

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

—Job 27.4

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

Vol. VIII. No. 5.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1926

PRICE 3 CENTS

New Joint Board For 1926 Inducted Last Friday

Secretary Baroff Installs Delegates—Appeals for True Fraternity—Election of Officers This Friday.

Last Friday evening, the new personnel of the New York Joint Board for 1926 was installed in office.

General Secretary Baroff installed the delegates in a short, warm talk. He expressed a sincere hope that genuine brotherliness and harmony will prevail during the coming year in the councils of the Joint Board and pointed out to the delegates that the fate of hundreds of thousands human beings actually depends upon their sane and sound policies and their ability to create cooperation between the delegations of all the locals affiliated with the central body of the cloakmakers and dressmakers of New York.

Brother Philip Ansel, retiring chairman of the Joint Board, delivered a farewell talk to the delegates speaking in the same strain. Owing to the fact that some of the locals did not yet send in their quotas, it was decided to postpone the election of the executive officers of the Joint Board until next Friday, January 29th.

Twenty Dollar Referendum Vote Next Tuesday

On Tuesday, February 2nd, the cloakmakers and dressmakers of New York, members of all the locals affiliated with the Joint Board, will vote on the proposal submitted by the big shop-chairman meeting on January 12th in Webster Hall, and endorsed by the Joint Board, to levy a tax of twenty dollars on all the members of these locals for the purpose of raising a big organization and defense fund.

Cutters, operators, finishers, sample tailors, buttonhole makers, dressmakers, designers, pressers and all other auxiliary cloak and dress workers will all take part in this great referendum. An unusually large vote is expected to be cast, such as is usually cast on the eve of a great strike. The voting will be carried on under the direct auspices of the Board of Directors of the Joint Board in the following places:

Main Office Joint Board—130 East 25th Street
Down Town Office—35 Second Avenue
Bryant Hall—725—6th Avenue
Harlem Office—161 East 121st Street
Brooklyn Office—105 Montrose Street
Brownsville Office—219 Sacchan Street
Dressmakers' Union—16 West 21st Street
Cutters' Union—231 East 14th Street
Italian Cloakmakers—231 East 14th Street
Italian Dressmakers—8 West 21st Street

The polling places will be open from 7 in the morning until 7 at night. Let not a member of the Union in New York fail to come and register his or her voice on this subject of paramount importance to the life of the organization!

Registration of Idle Workers Begins Monday

Special Days for Each Local

Beginning Monday, February 1st, 1926, the office of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, 122 West 18th Street, will be open for registration of unemployed workers. Each worker who is unemployed and not attached to any shop is to register every week on the day designated for the local to which he belongs. Failure to register will be counted as employment for the next payment of unemployment insurance.

Each worker who during the season will find himself unemployed either because he lost his position or because his shop went out of business is expected to register as soon as he is out of work.

Registration will take place on the following days each week:

Members of Local No. 2—on Mondays.

Members of Local No. 3—on Tuesdays.

Members of Local No. 10 and 25—on Wednesdays.

Members of Local No. 48—on Thursdays.

Members of Local Nos. 2, 23, 82—on Fridays.

President Sigman In Chicago

Will Remain There a Week to Direct Agreement Renewals in Dress Trade and Stimulate Organizing Plans—Goes from There to Cleveland.

Instead of proceeding directly to Chicago and Cleveland from Toronto, as planned, President Sigman returned from Canada to New York last Friday night, January 22nd, to attend to

some urgent matters which called for his presence. On Monday afternoon, January 25th, President Sigman boarded a train for Chicago, where he arrived.

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Boston Employers Attempt to Dodge Renewal of Collective Agreement

Vice-President Halperin Leaves for Boston to Force Issue With Employers—International Appoints Organizers for Boston.

The renewal of the agreements in the cloak and dress trades of Boston, especially with the two organized groups of employers—the cloak jobbers and the dress manufacturers—may involve a number of complications, according to information which reached the General Office this week. It appears that both these groups are displaying reluctance about renewing their collective contract with the Boston Joint Board and that the Union will therefore have to conduct the negotiations with each of the employers belonging to these two associations individually and, if necessary, compel them to renew the agreement on regular union terms.

Halperin Leaves for Boston
Shortly after his return from Canada this week, President Morris Sigman, in fulfillment of his promise to the Boston Joint Board, asked Vice-President Jacob Halperin to leave for Boston and remain there until the task of the renewal of all agreement in our trades in that city is finished. The General Office has, meanwhile, appointed Brother Morabito of Bos-

ton to act as International organizer among the Italian cloak and dress.

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Tuckers and Pleaters In General Strike

Trade at a Standstill—Settlements Already Begun

The efforts to avert a strike in the tucking and hemstitching trade carried on during last week between Local 41 and some of the leading novelty employers having failed, the general walkout became a fact on Tuesday morning, January 26.

This strike, as readers of Justice know, was endorsed by the General Executive Board of the I. L. O. W. U. early this month, and Secretary Baroff took a leading part in the negotiations to reach a peaceful settlement with the shop owners. On Monday evening, January 25th, Local 41 had a

crowded meeting of workers in the Rand School Auditorium, and the meeting, which was addressed by Secretary Baroff and Miss Pauline Morgenstern, the manager of Local 41, voted for the strike.

About 150 shops responded to the call of the Union involving about 2,000 workers. A settlement headquarters was opened at 3 West 16th Street, and became busy at once. A score of settlement applications was already received and several of these applications were approved. The main quarters of the strikers are at the People's House, 7 East 15th Street.

Over 300 Dress Shops Out; 125 Settlements Already Made

Reorganization Drive of Joint Board Grows Daily—Next Week Organizing Committee Will Tackle Cloak Shops—More Volunteers Needed to Picket Struck Shops.

The organizing activity launched by the Joint Board in the cloak and dress industry of New York early last week shows no sign of slackening, but on the contrary is gaining impetus from day to day. At the time of this writing, nearly 300 shops have already joined the ranks of the strikers and reported to campaign headquarters—Stuyvesant Casino, 142 Second Avenue. The movement up to this hour involves already several thousand workers and before comes to an end will cover a substantial part of the dress industry in New York City.

Of the shops that walked out at the call of the Joint Board's organizing committee, 125 already signed agreements with the Union and their work-

ers are back in the shops working under union conditions. The settlements are being made only after careful in-

vestigation of the firm applicant's standing and responsibility, and after

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Montreal and Toronto In Line To Strengthen Local Ranks

President Sigman's Meetings in Both Cities Stir Locals to New Activity—Difficulties of Trade Depression and Faction Discord To Give Way Before Urgent Need of Stronger Union—Vice-President Hochman Goes From Toronto to Chicago.

Until the winter of 1925, both Montreal and Toronto ladies' garment workers' organizations have for several years been existing largely on paper, maintaining hardly more than

a skeleton of a trade union and without any influence whatever, especially in Montreal, on trade conditions in the shops. The winter campaign of

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President Sigman In Chicago

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rived the following morning.

Brother Sigman expects to remain in Chicago the entire week. Both the dressmakers and cloakmakers of that city have been eagerly awaiting his coming for some time. The ladies' garment workers' organizations of Chicago are facing at this hour a number of pressing problems and they are looking forward to the International to give them aid and direction toward their solution.

The first matter that will engage the attention of President Sigman while in Chicago is the question of the renewal of union agreements in the dress trade which expire in the middle of February. The Joint Board does not anticipate great trouble in renewing these contracts with the

union firms, though there will, no doubt, be some among them that might be swayed by the strong anti-union employers' group into opposition to the Union. Besides, the Union expects to bring in line this season several shops which have hitherto not had union agreements, as a result of the steady educational work maintained by the Joint Board of Chicago for months past.

President Sigman will meet with all the officers of the Joint Board and of the locals during his stay in Chicago and will also install in office, as International representative for the Middle West, Vice-president Julius Hochman, who has already arrived in Chicago. From Chicago President Sigman intends, prior to his return to New York, to pay a visit to Cleveland.

Montreal and Toronto Strengthen Ranks

(Continued from Page 1)

1925, carried out under the leadership of President Sigman and Vice-president Julius Hochman, placed Montreal and Toronto on the map of the I. L. G. W. U. as organized cloak makers with excellent prospects for organizing the remaining ladies' garment workers in both cities in a short time.

Unfortunately, later industrial development seriously interfered with these prospects. In Montreal, the first trade season that followed the signing of the agreements turned out to be an unusually poor one and resulted in a serious blow to the organization. Literally hundreds of cloakmakers were left without jobs, which in a market of Montreal's size spelled misery bordering on despair. In addition to this, the "left" faction in the Montreal locals took advantage of this unfavorable trade situation and for months afterwards kept on denouncing the existing agreements and undermining the faith of the members in the worth and value of the Union's efforts to establish trade relations between the workers and the employers. The Montreal employers were quick to utilize the situation which arose as a result of the depression in the trade and of the demoralization among the workers for their own benefit. The outcome of this deplorable combination of circumstances was that in the course of but a few months, the Montreal Joint Board and its locals found their influence on work conditions in the shops nearly gone.

Present Situation

The arrival of the present season, however, brought some improvement in local conditions. There is more work in the shops, and the destructive effect of factional fighting has obviously had a sobering influence upon many of the workers. This change was decidedly observed at the series of meetings held by President Sigman during his visit in Montreal last week. The mass-meeting on Monday, January 18th, in Prince Arthur Hall, which was addressed by President Sigman and Vice-presidents Amdur and Hochman, was from the point of numbers a big success. Practically every ladies' garment worker in the city turned out to this meeting to listen to President Sigman's message who mislead no words in telling the Montreal cloakmakers that they failed badly to uphold the arm of the Union in time of need and that, instead of encouraging the union idea and agitating for organization, they chose to go around knocking and finding fault with the active workers and leaders

of the Joint Board and spreading discontent and bitter feeling.

The result of President Sigman's visit in Montreal has already shown itself in the formation of a big joint organization committee by the local unions affiliated with the Montreal Joint Board. This committee of volunteer workers, inspired by President Sigman's message, will devote itself nightly to strenuous organizing work, trying to bring together the workers of all the cloak shops to meetings and to bring back among them faith and confidence in the ability of their union to protect their interests. The International Office, President Sigman promised them, will take hereafter a close interest in Montreal affairs and will endeavor to help them in every way.

Toronto Meeting Big Success

From Montreal, President Sigman, accompanied by Vice-president Hochman, came to Toronto on Wednesday, January 26, and held a meeting with the Toronto Joint Board and some local executives. On Thursday, a big meeting of all Toronto ladies' garment workers was held in the new Toronto Labor Lyceum which was crowded to the doors. In Toronto, where Brother Sol Polakoff is representing the International Office as manager of the local Joint Board, the situation is materially different from conditions in Montreal. The fall cloak season of 1925 was a much better one in Toronto than in Montreal and the effect of fraternal dissension was much less evident in that city, too. But in Toronto, where the Joint Board has a collective agreement, the union has had during 1925 a great deal of trouble with several firms which tried to break away from their association and to fight the union on their own account. The result was a number of single shop strikes which were difficult affairs and drained the treasury of the local organizations.

The Toronto cloakmakers now feel that they would have to take up a fight in earnest against some of these anti-union shops and teach them the lesson that fighting organized labor is a costly and at times a ruinous diversion. They hope that the International Office will aid them in this struggle, and President Sigman promised to give their request the earnest attention it deserves.

The Toronto locals also elected a big organization committee to carry on agitation among the non-union cloak shops in that city as well as among the large number of dressmakers employed in the Toronto dress shops, a field until now barely touched and which offers excellent prospects.

Over 300 Dress Shops Out

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a substantial security had been exacted in the case of firms not belonging to the dress manufacturers' association.

Cloak Shops Next

Beginning next week, the organizers of the Joint Board will turn their attention to the cloak end of the drive and will call out, it is expected, a large number of sub-standard shops in the industry—non-union shops as well as shops whose owners have willfully ignored union standards or whose jobbers have forced upon them such conditions. The cleansing campaign on the cloak trade will continue for months until the time for the renewal of the present collective agreements with the trade associations arrives, when, as a result of the present mobilization, the Union might find itself in a stronger position to wrest from the jobbers and the manufacturers the program of demands it has been fighting for for many months past.

More Volunteers Needed

Brother Charles Zimmerman, who

is in charge of the Joint Board's campaign at the Stuyvesant Casino headquarters, reports that the organizing committee, which is composed of groups of workers from all the locals of the Joint Board, is doing its work in a praiseworthy spirit and that the volunteers from the shops who have done such excellent work since the drive started are on the job in as large numbers as heretofore. There will be, however, a much greater demand for volunteer workers and pickets beginning next week, when in addition to the dress shops which have to be picketed morning and night, the committees will have to take care of a large number of cloak shops.

It is urgent therefore that many more volunteers report to work to the campaign headquarters. This is an unusual time in the life of the Union, a time that demands personal sacrifice and examples of devotion, and it is hoped that the dressmakers and cloakmakers of New York will respond in large numbers to the call of the organizing committee of the Joint Board.

Boston Employers Dodge Collective Pact

(Continued from Page 1)

makers of that city, while Brother Isidore Kramer of Local 73 is temporarily acting as organizer for the Boston Joint Board.

The agreements in Boston expire

by the end of next week, and unless the local manufacturers in both trades do not change front very soon, it is quite likely that a walkout affecting nearly the entire industry will be ordered to force them to retain union shops as heretofore.

Union Health Center News

The Union Health Center of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union has during the past two months had a busy life in its new Department of Social Service.

The members of the Union who have come to the Health Center in need of hospital or institutional care have been referred by the Health Center to various institutions, such as Mt. Sinai, Beth Israel, Brooklyn Jewish Hospital, the Hospital for Joint Diseases, and the Neurological Institute.

These happen to be cases which the specialists and physicians at the Union Health Center cannot themselves handle. It is interesting to note, however, that these patients are not merely told that they need hospital or institutional care, but are personally referred to the best institution for his or her particular ailment.

Many humorous incidents occur in the daily life of the Health Center. A few days ago, a woman came in to inquire why her husband did not get the "health letter" after his life extension examination. It seems that her husband had undergone a thorough life extension examination at the Union Health Center. It is customary at the end of this examination to inform the patient that he would receive a letter giving details of each specialist's examination and indicating just what is wrong with him. This patient returned home to wait for

the letter, under the impression that he could not go to work until he received the letter. The woman, however, was very much chagrined at her husband's decision to wait for the "health letter," for he did nothing but "play cards" and lose money while he was home.

The Social Service Department informed the woman that there was no need for her husband to take a vacation and that the letter had already been sent out and that she could reassure him that he could go to work.

"I should say so," the woman cried, "if he would stop playing cards and wasting money he would not be so sick!"

Another incident occurred the other day which indicates the need for health examination. Three patients from different locals came in for general examination. They were friends by a peculiar co-incidence of fate. Each one was a tubercular case in various stages of consumption.

The Union Health Center has been asked by the Furriers' Union to make a physical examination of 500 furriers.

The American Fund for public service has appropriated a large sum to the Union Health Center for special work in health education among the garment workers. A detailed plan of the Union Health Center in this field will be printed a little later.

Local 45 To Install Officers Saturday

The installation of the new executive board of Local 45, the designers, will take place next Saturday afternoon, at 2:30, in Hotel Pennsylvania.

General Secretary Baroff and Vice-president Louis Hyman will be pre-

ent at this meeting. The meeting will, in addition to inducting the officers, take up some of the important business of the designers' local and their plans for a drive to unionize the trade.

Every designer in the trade is urged to come.

With the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board

By JOSEPH FISH,
Secretary-Treasurer.

A meeting of the Joint Board was held on Friday, January 22, 1926 at the Auditorium of the International, 3 West 16th Street.

The report of the Board of Directors of January 20th are read and approved with the exception of the part pertaining to the referendum on the \$20 tax to be levied on the menbership.

An amendment is made to the effect that each Local be privileged to have a polling place of its own.

After a lengthy discussion the amendment is defeated and the recommendation of the Board of Directors is adopted upon a vote by roll call, 24 voting for it and 15 against.

Local No. 21 notifies the Board that they have approved the minutes of the Joint Board of January 15th.

Installation:

Chairman, Brother Ansel, in handing the gavel to General Secretary-Treasurer Baroff to install the incoming Joint Board for the ensuing year 1926, thanks the delegates for their cooperation while chairman of the Joint Board, and assures them that no matter in what capacity, he will always serve the organization to the best interest of the workers.

Secretary-Treasurer Fish then reads the following resolutions:

Local No. 2-I. Steinsler, A. Colow, I. Moskowitz, I. Radish, B. Reinsner, M. Cooper, J. Ofkin and S. Gerbat. The delegates are seated.

Local No. 9-Sam Silverman, Mania Perlman, Abe Zrlin, Abe Goldberg, Meyer Remback, Adolph Hatman, Rose Kaplan and Max Leff. The delegates are seated.

Local No. 10-Max Stoller, Louis Pankin, Harry Zaslavsky, Louis Forer, Max Gordon and Julius Quwart. The delegates are seated.

Local No. 21-Leo Arch. The brother is seated.

Local No. 22-Sonia Chalkin, Lena Klein, Wm. Himmelfarb, A. Lupin, Sarah Berner, B. Miller, Pearl Halperin and Alex. Cohen. The delegates are seated.

Local No. 23-Meyer Konisky, Chas. Landsberg, Louis Reiss and Sam Frum chlick. The delegates are seated.

Local No. 35-L. Krudin, E. Kulrinitzky, I. Seiler, L. Davidoff, Ph. Greenberg, J. Gerschikoff, M. Friedman and S. Kreitzer. The delegates are seated.

Local No. 48-Camillo Ambrosini, Domenico Bono, Vito Catania, Ruffale Esposito, Gabriele Fiumara, Edouard Molissani, Gennaro Spina and Giovanni Vollaro. The delegates are seated.

Local No. 82-M. Molen and H. Beshlowitz. The brothers are seated.

Local No. 89-Joseph Barone, John Egizio, Joseph Miranda, Nicola Laurianno, Anna Alfano and Anna Ruggiero. The delegates are seated.

Brother Baroff installs the new delegates. In a brief address he commends the outgoing delegates on their service to the organization. He then impresses upon the incoming delegates the honor and importance of serving in any capacity in a labor organization such as this, where the activities are so varied the benefit of the working class. He emphasizes the importance of not repeating the mistakes that have been made in the past and states that the Joint Board must gain a new incentive for its work of organ-

izing the shops and thereby raise the standards of the workers in the industry to a higher level. Brother Baroff appeals to the delegates to work hard in hand to combat the enemies of Labor.

The delegates greet Brother Baroff's talk with applause.

Special Committee Report:

Brother Steinsler reports for the committee appointed by the Board of Directors to consider the question of registering the members, and recommends that such a registration be made from February 15th up until March 1st, during which time the business agents are to be instructed to register all members working in Union shops, these records to be referred to the various locals. The locals will thereby be in a position to have a checkup on its members working in non-union shops. The committee further recommends that the chairman be instructed to permit only members, who have working cards to work.

Brother Perlmuter, Manager of the Downtown Office, states that he has already made arrangements for such a control, and that this has been done every season by his office.

After the question has been thoroughly discussed, the Board of Directors decides that notices should be inserted in the press, requesting all members to renew their working cards. This method will serve as a means of registering the members for the various locals.

A discussion then ensues regarding the \$20 assessment, recommended to the Joint Board by the Shop Chairmen meeting and referred to the Board of Directors. The following is then decided upon:

1. The referendum should be held on February 2, 1926 and should be supervised by the Joint Board.

2. The referendum Committee should consist of one Joint Board delegate from each Local appointed by the Joint Board and one delegate appointed by the Local. These people are to receive \$12 each.

3. The following are the polling places to be used: Local No. 22-16 West 21st Street; Local No. 48-251 East 14th Street; Bryant Hall-725-6th Avenue.

Managers' Reports:

Brothers Zimmerman, in charge of the campaign, reports that on Tuesday, the first day of the drive, 250 volunteers responded. The following day approximately the same number. He is confident that the drive will be a success. Some of the shops have even sent in their representatives, whom they are compensating. Up until now 120 non-union shops have been stopped, which employed on the average of ten workers. Thirty-one shops have already been settled. He further reports that no shops are being settled with less than \$300 security.

Brother Zimmerman's report is approved.

Brother Miller, Manager of the American and Independent Department, reports for a period of 3 weeks, during which time his office attended to 1244 complaints.

General Manager's Report:

Brother Hyman reports that after negotiating with Sperber for some time, the latter consented to comply with the decision of the Governor's Commission. He withdrew his resignation from the Merchants Association, and a strike was thereby avoided.

Brother Hyman states that he will order all members not to work any

Labor The World Over

POLAND

Gas War on the Workers!

THE "People's Gazette" of Lodz (Poland) publishes in a recent issue, under the heading "Gas War on the Workers," the following announcement on the uses to which we turn the "achievements" of our "Kultur." "The police have been practicing bomb-throwing in the fields near the fort. The bombs used are hand grenades, intended to incapacitate criminals, and scatter crowds who resist the police. The gas which these bombs give off causes a temporary blindness (of one hour) and streams of tears from the eyes of all standing within a radius of several yards. Doctors were present during the practices, testing the effects of these bombs. They came to the conclusion that the gas is not injurious to the eyes. These bombs are shortly to be distributed among the police."

The "People's Gazette" comments:

"This information is most interesting! Can there possibly be a better way to remedy the economic slump and alleviate the distress of the working class?"

And what cynicism to say that a gas which causes an hour's blindness is not injurious to health!"

AUSTRIA

A Labor College for Austria

ON account of the general distress the Austrian Social Democratic Party and the Trades Union Congress have recently been obliged to give up the Hammer Bakery Works, which has been run jointly by the two bodies. Of the proceeds of the sale, the Party has decided to make over a certain sum to the Solidarity Fund of the Trades Union Congress, and to use the rest to form a special fund, the interest of which is to be used exclusively for workers' educational purposes.

This money will enable the Party to set up a labor college. The labor

overtime when there are empty machines in the shop, unless they obtain permission from the office. He adds that Brother Kaplan has sent a letter to that effect to all the Protective shops.

Brother Hyman's report is approved.

The Board of Directors then decides on the question of proportional delegation at the Joint Board, that locals having three delegates at the Joint Board should be represented on the Board of Directors, Appeal and Grievance Committees; locals having two delegates should be represented on the Board of Directors and Grievance Committee; locals having one delegate should be represented on the Board of Directors; locals having more than three delegates should be represented in all the committees. Members on committees are to receive \$1.00 for each meeting they attend.

college is to take up its work at Vienna in January 1926. Six-month courses are being arranged; the students are to be nominated by the national organizations of the Socialist Party, the trade unions and the cooperative societies. A suitable dormitory is to be provided, in which the students will be housed free of charge during term-time. The college is to admit young industrial workers, men and women, as well as officials from the labor movement. The college is to have a governing body of its own, which will be comprised of representatives of the Socialist Party, the trade unions and the cooperative societies.

LATVIA

"White Collar" Workers Organize Unions

THE "Black-coated proletariat" in Latvia has until recently maintained an isolated existence, fondly imagining that it could stand on its own legs quite successfully. The extreme radical "Union of Commercial and Industrial Employees" founded in 1919, and which is not affiliated to the National Centre, has scarcely 200 members and practically no influence as a trade union. Six months ago, however, another group was formed, which calls itself "The General Employees' Union". Within this short period this union has succeeded in gaining a definite influence, as is shown by the recent suppression of illegal Sunday trade, and also the fact that it has managed to link up the various employees' groups at Riga. Even the bank clerks have lately been joining this union. At the last members meeting, moreover, it was unanimously decided to affiliate to the National Centre.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Distress of Civil Servants

CIVIL servants and the workers and employees in State-controlled enterprises in Czechoslovakia have been for years in a condition of great distress. Although their pay has always been hopelessly out of proportion to the work they do, and is not nearly enough to cover the cost of living, their salaries were still further reduced in 1922; their 39 per cent high-cost-of-living bonus was taken off, and the family allowances were also reduced. They were consoled for the loss at the time by a government announcement that action was to be taken to bring down prices; but nothing of the kind happened, and today prices are considerably higher than they were two years ago.

No arrangements have been made in the 1926 budget to do them justice. The Socialist Party and the Trade Unions are exercising their influence on behalf of the civil servants, and are doing everything they can to make the raising of civil servants' salaries one of the primary tasks of the new government, as soon as the forthcoming elections are over.

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Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2148

MORRIS SIGMAN, President

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Acting Editor

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

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EDITORIALS

THE FIRST WEEK OF THE JOINT BOARD DRIVE

The wheels of the drive inaugurated by the New York Joint Board to organize the weaker spots in the dress industry and to reorganize the large number of backward and sub-standard cloak shops, have already begun to grind. The big campaign is on the march and is daily developing greater strength and impetus.

The first week of the concerted organizing activity undertaken by the Joint Board and its affiliated locals has, surely, yielded gratifying results. The drive, to all appearances, resembles a big strike and its headquarters, indeed, looks like the headquarters of a general walkout, humming with activity, agog with the movement of literally hundreds of shops and the bustle which accompanies the stirring of thousands of workers. To be exact, over 300 dress shops have gone down on strike following the first call of the Union's committeemen, over 100 of which have since returned back to work after satisfactory and secure agreements had been reached with their owners. During the current week, at least as many shops as have walked out during the first week are expected to leave their shops involving additional thousands of men and women.

This, however, is by far not the end of the movement in the dress trade. After its lines are strengthened in the sub-manufacturer and contractor shops, the Joint Board expects to turn its attention to the numerous non-union jobbing firms, the feeding centers of demoralization and disorganization in the dress industry, and will make a concerted effort to bring these jobbers to terms and to place upon them the responsibility for work conditions in the contractor shops of which they are the true masters and owners. Along with it, the Joint Board, beginning next week, will open up the fight against the non-union and inferior contractor shops in the cloak shops in every district and borough in the Greater City and will not lay down arms until the whole trade is cleansed of the degrading and demoralizing influence of these non-union pest holes which drag down work conditions throughout the industry.

A feature of the present drive that deserves comment is that it is not merely the work of the Joint Board but the cooperative undertaking, in the best sense of the term, of all its affiliated locals. The big organization committee which carries on the work is composed of a number of group units from all the component locals of the Joint Board—cutters, operators, finishers, dress-makers, members of the Italian locals, pressers—all of whom are responding with a unanimity and a ready willingness each to do their share that is truly heartening.

Another aspect of this drive that makes it so similar to a general strike movement is the number of arrests which have already occurred and are daily occurring as the activity of the organizers is progressing. Despite the orderly character of the organizing drive, the police have found "cause" for making nearly 150 arrests near the affected shops, though nearly all of the arrested were subsequently released by the magistrates or, in some instances, given small money fines. Far from interfering with the ardor and the zeal of the committeemen and of the strikers, this indiscriminate harassing by the police on behalf of the employers is only adding to the determination of the organizers to proceed with the work until their goal is reached.

Parallel with this drive, and as an objective inseparably connected with it, next week, namely on Tuesday, February 2nd, the cloak and dressmakers of New York will emphatically give their sanction to the movement initiated by the Joint Board to raise a big fighting treasury through the levy of a twenty-dollar assessment on all the members of the locals affiliated with it. While essentially a Joint Board fund, this assessment, after it is raised, will give the individual locals an opportunity to improve their own financial standing and to meet their obligations to the Joint Board and to the International Union as well.

The cloak and dressmakers' organizations of New York are now in the midst of a movement on the success of which their whole future clearly depends. The first, initial steps of this movement show promise of substantial achievement and, if kept within the proper and sound ramifications of a genuine trade union organizing drive, its appeal to all our workers is bound to prove irresistible.

More power to it!

"SAVE ME FROM MY FRIENDS"

This thought occurred to us the other day as we read an editorial in the New York Jewish radical weekly, "Die Freie Arbeiter Stimme", discussing an article appearing in the same issue of that periodical written by Meyer Perlestein, under the title, "What Is To Be Done?" The editor makes a close analysis of a plan suggested by Perlestein in his article purporting to "save" the Cloakmakers' Union of New York from its present plight, and gives this plan its editorial sanction,—with some reservations, it is true, yet with sufficient firmness to recommend it as a "proposal that deserves the attention of all earnest-thinking workers in the Cloakmakers' Union."

Perlestein's plan briefly consists of the following: The Union, without waiting for the final recommendations of the Governor's Commission, is to enter at once into conferences with the leading jobbers and manufacturers in the New York cloak trade—taking particular plans that no lawyers from either side be present—and obtain from them a pledge and an undertaking to open large and decent cloak factories. For this pledge the Union should be ready to repay these jobbers and manufacturers in the form of "certain production concessions, so that they (the employers) might be able to control production in these shops." The plan further provides that all the present officers of the Joint Board vacate their places and that the management of the Union be turned over to a group of experienced "receivers" for a period, say, of six months, after which everything will be coordinated in the finest possible manner and the Cloakmakers' Union of New York will begin to bloom and prosper.

Such is the content of the recipe to which the editor of the "Freie Arbeiter Stimme" lends his academic approval. Candidly, had this absurd scheme, with this editorial sanction, appeared in any other publication, we should have in all probability ignored it completely. We regret, however, to have discovered this miraculous industrial concoction in the columns of the above-mentioned journal. It is, indeed, quite an unpleasant surprise for us to find the editor of that weekly joining company with that group of self-appointed industrial surgeons and "specialists" who in recent days have been so diligently performing operations and prescribing experimental quackery for that new convalescent in the labor movement of New York City—the Cloakmakers' Union.

The Cloakmakers' and Dressmakers' Union of New York is just beginning to recover from the operation which the Communist "saviors" had recently performed on it. These specialists have "saved" its life so zealously and so energetically that they almost left it bloodless. After their splendid surgical exploit, the wounds of this convalescent are still so deep, that it will probably require colossal efforts to heal them and to bring the organization back to a condition of normal health and sustained activity.

And now we are offered a brand new method of salvation, a patent medicine that will, absolutely without fail, plant the patient solidly on his feet. Let us state at the outset that we do not desire to place the "Freie Arbeiter Stimme" on the same level with the Communist press. We should like, nevertheless, to remind its editor that it is high time that our friends realize that the International Union and the Cloakmakers' Union might, at least for a while, get along without outside medical relief and without volunteer advisers who presume so authoritatively to "make men of them."

What concerns Perlestein and his "plan"—they remind us somewhat of the noble services rendered by John Dyche to the Cloakmakers' Union after he got out of it, and the very recent contribution he had made by way of volunteer intermeddling in the recent internal crisis in the Cloakmakers' Union of New York. Perlestein obviously is copying the Dyche pattern and is following the tactics employed by Dyche—though with far less justification. Of all persons, Perlestein should have been the last one to advance at this day fantastic schemes involving "concessions to the employers that they might be able to control production in their shops." In the last three years, in particular, Perlestein has had a free hand, so to say, in the Union and the consequences of his statesmanship are very well known to himself and to others.

But, as we already stated, we do not intend to enter a debate on this subject, and we, naturally, cannot prevent people writing whatever and whenever they choose to. We only deem it worthwhile to point out here, in a few lines, and in a rather friendly spirit, that the cloakmakers' organization is weary of its outside "saviors", and that at this present moment it is making a big organizational effort to rise to its feet and to accumulate vitality so that it could hope to be able to bring order and system into the cloak industry from which its members might make a better and more secure livelihood for themselves.

Hands off, please!

Fascism's True Face

By J. L. W.

The spread of Fascism and Fascist ideas in countries outside Italy is very largely due to the mistaken ideas which are prevalent as to what Fascism really is. In France, for instance, large sections of the people are very dissatisfied with the constant change of government, and ultra-nationalist elements profit by the discontent to urge the need for some "strong personality" who will restore "orderly conditions"; in other words, for a French Mussolini, whose advent will also mean the suppression of public opinion after the Mussolini model. Even some workers do honestly believe that Mussolini is a typically strong man. So little is understood that he is often compared with Nero and other Roman emperors—a comparison very flattering to Mussolini, but less so to the emperors in question! For, although the constitution under which they flourished was altogether abominable, these emperors, considering the times in which they lived, were undoubtedly genuine personalities, which Mussolini most assuredly is not.

A recent article in the "People" of Brussels, entitled "The Real Mussolini" makes it abundantly clear that Mussolini never had this much-vaunted distinction of character. The writer recalls the times when Mussolini was a Socialist, and was collaborating with her. It concludes with the following words: "It would be impossible to imagine a greater coward than Mussolini is. . . . He never had the courage to publish any important article without first consulting me. He always gave in to my opinion. He never took any physical risks, and never took part in any demonstration unless his friends had previously taken steps to ensure this personal safety. In the evening he was afraid to go home alone, and he has been known to cry when his finger was pricked."

Even today, each passing occasion makes it clear that Mussolini is indeed no outstanding personality. His methods are not those of the "strong hand", but rather those of a sly and crafty hypocrite which is always on the watch to make capital out of the meanest instincts of humanity. These, too, are the characteristics of Fascists. They revel in murder and arson. Their actions are those of men in whom fear, uneasy conscience, and hysteria have created a veritable pandemonium of mad rage. It is not so much the great deeds of Fascism—at first sight these might pass for the outcome of a policy of stern repression—it is the petty details of Fascist methods and practices which show most clearly the depth of their moral degradation.

One proof is the long sufferings of the "free" trade unions which were being slowly martyred amid all the horrors of the Inquisition days. Workers' organizations were hard hit by the very beginning of the Fascist regime; but, as in other fields, of his conflict with freedom, Mussolini did not then feel safe enough to dispense with apparent allegiance to the outside forms of liberty. The so-called "internal commissions" were, for instance, appointed in the metal industry in the early days of Mussolinism; and, in spite of recruitment from Fascist trade unions, it would often happen that there was a Socialist majority in these commissions: in Lombardy there was even a labor conflict in the metal industry. Hence the screw was turned tighter and tighter, so that when, in October last, a mu-

tual agreement was made between the Fascist trade unions and the Industrialists' Association, it was intended, not so much to show unity of organization, as to provide a reasonable basis for the declaration that these "internal commissions" are now superfluous. A further step was the dissolution of the so-called "Commission of 15", which was seeking a formula to embody the conception of the "statutory corporation". Mussolini, however, still hesitates; it needed the carefully planned fraud of the Zaniboni assault to give him the necessary courage to take the final plunge.

The bill attacking the "free" trade unions which is now before parliament is itself a product of canting hypocrisy wedded to an apparent nobility of sentiment: it shows very plainly the fact that Mussolini and his fellows are well aware of their own scoundrelism.

The Minister of Justice, explaining on December 11th the standpoint of

the State and of Fascism in a long speech, could not refrain from trying to throw dust in the eyes of a parliament from which Mussolini could not possibly have anything to fear, by declaring that the intended reform "would restore equilibrium". He went on to say that, although they had constructed it, the industrialists felt some anxiety concerning the bill. This was intended to suggest to the workers that in reality the bill will benefit them more than the employers. "Fascism desires no privilege for the few: it would have all classes alike enter into the arena of political life." Is it perhaps a sign of this "anxiety" and a result of the embittered feeling arising from it, that a week later the Industrialists' Association passed a resolution expressing their confidence in Mussolini's work, and offering him the chairmanship of their organization?

According to the terms of the Bill, entry into the trade unions must be "voluntary". The following paragraph is a brilliant commentary on the word "voluntary": It declares that the nomination of the president or secretary of an organization is valid only if it is approved by Royal Decree, on the proposal of the competent minister, in agreement with the Minister of the

Interior. These officials will also have the right to expel from the organizations persons who are undesirable "from the point of view of moral and political conduct." All organizations are under the supervision of the above mentioned authorities.

This is not the only instance. According to the Rules, the Management Committees must be duly elected by the members. Very nice, but listen. A little further on we learn that the prefect or the Minister is empowered to dissolve the management committees and to concentrate all power in the hands of the president or secretary, who, as we saw above, have been duly approved by the competent minister. This is the way in which "all classes alike" may enter the arena of public life.

If the practice of converting systematized hypocrisy into a constitution may be called an invention, then truly Fascism is an invention. For this faculty of constitutionalizing hypocrisy, so to speak, lies at the root of his every action, and takes on the most varied forms. Many other examples could be given, but the above must suffice. In one activity alone is Mussolini an expert—that of throwing dust in the eyes of the world.

1925 In American Industry

At the beginning of 1925 the upswing from the mid-year slump of 1923 was well advanced, and since then there has been maintained a fairly steady level of what is called prosperity. This has been most marked for Wall Street and real-estate speculators; it has been pronounced for the owners of most of the great industries, but wage earners and farmers have received a much more moderate share in it, and in special cases such as those of the bituminous coal miners and corn growers the position of the manual producers has suffered during the year.

The only real industrial boom of the year was in building construction, which did as much in the first ten months as in the whole of 1924, the largest building year hitherto. The building workers have enjoyed relatively full employment at comparatively high wages. Manufacturing wage earners have received slightly increasing weekly earnings during the year, due not so much to wage advances as to more full-time operation, but this has been offset by a slowly rising cost of living, so that their average purchasing power has not improved much over 1923 or 1924. The number of factory workers employed is actually lower than in 1923 or in 1919, which is striking in view of the fact that manufacturing production has this year reached the highest level on record. This means, of course, a greater productivity per worker, which might have been accompanied by higher real wages or purchasing power. The average factory workers' family, however, probably has a lower purchasing power than in 1923 on account of the fact that fewer are employed. This raises the question whether the market for the increased volume of products can long be sustained.

Textiles operatives, especially those in Eastern woolen mills, and bituminous miners actually suffered wage decreases during the year—the latter in many cases to the 1917 scale.

Almost every index of business activity outside of employment and wages was of record proportions. Production in basic industries reached a peak at the beginning of the year, fell off in the middle, and then rose again toward the end. Manufacturing production in general rose to unre-

precedented heights in the late fall. The railroads carried more freight than in any year except 1923, and increased their net incomes even over that year. Prompt deliveries enabled business institutions to carry on a large volume of trade without unduly increasing the stock on hand or bidding up prices by forward orders. Indexes of retail and wholesale trade showed an unprecedented activity. The same story was told in bank clearings—even excluding New York, where the activity of banks largely reflects stock-market speculation rather than actual business transactions. And, of course, shares reached the highest point on record. In spite of the large volume of credit extended by the banks, and the low interest rates, there has been no sign of price inflation. The wholesale price level, while a little higher than in 1924, is not appreciably higher than in 1923, and its increase is due almost entirely to upward movements of certain farm crops and rubber, both of which may be explained by conditions of demand and supply rather than by credit inflation. Commercial failures were smaller than in 1924.

There is a mixed story to tell concerning the farmers. The wheat crop was smaller than for the last two years, which was fortunate in view of the increased Canadian crop, because it prevented wheat prices from falling far from the level attained in the fall of 1924. Corn and cotton growers both suffered, however, because of the large sizes of their crops, which brought prices down considerably and thus reduced their total receipts. The dissatisfaction with the sale value of the corn crop is what has brought a renewal of agricultural dissatisfaction in the middle west and strengthened political agitation for measures opposed by the administration such as an export corporation and reduction of tariffs on manufactures. Defenders of the administration point out that corn is only partially a cash crop and largely fed to hogs, and predict that the farmers will eventually benefit through cheap hog feed. This, however, remains to be seen.

Several important developments have occurred in our relationship to Europe. As a result of the Dawes settlement we have lent huge sums to German government and industries. Our easy credit and our large capital

accumulation have encouraged lending abroad, and it is estimated that we have exported over a billion dollars of capital during the year. This, of course, is reflected in a growth of our exports, since the foreign borrowers very largely use their credit to buy in this country. Exports and imports both grew during the year, but we had an export surplus of nearly \$700,000,000 in merchandise, in addition to net gold exports of \$135,617,000. The Locarno settlement has also aided the establishment of international confidence. On the other side of the scale the fiscal situation in France has gone from bad to worse, and Italy under Fascist rule remains a trouble spot. Our debt "settlement" with Italy means little and will probably have to be revised before the large payments become due. It must also be remembered that we cannot go on lending to Europe at anything like the present pace, and that as we stop lending our exports must fall and our imports must rise. What the effect of this change will be on our own situation is doubtful. While the outlook for the new year is said to be hopeful by incorrigible business optimists such as Judge Gary, we believe there are distinct dangers in the situation which have been previously discussed. Possible influences which may turn the tide of prosperity before 1926 is over are:

The end of the building boom.

Reduction of automobile production through saturation of the market. (Registrations passed the 20,000,000 mark this year, and the saturation point has been placed by various estimates at between 20,000,000 and 25,000,000.)

Falling off of retail trade because the limit of its artificial expansion through instalment purchasing is reached.

Reduction of exports through cessation of loans to Europe.

Overproduction and possibly price inflation through over confidence of business men.

We should not expect any of these influences to have much effect in any case for several months, but they should be reckoned with in a view which looks ahead for half a year or more.

—Facts for Workers



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Workers' Education for Workers' Children

R. FANNIA M. COHN

(Continued)

Although the Pioneer Youth movement was started in New York City, and most of the clubs are organized there, it has a national scope. It is supported by a large group of international unions, central labor bodies, and local unions, with a membership in all parts of the country. A movement is already on foot to start an organization in Pennsylvania. In addition, requests have been coming in from many parts of the country for the organization of city clubs and the establishment of summer camps.

The Pioneer Youth movement has undoubtedly significantly influenced the children who have already become a part of it. It has had a tremendous influence upon another group, also hitherto neglected by the labor movement, despite the important part they play. The workers' wives are usually so confined to their homes by drudgery that they have little opportunity to come in touch with the problems of the labor movement. They nevertheless are a very significant factor in labor's struggles—they stand behind the men all the strikes, they rear the future workers. Any means to bring them to a greater understanding of the labor movement must be of great value.

The Pioneer Youth movement offers such a means. The participation of their children in the movement necessarily attracts them to it. Through the local organization they are given an opportunity to participate actively in the work. The number of women who are taking an interest in these local organizations, and their learning about the labor movement, is gratifyingly large and steadily increasing.

Manumit School

Another experiment in the field of workers' education for children was entered into by the labor movement when the Manumit School was founded. This school is a residential school for workers' children between nine and fourteen, maintained at Pawling, New York, by an association and operated on a non-profit basis. It is a new departure in two aspects: Besides being a school of high standing maintained for workers' children, it represents a new spirit in education.

While those who organized the school were aware of the fact that the existing public schools are the schools for workers' children, they realized that like other public institutions, they change but slowly in response to the demands of progress. They were aware of the fact that society always needs experimental stations wherein new ideas are tried out, and which pass on successful experiments to the general public, which in turn introduces it into its institutions. They established Manumit as one of these experimental stations, as they said most clearly in the school's announcement:

"A world order based upon justice and cooperation, in which the individual may find freedom, is the end for which many labor groups are working and for which certain research groups, philosophers and idealists hope. Fundamental changes in our so-

cial and industrial order must be made before this goal is reached. Education is one of the most potent forces in reshaping social conditions. Hence the necessity for education which will develop men and women with the knowledge, staying power, and inspiration to rebuild institutions and alter conditions which cramp the lives of workers today. With this end in view, Manumit School takes its place among the educational laboratories here and abroad that foster the growth of individuals freed from inherited errors of the past."

The school is, like the Pioneer Youth ventures, democratically managed. Students and teachers share in the work necessary for the upkeep of the school and the farm. The teachers aim to develop a critical and creative spirit in the children instead of the passive "learning" attitude brought about in our schools. It includes work in the natural sciences, in the social sciences, in literature and writing, in arts and crafts and in mathematics. It do send yet prepare for college entrance, but it hopes soon to continue its courses so that its students will leave the school equipped to go on with higher education or to enter their life work with well-rounded personalities.

The school is managed by an executive board composed of men and women, representatives of the labor movement and educators of broad general vision. It is directed by Mr. and Mrs. William Fincke.

Art Education for Workers

The problems of the children of the workers who need general training are being met in the Pioneer Youth movement and through the Manumit School. The needs for special training of those endowed with artistic talent has also been considered by the labor movement. With proper training many of these children could be led to express themselves through art, and could serve the labor movement as artists.

To achieve this end, there was formed the Workers' Art Scholarship Committee. This Committee consists of representatives of many trade unions. It aims to select talented and deserving workers or their children who have had preliminary training, and enable them to pursue their studies abroad free.

The trade union movement has as its aim the elimination of the most serious injustices and inequalities of today and the transformation of society on a basis of justice and happiness for all.

Through the manifold activities of the trade union workers give playful consideration to problems not only of their own group and industry, but to society as a whole.

To millions of workers, their union is not only the organization that protects them in the economic field, but also the organization that gives them an opportunity to develop character and personality. It gives them dignity, self-confidence and self-respect as citizens and as human beings. The trade union movement has now reached the point where the trade-unionist wants new activities to be developed to enhance the interest of his children.

Weekly Educational Calendar

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

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

Saturday, January 30

1:20 P. M. B. J. H. Stolper—A Social Study of English Literature—Masfield and Joseph Conrad.

Sunday, January 31

11 A. M. A. J. Muste—History and the Workers
The French Revolution and the Russian Revolution.
1. L. G. W. U. BUILDING, 3 WEST 16TH STREET

Wednesday, February 3

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

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

LOCAL 9 BUILDING, 67 LEXINGTON AVENUE

Saturday, January 30

1 P. M. Max Levine—Economics of the Ladies Garment Industry.

LOCAL 2 CLUB ROOMS

1581 Washington Avenue, Bronx

Sunday, January 31

10:30 A. M. Max Levine—Economics of the Ladies' Garment Industry

RUSSIAN-POLISH BRANCH

315 East 10th Street

Friday, February 5th

M. Karpovich—"Old and New Theories of the Development of Russia"

UNITY CENTERS

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

P. S. 25, 325 E. 5th St., Manhattan.

P. S. 171, 162nd St., between Madison and Fifth Ave.

P. S. 43, Brown Place and 135th St., Bronx.

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

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

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THE ROLE OF THE UNION IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT

Course of Three Lessons

By David J. Saposs

The labor movement is a composite of various activities vitally affecting the life and aspirations of the workers, such as cooperation, benefit, political, propagandist, and trade union. In the history of the movement diverse opinions have been expounded as to the importance of each activity, as well as to what functions the trade union should perform. This course will deal with the historic and present day concepts of the role of the union in the labor movement. It will particularly analyze the "pure and simple", I. W. W., Anarchist, Socialist, and Communist theories of the functions that should be assigned to the union.

David Saposs, who is considered an authority on the labor movement, is instructor of labor problems at Brookwood, resident Labor College.

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.

COURSE ON THE ECONOMICS OF THE LADIES' GARMENT INDUSTRY MOST SUCCESSFUL

Max Levine's Course on the Economics of our industry which he is giving in Local 2 Club Rooms, is most successful. Our members are displaying great interest in it. We are very glad of this as it is most essential for an intelligent worker to understand the economics of his own industry, and the place it occupies in our industrial society.

This course is given on Sunday mornings at 10:45 in the Club Rooms of Local 2, 1581 Washington Avenue, Bronx. We expect to give this same course in other parts of the city very soon.

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

BOSTON TRADE UNION STUDENTS TO DANCE ON LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

The seventh annual dance of the Boston Trade Union College Students' Association will take place on Lincoln's Birthday, Friday, February 12th, 1926, at the Music Box, 254 Washington Avenue, Boston.

The dance this year, after the College had acquired its own headquarters and had grown considerably, will be run on a much larger scale and is expected to yield a substantial sum for the school's activities. Readers of Justice living in Boston who believe in working-class schools for workers' education will no doubt purchase tickets and come to the dance of the Students' Association and thereby both help the College to further its activity and have a genuine good time in a fine and wholesome atmosphere.

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Taking Prohibition Out of Politics

By NORMAN THOMAS

"Richie Logical Candidate of Liberals for Presidency, is View after Chicago Speech." So in large headlines the Cincinnati Enquirer informs a waiting world. "Liberals," you say, "What do you mean, liberal?" Read the Enquirer article and you will learn that liberals are wets and Ritchie is their champion, likely to fall heir to the Smith following if religious reasons make our AI unavailable.

The whole Enquirer article confirms our opinion that American public opinion, including the workers can be excited not along great economic issues, not to the preservation of peace, but only by the new three R's—rum, race religion. Frank Kent, the shrewd political observer of the Baltimore Sun says there are two public issues in which Americans are spontaneously interested: the prohibition question and evolution or the Bible in the schools. We think race must be added.

Now while the common folks are all "bet up" on these questions big business can get away with almost anything, labor finds it hard to organize the unorganized, and politics is chaos.

Consider prohibition. It is an important issue. The present situation is a national scandal. You cannot ignore prohibition. But neither can you fit it in to a proper political and economic line up. Radical and conservative, socialist and old party men, may be wet or dry with no bearing on their general creed. You can't be continually rotting on some phase of the wet and dry issue and work out a logical program "in foreign and domestic affairs according to economic realities. It distracts thought and plays into the hands of those who pick our pockets while we fight for the beer bottle.

Prohibition ought in short to be divorced from politics. We don't believe that universal referendums on all subjects make for progress but prohibition, or the Volstead Act ought to be submitted to the people in a separate referendum as an issue entirely apart from the ordinary political struggle.

Let Mexico Alone

More talk, we see, of a possible break with Mexico because of laws alleged to be retroactive which adversely affect American invested interests! The interests which have already virtually added Mexico to their economic empire fret at every obstacle. If Mexico, like San Domingo could have been conquered by the Marines long ago the job would have been done. So far the interventionists have been deterred by public hostility to a real man's sized war of intervention. It's our job to keep up this public sentiment against any war to collect the debts of the same fellow who got the wherewithal to buy up Mexico by exploiting us at home. Why should we spend money and lives infinitely more precious than money to collect private debts?

If my fellow townsman is rooked by real estate sharks in Florida he does not ask you and me to go fight Florida for him. Even if an absentee New York landlord now resident in Los Angeles thinks that the New York State emergency rent laws injure his property he doesn't dream of getting the California militia to invade New York for him. Why should we stand for their nonsense of backing up American investors, seeking high interests in every country in the world, by threat of national intervention in their behalf at our expense?

Syria and Sincerity

France governs Syria nominally under a mandate from the League of Nations. Partisans of the League have assured us that the Mandate system will cure imperialism. Let's see.

Syria never wanted French government at all. Prof. Edward Mead Earle, an authority on the Near East, tells us in the Nation that French Government has been "arbitrary, unscrupulous and brutal." The present insurrection which brought about the wanton bombardment of Damascus by the French is the sixth since French rule began. Professing the loveliest sentiments France has almost ruined the country by taxes to pay the Algerian and Senegalese and French troops who oppress it. They have debased the currency to conform to the depreciating French franc. Today a Syrian pound, which was the same in value as the Turkish pound, is worth only 10 per cent of the latter. Yet Turkey was down and out in 1918 and has had no mandatory power to help it.

All these years of Syrian complaint the League has done nothing — not even to make Syria's wrongs public. If the League continues this policy it will prove itself an instrument of imperialism in Asia whatever it may be in Europe. We know it is easier for the League to stop a Greco-Bulgarian war than to interfere in French affairs, but if it is powerless now it will sorely disappoint true friends of peace. Prof. Earle suggests, some simple steps that might be taken to make it easier for the Syrians to tell their troubles to the League and to set them forward on the road to independence. We await with curiosity to see what the Permanent Mandate Commission of the League will do about it.

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РУССКО-ПОЛЬСКИЙ ОТДЕЛ

В ОТДЕЛЕ.

На заседании собрания Исполнительного Комитета Русско-Польского Отдела Союза Демократических Рабочих состоялось второе по порядку заседание и в повестку дня поставлены вопросы: 1. о положении дел в промышленности по производству женской одежды. 2. о связи с этим вопросом заключенных в тюрьмы, которые О.Д. занимается в настоящее время, в особенности в настоящее время.

В начале заседания решительные меры к тому, чтобы реорганизовать материальную часть работы на основе установления контроля над мастерскими со стороны нашей организации, дабы обеспечить контроль за качеством работы, а также, в частности, и чтобы рабочие получали все то, что им положено.

Исполнительный Комитет принял и заключил, что в настоящее время каждый член комитета должен знать, что происходит в промышленности. Для выяснения всех необходимых вопросов решено созвать массовый митинг на понедельник, 1-го февраля.

На собрании также выяснено, что вопрос, о котором долгое время говорили и никак не могли добиться окончательного решения, является к тому же. Вопрос этот — о возможности создания Русско-Польского Отдела, решение которого ожидается в ближайшем времени.

Генеральный Исполнительный Комитет Интернационала указал на необходимость и избрал комитет для исследования наших требований и связи с этим потребовал, чтобы комитет с определенными данными. Комитет собрал нужные факты по данному вопросу и представил их на этой неделе на заседание И.И. Ком., который сообщает по этому вопросу специальное собрание. Нет никакого сомнения, что комитет И.И. Ком. сейчас же это-то определит, что будет иметь значение и жизни всех членов Русско-Польского Отдела. Об этом узнает не только И.И. Ком., но и многие тысячи людей в все мире. Откуда, если они поставят себя на массовый митинг в понедельник.

О разных правах.

Говоря о разных правах наших членов в комитет, мы не делаем никакого различия в том, что члены Русско-Польского Отдела имеют право требовать, то, что они считают справедливым требовать, и получить все то, что получают другие рабочие национальности. Легко говорить в свою защиту только, когда мы обижены, мы очень тяжело переживаем тогда, когда на нашу страну возлагают всю вину.

Нельзя обойти вниманием тот факт, что члены Р.П. Отдела отдают много времени и сил на то, чтобы решить вопрос, который им немедленно должны разрешить. Будем говорить открыто — это приводит нас к разоблачению в вопросе и выявлению наших ошибок. Нет никаких фактов в действительности того, что наши члены являются несправедливо обвиняемыми перед законом. Препятствием страдать в этом и еврейских рабочих, которые не имеют русских рабочих друзей, но в них не лежит на кого заглядывать.

С другой же стороны мы знаем, что масса русских рабочих в мастерских получают хорошие деньги, чем рабочие других национальностей.

Возможно, что этому способствует классификация, но тот факт, что многие русские являются президентами и мастерами (магистрами) и даже в таких мастерских, где все рабочие других национальностей, а одна только русская, и это выбирает президентов мастерских. Это доказывает, что между социалистическими организациями рабочих не существует никаких классовых различий.

нашего подразделения, и не приходится говорить, что польские все рабочие организации.

Если мыслительные процессы, а не только чувства не принадлежат, тогда ставится вопрос: почему русские и польские рабочие не принимают участия в той организационной работе, которая является в настоящее время? Почему члены Р.П. Отдела не вступают в Организационный Комитет для организации не-классовых мастерских? Ведь за материю времени они получают такое же вознаграждение, как и другие рабочие. Разве не было образцов нашего движения, и не один раз, но то, чтобы они вступали в Организационный Комитет, через своего секретаря, и сделали отозваться? Справно даже является пробовать.

Можно ли поставить вопрос русским, польским членам комитета в такой форме, что они будут делать и как откликнуться на вопрос, поставленный им? Конечно, другие национальности в том, чтобы они требуют права как в мастерских, так и в организации, чтобы принять участие в законных этих правах. — Все откликнется. А эти русские будут поставлены. Чтобы продолжать это, не требуется большой деятельности, ибо в настоящее время уже масса русских по адресу наших членов в том, что они совершенно чужды и не видят того, что происходит в промышленности по производству женской одежды.

Нет сомнения, что процесс этот — создание работы наших рабочих, как закон, так и те, которые являются в нашей работе, по работе над нашими делами.

Что может отвлечь от того факта, что организационная кампания для организации мастерских и той самостоятельной работы, который решено индивидуализировать процесс немедленно, все же так необходимо для рабочих, все же так среди рабочих находится также, которые выступают против 20-дневного забастовочного периода. Конечно, такие рабочие скорее являются врагами для рабочих, нежели их друзьями. Их цель одна — работать изо дня. А для того, чтобы рабочие этого не боялись, они принимают всевозможные меры.

Что же требуется от русско-польских рабочих? Они должны создать свои комитеты, что не являются активными участниками с первого начала в организационной работе, и сейчас же должны приниматься за работу и выполнять то, что от них требуется.

Напомним, товарищи, что наша задача является о разных действиях.

МАССОВЫЙ МИТИНГ.

Товарищи! Препятствие является нашей индустрии, а вместе с тем и нашей жизни требует от нас, чтобы мы не только боролись в те моменты, в которых ситуация была жима и требует немедленного решения.

Для обсуждения и решения всех политических вопросов Отдел созывает массовый митинг на понедельник, 1-го февраля, в Народном Доме, 315 Нет-10-ая ул., Н. И. Начало в 7:30 вечера.

Все члены Р.П. Отдела обязаны присутствовать на этом собрании.

ГОЛОСУЙТЕ ЗА ФОНД.

Во вторник, 2-го февраля, все клонирователи будут голосовать за создание забастовочного фонда. Русско-польские клонирователи также не должны оставаться от других рабочих и не давая единого голоса за создание забастовочного фонда.

Голосование будет проводиться во всех конторах Джеймс Горда и Лангана, Секретарь А. Саймон.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

The meeting of last Monday night, January twenty-fifth was entirely devoted to a report by Manager Dubinsky on the twenty-dollar assessment, in the course of which he appealed to the membership for their participation in the referendum and their voting in its favor. Dubinsky also reported on the progress of the drive against the non-union dress shops.

Assessment for Organization Purposes

In an effort to make the assessment popular and to bring home to the members the importance of voting in favor of it, this question was first taken up at a shop-chairman meeting on January 12th.

At that meeting, the officers of the Joint Board dwelt at length on the situation in the industry and pointed out to the shop-chairmen the necessity of collecting a sufficiently large fund to combat the tendency on the part of the employers to lower union standards.

The most important problem with which the union will be faced within three or four months is the renewal of the agreement in the cloak industry. Then, after a respite of about six or seven months, the union will be faced with the problem of the renewal of agreements in the dress trade.

Manager Dubinsky pointed out therefore that the members of the union could not afford to do anything else but to carry this assessment. And merely carrying it, he said, is not sufficient. The referendum must be participated in by the overwhelming mass of the members. He pointed out that this question is so important that he would live to see at least three thousand of the total number of members of Local 10 should vote in its favor.

Urges Mass Participation

The Union needs such an organization fund as the assessment aims at raising and without it the Union will be considerably hampered.

At the last meeting of the Joint Board it was decided that this question be put to a direct referendum of the members. The arrangements made afford every member an opportunity to participate in the voting at convenient hours.

The polling places have also been conveniently arranged. The date is set for Tuesday, February 2nd. The advertisement in the last two columns of this page specify very clearly the time, place and other important details with respect to the referendum.

Isidore Nagler also appealed to the members to vote in favor of the assessment. He said that no matter what his opinions were during the period of internal strife, he believes that the assessment is necessary to the life of the organization. To him, he said, it is more than a mere levying of an assessment. It is an emergency levy, he said, and is essential.

Nagler reviewed the situation in the organization and the industry and declared that the question of bigger taxes was always one which he believed was a burning one.

In this referendum cutters, as well as other members of the union, will be permitted to participate even owing dues up to nine months, in order to enable every member who will have to pay this assessment to voice his opinion on this tax.

Arrangements have been made that members should be able to vote at

polling places located as near their shops as possible. Balloting will take place from 7 A. M. to 7 P. M. The following is a list of polling places:

Local 10 Building, 231 East 14th Street; Main Office, Joint Board, 159 East 25th Street, (Lex. Ave.); Local 22 Building, 16 West 21st Street; Bryant Hall, 725 Sixth Avenue, (near 42nd St.); Down Town Office, Joint Board, 33 Second Avenue, (near 2nd St.); Harlem Office, Joint Board, 161 East 121st Street; Brooklyn Office, Joint Board, Vienna Hall, 185 Montrose Av.; Brownsville Labor Lyceum, 219 Sackman Street.

Many Open Dress Shops Settled

Following the report by Dubinsky on the assessment, which was discussed by some members, the balance of the evening was devoted to a report on the progress in the drive against the open shops in the dress industry and also on the strike which the union is conducting against the firm of Maurice Rentner.

This strike against Rentner is now going into its third week. The struggle is continuing unabated with mass picketing nearly every day. The activities of the cutters are commendable. The twenty-five cutters who walked out in the strike are to be seen on the picket line every day.

Every ounce of energy is being directed by the union towards bringing the firm to terms. This shop is the largest in the dress trade in the country, making the better line of dresses. Thus far the union has succeeded in tying up the firm's plant.

The drive against the open shops continues. Up to the present time over two hundred shops have been taken down, of which over a hundred were settled. A surprising feature of the shops taken up for settlements is the fact that very few of them did not have cutters. The wages of the men averaged about sixty dollars per week.

Cutters Active in Dress Drive

The settlements resulted in the securing of increases for the men.

The members of Local 10 are very active in this campaign. Many of them may be seen every morning at seven o'clock in Stayresant Casino, where they report for the purpose of being assigned tasks for the day.

An instance of the desire on the part of the members of Local 10 to make the drive a successful one is the fact that even some cloak cutters have volunteered their services.

In his appeal that this work be kept up and that all cutters, regardless of the division to which they belong, should participate, Manager Dubinsky stated that within a week or so the drive will also include cloak shops as well.

For the past two and a half weeks, that is, since the calling of the strike against Rentner, David Fruhling has been devoting all of his time, from early morning on, to the strike. The writer divides his activities between seeing to it early in the morning that the cutters report and are assigned to the proper tasks and regular routine work.

In the conclusion of his report the manager stated that the office is very much taken up with the reports by the controllers, who have been assigned to investigate the cloak and dress shops. The dress controllers, in addition to this work, have also been assigned the investigation of the newly settled shops.

\$20 ASSESSMENT REFERENDUM VOTE

Tuesday, February 2nd

ALL CUTTERS, MEMBERS OF LOCAL 10, ARE URGED TO PARTICIPATE

Due to the fact that this is a Joint Board referendum, members who owe not more than Nine (9) Months' dues are eligible to vote. This will enable every member of the Union to participate.

In the event that participation in the referendum will cause your losing an hour's work, the office will permit you to work that hour off in overtime.

The polls will be open from 7 o'clock in the morning till 7 o'clock at night. Choose the polling place nearest your shop and, together with the rest of the cutters of your shop, come down to vote in the referendum.

The following are the polling places, conveniently located:

Local 10 Building,
231 East 14th Street.

Main Office,
Joint Board,
130 East 25th Street,
(Lexington Ave.)

Local 22 Building,
16 West 21st Street.

Bryant Hall,
725 Sixth Avenue
(Near 42nd St.)

Down Town Office,
Joint Board,
33 Second Avenue,
(Near 2nd St.)

Harlem Office,
Joint Board,
161 East 121st Street.

Brooklyn Office,
Joint Board,
Vienna Hall,
105 Montrose Avenue.

Brownsville Labor Lyceum,
219 Sackman Street.

CUTTERS, SPECIAL ATTENTION!

All members of the Cloak and Dress Divisions are instructed to either renew their old working cards or obtain new ones for the coming season, beginning January 1, 1928.

All members found violating this provision of the constitution will render themselves subject to punishment by the Executive Board.

—Executive Board, Local 10.

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