

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."
—Job 27.8

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

Vol. VIII, No. 13.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1926

PRICE 3 CENTS

Final Conference With Philadelphia Dress Employers

Negotiations With Employers to End—Outcome May Mean Collective Pact or Severance of Discussions.

As we go to press, the final meeting between Local 50, the organization of the Philadelphia dress and waistmakers, and the representatives of the dress manufacturers' association of that city is taking place. Upon the result of this concluding conference will depend the decision whether a collective understanding between the workers and this group of employers may be reached or not.

The conference, as the preceding meetings between the dressmakers' union and the manufacturers' group, is taking place in the chambers of Judge Horace Stern of Philadelphia, who has displayed a keen interest in bringing both sides to a mutual agreement from the first day negotiations started. This meeting will be attended on behalf of the Union by President Morris Sigman, Vice-President Elie Reibstein, and a group of executive members of Local 50.

Remaining Boston Shops on Strike Vigorously Picketed

Enraged Employer Assaults Girl Pickets.—Agreement Enforcement Begun.—Joint Board of Sanitary Control to Be Formed at Once.

Though the general strike in Boston has come to an end nearly three weeks ago, the Boston Joint Shop is still carrying on several single shop strikes against a few stubborn employers who refused to come to a settlement with the Union. Among the firms affected are the Liberty Dress Co., Sam Blotcher, Saxo & Stearns, Max Raphael, Belmont, Porter Dress Co., and a few others. The Boston organization is determined to bring these strikes to a successful conclusion.

Angry Boss Strikes Pickets
Especially active on the picket line in front of these shops are the members of Local 12, the pressers' local, who organized a picket committee of two hundred people and are around the shops morning, noon and night. The picket demonstrations conducted during last week have already had good effect. A number of workers in these shops who failed to join the strike when it was first called out, have now stopped from work voluntarily and joined the pickets. This, naturally, irritated some of the bosses, and one of them, Mr. Sam Blotcher, last Wednesday, while the pickets were marching on the sidewalk insulted two of them, Miss Lena Kate, chair-lady of Levine & Friedman, and Celia Cullin. In addition to this he grabbed an umbrella that one of the girls was carrying, broke it and beat her on the shoulder with it, slapping the other girl in the face and calling her vile names.

The Union, through its lawyer, is now taking action against this employer. These assaults upon the pickets

Injunction to Rentner Bros. Denied by Justice Bijur

Decision Regarded as Signal Victory for Strikers.—Fight Against Big Dress Employer to Continue.

Justice Nathan Bijur of the New York Supreme Court refused last week an application for a permanent injunction to Rentner Bros., one of the biggest manufacturing and jobbing firms in the dress trade, against the New York Joint Board. The firm, which employs several hundred workers, has been tied up by a strike for the past several weeks.

The hearing on the plea for a permanent injunction in Justice Bijur's court took place last Friday, March 19. The Union appeared through its attorney, Morris Rothenberg, who vigorously presented the workers' side and affirmed that no violence of any kind had been committed by the workers during this strike and that they were within their legitimate rights as strikers in conducting the fight against this employer. In his decision, Judge Bijur conceded the right of the union

to wage an economic struggle against employers in a peaceful way and the rights of pickets peacefully to persuade workers to abstain from strike-breaking. The Judge also expressed his opinion that a trade union should not be prohibited from striking, by means of injunctions.

Justice Bijur's decision was hailed by the Joint Board at its last meeting as a distinct victory for the strikers and for the Union, and as a substantial step ahead in the fight which the organized labor movement in America is waging against the arbitrary practice of the Judiciary to smother labor strikes by prohibitive writs.

Pres. Sigman Will Answer Questions This Sunday

Second Meeting in Bronx Lyceum

Next Sunday morning, March 28th, President Morris Sigman will be the main speaker at another meeting in Bronx Lyceum, 170th street and 3rd avenue, at which he will answer all questions put to him at the first meeting held two weeks ago, and which he was unable to reply to owing to the lateness of the hour.

Some of the questions President Sigman will answer are as follows:

1) Why was he compelled to leave the post of general manager of the Joint Board several years ago?

2) Why does he regard the retire-

ment of some of the old leaders as a misfortune for the Union?

3) Why does he not admit the existence of two tendencies in the Union—socialistic and communistic?

4) Who is to blame for the present state of affairs in the Union?

5) If both extreme sides cannot be reconciled, what will become of the Union?

6) Is the Joint Board, under communistic leadership being conducted on the basis of the class struggle?

7) Why is the majority of the members of the Union thoroughly indifferent to the whole situation?

8) Why does not President Sigman defend the leaders of the Joint Board against present attacks for mismanagement and inefficiency?

9) Why was not the president elected by a referendum vote?

10) Why was not the membership consolidated last Summer before the executives of the three locals were suspended?

These, and several other questions, President Sigman will answer at the next gathering in the Bronx Lyceum. It is expected that an even larger crowd than what attended the first lecture will come next Sunday, and the public is therefore requested to appear on time.

Commission's Research Bureau Issues Reports on Wages and Unemployment

The Bureau of Research of the Governor's Advisory Commission in the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Industry of New York made public this week two reports, prepared by Morris Kolchin, the Commission's chief statistician. One of these reports deals with Employment and Earnings of Workers during 1925, and the other discusses Wage Scales in 1925. Both abound in tables and charts and represent a substantial amount of independent research and study. The two reports involve two closely connected subjects and should be read together.

According to Prof. Lindsay Rogers, the director of the Bureau of Research, whose letters of transmittal preface both reports, unemployment was greater in 1925 in the cloak trade of New York than in the previous period. Whereas, according to the report of the special investigation, the average number of full weeks of employment per year was 40 for the inside shops and 31½ for the sub-manufacturing shops in 1924, the figures for 1925 are 37.4 and 28.5 respectively. The decrease of employment, has of course, affected the average annual earnings

of the workers. In the sub-manufacturing shops in 1924 the annual earnings were \$1,675; in 1925 they are only \$1,275. In the inside shops the average annual earnings have decreased from \$2,916 to \$1,874.

The study shows again that the most serious difficulties in the cloak and suit industry are in the outside system of production, and that the workers in the jobbing-sub-manufacturer shops suffer vastly greater periods of unemployment than the workers in the inside shops.

White Goods Workers Active In Non-Union Underwear Shops

Local 62 Collects Money in Underwear Shops for Passaic Strikers.

In the last two months, Local 62, the White Goods Workers' Local of New York, has been conducting quiet, though effective, organizing work in the numerous non-union shops in the trade.

The beginning of the spring season in the underwear trade coincided with

the period of agreement renewals with the "independent" employers, such as do not belong to the Cotton Garment Association, the organized group of underwear manufacturers. These agreements were renewed by the local early in February without a hitch, and in

(Continued on Page 2)

In the Cooperative World

The Cooperative Colony in Brooklyn

The Cooperative Colony of Flims in Brooklyn, N. Y. is already well known throughout the country. In addition to a dozen cooperative apartment houses, a cooperative garage and other minor institutions, these people run a large co-operative bakery, restaurant, meat and grocery store and recreation hall. The financial report of the Association which owns these last four types of business shows that the business done for the first half of 1925 amounts to \$175,000, while the total assets of this five-year old cooperative are \$154,000.

These two thousand people have more than \$2,000,000 worth of real estate under the ownership of all their co-operative societies, and other vast resources in addition. Which only goes to show that the workers, even a small group of them, if they are in earnest in not wanting to patronize profit-making business, can accumulate their own business institutions rapidly.

A Cooperative League for the Central States

A new and most significant achievement for the co-operative societies of Illinois and adjoining States is the formation of an educational organization there, to be known as the Central States Co-operative League, affiliated with The Cooperative League (national) as one of its district leagues.

Late in July 26 delegates from all parts of Illinois and from Indiana met in a co-operative conference and discussed the organization of such a federation which should be completely controlled by the co-operative societies themselves. It must be borne in mind that for the past six or seven years the only central co-operative organization in the district has been the Central States Co-operative Wholesale, which was always in poor financial condition, which lost tens of thousands of dollars of the workers' money during the deflation period, and which never had the support necessary to make it a success. The support and control of the wholesale lay chiefly with the labor unions rather than with the co-operative societies.

At this Conference it was finally voted to form a district educational league, and a committee was appointed to draw up plans and to hold a conference with the Directors of the Wholesale. On August 23rd this conference took place, and the Directors of the Wholesale voted to transfer wholesaling and all other activities over to the new organization.

Why We Need Cooperation

Franklin D. Roosevelt recently followed the fortunes of a crate of celery from Norfolk, Va., to the consumer in New York City. What he found was that the producer sold the crate for 40 cents; commission men sold it as follows: No. 1 for 60 cents; No. 2, for 75 cents; No. 3, for 90 cents; No. 4, for \$1.05; No. 5 (in the Bronx), for \$1.25; No. 6, to a buyer for grocery

stores, for \$1.25. Buyer sold it to retail grocery stores for \$1.55. Grocers sold it to "ultimate consumer" for \$2.60. The consumer, then, paid 6½ times as much as the producer received; or the producer got only 15.4 per cent of the final price.

Similarly B. F. Yoakum, former head of the Rock Island lines, found that the farmer received an average of \$16.14 per ton for cabbage for which the consumer paid an average of from \$40 to \$75 per ton; that the farmer received an average of \$51.79 per ton for tomatoes for which the consumer paid an average of \$100 per ton; that the farmer received an average of 8½ cents for a watermelon which cost the consumer anywhere from 50 cents to \$1.50.

Cooperative Phones Versus The Bell System

Some of the farmers out in Nebraska are losing patience with the continual rise in the costs of telephone service. The following resolution adopted by the Farmers' Union of Merrick County at its Quarterly Meeting in September, is symptomatic of the sentiment of thousands of farmers:

"Whereas, The Bell Telephone Co. has received permission from the courts to raise the rates, and has done so when the same seemed to patrons of said telephone company to be as high as should reasonably be asked; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Farmers' Union of Merrick County, Nebraska, at this our quarterly meeting held September 14, 1925, do instruct our legislative committee men from Merrick County to advocate a rural county telephone system, and bring the same before the state convention proper, to be discussed in the open."

Meanwhile there are scores of co-operative telephone lines already being operated in other parts of Nebraska and adjoining states. The Bell interests do not have everything their own way in the rural districts as they have in the cities.

Nova Scotia Miners Flock to the Cooperative

The miners of Nova Scotia have been through a devastating strike for many months in the early part of 1925. Now that the strike is over, their British Canadian Cooperative Society shows an increase of 572 in its membership.

This society is the largest on the American continent, and rendered valiant service to the strikers during their time of need. The sales for the first three months since the strike ended have been \$322,928, on which the Directors have declared a patronage rebate of 7 per cent. All of which goes to show that the right kind of a cooperative society flourishes on adversity, for adversity educates the workers to an appreciation of co-operation.

Statement by Executive Board of Waterproof Garment Workers' Union, Local 20

Puritan Raincoat Company Locks Out Its Workers and Sends Out Cut Garments to Amalgamated Shops

The Puritan Raincoat Company of New York, which has had an agreement with our local for the last twelve years, has made more than an attempt during that long period to escape the control of our union and to break contractual relations with us. Being an "inside" firm, the Puritan Company has sought, on many occasions in the past, to send out work to outside units in order to lower work standards in their inside shop. They, however, never succeeded in that, and our local invariably managed to control the shop fully.

About nine weeks ago, there occurred a dispute between the firm and its workers over the question of a foreman whom the company intended to engage. This person, a former manager of our local, who has since been a foreman in another raincoat shop, where he has brutally mistreated the workers, was, naturally, very much disliked by our members, and they protested against the action of the firm for having appointed him as foreman by refusing to go up to work. (It must be observed that this happened during the slack period and the workers did not then have any work anyway.) The local, after some negotiations with the firm, having concluded that such a step on the part of the workers was too precipitate, notified the workers by letter to report back to work on January 11th, so as to give the union an opportunity to find out how this new foreman would behave towards the men in the shop.

When the workers, however, in following out the order of the Union, reported to work, they found the doors of the shop closed, and learned subsequently that the machines in the shop had been dismantled and that they had been locked out. It appeared that this was the main object of the firm, which it achieved through the use of engaging this new foreman.

This situation, naturally, compelled the local to call a strike in this place. The firm immediately began to terrorize and, with the aid of the police, to harass our pickets. Their tactics, however, proved futile and our pickets stuck to their posts. We soon learned there the firm was making up its work in some outside shops and stopped these places. The prospects for a successful settlement of this dispute were bright, indeed, if not for the following untoward development which shortly took place.

We discovered that the firm was making up its work in an Amalgamated shop and got immediately in touch with their Joint Board, hoping that it would not, when informed about it, permit the workers to do work for a strike-bound shop. Regrettably, however, their attitude disappointed us very much. They informed us that the Puritan firm had joined the Clothiers' Association a few days prior to that, and that they could not, on that account, stop work of that subsidiary shop. Under their agreement, they in-

formed us, they were even obliged to send cutters to the Puritan firm. To sent up to the Puritan cutting rooms, and they have been working there since. The Amalgamated Joint Board officers promised us, however, to bring this case before the Imperial chairman in the Clothing Industry and that they would lodge a complaint that the Puritan firm had broken its agreement with Local No. 20 prior to its joining the Clothiers' Association, and that its affiliation with that association is not bona fide and should, therefore, be rejected.

We on our part, expected nothing from this Imperial chairman, and we cannot be bound by his decision. Not desiring to provoke a dispute with a sister union, we, however, decided to wait, having accepted their assurance that they would do all they could to obtain a favorable decision for our strikers. The case was postponed several times, until finally this Imperial chairman rendered a decision to the effect that the Amalgamated could not prevent the Puritan firm, against which we had been on strike for weeks, to make up its work in Amalgamated shops, after the Puritan firm had become a member of the Clothiers' Association.

Such is the situation, of course, will not give up this strike, and shall fight it to the end, no matter where the work of this firm is being made up, in Amalgamated shops or elsewhere. Our hope is that the Amalgamated will finally see its error and will adopt towards us a true trade union attitude.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 20

David Gingseld, Manager
Abraham Weingart, Secretary.

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JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office: 2 West 14th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2143

MORRIS SIGMAN, President A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer
MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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EDITORIALS

ORGANIZING METHODS: OLD AND NEW

Of all the problems facing today our International Union—and its principal subdivisions—the organizing problem is by far the most perplexing one. This may sound strange if not amazing in view of the fact that our Organization has been in existence for over twenty-five years and has during this entire period continually engaged in organizing activity. It nevertheless remains a fact, an irrefutable reality that may only be explained in the light of our industry's history, its changing work personnel, and the steady growth and springing up of new producing markets in widely scattered areas all over the country.

The readers of our own press, and of the general labor press, have for years, day in and out, every week and every month, been told of this and that organizing "drive" or "campaign" undertaken by us in this or that market, campaigns that have terminated in what is generally styled as a greater or smaller degree of "success". These drives at times involved strikes, considerable expenditure of money, and in all instances meant a great amount of effort and the burning up of a huge store of energy. There had been campaigns among the cloak and dressmakers of Montreal, Toronto, Baltimore, drives among the dressmakers, children's dressmakers, white goods workers, cloakmakers, miscellaneous trades' workers in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other small markets—recurring almost annually on a larger or smaller scale. These drives, no doubt, have resulted in some increase in strength for this or that of our local organizations during the time they lasted or for a short time after they had been concluded. But it is by this time practically certain that these drives have achieved their main purpose—the permanent affiliation of the unorganized groups with our Union and have not won their steady loyalty that would endure opposition and antagonistic pressure within and outside the shop.

Clearly, there is something essentially wrong with our organizing tactics, with our methods of approach of the unorganized elements in our industry. Our readers will recall, no doubt, that this subject of organizing methods was presented in a brief, though clear and concise form, to our last convention in Philadelphia in the report of the General Officers. Unfortunately, in the welter of passions which smothered the Philadelphia convention for seven long days, time was not found to give this all-important matter the careful and thoroughgoing analysis it fully merited. True, the recommendations suggested by the outgoing General Executive Board had been adopted together with their whole report by the convention, but this adoption, without a sound preliminary discussion of the subject, amounted to no more than a perfunctory and therefore futile gesture.

We may dismiss from the outset the suggestion that this failure to arouse the proper response among the unorganized workers is attributable specifically to either "right" or "left" tactics in our Union. At any rate it is quite clear that the "left" leadership in some of our recent drives has been just as unsuccessful, if not more so, in eliciting sympathetic response from the non-union workers as drives of a similar nature have been in the past. We have in mind the just concluded eight-weeks campaign in the New York dress trade, conducted along the old, familiar "hip-hip-burrah" lines. This well-advertised organizing drive, which probably had cost the Union as much as any drive on the same scale in former years, could not be claimed, even by a friendly optimist, to have been a gratifying achievement productive of lasting results. Certainly, neither its methods nor its results could convince us that a mere change of administration in this or that local or sub-division is sufficient to overcome the indifference and apathy of the masses of workers who still remain outside the fold of our Organization.

In discussing this subject, it seems to us, we must bear in mind a few outstanding facts concerning which there can be no difference of opinion and upon which we may all agree without regard to variety of viewpoint on all other organizational matters.

It must be conceded that the ladies' garment industry, as a whole is fast becoming a woman worker's trade. The phenomenal growth of the dressmaking trade, which is today admittedly our biggest single trade, is contributing largely to this change. More, the huge dress industry, while still principally situated in New York City, is growing with astonishing rapidity not only in this market and in other older markets, such as Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Montreal and Toronto, but in numerous communities, big

and small, all over the country. It is a well-known fact that in practically every sizable city in the Middle West, where factory-scale dressmaking was unknown until a few years ago, today there are in operation regularly organized dress shops employing hundreds upon hundreds of women workers.

Another fact that should not be overlooked is that, with the practical stoppage of immigration from the countries that used to supply the needle trades with workers, and with the older working element being slowly though surely eliminated through normal mortality and other causes, our shops, particularly in the dress, waist and allied branches, are rapidly filling up with workers of a different type and of a different mental cast. The place of the Jewish-speaking, or Italian speaking dressmakers, and to some extent cloakmakers, is fast being taken by either native or "Americanized" men and women not only in the Middle West garment centers removed from the Eastern seaboard, but even in New York City, where the majority of the women workers in the dress, children's trade, white goods, private dressmaking, corset and embroidery trades are of a type that could be rightly classed as of the new human material that is invading the workshops of our industry.

Added to these, we have also large sections of workers in such cities as Montreal and Los Angeles who speak either French or Spanish and who are the predominant element in the local dress trades, without whom the Union cannot hope to exercise a controlling influence on work conditions in the local markets.

In short, it is quite obvious that our organizing problem is fast becoming a problem of organizing the women workers in the women's wear industry, a problem that is as complex as it is wide in its ramifications. In former days, the spontaneous strike used to be regarded as the sole and most effective means for recruiting workers into our trade unions. Indeed, the history of our Organization is replete with striking proof of the effectiveness of this method. The waist and dressmakers' organization in New York had been built up, from a mere handful of loyal trade unionists, as a result of the great strike of 1909, into a large and influential body. The New York Cloakmakers' Union, until 1910, a small and unimportant group of workers, has come into its strength as the result of the big struggle of that year. And in the minds of a great many the strike, and only the strike, has come to be fixed as the one and inescapable method for organizing workers.

In the light of present-day experience it is, however, becoming more and more apparent that this theory and practice—does not and cannot remain applicable to all situations. For the spontaneous strike, or the strike called out after short and intensive agitation, to be a success there must be, first of all, present among the unorganized workers of the affected trade or locality a fighting readiness to join in the struggle the moment the signal is given. There must also exist exceptionally bad work conditions, coupled with a policy of oppression that in itself is capable of creating a spontaneous response to the call of the Union and to bring them within its ranks.

We must close our eyes to the fact that this spirit of readiness to join en masse the organization, or to lend an eager ear to its message, does not exist not only among the large and growing element of ladies' garment workers in the West, Canada and Middle West, but even in New York City among the tens of thousands of unorganized dress, children's dress, white goods and other workers on the newer type above referred to. It must also be admitted that while the present-day non-union employer is still exploiting his workers as unscrupulously as before, while he is still working them longer hours and is paying them smaller wages, he is nevertheless operating his game far more intelligently than in the past, and is succeeding, to a considerable extent, in bribing his workers away from the Union by small concessions and by adopting the attitude of a benefactor towards them, an attitude that works to his advantage not only in the small towns, where his shop is the important source of occupation for several hundred women workers in the community, but in New York City and other big centers as well.

On this subject, the observations presented to the Philadelphia convention by the late General Executive Board, contain, in our estimation, a number of highly valuable suggestions. The central idea of these suggestions is that the entire organizing activity must be based on the basis of far-reaching educational work, the work of shop penetration. In other words, we must undertake a nationwide educational campaign, laid out along flexible lines in the organized, half-organized and unorganized areas that would have as its main purpose the reaching of the great masses of non-union workers in our trades, whose psychology and general environment are materially different from those in which most of our organized workers have found themselves and still find themselves in to this day. This organizing work, the details of which are outlined in that report, is to conduct the organizing district, principally by groups of volunteer workers, in the real and best sense of the term, and such a system of organizing activity would have the wholesome effect of attracting into this work a large number of active trade unionists who would be each contributing to the best of their ability to the most important task our Union is facing at present, and who would be thus made to feel that they are the actual force of progress in the organization and that they are responsible for its advancement and growth.

The plan also provides a number of sound suggestions for penetration work in the non-union shops that deserve close study and consideration. In a nutshell, the problem facing the Union today in the non-union fields is one of steady, incessant mass education, designed to stir a healthy, rational and wholesome

Basic Industries in America

XL

The Paper Industry

Paper is made chiefly from wood-pulp, though other materials are also used such as rags, straw, waste paper and others of various kinds. The process is carried out almost entirely by automatic machines of large size, for which power is the main necessity. This leads to the location of paper manufacture near forests and also, if possible, near streams which furnish either direct water-power or hydro-electric power. As forests are eaten away, the paper mills gradually follow them.

Extent of Industry

The importance of the industry has grown rapidly with the increasing tendency of modern business to resort to advertising. This increases the circulation and size of newspapers and magazines, and leads to the use of pamphlets and circulars in large quantities. According to the census of 1923, there were 746 establishments in the United States, with 64 proprietors and firm members, employing 122,000 people. The value of the product was \$967,000,000, the cost of materials \$573,727,000. The mills paid \$189,563,000 in salaries and wages and had about \$144,000,000 left for overhead, rent, interest and profit.

Owing to the fact that the available forests in the United States are gradually disappearing, the industry has recently made much more rapid strides in Canada than on this side of the line. In 1920, the United States mills turned out 1,511,968 tons of newspaper paper and the Canadian mills 575,170 tons or not much more than half as much. Every year since then, up to 1925, the United States mills turned out less than in 1920, while the Canadian turned out more. In 1925, the year of largest production on record, United States mills produced 1,520,218 tons, and Canadian mills 1,522,217. Many new expansions have been made in Canada, so that it is probable that she will pass us in 1926 and will gradually draw away after that.

Its Characteristics

Paper manufacturing is now chiefly an affair of large units: concentration both of producing and financial control has proceeded rapidly. As previously stated, there were in the United States in 1923 only about 64 proprietors and firm members. Mills producing annually a product with \$1,000,000 and over had 78 per cent of the wage-earners and turned out 50 per cent of the output as measured by value. Less than 1 per cent was produced by mills with an annual output below \$100,000 per year.

Boards form the most important product in the United States, both by tonnage and value, these being 2,792,000 and \$182,867,000 respectively.

response among those whom we intend to reach with our message and who are gradually bound to become interested in our great aims and ideals if we only approach them properly and from the right angle, their own angle.

This mass education plus organization is slow uphill labor. But it is the only kind of work that may produce, at this stage of the development of our industry and our Union, the best returns. It may be a less spectacular method than the one employed in the past, but as far as we can see, it is today the only practical method. It is evident that the strike must follow the upbuilding of a strong sentiment for the Union, and not to be relied upon as the only speculative means for building up an organization.

Sure enough, we have only scratched the surface in the discussion of this very interesting subject. We expect to return to it in an early issue. For the moment we should like to conclude in the words of that report that it is certainly "better and safer to gather an army, even though by tedious and slow recruiting before opening fire than attempting a grand rush without reserves and falling before the aim is reached."

Newspaper comes next and book paper—which includes not merely that used for books, but also for magazines and miscellaneous printed matter—is a close third, the figures for 1923 being 1,521,000 tons and 1,297,927 tons respectively. Book paper, however, brings a higher price, and its value was therefore above newspaper, being worth \$160,285,000 as against \$110,864,000 for newspaper. Next in order follows wrapping paper, with 1,026,000 tons worth \$120,762,000, fine paper for writing and similar purposes with 377,000 tons worth \$39,095,000, and, far in the rear, tissue, bag paper, wall paper, poster, cover,

Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania are close together, Massachusetts leads all other states in fine paper. In boards, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, New Jersey, Wisconsin and Connecticut all figure. The reason board manufacture is more widely distributed is that boards are not made chiefly from wood-pulp taken directly from forests, but from by-products of other industries, such as chips, straw, waste paper, etc.

The importance of water power for the industry is seen in the fact that in 1923 the steam engines in the United States generated 502,878 horse-power. In addition electric motors drive



FINDING THE LIGHT

—American Federationist

and tag stock. In Canada newspaper is by far the most important product.

Location in United States

Taking all products together, and judging the extent of the industry by the number of wage-earners per state, we find that New York is first with 17,772, Wisconsin second with 12,769, Massachusetts third with 13,324, Maine fourth with 12,465, Pennsylvania fifth with 4,761. Together these states have almost 75 per cent of the total paper workers of the country.

In newspaper, New York leads and Maine follows closely. In book paper,

on by purchased current, much of which is hydro-electric, accounted for 357,064 horse-power. If the figures for Canada were included, water power would be seen to be even more important.

Prosperity

The paper companies have been on the whole very prosperous, with the exception of the depression years of 1921 and 1922. Demand for paper has grown so rapidly that expansion has barely been able to keep up with it in the past few years. Although prices have been falling, capacity operation and better technical processes have so reduced costs that profits have been little affected. It is believed now, however, that there is a danger of over-expansion in Canada.

In addition to using newspaper made in the United States and Canada, the domestic market began in 1920 to import from overseas. European imports reached a maximum of 298,000 tons in 1923 and have since been falling. Newfoundland is now furnishing a new source of supply. The chief European exporters are Sweden, Norway, Finland and Germany.

Labor Conditions

Paper and wood pulp workers are partly organized in two unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Average weekly earnings for the industry are, according to the

The Sweep Toward Industrial Democracy

A Review of "What Is Industrial Democracy?" by Norman Thomas (N. Y. League for Industrial Democracy, 15 cents)

By HARRY W. LAIDLER

At the Portland Convention of the American Federation of Labor, the organized workers of the country within the A. F. of L. recorded themselves unanimously in favor of the principle of industrial democracy, and opposed to a system of industry run "exclusively or fundamentally for profit." This position was overwhelmingly endorsed at the El Paso Convention.

The struggle of American people in the past has been largely a struggle for political democracy. The struggle of the future, in America and abroad, as the action of the A. F. of L. partly indicates, will be largely one against the autocracy of industry and in behalf of greater participation by the workers both in the ownership and in the control of the great industries of the country.

In that great struggle the organized workers of the country are bound to take a leading part. Just what they are at present accomplishing toward that end, and what they bid fair to achieve in the future in this important fight, is vividly presented by Norman Thomas in his concise volume "What Is Industrial Democracy?" just published. (N. Y. League for Industrial Democracy, 70 Fifth Ave., 1925, 60 pages, 15 cents a copy; \$1.00 for 10 copies.)

The volume begins by a statement of the case. "Democracy means," says Mr. Thomas, "in Lincoln's phrase, government of the people, by the people, and for the people; and industrial democracy is the application of this same idea to our economic life."

The present economic order falls to live up to this ideal of democracy. (1) It lodges control in owners who are in great numbers absentee. (2) It is organized primarily for profit and not for service.

"While the new social order must be a growth," the author concludes, "it must be based on great and truly revolutionary conceptions of human freedom and fellowship. For while men must have bread, bread alone will not feed the hunger for beauty and freedom and fellowship and truth. In the quest of these things is the joy of comradeship and the satisfaction of the deepest impulses in men."

This short volume combines the art of the skilled writer, the keen insight of the social scientist, and the vision of the social prophet. It should be in the hands of all those interested in the struggle of mankind for a nobler destiny.

National Industrial Conference Board, in the neighborhood of \$26,000 and are a little over double the 1915 scale, though considerably less than in 1925, when they averaged about \$30.60. There is some seasonal fluctuation of employment, but not as much as in many other industries. Most of the changes in employment seem to be due to business conditions. The eight-hour day has made much headway in recent years.

It is noteworthy that the first experiment in union-management cooperation for better production was made in the paper industry, in the mills of the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Company, which has become one of the largest and most prosperous concerns in the business. Union organization and good will has become a definite asset to this company as well as being of benefit to the members.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Human Factor Stressed at Brookwood Conference on Workers Education

By A. J. MUSTE

Chairman of Faculty, Brookwood Labor College

Is a trade unionist a human being—a family man perhaps, a baseball fan, a lover of music whether high-brow or jazz, a dance or movie fiend, a worshipper of some God or ideal, with his liver working well and sometimes "not so good"—or is he just a trade unionist? That is one of the questions that bothered the teachers in workers' education who met in annual conference at Brookwood recently.

In other words, if your union organization, whether it be an international, a state or city federation, a district council, or a local, wants to start some workers' classes, shall it start out by saying "Our members are trade unionists. Teach them the stuff that will enable them to get more wages, shorter hours, better conditions; the stuff that will show them how to run a strike, how to meet the boss; the stuff (if yours is a "radical" organization) that will show them how to establish a better social order in which only those who work shall eat!"

Or shall your union start out by saying: "Our people are trade unionists, but that's only a very small part of their life. They need amusement, recreation, culture, the things that will make them healthy, happy human beings quite as much as they need economics and labor problems."

Not Agreed

The teachers did not arrive at any answer that all of them could agree on. But some of them would say that both the positions referred to above are right and both are wrong, which sounds like passing the buck, but isn't quite so crazy as it sounds.

Sound policy in workers' education in this country requires that we always start with the union and make that central in our planning. The basic fact about a worker is just that he is a worker. He works for wages for somebody else who owns the tools and the capital, and who lays him off when he can't use him.

All the workers' human relations depend on that fact. It determines the kind of food we eat, the houses we live in, the clothes our children wear and the schools they go to, the neighbor-

hood in which we live, the amusements we get, the churches we go to, the books and papers we read.

Therefore, by far the most important fact about the trade unionist is his union and other labor organizations. It is only by their organized effort that the workers as a whole can change their conditions and get their chance to be freely and fully human.

Starting some classes, organizing some clubs, etc., in order that so many individual workers may get some fun or some "culture" is starting at the wrong end. God knows they are entitled to it, the same as a man who has typhoid fever is entitled to medical attention. What the thing that helps society is to kill off the mosquitos and keep the water supply pure so that folks don't get typhoid. Just so, no matter how much we may do to make life more "human" for individual workers, life for the mass of workers will remain at best a stunted, miserable thing until by their organized effort the workers change the basic conditions of life for themselves. The mind of workers' education must ever be centered on the union and the workers as members of it.

No Puppets

But for all that we shall get severely bumped in the nose if we think this is quite the whole story. Workers' education will not succeed in making trade union puppets or revolutionary puppets out of workers any more than the boss has ever quite succeeded in making mere puppets or automatons or "hands" out of them. Once we have made sure that our starting point and foundation are right, we shall do well to try to meet in our workers' education schemes all the recreational, cultural, spiritual needs of the workers and their families.

We shall have to do it as churches or fraternal orders do it, in order to hold our members.

Doubtless also many a worker will be a better trade unionist, a more efficient worker for a new order, because some of his thirst for companionship or fun or beauty has been satisfied; or because he has learned how to keep from getting lead poisoning and from having his liver go back on him.

I. L. G. W. U. MEMBERS CAN OBTAIN "THE WOMEN'S GARMENT WORKERS," DR. LOUIS LEVINE'S HISTORY OF OUR INTERNATIONAL, AT REDUCED PRICES

Max Levine in his course "The Economics of the Ladies' Garment Industry" recommends Dr. Louis Levine's "Women's Garment Workers" as a text-book for the class.

The price of the book is \$5.00. Our members may obtain it for \$2.50.

Those who read this book will understand better not only the development of their union, but also the social and economic forces which helped to mould their organization and make it what it is.

THEATRE TICKETS AT REDUCED PRICES FOR OUR MEMBERS

August Strindberg's "Easter" and Joseph Conrad's "One Day More" at the Princess Theatre

Through arrangement with the Educational Department, members of the I. L. G. W. U. may now see the new production of The Stagers at reduced rates.

They are giving a double bill consisting of August Strindberg's "Eas-

ter" and Joseph Conrad's "One Day More". Both are fine plays and very well acted.

Passes entitling our members to reduced rates may be obtained at the office of the Educational Department, 2 West 16th Street.

Weekly Educational Calendar

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

Washington Irving High School, Irving Place and 16th Street, Room 539

Saturday, March 27

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

Sunday, March 28

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

P. S. 40, 320 E. 20th Street

Tuesday, March 30

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

Tuesday, March 30

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

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

Wednesday, March 31

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

P. S. 61, BRONX

Charlotte St. and Crotona Pk. E.

Saturday, April 3

7:30 P. M. CONCERT AND GROUP SINGING—Prominent artists will participate. Dancing after the concert. Admission free to I. L. G. W. U. members.

BRONX CONCERT AND GROUP SINGING SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 3rd

All arrangements have been completed for the Concert and Group Singing arranged by our Educational Department in the Bronx in P. S. 61, Charlotte St. and Crotona Park East, on Saturday, April 3rd, 7:30 P. M.

A specially selected program consisting of Russian, Yiddish, English folksongs and opera arias. The artists who are participating are well known

to our members. They are Mme. Dora Bosher, soprano, David Segal, violinist and N. I. Saksavsky, baritone and leader of the group singing.

Our members and their families are invited to come to this affair and spend an enjoyable evening.

Admission will be by tickets which will be distributed free at the Educational Department, 2 West 16th St.

PHYSICAL TRAINING CLASS WILL BE CLOSED TUESDAY, APRIL 6

Our Physical Training Class at P. S. 40, 320 East 20th Street, will meet this Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 p. m. as usual. Mildred Fox will direct the class in physical exercise, basket ball, and social dancing.

At 7:30 the same evening in Room 402 of P. S. 40, Max Levin will continue his course on "The Economics of the Ladies' Garment Industry."

On Tuesday, April 6, however, these classes will be closed, as this comes out during Easter week, when all school buildings are closed for cleaning and repairs.

The classes will be resumed on April 12. Admission is free to I. L. G. W. U. members.

HIKES

Our Educational Department is planning Sunday hikes for our members. These will be arranged as soon as the weather grows milder. They will be in charge of an expert leader.

Those who wish to join should apply to the Educational Department, in person or through correspondence.

LECTURES AT THE WORKERS UNIVERSITY THIS WEEK

Mr. Stolper will continue his course on "A Social Study of English Literature" in Washington Irving High School this Saturday, March 27, 1:30 p. m.

At 11 a. m. on Sunday, March 28, A. W. Calhoun will continue his course on "The Place of Workers in Modern Civilization."

On Wednesday, March 31, Mr. Fichandler will conduct his class at the I. L. G. W. U. Building from 6:30 p. m. to 7:30. The course is "The Economic Basis of Modern Civilization."

LECTURES IN HARLEM FOR WIVES OF MEMBERS TUESDAY, APRIL 13

We are planning to give the first of a series of discussions for the wives of I. L. G. W. U. members on Tuesday, April 13, 8 p. m., in the Clockmakers Center, 73 East 104th Street.

Various problems of interest will be taken up. Details will be announced later. We would request the husbands to stay at home with the children on this evening and enable the women to attend this lecture.

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With the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board

By JOSEPH FISH,
Secretary-Treasurer.

A meeting of the Joint Board was held on Friday, March 19, 1926 at the Auditorium of the International, 3 W. 16th Street.

Committees:

A committee of the striking matchmakers requests the Joint Board to purchase tickets for a benefit they have arranged to raise funds with which to continue their strike.

It is decided to purchase \$50 worth of tickets.

Communications:

Local No. 2 has approved the minutes of the Joint Board of March 5th, with the exception of the question pertaining to the trustees of the \$20 Assessment Fund. Their Executive Board, after considering the recommendation of the Board of Directors that 4 of the 7 trustees be the authorized signatories for the withdrawal of monies from this Fund. They believe that the decision of the Joint Board will hamper the workings of the Fund.

Local No. 9 has adopted the minutes of the Joint Board of March 5th and 12th, with the exception of the decision that the 7 trustees of the Assessment Fund sign checks for the withdrawal of the money from this Fund. This, they contend, will complicate matters, and they therefore approve the recommendation of the Board of Directors that 4 of the 7 trustees be authorized to draw money from this Fund.

Local No. 23 has approved the report of the Board of Directors of March 3rd and the minutes of the Joint Board of March 5th, with the exception of the decision which requires the 7 trustees to draw money from the \$20 Assessment Fund, which they deem impractical. The Executive Board approved the recommendation of the Board of Directors that 4 of the 7 trustees be authorized to draw money from this Fund.

Local No. 35 has approved the reports of the Board of Directors of February 25th and March 2nd and the minutes of the Joint Board of February 26th, March 5th and 12th, with the exception of the decision that the 7 trustees be the authorized signatories for the Fund. Their Executive Board, realizing the difficulties and inconvenience which such a procedure would involve, therefore approves the original recommendation of the Board of Directors that 4 of the 7 trustees be sufficient for this purpose.

Local No. 45 has adopted the reports of the Board of Directors of March 3rd and 10th and the minutes of the Joint Board of March 5th and 12th. The Local congratulates the Joint Board upon its decision to celebrate the 1st of May together with the entire labor movement.

Local No. 82 has approved the reports of the Board of Directors of February 19th, 24th, March 3rd and 10th, and the minutes of the Joint Board of February 19th, 26th, March 5th and 12th. Their Executive Board has approved the original recommendation of the Board of Directors that 4 of the 7 trustees be authorized to sign checks for the withdrawal of monies from this Fund.

A majority vote of the locals having rejected the decision of the Joint Board regarding the signatories for the Fund, the recommendation of the Board of Directors, that 4 of the 7 trustees be the required number to

withdraw monies from this Fund, is approved.

Brother Antonini, Manager of Local No. 88, protests against the revision of the decision of the Joint Board, and states that it is immaterial to him whether 2, 3, or 4 members constitute the signatories for the withdrawal of money from this Fund, provided the board of trustees consists of that number. However, since the board of trustees consist of 7 members, the same number should constitute the signatories. For that reason he will appeal to the International against this revision.

Brother Portnoy states that Brother Antonini, as manager of Local No. 88, did nothing to make the strike fund a success and has not even carried out the decision of the Joint Board to collect this tax. He also states that whereas Local No. 22 has up until now paid up \$15,000 of the tax. Local No. 88 has paid in nothing. He therefore believes that one, who is not interested in carrying out the decisions of the Joint Board should be the last to protest.

Brother Antonini answers that due to the strikes against Morris Rentner and the Roth Costume, two large firms who employ a large number of his members, his office is not in a position to force them to pay up this tax. He states that his office is, however, under the circumstances doing its utmost to collect as much of this tax as possible. Brother Antonini adds that due to the financial condition of Local No. 88, the office must make all efforts to collect the dues in order to send in enough money to the Joint Board, with which to pay the benefit to the strikers of the mentioned firms.

Brother Hyman states that there is no reason why anyone should protest or object against the decision that 4 of the 7 trustees be the authorized signatories to draw money from the \$20 Assessment Fund. He adds that in the time of strike it may be difficult to get the 7 trustees together and if one of the signatories is missing, the entire strike may be endangered. For that reason the decision that a majority of the trustees, 4 of the 7, be authorized to draw the money of the Fund, is very practical.

Finance Committee Report:

The Finance Committee recommends that \$25 be donated to the Beth Abraham Hospital for incurables; also that \$50 worth of stock be purchased from the Workers Theatre Association.

The recommendations of the Finance Committee are approved.

Brother Zimmerman reports that the injunction applied for by the firm Morris Rentner against the Union has been denied by Judge Bijour.

General Manager's Report:

Brother Hyman reports that the decision requesting our members to contribute a half day's work for the striking furriers and the leather strikers, will not bring the desired results due to the fact that the Industrial Council has ordered its members not to permit the workers to work the half day. He immediately conferred with Mr. Findor, the President and Mr. Klein, the Manager of the Association, who contended that the Union has no right to make such a decision without the consent of the Association.

Brother Hyman's report and recommendation are approved.

It is then decided that the Joint Board call a special session on Wednesday, March 26th in order to revise the constitution of the Joint Board.

РУССКО-ПОЛЬСКИЙ ОТДЕЛ

ДАЙТЕ ВАШ ОТВЕТ.

Поставленный перед нами вопрос такой трудный и тяжелый, что не удавалось нам ни, ислам, оригинально ответить.

Каждый проистекает борьба, то каждая из сторон старается, чтобы выиграть победу, и тогда чуждым себя уступчивости, и тогда рождаются для примирения, но в мирном договоре каждый хочет иметь такие пункты, чтобы они обеспечивали победу, и тот выигрывает, кто больше дипломат.

Наш век — не разума и человеческого справедливости, а век дипломатии. Мы тогда жили в такое положение, что принадлежал к многим вопросам подходить с большой осторожностью, чтобы нечего не случилось, не пришлось заплатить и удовлетворить тому, кто это когда случится, что не случилось.

Вопрос о языке, разуме, т. е. о Р. П. Отдел, мы неоднократно говорили в своем издании "Дипломатия" о том, что решение о языке правды является к концу и тем сомнения, что он и спорим решение будет решен в нашу пользу, если мы войдем, как действующий в те время, когда борьба является дипломатическую форму.

Вопрос наш может быть решен в момент такой борьбы, особенно на несправедливости, и поэтому язык тогда, как и было в прошлом. Это отчасти зависит и от нас; потому дадим вопроса: поучиться то, что мы хотим, и что, то, что мы не хотим, чтобы не случилось.

Настоящая политическая борьба в нашем мире неслучайно больше всего, в смысле экономического хозяйства нашей организации, но зато работающая задачаю является много реформ в том, что они получили право и решения тех вопросов, которые раньше решались без нас.

Это в настоящее время является основным вопросом. Каждый борющийся сторона должна уметь скимать и поддерживать со стороны наших, и для этого необходимо обладать и уступкой. Эта политическая воля не прекращает и нас, и то, в чем нас втерла организация, сегодня обманут да. Вера мы требовали при посредстве Local No. 1. Однако и при без Local. Нам отменяли нас и то, так и в другом. Сегодня же нам дано право на Local, также и по нашему без Local. Дает то и другое, выигрывает, кто лучше. Да, это слово является маской на устах. Но так ли это?

Конечно, это и то нам дает. Мы не должны забывать, что не для всех и всегда мажоритар, бывает и пост, да еще Local.

После нашего массового митинга о нас стали говорить более громко и серьезно. На собрании Н. Комитета Р. П. Отдела возник спорный и важный вопрос: стоит ли на своем решении требовать, чтобы не было Local.

Предлагается полное представительство, но Local. Этот вопрос, мы Locala делегата Садовского, из Locala 2, делегатом о том, что Locala Locala 2-го решил удовлетворить требования Р. П. Отдела в том, чтобы Отдел получил полное представительство в живую, при полной поддержке заинтересованных Locala и чтобы мы отказались от требования Locala. Это было официально решено через делегата Садовского с тем, чтобы Н. Ком. обсуждал этот вопрос и принимал свое решение о Locala. Да, обсуждая этот вопрос, решение создало стрессное собрание Н. Ком. на 25-е марта.

Отдел также получил письмо о том, что Locala решил созвать конференцию во вторник 23-го марта для обсуждения нашего вопроса, и приглашает представителей от Р. П. Отдела. Н. Ком. решил позвать к себе на рассмотрение вопроса и тогда можно будет обсуждать его на собрании Н. Ком.

и передать в определенной форме своему собранию для решения, так как Н. Ком. не имеет права решать такого вопроса без разрешения своего собрания. На составлении конференции присутствовали представители от Locala 2, 35 и 9.

На конференции выжились вопросы, что все заинтересованные Locala, которые фактически являются руководящими в настоящее время, будут в отношении против создания нового Locala, включая и нас, считая, что покамест еще одного нового Locala не имеет больше Locala в организации.

После всестороннего обсуждения вопроса конференции предложил вынести решение и передать решение и Locala Locala Р. П. Отделу, с тем, чтобы он исполнил свое первое решение о требования Locala.

Конференция заявила, что если Р. П. Отдел не делает, чтобы получить равные права в живую, то Отдел это свободно сможет получить, но создавая отсюда Locala, который (но живую конференция) принесет больше вреда, нежели пользы, так как Р. П. Locala принесет вреда больше, чем пользы, и 2, 35 и 9 Locala тех интересов, которые будут производиться между делегатами в митинге, а также и теми членами, которые отказываются перейти на этих Locala в Р. П. Locala.

В заключение они заявили, что если Р. П. Отдел не делает, чтобы получить в политическую авантюру, а делает только права, то тогда он должен отказаться от Locala и принять предложение нового представительства, которое они считают да.

Наша конференция заявила, конференция, что она обо всем предупредила Н. Ком. и собранию Locala, от которых и зависит дальнейшее решение. Без сомнения, что Н. Ком. должен будет вынести рекомендацию для своего собрания по этому вопросу, но для этого требуется больше напряжении и осторожности, так как вопрос очень важный, а политическая атмосфера до того стеснительна, что Locala, более слабые, неохотно могут решить то, что принесет больше вреда, нежели пользы.

Там же, на котором мы читали Мовиле, Locala, над которым мы получили много информации и митинг, да у нас есть и Locala, но Locala, и еще Locala, которые являются от Locala общего собрания, если Н. Ком. не вынесет определенной рекомендации. Каждый Locala должен задуматься над этим вопросом и на собрании в понедельник 29-го марта дать ответ так, как пожелает его свой совет и здравый рассудок, но не чуждого, который пожелает во время массового собрания.

ВАЖНОЕ СОБРАНИЕ В ОТДЕЛЕ.

В понедельник 29-го марта в 8 часов вечера в Парк-Доме, 315 1-й 10-й ул., Нью-Йорк, состоится важное собрание Р. П. Отдела. Будет обсуждаться вопрос "О языке Р. П. Отдела с Locala и без Locala".

Ввиду важности вопроса, каждый Locala должен присутствовать на этом собрании и иметь при себе членскую книжку.

Секретарь А. И. Саулиц.

Wazne Zebranie w Oddziale.

W poniedziałek, dnia 29-go Marcza, w Park-Dome, 315 East 10-th ulicy, w Nowym Yorku, odbędzie się ważne zebranie członków Polsko-Rosyjskiego Oddziału Damskich Krawców. Na porządku dziennym ważne sprawy, o który każdy członek znać powinien.

Początek p. godzinie 8-jej wieczorem na którym wszyscy członkowie być powinieli.

Sekretarz A. Saulicz.

The Week In Local 10

The decision adopted by the Joint Board at its last meeting, that only four trustees out of the seven originally appointed have the power to draw money from the million dollar fund, created a great deal of discussion within union circles. The adoption of this decision has left in the minds of many members room for suspicion as to the sound judgment and sincerity of the leaders of the Joint Board in administering the million dollar fund.

A Bad Decision

As the members at this time are undoubtedly aware, when the Joint Board contemplated the laying of the twenty-dollar assessment, the leaders of the Joint Board, in order to gain the confidence of the membership of the various locals representing various shades of opinion, wisely recommended that a board of trustees, consisting of seven members representing all the important locals in the Joint Board, should supervise and have full jurisdiction over this fund. This was to include the drawing of moneys from this fund.

This decision created the impression among the members that the fund will not be managed by representatives of one or another group, either "rights" and "lefts", but would be under the supervision of the representatives of all the important locals who enjoy the confidence of their constituents.

However, the subsequent maneuvers of the Joint Board officials proved that this was merely a blind. For, immediately after the collections began and stimulating sentiment among the members in favor of the fund was no longer required, the officials of the Joint Board came forth with a recommendation that only four signatures out of the seven originally appointed to constitute the board of trustees should be necessary for the administration of this fund.

Disfranchising Three Big Locals

The question arises, why just four? Why not three, or even five? The answer to this is simple. In this committee of seven men happen to be four who may be termed "lefts" and three who represent the so-called "right" element, which at present is in the minority in the Joint Board.

The four are Stenzor, representing Local 2; Hyman, representing Local 9; Goretaky, representing Local 25, and Portnoy, representing Local 23. The three of the minority are Fish, Secretary/Treasurer of the Joint Board, who is a member of Local 10; Ninfo, representing Local 48; and Antonini, representing Local 89.

It seems that what the present leaders of the Joint Board aimed at in making this decision was to bar from any sort of control over this fund the representatives of the minority. This is spite of the fact that they represent such important locals as Locals 10, 48 and 89, ignoring at the same time the fact that when the members of these three locals pay the tax towards the million dollar fund they pay it mainly upon the confidence which they have in their respective local administrations.

The disfranchising of the representatives of these three locals from the control of this fund means, therefore, that not merely that Fish, Ninfo and Antonini had been barred, but that the entire membership of these locals who they represent had been barred. While it has been anticipated that they would try in every way possible to manipulate control for themselves due to their present majority in the

Joint Board, it was never expected that in a serious situation of this kind, where the confidence of all factions is so essential, where the good will of the membership representing all shades of opinion is so important, they would resort to such action, which undoubtedly tends to weaken the confidence of the members.

Why This Change of Front?

The suggestion that only 4 out of the 7 be sufficient to draw money from the fund, was at first defeated at a meeting of the Joint Board. By rejecting this recommendation, the Joint Board decided that the signatures of all the seven members representing the seven important locals, who constitute the board of trustees, should be required in drawing money from the fund.

It was therefore doubly astonishing to learn that immediately after this decision of the Joint Board, the leaders began to maneuver among their own local executive boards for a rejection of this decision of the Joint Board, which they, themselves, had helped to carry. The question arises, if they were against it, why, having the majority at the Joint Board, did they first permit the Joint Board to carry it, and then begin maneuvering among the local executive boards to reject it?

Louis Hyman, the manager of the Joint Board, who spoke originally at the meeting in favor of the seven signatures and against the four, at the last meeting of the Joint Board reversed himself and spoke in favor of the four. This again brings to our mind the question — what prompted this sudden change of front?

A Serious Situation

As was stated previously, this has developed a very serious situation, and active members are being moved to ask many questions regarding it. The matter will come up officially before the Executive Board of Local 10 at this week's meeting and the entire matter, as well as the action taken upon it by the executive board, will be reported to the membership.

The members are entitled to know, while paying the tax, in whose hands they are entrusting their money — whether any of the men in whom they have most confidence and trust are who are their immediate representatives will share in the supervision of their own money. In fact, the members of Local 10 know very little of the leadership of the Joint Board, both present and past. When they pay dues and taxes, and they pay it more promptly than any other element within the union, it is chiefly because they have full confidence in their local officers who represent them in the local, in the Joint Board and elsewhere. And it is to them that account must be given for this very important and recent development.

The situation not only affects Local 10, but it affects the membership of the other locals as well, all of them feel that it is better, safer and a more just arrangement that this fund should be supervised by representatives of all locals instead of a few representing one group.

Privileges For Excessive Overtime

Many complaints have been received by various officers of the union that some shops and crafts are receiving privileges to work excessive hours of overtime. Some have received the privilege of working on Saturday afternoon and some on Sundays. In some instances entire shops have received this permission and in other cases some of the crafts.

This has given considerable trouble to the union. It is only natural that when some receive such privileges, others should also want the same, and protests and objections have been pouring in from all sides. It has even, to some extent, affected Local 10. The office of the Cutters' Union has never given such permission.

However, when the other locals granted it, such permission even some cutters, under the pressure of their employers, began making similar requests, particularly when privileges to this effect were granted by the Joint Board to some entire shops. This misunderstanding arose as to whether the cutters were included in this. It gave the office considerable trouble in making it plain that cutters are never included when such privileges are given even to an entire shop.

Creates Favoritism

At a previous meeting of the Joint Board, a communication was received from Local 2, demanding of the Joint Board that no privileges to work excessive hours be given by anyone in the future. Presumably, Local 2 brought in this communication as a result of the experiences it went through where one element or one shop was being favored more than others, and because of the conviction that the privilege to work excessive hours lowers the standards of the trade.

The delegation of Local 10 gladly supported the communication of Local 2. They even asked for a roll call on this question and this communication was adopted at the Joint Board unanimously. Until now, however, though several weeks have elapsed since the adoption of the decision, it has not been enforced fully.

Some of those who read these lines know from their own experiences that in some of the shops people still continue working excessive hours of overtime, some with and some without permission. The office wishes to make it plain to the members of Local 10 that we heartily approve of this decision of the Joint Board and that no matter what shop or craft does receive privileges from some officers contrary to this decision, no member of Local 10 will be permitted to work excessive hours of overtime. Neither will he be permitted to work on Saturday or Sunday.

Permission to Work for Passalo and Fur Strikers

It is gratifying to know that last week, when general permission was given throughout the trade to work on Saturday afternoon for the Passalo strikers and the striking furriers, many cutters did not start to work before getting information directly from Local 10. The office was kept busy the latter part of last week, including Saturday, with inquiries. Naturally, the men were informed that for the instance of last Saturday only it would not be considered a violation. Nevertheless, though it was a voluntary proposition, many of the men preferred to make a cash contribution instead of working on Saturday afternoon.

An important feature in this connection was that employers called up asking the office to force their cutters to work Saturday afternoon. It seems that even the employers suddenly had become enthusiastic in helping the striking furriers and textile workers. Or, as some said, cloak manufacturers, when they need their work done, are ready to become class-conscious proletarians.

As a result, such of the employers as need the work practically, forced the workers to work and those who did not need the work managed to give excuses for not keeping their factories open.

The Industrial Council informed its members that their factories should not be kept open on that day for the reason that the union had given permission to its members to work that Saturday afternoon in their factories without consulting them as to whether they have work for the workers or whether they are willing to keep their factories open. This may be a good excuse on their part but the union considers it as a means of hindering the collections.

Cutters Against Overtime

In many instances cutters and other workers who did not work gave as an explanation for this that they are not willing to give the employers the benefit of their half day's labor without being paid double pay for it, as in some cases they were endangering their chances of being reemployed for the following week because of this half day's work. They therefore preferred to make a cash contribution.

Due to the fact that the Joint Board granted permission to work a half day last Saturday for the strikers, the office did not need out any committees to visit shops. For it is easily understood that whoever would be found working, even though for himself, would be able to claim that he was working for the strikers.

Some people who are in the habit of working illegal hours, or on Saturdays and Sundays, considered it as an amnesty work in Local 10 due to the fact that no committees were sent out. However, we wish to repeat to our members to report to the office any knowledge they may have of any shop in which cutters are working illegal hours, or Saturdays and Sundays, as no excuses that privileges had been given from any source whatever will be recognized.

SPECIAL NOTICE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND NOTICE

Registration of the unemployed workers for payment of insurance for the spring season of 1926 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.

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