

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

—Job 27.8

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

Vol. VIII, No. 14.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1926

PRICE 3 CENTS

Pres. Sigman Will Lecture in Harlem Sunday Morning

Second Bronx Lecture a Huge Success
—Harlem Meeting Under Auspices
of Cloakmakers' Branch, S. P.

The second Sunday morning lecture delivered by President Morris Sigman in the Bronx Lyceum on March 28th, passed off as successfully as the first, held on March 14, and with as large a crowd attending. President Sigman devoted the two and a half hours he was on the platform to answering questions put to him at the first meeting.

While there were some "militants" in the hall who were obviously bent on breaking up the meeting in disorder, their attempts failed, and after some abortive tumult, the big meeting proceeded to listen in quiet fashion to President Sigman's lucid answers to the score of queries presented to him by the audience at the previous gathering.

Harlem Address This Sunday Morning

President Sigman's two Bronx addresses created a stir in cloak and dress circles all over the city. The discussion of the principal events which make up the history of the I. L. G. W. U. organization in the past three years, found a large audience among

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A. F. of L. Starts Campaign Among Women Workers

First Conference Held Monday, March 29—Central Headquarters
Opened—I. L. G. W. U. and Cap Makers Represented on
Executive Committee of Drive—Campaign to Include Women
Garment Makers, Textile Workers, Millinery Workers and
Kindred Industries.

New Jersey District First To Be Tackled

The long awaited nationwide drive under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor to organize the millions of women in industry still outside the fold of organized labor, has begun in earnest and is fast assuming definite shape and form.

The problem of placing the women workers of America within the trade union movement and of raising their work and living conditions to a higher level has for a number of years past confronted the organized workers of America urgently demanding action. The last two decades have revolutionized the position of women in industry and have opened the gates of factories and plants hitherto closed for women labor to hundreds of thousands if not millions of women wage earners. But in practically all of these trades, the women workers

work at lower wage and work standards than the men engaged in them, and the majority of these women do not belong to the labor organization in their trades.

The last two conventions of the A. F. of L. seriously discussed the growing importance of organizing the

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Third Quarterly G. E. B. Meeting In Three Weeks

Will Be Held After Cleveland Wage Hearings

The General Office announces that next quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board of the International Union will be held in the end of April. The date of the meeting has not been definitely set, owing to the fact that President Sigman and some of the Vice-presidents would have to be in Cleveland in the latter part of the month to attend the wage hearings before the Board of Referees in the Cleveland Cloak Industry.

The quarterly meeting is expected to be held either in Cleveland or Boston. A detailed announcement concerning it will be made in next week's issue.

Out-of-Town Department Aids New York Cloak Strikes

Shops in Passaic, N. J., in Sullivan County, N. Y., in Long Island and Staten Island Called Out to Help New York Cloak Strikers.

During the last few weeks, the Out-of-Town Department of the International, has been busily engaged in strike activity in the several districts within its territory, for the direct purpose of aiding the fight conducted by the Cloak and Dress Joint Board in New York City against two important cloak firms.

The New York firms in question are Shapiro & Sonn, 54 West 21st Street, and Rosenberg & Davis, 123 West 56th

Street. The first firm, now settled, succeeded, in the early period of the strike, to make up some of its work in the cloak shop of David Shomer in Passaic, N. J., in the Sullivan County Cloak Co., in Mountaineale, N. Y., and in the F.R. Rite Cloak Co., in Woodhaven, L. I. These shops were at once called out on strike, which subsequently forced the New York firm to negotiate a settlement with

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Boston Union Forming Sanitary Control Board

Cloak Season Good—Work in Dress Shops Just Beginning.

The following is an extract from a communication written by Vice-president Julius Hochman, for the present in charge of the Boston territory, to President Sigman. It says in part:

"The cloak season is very good. Workers are working overtime. On dresses there was little work until now. Just this week work is beginning to come into the dress shops, and it is expected that within a week we will be rather busy. We still have 41 strikers in five dress shops out, to whom strike benefits are regularly paid. We hope that with the beginning of the season in the dress shops we shall be able to reach a settlement with these firms.

"I am very busy organizing the joint board of sanitary control in this city and with preliminary work to introduce the label. The question of sanitary conditions was the main issue in our last strike and it is, therefore, essential to carry out these measures without delay. We have already succeeded in getting a public committee

for the joint board, which will consist of Prof. William Z. Ripley, Mrs. Rantoul, Mr. Frost, a vice-president of the Plenum concern, Daniel Bloomfield, who is connected with the Boston Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Parmenter, the chief physician of Industrial hygiene in the Massachusetts General Hospital. The first meeting of the board will be held early next week.

"There is little work yet in the raincoat trade and we have not, therefore, started any organizing activity in the waterproof garment shops. They are now having an election for a business agent and for an executive board."

Corset and White Goods Workers Active In Bridgeport

Union Interest Among Local Dressmakers Also Grows—Gain in Membership Reported.

The general campaign undertaken right after the Philadelphia convention by the International in Bridgeport, Conn., among the corset, white goods workers and dressmakers, is making steady headway.

In the last two months, Local 33, the corset workers' organization has held a number of meetings, which

have stimulated interest in the union among the large number of brasiers makers, negligee and underwear operators employed in the big Bridgeport corset shops. The local formed an organizing committee, consisting of women members of the corset branch and of men corset cutters, members of Local 24, and this committee has been persistently at work distributing literature, holding meetings and visiting workers at their homes in an effort to make them join the organization. As a result of this missionary activity, a substantial number of workers is reported to have been added to the roll of Local 33. The cutters' local, it must be mentioned here, is already a one-hundred per cent organization, and includes every corset cutter in the city.

There are in Bridgeport also fourteen dress shops, employing about a thousand workers, some of them independent firms and others working for New York firms. The Bridgeport locals, with the aid of the Eastern Organization Department of the I. L. G. W. U. is now conducting a lively activity among these workers with gratifying results.

Bronx Concert Tomorrow Night, Saturday, April 3rd

At Public School No. 61, Charlotte Street and Crotona Park East

The Bronx concert and dance arranged by the Educational Department will take place to-morrow, Saturday, April 3rd, at 7:30 P. M. in the auditorium of P. S. 61, Charlotte St. and Crotona Park East.

A special musical program has been prepared. Mme. Dora Roshevner, soprano will sing Russian, Yiddish, Italian and English folksongs and opera arias. David Segal will play select violin numbers. N. L. Sasharsky, baritone, will lead the group sing-

ing in which the entire audience will take part. The evening will end with a dance in the Gymnasium.

We expect our members with their families to come together on this evening and enjoy the music and the dancing and the friendly companionship in an artistic and sociable atmosphere.

The post cards sent out by the Educational Department will admit members and their families. After 8 o'clock members will be admitted on presentation of their Union card.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM UNEMPLOYMENT FUND

The Unemployment Insurance Fund announces that the registration of jobless cloakmakers is at an end.

Beginning April 1st, the registration of unemployed is no longer required.

A. F. of L. Begins Organizing Women Workers in New Jersey

(Continued from Page 1)

women workers of this country into the existing labor bodies. The last convention at Atlantic City, in October, 1925, reached a definite decision on this subject, and instructed the Executive Council of the Federation to begin without delay preparatory work for such a nationwide campaign. The Council, after an extended survey, decided, in order to make the drive more effective to concentrate the work intensively for the time being in one district. The New Jersey territory, one of the business industrial districts in the country, with a large population of women workers and lying closely to the great New York industrial center, was accordingly selected as the first battle ground for this campaign.

Permanent Organization Launched at First Conference

On March 22nd, the New Jersey office of the American Federation of Labor, acting upon the instructions of the Executive Council, forwarded an invitation to all the city and trade central bodies of New Jersey to attend a statewide conference on Monday, March 29th, at 41 Franklin Street, Newark, N. J., to consider plans for a successful organization drive among women workers in New Jersey. The communication was signed by Henry P. Hillers, the veteran secretary of the N. J. State Federation of Labor, and was also extended to all international unions which might be concerned in such organizing activity.

The conference took place, as scheduled, and was attended by fifty delegates from central bodies from all parts of the state. Representing the I. L. G. W. U. at this conference was Vice-president Jacob Halperin, the manager of the Eastern Organization Department. The conference proceeded at once to practical steps, elected an executive committee, and instructed this committee to establish permanent headquarters in Newark, N. J., and to form an organizing staff. The conference also decided that, while this campaign is primarily for women, no opportunity to organize any group of workers should be overlooked.

All Trades Represented

Among the delegates at the conference were representatives of cigar makers, makers of men's clothing, shirts and overalls, cloaks, suits and underwear, laundry workers, textile workers in all branches, hat, cap and millinery workers, paper box makers, pottery and clay workers, glass workers and rubber workers, waitresses and cooks, nurses and school teachers, clerks and saleswomen, telephone operators, bookbinders, bank clerks, stenographers and office workers, fancy leather goods and trunk and bag makers, and many other trades where the woman element is a factor.

On the executive committee of the new body, the I. L. G. W. U. is represented through Vice-President Jacob Halperin and the Cap Makers' International Union—through Brother J. M. Budish.

Out-of-Town Department Aids New York Cloak Shops On Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

the Union. In connection with this strike, the organizers of the Out-of-Town Department also stopped work in some union contractor shops in Vineland, N. J., and on Staten Island.

The organizers engaged in this work, under the direction Vice-president Jacob Halperin were Brothers Grossman, Oretsky, Durante and Bruck.

The shop of the Richmond Terrace Cloak Co., New Brighton, Staten Island, found to be working for the strike-bound firm of Rosenberg & Davis, has now been stopped by the Out-of-Town Department.

Reinert Bros. Shops Also Stopped

The Out-of-Town Department succeeded last week, through organizers Oretsky, Grossman and Margio, in stopping from work the shop of Weiss Dress Co. in White Plains, N. Y., and two shops in Astoria, L. I., discovered making work for the struck shop of Reinert Bros., in New York City, where the workers have been out on strike for the last seven weeks.

The Office also called out the workers of Fromme Dress Co., of Mount Vernon, N. Y., a contracting shop found to be working for the Roth Costume Co. in New York City, where the workers have been on strike for over a month.

White Goods Workers Regret Resignation of Secretary Molly Lifshitz

Served the Local Fifteen Years.

We received the following letter from the Executive Board of the White Goods Workers' Union, Local No. 62:

"Dear Editor,

"The Executive Board of Local 62, the organization of the white goods workers of New York, received at its meeting and accepted the resignation of Sister Molly Lifshitz, for many years the secretary-treasurer of our local.

"Sister Lifshitz was connected with our Union from the first day of its existence. She has fought side by side with us in all our battles, sharing our joys and sorrows during these long and often very difficult years. It is really hard to visualize the white goods' workers' local without Sister Lifshitz as an integral part of it.

"The executive board of the local accepted Sister Lifshitz' resignation with an expression of sincere and deeply felt regret. The board decided to express this recognition in a valuable token and, in addition, adopted the following resolution:

"Having considered that Sister Molly Lifshitz was connected with our organization ever since this local was organized fifteen years ago, and

"Considering further that during

all these years she has performed her work with love, devotion and ability and has been one of the best and faithful officers we have ever had,—

"We express our great regret over the resignation of Sister Lifshitz, and simultaneously convey to her our best wishes for success in her future work."

Pres. Sigman Will Lecture in Harlem Sunday Morning

(Continued from Page 1)

our workers and a demand for such lectures is now coming forth from several other sections in the Greater City.

This Sunday morning, April 4th, President Sigman will speak again, this time in Harlem at 62 E. 106th St. His subject will be "The Industrial and Internal Crises in the Cloakmakers' Union in the Past Four Years.

This meeting is arranged by the Cloakmakers' Branch of the Socialist Party. A large attendance is expected.

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Labor The World Over

The Fight for the Eight-Hour Day in Spain

THE Malorena textile workers' fight, which began by a lock-out on the 21st of December, 1925, in consequence of a labor dispute, has now developed into a new phase. The employers reopened their factories, thus tacitly recognizing the principle of the eight hour day. Accidentally, however, the workers got to hear that the employers intended to cut wages as soon as they went back to work again. So they promptly refused to go back on such conditions, and his lock-out has therefore now developed into a strike.

As a consequence of the workers' firmness, one of the employers has already given in, and it seems more than likely that the other employers will soon be following suit—all the more so as the strikers are being supported, morally and financially, by the whole Spanish trade union movement.

Italian Trade Unions Recognized

IN view of the difficult position in which they have been placed by Mussolini's tyrannical restrictions, Italian trade unionists are pursuing a policy of saving what they can. They are doing the impossible, but have accommodated themselves to the regime as far as they must, and, for the rest, are doing everything in their power to stick to their principles.

One outcome of this policy has been the formation of a mixed trade union federation for all those trades whose membership is small, and who are therefore not strong enough to be independent. The object of this new federation is to facilitate the recruitment of all the supporters of the Italian Trade Union Centre. It is directing its attention to isolated workers; workers who are organized locally again in mixed organizations or trade groups; and national trade or industrial unions which have lost their independence. The organization is to give moral and financial support to the members, who have to pay a total subscription of 20 lire (16 lire for women and young persons under 18).

With a view to setting up a connecting link between its scattered forces, the Italian national centre, recently began to publish the "Dattaglio Sindacale" again, which was suppressed along with other trade union and party papers at the time. But this new attempt at republication was met by the confiscation of the paper.

The Trade Union Movement in Turkey

IN spite of the fact that Turkey is very backward in industrial affairs, and that constant shiftings of the population make it very difficult to get a working class movement on a sure footing, the trade union movement is gradually gaining a foothold in Turkey.

The early beginnings of the movement can be traced back to 1910. In that year a Socialist Party was formed in Constantinople, and it was not long before a number of trade unions grew up around this. These unions consisted chiefly of Greek, Turkish, Armenian and Jewish workers, and had their headquarters in Galata, the European part of the town. Once these first unions were really on their feet, further unions were formed, and later on an independent Socialist Party was established and finally a General Turkish Labor Federation. The workers with which the trade unions are

chiefly concerned are: in Constantinople, the tobacco workers and dock workers; in Smyrna, workers on the fig plantations, and in Samsakak, the miners. The miners more especially are very badly organized and are, indeed, still on a level little better than slavery.

It is to be hoped that the trade unions of Turkey will be represented at the Balkan trade union conference, which is to be held at Sofia in the early part of this year under the auspices of the I. F. T. U. For a close connection between the Turkish unions and the various trade union groups in the Balkans, which often have to work under very difficult circumstances, might help considerably in the consolidation of the trade union movement in the near East.

Chaos in the Argentinian Trade Union Movement

TRADE Union conditions in Argentina are so complicated at the present time that a decisive crisis may be expected before very long. Communists and syndicalists are more than ever at loggerheads, all trade union activity is rendered quite impossible by petty sectarian disputes. The disastrous results which this disension has on the whole movement are evident from the attitude taken up by the hetero-organized union in the Argentinian T. U. C., the "Caballero" union. In a recent issue of its organ this union has published a leading article pointing out the uselessness of holding the congress of the Argentine Trade Union Centre which has been fixed for April. The disorganization in the ranks of the syndicalist-communist-anarchist trade union movement has, it states, assumed such proportions that it is absolutely useless to hold a congress. This state of affairs is fast reducing the trade union centre to utter impotence.

Several organizations have recently seceded, and are now carrying on their activities as autonomous bodies. A committee has in the meantime been set up by these seceded unions, and this committee has now decided to call a congress, with a view to forming a new National Centre. One of the unions which will affiliate to the new centre is the railwaymen's union, one of the strongest unions in Argentina, which is affiliated to the International Transport Workers' Federation, and has twice represented the Argentine working class at international labor conferences.

The Fight Against Unemployment in Austria

IN Austria, as elsewhere, unemployment has increased to an alarming extent. The national trade union organizations have been considering how the situation can be relieved, and as a result of their consultations have recently submitted a memorandum to the Government, in which they offer suggestions and comments with regard to the general economic policy; constructive work for the unemployed; the protectionist policy of the adjacent states; the promotion of new industries; and the construction of a great freeport at Vienna.

The memorandum also deals with population problems, and demands that the period of compulsory school attendance shall be extended by one year—thus creating a temporary fall in the constant stream of young people who are being turned out on to the labor market without the remotest chance of employment.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of the ownership, management, circulation, etc., required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912, of "Justice" published weekly at New York, N. Y., for April 1, 1926, in the State of New York and County of New York.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared Abraham Haroff, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Secretary-Treasurer of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, publisher of the "Justice" and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above captioned report, in and to wit:

1. That the name and address of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, 3 West 16th St., N. Y.; Editor, Max D. Danish, 3 West 16th St., N. Y.; Managing Editor, None.

2. That the owner is, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, 3 West 16th Street, N. Y.; Morris Sigman, President; Abraham Haroff, Secretary-Treasurer, 3 West 16th Street, N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are none.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and other security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company, but also, in cases where the stockholders or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, if given; also that the said two paragraphs contain no statement embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, or other securities than as so stated by him.

ABRAHAM HAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of April, 1926.

SEYMOUR L. HAMBURGER, Notary Public.

(Commission expires March 30, 1925)

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Overweight is not the cause but very often the forerunner of certain diseases such as diabetes, degeneration of the heart, diseases of the kidneys.

Overweight is usually caused by overeating and underexercising. In some cases overweight is due to certain disturbances of the glands or disease in other parts of the body.

When overweight is not a disease it may be easily cured.

No drugs are any good for overweight. All drugs taken for overweight are harmful.

The first remedy for overweight is to reduce the amount of food. Instead of eating three times a day, do so only twice. Instead of eating until "full," eat just enough to satisfy the hunger.

The second remedy for overweight is the avoidance of rich, fatty, starchy and sweet foods.

The third remedy is to exercise as much as possible short of getting tired. Plenty of walking in the fresh, physical work outside of the house, and gymnastics are all helpful in reducing.

Stout people should eat plenty of fruit, a large amount of vegetables, small amounts of meat, and for dessert, unweetened fruit, stewed or raw.

Stout people should avoid such fruits as dates, figs, raisins and other containing too much sugar; white bread and all pastry; rice and other cereals; sweet vegetables, like carrots and beets; fat meats, oils, all kinds of shortening; nuts, cream cheese, butter.

It is well to lose weight in too short time. Reduce your diet gradually in quantity and quality.

The most important need for a stout person is to regularly undergo a physical examination by his own physician, or at the Union Health Center, 121 East 17th Street, where proper directions will be given for diet, exercise and other treatment.

Garment workers suffering from Hay Fever may begin making appointments for treatment at the Union Health Center beginning the first of April. The special Hay Fever Clinic will be conducted by Dr. S. Rinkoff.

How and When to Eat

Never eat when not hungry, or at least eat very little. Eat slowly and masticate the food well. Try as far as possible to have pleasant surroundings during meals. Do not drink too much liquids during meals. Try to relax for a little while after a full meal as this starts digestion right.

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A Labor-Weekly

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MORRIS SIGMAN, President A. HAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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EDITORIALS

CLOAK WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT—1924 AND 1925

The reports issued last week by the Bureau of Research of the Governor's Advisory Commission in the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Industry of New York on Wages and on Employment of workers in this industry in 1925, are well-timed documents.

Both reports, prepared by Morris Kolchin, the chief statistician of this Bureau, are the results of a study of statistical data obtained from copies of shop payrolls of 1,333 cloak and suit shops that contributed during the month of February 1925 to the Unemployment Insurance Fund. It therefore covers substantially the same figures in Greater New York and is the result of a study of facts and figures the authenticity of which could not be placed in doubt.

There are several outstanding conclusions emphasized by this survey; briefly they are as follows:

It discloses that unemployment among cloakmakers in the New York market was greater in 1925 than in 1924. In the report issued by the Commission's investigators early in 1925, our readers will recall, the average number of full weeks of employment per year for the previous period was given as 40 weeks for the inside shops and 31½ weeks for the sub-manufacturing shops. For 1925 these figures are 37.4 for the inside shops and 26.8 for the sub-manufacturing shops.

This decrease in employment has, naturally, affected the average annual earnings of the workers. In 1924, the same investigators have fixed the average annual earnings of the workers in the sub-manufacturing shops as \$1,675 and in the inside shops as \$2,016. During 1925 these earnings have dropped to \$1,375 and \$1,874 respectively.

The latest study of wages and employment in the cloak industry affirms unmistakably once more that the most serious drawbacks affecting it are in the outside—jobber-submanufacturer method of production, and that badly as the workers have fared in the inside shops they suffered vastly greater in the sub-manufacturing shops, both with regard to earnings and periods of unemployment.

Stripped of all alibis and sugar-coating, this report brings forth the staggering information that during last year the workers in the great and prosperous cloak industry of New York averaged in the inside shops the munificent wage of \$36 per week and in the sub-manufacturing shops an income of about \$26.50 weekly. Furthermore, the report candidly admits that this problem of unemployment which shortened the period of work both in the sub-manufacturing and in the inside shops during the season of 1925 four and six weeks is apparently increasing apace, unless checked, will continue increasing. The investigators just as frankly admit that they are at a loss to assign "definite reasons" for this startling drop of earnings and employment, except to explain it on the ground of mystical periodical fluctuations.

The report, as we stated above, covers 1,333 shops that have made regular reports to the Unemployment Insurance Fund. There are several hundred additional cloak shops in New York City, of the "independent", contractor, or non-union type, not included in the unemployment insurance arrangement, but in these, it may be safely asserted, conditions of employment and earnings are not better if not worse than in the investigated shops. On the whole, this report presents a true picture of the state of affairs in our main industry, involving between 35 to 40 thousands wage earners and their families.

Here is a situation of stark despair, expressed in a few cold, inmovable figures that requires barely any comment at all. If not a single other utterance is made, if not another additional word is spoken, these figures alone are sufficient to condemn the cloak and suit industry as a mismanaged and an unbalanced industry, as a trade which virtually assigns the workers that are depended upon for a living to a fate of misery and semi-starvation.

And in view of this appalling condition, what have the masters of this industry, the cloak jobbers and manufacturers, to offer in the nature of constructive relief? Surely they cannot claim ignorance of this heart-breaking state of affairs, of this degrading situation in which the workers in this billion-dollar industry find themselves in. Even though this last report appeared three weeks after the final hearings before the Governor's Commission, practically everybody in the industry who has had his pulse on the status of the workers' earnings and employment during 1925 and in previous years, has known that their wages and work periods have been slumping with disastrous regularity from season to season in the past few years.

There is not a person connected with the cloak industry who

is concerned with its future welfare and progress who does not know that such a state of affairs where workers are condemned to an average of \$26.50 or \$36 per week and to a steadily decreasing of already woefully short periods of work, is nothing short of a calamity that calls for drastic and immediate relief. At the recent hearings before the Commission, we heard representatives of the Industrial Council repeat time-worn jeremiads about "sloddering on the job", "slackening of production", and similar choice morsels of industrial statesmanship. The spokesmen for the jobbers' associations indulged at those hearings in futile attempts to shift the guilt for the demoralized condition of the industry to the "failure" of the Union to organize the non-union jobbers and to other far-fetched and irrelevant causes. But with characteristic unanimity both the jobbers and the inside manufacturers avoided touching upon the main issues that convulse and demoralize the industry, issues and causes which are of their own making and for which they consistently refuse to assume responsibility.

The time is fast approaching when the issues at stake in the cloak and suit industry of New York will be brought boldly and in full relief before the bar of judgment of the general community. In a few weeks, after another hearing or two is held before the mediators, the final solution on the burning problems which affect our workers in the cloak industry, tens of thousands of them with their families and dependents, will have to be rendered. These questions, which affect literally the bread and butter and the problem of a roof over the heads of our workers, cannot be further dilly-dallied with or shunted aside.

The Union, and it alone, of all the vital factors in the industry, is offering today the only constructive set of thoroughgoing industrial reforms that would tend to stabilize conditions of employment and rationalize earnings to a degree that they could meet the minimum cost of living of a worker's family. The Union's demands for a limitation of steady submanufacturers for jobbers, for a guaranteed time period of employment, for an upward revision of wages, and for a shorter work-week, are measures that go to the bottom of the ills in the cloak industry and would, when adopted, remove the cancer that is eating the heart and core out of this industry.

Half measures, milk-and-water compromises, or mere help-less crying about bad conditions will not help lift the cloakmakers from the shocking situation in which the present season has provoked them to have placed them in. We trust that the revelations made by the Bureau of Research of the Commission concerning the semi-starvation wages and the staggering unemployment in the cloak shops will convince the responsible factors in this industry, and the general public, that every argument we have in the past advanced in support of our major demands was based on irrefutable facts that we have known right along, and that these demands are therefore just, equitable and wholly constructive.

DEMOCRACY—WHEN CONVENIENT

Recently something occurred in the New York Joint Board, which deserves more than passing comment. This event, innocent as it may appear on its face, arouses some doubts and provokes some questions, which we are sure, many of our members might ask. Briefly, this is it.

The New York Joint Board is controlled by the "left" element in our Union. This faction gained its control over the organization last fall on the strength of its advocacy of a number of organizational issues. Chief among these issues was the one of "democracy," as expressed in the slogan "proportional representation," and of "taxation with representation."

Well, this question of democracy came up for a test a few weeks ago in the Joint Board, practically for the first time on an important matter, with the following results. The Joint Board is now raising, as is generally known, a big defense fund for the coming elections in the cloak and suit industry. This fund is, of course, a joint undertaking of all its locals. Without regard to "right" or "left" affiliation. To administer this big fund, the Joint Board decided to elect a board of trustees of seven to be composed of a representative of each of the seven big locals affiliated with it, in order to give each of them an equal measure of control.

Then, after having complied with this apparent gesture of "democracy," the leaders of the Joint Board, at a subsequent meeting, taking advantage of the "left" majority, voted that four of the seven trustees be sufficient to draw money and otherwise control the fund. The ground for this right-about-face was given that in time of emergency it may be hard to get all the trustees together to authorize disbursements. The best that may be stated for this excuse is, of course, that it is lame and wholly disingenuous. The amusing thing about this alibi is, however, the feature that the proposers of this change hit on the number of four trustees, the exact number of the four bigger "left" locals in the Joint Board, as the happy number required to best carry out efficient control of this fund.

We believe that we might leave this fact just stated to go without comment. To be sure it speaks louder than any possible comment that might be made with reference to it—as glaring evidence of "democracy by convenience" and of rank, drifting opportunism. The faction at present in the saddle in the Joint Board has for years complained, that their predecessors were depriving some of the Joint Board locals from their share of control of its finances, and in this they were right. But now, when in power, this same faction conveniently forgets about its old issue of "democratic control" and "taxation without representation" and proceeds to make a mockery and a denial of it.

History, it seems, always repeats itself, and at times even sooner than expected.

The Shop Chairmen, The Rank and File and The "Prosanis" Label

IMPRESSIONS OF AN INSPECTOR

Dr. Henry Monkowitz, Director of the Label Division of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control, asked me, as an inspector in his Division, to write a short article on my impressions as to the attitude of the chairmen and the operators in the factories in the cloak and dress industries towards the "Prosanis" Label. It is not easy to do this in a short article. As an inspector in the Label Division for the past fifteen months, I have made so many observations that I could fill a number of articles without difficulty. It will require more than one to record all my impressions.

Most of the chairmen, not speaking of the operators, do not understand why and for what purpose the Union has introduced the label. And, not knowing the purpose, they do not carefully see that each garment going out of their union shops carries a "Prosanis" label.

During my work as an inspector under the supervision of Dr. Monkowitz, I inspected every type of factory—those of the independent cloak and dress manufacturers; the shops of the members of the American Cloak and Suit Association, the Industrial Council of the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers, Inc., and the Association of Dress Manufacturers—as well as the stock rooms of the jobbers in both industries. It is not my purpose, however, to speak of the inspections of the jobbers at present. Another occasion may present itself for that.

My general impression is that the Label is not used even fifty per cent in the cloak industry; in the dress industry it is still worse. I find in most cases that the fault lies with the chairmen. Of course, the operators themselves are far from being entirely innocent in the matter. In those shops where the chairman himself is responsible for the general union conditions, he also gives his attention to the label. He will not work without labels. As soon as the supply of labels is exhausted, no work is permitted to continue until a new supply is purchased. In very few cases do the members of the firm act against the wish of the chairman for more labels. The price of the label is so nominal that it does not pay for the firm to put itself in wrong with the workers as well as with the Union.

In other factories, the chairmen have instructed the pressers not to press any garments that do not carry the "Prosanis" label. As soon as the presser receives a garment without it, he is asked to give it back to the operator.

I am sorry to say that there are only a few shops where the two examples cited above exist. In most of the factories, as mentioned before, the desirable condition is not found. Usually the chairmen are negligent and indifferent. They do not care whether the manufacturers for whom they work buy labels or not. They care even less whether the labels are actually being used. In fact, they themselves look upon the label as rather a nuisance. Of course, the firms use such negligent chairmen for their own purposes. They do not then bother to buy labels, and all garments are shipped without having them sewn on. These firms naturally regard the label as a case of easy arithmetic. Each label costs one-half cent. They only figure on the number of half-cents they save themselves. They do not see further than their noses, and they do not take into consideration that the saving of a penny now may in the end cost them a hundred times as much.

The label does not only safeguard the interests of the union workers; it also safeguards the interests of the union contractors. However, this is not all. The label is the only means by which the union firm and workers can defend themselves against the unscrupulous competition of the open

workshop. Even the strongest union and the most devoted trade unions have no other means of recognizing a union-made garment from those made in a non-union shop.

How the "Prosanis" label helps the worker can be seen from our method of inspection. When an inspector of the Label Division visits an inside manufacturer, he examines not only the garments made in the inside factory, but he also inspects the firm's stock room. If the garments on the racks are without labels, the manufacturer is asked for the name and address of the contractor who made these garments. We then follow this up by a call upon the contractor to ascertain whether the lot number given us by the manufacturer is his. By doing this, we also ascertain whether these union manufacturers are dealing exclusively with union contractors. This same procedure is carried out with regard to the jobbers. The fact that so many contractors ship garments without labels makes it more difficult, and the control is decidedly weakened.

What motives have the shop chairmen for not using the label? They do not pay for the labels, but they can control the sending of bundle goods to non-union shops. Why don't they do it? Why are they so negligent? Why do they take such a small interest in the label?

I have spoken to hundreds of chairmen about this. When I tell them the purpose of the label, they are astounded as if confronted with a new truth. They had never previously been told

why and for what purpose the label has been introduced, and of what use it is to the industry. The Union has not educated them as to the usefulness of the label. In this respect, the chairmen and the operators are not guilty. It is the fault of the Union which has forgotten to educate their members as to the use and purpose of the "Prosanis" label.

Another observation made must also be mentioned here. At the time of the inner struggle in the Union, the "Prosanis" label suffered. At that time, most of the factories stopped using the label, and some are not using it yet. The chairmen and operators will not again use the label until informed by the Union to do so. Another excuse, and a legitimate one, is that the business agents, when they inspect the factories, do not even mention the label, and do not inspect the garments to see whether they carry it. Naturally, from the attitude of the business agents, the workers and chairmen conclude that the Union is indifferent to the label.

The Union can do much to better conditions. The business agents should be asked to look for the label upon the inspection of a factory; and to speak to the shop chairman regarding it. At all general, section and shop meetings, attention should be given to the label and its purpose and use explained.

And, another thing: If a manufacturer or a worker disagrees with any one of the rules in the agreement between the manufacturer and the Union, he is brought before the Grievance Committee and is punished in accordance with his offense. Now, one of the rules in the agreement is that each and every garment must carry a "Prosanis" label. This rule is broken day in and day out and the breaker of this rule is never called to account for it. The manufacturer and the workers know that they can get away

with it, and therefore nothing is done with regard to the label. Why is this? Is the label of such insignificance in the eyes of the Union leaders that it does not pay for them to take action against this?

Besides the manufacturers who have purchased labels, but have not used them one hundred per cent, there are many who have never purchased at all. This fact impresses those who have bought. What does the Union do in order to compel these firms to purchase in accordance with the agreement?

Resume:

In the opinion of the writer, the labels are not used as they ought to be for the following reasons:

1. The chairmen and operators are indifferent towards the labels.
2. They are indifferent because the Union has not educated them sufficiently as to the usefulness of the label.
3. They are also indifferent because during the struggle in the Union, the opposition minimized the value of the label.
4. Because the business agents do not pay enough attention to the label at the time of factory inspections.
5. Because the Union never calls to account those chairmen and manufacturers who do not carry out the rule in the agreement setting forth that each and every garment made in a union shop must carry the "Prosanis" label.

The Workers Have Learned A Lesson

By ARTHUR W. CALHOUN
Instructor in Economics, Brookwood Labor College

The workers have learned a lesson from the boss; they have learned how to spend money before they get it. The boss has known that for a long time, and he is now practicing it so well that nearly all business is done on credit. If the business man were forced to pay cash, the whole of industry would be prostrated.

But the wise men say that it's one thing to go into debt for machinery and equipment that will yield a product for sale, and another thing to go into debt for a radio outfit or a player piano, which will give a good time maybe but will not turn out anything to sell and pay the debt. Very likely there's something in that contrast.

Is there as much in it, do you suppose; as the wise men say? Every body knows that the American workers have during the past year bought millions of dollars worth of goods on credit. Suppose they had not done it! Suppose they had hearkened to the advice "Pay as you go!" What then? Evidently the goods would have stayed in the stores and killed the market for new production. In other words, buying on credit has kept trade going and has made it possible to keep up production to a point far above what it would have been if there had been no credit.

The tale does not stop there. Because people bought on credit and thus made a market that otherwise would not have existed, there was work for many who would otherwise have been idle, and thus the pay envelopes were fattened with real dollars that would otherwise never have left the coffers of the financiers who keep the boss going. Thus power on the market: it represents so many dollars itself, and their expenditure puts dollars into pay envelopes that would otherwise have been flat. There's almost magic in it.

One thing's sure, the installment
(Continued on Page 1)

HEADED FOR THE ROCKS





EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Reunion of Students and Teachers An Inspiring Affair

Last Saturday, March 26, hundreds of our members with their instructors and officers of the Union assembled in the dining room of Washington Irving High School for their annual Reunion. The affair was most inspiring. The tables were gaily decorated in red and green and with tasty refreshments were alluringly set out.

The audience was composed of past and present students of the I.L.G.W.U. classes, men and women, young and middle-aged members of our various local unions. Amongst them were those who had attended our classes several years ago and who were now holding responsible positions in their local unions.

Short talks were delivered by instructors and students. Among them were Alexander Fichandler, of our Educational Department, Max Levine, one of our instructors, Lloyd M. Crowgrave, of the W. E. B. DuBois, Mollie Friedman of the G. E. U., Mary Goff, officer of Local 62, Pearl Yanofsky who spoke for the class of 1925-26 and Fannie M. Cohn, of the Educational Department.

They touched upon the various phases of our educational activities and on its bearing on the workers' education movement in the United States. They complimented the members of the classes on the splendid work they have done. They emphasized the fact that in spite of all the internal troubles which the International has had for the past few years, the work of the Educational Department has gone on as successfully as before, and that we should "congratulate ourselves on the fact that we have let nothing interfere with the big job of educating our membership." They spoke of the splendid progress the Educational Department has made, and mentioned the fact that the classes of our International were the largest Labor classes in the United States and that the work of our Educational Department is the most successful in the Workers' Education Movement of this country. They expressed their confidence in the importance of this work and their hope that it will continue with greater and greater success.

One of the speakers expressed her delight at observing so many past and present students in the audience, and

that this gathering gave them an opportunity to meet and exchange views and experiences, and to encourage each other in the daily activities of their various organizations. She told how the knowledge gained in our classes had been most helpful to her in understanding better the conditions under which we live and the troubles which our International has gone through lately.

Fannie M. Cohn in her closing remarks said that it would have been impossible to achieve the success of our educational activities, and the influence it exercises throughout the Labor movement without the support of the rank and file of our membership, the interest of the General Executive Board of our International, and its willingness to appropriate the necessary funds for it. She expressed the hope that all those who had attended our educational activities had been inspired to higher ideals and a willingness to serve our International and the Labor movement, and that they will utilize the information and knowledge they have acquired and will place it at the disposal of our Union, and help to carry on its daily affairs more intelligently.

The only disappointment of the evening was that President Sigman and Mrs. Sigman could not attend (President Sigman was called to Washington to a special conference), and Secretary Baroff could not come due to the illness of Mrs. Baroff. Both sent inspiring messages which are published on this page. Messages were also received from many instructors and friends who, due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, could not join us in our reunion.

Besides the speakers there was a musical program which the audience enjoyed immensely. Ray Porter Miller sang a group of songs and Helen Jeffries played several select violin numbers. Most inspiring was the group singing in which the audience took part, and which was directed by N. L. Saalavsky, baritone. The evening ended with a dance in the Gymnasium which lasted until 1 A. M.

Appreciation for the excellent arrangements is due to Fannie Jobel and Celia Schwanefeld, who bought the refreshments, to Anna Mintz, Anna Pesachowitz, Gussie Schmel, and

Weekly Educational Calendar

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.

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

Tuesday, April 13

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

Tuesday, April 13

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

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

Wednesday, April 14

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

CLOAKMAKERS' CENTER

73 East 104th Street

Tuesday, April 13

7:30 P. M. Lecture for Wives of I. L. G. W. U. members.—Details later.

ALEXANDER FICHANDLER WILL CONTINUE HIS COURSE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

On the unanimous request of the class in "The Economic Basis of Modern Civilization" it was decided to continue this course on Wednesday, April 14. Mr. Fichandler will give a

few more lessons on the following Wednesdays.

This class meets in the classroom of the I. L. G. W. U. Building, 2 West 16th Street, from 6:30 to 7:30 P. M.

PHYSICAL TRAINING CLASS WILL BE RESUMED TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Our Physical Training Class which meets in P. S. 40, 220 East 20th Street, on Tuesday evenings, will be resumed on April 13 and continued throughout the month of April.

Classes are free to members of the I. L. G. W. U.

Fannie Epstein for the decorations; and to many others whose names we do not remember but who contributed to the success of the evening.

Regrets were expressed that Brother Samuel Young, Secretary of the Students' Council was ill and could not attend the affair.

The evening was most inspiring. The audience was animated with the spirit of fellowship and sociability, and they all took pride in the achievements of the Educational Department of their International Union.

MESSAGES FROM PRES. SIGMAN AND SECY BAROFF

Reunion of Students and Instructors, I. L. G. W. U. Classes, Washington Irving High School.

"I am exceedingly sorry that my attendance at a conference in Washington prevents my being with you tonight and joining you in the celebration of a successful search conducted by our Educational Department.

Our International Union has always appreciated the need for Workers' Education with the trade unions. We are happy in the thought that our efforts to spread this idea have been crowned with success, and that the movement for workers education is rapidly spreading and developing with the organized Labor Movement with promise of becoming a social force.

We hope that those of you who took advantage of the activities provided by our Educational Department will place the knowledge you have ac-

quired at the disposal of our International Union and of the Labor movement as a whole. We hope that these activities will stimulate a greater interest on the part of our members in the aims and problems of our Union and of the Labor movement; and that many of you will be better qualified to achieve these aims and help solve these problems.

Mrs. Sigman joins me in extending best wishes for a joyful evening.

With greetings to all,

Fraternally yours,

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

Students and Instructors Reunion, I. L. G. W. U. Classes, Washington Irving High School.

I deeply regret that illness in my family prevents me from joining you tonight and spending a few hours in

LEVINE'S COURSE IN P. S. 40 TO BE CONTINUED TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Max Levine will continue his course on "The Economics of the Ladies' Garment Industry" in Room 402 of P. S. 40, 220 East 20th Street, on Tuesday April 13, at 8 P. M. He will give two more lessons.

STRINDBERG'S "EASTER" AT REDUCED PRICES

Princess Theatre, 39th Street, East of Broadway

By special arrangement with the Educational Department our members can see the latest production of the Stagers at reduced rates.

August Strindberg's moving drama "Easter" is the main offering. As a curtain-raiser they are doing Joseph Conrad's on-act tragedy "One Day More". They are excellently staged and acted by a distinguished cast.

Places entitling our members to reduced rates can be obtained at the office of the Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street. They are good any day but Saturdays and holidays.

sociability and good fellowship as I had expected.

It has been my great privilege as an officer of our International Union and as Chairman of our Educational Committee to observe the growth of the movement for workers' education within the trade unions and we are proud of the contribution our Educational Department has made to it.

We hope that the educational activities of our Union will strengthen youth faith in the ultimate aims of the Labor Movement and will inspire you to greater activity.

Mrs. Baroff and I both extend our greetings and best wishes for a successful evening.

ABRAHAM BAROFF,
Secy-Treas. I.L.G.W.U.

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The Week In Local 10

The Executive Board of our local, on March 25th, protested against the action of the Joint Board in disfranchising three of the seven trustees who were elected at a previous meeting of the Joint Board to supervise the million dollar fund. This action on the part of the Joint Board, it will be recalled, was reported in last week's issue of "Justice".

At the same time the Executive Board decided to send a protest to the General Executive Board, requesting that body to take such steps as will protect the million dollar fund, as our local, as well as several other locals, as it now appears, will, to all practical purposes, have no representatives on this board of trustees.

There was no meeting of the Joint Board last Friday. Therefore the action of the other locals in connection with this subject was not reported. The stand of the other locals will quite likely be reported in these columns in next week's issue.

Two Instead of One Secretary Again in Joint Board

A similar occurrence which is being very much criticized by members of Local 10, as well as by numerous other locals, is the new decision of the Joint Board to reestablish the office of two secretaries, one of recording secretary and the other of recording secretary, a system which was abolished through the efforts of President Sigman.

Until about a year and a half ago there were two secretaries in the Joint Board, a treasurer and a recording secretary. The office of treasurer was held formerly by Philip Kaplowitz and then by Joseph Fish of Local 10, and the office of recording secretary was held by Louis Langer. Aside from this, an assistant secretary was employed who took care of the various committees and assisted the jobbing department.

Toward the end of 1924 the talk of economy came up within the union. And at that time President Sigman and several others suggested the abolition of the two separate offices. Those offices were then merged into one so

that instead of having Fish and Langer, the Joint Board at that time elected Brother Fish to serve as secretary and treasurer. Brother Fish has held that office for a year and a half.

Suddenly the present leaders of the Joint Board realized that it is not a comfortable position for them to have a man like Fish in that office. But they were not ready to start an issue with Local 10 by defeating him for that office. So they discovered a clause in the constitution with the aid of which they decided that if they have to stand for Fish he should at least be restricted to one office only.

The real motive of the Joint Board's decision to have two secretaries instead of one is to install a man in the office of secretary who will be completely controlled and "safe" in all respects, so that they would not have to swallow some of the actions of the present secretary-treasurer, who, if not a "right" surely is not a "left".

Old Constitution Re-adopted by the Present Joint Board

At a special meeting of the Joint Board held last Wednesday, which was called for the purpose of revising the constitution, not one important change was suggested by the present leaders of the Joint Board, except the one relating to the secretary. Otherwise, the entire old constitution was "revolutionary" enough. Even the old preamble was not touched. And the clause regarding the secretaries, it will be remembered, was also the old one which was framed by the former leaders of the Joint Board.

It seems that none of the present leaders in the Joint Board could show any sound objections or suggest any good modifications to the constitution, with the exception of the changes made at the last convention in Philadelphia.

Experts of Governor's Commission Report

Below is given a table, which is one of the many recently published as a result of the investigations of the experts of the Governor's Commission in the cloak and suit industry:

AVERAGE WEEKLY RATES OF WAGES AND THE UNION MINIMUM WAGE SCALE

COAT SHOPS			
	No. of workers	Average wage rates	Minimum wage scales
Operators	12,232	\$56.91	\$29.90
Cutters	2,811	\$55.59	44.60
Pressers	4,965	51.91	42.60
Sample makers	1,390	48.49	36.00
Fabric tailors	165	45.75	43.00
Under pressers	256	41.48	37.50
Finishers	8,821	46.56	41.90
Examiners and busters	397	39.31	34.00
Finishers' helpers and button sewers	991	34.16	32.00
SKIRT SHOPS			
	No. of workers	Average wage rates	Minimum wage scales
Operators	240	\$48.51	43.00
Cutters	16	52.94	39.50
Pressers	53	45.82	33.00
Finishers	118	36.95	29.50

Cutters Average Wage Rate \$15.50 Above Minimum

As may be seen from these figures the operators, who are considered the highest paid workers in the trade, and whose minimum scale of wages is \$26, are receiving an average wage of \$41 per week, only \$15 above their minimum.

The cutters, whose minimum scale is \$44, average a weekly wage of \$59.59, according to the report. This amounts to \$15.50 above the minimum, as against the \$5 which the operators are receiving above the minimum.

The pressers, it will be noted, whose minimum is \$42, are receiving an average wage of \$51. They receive

\$9 above the minimum, as compared with the \$11.50 of the cutters.

Comparison in the skirt shops shows that while the operators average a wage of \$50.51, which is \$2.50 above the minimum, the skirt cutters' wage

of \$53.91, as against the \$29.50 minimum. This means \$14.50 above the minimum wage, in comparison with the \$25 which the operators receive above their minimum.

Cutters Raise Wages Considerably During Last Few Years

These figures show two important things to be considered by the cutters as well as all the others in the trade. While only a few years ago the average earnings of the cutters were \$30 or \$31 per week, as compared with \$55 or \$60 of the operators, through proper organization and co-operation of the members, the union was in a position to raise it, within a period of about two years, to the present standard.

Naturally, it is a regrettable fact that the operators and the other crafts were not only not in a position to raise their standard but could not even maintain the one they had already secured, and considerably lowered for this average earnings.

Explanation for this condition among the other crafts is not necessary, as it is known to every person who has any knowledge of the trade and of the internal situation in the union.

These figures, again, prove that the cutters earn only a half dollar less than the operators and by having their minimums fixed at \$6 less than minimums of the operators they had been grossly discriminated against. So much so in fact that even the employers today recognize that the minimum wage of the cutters is an unjust one, and that although their minimum is so low they, nevertheless, receive wages nearly equal to those of the operators.

Wages Must Be Raised for All Workers

It will be the duty of the union in the near future, while negotiating agreements with the employers, to rectify this wrong so that the cutters' minimum should not be so low.

Furthermore, these investigations prove again that while the average wage rates for some of the workers may be \$26 or \$25, their average earnings during the year are, according to that investigation, \$26.50, an amount by no means sufficient to support a family. Also, we can see that not only will the minimum scales of the cutters have to be increased but the general earnings of all the people engaged in the cloak industry will have to be raised in order to assure the workers a livelihood.

The same report shows that not only did the other crafts had their average earnings lowered but that there are quite a number who work below the minimum scales. Thus, the finishers' average wage rate is \$40.66, while their minimum is \$51. This shows that while the average wages of the other crafts are considerably above their minimum, the finishers' average earnings are even below their minimum, especially when one considers that the finishers are quite an important factor in the shops.

Another feature in the report is that a comparison of the union minimum wage scales with the average wage rates shows that eighteen per cent of the workers work at wages below the scale, seventeen per cent work at the established scale and sixty-five per cent work above the scale.

(The figures of workers working for the minimum or below the minimum affect largely the other crafts and practically not at all the cutters.)

From these figures it can be concluded that although the employers may claim that these average earnings seem to be fair, when it is considered that thirty-five per cent of the workers work for the minimum or below the minimum, only a small portion of the workers receive a wage sufficient to earn them a livelihood.

Unemployment Greater During 1925

In addition to these facts consideration must be given to the unemployment in our trade. The conclusions drawn by Dr. Rogers in his letter of transmittal accompanying the study on "Employment and Earnings" are as follows:

"It appears from the following study that unemployment was greater in 1925 than in the previous period. Whereas, according to the report of the Special Investigation about a year ago, the average number of full weeks of employment per year was 40 for the inside shops and 31 1/2 for the sub-manufacturing shops, these figures for 1925 are 37.4 for the inside shops and 26.3 for the sub-manufacturing shops. This decrease in employment has, of course, affected the average annual earnings of the workers. In the sub-manufacturing shops in 1924 the average annual earnings were \$1,675; in 1925 they are only \$1,275. In the inside shops the annual average earnings have decreased from \$2,016 to \$1,374."

As is seen from the above paragraph, in 1925, as compared with 1924, the workers had a loss in their yearly earnings of \$300 in the sub-manufacturing shops and about \$150 in the inside shops. Considering that the inside shops constitute only about one-third of the entire trade it actually means that in 1925 the earnings were about \$250 less than in the year previous.

The only way in which the workers can be assured a livelihood out of the industry in which they spend their lives would be the adoption in the cloak industry of a guaranteed time of unemployment. The data gathered by the experts, as published, gives proof that a raise in the minimum as well as a raise in the general earnings and a guaranteed time of employment for the workers are a vital necessity.

It is felt that the facts, as contained in the report of the experts for the Commission, are of such vital interest to the members of the union in general, and to the cutters particularly, that in coming issues, after careful study, additional space will be devoted to other articles on this subject.

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."

CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

REGULAR MEETING Monday, April 12th

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

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