

"My righteous-
ness I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."

—Job 27:8

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. 47.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1925

PRICE 3 CENTS

International Convention Will Be Held In Eagles' Temple, Philadelphia

Committee on Credentials Begins Its Work Next Monday Morning, November 23rd, in I.L.G.W.U.
Building—Objections to Delegates Will Be Received at Above Address—Arrangements Committee Completes Convention Plans.

The Eighteenth Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. will start its sessions on Monday morning, November 30th, as announced before. It will not, however, meet in the Philadelphia, Labor Institute, as the construction of this labor assembly hall will not be completed in time for the convention, as expected. The convention will therefore be held in the Eagles' Temple, 1136 Spring Garden street, corner Broad street.

At the last quarterly session of the G. E. B. the following convention committees were appointed: Convention arrangements — Secretary-Treasurer Baroff, First Vice-president Salvatore Ninfo, and Vice-presidents Max Amdur, Jacob Halperin and Elias Reisberg. The first task of this committee was to secure a new meeting place for the convention after the trustees of the Labor Institute had informed them that the new building could not

possibly be made ready for November 30th. The Eagles' Temple was then hired.

The committee on credentials appointed by the G. E. B. consists of the following persons: Abraham Snyder of Local 62, chairman, Ildore Nager of Local 10, secretary; Ignazio Chiarclara, Local 48, Giacomo Ni Nola, Local 39, Morris Farishah, Local 22, Becky Stein, Local 65, Louis Friend, Local 26, and Abraham Schneider, Local 23, Boston.

The credentials committee will begin its work on Monday morning, November 23rd, in the I.L.G.W.U. Building, 3 West 16th Street, New York City. Members of the Union who would object to any of the elected delegates to the next convention are asked to present their objection in person or by mail to this committee.

White Goods Workers' Union Elects Officers

The White Goods Workers' Union of New York, Local 62, held an election of officers on November 10th, including delegates to the Philadelphia convention of the I.L.G.W.U. The following were elected:

Manager—Abraham Snyder.

Business agent—Silver Mary Goff.

Secretary—Mollie Lifshitz.

Executive Board members—Bessie Abramowitz, Fannie Bremer, Rose Baslin, Clara Cohen, Sophie Darmann, Samuel Greckin, Rose Hymowitz, Bessie Helfan, Lillian Klinger, Jennie Kruglick, Rose Langer, Yetta Maloffsky, Jennie Miller, Jennie Miller, Jennie Maloffsky, Lottie Rothenberg, Fannie Rabinowitz, Fannie Shapiro, Anna Straussberg, Rose Saffrin, Clara Siegel.

Convention delegates: Abraham Snyder, Mollie Lifshitz, Fannie Bremer, Yetta Maloffsky, Bessie Helfan, Jennie Kruglick.

Unemployment Fund Begins Registration This Week

Plans have been worked out by the Board of Trustees of the Unemployment Insurance Fund of the Cloak and Suit Industry calculated to improve the administration of the Fund for the Fall season. Registration of workers who have experienced unemployment during the current Fall season is to start Wednesday, November 18. It will not be necessary for all to register, but only certain groups of workers as prescribed by the Trustees of the Fund.

Registration shall be confined to the following classes of workers now unemployed and unattached.

1. Those totally unemployed since August 1st, 1925.
2. Those working at odd jobs since August 1st who must furnish the names and addresses of all of their employers during such time.
3. Those formerly employed in shops which have gone out of business after August 1st and who have not secured any work with any other firm since such date of their firm going out of business.

Workers attached to shops must not attempt to register individually. Their registration will be accomplished through the appearance of their names on the weekly shop reports each employer is required to forward to the Insurance Fund.

Another feature of registration introduced for the first time is the hav-

ing members of separate crafts report on a given day at the Registration office. According to the carefully worked out schedule, unemployed members of Local 9 will register on Wednesday, November 18th; Local No. 25 on Thursday, November 19th; Local 48 on Friday, November 20th and Saturday, November 21st; Local No. 2 on Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th; Locals No. 10, 3, 23 and 32 on Wednesday, November 25th. The officers in charge of the Fund have earnestly requested that all eligible unemployed workers avail themselves of this opportunity.

(Continued on Page 2)

Shop Strikes Vigorously Waged By Local 41

The shop strikes against two of the largest firms in the tucking and pleating trade are being vigorously carried on by the members of the Tuckers, Hemstitchers and Pleaters' Union, Local 41.

The strikes are in the shops of the

Star Pleating Co., 151 West 26th St. and Kramer Pleating Co. of 109 West 37th St. The strike in these factories is now nearly two weeks old but the strikers are as determined to carry it to a victorious end and are as hopeful of victory as on the first day it was called out.

The local is leaving nothing undone to aid the strikers in fighting their battle against these employers. The success of these conflicts would, however, be made nearer and surer if the other organized workers, cloakmakers and dressmakers, in the district where these two strike-bound shops are located would give the tuckers a helping hand in picketing them and in performing other strike duties. The best way to help the strikers in these two shops, of course, would be for the chairmen in the cloak and dress shops to insist that only tucking and pleating made in union shops be applied on the garments they make.

Sister Pauline Morgenstern, the manager of this local, announces that lists of union and non-union shops had been prepared at the office of Local 41 and will be given on request to all dress and cloak shop chairmen to guide them in identifying which of the shops supplying their firms with accessories and novelties are union shops and which are not. Through this method they might easily force the two obstinate strike firms to come to terms with the strikers and help the workers win their just fight.

Ninfo Wins Libel Suit Against Daily News

Newspaper Retracts Charges Against Him and Extends Apology

Vice-president Salvatore Ninfo, the manager of the Italian Cloakmakers' Union, Local 48, won last week a suit against the New York Daily News for a libelous statement which appeared in the columns of that paper on March 17, 1925.

The statement in the Daily News referred to some charges preferred against Brother Ninfo by a few personal enemies in connection with the operation of the cooperative grocery store conducted at that time by Local 48, to the District Attorney of New

York County. After an investigation, the District Attorney's office found Brother Ninfo entirely innocent of any guilt or taint of dishonesty. The account of this story in the Daily News created an impression that Brother Ninfo, together with other officers of the local, had misused union funds and the funds of the cooperative grocery. Vice-president Ninfo at once brought suit against the paper through his attorney Morris Hillquit.

The court decided that the Daily Mirror must pay the expenses of the suit and print a retraction of the charges. The newspaper complied and on November 13th printed the following statement:

"On March 17, 1925, the Daily News published an account of the investigation which the district attorney of New York county was then making of certain charges preferred by a few garment workers against Salvatore Ninfo and other officials of Local 48 of the Italian Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. These charges related to an alleged misuse of union funds in connection with a cooperative grocery store opened by Local 48.

The News article stated that the bringing of these accusations against Ninfo and the other union officials increased the excitement on the east side which had been occasioned by the elopement of the Tisho brothers. In

Controversy Between Bookkeepers' Union and Local 22 Nearing End

President William Green of the A. F. of L. Hands Down Decision After Hearing—Officers of Local 22 to Present Decision to Meeting of Members.

During the recent disturbances in some I.L.G.W.U. locals in New York City, a dispute broke out between the officials of Local 22, the Dressmakers' Union, and their office employees, members of the Bookkeepers and Stenographers' Union, as a result of which the latter went down on strike and for several weeks picketed the office of the local.

As both Local 22 and the Bookkeepers' local are affiliated with the Amer-

ican Federation of Labor, the latter as a federal local, the bookkeepers forwarded charges against Local 22 to the convention of the Federation in Atlantic City last October. The convention turned the matter over to President William Green for adjustment.

On Tuesday, November 2nd, President Green was present at a hearing in New York City, attended by rep-

(Continued on Page 2)

making this statement the Daily News did not intend it to be understood that it gave credence to the charges or to imply that Ninfo, who was then and is now the manager of the local 48, had been guilty of anything dishonest in connection with the conduct of the cooperative grocery stores. On the contrary, the Daily News has no reason to believe that Ninfo is other than an honest union official."

Opening Celebration of Educational Season A Great Success

Thousands of I. L. G. W. U. members participated in the opening exercises of our Educational Season last Saturday evening. The crowd began to assemble in the auditorium of Washington Irving High School as early as 6 o'clock and by 8 o'clock every available seat was occupied. More than 1000 persons who found no seats had to stand for two and one-half hours listening to the program.

The audience was in a holiday mood. The people felt that this was more than just a concert, although the program was very well selected. They were filled with pride at the achievements of our International in the field of Workers' Education. They were glad to be amongst those who were supporting this work financially and morally. It was gratifying to know that at the eighth anniversary of our Educational department our members were just as enthusiastic about its activities as they were at its inception.

The musical program was rendered by Steacie Jacobson, celebrated violinist and Mme. Clitz Klase, well known soprano. The songs and instrumental numbers were enthusiastically received. A. J. Muste, of Brookwood College spoke for our faculty, and Fannia M. Cohn made a short speech.

Alexander Fichandler presided, and in opening the program, expressed his delight at seeing such an enormous attendance. In spite of all distractions, he stated, the members of our union are deeply interested in the work of their organization not only in the economic field, but also in the spiritual. It was not enough for their Union to safeguard their conditions in shop and factory, to concern itself only with the question of hours and wages. The Union felt its duty to satisfy the educational and intellectual needs of the members as well. Mr. Fichandler reminded the audience that the International was the pioneer in Labor education in America and that it should be a source of pride to the I.L.G.W.U. members that now, when the entire American Labor movement had accepted the idea of Labor Education, the International performed the task not only for its own membership, but for the entire working class of America.

A. J. Muste, Chairman of the faculty of Brookwood College, made the chief address of the evening. He said among other things, that the large attendance indicated how deeply the members of

the I. L. G. W. U. felt for their organization. If anyone had doubts as to the strength of the organization and the loyalty of its members, this immense gathering was a convincing answer. Brother Muste spoke of the pioneer work done by the I.L.G.W.U. in labor education. He emphasized the fact that economic organization, no matter how powerful, cannot be efficient without education. Organization and education are necessary to achieve the final emancipation of labor.

Brother Muste made a splendid appeal for an understanding of the importance of education in the labor movement. His final words were "Long live the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union."

Fannia M. Cohn, in a short address, stressed the importance of workers' education for the Labor Movement, and congratulated the audience on the fact that this work has been carried on uninterruptedly for seven years despite all the difficulties the International went through during the consistency, tenacity, singleness of purpose and energy displayed in this work were due to the support given it by the membership. Even those of our members who, because of age or other circumstances, cannot avail themselves of our educational program, take pride in the fact that they are assisting morally and financially an activity which tends to strengthen the Labor movement. These members willingly support our efforts to increase an understanding of economic and social conditions among our members, and to give the younger people an opportunity to prepare for greater service to their organization.

Our members have accepted the slogan "Knowledge is Power." They have advanced the idea of workers education by experimenting in this field. Through the continuous efforts of our Educational Department the American Labor Movement has endorsed our educational program and has accepted workers education as a part of the Labor movement. Miss Cohn concluded by saying, "Let us all unite in an effort to increase our educational activities and their usefulness to our International in particular, and the Labor movement in general."

Messages were received from President Sigman, Secretary Baroff, Spencer Miller, Jr., Secretary of the Workers' Education Bureau and from many friends interested in Workers' Education.

Unemployment Fund Begins Registration This Week

(Continued from Page 1)

selects of the opportunity to register and to approach the registration headquarters on the days appointed. The registration is for actual unemployment and not for loss of time occasioned by illness.

According to Arthur D. Wolf, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, every effort is being made to see that the workers suffer none of the congestion and inconvenience which marked the registration of unemployment during the Spring season. To this end the

small and unsatisfactory quarters at 4 East 25th Street have been closed. All workers must appear at 122 West 15th Street at the time they are required to register. Much better facilities are available to those in charge of the Fund at the latter address. It is believed that under the system which has been worked out that there will be a minimum of annoyance for the workers and for those who must secure the necessary data on the periods of employment and unemployment for the current season, preliminary to disbursements at a later date.

Local 22 Will Settle Dispute With Clerks

(Continued from Page 1)

representatives of Local 22, of the Bookkeepers' Union, and by Louis Hyman, general manager of the Joint Board, and Hugh Frayne, A. F. of L. representative in New York City. After all the parties directly and indirectly interested in the controversy had stated their sides, President Green gave out the following decision:

1. Local 22 is to reinstate all the strikers.

2. All workers employed in the office of Local 22 must join the Bookkeepers and Stenographers' Union.

3. Employees of Local 22 fined by the Bookkeepers' organization for disloyalty have a right to appeal their case to the A. F. of L.

So far Local 22 has carried out the decision of President Green only in part, as one of their employees, the chairman of the office staff, was not reinstated yet. At the above mentioned conference, both Julius Portnoy, the secretary of Local 22, and Chas. Zimmerman, the manager of the Dress Department of the Joint Board, had promised to do their best to persuade the executive board of the dressmakers' local to abide by the decision of President Green.

The executive board of Local 22 has now turned over this matter to the membership of the organization, and at the next member meeting the members will decide whether this striker is to be reinstated or not.

Designers Meet This Saturday, Nov. 21st

An important meeting of the designers in the women's wear industry of New York, Local 45, will take place this Saturday afternoon, November 21, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, Room 3.

The meeting will consider the resolutions which the executive board of

the local intends to present to the I.L.G.W.U. convention in Philadelphia.

The executive board of the local requests all designers to come to this meeting, as it considers it of great importance to the future work of the organization.

Joint Board of Sanitary Control To Celebrate Fifteenth Anniversary

The Joint Board of Sanitary Control announces its Fifteenth Anniversary celebration in the form of a banquet to be held at the Town Hall on Monday evening, December 14th. This banquet marks the culmination of fifteen years of faithful and remarkable activity on the part of this unique organization.

The Joint Board of Sanitary Control was organized fifteen years ago as a result of the 1910 cloak strike. It was created because of a tremendous need which arose in the garment industry when sweat shops, hazardous places of occupation, and filthy working conditions were then prevalent in the industry. The Joint Board of Sanitary Control was the joint undertaking of the International Ladies' Garment Workers and the organized association of employers.

Since its inception, the Joint Board of Sanitary Control has constantly and steadily endeavored to uphold sanitary standards in the garment industry,

and has through its educational and inspectorial policies been responsible for a striking change in the admission standards in the garment shops.

It is fitting, therefore, that the fifteen years of active service of the Board be commemorated by a gathering at which the friends of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control and social workers interested in this institution may gather to rejoice. Prominent speakers will address this banquet.

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With the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board

By JOSEPH FISH,
Secretary-Treasurer.

A meeting of the Joint Board of the Locals 2, 3, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23, 25, 45, 46, 64, 82, and 89 was held on Friday, November 13th, at the auditorium of the International, 2 West 16th Street.

The minutes of the Joint Board of November 6th are adopted as read.

The report of the Board of Directors of November 11th is adopted as read.

Committees:

Sister Pauline Morgenstern, manager of Local No. 41, Hemmeltchewers and Truckers' Union, appeals in behalf of her Local, which has a number of strikes on hand. One strike in particular, against the President of the Association, taxes their finances heavily, but with the aid of the Joint Board they will be in a position to place the Local on a firm and solid foundation. Sister Morgenstern requests the Joint Board to sign a note for \$1,000.00 for her Local.

Brother Fish suggests that this request be referred to the general manager and secretary-treasurer.

This suggestion is approved.

Communications:

Local No. 2 requests the Board to send a telegram to Governor Smith in behalf of Benjamin Gitlow, who has been convicted for his political activities and whose appeal has been rejected. They also propose that the Joint Board adopt a resolution, demanding the release of Benjamin Gitlow.

The Local's request and proposal are approved.

Local No. 3 advises the Board that they have adopted the minutes of the Joint Board of October 9th, 20th and November 6th and the reports of the Board of Directors of October 21st and November 4th, and have approved Local No. 10's request to have their old staff of business agents serve temporarily.

Local No. 10 notifies the Board that they have approved the minutes of the Joint Board of October 20th and the reports of the Board of Directors of October 16, 21 and 28th.

The same Local disapproves the action of the Joint Board in not concurring in their communication of November 6th.

Local No. 22 informs the Board that they have approved the minutes of the Joint Board of October 29th and the reports of the Board of Directors of October 21st and 28th.

The same Local protests against the action of the manager of Local No. 10, and particularly of the majority of the Examination Committee, in rejecting several candidates, and thereby compelling the Joint Board to grant local elections to Local No. 10.

Local No. 23 has approved the minutes of the Joint Board of November 6th and the report of Local No. 10, that their old staff of business agents serve temporarily in the Joint Board.

Local No. 45 has adopted the minutes of the Joint Board of November 6th and the report of the Board of Directors of November 6th.

Local No. 48 advises the Board that they approved the request of Local No. 10 to have their old staff of business agents continue in office until the Local's quota will be adjusted.

Local No. 82 has approved the minutes of the Joint Board of November 6th and the report of the Board

of Directors of November 4th. The Local has also approved the request made by Local No. 10.

Sister Fannia M. Cohn, Secretary of the Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U. advises the officers and delegates of the opening exercises of the educational season to be held at Washington Irving High School on Saturday, November 14th.

The Trade Union Committee to organize the Purcell Meeting requests that a representative of the Joint Board be appointed to attend a conference on Sunday, November 15th.

Brother Reissner is instructed to attend.

Secretary-Treasurer Fish reports that he received charges against a business agent of the Joint Board and requests that a committee be appointed.

The Brothers Steiner, Egito and Lupin are appointed to investigate the charges.

Finance Committee Report:

The Finance Committee recommends that the Joint Board accept \$125.00 of tickets from the Sholem Aleichem Folks Shule and \$10.00 worth of tickets for the Purcell meeting.

The Committee also recommends the rejection of the requests from the Jewish Polish Welfare League and the Freie Arbeiter Stimm.

A motion is then made that \$25.00 worth of tickets be purchased for the Bauren Ball of the Freie Arbeiter Stimm.

The motion is taken to a vote and is defeated by 27 against 22 votes.

The following delegates voted in the affirmative: Schwartz, Kurtz, Wertheimer, Dreyfus, Kallish, Ansel, Stoller, Forer, Fankin, Lesser, Kosky, Lansberg, Frommick, Reiss, Spina, Ambrosini, Vollar, Catania, Schwartz, Stein, Baron, Egito.

The following delegates voted against the motion: Steiner, Cohn, Moskowitz, Radish, Reiser, Goldberg, Zirlin, Silverman, Rembach, Sister Perlman, Sister Halkin, Cohen, Lupin, Sister Dornier, Miller, Davidson, Davidoff, Gerchickoff, Kudrinetzky, Greenberg, Prokop, Levine, Bernstein, Milazzo, Lauritano, Sciute, Yablonsky.

The recommendations of the Finance Committee are approved.

Brother Antonini calls the attention of the Board to the request made by the Italian newspaper, the New World, which has been referred to the Finance Committee.

The Joint Board decides that this newspaper be granted a \$100 complimentary ad.

General Manager's Report:

Brother Hyman reports on the following changes in the offices of the Joint Board:

1. Brother Liberti will serve as complaint clerk in the Dress Department.

2. Brothers Tuchman and Wilensky, now in the Protective Department, have been transferred to the American and Independent Department.

3. Brother Jacob Goldstein will serve as business agent in the Dress Department and Brother Krawetz will take his place as Manager of the Brownsville Office.

He further reports that the Governor's Commission will be read very shortly to submit its report regarding the increase on the minimum. He, however, desires to know the consensus of opinion of the Board towards ac-

cepting or rejecting the recommendation.

This question is referred to the Local Managers and members of the Board of Directors.

Brother Hyman's report is approved.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held on Wednesday, November 11th, general manager Hyman reported on the following distribution of the business agents for the various departments:

Protective Dept.

Nathan Kaplan, Manager
Elise Marks, Complaint Clerk
Abraham Block
A. Wise
Philip Herman
Sam Wilensky
S. Tuchman
V. Rinaldi
A. Cottoge
Chas. Carotenuto
S. Zeldin

Dress Department

Chas. Zimmerman, Manager
Rose Worris, Complaint Clerk
Robert Farber
Meyer Krawetz
Hyman Grossman
Fannie Golos
Peter Rottenberg
Isidore Weinsberg
Ida Loshkov
Rose Prepslein
Bella Rarford
Sam Stoll
Sam Feinstein
Bennie Miller
Salvatore Ravenna
Frank Liberti
Salvatore Amico
Frank Olive
John Cabinati

Brownsville Office

Jacob Goldstein, Manager

A. Tabolsky

Alfred Ingulli

American & Independent Dept.

Saml Miller, Manager
Morris Rogers, Complaint Clerk
A. H. Levinson
H. Berkowitz
Barnett Cooper
Harry Skurnick
S. Premed
Max Sherman
M. Yevashur
Frank Comnule
Hyman Selenick

Downtown Office

Hyman Kruger, Complaint Clerk
Lonia Kipkin
Reuben Bernstein
Max Schraier
B. Desti

Brooklyn Office

I. Chiarchari, Manager
K. Piccone
Aaron Ebert
A. Crivella
Max Beckenstein

Harlem Office

Albert Katz, Manager
Mike Marcondia
Carmelo Inadoli
Organization Dept.
Saul Stieglitz, Manager
Al Furman

Insurance & Label Dept.

Chas. Jacobson

He also reports that at a meeting of the Managers held at his office it was decided that the Jobbers Department be eliminated; the Dress Department should control the dress jobbers and the Protective Department, the cloak jobbers.

Resolution

Adopted by Joint Board, Cloak, Skirt, Dress & Reefer Makers' Unions

WHEREAS, the conviction of Benjamin Gitlow under the Criminal-Anarchy Law has been sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States, whose decision declares the law constitutional, and

WHEREAS, this is a denial of the right of free speech, and

WHEREAS, this decision is representative of the policy of using the courts and machinery of government against the workers in the form of injunctions against picketing and striking, and of persecution of the militant leadership of our political and industrial struggle, and

WHEREAS, the sustaining of Gitlow's conviction by the United States Supreme Court supplies a dangerous precedent which can in the future be utilized as a weapon for the imprisonment of well-known fighters in the labor movement, and

WHEREAS, the experience of the labor movement has demonstrated that such statutes, when once adopted and sustained, are gradually extended in scope thru judicial interpretation until they can be used against any sort of working class movement, and

WHEREAS, the solidarity of the entire working class is essential for its welfare and requires that those

In the forefront of the struggle must especially have the support of all workers, and

WHEREAS, in freeing James Larkin and the others charged jointly with Gitlow for the same offence and under the same act, the Governor of the State of New York, Mr. Alfred E. Smith, upon freeing those convicted, stated: "They are not criminals and I can see no useful purpose that will be served by holding them in prison any longer."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we protest against and condemn the action of the United States Supreme Court; urge the repeal of the Criminal-Anarchy Law, for which end we will record ourselves as supporting the International Labor Defense in fighting this case, and call upon all labor bodies and working class organizations to line up solidly with us, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Governor of the State of New York to immediately free the defendant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of New York and to the labor press.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Office, 2 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel: Chelsea 2148

MORRIS SIGMAN, President.

S. YANOFFSKY, Editor.

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer.

H. A. SCHOOLMAN, Business Manager.

MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

Vol. VII, No. 47.

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Entered as Second Class matter, April 18, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1919.

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EDITORIALS

CONVENTION PROBLEMS

IV.

We haven't the slightest inclination to advise any of our delegates against introducing reforms at our Philadelphia convention. There is room for improvement in the best and strongest institutions, and our International is certainly a great way today from being flawless and perfect. Any proposal pertaining to the sphere of activity of the organization should therefore find a forum and a hearing at the convention and should be earnestly considered even though it might appear novel and not in accord with past policy and tradition.

A sceptical attitude toward the new, the untired is a denial of the spirit of progress without which no living organization can exist. It is the attitude of reaction, of backwardness. It is well to preserve the old that is sound and good, but it is equally important to discard the old which has outlived its usefulness and to replace it by newer methods which meet the requirements of a newer day.

Our next convention should not—and we hope will not—attempt to scrap all that has until now made up the sum and substance of our International Union. It should not, however, on the other hand, block the path for new ideas, new plans and new forms of activity. Love as we might our organization, our affection should not blind us to its failings and should not hinder us from removing its disabilities the best way we know how.

And now that we had stated our viewpoint, it may not be out of place here to subject some of the proposals that many of our delegates intend to bring forth at this convention to a friendly analysis. If these plans are sound and desirable, they should stand the test of severest criticism; if, on the other hand, they are merely the product of inexperience and of but slight familiarity with the duties and mission of a trade union, analysis and dissection will probably convince the delegates of their hopeless futility and will save the convention valuable time and a Niagara of talk.

In recent months our atmosphere has been filled with clamor and complaint to the effect that our leaders are too conservative, that they are entirely too "friendly" with the employers, and that they are leading the Union away from the basis of the class struggle. The Governor's Commission was pointed out as evidence of such a policy and roundly condemned. Many have gone as far as suggesting that the Union turn its back entirely upon the Commission, even before it had rendered its final decision, and call the workers out into an open fight for its demands.

This is being termed a "more aggressive, more radical policy for the improvement of the situation in our industry." Let us assume that these words "a more radical policy" have a meaning, which, in our sincere judgment, they have not. But is not it clear that no active, functioning organization can irrevocably commit itself to one attitude for all time and under all circumstances? Let us explain this.

There are times and conditions when a "radical attitude" is an absolute necessity; but, on the other hand, there are times when such a "radical front" is a deadly injury for a labor organization. It is clear, for instance, that in time of industrial crisis, when shops are closed and there is no work in the trade, such a radical step as a general strike would serve as the surest means for the destruction of a labor organization.

When only a part of a trade is organized in any district or locality, and most of the shops in it are "open" it is just as clear that a "radical" attitude assumed by a trade union would only defeat its purpose—to organize the whole trade. The trade union would have, first, under such conditions, to strain every effort to interest the unorganized workers in its organization and enroll them as members before it could undertake to assume a "radical attitude."

On the other hand, we freely admit, there are situations in the life of a live and wide-awake labor union when failure on its part to adopt an aggressive policy is sheer stupidity if not worse.

Revolutionary resolutions are scraps of paper if they cannot be translated into reality. Worse than that, they may commit the leaders to a line of action that might destroy the union, or would force them to ignore such resolutions and thereby actually repudiate them. As far as our own union is concerned, the talk of

"radical attitude" and "aggressive policy" sounds, to say the least, strange and totally out of place. No member of our organization need complain of lack of aggressiveness and of a fighting spirit in the I. L. G. W. U. One has to go through the pages of "Justice" to be convinced that hardly a week passes without a strike, without a clash in any of our industries in this or that city. In our own midst such a phrase as "radical attitude" sounds, indeed, more like a democracy, like a play to the gallery than like a plea to serious and mature-minded workers.

And now a few words about proportional representation.

This demand which has become so popular in recent months is, let us state it from the start, the direct result of some of the abuses which prevailed in the New York Joint Board for many years past. It is an undeniable fact that practically a minority has for years held sway over the majority in that Joint Board and this minority rule has given rise to the demand for proportional representation on grounds both justifiable and popular.

This medal, nevertheless, has another side that should be considered. It is bad, very bad for a majority to be coerced by a minority, but it is equally bad for a minority to be lorded over by a ruthless majority. Minorities, as a rule, once under the heel of majorities become totally helpless. A minority, if it obtain an opportunity for self-expression. It is, indeed, a serious problem which is facing our convention today, this problem of turning all power over to the majority, into the hands of the few big locals.

The minority abuses in the Joint Board have been bad enough, and the International has sought every means to check them and has, by this time, we believe, eliminated the most obnoxious of their features. But, it seems to us, that this panacea of proportional representation will not cure the evil of irresponsible power and force in the Joint Board. This abuse of power appears to us to be the result of a certain moral obtuseness in some of our leaders which blunts their sense of fairness and justice the moment they become involved with politics. Under proportional representation, it is quite obvious, the bigger and stronger units in our Union would become so drunk with power that they would ignore every other factor and group that would run counter to their wishes.

Here is, for instance, a fact in point. Some time ago, the leadership of the International Union had prohibited "slate" electioneering and agitation in times of local election. Nevertheless, at the recent local and convention elections held in many of our locals, the selfsame persons who are now thundering so vehemently for proportional representation had used "slates" indexed by numbers and by distributing these "slates" among the voters, had succeeded in practically electing all their candidates.

It may be seen therefrom that politics convert "lefts" as well as "rightists" into petty, ugly politicians who would stoop to anything in order to gain their ends. We can easily foresee the result of proportional representation in a body which consists of a few large locals with thousands of members each, on the one hand, and a number of locals with but a few hundred each, on the other. The small locals, having neither numerical weight nor influence in such a central body would be forced either to quit belonging to it or would retain their affiliation on paper only but not in reality.

The convention should pay this subject very close attention. It is a popular demand, but because it is popular it is not necessarily sound. It may do the Union more harm than good in the long run, and a way should be found to check the recurrence of the abuses which the present system is likely to breed impossible, but would at the same time not ruthlessly destroy the right of the minorities in our organizations.

The proposal for the election of all general officers by referendum instead of by conventions as heretofore, is, on the face of it, quite an attractive plan. These general officers would probably feel more proud of their posts and more independent of any political "machines" if they were elected to them by the vote of the whole membership. We, nevertheless, doubt if such a proposal is, in the end, practicable. The trouble is that our membership is, in respect of elections and voting, notoriously apathetic. The number of voters in our referendum is so small that they can scarcely be termed such at all. It is hard to believe that this method of electing the general officers by referendum would improve matters to any degree, except that it might perhaps enable some group of arch-demagogues who are past masters in the art of playing to the galleries to obtain the upper hand in the International Union.

Besides, if the most important questions in the life of our Union are to be decided by referendum, why conventions? Why waste time, money and energy on rubber stamp proceedings?

The proposal to amalgamate all the needle trades into one union is under present conditions a palpable impossibility, over which it is hardly worth while wasting time in discussion. It is enough to recall the obstacles we meet in such an attempt to merge two locals into one to enable us to visualize, what a babel such an attempt to merge all the needle trades organizations would create!

The shop delegate system was tried by the Capmakers' organization and proved a bad failure. Our former conventions have time and again discussed this subject and have gone on record against it. This, however, should not deter this convention from taking it up again. And should the Philadelphia convention adopt this proposal, the Union will, of course, have to try this experiment and see what good it may derive from it.

Again we repeat: We are subjecting these plans and pro-

Seeing America First

Who is there sufficiently Spartan to withstand the temptation of speculating upon America's future? There is a quality in American life, in its stirring setting; its swift, epic past; its hard brazen realities; its soft, sentimentalities; its still primitive

Where is this strange young civilization of ours heading for? What is its real intrinsic promise, its actual hope? Is it the America of Lewis, Dreiser, Anderson or of Coolidge, Gary and Stratton? Is it the America of the labor movement or of the Manufacturers' Association? What shall become of this strange and stirring land in which we weave the pattern of our days and our children's?

Certainly none of us who have been fortunate enough to get a real glimpse into the whole sprawling scene of American life, a peep, however fleeting into its small towns and great cities, its Klans and Rotaries and Chateaus and schools can escape the insistent questions of tomorrow. At any rate, I soon found that there was very little of the Spartan in me. I had spent six crowded weeks in seeing America first; I now had speaking acquaintance with the great far west, and the teeming middle west, and the languid south and the industrial east and the farms and cities and mills. Questions pursued me with a persistence that would not down. What does it all mean? How can we create out of this standardized terribled thing that is the American people a civilization worthy of the name? What kind of a land will our present-day America eventually become? Surely I don't know. But I think.

Upon two or three things we all can agree, the most rabid critics with the most fulsome idolaters: There is in this land a great cradle for a great civilization. Of that there can be not the vestige of a doubt in the hearts and minds of any who have travelled over the vast expanse of the land. The frame for the picture is magnificent. Three thousand miles of varied, prodigious gifts from Nature in her most lavish mood. Start with the great heave of the Atlantic, from the city of unending marvel. Travel past the flat sameness of the Jerseys, the rolling undulations and grasses of the Alleghenies with their black riches in the deep cool beds and their sullen gnarled and crippled trees and their proud tops of unrolled beauty. Through Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio. Then the rolling farm land, the miles of yellow waving corn and golden piles of wheat gleaming in the sun. The inland seas we call the Great Lakes, the tumbling waterfalls, the broad rivers that feed the father of waters, the high waving prairies, the desolate deserts, the glories of the Rockies and the jagged, narrow wounds of the Canyons. Pass it all till you come to the other ocean of the west or the sea of the south or the rivers of the north. A great country, a mighty land. Merely to recount its beauties and its grandeur is to thrill with the challenge and the privilege of it all. Yes, men must build indeed well if they would model a

7. AND THE FUTURE?

By SYLVIA KOPALD

picture worthy of this frame. What a civilization it might hold!

But there is more than a glorious frame ready to our hands. We are the inheritors of a stirring past, a national epic of which the world has known no like. Think for a moment: we are hardly more than four centuries old in terms of white man's civilization. Think of the primitive world of the Indians to which the whites brought their individual dreams and ambitions, their group ideals and cupulated social knowledge. Then think of these United States as we know them today. We within four centuries the same path that men over the world took 200,000 years to cover. True, Europe sent its knowledge with its sons and daughters to our shores. But these sons and daughters found an untamed wilderness, an alien culture, hostile groups clashing for supremacy, external compulsions, internal conflicts. First came trader and pioneer, hunter and miner, farmer and settler. I passed in the driving chains of trains the same trail that the hardy frontiersmen had travelled in this terrible journey over the Oregon Trail. I thought how these men had brutally fought for their lives with the red men; I thought of how they had shaken off three European masters—Spain, France and England; I thought of how they had fought their own early class struggles, how the constitution had been written in these struggles, how they had tamed the land and all that opposed their conquest of it. I thought of these things, and my heart sang the refrain: They won, they won, they won. Nature did not stop them, nor its beasts, nor its rages, nor man, nor established institutions. They won to the accomplishment of great ideas, of tolerance and democracy and individualism and freedom. A noble heritage our frontier ancestors have left us.

And the great masses who came later, just a much smaller number, the early settlers had been continued to live in the same epic strain. There was the mass contribution of industry, a contribution that eventually conquered the civilization of the frontier and erected its own hard metallic beauty in its place. Yes industry has triumphed in America, triumphed over the frontier and all the ideas of democracy and freedom and tolerance and individualism that had belonged to it. This great land had lain, virgin and untouched for men. Vast migrations had moved to and fro over its surfaces. The past is a heritage and we stand today at last on the threshold of a new age—the age of industry and the group.

As I passed in quick review the realities of present day America this thought above all came to stay with me. A new age. The frontier is a historic fact, its civilization is a memory, its ideals an empty echo of a bygone day. The America of the Slav and Pole and Italian and Egyptian is the America of today. This

America they have built with the sweat of their hand and the blood of their hearts for the Nordics who were lucky enough to have arrived in the country at an earlier and more propitious date. To the first comers go all the titles of possession. The strong in America are merely the first-come; but though they have the titles of inheritance, the lowly shall still inherit the land. It is writ in the organizations they are building for themselves.

But we must not mix prophecy with fact—just yet. Thus we have a great cradle and a great heritage for a great civilization, everything but the great civilization. The ingredients are here; but somehow they do not tell. For there can be no ginsaying the fact that present day America is on the whole a poor and lawless thing. Grant—and you must—the real beauty of its brazen body—its sleek black locomotives planting through the land, its glowing furnaces, its winding tracks, its dams, and power houses and steamers and whirling machines. The soul is still unlit. No rays come from this body of iron and steel, no inner beauty to illuminate and gladden a weary world. Our youth is reckless and mad—but its goals are still too largely the pursuit of money and athletic prowess. Our folk are ice anxious for conformity, our powers that be are too clamorously holy. Of course, the real trouble comes from the elusive quality of all this. The truth is not written boldly in black and white, but in a

myriad of unsuspecting puny souls, in well-meaning small town people, in bored and harassed seekers for they know not what. There is sadness abroad in the land among our idealists—among labor leaders and artists and intellectuals. But there is also hope and continued activity. And in this lies the promise of our American future.

I for one face that future with an intense eagerness and belief. The great land remains to us and the encouragement of a great past, this brazen body of American life, too, has a beauty all its own. Like the untamed nature of an earlier day it calls for the conquest of the group. We will conquer, as did our frontier fathers. What the lonely individual did, surely the great mass can accomplish, however more strenuous the task may be. And why fuss over the shrill outcry of the one hundred percenters and the klans and the business men and the original demagogue. A new age has been born and all the king's horses and all the king's men cannot put the old one together again. Our artists are finding their tongues, our workers are finding their minds, our common folk are finding their emptiness and dissatisfaction. Yes, education is in a sad way in the great free west, and freedom languishes and comfortably rides a proud steed. But pride goeth before a fall, and the promise of our past and our real present cannot be forever gainsaid. I grant you the ugliness and the timidities and the compulsions of present day American life. And I look out upon its vastness and its variety and its past—and dream of great things to come. Dream true.

Prison Labor for Private Profit

By KATE RICHARDS O'HARE

The most tragic victims of prison labor for private profits are the families and dependents of the prisoners, who are innocent of any offense against the law. Social vengeance falls heaviest upon, not the criminal who violates the law, but upon the innocent ones bound to him by the ties of blood and love.

Ninety per cent of all inmates of our penal institutions come from the working class, and the great majority from the poorest of the poor; from the poverty stricken tenant farms, from the unorganized, unskilled dwellers of the city slums. The part that poverty played in making them criminals we cannot discuss here, but more and more thinking people are realizing that squalor, want and economic insecurity, which always darken the lives of the people of the social abyss, are large factors in breeding and training criminals.

No sane person objects to the prisoner being required to work, but every fair minded person objects to having the prisoner exploited for the private profit of prison labor contractors and corrupt politicians while their families starve. More and more intelligent people are beginning to ask why the profits of convict labor should not go to the family of the convict rather than to a few greedy, unscrupulous grafters.

Every day I worked in the prison workshop I earned, at nonunion wages, about \$6 per day. I was paid from 15¢ to 30¢ per day, \$10.50 for fourteen months' work, and I actually earned \$180. The difference between the wages I earned and the pittance I received went not to the state to relieve the burdens of taxation, but into the pockets of the prison labor contractor. Fortunately my four children had a father who could care for them, and they did not suffer want. But had they been in the condition of the average convict's children they would

have been thrown into the street. Perhaps my boys might have been driven to crime and my girl to prostitution, while the prison labor contractor and a choice assortment of politicians collected the profits on my labor. On my way to Frankfort, Ky., to visit the prison there I met a widow whose husband had been killed in a coal mine, and whose young son was serving a prison sentence for taking an automobile from a garage where he worked without the owner's permission. I saw them together in the prison office, and I saw him bending over a machine making shirts. That evening I talked to the mother again and found that sorrow and tragedy had taken their toll of the woman's life, and that there was nothing left for her but suicide or the poorhouse. But I knew that the contractor and his human leeches were collecting for his boy's foolish prank at the rate of \$5 per day, and that the mother was paying not only for her boy's transgression, but for our sin in permitting such conditions to exist.

In a little boarding house at Mo-Allester, Ok., I met a woman whose husband was serving a three year sentence for selling a bale of mortgaged cotton. There were six children too small to help run the tenant farm, so they moved to the county seat. The mother went out washing, and the children ran wild. Two boys were in the reform school, a thirteen year old girl was in the county house, seriously infected with venereal disease, and waiting to give birth to an illegitimate child, and the other children were headed in the same direction. Oklahoma was rearing a crop of criminals, prostitutes and defectives, but the prison labor contractor is collecting \$5 per day in profits on the father's labor. Great is the prison made shirt and wise the man who wears it.

posals to an analysis not for the sake of prejudging them in advance. The convention will be the sole judge of its business. We only desire the delegates to think deeply over these matters and reach their conclusions free of political bias and influence. The plans mentioned above may be good or bad, but they are, nevertheless, trade union problems and they properly belong to the agenda of a trade union convention. There are, however, other subjects—which have nothing in common with our Union—that had been placed by some locals on their program for the coming convention. We shall touch upon these in our next and final article on convention problems.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Speech by A. J. Muste at Opening Exercises of Our Educational Season

It is a great privilege to convey to this immense audience the greetings of the workers' education movement and of Brookwood Labor College in particular on this, the opening night of the eighth season of the educational work of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. It is truly inspiring that this educational work should have enlisted the interest and enthusiasm of the members of the great International to such an extent as to bring out this immense gathering.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is the pioneer international in the modern workers' educational development in the United States. To have been pioneer is a very interesting and pleasant thing for it means to have the appreciation and admiration of those who have followed in your footsteps on the road that you have made, but to be a pioneer is usually not so interesting and pleasant. Difficulties, misunderstanding and opposition of all kinds are apt to be in your path. It is therefore especially encouraging that at this early date the International should have found many labor organizations to follow its example so that it is no longer a lonely and misunderstood pioneer in the workers' education movement. Many internationals and other trade union bodies are now developing educational work and more than two-thirds of the members of the American Federation of Labor is in unions affiliated with the Workers' Education Bureau of America.

The officers of the International are to be congratulated for having had the vision and the courage, through all these years to support and encourage the educational department. I feel also that the whole workers' education movement in this country owes a debt of gratitude to those in charge of the Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U., who for so many years carried the brunt of this work.

The first thing I should like to impress upon your minds is that educational work is a legitimate and necessary arm and child of the trade union movement. The educational work of unions is not something that was created out of nothing yesterday or that is being handed down to the unions by benevolent-minded professors. Ever since there has been such a thing as a trade union the unions have carried on by means of meetings, conferences and literature educational work for their members and for the unorganized, teaching them the principles of trade unionism and seeking to inspire them with loyalty to organization. Unions are now developing educational departments and are doing educational work on a greater scale than ever because the unions themselves are becoming larger and have greater and more complex problems to face. The educational arm is developing along with union itself.

Another point along the same line that I should like to have clear in your minds is that organization and education are inseparable and must constantly go hand in hand. Sometimes this has not been clearly realized and the organizational arm and the educational arm have, so to speak, misunderstood each other.

Sometimes the blame for this con-

dition has rested with the educational arm. The people who have attended classes, for example, have sometimes been conspicuous for their absence from union meetings where the daily work of the organization was being done and from the picket line where the struggle of labor was being carried on.

Sometimes the educational work has not been directed directly enough to meeting the needs of the organization. This definitely does not exist, for example, among Upholstery Weavers in Philadelphia. For several years the officers and executive board of that union have constituted themselves into an educational class. They have called it a class in Shop Economics. In that class, with the aid of some competent economist, they have studied the problems of their own branch of the trade—how much raw material the manufacturers had on hand and how much they were paying for it, how much finished goods was on hand, what were the demands of the market and the prices being offered for finished goods, etc. And, on the basis of such studies, these men have before the manufacturers in their trade each year to make demands for wages, hours and conditions of work. Little wonder that with that kind of an educational background they have made uninterrupted progress all these years.

This is not to say however that classes in literature or in art, cultural subjects so-called, may not also contribute to the practical work of the organization. On the contrary it is only the organization that knows how to sing and march and fling banners to the breeze that succeeds. People may go forth from classes in literature, or from such a gathering as this, where they have listened to inspired artists, with a new sense of joy and unity and may work all the most enthusiastically for their organization for having been so inspired.

On the other hand, sometimes those charged with the actual organization work have insufficiently appreciated the importance of the educational work. It is safe to say, and the union officers who may be here will understand me when I say it, that there are a good many trade union officials who could have done worse than attended the educational classes provided by their unions. Under modern conditions the unions need and will find a thoroughly trained leadership.

Officers have sometimes insufficiently realized the necessity of educating the membership. In the long run it is only an intelligent and trained membership that can follow intelligent and trained leadership.

Officers of unions have also failed sometimes to realize the importance of trying to meet all the various needs of the membership, artistic, cultural, intellectual, social, etc. The trade union which protects the worker on his job and secures for him wages, hours, conditions and a measure of control over his industry is the basic institution. In spite of this however we find that often organizations like fraternal orders that do not serve so basic a need have an easier time getting the unions to hold their members than do the unions. One of the reasons for it, I am convinced, is the failure on the part of the unions frequently to

Weekly Educational Calendar

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

Washington Irving High School, Irving Place and 16th Street, Room 530

Saturday, November 21

1:30 P. M. Emory Holloway—A Social Study of American Literature.

Jonathan Edwards and Benjamin Franklin

3:30 P. M. Stuart Chase—Current Labor Problems
Waste in Industry

Sunday, November 22

11 A. M. A. J. Muste—The Place of Workers in History.
From the Cave Man to the Pyramids

I. L. G. W. U. BUILDING, 3 WEST 16TH STREET

Wednesday, November 25

6:30 P. M. Alexander Fichandler—Social Psychology.

This course will consist of ten lessons and will be continued on Wednesday evenings.

UNITY CENTERS

English classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced students, have been organized for our members in the following Public Schools:

P. S. 25 335 E. 5th St., Manhattan.

P. S. 171 163rd St., between Madison and Fifth Aves.

P. S. 43 Brown Place and 155th St., Bronx.

P. S. 61 Crotona Park E. and Charlotte St., Bronx.

P. S. 150 Christopher Ave. and Sacman St., Brooklyn.

Some Courses This Week

CLASSES IN WORKERS' UNIVERSITY RE-OPENED

Last Saturday at 1:30 P. M. the classes in our Workers' University were reopened for study. The first session was devoted to an introduction to A Social Study of Literature, given by Professor Emory Holloway. He gave a very illuminating talk on what the purpose of social literature is. At 3:30 A. J. Muste of Brookwood, gave his introduction to a course on "The Place of Workers in History." His was a most inspiring presentation. Our members who attended the sessions were thus given an idea of what they may expect from these two courses, and hundreds of them registered for the classes.

The first lesson in literature will be

realize that their members are not mere economic machines or hands but human beings with all sorts of human needs. Many of these needs the educational departments of unions are seeking to meet.

Organization and education then are in the fullest sense inseparable. Intelligence and force must go together. Force without intelligence is in the last analysis helpless. All the elephants, lions and tigers in the zoo will bear witness to that. We keep them in cages and not they us, not because we are stronger but because we have brains. On the other hand, the highest intelligence without the force of organization is also helpless, as all the closest philosophers of the ages might serve to testify, but organized intelligence and intelligent organization are irresistible.

Because the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was the pioneer international in the American trade union movement to realize all this, it is a joy on this, your eighth anniversary, to unite with this immense audience in crying: "Long Live the International's Education Department."

given by Professor Holloway next Saturday, November 21st at 1:30 P. M. The subject for discussion will be "Jonathan Edwards and Benjamin Franklin."

On Sunday, November 22, at 11 A. M. Mr. Muste will give the first lesson of his course on "The Place of Workers in History." The subject will be "From the Cave Man to the Pyramids."

Classes are held in Washington Irving High School, Room 530.

WASTE IN INDUSTRY

Lecture by Stuart Chase in Our Workers' University Saturday, Nov. 21

On Saturday, November 21st at 3:30 P. M. Stuart Chase will give the first lecture of the course in Current Labor Problems. His subject will be "Waste in Industry." Mr. Chase has written a book on this phase of industry which has just recently appeared.

The class will meet in Washington Irving High School, Room 530.

PHYSICAL TRAINING AT THE RAND SCHOOL

Our Members Can Take the Course at Special Rates

Our Educational Department has made arrangements with the Physical Education Department of the Rand School, whereby our members can join the classes at reduced rates. Members who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity for bodily development, should apply for a letter of introduction at Our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.

GRASP THIS OPPORTUNITY!

The Office of the International, 3 West 16th Street, is open every Monday and Thursday until 7 o'clock to enable members of the Union to purchase.

"The Women's Garment Workers' at half price—\$2.50.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

The close of the third week since elections of business agents for the Joint Board still sees no representatives of Local 10 on the Joint Board staff. And in the meantime cutters filing complaints are compelled to scurry about from the Joint Board to the office of Local 10 and back again in an effort to have their cases disposed of.

Joint Board Again Fails To Act

It will be recalled that the Executive Board of Local 10 in an effort to have the business of the cutters attended to had requested the previous staff of business agents to serve. The Joint Board was advised of this in a communication printed last week in these columns in which it was also suggested that the staff serve temporarily "until the matter of Local 10's quota will be adjusted, in order that the complaints of the cutters and other routine work are not neglected in the meantime."

It was reported in these columns that on a vote by the delegates of the Joint Board a tie resulted. This question was brought before the members at the last meeting and the action of the Executive Board was overwhelmingly approved. It was expected, in accordance with the constitution of the Joint Board, which calls for the submitting to the locals of all acts by the Joint Board for approval or rejection, that whatever action the locals would take would be the course that it would have to adopt.

At the last meeting of the Joint Board, that is, on Friday, November 13th, Secretary Fish read to the Joint Board the reports of the various local secretaries, showing a majority of the locals to be in favor of Local 10's communication. Thus it became evident that no other course was open to the Joint Board except for the secretary to inform Local 10 to send a quota of business agents temporarily in accordance with its communication.

Unable to Adjust Important Cutter Cases

In spite of the fact, however, that a majority of the locals approved of the communication of Local 10 to the officers of the Joint Board did not in any manner communicate to Local 10 this decision nor did they request that the business agents be sent in. No other conclusion can be drawn from this other than that the present leadership of the Joint Board is very anxious to be entangled into a situation with Local 10.

It seems peculiar that the general manager, who is entrusted with managerial duties and who undertook to fulfill the necessary functions, among which is the adjustment of complaints and disputes for all of the locals affiliated with the Joint Board, so far has not taken any steps in connection with the filling of the quota of business agents for Local 10, so that the interests of the cutters should not be neglected.

The element of peculiarity enters by reason of the fact that a previous meeting of the Joint Board General manager Hyman admitted the existence of problems peculiar to cutters and to the cutting trade. He stated at the time that even the previous business agents were very often compelled to consult with Local 10's business agents on cases affecting the cutters.

He stated to the Joint Board in ef-

fect: How can one expect the new staff to properly handle the cases of the cutters when this was even a more or less difficult task for the old staff which was more experienced than those in office at present?

Chairman of Cutters Relates Case

Among the many cases over the handling of which the Joint Board members expressed dissatisfaction, only one need be cited to prove the immediate necessity of filling the quota of business agents for the Joint Board. This case is that of the cutters of Maurice Bandler, a cloak shop, and it arose out of the fact that the cutters made a stoppage in order to prevent the employer from sending out work while the inside workers were unemployed. Brother Joseph Fox, the chairman of the cutters of this shop, tells his story himself in a letter which he submitted to the writer and which follows:

"New York, November 17, 1925.

"Mr. Sam B. Shenker.

"c/o Cutters' Page, 'Justice'.

"Dear Sir & Brother:

"I wish to call the attention of the cutters of Local 10 in reference to how their business is conducted with the Joint Board at the present time, and I hope that the handful of 'left wing' cutters will kindly take special notice of this particular case which is as follows:

"We are ten cutters employed by the firm of Maurice Bandler. Up till last year the firm never kept more than eight men employed to keep their factory a-going and who were sufficient. At the beginning of the last spring season the firm decided to add another table to the cutting room and took on two new cutters without adding any more machines to their factory.

"Of course, the cutters know right then and there that their seasons will be much shorter than they were before these two new cutters were taken on. Being that the firm paid fifty dollars per week the cutters decided to ask for an increase, and it was only through the good work of Brothers Dubinsky and Nagler that the cutters secured their increase of that time.

"The firm also promised at that time to have the work cut inside and sent some out to be made. It seems the firm is not living up to its promise. In the week of November 4th a lot of piece goods was sent out to a contractor. The foreman of the cutters was approached by the shop steward and asked if there were any possible chance of cutting that lot inside instead of sending out the piece goods. He replied that there would be no cause for worry as there would not be any lay-off.

"However, on Saturday, November 7th, four cutters were laid off. A committee of the cutters went to see the boss. The result was that the order for the four cutters to be laid off was to stand. The cutters thereupon left

the shop and held a meeting amongst themselves and decided not to go to work on Monday morning, November 9th, but to meet in a body in the 14th Street rooms (office of Local 10).

"That Monday morning the firm got in touch with the association and the cutters were ordered to appear at the Joint Board at nine o'clock Tuesday morning, at which time they presented themselves. Then the telephone rang and Mr. Hyman asked the cutters to come up to the Association rooms at 455-7th Avenue.

"When we got there we were met by Mr. Hyman, who took us into a separate room and to whom we stated our case. He subsequently left the room and went in to see Mr. Klein, who is chief clerk of the Association. Both then came out of the room, Mr. Klein speaking. 'Come,' he said, 'and we will go up to the firm.'

"The cutters asked if there was any possible chance of having one of the officials of Local 10 represent them, since they are familiar with the shop in question and the conditions of these particular cutters. Brother Hyman said: 'Don't you think that I can handle your case?' 'Yes,' the cutters replied, 'with all due respect to you, the request was made only because different promises had been made to some of the officials of Local 10 by the firm.'

"Whereupon Mr. Klein replied: 'You fellows were discharged at nine o'clock this morning,' to which the cutters answered: 'If we were discharged at nine o'clock this morning, why do you want us to go up there now?' Mr. Hyman and Mr. Klein said: 'Ah, come on, we may be able to straighten things out for you.'

"Not wishing to be disobedient to the union, the cutters, together with Mr. Hyman and Mr. Klein, went up to the firm. Here is where the fun begins. We got to the place and Mr. Klein sent for the committee of the tailors so that all of us should have a conference together. But the only thing that was said there was by Mr. Klein. As for Mr. Hyman, he could just as well have stayed at the Joint Board, as he had absolutely nothing to say either for or against us.

"Perhaps he could adjust a case with some contractor, but when it comes to anything like handling a case with a man like Mr. Klein then Mr. Hyman is a good listener. This does not signify by any means that he is not a good man, but from the cutters' end of it I hope he won't have to handle many more cases, because I am positive that they will always turn out in favor of the manufacturer.

"On the other hand Mr. Klein represented the Association very well. The decision by Mr. Klein was that we were, the six of us cutters, to go back to work by one o'clock or be discharged. Mr. Hyman and Mr. Klein both then left. 'Good bye, boys,' they said.

"The cutters again held a meeting among themselves and decided not to go back to work. At about two o'clock they got down to the office on Fourteenth Street. Manager Dubinsky was out to some special meeting. Brother Nagler was in the office. He asked us what was the matter and we told him what had happened.

While we were talking to Nagler the telephone rang and Nagler was called to the office in the next room.

"Mr. Klein of the Association was talking from the Bandler shop. He asked Mr. Nagler to try and see if he could not get the cutters to go back to work, at the same time admitting to Nagler that the firm claimed there are two cutters too many up there. Mr. Klein also stated that if the firm needed ten cutters in the rush of the season when lots are big they will surely need the ten when there is nothing but singles and special or small lots at this time of the year in order to fully supply the factory.

"This was admitted by Mr. Klein of the Association. That is why we, the cutters, claim that if we had one of our local to represent us on cases where we cutters are concerned, the Association would not have to make any claims for us and discharge us at the same time. This is not meant as throwing bouquets at any one of the officials such as Dubinsky, Nagler, or Perlmutter, or any one that understands the situation of the cutters' end of it. We just give them credit where it is due. And at this time the officials that are conducting our business now certainly deserve all the credit for the interest and the able way they have conducted and handled the office and the interests of the cutters.

"We only hope that after this, if there will be any cutters who will need the assistance of the Joint Board, they will insist upon having one of the officials of Local 10 represent them or else each one of their cases will be a failure.

(Signed)

"CUTTERS OF MAURICE
BANDLER,
JOSEPH FOX, No. 75,
Chairman."

REFUND CHECKS

made out to the order of those of the members who paid dues beyond July 1st, 1925, at the fifty cent rate are being held in the office of the Finance Department and cover the difference between the old rate of dues and the new rate, which is forty cents. Those of the members who have not as yet received their refund checks are instructed to report at once in the Finance Department.

NOMINATIONS AT NOVEMBER 23rd MEMBER MEETING

The next meeting of Local 10, which will take place on Monday, November 23rd, in Arlington Hall, promises to be one of the most important meetings which the union has held in some time.

At this meeting the members will be called upon to nominate candidates for all local offices for the ensuing term which begins January 1st, 1926. In addition to this the Executive Board has some very important recommendations to make. Every member of Local 10 is requested and urged to attend.

INFORMATION WANTED

WILLIAM J. WHITING, former member of Local 10, between 60 and years 65 years old, is wanted in the office of Local 10, as a very important message awaits him. Mr. Whiting is known to many old-time members of the union.

Any member who has knowledge of his whereabouts during the past ten or fifteen years is asked to report concerning it to the office of Local 10 because of a very urgent matter.

CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

Regular and Special Meeting.....Monday, November 23rd

Nomination of Candidates for Officers for 1926

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