

"My righteousness 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 unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains."

Vol. VIII. No. 8.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1926

PRICE 3 CENTS

Concert and Group Singing In Harlem

The Educational Department of the Union has arranged a concert and group singing for Saturday evening, February 27th in P. S. 171, 163rd St., between Madison and Fifth Avenues.

In the concert will participate Mme. Dora Boshover, the soprano, and a violinist whose name will be announced later.

Mr. N. L. Saslavsky will lead the singing in which the audience will join.

After the musical program, those who wish can assemble in the gymnasium where there will be social dancing under the direction of Mildred Fox.

No effort is being spared to make this evening a social and artistic success.

Admission free to our members and their families on presentation of a card issued by the Educational Department.

Boston I. L. G. W. U. Locals Prepare For General Strike

Union Negotiates With New England Dress Manufacturers' Association, Massachusetts Manufacturers' Association and Boston Cloak Contractors' Group—Letters Sent to Individual Jobbers and Manufacturers to Negotiate Agreement—Big Meeting of Workers This Thursday.

The organization drive, which has been in progress in Boston for the past several weeks under the direction of Vice-president Julius Hochman, is making excellent headway. A large committee of volunteer organizers is daily distributing circulars, calling shop meetings and making various other attempts to reach the non-union workers in both the cloak and dress trades.

The immediate result of this intensive work has been the addition of a substantial number of members to the local organization.

During last week, Vice-president Hochman forwarded in the name of the Boston Joint Board two letters—one to each cloak jobber not in contractual relations with the Union and another to all non-union manufacturers calling on them to confer with the workers' organization for the purpose of establishing a collective agreement in the trade. These letters fit Wednesday, February 17, and Thursday, February 18.

(Continued on Page 2)

Governor's Commission Calls New Hearings

Parties May Bring Up New Subjects Before Mediators—Sessions Will Take Place on March 7, 8 and 9.

The negotiations in the New York cloak and suit industry which have been pending before the special mediation commission appointed by Governor Smith in the Spring of 1924 to endeavor to reach an amicable settlement between the workers' organizations and the employers are reaching their final stages. The agreement between the New York Joint Board and the various employers associations in the cloak and suit industry of New York expires in the end of June, and, unless a satisfactory agreement, embodying the Union's program of industrial reforms, is reached by that

time, a conflict appears quite unavoidable.

Of the several principal points of that program of demands presented by the Union, only two so far have been granted by the mediators and incorporated in the present agreement—the unemployment insurance fund and the sanitary label. The other demands—a limited number of steady contractors for jobbers, a guaranteed time period of employment, a general raise of the minimum scales and a forty-hour week, still remain to be won.

Last week, on Tuesday, February 9th, the chairman of the Special Commission, Mr. George Gordon Battin, informed Mr. Morris Hillquit, the Union's legal advisor, by letter that several new hearings will soon be held to give the commissioners an opportunity to obtain further advice on the subjects pending before them before they are ready to issue their final recommendations. The letter also informs the Union that the parties may bring up before the Commission new

(Continued on page 3)

Pres. Sigman Congratulates Mine Workers

Shortly after the news of the settlement of the miners' strike became verified, on Saturday last, February 13th, and the details of the strikers' decisive defeat of the compulsory arbitration issue were made public, President Sigman sent the following telegram to John L. Lewis, the president of the United Mine Workers of America:

John L. Lewis, President,
United Mine Workers of America,
1105 Merchants' Bank Bldg.,
Indianapolis, Ind.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, members and officers, rejoice with you and the brave and loyal army of the anthracite mine strikers in this day of your splendid victory. From the first day to its last, this wonderful struggle was waged for the preservation of a great principle and for the vindication of a right which the miners of America held sacred and inviolate. The miners proved equal to the greatest test this colossal conflict had put them to and the organized labor movement of America will forever cherish their valor, grit and unyielding courage.

"MORRIS SIGMAN,
I. L. G. W. U."

Dress Association Abrogates Union Contract

Association's Failure to Order Clerks to Resume Joint Work With Union's Agents Results in Breaking Up of Collective Machinery for Dispute Adjustment—Union Will Sign Individual Contracts With Dress Association Members—Contractors' Refusal to Meet Union Officers in Conference Evidence of Determination to Disrupt Collective Pact—Dress Chairmen in Webster Hall Meeting This Thursday.

The flurry occasioned last week, when the Association of Dress Manufacturers, the body of dress contractors of New York City, withdrew its staff of clerks from cooperating with the staff of business agents of the Dress Division of the Joint Board on visits to shops belonging to the members of this association, has grown in the course of the present week into a real storm which promises some hectic developments, unless the association quickly recedes from its stand and resumes normal relations with the Union.

It will be recalled that this clash grew out from the present widespread drive undertaken by the New York Joint Board to organize the large number of unorganized shops in the dress industry and to restore union conditions in a number of so-called union shops where work standards have become deteriorated and which have gotten out from under the control of the

organization. This campaign has gone on successfully for several weeks, when, without hardly a warning, the Association of Dress Manufacturers served notice on the Union that it would expect the former to notify it

twenty-four hours in advance which jobber the Union intended to strike. The Union flatly refused to concede this demand saying that such an advance notice would practically nullify any move it might undertake against the jobbers. Thereupon the Association ordered its clerks to quit accompanying the agents of the Union on their visits to association member shops.

Union Forwards Warning to Contractors

When this act of the contractors' (Continued on Page 2)

Pres. Sigman Leaves For Philadelphia

Local 50 Forwards Letter to All Non-Union Dress Employers—Drive For Unionized Industry Reaching Climax—Big Meeting This Thursday in Labor Institute.

Events in the campaign undertaken by the Philadelphia dress and waist organization of the I. L. G. W. U. to introduce standard union conditions all through this industry, are moving rapidly. The big organizing committee, headed by Vice-president Elias Reiberg, is on the job day and night, maintaining unbroken contact with all recently organized shops and reaching out daily for new groups of unorganized workers. The response of the

non-union element in the trade has been highly encouraging, and the volunteer organizers feel that the results of their efforts in this drive have so far been fully compensating.

President Morris Sigman left last Tuesday afternoon for Philadelphia, for a second visit in the last two weeks. He will remain in that city until Friday, and will address the big meeting of the dressmakers on Thursday. (Continued on Page 3)

Cloak and Dressmakers, Attention!

Next Monday, February 22nd, is Washington's Birthday, a legal holiday in the cloak and dress industry of New York. No cloak or dress maker is to work on that day. Week workers are to receive full pay for Washington's Birthday.

Committees of the locals affiliated with the Joint Board will patrol the cloak and dress district next Monday all day, and such workers as will be found at work or on their way to work will be brought before the Grievance Board of the Union and fined.

JOINT BOARD OF THE CLOAK AND DRESS
MAKERS' UNIONS OF NEW YORK

LOUIS HYMAN, General Manager

JOSEPH FISH, Secretary-Treasurer

Dress Contractors Obtain Temporary Injunction

(Continued from Page 1)

association became known to the Joint Board, the business agents were ordered to continue their work of controlling the dress association shops without the cooperation of the employers' clerks. At the same time, Julius Portnoy, the acting manager of the Dress Division, sent on February 9 a letter to the Association in which he informed them in unmistakable terms that the Union regarded the action of the contractors as a suspension of the agreement. This letter, among other things, stated the following:

1. For months past we have persistently called on your office to accord us a sufficient number of clerks to accompany our representatives on their visits to shops. We pointed out to you that, owing to the increased organizing activity of the Union, this increase in the number of available clerks is especially needed. You promised to supply such men, but your promise was not kept.

2. You have in the last few months persistently ignored many of the primary provisions of the agreement, notably those concerning the minimum scales and the sending of work by contractors to open shops. We regard this as a deliberate act of interrupting the legitimate and normal workings of the agreement between your Association and our Union.

3. You have now presented to us a new and unprecedented demand that we inform you in advance of every jobber whom we intend to strike. It is obvious that such advance notice forwarded to you would destroy much of the effectiveness of such a strike. Nevertheless, you are making our refusal to concede to this arbitrary demand one of the causes for withdrawing your clerks from accompanying this Union's officers in to the shop.

4. Your refusal to accord us any clerks at all, in effect, means the suspension of the agreement on the part of the Association, and leaves us no alternative but to send our own agents to attend to such grievances and shop complaints as are brought by our members affecting their own interests and the interests of the industry as a whole.

Association Withdraws From Attending Conference With Union

In reply to this letter, the manager of the Dress Manufacturers' Association proposed that the controversy be settled at a conference to be held on Saturday, February 13th, to which the Union consented. But the representatives of the Association failed to appear at the conference claiming that

they would not confer with the Union until the workers' organization would send back to work the employees of the members of their association who, as they alleged, were called out on strike in several shops. The Union denied this allegation, stating that no bona fide union shops had been called out and insisted upon holding the conference at which the long standing grievances between the Union and the contractors' association might be considered in detail and settled.

Union Refuses Ultimatum to Contractors

As the contractors' association still persisted in its obdurate stand, the Joint Board on Monday, February 15, forwarded another letter to the contractors' organization stating that "it was wholly unjustified in imposing any conditions before meeting the Union in conference." The letter further stated that the contractors' association "not only repeatedly violated the terms of the agreement between it and the Union, but has actually suspended the operation of the machinery for the adjustment of disputes contained in the agreement." It warned the association that, unless the Union would hear from them on or before the following day, Tuesday, February 16th, this refusal to confer would be considered by it as an abrogation of the agreement and that the Union would then "take such a course as would best protect the interests of its members in the circumstances."

Union Notifies Jobbers and Contractors That Agreement Between Association Is Abrogated

The next developments following the continued refusal of the contractors to recognize their stand may be summed up as follows:

The Joint Board, immediately after the expiration of the time-limit given the Association of Dress Manufacturers, took steps to notify all the jobbers and contractors in the industry that the contractors' association had broken its relations with it, and that they would therefore be expected now to deal with the Joint Board directly.

A letter was sent by the Wholesale Dress Manufacturers' Association, Inc. the jobbers' group, to see to it that its members arrange to finish up the work in shops of the contractors' association by Friday, February 15th, as the members of the Union would not continue working in these shops after that date. Another letter was sent to the individual contractors who are members of the contractors' association, declaring that this body had refused to meet the Union to discuss the grievances which have arisen between them, and reciting in detail the causes which led up to the abrogation of the agreement by the Association. The Union further informed the con-

tractors that it would be ready to meet with such contractors or sub-manufacturers as would be ready to enter into individual agreements with it, upon giving moderate security, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 18, 19 and 20, adding that each day, the Union would take such action "as may be proper to continue in effect union standards and conditions in unsettled shops."

Union Expects to Sign Up With All Contractors Individually

In the offices of the Joint Board it is confidently expected that the Union would have no difficulty in signing up with the bulk of the trade in a few days and put into operation individual agreements with nearly all the contractors. It is pretty generally known that the high-handed attitude of the officers of the contractors' association in taking the law into their own hands on several occasions in the past few months instead of following out the prescribed course of action in the event of a controversy with the Union, has antagonized against them a great many of the sub-manufacturers. It is also anticipated that nearly all of the jobbers who are in contractual relations with the Union would cease sending work to the members of the contractors' association and would meet the request of the Union as part of the agreement between them.

Big Dress Shop Chairman's Meeting This Thursday

A meeting of all shop chairmen in the dress trade has been ordered by the Joint Board for this Thursday.

Boston Locals Prepare for Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

ruary 18th, as final days for a reply, and, among other things, state:

"We believe that the best interests of the workers, employers and public would be served by the establishment of a collective agreement providing for uniform standards of wages, hours, sanitation, and the establishment of machinery for the adjustment of disputes that may arise from time to time between the workers and employers, thus giving guarantees for continuous peace in the industry.

"At present our Union is actively engaged in forming its plans and suggestions which we intend to submit to you for your kind attention and consideration.

"Our sincere desire is to avoid any disruption or cessation of work, as we feel that a round-table conference should give us the opportunity to tackle the problems before us, and that a common ground should be found for a fair and mutual understanding. We are anxiously looking forward to the possibility of a collective agreement with you through an organization of dress manufacturers; or if this is not possible, we shall be very glad to negotiate with your individually."

Conferences Continue

Two conferences with the New England Dress Manufacturers' Association have already been held, and another conference will be held in the latter part of this week. The Boston Joint Board is represented at these conferences by Vice-president Hochman, Ben Kurland, the chairman of the Board, Vice-president Ray Gorden, Joseph Weiner of Local 12, Philip Kramer of Local 46, Isaac Posen and Sister Rebecca Schwartz.

after work hours, at Webster Hall, 11th street and 3rd Avenue. The meeting is called for the purpose of informing the shop representatives of the recent developments in the controversy with the dress contractors' association and in order to enlist the full cooperation of the chairmen in carrying out the Union's moves in this clash.

Contractors' Association Obtains Temporary Injunction Against Union

That the Association of Dress Manufacturers and its leaders were thrown into a panic by the decision of the Union to deal with them no longer now, that they had abrogated the agreement with it, it evidenced by their precipitate action on Wednesday afternoon, February 17th, when they applied for and obtained from Supreme Court Justice Nathan Bijar an order to show cause why the Joint Board should not be enjoined from "declaring a strike in any of the shops of the Association of Dress Manufacturers," the contractors.

The order is returnable before Supreme Court Justice Joseph M. Proskauer on Friday morning, February 19th. The old Board officers feel confident that they could prove without difficulty to the Court that they were not instrumental in abrogating the agreement between the Union and contractors' association but that it was the association itself which had by its high-handed and illegal manner, and in disregard of every provision of the agreement, suspended it and later abrogated it. This left only one course open for the Union, and that is, to begin dealing with the dress contractors individually.

Sister Sara Hurwitz, one of the active workers in the Boston organization, has been drafted into the present campaign and is now one of the volunteer organizers doing effective work among the women workers.

Big Meeting Thursday, February 18th

A big mass meeting of all the ladies' garment workers in Boston has been arranged for Thursday, February 18, after work hours, at the Seaside Auditorium, at which the conference committee will report to the members of the Boston locals on the state of negotiations with the various employers' groups. The meeting will take place on the final steps to be carried out by the Union in bringing this drive to a head. Letters calling upon all the workers to come to this meeting have been forwarded to every member of the I. L. G. W. U. in Boston. The letter, in part, calls upon the workers to cooperate with the organizers of the Joint Board to make the present drive a success, saying:

"We want that this meeting shall be filled to capacity not only by the men and women in our industries who have already seen the light here and there, but also by workers who at present shying in non-union shops, working under non-union conditions, long hours, cheap wages, who have not yet realized what thorough organization can do for them.

"You are working in a building where there are other shops that are other shops not yet unionized; you are living in a neighborhood where there are workers who are not yet union members. There is no better way to reach these people than through personal contact, and there is no more noble, more just and more appealing than the cause of trade unionism."

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New Hearings Early In March

(Continued from Page 1)

subjects that they might desire to have incorporated in the new contracts. The letter in full follows:

"Dear Mr. Hillquist:-

"As you know, a number of important and difficult problems in the cloak and suit industry are still pending before the Governor's Commission.

"While rather extensive hearings on these problems have already been held, the Commission wishes to have further advice and enlightenment from the parties in interest.

"For this purpose it is planned to hold hearings on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, March 7, 7 and 8.

"It is intended to give the full

afternoon of Saturday to matters relating to effective management and especially to the question of shop reorganization. All day Sunday will be set aside for consideration of the feasibility of establishing guaranteed periods of employment and of the proposed special regulation of sub-manufacturers. On Monday the remaining subjects, such as wage scales, unemployment of examiners, and minimum production costs for the sub-manufacturers will be taken up.

"In case any of the parties wishes to bring up new subjects, the Commission should be informed as far in advance of the hearings as possible.

"Faithfully yours,

"GEO. GORDON BATTLE."

Local 48, Italian Cloakmakers' Union Celebrates Tenth Anniversary at Banquet

The Italian Cloakmakers' Union of New York, Local 48 of the I.L.G.W.U., celebrated last Saturday, February 13, the tenth anniversary of its existence at the banquet in Percoraro's Restaurant, Stillwell and Surf Avenues, Coney Island.

Among the invited guests were the members of the General Executive Board of the International, representatives of all the I. L. G. W. U. locals in New York, representatives of the Labor press, and several leaders of the New York Labor movement. Vice-president Salvatore Ninfo, the manager of Local 48, acted as toastmaster.

Short speeches were made by Secretary Baroff and Vice-presidents Hyman, Dubinsky and Portnoy. The principal addresses of the evening were delivered by President Morris Sigman and Vice-president Laila Antol. The latter made a speech in Italian and English and drew a vivid history of the local and of its accomplishments.

for the Italian cloakmakers and the Italian speaking workers in the other branches of the needle industry. President Sigman was the last speaker of the evening, and he showered praise upon the upland discipline, the indomitable fighting spirit and the endurance of the Italian workers in the women's wear trades, who, though among the last to join the great trade union movement in this industry, have shown themselves to be among the staunchest and best organized divisions in it.

The Italian cloakmakers' local of Cleveland, O., sent a representative to the banquet in the person of Brother Louis La Porta. Several messages of congratulations were received, among these telegrams from the executive board of local 19, from Vice-presidents Charles Kreindler of Cleveland and John J. dislocation in Philadelphia and from Max D. Danish, editor of "Justice".

Pioneer Youth to Meet In Third Annual Conference

Thomas J. Curtis, President of Pioneer Youth and Vice-President of the New York State Federation of Labor, has announced that Pioneer Youth will hold its third annual Labor Conference on Wednesday evening, March 2nd, in the auditorium of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 3 West 16th Street, New York City. Indications are that one hundred local unions and central bodies and at least fifteen international unions will be represented.

It will be the purpose of this Conference to plan establishing children's clubs and summer camps under Pioneer Youth auspices throughout the country. So far, this movement has developed chiefly in the East, and has already reached thousands of children in New York and Philadelphia. Similar organizations are beginning to form in various centers, in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The other signatories of the Conference call, represent sixteen international Labor Unions and Central Bodies. Their names follow: Timothy Healy, Pres. Int'l Bro. Firemen & Oilers; Wm. H. Johnston, Pres. Int'l Assn. of Machinists; Henry H. Linville, Pres.

Teachers' Union; James H. Maurer, Pres. Penn. Federation of Labor; Morris Sigman, Pres. Int'l Ladies' Garment Workers; Maud Swartz, Women's Trade Union League; Jos. Schlossberg, Secy. Amal. Clothing Workers of America; Max Zuckerman, Secy. Cloth, Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers; Geo. Creach, United Textile Workers; Alex Ketsio, Bro. of Carpenters & Joiners; A. J. Miste, Brookwood Labor College; Leon Rouse, Int'l Typographical Union; Philip Umstadter, Printing Pressmen's Union; Philip Zanner, Bro. of Painters, Paperhangers and Decorators.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the workers of Bloom & Co., 624 S. Washington Avenue, Chicago, Ill., express our appreciation of Bro. Samuel Witz for the good work he has achieved for us in this shop.

We have presented to him a gold watch and chain as a token of our esteem at a shop meeting held in the headquarters of the Union.

L. STOKIN,

P. BAUMGARTNER,

J. MOTKE,

Committee

Pres. Sigman In Philadelphia

(Continued from Page 1)

day evening, February 18th, at the Philadelphia Labor Institute, Locust and 8th Streets. President Sigman will also attend several special executive meetings called by Local 50 to consider the immediate steps to be taken by the workers' organization in rounding out the present drive.

Last week, Vice-president Elias Reiberg forwarded on behalf of the dressmakers' organization a letter to all the non-union dress and waist firms of Philadelphia calling upon them to approach the needs of the industry in a conciliatory spirit and to negotiate with the workers individual or collective agreements that would bring uniformity of labor standards and costs through the whole industry. It is expected that a number of these non union firms will reply to the Union within the time-limit set in the letter and will continue to terms with their workers. The letter, in part, follows:

"The workers in the dress and waist industry of our city have come to realize that a change in the unregulated work conditions that prevail in a number of shops is very urgent and that it must take place without delay. There is today no fixed limit to the hours of work in these shops, which employ mostly women workers; there is

no uniform system of earnings and employment, and there is no settled basis of relations between the employers and the workers. Such a haphazard condition of employment naturally leads to unfair competition that benefits neither the employers nor the workers and tends to force down standards in the trade all along the line.

"On behalf of the workers we, therefore, propose a uniform limited-workday for all the shops; the adjustment of pay for piece-workers and for work weeks by agreement between the employers and the representatives of the workers on a uniform basis—fair and equitable to both sides; the recognition of the union, as the agency speaking on behalf of and acting for the workers, and proper provisions for normal adjustment of disputes between employers and workers.

"We hope that you will recognize the justice and reasonableness of our position and that you will signify your willingness to negotiate with us along the indicated lines. We assure you that we want peace in the industry and we will be ready to treat with you individually or collectively in a spirit of absolute fairness."

Broken Bones and Icy Weather

In these days of snow storms, sleet, and ice-covered sidewalks, there is an increase in the number of broken bones, dislocations, and fractures. Workers going to their shops actually endanger their lives by the possibility of falling or slipping on the ice.

A few years ago it was taken as a matter of course that a worker suffering from a fracture or a dislocation of the shoulder should be put into a plaster of paris cast and kept immobile for six and seven weeks. This frequently resulted in a stiffness of the joint which was often permanent and often became incurable. Of course, the worker was unable to work for weeks and often permanently disabled as a result of slipping on the ice! The modern treatment of fractures and dislocations should be known by every worker. A man whose capital consists of a sound body, healthy joints, muscles and bones, cannot afford to have any of these members stiff or useless. Therefore, the modern method is to cut down the period of immobilization of the joint, and start

massaging the affected member to prevent stiffness. This enables the worker to go back to his job within a shorter period of time than was the case previously.

The Union Health Center, 411 East 17th Street, through its Physio-therapeutic Department of which Dr. Wolf is the specialist in charge, is prepared to treat all fractures, dislocations, and broken bones, and give expert electrical treatment and massage. This clinic is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, from 12 to 6:30 P.M.

CONCERT AND GROUP SINGING IN HARTLEM, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, P. M. In P. S. 171, 163rd Street, between Madison and Fifth Aves.

Mme. Boshever, well-known soprano, will sing. Name of violinist will be given next week. Dancing after the concert.

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

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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

A. HAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Acting Editor

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

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EDITORIALS

NEW SUBJECTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Elsewhere in this issue, the reader will find a letter addressed by the chairman of Governor Smith's Special Mediation Commission in the Cloak and Suit Industry of New York, announcing the intention of this Commission to hold several hearings early in March on the subjects pending before it for final adjudication. Among these subjects, the Commission's chairman, Mr. George Gordon Battle, lists the question of limitation of contractors, the guaranteed period of employment, and the upward revision of wage scales, as proposed by the Union, and several demands put forth by the employers' organizations.

The letter, besides this, contains a very significant paragraph concerning the right of either of the parties to bring up before the Commission new subjects, which will be given by it as much attention as to any of the group of demands presented in the early stages of the proceedings. This, beyond doubt, is an important announcement, and will, in all likelihood, be seized upon by the concerned parties in this final stage of negotiations for the presentation of whatever supplementary requests they might be inclined to advance.

At its meeting, early in January, the General Executive Board of the International Union, our readers will recall, suggested to the New York Joint Board that it forward to the Commission a restatement of its demands for the purpose of making clear whatever points there may have remained ambiguous either to the mediators or to the principal factors in the cloak and suit industry that are chiefly concerned with them. The G. E. B. also recommended to the Joint Board that it make an effort to open the way for the presentation of such new demands as might be considered an improvement over the subjects contained in the old program that has been pending before the Commission for the past twenty months.

The last suggestion by the General Executive Board has a sound logical background. During the hectic days of the Philadelphia convention, it is quite pertinent to bring back to mind, the framers of the program of demands now before the Commission had been subjected some to sharp and bitter criticism. They had been charged, in a general way, with not going far enough with their demands and with displaying a too conciliatory attitude towards the employers by accepting arbitration and mediation as a trade union tactic.

The action of the Commission in opening the door wide for the bringing up of new subjects should, therefore, be greeted with genuine satisfaction. This attitude, whether influenced by the suggestion of our General Executive Board or not, will, we hope, give the leaders of the Joint Board the opportunity to so amplify and enlarge our program of industrial demands that it will meet fully and constructively every expectation and hope of the tens of thousands of workers in the cloak and suit industry of New York whose fate and welfare actually depend upon the successful achievement of this program.

THE MINE STRIKE ENDS

The longest and most stubbornly contested mine strike on record is ended. In a few days the anthracite miners will return to the pits and the production and supply of hard coal will soon again become normal.

The fundamental issue which precipitated the strike was not, as some of the capitalist newspapers now claim, a demand for a raise in wages, but the form and manner in which all disputes arising between the organized miners and mine operators should be settled. The operators insisted that any demand presented by the miners or any grievance arbitration by them be adjusted through a process of compulsory arbitration. And the miners, having tasted only recently some of this compulsory arbitration by "impartial" outsiders, determined that they would have no more of it. It was on this crucial issue that the now historic strike has been fought for nearly six months.

The settlement reached between the operators and the United Mine Workers on this subject is unequivocally a victory for the miners. It discards entirely the principle of compulsory arbitration by "impartial" persons, and leaves the settlement of disputes and of "all issues in controversy", in the event direct negotiations between the parties fail to produce an understanding, to a board of

conciliation consisting of two persons, one selected by the miners from a list of three submitted by the operators and the other picked by the operators from a similar list proposed by the miners. This board of two is to arrive at a decision on such subjects in controversy within ninety days after the matter had been placed in their hands, and in the event of failure to reach an agreement they may, bear in mind—may—enlarge the board to an odd number and reach a decision through a majority vote.

If the miners, however, choose not to resort to the enlargement of the board of two conciliators and withdraw the controversy from their hands, they are at liberty to do so and they may revert back to the form of direct negotiations with the operators and seek redress for their grievances or a solution of the controversy in any manner they deem best for their own interest. The element of compulsion, of obligatory arbitration, is therefore clearly and definitely removed from this settlement; and is substituted by voluntary conciliation which is left to the discretion of each party in each controversy or dispute that may arise between them.

The second point at issue, the "check-off" system, was just as stubbornly contested by the operators. It involved principally economy in the collection of dues and a saving to the union of tens of thousands of dollars annually that would be spent in sending around collectors to the far-flung and widely scattered mines, big and small, throughout the anthracite region. The "check-off" system has been in vogue in the anthracite mines for several years past, and now the operators, in order to cause embarrassment to the union, insisted on abolishing it. The settlement refers but vaguely to this point, except to mention that the question of "efficiency and cooperation" are referred to the board of conciliation, exclusive of the umpire, which shall work out such a program of cooperation and efficiency. But while somewhat ambiguous to outsiders, this clause, no doubt, meets fully the demand of the miners' organization on this subject.

On the subject of wages, the agreement instructs the board of conciliation to proceed at once to equalize wages in accordance with the agreement of 1923, and opens the way for the union to demand an upward modification of wages annually, beginning with January 1st, 1927.

Thus while in spots the final settlement between the miners and the operators may appear to some as the result of a compromise, the principal issue of the strike, the issue of compulsory arbitration as against voluntary conciliation, has been won decisively by the strikers. The desperate effort of the mine owners to destroy the United Mine Workers in the anthracite field and to break down its control has failed dismally. The 158,000 miners and their families have suffered want, cold and privation during these long six months of striking, but they remained true and loyal to their organization. Throughout this protracted struggle there never was a day, indeed, when the unity and the loyalty of the miners were in doubt or open to question.

THE FUR STRIKE BEGINS

The general strike of the fur workers in New York City, anticipated for some time past, has begun. Ten thousand workers in this important and growing branch of the needle industry are out of the shops, and will stay out until they return as victors.

The three main demands of the fur workers are equal distribution of work and no discharge of workers, the forty-hour work-week, and unemployment insurance to be paid for by the employers and administered by the union. After weeks of negotiations, the employers' organization, the Associated Fur Manufacturers, last Saturday closed their shops and locked the workers out of the 400 shops controlled by them. The Union replied two days later with a general walkout involving the entire trade.

If ever a general strike in the needle trades was directly provoked and caused by the irreconcilable attitude of a group of organized employers, this strike of the furriers is surely the immediate result of such a yielding and die-hard stand. It is quite generally known in the fur trade and in the needle industry in general that the leaders of the Furriers' Joint Board have, in the interest of peace and in order to avoid a strike in the industry, offered the fur manufacturers' association several compromises with the view of renewing the collective agreement with them. They were willing to forego the demand for equal distribution of work, which involves also the question of the right of discharge, and were ready to effect a compromise on many of their other demands. The uncompromising stand of the fur employers, however, resulted in the order of a lockout, and, subsequently, in the present general strike.

It is hard to foretell how long this paralysis of the fur industry brought on by the stubborn fur employers will last. Fur strikes in the past few years have been hard and protracted battles. But the fur workers are ready for the conflict. They are veteran strikers and they know how to fight for every inch of their ground and how to defend their positions. The ladies' garment workers wish them unqualified and speedy success in this struggle. Certainly, if in the course of this fight, the fur strikers should need the help of their fellow workers in the needle industry, the cloakmakers and the dressmakers will be found ready and willing to assist them in comradely fashion.

Basic Industries in America

X. The Telephone Industry

The great telephone industry in the United States probably comes as close to monopoly as any public service that is not governmentally owned. According to the census in 1922 there were 37,245,000 miles of wire, of which the Bell System owned 82 per cent. There were 21,015 employees, of which the Bell System had 75 per cent. Of the \$352,925,000 paid in salaries and wages, \$299,350,000 or 85 per cent went to the Bell employees, and of the \$684,822,000 of total revenue, \$468,000,000 or 68 per cent went to the combination. It is the only national system, and has local independent competition only in Philadelphia and a few smaller cities. The volume of this competition is shrinking year by year. This great system is a rapid growth, being largely a creation of the last quarter-century. Its total operative revenue in 1924, the last available year, was \$657,588,545.

How is this enormous combination on which now depends the well-being of 232,000 employees, and about 16,000,000 telephone subscribers, organized? There are 16 important operative companies, divided geographically. Each of these is in a measure an independent unit—for operative purposes. Most of their common stock is owned by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, which thus controls the whole system. Another important subsidiary, in the Western Electric Company, which manufactures the telephones and other equipment used, besides selling electrical equipment to outside concerns.

TH A. T. & T., which is capitalized for over a billion dollars, gets its income in three different ways:

1. From long distance, or interstate calls, which the local companies do not handle, except to connect with the long distance operator.
2. From a charge of 4½ per cent on the gross income of all local companies—a charge made ostensibly for the services rendered these companies by the A. T. & T.
3. From dividends on the common stock of subsidiaries which it owns—such as the Western Electric, from which the local telephone companies buy their equipment.

The service which it renders to the local companies consists of research, technical and economic, financing, the supply of certain equipment, and patent rights. The research organization of the Bell System is one of the most thorough and efficient at the disposal of any private business organization in the world. It is said that the experts can forecast with great accuracy the future demand for telephone service and the condition of material markets.

As a public utility, the telephone system is of course subject to public control, but the organization of the system is such that as a matter of fact it escapes regulation to a large extent. Each local company is subject to regulation as to rate charges,

accounting, capitalizing, etc., by a state or municipal commission. Interstate rates on long distance calls are subject to regulation by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Yet a large part of the costs of each local company consists of charges for equipment made by the Western Electric Company and for services by the A. T. & T. The question of whether these charges are fair or not can be decided by the local commissions only on the basis of the profits made by the Western Electric and the parent A. T. & T. The result is that the A. T. & T. is in a position to earn more than a "fair return" on a "fair valuation" of its property, if it can do so and wishes to do so. There is no regulative agency with direct jurisdiction over these matters.

The A. T. & T. has besides paying all interest charges on its bonds, paid 8 per cent on its common stock for years, and since 1922 has paid 5 per cent, and in addition has had aside large surpluses every year. Stockholders have frequently profited also by the right to subscribe to new stock at less than the market price. The company has adopted the policy of distributing its stock as widely as possible to its employees and the public, selling directly rather than through brokers, and offering installment purchase plans. It has about 358,000 common stockholders, of whom 60,000 are employees, and about 600,000 security holders altogether. This distribution of stock it considers a safeguard against demands for public ownership or regulation and against collective bargaining with unions.

The labor policy of the company is distinctly paternalistic and anti-union. It sometimes deals with established unions where they are strong enough to force it to do so, as in the case of linemen or electricians, but it vigorously opposes efforts to organize telephone operators. To these it pays only what it has to pay in order to secure them.

In December, 1924, the average weekly wage of 111,000 employees thruout the United States was \$19.62. The average term of service was 4 years, 3 months. This is low in comparison with wages paid by manufacturing industries except in Southern cotton mills.

Prison Labor As I Know It

By KATE RICHARDS O'HARE

The greatest crime that prison labor for private profit commits against the citizens of this country is that it closes the doors of the prisons to all of the achievements of modern science, and retains the conditions of the Dark Ages. The most generally accepted standards of common decency, physical and mental hygiene, psychiatric and medical treatment are lacking in practically every prison in the country where prison labor contractors rule. They simply will not permit scientifically trained men to enter the prisons to make necessary surveys and do important research work, nor will they permit sane and rational treatment of physically and mentally diseased convicts. They know that only in secrecy and darkness can they exist, for their methods will not stand intelligent study. So they see to it that all intelligence is shut outside the prison walls.

There is nothing in my prison life that I remember with so much loathing as the innumerable methods of handling communicable diseases. The bathing facilities gave me my first introduction to prison horrors. At the time I entered the Missouri State Penitentiary there were but two old, cracked, rusty bath-tubs in the women's department, which we were all forced to use. Naturally among women so largely recruited from the under-world venereal diseases were common. There was no effort to segregate the clean women from the infected, and treatment was given. I found that we were all expected to use the same tub, and I was ordered to use one just vacated by a woman who died shortly after with syphilis. When I protested that it was a social crime to expect me to use the tub without any sort of sterilization, the matron shrieking and cursing told me I would use what was provided, or she would "break me in the hole." I knew she had the power and the temperament to do it—she had "broken" Minnie Eddy a few days before—and Minnie had been carried out in a pine box. I stepped into the bath-room and turned on the tape—but I did not bathe. That night I got a letter out underground telling my husband of

these conditions. He reproduced it and sent it to a thousand influential people. It was published in newspapers and magazines, and a storm of protest was raised all over the country. In less than two weeks we had shower baths.

I was able to rout the common bathtub, but I was never able to prevent the diseased women from handling our food. Every woman in the dining-room was tubercular or syphilitic, and were used in the dining-room because they were too ill to work in the shop. I have seen the food the women were forced to eat handled by women with puss oozing from open sores, and it was a common thing to have our food sprayed with tubercular germs by coughing convicts. The great majority of the women needed hospital care, but absolutely none was provided. There was an empty hospital room, but neither furniture nor equipment. Five hundred dollars intelligently expended would have equipped the room nicely with the divided beds so much demanded by common decency. The women convicts had cafed hundreds of thousands of dollars in the workshop, but not a penny of it had ever been spent to make them physically fit to make their way in the world when they were released.

But we have nothing to do with these degraded creatures, they are nothing to us, you say. But you simply cannot escape responsibility so easily. They are human beings and no one ever did, or ever could, build a wall high enough, or make bars strong enough to break the tie that binds us all together for better or worse. Their lives are what we are. Our ignorance and indifference permit, and they are generous, these convicts. They will return to us all we give—and with usury. It is scientifically true, as well as ethically true, that we are our brother's keeper—but what is more important to us—he is ours. And surely as night follows day, whatever we send into the lives of our brothers will come back into our own.

We dare not forget that the convict can strike back at us as he sends to us through the avenues of commerce. Prison made goods are practically all in surroundings that reek with the vilest diseases known to medical science. The girl who sat next to me in the shop had both syphilis and tuberculosis. There were great open sores on her mouth from which the pus dripped continually, and she coughed and sprayed her work with tubercular germs all the time. She made children's play-suits and she used them to wipe her face. She tossed them in the pile of finished garments. Other women suffered with all sorts of diseases that are bred in poverty, ignorance, and filth.

These filthy and disease laden garments went to great wholesale houses and were labeled with the names of respectable firms, and were then distributed to merchants all over the country. These merchants might have been deceived by false labels, or they might have been willing to sell convict-made goods for the few pennies extra profit. But in either case they were handled by clean salesgirls, purchased by clean American mothers, and put on the bodies of helpless and innocent children.

You do not like to think of that sort of stuff coming into your home do you Mr. Farmer and Mr. Wage Worker? Well, the only way you can be sure that it is not, is by being very sure that every garment that enters your home carries the union label.



THE SPECTRES THAT HAUNT THEM

Step By Step

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

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



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Women and the Labor Movement

By FANNIA M. COHN

(Continued)

Much can be done towards accomplishing that end by stressing the necessity for organization upon individual unions, who in turn may carry the message of trade unionism for women to their constituents. Those, once convinced of its necessity, will furnish an important medium in this work by spreading the thought of unionism to those worker women with whom they come in contact, convincing them that they owe it not only to themselves and to the women who will follow them in the industry, to become organized, but also to their own menfolk, and to the future of their families.

With their realization that the organization of women workers is important for the well-being of their trade unions, and that they cannot retain the standards they have built up after much sacrifice unless the threat of competition on the part of lower paid women workers is obviated—the movement will find in them valuable missionaries. They can be made aware that it is not only in their immediate industry that this applies, for a lowered standard in one industry must necessarily have its pernicious effect on all others.

The work done in this respect by the organized men workers in their country will prove of great value, in that, the organizers of the A. F. of L. regular and voluntary, who can do the most effective work if enlisted in this campaign. They can, for instance, interest the central labor assemblies in the problem, and make it virtually an order of business at their meetings.

But these organizers must possess facts. It may be desirable to do research work in this respect, and prepare special literature that will provide them with the necessary information.

tion—and arguments. This may be prepared as a special manual; and small folders making an appeal to working women in a language that will impress them, may be distributed. Special articles prepared for the labor publications would be of great value. Statements made to the press that will call attention to the conditions of working women would undoubtedly do much in the advancement of their cause.

Of equal importance would be the enlistment of the wives of the trade unionists who have grouped themselves into Ladies' Auxiliaries to various trade unions. Their interest should be aroused for such a campaign, since they come in frequent contact with unorganized working women. Speaking as a group their words will carry greater weight.

Such a campaign should prove of educational value to organized as well as unorganized workers. It would necessarily lead to a change in the attitude of the leaders of some trade unions, who do not deem it advisable to admit women into their organizations. They will begin to realize that, although they may keep women out of their unions, they cannot keep them out of industry.

Indeed, it would probably result in cooperation between men and women. In return, women will bring into the trade unions their human touch, their feminine endurance, and that freshness, earnestness and optimism which mark the entrance of any new group into a social movement. Further, the labor movement will benefit from this organization of women workers through their subsequent bringing into the home the experience and broad understanding gained in the movement, and the transmission of the understanding to the next generation.

Half-Rate Tickets to I.L.G.W.U. Members For Mayo Wadler Concert on March 1st

Mayo Wadler, a violinist of first rank, who in recent years appeared as co-artist on the same program with the late Enrico Caruso, Mme. Louise Tetrazzini and Rosa Raisa, will make his first appearance in New York, where a prolonged absence in Europe, where he played with remarkable success in most of the capitals, at Carnegie Hall, on Monday evening, March 1st.

The name of Mayo Wadler is well-known to N. Y. radical, Socialist and labor audiences, among whom he is remembered for his frequent appearances at recitals and concerts arranged by Labor organizations. Wadler and his managers are anxious that as many of his old-time working class and radical friends as possible attend the recital at Carnegie Hall on March 1st. Arrangements have therefore been made for I.L.G.W.U. members to secure tickets to all sections of the hall at half-rate prices.

Such tickets may be procured by our members from the office of the Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street, 4th floor. Further announcements next week.

COURSE IN THE HISTORY OF THE I. L. G. W. U. BY DR. H. J. CARMAN

The first lesson of Dr. Carman's course on the "History of the I. L. G. W. U." will be given on Tuesday evening, February 27 at 8 o'clock in P. S. 40, 320 East 26th Street.

This course, based on Dr. Levine's "Women's Garment Workers", after briefly contrasting Industrial America of 1860 with that of today, will stress the outstanding features of the history of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The major topics for the four lessons of the course will be:

- "The Background and the Beginning of the American Clothing Industry."
- "Darkness of Revolt."
- "The Promise of Peace and Progress."
- "Recent Changes and the Problems Ahead."

It is for some time that we have been eager to have this course given by a historian in sympathy with the aims of our members, and who, therefore, has a sympathetic approach, and one who also understands their psychology.

Weekly Educational Calendar

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

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

Saturday, February 20

1:30 P. M. B. J. R. Stolper—A Social Study of English Literature—Somerset Maugham.

2:30 P. M. Shop Economics.

Sunday, February 21

11 A. M. A. W. Calhoun—The Place of Workers in Modern Civilization.

Tuesday, February 23

P. S. 40, 320 E. 26th Street

6:15 P. M. Mildred Fox—Physical Training Class.

8:00 P. M. Dr. H. J. Carman—History of the I. L. G. W. U.

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

Wednesday, February 24

6:30 P. M. Alexander Fichandler—The Economic Basis of Modern Civilization

LOCAL 2 CLUB ROOMS

1581 Washington Avenue, Bronx

Sunday, February 21

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

LOCAL 9 BUILDING, 67 LEXINGTON AVENUE

Saturday, February 27

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

P. S. 171, 103rd St. Between Madison and Fifth Aves.

8 P. M. Concert and Group Singing—Prominent Artists will participate. Dancing after the Concert.

RUSSIAN-POLISH BRANCH

Friday, February 19, 8 P. M.

at 315 E. 10th Street

"The Labor Movement in the United States," K. M. Oberuchev, lecturer.

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 163rd St. between Madison and Fifth Aves.

P. S. 43 Brown Place and 125th St., Bronx.

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

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

THE ECONOMIC BASIS OF MODERN CIVILIZATION

Mr. Alexander Fichandler will start a course of four lessons on the "Economic Basis of Modern Civilization." The student of the history of civilization knows that the development of social institutions and ideals has been directed largely by the material conditions under which the human race has lived.

Mr. Fichandler will discuss the natural resources of the United States and how this distinguishes it from other countries. He will also discuss the great production areas of the world, the methods of production employed, their effect on the social, political and economic life of the people and their relations to the Labor movement.

The first lesson will be given on Wednesday, February 24, 6:30 P. M. in the classroom of the I. L. G. W. U. Building, 3 West 16th Street. The class will last one hour only, which will enable our members to keep their evening engagements.

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

PHYSICAL TRAINING CLASS TUESDAY, AT 6:15 P. M.

P. S. 40, 320 E. 26th St., between First and Second Aves.

Our class in physical training meets every Tuesday evening at 6:15 in the Gymnasium of P. S. 40, 320 E. 26th Street. The class is under the direction of Mildred Fox, who is well known to our members. The hour and a half

which our members spend there is divided into three periods, as follows:

1. Physical exercises
2. Basket Ball
3. Social Dancing

Those who join the class are first examined by a competent physician sent by the Educational Department of the Union Health Center. This is done in order to determine how much physical exertion each person can stand.

The central location of P. S. 40 makes it easily accessible to our members, and it is also near the subway and "L" lines.

THE PLACE OF WORKERS IN MODERN CIVILIZATION

This course of five lessons is designed to supplement A. J. Muste's course on "History and the Workers" by showing the situation in which the workers have been placed by the course of economic and social development. Attention will be given to the position of the Workers as Producers, as Consumers, as Citizens, as Climbers and as Insurgent Class. Stress will be placed on the factor that have kept the workers in a position of subordination and on the influences that are tending to develop the independence and selfassertiveness of the working-class in the direction of a new industrial and social system free from class lines. The course provides a comprehensive analysis from the standpoint of psychology, economics, sociology, and politics, and is designed to aid in a realistic grappling with the problems confronting the individual worker and the trade union movement today.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

Following the refusal by the Association of Dress Manufacturers to permit its clerks to accompany the business agents of the Joint Board on the investigation and adjustment of complaints a week ago last Monday, the union proceeded last Tuesday to settle independently with the firms who are members of the association.

Association Refuses to Proceed with Conference

A conference for the purpose of adjusting the controversy was scheduled to take place last Monday, February 15th. However, the union received a communication from the dress contractors' association in which they stated that they will not begin conferences until the shops which have been stopped off by the union would be returned to work first. This, in spite of the fact that it had been previously arranged by both parties that a conference be held Monday.

The union, after receiving this communication, held a conference and decided to send to the dress contractors' association an ultimatum. This declared that if within twenty-four hours, that is, by Tuesday afternoon, the association would still refuse to confer with the union in order to adjust matters in dispute, the union would consider this a final abrogation of the agreement and the jobbers would be notified that all the members of the association who have not settled individually with the union are open shops and that three days' notice would be given to the jobbers in order to withdraw their work.

On Tuesday, at the time of writing, according to the officers of the Joint Board, the union was informed that the attitude of the Association remained unchanged, in spite of the final warning. The Joint Board thereupon began perfecting its machinery for the purpose of maintaining union conditions.

The jobbers were notified of the situation and were told that the union would not be responsible if it would be compelled to stop some of the shops. This means that the jobbers have to notify their contractors of the union's intention to withdraw the workers unless they would sign up independently.

The chairman of the dress shops were at once notified and in response to the notification attended a shop chairman meeting last Thursday. Due to the fact that this copy of "Justice" was in the press at the time of the meeting its details cannot be given here.

This was the situation at the time of writing. Unless between then and the time this copy reaches the hands of the members there is a change in the situation, it means, as matters stand now, that in so far as the Association of Dress Manufacturers is concerned, there are no relations between it and the union.

Clerks Ordered Not to Accompany Business Agents

Following the refusal by the association to give the union the necessary assistance in accordance with the agreement for the unionization of some non-union shops working for union jobbers, the association, after the union proceeded to take action, ordered its clerks not to go out with the business agents on cases.

In line with the purpose of the drive against the open shops the union found that three large jobbing houses, namely, the International Dress Co., the Style Dress Co., and the Jane-Ray Dress Co., were working with a number of open contracting shops.

Since these union jobbers, by giving work to non-union shops, were violating the agreement, the union accordingly proceeded with stopping all of the shops working for the particular jobbers, including the union contractors, in order to force a settlement.

The association, upon being requested by the union to send its representatives in company with the union's business agents for the purpose of stopping the union shops, demanded that the union serve a 24 hours' notice. This, as can be readily seen, would have defeated the union's purpose. It would have permitted the jobbers sufficient time to make such arrangements as would rob the union of the necessary means in order to effect a settlement.

Seek to Place Blame on Union

Whether the refusal by the association to render the necessary aid was an effort to hamper the union in the drive is not important. The point is that the only manner in which the union could accomplish its aim was by taking the steps as provided for in the agreement.

Seeing that the necessary and required aid was not coming from the association for the complete unionization of the open shops of the three jobbers, the union decided upon the only alternative left it—that was to proceed independently.

The shops of the three jobbers were stopped. Those not organized were signed up and those of the non-union shops which refused to settle with the union were compelled to return to the jobber the work that the firm had had on hand. The three jobbers are among the largest in the trade and, combined, employ nearly two hundred contractors.

Governor's Commission to Meet Shortly

In his report at the last meeting of the local, Dubinsky stated in connection with his report that the union would shortly have to prepare itself for the meeting of the Governor's Special Mediation Commission.

The Commission, when it convenes, the manager said, is to hear arguments on questions affecting the renewal of the agreement in the cloak and suit trade. The agreement will expire at the end of the spring season and the Commission is to make its final recommendations.

Already the Industrial Council of the Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association has been called to a meeting by its chairman, according to the report in a local trade paper. The chairman, Henry H. Finder, of the firm of H. H. Finder, caused the members of the council to convene at a meeting a few days ago in the Pennsylvania Building.

The article states that this meeting was called "for the purpose of a preliminary discussion of labor matters." That the employers have met in order to consider this question was by no means a surprise to the union. Dubinsky had pointed out to the mem-

SPECIAL NOTICE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND NOTICE

Registration of the unemployed workers for payment of insurance for the spring season of 1936 started February 1st and will continue during the season.

Every cutter who is unemployed, unattached to any shop, is to register.

The registration of unemployed cutters takes place every Wednesday during the time of their unemployment at the Unemployment Insurance Office at 122 West 18th Street.

bership meeting that preparations would be undertaken. What form the preparations will assume, is a matter for later discussion and will be reported to the members at the meetings as well as in these columns.

Members Endorse Aid to Philadelphia Cutters

The members, will no doubt recall an article in these columns two weeks ago in which was contained a report of the visit by Brother Isidore Nagler to Philadelphia upon invitation of the Philadelphia dress cutters, who sought the aid of Local 10 for the purpose of unionizing cutters and patternmakers in that city.

This visit was the result of the appearance of Samuel Winick, who represents the cutters' division of the Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local 50, before the Executive Board, re question a loan and such other assistance as was within the power of Local 10 to render. Winick had told the Executive Board that the average wage of the patternmakers in Philadelphia is lower than that paid in New York.

In response to his request and appeal the Executive Board, in addition to requesting Brother Nagler to address the Philadelphia men, also recommended to the membership that the Philadelphia dress cutters be extended a loan of five hundred dollars, and that they be granted a contribution of two hundred fifty dollars. This recommendation was presented to the members at the last membership meeting and was unanimously adopted.

A campaign for the unionization of the non-union shops is being planned now in Philadelphia and among the demands presented to the employers in a letter addressed to them the union is seeking to secure a ten per cent increase in wages; a joint board of sanitary control; cash securities and unemployment insurance.

President Morris Sigman was in conference with representatives of the union recently and worked out a plan. In the letter which the union sent out the employers are informed of the impending drive against the open shops and are advised to meet with the union's representatives for the purpose of renewing the agreement.

Ratify the Appointment of Business Agent

At the last membership meeting, among the various recommendations of the Executive Board, there was contained the appointment of Business Agent Jacob Fleischer to the staff of the Dress Department of the Joint Board. With Fleischer's appointment,

the full quota of the staff of business agents for Local 10 as previously set down is now complete.

This appointment was the result of a request by Julius Portnoy, acting manager of the Joint Board's dress department. As the trade became busy and the drive against the open shops was undertaken, the filling of Local 10's quota of business agents in the Joint Board was found to be necessary.

At the present time the two business agents serving the Joint Board's dress department are Fleischer and Fruhling. Fruhling has been assigned to aid in the conduct of the strike against the firm of Maurice Renter. It is now some four weeks since he has been solely taken up with this work.

Report of Dress Complaints and Adjustments

As was reported in these columns in the last issue, Manager Dubinsky had rendered to the members at their last meeting a report on the complaints and adjustments for the cloak and dress departments. Due to lack of space only the cloak report was printed.

Below is given the dress report. In addition to the complaints and adjustments, the office also instituted nearly six hundred visits. These were made by the controllers:

Bosses are cutting—no cutters are employed.

Unfounded—cutters were found working 155

Cutters were placed to work 38

Firms paid fines 28

No work in shops 96

Instructed 10

Withdrawn—lack of evidence 6

Open shops 16

Firms get cut work 5

Out of business 17

Pending 2

TOTAL 358

Bosses are cutting while cutters are out.

In favor of union (firms were instructed) 11

Firms paid fines 5

Unfounded 8

Open shops 2

TOTAL 25

Cutters were discharged.

Reinstated 21

Cutters received compensation in lieu of discharge 4

Cutters left shops 5

TOTAL 29

Dropped members employed.

In favor of union 6

Open shops 4

TOTAL 10

Non-union cutters employed.

Unfounded 19

In favor of union 25

Open shops 8

Firms fined for violations 4

Shop declared on strike 1

Out of business 1

TOTAL 67

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, 1936.

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

—Executive Board, Local 10.