision of General Organizer Julius Hochman. Brother Sol Polakoff is in charge locally in the absence of Brother Hochman who is also managing the general strike in Montreal. The meeting was addressed by H. Rosenblum of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of Toronto and by M. Simpson, secretary of the Canadian Labor Party.

Sixty Chicago Dress Firms Sign Agreements

(Continued from page 1)

As we are going to press, President Sigman received a message from Sister Friedman containing a record of the situation up to the last hour which throws light upon every corner of the fighting line in Chicago. We quote from this letter:

"So far, I think, we made remarkable progress. When the campaign began to be effective and people began to discuss on the streets, we made up our minds to go through at once with the renewal of the old agreement with the Union dress shops. Up to this hour about sixty firms signed up.

"Having learned of the progress we were making, the Association put a man in the field who started to canvass all Union employers and to urge them not to renew the agreement. The Association promised these employers all 'physical' and financial protection in case of a strike. This person, however, must be severely disappointed as he is finding wherever he comes that the agreement had been renewed. The Association is also sending out a letter to all its members with individual contracts for every one of their employees. These contracts are the most vicious ones ever submitted to non-Union workers for signature.

"Up to the present time we have distributed about 30,000 circulars. Every day we are having a new one. The non-Union workers are expecting these circulars, and in most cases are asking for them when the committees are not near enough to them. They are having 'around the shops the same old 'grapple', State's Attorney, private 'detectives' and also uniform men. The spirit which the members are displaying around the shops is very gratifying and encouraging. I am delighted with the splendid cooperation which I am receiving from the workers and the office staff.

"On Thursday, January 29, we had a large meeting of dressmakers at Schoenhoffen Hall which was attended by 800 people. It was addressed by a speaker from the Amalgamated, a representative of the Chicago Federation of Labor and the writer. The meeting adopted a resolution which I am enclosing herewith for your press. Both in point of attendance and the spirit displayed it was one of the most successful ever held in the dress trade in Chicago. The workers are eagerly awaiting your coming to Chicago, and we hope that it may be possible for you to be with us next week."

Bonnaz Emcroidersers Strike In All New York Shops

(Continued from page 1)

will, of course, return to work without delay, while the strikers, being the non-Union shops will stay out until their employers concede as the same terms and work conditions as were granted by the Union firms.

The strikers assemble at the Rand School Building, 7 East 15th Street. The general strike committee consists of Max M. Eisenfeld, chairman, Z. L. Freedman, N. Reisel, A. Putsch-

sky, S. Halperin, G. Hattab and S. Aizman, settlement committee; M. M. Eisenfeld, R. Auerbach, J. Smaller, A. Kalkowitz and M. Halekavitz, picket committee; Samuel Lefkowitz, chairman law committee; Leon Hattab, B. Winnick, Sol Klein, M. Deedman, M. Greenberg, Jacob Jaffe, K. Alonius, organization committee; M. Dietsenhouse, J. Bernstein, hall committee.

Silk Underwear Workers on Eve of General Strike

(Continued from page 1)

and discussed. The Union was represented at the meeting by President Sigman and Samuel Lefkowitz for the District Council, Abraham Snyder, manager of Local 62, and a committee from the local consisting of Grekin, Shapiro, Malovsky, Helfand and Lieberman.

During the last ten weeks, the local, with the aid of the District Council, has conducted a running agitation through the trade, calling shop and chairlady meetings, acquainting the workers with conditions in the industry and preparing them for the big move. On Tuesday next, February 10, the local will hold a big meeting in Beeth-ven Hall, 210 East Fifth Street. The Union's committee will report at this meeting the

results of its negotiations with the employers' associations and will present the Union's program of demands. The meeting will be addressed by President Morris Sigman, Secretary Abraham Baroff, Vice-president Samuel Lefkowitz, Luigi Antonini, and Justice Jacob Panken. Abraham Snyder will preside.

Brother Snyder has issued a statement to all the workers warning them against stories spread by some employers to the effect that the Union does not intend to strike and that "the dispute has already been settled." The Union calls upon the workers to disregard all such rumors, to come to the meetings and to the office where they will obtain the only reliable information concerning the actual state of affairs.

Concert, Community Singing Downtown

Saturday Evening, February 21, at Public School 63, Fourth Street Near First Avenue

In the auditorium of Public School 63, 4th street and First avenue, a concert with community singing will be given on Saturday, February 21, at 8 p. m.; arranged by the Educational Department of our International Union.

In the concert will participate the following well-known artists, Estelle Schreiner, soprano; Joseph Fuchs, violinist, and N. L. Salsavsky, bar-

itone. The artists will sing and play Russian, Jewish and Italian folk songs and opera arias, with violin obligato. Mr. Salsavsky will lead the audience in singing folk songs.

No effort is being spared to make this evening a memorable one. Admission will be free to members of the I. L. O. W. U., but they will have to bring their Union books with them.

Blauner Bros. Shop In Strike

The Blauner Bros. firm, until recently one of the outstanding concerns in the New York cloak trade and an influential member of the tier, is in strike. The facts which led up to this walkout are, in brief, as follows:

This firm at one time employed nearly three hundred cloakmakers in its inside factory. When the sub-manufacturing epidemic struck the cloak trade, this firm, among many others, began sending out its work to contractors until, during the last season, the number of men employed in its inside shop came down to sixty.

Not content with this, the Blauner

firm attempted to carry out, a few weeks ago, a new "reorganization" maneuver and discharged over fifty workers in one fell swoop, some of them employed in this shop for twenty years. The Union protested vehemently and brought the case before the Trial Board. The case for the workers was argued by Brother Jacob Rubin and Vice-president Perlestein. The Union won the case, but the firm, determined to carry out its scheme, resigned from the association.

This act left the Union no other recourse but to declare the shop in strike.

Joint Board Elections Feb. 12

Joint Board Praises Langer—Criticizes "Gerechtigkeit" Eight Polling Places for Casting Ballots

The general election of business agents and district managers of the Joint Board of the Cloak and Dressmakers' Union of New York has been set, as announced in last week's *Justice*, for Thursday, February 12. The Committee on Objections has completed its work and the following candidates, having met with the required qualifications, have been placed on the ballot. The polling places will open at 8 a. m. and will not close before 7 p. m.

Managers, Cloak Division

J. Rubin, Local 2; J. Kesten, Local 9; H. Schuster, Local 9; S. Perlmutter, Local 16; Harry Wander, Local 25; Harry Slutsky, Local 35; N. Shchur, Local 35.

Managers, Dress Division

Israel Horowitz, Local 22; Julius Hechman, Local 22.

Business Agents, Local No. 2

Sam Flum, Samuel J. Ringer, Chas. Fine, Morris Peinberg, Max Rubin, Abraham Schwartz, S. M. Tucker, Meyer Elkins, Max Cohen, Jacob Warshofsky, William Barcan, Jacob Press, Louis Goldstein, Morris Solomon, Benjamin Elias, Abraham Rottenberg, Moses Witter, Bretz Kottler, Samuel Zeldin, Max Kushner, Bernard Golob, Louis Bertinsky, Max Cohen, Joseph Guterman, Simon Shaurind, Louis Paller, Morris Chonson.

Local No. 3

H. Berkowitz, Isidore Rich.

Local No. 9

Nathan Kaplan, Louis Helt, Saul Miller, Harry Fisher, Max Sommer, Hyman Goldberg, Isidore Berklin, Henry Willenberg, Harry Skurnick.

Local No. 10

Isidore Nagler, Benjamin Sacks, David Fruchling, John Wm. Settle, Julius Bender, Jacob Frischer.

Local No. 22

Abraham Bernstein, Isidore Wiemberg, Hyman Greenberg, Abraham Elnick, Abe Staum, Harry Miller, Jacob Goldstein, Harry Weissglass, Robert Farber, Fannie Golan, Max Blumstein, Samuel Goldstein, Joseph Spelman, Max Mogowitz, S. Ballinson, Joseph Shuch, M. Krawetz, Mary Nedrick, Sam Taubert, David Hollander, Anna Kronhardt, Simon Farber, Peter Rothenberg.

Local No. 23

Samuel Fremed, Max Brodfield, Max Sherman.

Local No. 35

Harry Lubinsky, Morris Goldowsky, Max Gusman, Max Carolsky, Harry Levine, Bonnie Miller, Charles Orsky, Hyman B. Eisenstadt, Louis Ben-Zahler, Joseph Gold, Israel Hendelman, Isaac Feinstein.

Local No. 46

P. Mucignozzi, N. Doti, A. Velardi, Mike Marcondia, I. Chiarekara, A. Cottone, P. Desti, Frank Communi, Chas. Carotenuto, A. Termini.

Local No. 52

Leon Rosenblatt.

Local No. 80
Frank Liberti, Frank Olivo, John Caballio, John Indolli, Katie Campanella, A. Crivella, Salvatore Amico, G. DiNola, Margaret Di Maggio.

The polling places which will be used during the election are located as follows:

Main Office of the Joint Board—130 East 25th Street.

Local 22, Dressmakers Union—16 West 21st Street.

Italian Cloakmakers Building—231 East 14th Street.

Downtown Office—33 Second Avenue.

Harlem Office—165 East 121st Street.

Brooklyn Office—105 Montrose Avenue, Brooklyn.

Brownsville Office 219 Sackman Street, Brooklyn.

Bryant Hall—725 6th Avenue.

At the last meeting of the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board, held on Friday, January 30, the delegates voted to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

We, the Joint Board of the Cloak, Skirt and Dress Makers' Union, assembled Friday, January 30, 1925, at 3 West 16th Street, have adopted the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, the Joint Board is not in accord with the views expressed by S. Yanovsky, Editor of "Justice", regarding certain remarks made pertaining to Brother Langer, that:

Office of Secretary of the Joint Board has had an adverse influence upon him and that he began to feel more as the master of the Joint Board than its employee, and

"That the Joint Board delegates have, due to their lack of intelligence and weak characters, fallen under his (Brother Langer's) influence.

"That the delegates were animated by a feeling of 'good riddance' on the occasion of Brother Langer's retiring as Secretary."

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the Joint Board go on record as disputing the above statements which is an extract from the editorial printed in the "Justice" of January 30, 1925. And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we express our appreciation of the services rendered by Brother Langer in his capacity of Recording Secretary, and to the former Joint Board and officers who have served faithfully and loyally the cause of our organization. And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent to "Justice" and to the Labor Press.

JOINT BOARD, of the Cloak, Skirt and Dress Makers' Unions.

Our Boston Locals

By SOL SEIDMAN

International Representative in Massachusetts

The advent of the spring season marks the beginning of organizing activity in our Boston locals.

Each of the five locals affiliated to the Joint Board has elected an organization committee and all of these are now engaged in a joint effort to get in touch with the non-union cloak and dress workers in the city, to call shop meetings, distribute literature and similar agitation work.

The main aim of the Joint Board this season is, of course, to organize completely the dress trade. A beginning in this direction has already been made; a number of shops have already been approached directly and we are receiving from them very encouraging reports. All signs point to gratifying returns. The Joint Board has appointed, by a unanimous vote, Vice-president Fred Monoson as organizer to aid in the organizing work and pledged to give him all the help needed.

In the Cloak Trade

We have in this city agreements with more than fifty cloak shops, thirty of which are working directly for the trade, while about twenty are contractors working for jobbers. We also have an agreement with a cloak jobbers' association.

Of course, like in every other cloak market, we have here the type of contractor and "corporation" shops which are so much below standard that the union could not settle with them. Last season the Boston Joint Board made an attempt to drive some of them out of the market, but as trade conditions were rather poor we only partly succeeded in this. The present season, however, is a more promising one and we expect to do better in this direction within the next few months.

The cloak season, as I said already, is just beginning, but the prospects are that within a week or two every cloak maker in this city will be working. The dress situation, however, is entirely different. This trade em-

plays twice as many workers as the cloak trade, and there are in it a number of shops, large and small, which are still outside the control of the Union. The last dress season was far from desirable, though, like in the cloak trade, the outlook for the spring trade is much better. That's why we are so eager now to "force the iron while it is hot." Local 49, the dress makers' organization, is the biggest local in the Joint Board, and its members are not going to let this opportunity slip by without accomplishing substantial results.

The Dress Makers' Dance

The Boston dress makers are to have their annual dance on February 27. This affair has always been quite an event in Labor circles in this city and it is expected that this year the ball of Local 49 will even surpass its former records. It will be held in Fall River Hall, Mechanics Building, one of Boston's largest auditoriums.

In Local 7

The raincoat makers are also stirring and beginning to go after the few non-union shops in their local trade. The signs in the waterproof garment trade are quite encouraging and the local hopes to accomplish some tangible organizing results in the near future.

All our locals have arranged this winter lecture courses for their members along the line of topics outlined by the Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U. The lectures are well attended; our member meetings also continue to hold the interest of the workers.

The Boston locals have in the past suffered a great deal from factional strife. In the last few months this situation has changed a good deal to the better and there is every reason to hope now that our members will learn to abandon personal grievances and disagreements for the welfare and the interest of the union is a whole.

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JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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MORRIS SIGMAN, President. S. YANOFSEKY, Editor. A. SAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer. H. A. SCHOOLMAN, Business Manager.

MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor.

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The Story of the I. L. G. W. U.

The Women's Garment Workers. By Dr. Louis Levine. B. W. Huebsch, Inc. \$5.00

By STUART CHASE

I have read a good many histories of men and movements, but never a more interesting one than this. It is the story of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, but more, it is a cross section of the whole great epic of American industrialism. Into the picture comes the breakdown of the ancient handicrafts, the development of the machine, the birth and growth of high pressure salesmanship and finance, the swing of fashions and their seasonal effects, the rhythm of the business cycle, the tide of immigration with its problems of race and livelihood, the growing force of social legislation, and, most important of all, the struggle of the workers themselves, caught in this network of blind forces, to cinch hands and shoulders, and through a long period of trial, error and failure to achieve at last some measure of the dignity and respect which is their human birthright. . . . A profoundly moving story sketched with broad strokes against the background of a century of American life.

I liked this book first because of its manner of scientific detachment. A good many histories of this kind—particularly when they are underwritten by the people, or the friends of the people, whom the history is about—lean to the sob sister level. The bad points are smoothed over or forgotten altogether, the good points are gilded, until we have not a true story but an idealized account on a marble pedestal. Dr. Levine stops at none of this. He stands back from the scene; he does not let his emotions get tangled up with his duty as a scholar; he isn't afraid to give his hero a black eye when the facts warrant, or a slap on the shoulder when again the facts warrant. All the early squabbles and rows of the Union are set forth, the errors in tactics and management, the deplorable cases where the workers in one city helped to break a strike in another city. The story is admirably documented; there are no loose statements lacking authoritative support, there is a wealth of statistical data covering the growth of the industry and the growth of the Labor movement within it. In brief, an impartial and scholarly handling of material.

I liked this book secondly because, for all its scientific approach, it is not touched with the dry-as-dust hand of the pedagogue. The story moves, there is action, the pulse of life, a real dramatic growth and unfoldment. In the "uprising of the twenty thousand"—a strike of almost pure impulse; and the "great revolt"—a strike of almost pure strategy—we have two of the most absorbing industrial dramas ever chronicled.

We watch the picture of a lousy woody economy a hundred years ago, the parade of fine ladies on Broadway in 1840 with their gowns imported from Europe, the first "mantua-makers," the first sewing machine—"slow, clumsy, unmanageable and noisy," the invention of the cutting knife in 1876 and the consequent displacement of women by men cutters, the sinister smile of the contractor as he makes his bow to a waiting world in 1880, the coming of the Jews in the same decade, and the coming of the sweat shop:

"In the room adjoining the shop, used as a kitchen, there was a red-hot stove, two tables, a clothes rack, and several piles of goods. A woman was making bread on a table upon which there was a baby's stocking, scraps of cloth, several old tin cans, and a small pile of

unfinished garments. In the next room was an old woman with a diseased face walking the floor with a crying child in her arms."

There is the shift from the sweat shop to the big "inside" shop, and then, beginning in 1890, the amazing shift from big shops to little "shops again—the 'moths of Division Street' devouring the 'giants of Broadway.'" We note the coming of the intellectuals; the nice distinction between the Talmudists and the radicals, the nice distinctions between the radicals themselves as they split right and left into Socialists, Anarchists, Socialist Laborites, communal colonists, and even I. W. W.'s—and how all these webs of thought and philosophy influenced the dawning Labor movement in the garment trades, alternately inspiring it and crushing it. We catch the picture of Dabs hurrying to address a great meeting, Gompers hurrying to negotiate an agreement or a compromise, Bernard Shaw calling his opinion of injunction judges, great ladies from the upper East Side on the lower East Side picket line, the ashes and the horror of the Triangle fire, and that unknown girl, still in her teens, who arose amidst the learned deliberations of her elders in Cooper Union and moved a general strike and hunger and combat and the gathering went wild: "Do you mean faith? Will you take the old Jewish oath? And up came two thousand and hands with the prayer: 'If I turn traitor to the cause I now pledge, may this hand wither from the arm I now raise.'"

And against the agonizing days of strike and hunger and combat and jail we catch the picture of the protocol and peace, and the upbuilding

The biggest lesson in all this fuss about debts is the folly and danger of imagining that you can ever fight a war and pay for it later. You have to pay as you go in men and machinery. All you do by loans is to lighten the burden of the better-to-do classes by letting them lend money which ought to be taken by taxation. These loans give them or their heirs a claim on the labor of men and women not even born at the time of the war. No wonder the French do not like the prospect of such payment.

stone by stone of a great and powerful Labor organization. What a moving picture this story would make, and how its real heroics, its real tragedies would shame the mock heroics and the tin-can tragedies of the Hollywood producers!

I liked this book lastly because of what I read between the lines. Dr. Levine does not say much about it, the International itself is mostly silent on the subject—but I liked this book because of the superb answer it gives to the philosophy of human submission before the blind forces of destiny. If ever there were blind and terrible forces they were those which had the illiterate, under-nourished, racially divided, slum-dwelling workers of the clothing industry in their grip—particularly the women workers. If there was an industrial bottom they touched it, and against them was ranged their sex, their ignorance, their poverty, and the massed opinion of their envying world. And yet, by the eternal, they flung the whole tide back, conquered their ignorance, their poverty and their sex, seized their destiny with their naked hands, and made life at last secure and worth the living!



He Cannot Tell The Difference

French Debts Again

By NORMAN THOMAS

But if they repudiate their debt they merely transfer the load to the shoulders of American taxpayers who now pay the interest and will some time pay the principal on the Liberty Loan.

All of which goes to show that there is a good deal to be said on both sides. For the French, it must be said that they paid a terrific price in life and property during the war. For them to pay their debts in full might be to burden greater than they ought to bear and for a nation, a former companion in arms, which by comparison seems rich, powerful and unscarred by the war, to insist upon payment seems an ungracious act. Moreover, just as in the case of the German indemnity, to expect of the French and other Allies to pay us in full with interest would hurt us rather than help us because it would mean the dumping of great quantities of goods upon our markets.

On the American side of the question, not only is it true that if the French taxpayers pay nothing American taxpayers must pay all, but also that France received by our help and only by our help Alsace-Lorraine, and other territorial gains, to say nothing of reparations, incomparably more valuable to her than anything we got out of the war. Nor were our services a necessary payment of debt for the help the French gave us in our Revolution. On this point Senator Borah is entirely right. Again, it may be pointed out that perhaps one-fourth of the total loan to France was made after the Armistice, not for immediate war purposes, as the French and some Americans seem to believe, but for restoration and permanent improvement.

None of these points, however, seems to us so serious as the use the French Government has made of our generosity. While France, has not paid us she has spent money on her own military establishment and loans to her Allies in an effort to be a danger overlord of Europe. It is a dangerous business, harmful to France and to the world's peace. The classes in France best able to pay taxes get off easier than in most European countries. If they had to begin to pay their country's debts some of their swollen ambitions might be restrained.

Finally, the average citizen cannot but suspect the justice of an arrangement by which France pays interest regularly on all her loans contracted through the international bankers but lets American taxpayers pay interest on what our Government loaned. At the very least a nation which cannot pay its debts to this Government ought not to be encouraged to go on borrowing great sums through private bankers for further military or imperialistic expenses.

This is plain speech but it is not meant as unfriendly speech. The best way we can see out of the situation is a friendly conference on repatriation, debts and disarmament. We could well afford to forgive all that is owed us if it would help the cause of peace.

BUY

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Exclusively

5 Years of International Labor Legislation

By DR. HERMAN FRANK

The International Labor Organization which was formed by the Versailles Peace Treaty in 1919 as an adjunct to the League of Nations, has proved to be, in my judgment, an important move in the direction of achieving a worldwide code of Labor legislation. All modern efforts for thoroughgoing Labor and factory legislation emanate from the viewpoint that Labor legislation must be considered as an international problem. This viewpoint, in turn, is based on the modern conception of world economics, namely, that of international cooperation, though in the past this cooperation has taken only the form of cooperation of industrial magnates and financiers. And these groups of what we term in America "Big Business" have always been opposed to anything which might lead to Labor legislation and to the enactment of any regulations that might serve as uniform Labor laws in industrial establishments of civilized countries.

During the five years of its existence, the International Labor Office has little by little succeeded in taking away from the individual States associated with it the right to regulate relations between Capital and Labor. These rights have been transferred by it to the International Labor Conference. And while there is still a great distance from the Geneva Labor Conference to our idea of a super-governmental body with wide legislative and administrative powers, such as possessed, for instance, by the Federal authority of Switzerland and the United States, it must be admitted that the Conference represents in itself quite an active and effective social-political institution.

In pre-war days one could hardly visualize an organization consisting not exclusively of representatives of governments that would have any power for enacting laws of an international scope. The few international treaties concerning Labor questions, the so-called Labor conventions, adopted prior to that period originated in secret conferences of diplomats directed by instructions from above in a thorough bureaucratic manner. In these days the efforts for international Labor legislation were completely bereft of any trace of social solidarity without which no social progress is possible.

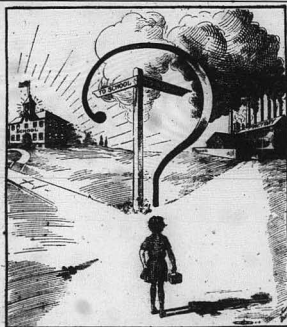
The Labor Conference, on the contrary, is composed half of representatives of the affiliated governments and half of private persons, representatives of workers and employers. The Conference reaches its decisions on the basis of the votes cast by the delegates as individuals and not as entire delegations. The governments, on this same ground, do not and cannot instruct the representatives of the workers and of the employers of their countries, as these instructions could have no binding power upon them. The Conference also elects its executive council independently of these governments. This fact alone is an indication that the International Labor Organization, as it is formed, has at its disposal quite a practical method for uniting mankind into one great body to achieve the aims for which it has been formed. The League of Nations, as it is today, may amount to nothing more than a thinly disguised league of the governments of the most powerful nations, but the Labor Organization is in itself a beginning of a true League of Nations where the peoples of the world may meet face to face and where they consider each other as equals.

The International Labor Organization

is composed of fifty-seven countries of a total of sixty-five independent states the world over. In 1923 the Labor Organization added to its affiliation two more lands: the Irish Free State and the African State of Ethiopia (Abyssinia). At this moment only two civilized countries remain unattached to the Labor Conference—Russia and the United States of America. During the five years of its existence the International Labor Organization has held the following six conventions: In Washington (1919), in Genoa (1920) and four in Geneva in the succeeding years from 1921 to 1924. At the first five conventions, from 1919 to 1923, there had been adopted by International Labor Organization twenty proposals, or as they are called draft conventions, which have to be ratified by the component governments before they may become effective. Up to the time of the sixth convention, in June, 1924, fifty-seven countries have already carried out ninety-six ratifications; in forty-seven

According to the constitution of the Labor Organization, the recommendations of the Labor Conference must be submitted in the course of one year to the parliaments of the respective countries. The experience of the past five years has, nevertheless, shown that realities harmonize but little with the theoretical successes of the Labor Conferences. The most important factory law recommended by it—the eight-hour day in industry—has so far been adopted only by five countries—Austria, Czechoslovakia, India, Greece and Rumania. In some countries—France, Germany, Brazil and the Argentine—the parliaments have recommended ratification but the Governments have not adopted it yet. But even the ratification of such a measure does not always mean the enactment of such a law—until it becomes part of the statute books of the country in question.

It may also occur that a country would refuse to confirm the recommendation of the Conference but would adopt instead an even more



—John Reed in LABOR

instances the parliaments have recommended such ratifications and in 135 cases the draft conventions have been introduced into various parliaments for consideration. All told, not less than 143 factory laws have been enacted by the parliaments of the various countries directly under pressure from the International Labor Organization. At the sixth convention, the Director of the International Labor Office, the French Socialist, Albert Thomas, was able to report thirty additional ratifications.

The most important recommendations concerning factory laws were adopted by the Washington Conference in 1919. To wit—the eight-hour day, minimum age limits in industry, prohibition of night work for women and children and safety measures against the poisoning of workers by white sulphur, etc. The conventions that followed adopted no less important regulations with regard to agricultural laborers, workers in the merchant marine and others.

As mentioned above, the International Labor Office does not prepare or advance uniformly adaptable laws which become at once enforceable.

progressive law. Such was the legislation with regard to the eight-hour day adopted by Belgium, the Argentine, Bolivia, Chili, Denmark, Germany, England, Spain, Yugoslavia, Sweden, Norway and Italy.

The process of ratification of the recommendations of the International Labor Conference is proceeding exceedingly slowly in the non-European countries. Not only the smaller and less developed countries of Central and South America, like Costa Rica, Salvador, Paraguay, Peru, etc., are not being heard from with regard to such ratifications by their legislative bodies, but even the big and highly developed British dominions—Australia, South Africa and Canada—have accomplished hardly anything in this realm. It is obvious that the subject of international labor laws must be propagated with greater intensity in the New World than in the Old, if they are ever to become what they should be—a worldwide Labor code.

This tardiness, however, has not arrested the steady progress of the work of the International Labor Organization. At its last convention, in June, 1924, it adopted an important proposal calling for equal treatment

Cry of the Children

By ELIZABETH B. BROWNING

Do ye hear the children weeping, O,
my brothers,
Ere the sorrow comes with years?
They are lessening their young heads
against their mothers,
And that one not stem their tears.
The young lambs are bleating in the
meadows;
The young birds are chirping in the
nest;
The young fawns are playing with the
shadows;
The young flowers are blowing toward
the west—
But the young, young children, O, my
brothers,
They are weeping bitterly!
They are weeping in the playtime of
the others,
In the country of the free. . .

"For oh," say the children, "we are
weary,
And we cannot run nor leap.
If we cared for any meadows, it were
merely
To drop down in them and sleep.
Our knees tremble sorely in the stooping—
We fall upon our faces, trying to
go;
And, underneath our heavy eyelids
drooping,
The reddest flower would look as
pale as snow.
For, all day, we drag our burden tiring
Through the coal-dark, underground—
Or, all day, we drive the wheels of
iron
In the factories, round and round.
Ay! be silent! Let them hear each
other breathing
For a moment, mouth to mouth!
Let them touch each other's hands, in
a fresh wrenching
Of their tender human youth!
Let them feel that this cold metallic
motion
Is not all the life God fashions or
reveals.
Let them prove their inward souls
against the motion
That they live in you, or under you,
O wheels!—
Still, all day, the iron wheels go onward.
Grinding life down from its mark;
And the children's souls, which God
is calling upward,
Spin on blindly in the dark.

in workmen's compensation cases, of foreign and domestic laborers. At the next convention, in the summer of 1925, the individual countries will introduce amendments based on practical experience to this proposal, after which a final decision on this subject will be adopted. This proposal will involve the interests of millions of workers who are compelled to seek a livelihood in foreign lands. It will be remembered in this connection that there are to this day even in the United States several states which would not recognize the right of alien workers to the benefits of workmen's compensation, even though they may have received their injuries while working on American soil.

The Sixth Conference also adopted a proposal concerning the prohibition of night work in bakeries, a demand which is being advanced by bakery workers' unions everywhere. The first five years of the existence of the International Labor Organization, no doubt, give rise to the hope that a future activity will result in substantial gains for the workers all over the world.

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JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

NEW AGREEMENTS IN THE NEW YORK DRESS INDUSTRY

The conferences between the employers and the Union in the dress industry of New York which began on November 19 last came to an end this week. The weeks of negotiation on the terms of the new agreement have given both sides abundant time to consider every clause and section of the new pact and to consider it amply from every viewpoint.

In approaching these conferences the Union had in view two major aims. The first was—to unionize completely, through the aid of these negotiations, the dress industry of New York—to make it impossible for either jobber or sub-manufacturer in contractual relations with the Union to make any part of their wares in non-Union shops. The second principal objective of the Union was to place, as far as possible, the dress workers on the same level, as regards hours, wages and health conditions in the shops, with the workers in the cloak and suit trade.

The Union's aim to obviate the differences in work conditions between the dress makers and the cloak makers has two very valid reasons to justify it. First, there does not exist any sound moral reasons for inferior labor standards in the dress industry; secondly, the tremendous change which has taken place in both the cloak and dress industries has practically wiped out trade distinctions in them; the formerly exclusive dress manufacturer may be found today producing cloaks in his shop and vice versa—and it seems only fair and reasonable that the workers in the dress shops should be entitled to as much in the way of trade and work improvements as the cloak makers are already enjoying for some time past.

Today, the Union may proudly claim that it has fully attained every objective it set out to gain when it began conferring with the employers. It has, first of all, made secure that dress output of New York be produced as far as its vigilant eye may reach, under Union conditions. The Dress Jobbers' Association, according to the new agreement, obligates itself:

SECOND: The Association agrees that all of its members will deal only with such manufacturers as are in contractual relations with the Union.

FOURTH: Whenever it shall appear that a member of the Association gives work to a non-union manufacturer, the Association shall immediately direct him to stop work from such non-union manufacturer, whether such work be in process of operation or otherwise. If a member of the Association should refuse to comply with such directions, or fail to withdraw his work within thirty-six (36) hours from the receipt of notice, he shall automatically forfeit all rights and privileges under this agreement.

FIFTH: Should a member of the Association be found giving work to or dealing with a non-union manufacturer, the Association will proceed to impose a fine for each such act. The amount of such fine shall be determined with reference to the amount involved and shall be sufficiently high to offset the advantages gained by the member through such transactions, together with an appropriate penalty, but it is expressly agreed and understood that the fine provided shall in no event be less than a sum equal to \$300. The proceeds of such fines and penalties shall be turned over to the Union in payment of its damages and for the purpose of defraying the expenses incurred in investigations respecting the existence and operation of non-union shops. In case of a second or repeated violation of the foregoing clause of this agreement, the Union shall have the right to order a stoppage of all work of such Association member until the matter has been fully adjusted.

SEVENTH: The Union shall have the right once a month during the life of this agreement to examine the books and records of every member of the Association in order to ascertain whether the provisions of this agreement are fully complied with by such members. Such examination may be made through an accountant or any other representative of the Union and representative of the Association. Between and aside from such examination, the Union shall also have the right to examine the books and records of Association members as above provided, whenever it shall have reason to believe that such member has dealings with non-union manufacturers and files a request for such examination on the said ground with the Association. Such examination shall be undertaken immediately upon the receipt of the request. Should a member of the Association refuse to produce his books or records upon the request of the representative of the Union in the manner above provided, or to allow such representatives access to such books or records, or should it appear that such books or records have been falsified in order to conceal dealings with non-union manufacturers, or otherwise to mislead the Union, such Association member shall automatically forfeit all rights and privileges under this agreement.

It is clear from the foregoing clauses that everything that could possibly have been done to make sure that the jobbers belonging to the Association would send their garments to be made up in Union shops only was done. We cannot think of more adequate safeguards. Of course, were we to assume that all the jobbers would bend their entire energies to the task of

deceiving the Union and violating their contract with it, we might say that no written warranty would avail much against bad faith. We must, however, presume that the majority of the jobbers who belong to the Association mean honestly with their contract obligations. There may be, of course, a few who might be tempted to play unfair and to deceive the Union. We doubt, however, if such trickery, if attempted, could go on for any length of time undetected before the long arm of the Union, reinforced by the strict terms of the agreement, would overtake and punish them.

Besides, this task of unearthing the few of the jobbers who might be tempted to violate clandestinely their agreement with the Union and to make up some garments under non-Union conditions must eventually prove to be the task not only of the workers, organization but of the fair, bona-fide jobber as well. The jobber who produces his wares in Union shops exclusively is as much interested in guarding against the fellow jobber making up garments in non-Union shops at a smaller cost as the Union is. The Jobbers' Association in the dress industry will therefore be compelled to join the Union in observing that its contract is strictly observed by all its members. And this double vigilance ought to prove a sufficient incentive for the prospective violator to keep his skirts clean from any suspicion lest he pay heavily, for it when caught.

If, however, the unexpected should happen and the majority of the jobbers who belong to the Association should adopt an attitude of flippant disregard for the agreement and its provisions, the Union will be forced to adopt stern fighting methods to make them keep their word. We, nevertheless, hope, that the future holds no such development in store for us—not because we are given to pleasant hoping but because we are inclined to believe that the dress jobbers are not seeking a fight with the Union. Were this otherwise, the negotiations of the past few weeks would have never taken place and the present agreement would never have been consummated.

And now to the second objective of the Union.

Our negotiators had set their minds from the beginning upon equalizing trade and labor conditions in the cloak and dress trades. The New York cloak makers last summer had won, through the decision of the Governor's Commission, some valuable reforms, to wit: (a) the responsibility of the jobber for a week's wages of the workers employed in the shops of his contractors and sub-manufacturers; (b) an unemployment insurance fund raised by the contribution of two per cent of the weekly pay-roll of each jobber and of one per cent of the workers' weekly pay; (c) the sanitary label; (d) a trial board with an impartial chairman. All these reforms, and several others, have now been introduced into the dress industry as well by the terms of the just negotiated agreement.

Moreover, in the matter of responsibility for wages the dress agreement is clearly an improvement over the cloak pact. The dress jobbers have obligated themselves to guarantee not only a week's wages in the sub-manufacturers' shops but they also guarantee the labor costs of their product to the Union. The labor costs of each style are, according to the new agreement, to be clearly indicated in the order blank which accompanies every shipment of goods to the contractor shop as a separate and distinct item. Should the Association guarantee that in the event any of its members should fail to pay the contractor such costs in full that it would pay back to the Union the sum total of this difference as a safeguard against any possible lowering of earnings or wages in the shops.

Until now the workers in the New York dress trade have been receiving much lower wages than the cloak workers. Thus the minimum scale of the dress makers has been forty-four dollars a sample, of examiners twenty-two dollars, of examiners twenty-two dollars, of drapers twenty-six dollars, of finishers twenty-two dollars, of belt stitchers twenty-five dollars, of hemstitchers thirty dollars, of pressers forty-two dollars, of cleaners (first year) thirteen dollars, of cleaners (second year) seventeen dollars. According to the terms of the new agreement, the minimum scale of the cutters has been raised to fifty dollars; the sample makers receive a gain of twenty dollars, and are to get fifty dollars per week from now; the examiners obtain a rate of six dollars weekly; the dress makers an increase of five dollars weekly; the finishers obtain eight dollars more; the belt stitchers will receive fifteen dollars additional; the pressers fifteen dollars more, and so on.

It is evident from these figures that the wage raises of the dress makers will put their earnings on a level with the cloak makers. It is also worthwhile noting that the minimum wage scale of the pressers has been revised upward almost one-third—sixty dollars a week instead of the forty-two they were receiving before. The Union has scored in this respect a remarkable success. The dress cutters, finishers and pressers are today the full equals, as far as pay and hours are concerned, of their fellow workers in the cloak and suit trade.

What concerns the piece workers in the dress trade, it appears to us, that the Union has succeeded this time in scoring a remarkable point with regard to them which wipes out, to all practical purposes, the principal difference between them and the week workers. The essential difference between week-work and piece-work has always consisted in the fact that the week or time worker was always certain of some fixed earnings at the end of his week, whether his was the minimum scale or a wage above the minimum scale. The piece worker, however, has never been sure of how much his pay envelope would contain at the end of the week. That depended largely on the nature of the work, the style and complexities of the garment, and on various other factors.

With the G. E. B. in Montreal

By S. YANOVSKY

The Montreal meeting of the G. E. B. transacted a number of other weighty matters, which are, in my judgment, of interest to our readers.

From the report of President Sigman on the subject of the merger of the three cloak operators' locals in the city of New York it was brought to light that, during the last stages of this affair, there had become involved in it some persons who at present are not affiliated with our Union. The G. E. B. received the report of these intermeddlings with a feeling of unqualified displeasure. Now, that the entire affair had terminated fully as the G. E. B. had originally planned it, it is perhaps not the time to enter into the motives of these pious and peace-loving persons. It may have been that their intentions were of the best, but it is just as likely that they had planned to "graduate," by the way of this intervention, into full-fledged advisers to the I. L. G. W. U. without a vestige of any right or title thereto. But whatever these motives may have been, President Sigman, as he made clear in his report, had thought it necessary to put a stop to these interlopers. He deemed it his duty to make it explicit to them that the International neither expects nor desires unsolicited aid from them.

As we have stated already on some occasions in the past, the I. L. G. W. U. cannot and will not tolerate any outside interference in its relations with its members, with its locals and in all its internal affairs. No person, no matter how closely he may have been related to the International in the past, if an outsider today, has not a vestige of right to do anything which is strictly the function of the present officers of the International and who are solely responsible for it and to it.

These persons, no matter how great their eagerness to serve the International, should arm themselves with patience and wait until they again become responsible officers, or until the present officers may think it their duty to call upon them for advice or for some direct aid. Then, of course, they might either comply with such a request for help or refuse it as it will suit them best; but until that hour they must confine their interest to friendship from afar.

The Dues Question

Another matter which was brought up before the G. E. B. was the dues

question which has caused so much commotion in recent months in our Union.

It must be noted here that the tumult provoked by the raising of dues in our locals has been caused more by the method used in achieving this raise rather than by the raise itself. As known, the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board had at one of its meetings decided that the member dues in all the locals affiliated to it be raised to 50 cents a week. This was decided, such is the general opinion, before the majority of the locals of the J. B. had adopted a decision to this effect. The question, thereupon, arose whether the Joint Board had acted properly and in consonance with the constitution of the International. Two locals, Nos. 3 and 9, put this question up to the G. E. B. for a decision.

The opinion of the members of the Board was not unanimous on this matter. It is certain that, in having acted as it did, the Joint Board did not violate the letter of the Union's law and its decision is therefore binding upon all its locals. Opinions, however, became divided on the point whether the Joint Board, as a representative body, had the moral right to so interpret this law. Some held that the delegates, who only represent their locals in the Joint Board, had no right to vote for such an increase without having consulted their locals first, and that having failed to do so their vote is practically worthless and the decision of the Joint Board is therefore invalid. The other opinion was that the delegates to the Joint Board are empowered to act for their locals and that they are not in duty bound to consult their locals upon every matter that is likely to come up at the Joint Board. They are not errand boys; they are being elected with full authority to act as they deem best in the interests of the organization.

The debate on this question did not result in an unanimous opinion concerning the functions and rights of a delegate with regard to his local or the joint board. It was decided, however, to reply to the locals which have addressed this request to the G. E. B. that the Joint Board had acted fully within its rights in deciding to raise the dues of the membership of the locals and that the decision of the Joint Board is therefore binding. True, there is a division of opinion as to the soundness of this by-law, but as long as it is

not repealed by a convention, it is the law of the Union and as such stands.

It must be added that the G. E. B. was informed that the majority of the locals affiliated to the New York Joint Board have subsequently affirmed the decision for an increase in dues and that this order is consequently valid today from every viewpoint.

And while we are on the subject "laws" of the Union, we may as well touch upon another question of law which Local 35 had asked the G. E. B. to pass upon. It is as follows:

The New York Joint Board has decided, as known, to abolish the office of its recording secretary and to unite it with the office of the financial secretary. After this decision was adopted, some adepts in constitutional law discovered a by-law in the constitution of the Joint Board which specifies that the recording secretary of the Joint Board must also be a delegate of his local to the Joint Board. It remains shrouded in mystery why this distinction has been conferred upon the recording secretary alone of all the other general officers of the J. B. and why it does not, for instance, affect the secretary-treasurer or its general manager. Brother Joseph Fish, the present incumbent of the combined office of financial and recording secretary, is not a delegate to the Joint Board. Is Brother Fish, therefore, eligible for his post?

The question, however, went over without a decision, as President Sigman ruled that, according to Union law, this matter must first be brought up before the Joint Board, and only then, should any local disagree with the decision of the Joint Board, may it go up on an appeal before the G. E. B.

Some Other Decisions

The G. E. B. had decided at a previous meeting to unite the Philadelphia cloakmakers' organization and Local 50 into one joint board as a matter of expediency and benefit to the workers in both trades. The committee appointed to carry out this decision, however, found a number of difficulties confronting it and now this matter came up again before the Montreal meeting. The Board reaffirmed its decision and instructed the committee to go through with this matter regardless of obstacles, as it is beyond doubt a reform of vital importance for the organization in both trades.

The report of Vice-president Perlstein on the situation in the dress trade in Chicago, in which mention has been made of the request of the Chicago organization for his return to that city for at least the next six weeks to supervise the planned dress campaign, was received by the members of the Board with considerable interest. The report on the state of affairs in Cleveland, a very favorable one, brought to light the fact that the Cleveland Union is resting on solid ground. Vice-president Perlstein has, during the many years he had spent in that city, built up such a solid cloakmakers' organization in Cleveland that now, after he is gone, his work is being competently continued by his able successors, Brothers Kreindler, Katovsky and their loyal and devoted co-workers. Only recently the agreement in Cleveland between the Union and the employers was renewed.

President Sigman and Vice-presidents Wander and Feinberg reported at length upon the functioning of the unemployment insurance fund. It appears that not all the cloak jobbers and manufacturers are discharging their obligations in this regard faithfully. Some are trying to evade the payment of their two per cent. share and are "passing the buck" to the sub-manufacturer. These tricks are causing a poor commentary on their business integrity and the Union, as well as the sub-manufacturers, will have to be continually on guard against this type of jobber.

What concerns the label-it became introduced in the cloak trade during the last stages of the past season. There is no doubt, however, that both the fund and the label will prove to be of paramount importance to the industry. By next August, it is calculated, there will be no less than a million and a half dollars in the unemployment fund, when it will actually begin to function. The details of the comprehensive plan for the distribution of these benefits are not completely ready. They are, nevertheless, being worked out now and will soon be announced to the whole membership.

The Label Division of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control is charged with the duty of distributing the sanitary label and with the supervision of its honest enforcement. This division is headed by Dr. Henry Moskowitz. The real supervision and rigid enforcement of this work must, however, come from the shops themselves. The workers, the shop chairmen and the shop committees alone can make the label and the fund workable and effective as a weapon for protecting the work standards in the cloak industry.

The new agreement, however, practically eliminates this difference. Under its terms, the sub-manufacturer guarantees each piece worker **weekly minimum earnings**. If the piece worker fails to earn such a minimum, the contractor is obligated to "make good" the difference between the amount earned by the worker and the fixed minimum wage.

To our mind, this provision is the most important gain secured by the new agreement. It brings the piece worker nearer to the status of the week worker. The deep chasm which lay between these two classes of workers in our trades is thus being spanned and, as time goes on, we can foresee the day when the workers in the dress industry will either all become week workers or, as the case may be, all the workers in the cloak industry will become piece workers but with a firmly fixed and guaranteed minimum weekly earnings.

The new dress agreement contains another very significant innovation. It establishes **fixed earnings for all the workers of a given group in the shop**. In other words, if twenty-five operators are employed in one shop their total earnings must, when divided by this number, average a certain sum, even if their individual wages differ. If the total is insufficient to make up such an average, the prices on the garments must be revised upward so as to enable the workers of the entire group to reach the fixed average standard.

All told it is an excellent agreement, with new ideas embodied in it born of experience with the problems of the industry and a thorough knowledge of its technique. Our workers, indeed, have reason to be proud of the skill and ability of their leaders who negotiated it and of their fitness for the posts of responsibility which they occupy in our Union. We are in duty bound, however, to remind our members that the best labor contract is of little use if the workers fail to interpret it effectively in the shops.

It was, of course, evidence of their intelligent appreciation of the signal gains achieved by this agreement that the dress makers enthusiastically endorsed last Thursday the whole contract. This, however, is not nearly sufficient. The workers must learn how to derive the maximum amount of usefulness from this remarkable instrument and how to extract from its operation most benefit and gain. They must, however, not overstep the bounds and, as thinking men and women, they should bear in mind that it takes skill and tact to operate such a delicate instrument.

If, through some misadventure, this agreement should ever fail to operate, we hope that it would not be the fault of our workers. Let the dress makers turn their attention during the next few weeks to this remarkable document and study its contents, clause by clause, with care and diligence. And if they should fail to understand any of its parts, the office of President Sigman, who has contributed materially to the working out of this pact, is open to them for consultation and guidance.



IN THE REALM OF BOOKS



Third Turn

Arthur Hopkins Presents "What Price Glory" by Maxwell Anderson and Laurence Stallings. Settings by Woodman Thompson. Staged by Arthur Hopkins at the Plymouth Theatre.

By SYLVIA KOPALD

There are some plays that become as much a part of a worker's program as any direct union propaganda. Every union program, after all, must point sooner or later to a reorganized world. Whether consciously or unconsciously, workers' demands—even the most carefully confined—contain undertones of long-time visions. In the final attainment of those visions, every critic of things as they are becomes the workers' ally. Every cultural medium, be it drama or literature or science or music-making or what not, which carries a message of discontent and rebuke, becomes the worker's tool.

To call a play such as "What Price Glory?" to the attention of workers, therefore, is as imperative as to point out for them some important new theory in science. There have been several plays in New York during the current season which are more than recreation to many, they escape, more even than education, even though their offerings may include all these things. "What Price Glory?" stands among the foremost of this type. It is disillusion, heart-seeking, truth, spiritual courage. It looks at the institution of modern war and at the humans caught in it. It pronounces them—institution and human.

This is great advance. "What Price Glory?" is a war play. Probably its startling clarity is known to most workers, but the crowds still filling the Plymouth are proof that many probably have not yet seen it. No worker should miss it. For it belongs to the third turn of our disillusion about the "war to end war." While there is no certainty that an end it, war lies at this new turning, there is significance for workers and farists and—just audience are walking this turn.

It was difficult to believe at the Plymouth that the same obviously middle-class Babbitt who explained

implications to his wife was he who six years ago romanced about America's knightly rescue of France and democracy. Yet it was indubitably. That first romantic phrase! How bitter re-soldiers can become about it. (Of course, the romancers themselves can always conveniently forget.)

Then came fatigue, hard times, reaction, disillusion. Even as the war-burners hunted radicals and Bolsheviks, the great Common Man put thumbs down on war plays and war stories and war tales. Editors and stage managers told authors the stuff almost wouldn't go, but slowly the essayists and journalists began to speak—and people listened intently. "Now It Can Be Told" and "The Next War" and "The Balance Sheet" and even "The Economic Consequences of the Peace." Yes, a war was and a lost peace. Tragedy and disillusion.

It was but natural that the third turn should make truth creative. People did not read "Three Soldiers" and understand its bitterness. They read "Under Fire" and "Nothing of Importance" and "Men in War." But still truth had not reached the stage. It had been told and heard. Would men, could men, bear seeing it?

"What Price Glory?" completes this third turn. Now we know they will look at it, too. Of course, this play is no direct glance at disillusion. Unlike Laurence Stallings' "Plumes," it shows men in action, rather than after it. There is dispute over the answer to the author's title to their play, indeed.

It is hardly a play in which the authors hint their answer, and suggest the general disillusion. It shows soldiers, American soldiers, in France, just when the civilians war was a meeting of the professional marines. It shows the timid porkwardness of the new recruits with their demand for identification cards. Act

1 shows us the marines and their recruits before action. The captain and top-sergeant, business-like, able soldiers both, began their fight for a cow-like French girl. The marines boast exploits, there is talk, character, humanity, male humanity at war. There is the indefatigable efficiency of the general headquarters who play their games of ignorance with living men. There is profanity, hard-bolledness, drunkenness, antagonisms, hardness, wisdom.

The second act carries the audience to the darkness of a cellar in a disputed town, hemmed in by the cannon boom, the machine gun hissing, the screeching of rockets! Here men fight for a railroad—and the Alsatian lieutenants who will win the company's leave of absence. While Sergeant Quirt tries to get a trifling wound that will send him back to Charmaine, our French girl, before Captain Flagg arrives, other men go insane with the blind pain of it all; others die as they beseech Captain Flagg to "please stop the blood, sir"; others are maimed; others wander about God; and Captain Flagg remains soldier and Captain and becomes friend and understanding nurse and minister as well.

In the third act, Captain Flagg, dog tired, drinks and curses and fights with Quirt for Charmaine. He wins, the company is suddenly ordered back to the front, and after a brief rebellion his soldier's heart wins and he stumbles back. Sergeant Quirt, fresh from his battle with Flagg, shouts to him, "Wait for Baby, Flagg," and follows the company.

What does all this mean. What is the price of glory? What lies behind the clang and curving and truth of the pictures? Obviously this is more chronicle than drama, more portraiture than interpretation. Yet it caught the mind and wrung the heart.

This is war. Men remain men, and even the most brutalized have their humanity. Calloused, hardened professional soldiers, the hardest are the best. To this blind, almost savage, blind and blind from above and blind, aimless, incompetent, thorough only in the science of its destruction. Blind, aimless . . . and terrible.

Those who have been across testify to the truth of this picture. They have met Quirts, recognizable specimens of the "eternal top-sergeant." They have heard "our boys" boast of their conquest at the "Queen of Spades" when they returned to the king to get his proffered reward. They have seen the lovable, trembling Privates Lewishon and watched them die. They have seen

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

By H. SCHOOLMAN

This Week Twelve Years Ago

The strike of the Indian woolen mills in great amount. The employers' association decided to settle with Union and over 15,000 workers return to work. The settlement is based on the basis of the "protest" appearing in the drum industry. In some respects the new agreement is even more favorable to the workers than the old agreement. On the whole the settlement is very satisfactory to the workers.

The Dupont shop, of 20 South State street, Chicago, Ill., locks out its workers and breaks its agreement with the Chicago Ladies' Tailors' Union, Local 71. The local declares the shop in strike.

Captain Flagg's efficiency and heard his curses. And they, too, have asked "what price glory?"

There is thus a quality in this play that transmits the confusion which the war brought. Just because the meaning is not crystal clear, it is so much a faithful's extract of the war. Was it, as Flagg said it, just a job? Was it entirely meaningless, a borrows waste? The title of this portrait may well be a question. We are still confused. What Price Glory?

Undoubtedly the remarkable perfection of the setting in this play has helped materially in this transmission of confusion. Louis Wolheim is an unforgettable Captain Flagg; William Boyd makes an eternal Sergeant Quirt. Layla Georgia, with her heavy moulding, is the thousands of Charmaines who passed from officer to officer, and every soldier in the cast does his bit in the creation of the perfection that is this play. Indeed, rumor has it that every man in the cast has seen service overseas. For once we must believe rumor. But rumor has still a choice offering for us here. A story goes the rounds in which the audience at the final showing of this play greeted the final curtain with enthusiastic cries, "Author, Author." They called and stamped—but in vain. Neither Mr. Stallings nor Mr. Anderson appeared. They were in the balcony, yelling "Author, Author!"

Even at this late date we join the cry, "Author, Author!" They have composed for us as the third turn in the post-war disillusion. No worker should fail to complete the turning with them. Go to the Plymouth—as soon as you can get tickets.

Employers and Workers Join in Attack on Prison Labor

The United Garment Workers of America and the Union-Made Garment Manufacturers' Association will inaugurate a nation-wide campaign against the sale of prison-made men's garments.

This is in accord with repeated declarations by the A. F. of L. against a social and industrial evil. The joint committee of the manufacturers and unionists is headed by Oscar Berman, manufacturer, and includes Thomas A. Rickert and R. A. Larger, president and secretary-treasurer of the United Garment Workers; R. J. Naren, secretary of the Garment Manufacturers' Association; and Stanley A. Sweet and Abner E. Larned, manufacturers.

"This campaign will be nation-wide, and will awaken the public to the results of a competition with products made by free labor that is so detrimental to the worker," said President Rickert. "Mrs. Kate Richards O'Hare, who has been active in this work for some time, will represent us in an

executive and organizing capacity in this undertaking."

"Prison labor for private profit is a live question in the labor movement and it cannot be shunted over to the politicians to handle," said Mrs. O'Hare. "The sooner organized labor faces the facts in the situation, the sooner we may solve the problem. Certainly nothing can be gained by hiding our heads in the sand."

"Keeping pace with modern progress, the utilization of convict labor has advanced from the old, crude and wasteful methods of a quarter of a century ago to the most modern and efficient mass production. The old, slipshod, inefficient convict labor boys of other days has been replaced by the efficiency expert and the most up-to-date factory methods. Twenty-five years ago convict labor contracting was a chaotic, hit-and-miss, dog-eat-dog scramble between individual politician contractors, while prison factories were badly equipped, wretchedly managed, and they produced only

goods of the lowest quality and saleable at the least discriminating trade.

"But this condition could not continue in our highly specialized and scientifically organized industrial world. The same social forces that produced the oil trust, the lumber trust, the railroad trust and the banking trust have also created the prison labor trust, and one of the mighty powers in what Woodrow Wilson called the 'invisible government.'"

"The prison labor trust, which its influence in the 'invisible government,' controls politicians, shapes the policies of political parties, oils the wheels of political machinery and 'sweetens' the editorial policies of many great newspapers. It retains eminent lawyers on its staff, floats its stock issues through reputable brokers, donates liberally to charitable, social service and prison reform organizations. It also maintains public and well-paid lobbies. In fact, it does all the things other great trusts do, and in many instances does them much better."

"The exploitation of convict labor has been concentrated in a few industries, and naturally the workers in these trades suffer most, though the evil effects reach out into every in-

dustry, including agriculture. The greatest concentration in convict labor is in the garment industry, work garments, principally, and it is the garment workers who are suffering most from the invasion of prison-made goods in the markets."

"The Reliance Manufacturing Company and its subsidiaries, makers of 'Big Yank' shirts, according to statistics, made more than 1,000,000 work shirts in 1925, most of them produced in prison factories and by convict labor. Other smaller units of the prison labor trust possibly produced more than this number of shirts and, in addition, millions of pairs of overalls, coveralls, workmen's trousers, children's overalls and play suits and women's home dresses and underwear."

"The competition of prison-made goods is sapping the life of the garment industry and free factories are closing down all the corners of the producing. Thousands of free garment workers are walking the streets, but there is no unemployment in the prison factories. Thousands of convicts are busy making well-known and widely advertised brands of prison-made goods."



DOMESTIC ITEMS

Food Costs Increase

An increase of about one per cent in the retail cost of food in November, 1924, as compared with the previous month, is reported by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Strictly fresh eggs advanced fourteen per cent; storage eggs, seven per cent; coffee, six per cent, and lard, five per cent.

Leasing of Convicts Opposed in Missouri

The Missouri State Federation of Labor has issued a call to trade unionists and sympathizers for an anti-convict leasing conference, to be held in this city January 6. It is proposed to draft certain amendments to be presented to the next Legislature for enactment into law that will prevent convict labor competing with free labor.

The call says that "through close cooperation between prison officials and prison contractors, the 1917 law, which provides for the abolition of this system, has been evaded with impunity and thereby caused the continuation of the brutal leasing system, in violation of the spirit of the law."

Iowa Favors Child Labor Ban

Governor Hammill, of Iowa, in his inaugural address, took strong grounds in favor of the Federal Child Labor Amendment. The retiring Governor, Nate Kendall, took the same position in his message.

Iowa is an agricultural State, but citizens have refused to accept the claim of amendment foes that the farm boy and girl will be prohibited from aiding their parents.

"Every student of rural child-labor problems knows that prohibitions and regulations, properly applied to industrial employment, would be impracticable with regard to the home life," said Governor Hammill. "We find the American home farm of today an excellent environment. The ratification of this amendment will be in the interest of humanity."

John Lewis Re-elected

A report on the referendum of the United Mine Workers shows that John L. Lewis has been re-elected President by a vote of 136,209. His opponent, George Voysey of Illinois, received 62,843. Philip Murray received 126,800 votes for Vice-president and Arley Staples of Illinois 66,038 for that office.

American Federation of Labor delegates are: President Lewis, William Green, former secretary-treasurer and now President of the American Federation of Labor; Vice-president Murray, Secretary-Treasurer Kennedy, Frank Farrington, president of the Illinois district, and Walter Nephew of Illinois and Fred Mooney of West Virginia.

Stage Folk Unite

Inroads by the radio is alarming the theatrical world and for the first time in history representatives of all interests in this calling attended a meeting in New York City to consider the question. These included actors, managers, dramatists, composers, publishers, scenic artists, musicians and stage employees. John Emerson, President of the Actors' Equity Association, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, presided. One of the speakers declared that "in thirty-four States the spoken drama has virtually ceased to exist."

The meeting approved a resolution that the council of the Actors' Equity Association "confer with the units present to form a committee truly representative of the theater, the duty of which shall be to formulate plans for the betterment of the institution to which we all belong."

Wage Rates Are Lower

According to the New York State Department of Labor, employees in heating apparatus shops average \$3.60 less than a year ago. Electrical and railroad equipment shops also report a lower average at present. Chemical and oil plants, textile mills and clothing shops average more, partly because of lower employment.

The department expresses the belief that "on the whole, however, the movement toward decreased rates, which was gaining headway in the early summer, appears to have worked itself out."

Honor Mexican Unionist

At a public meeting, under the auspices of the Central Labor Union of El Paso, Texas, organized labor greeted Louis N. Morones, former President of the Mexican Federation of Labor, and now a member of President Calles' Cabinet.

Conferences Held in Mine Dispute

As the result of a conference with Warren F. Stone, President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, a committee representing the American Federation of Labor Executive Council has arranged a meeting, early in February at Washington, between Mr. Stone and John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, to discuss differences with the miners and the Coal River Collieries.

At the last convention of the American Federation of Labor it was voted to refer these differences to the Executive Council. President Green appointed American Federation of Labor Secretary Frank Morrison and Vice-presidents Ryan and Noonan as mediators, who will meet with Messrs. Lewis and Stone. The latter, together with other members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, are interested in the West Virginia mine.

FOREIGN ITEMS

HOLLAND

International Committee of Trade Union Women

At the suggestion of the International Conference of Trade Union Women, which was being held simultaneously, the International Trade Union Congress of Vienna decided to establish an International Committee of Trade Union Women, to work with and under the I. F. T. U. The I. F. T. U. requested the national centers of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain and France to propose representatives to sit on the Committee until the next International Conference of Trade Union Women. The proposals have now been sent in, and the Committee will therefore consist of the following: Miss M. Qualle (Great Britain), Manchester; Mme. Helene Burinckx (Belgium), Brussels; Mile. Jeanne Chevenard (France), Lyons; Fraulein Henriette Crona (Denmark), Copenhagen; Fraulein Gertrud Hanna (Germany), Berlin.

The duties of the Committee will be the following: (1) To call attention to the special interests of women workers within the framework of the general Trade Union movement; (2) to stimulate propaganda among women, and to cooperate in this propaganda; (3) to assist the I. F. T. U. by making suggestions and giving advice in questions of social legislation for women; (4) to aid in the collection of statistical and other information concerning women workers.

AUSTRALIA

An Australian Festival of the Obsolete

Quite a large number of the New South Wales Labor organizations have decided to abolish their present custom of celebrating an eight-hour day, and to make May 1 the date of their annual Labor jubilation. They think that with modern machinery and systematized production the working day should soon be much shorter than eight hours; hence an eight-hour day is now only "a great festival of the obsolete."

We can imagine the feelings of mingled compassion and contempt with which the Australians look upon Europe, the home of "modern civilization," where there are countries which will scarcely tolerate any propaganda for the eight-hour day.

DENMARK

The Danish Labor Movement Buils A Home For Itself

The Danish National Trade Union Center and the Social Democratic party have decided to build their own national offices. The foundation stone of this building was laid by Stauning, the Prime Minister; Jensen, Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, and Madsen, the President of the National Federation of Trade Unions.

Stauning, who was formerly a tobacco worker, is still a member of the Executive of the Social Democratic party and an active supporter of the trade union movement. Jensen, once a journeyman painter, was President of the Danish Federation of Trade Unions until his election as Treasurer of the City of Copenhagen, and he is still a member of his trade union. He was one of those who took an active share in the founding of the Trade Union International.

FRANCE

An Alliance to Defend A Weekly Day of Rest

The institution of one day's rest per week in France based on an unsatisfactory Act dating back to 1906, which allows of many evasions and exemptions. Statistics collected by Professor Jay show that even in 1914 over 1,600 exemptions were granted. There were many shopkeepers who claim that they allow their assistants to take turns in the enjoyment of a free day, and in these cases no control can be exercised either by the authorities or the trade unions. Until 1923 nothing was done to remedy this abuse; in that year a law was passed which merely provides for a general day of rest whenever a recognized agreement has been concluded between the workers' union and the shop-owner.

The system of granting exemptions has been found to intensify competition between those shopkeepers who are and who are not thus favored, so that the workers have come to recognize that the only way to ensure their day of rest is to have it guaranteed to them by legislation, so framed that only a minimum of absolutely essential exception can be made.

To secure one free day intact, therefore, an alliance has been formed between the organizations of the shop assistants aid clerks, the workers in the food and drink trades, and the assistants in chemists' shops. It is to be hoped that they may be successful in attaining their very modest demands.

RUSSIA

Trade Union Statistics

In No. 4 of "International Press-correspondence," Dogadov, the Secretary of the All-Russian Central Trade Union Council, issues a report on the situation of the Russian Trade Unions. He says that the Russian national center has a membership of 6,036,000, against 4,347,000 in 1923. There are 391,000 unorganized manual and non-manual workers (eight per cent of the total number of workers). The small number of workers in Russia in comparison to its population (about 136,000,000) is no doubt chiefly due to the fact that the peasants, who are unorganized, form the great bulk of the population of Russia.

With regard to wages, it is stated in the report that the average wages have risen since the last Congress to sixty-three per cent of the pre-war level (this is for the whole of the population comprised in the Union of Soviet Republics). The following figures are given for individual trades: the average wage of the metal worker is 86.6 per cent of the pre-war wage, that of the textile worker 81.7 per cent, that of the miner 82.2 per cent, and that of the worker in a chemical factory 89.2 per cent.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

Washington Irving High School
Irving Place and 16th St.
Room 530

Saturday, February 7

- 1:30 p. m. R. J. R. Stolper—Clear Voices in English and American Literature: Byron and Shelley; Revolt.
2:30 p. m. Gust De Maynech—The Development of the Trade Union Movement in Europe.

Sunday, February 8

- 10:30 a. m. H. A. Overstreet—Psychology of Conflict: Conflict of Ideas.
11:30 a. m. H. J. Carman—The Industrial Development of Modern Society: Political Effects of Industrial Revolution.

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' BUILDING 3 West 16th Street

Wednesday, February 11

- 6:30 p. m. Alexander Fichandler—Psychology and the Labor Movement: Psychology of Conservatism and Radicalism.

Thursday, February 12

- 6:30 p. m. Sylvia Kopald—Economics and the Labor Movement: Organized Industry—Employers vs. Workers' Organizations.

UNITY CENTERS

Tuesday, February 10

- Braxx Unity Center—P. S. 61
Crotona Park East and Charlotte Street
6:45 p. m. Theresa Wolfson—Changing Economic Institutions: Some Solutions to the Problems.

Wednesday, February 11

- East Side Unity Center—P. S. 63
Fourth Street near First Avenue
8:45 p. m. A. L. Wilbert—Social and Economic Forces in American History: Natural Resources.

EXTENSION DIVISION

YIDDISH

Friday, February 6

- Local 2 Club Rooms—1581 Washington Avenue, Bronx
8:00 p. m. I. Isakowitch—Changes in the Women's Garment Industry and its Effect on the Conditions of the Workers.

Sunday, February 8

- Local 2 Club Rooms—1581 Washington Avenue, Bronx
11:00 a. m. Max Levin—The Industrial Development of Modern Society.

Friday, February 6 and 13

- Beethoven Hall—210 East 5th Street
8:00 p. m. H. Rogoff—American Civilization.

Saturday, February 7 and 14

- Local 9 Building—67 Lexington Avenue
1:00 p. m. H. Rogoff—American Civilization.

Sunday, February 8

- Cloak Operators' Centre—1629 Lexington Avenue
10:30 a. m. B. Hoffman—Twenty-five Years' Labor Movement in America.

Friday, February 6

- Russian-Polish Branch—315 East 10th Street
7:30 p. m. M. Vellugin—The New Morale of Europe.

Friday, February 20

Subject to be announced.

Thursday, February 12

- Brownsville Labor Lyceum—Room 301
7:30 p. m. Alexander Fichandler—Psychology and the Labor Movement. In these discussions we shall study some of the fundamental laws of human behavior. We shall analyze some of the instincts that urge us to want to fight, to create, to lead, to follow, etc. We shall also analyze some of the laws which underlie the progress of human reasoning. Illustrations will be drawn from the workers' experience. The topic will be "Creative Instinct."

Thursday, February 19

- Brownsville Labor Lyceum—Room 301
7:30 p. m. Alexander Fichandler will start a course of six lessons on "The Economic Basis of Modern Society." The topic of the first lesson will be "Farming."

Saturday, February 21

- Public School 63—Fourth Street Near First Avenue
8:00 p. m. Concert and Community Singing—Prominent artists will participate. Estelle Lehreiner, Soprano; Joseph Fuchs, Violinist; N. L. Salsavsky, Baritone.

"The Economic Problems of the Working Woman"

On Tuesday, February 10, at 8:45 p. m., in P. S. 61, Charlotte St. and Crotona Park East, room 511, Miss Theresa Wolfson will lecture on "The Economic Problems of the Working Woman," and will discuss these problems with the class.

In the organized Labor movement the question of women in industry as a special problem has often been raised. Two points of view are often expressed—one claims that the interests of men and women workers are identical; the other accepts the fact that women workers are a more or less temporary factor, and therefore, should not be bothered with. Both these attitudes have seriously handicapped the work of organizing women workers.

The lecturer will discuss the problems of the working woman in the light of historical experience, as they

affect the position of women in industry and particularly in trade unions, which will do much toward clarifying a number of issues much befogged by old social and economic prejudices.

The lecture will be continued next week, February 17, in the same place and at the same time.

We advise our members who reside in the Bronx to attend this lecture.

BROOKLYN

In the Labor Lyceum, 219 Sackman St., room 301, on Thursday, February 12, at 8 p. m., Alexander Fichandler will continue his course in "Social Psychology." The topic of discussion will be "Creative Instinct." This course will be continued next week.

A Course on "Civilization in America"

On Saturday, February 7, at 1 p. m., in Local 9 Building, 67 Lexington Ave., H. Rogoff will start a course on "Civilization in America." The object of this course is to acquaint our members with phases of the life of the American nation.

The lecturer will stress: (1) how America was "conquered" by the white race, (2) the causes that led the immigrants to penetrate deep into the American continent, (3) the changes that took place in the political and economic development of the country; the growth of its industrial institutions, and the part that the workers played in the many epochs in the development of this country, (4) the cultural development of the country; the literature in colonial times and after America won its independence; and the literature which led to the spiritual bond between America and Europe.

It is needless to emphasize that, to understand the development, the civilization of a country, we must

have some knowledge of the growth of its industries, its political institutions and social tendencies, and of its spiritual achievements.

This course will be continued weekly at the same place and at the same time.

MARY BEARD'S "SHORT HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT"

Mary Beard's book "A Short History of the American Labor Movement," has now appeared in a second enlarged edition. This book is published by the Workers' Educational Board, and like its other publications, can be obtained at our Educational Department for fifty cents.

We would advise even such of our members as bought this book a few years ago to obtain a new copy, as it contains more information and includes the latest events of the American Labor Movement up to the day the book appeared, a few weeks ago.

Lectures at Workers' University this Saturday

Gust de Maynech, formerly Secretary of the Labor College, Belgium, will give a second lecture at our Workers' University, Washington Irving High School, 16th St. and Irving Place, on Saturday, February 7, at 2:30 p. m., in room 530.

The topic of his lecture will be "The Development of the European Trade Union Movement." Last week he lectured on the French Trade Union Movement.

We advise our members to attend this lecture as it will be of great

educational value.

OUR CONCERT AND COMMUNITY SINGING IN P. S. 63

Arrangements are under way to make a success of the concert and community singing which will take place on Saturday, February 21, in the auditorium of P. S. 63, 4th St. near First Avenue.

The program will be most interesting, and our members and their families who live downtown should spend a most enjoyable evening.

The Educational Department of our International is serving our membership in many capacities. There you can get information about our educational activities. It is open from nine o'clock in the morning to six o'clock in the evening.

3 West 16th Street
Chelsea 2148

Unity Centers

Our Unity Centers in seven public school buildings are now open. There are classes in English for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Register at once at the Unity Center nearest your home, or at our Educational Department, 3 West 16th street.

The Week In Local 10

SAM B. SHENKER

The new agreements in the dress industry which were recently concluded by the union with the jobbers and contractors have not yet become effective because of failure by the two employing groups to settle their differences.

New Agreements To Be Effective Soon

However, according to all indications, no serious trouble is expected because of the differences between the employers. Recent reports have it that the contractors and jobbers are about to reach an agreement, and by the time this issue reaches the hands of the membership plans for the enforcement of the new agreement throughout the trade will have been effected.

The union had concluded the agreements with both employers' organizations in the dress trade some time ago, but, because of a rift between the jobbers and the contractors over some trade questions, the memberships of these organizations had failed to ratify the agreements. As these differences are being settled, so each organization is ready to ratify it. This has already been done by the membership of the jobbers.

A conference between the two associations took place the early part of this week. While the result was not known at the time of going to press, rumor had it that the contending parties would reach an agreement, upon the conclusion of which the union agreements practically would become effective.

Plans For Settlement With Independent

The question of a stoppage or a campaign against open shops, while being discussed, has not been completed. This is owing to the fact that the agreements have not been signed yet. Of course this is a topic for constant discussion by the officers of the union; as the members no doubt surmise, since they themselves are anxious for news concerning this.

The tentative plans are, according to Manager Dubinsky's discussion of this question at the Executive Board, for an intensive drive against open shops in the dress industry. As to the manner of signing up with the independent shops, the probabilities are that these will be called down to settlement headquarters for signing up.

It will be recalled that the members of Local 10 had ratified the agreements in the dress trade at a special meeting held January 26. It is necessary that dress cutters attend the next meeting, which will be held on Monday, February 9, in large numbers. By that time it is expected that a definite report with regard to all these questions will be rendered by Manager Dubinsky.

Participation In Joint Board Elections Urged

The date for the election of officers, that is, district managers and business agents, for the cloak and dress departments of the Joint Board, has been set for Thursday, February 12. Polling places are located conveniently in all of the branch offices of the Joint Board and the various local unions.

Both Manager Dubinsky and the Executive Board urge upon the members to participate in this election en masse. It is their desire that the membership make its fair showing at this election as they did in the annual election of the local; when over seventeen hundred members participated.

Local 10's Quota Is Six

While all members of the Joint Board will freely vote on the candidates from all locals, to each local, however, is assigned a certain quota.

In other words, cutters may upon candidates who are members of other locals.

According to the census of the international, based upon the number of members after the number of Miscellaneous and Raincoat cutters has been deducted, Local 10 is entitled to five business agents. This means that two are to be elected for the dress department of the Joint Board and three for the cloak department.

The candidates running are, for the cloak department: Samuel Perlmutter, Isidore Nagler, Benjamin Sachs and Julius Bender; for the dress department, David Frumkin, Jacob Fleisher and John W. Settle. Brother Perlmutter's name will appear in the same column as the business agents' names, though he is a candidate for manager of the downtown branch, an office which he has held for the past two years.

Two distinct ballots will be issued, one for the dress branch and one for the cloak. Workers employed in these respective branches will be given a ballot representing the trade in which they are employed.

Executive Board Elects Officers

Due to the special meeting which acted upon the agreements in the dress trade, space did not permit the printing of a report of the organization of the 1925 Executive Board. For this reason, also, the appointments made by President Ansel at the beginning of the new term were not published.

It will be remembered that under the constitution the members elect twelve of the personnel of the Executive Board and the president appoints three, following the installation of the officers for the new term. A vacancy was also created for an additional delegate to the Central Trades and Labor Council by the withdrawal of a candidate, two only having been elected, while three delegates are required. The president also appointed an Examination Committee for the new term.

Max Gordon, Maurice W. Jacobs and Max Cooperman were appointed as the additional members of the Executive Board. Henry Leibowitz, Meyer Katz and Abe Casper were appointed as members of the Examination Committee.

Harry Shapiro was appointed as delegate to the Central Trades and Labor Council to fill the vacancy. Brother Shapiro, it will be recalled, was a member of the Executive Board in 1923. Prior to the election of the present term a resolution was received from the cutters of J. and S. Becker, in which they recommended that one of their number be appointed a member of the Executive Board, since, being ten in number, they feel that their shop should be honored. This resolution was referred to President Ansel with the result mentioned here.

At the meeting of the Executive Board following the appointments by the president of the additional board members, the question of electing officers for the new term became an important order of business. A call for nominations for chairman of the Executive Board resulted in the nomination of Brothers Benjamin Eryv and Maurice W. Jacobs, each nominating the other. Asked as to whether he accepted, Eryv said that he declined in favor of Jacobs, because he felt satisfied that he had been honored with the chairmanship for a time and felt that this honor should be distributed. Jacobs being the only other nominee, he was elected by acclamation.

Henry Robbin was elected vice-chairman and Joel Abramowitz was elected sergeant-at-arms. Meyer

Slukh was elected treasurer of the Executive Board.

According to the constitution, delegates to the Joint Board are elected by the Executive Board following its installation for the new term. The delegates who were elected to represent Local 10 at the Joint Board are: Brothers Philip Ansel, Harry Zaslowsky, Max Stoller, Louis Pankin and Louis Forer.

Joint Board Delegates Given Important Posts

At the installation of the new Joint Board for the year 1925 the delegates to this body representing Local 10 were accorded considerable honor by their election to important offices.

As soon as the new delegates were seated elections were proceeded with at once. The first officers to be elected were a president, secretary-treasurer and general manager. Brother Israel Feinberg was re-elected General Manager. Brother Joseph Fish was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

It will be noted that Brother Fish carries the additional title of secretary. Up to this election he served as treasurer, but in accordance with the economy plans instituted by the Joint Board recently the office of secretary was combined with that of the treasurer and by Brother Fish's election as secretary-treasurer, he assumes the duty of conducting both offices. In addition to being the head of the treasurer's office he now records the minutes of the Joint Board and attends to the correspondence.

Brother Philip Ansel, President of the Local, was elected First Vice-President of the Joint Board and therefore becomes automatically the Chairman of the Board of Directors. Brother Harry Zaslowsky was elected a member of the Finance Committee. Louis Pankin serves as a member of the Grievance Committee and Brother Max Stoller was made a member of the Appeal Committee.

Miners Seek Help

The Executive Board has received a communication from the American Federation of Labor, appended to which is a resolution adopted by the last convention at El Paso, Texas.

Two organizations of mine workers whose districts are located in West Virginia and Kentucky are engaged in a strike for the renewal of agreements. The mine owners, in an effort to compel the miners to desist from their struggle by starving them out, have resorted to infamous means.

The resolution appeals to the American Labor movement for both money and clothing. The request for money has been referred to the Joint Board for action. As for clothing, the members are urged to gather together whatever discarded clothing and shoes they may have and send them to Will C. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer of District Number 17, Box 1322, Charleston, W. Va., and to J. Vincent, Secretary-Treasurer, District Number 23, Central City, Kentucky.

Conference With Underwear Association

In accordance with a communication sent to the Cotton Garment Manufacturers' Association by Locals 10 and 62, for a conference with a view to signing a new agreement, the first conference took place last Tuesday, February 3, in the Metropolitan Building. This action on the part of the union was prompted by the fact that the present agreement expires on February 25.

At that conference the union submitted demands for a twenty per cent increase and demands for the strengthening of the clause dealing with union shops and discharges.

Whether or not the employers will meet the demands of the union, a general strike in this trade is inevitable. This action was decided upon by the Miscellaneous Council because of the many open shops which exist in the trade and which endanger the conditions of the union shops.

One demand upon the securing of which the conference committee will direct all its energies is the right to review discharge cases. While this has been done in the past, nevertheless, the agreement is so worded in this regard that there is a great need for improvement.

Miscellaneous Cutters Prepared For Strike

On Wednesday, January 28, a mass meeting of the cutters in the Miscellaneous trades took place. It was attended by nearly three hundred cutters, union and non-union. This meeting was called by means of letters to the members and circulars which were distributed throughout the city. Non-union cutters particularly were appealed to. This work was in charge of Brother Philip Hansel.

The meeting, which took place at 6 p. m., was addressed by Manager Dubinsky and S. Lefkowitz, Manager of the Miscellaneous Council. Dubinsky spoke at length on the campaign which the union is conducting and urged the cutters to actively engage in the strike.

The strike will be declared within the next two weeks or so, and the cutters of the Miscellaneous trades will meet in Arlington Hall. As soon as the circulars calling upon the members to walk out will be received by them, they are to report at once to the hall for purposes of registration.

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CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

Notice of Meetings

REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETING. Monday, February 9th

Special Order of Business: Election of Business Agents for the Joint Board.

Members are urged to take part in the voting for District Managers and Business Agents of the Joint Board. The voting takes place on Thursday, February 12. Polling places will be open from 8 a. m. to 7 p. m., at

Italian Clink Makers' Union, 231 E. 14th Street.
Dress Makers' Union, Local 22, 16 W. 21st Street.
Main Office of Joint Board, 130 E. 25th Street.
Branch Offices: 33 Second Avenue, and 1714 Lexington Avenue, New York City; 105 Montrose Avenue, Brooklyn; 217 Sackman Street, East New York.

'At Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place
Meetings Begin Promptly at 7:30 P. M.