

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

—Job 27.6

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. 15.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1926

PRICE 3 CENTS

Cloak Shop Chairmen Meet Next Tuesday

Shop Heads to Discuss Trade Conditions on April 13, in Webster Hall

The last meeting of the New York Joint Board, held on Friday, April 2, authorized a general meeting of all cloak shop chairmen in Greater New York to discuss some of the urgent questions that are facing the workers in the industry at the present hour.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 13, in Webster Hall, 11th Street and 3rd Avenue, in the evening. Cloak chairmen only have been requested to come.

In addition to the chairmen, the management has also invited some of the more active workers in the shops. All are requested to come on time, in order to give all participants in the discussions ample opportunity to voice their opinions.

Dr. W. Z. Ripley Heads Boston Sanitary Control Joint Board

Harvard Professor Unanimously Chosen Permanent Chairman at First Session of Joint Cloak and Dress Body.

The first official meeting of the recently created Joint Board of Sanitary Control in Boston, which owes its inception to the new agreement made in the local cloak and dress industry, was held at the Hotel Westminister on April 5th. Fifteen members, comprising five representatives of the five local manufacturing, jobbing, and contracting associations, five representatives of the union, and five representatives of the public met officially, and organized the working machinery of the board.

From the group of public representatives, made up of Mrs. L. R. Rantone, of the Women's Trade League; Prof. W. Z. Ripley, of Harvard College; Dr. D. C. Farmer, of the Massachusetts General Hospital; N. J. Frost, of Filene's, and Daniel Bloomfield, lawyer. Professor Ripley was unanimously elected permanent chairman of the board.

Then followed the nomination and election of a ways and means committee, made up of Vice-president Julius Hochman, representing the union, and H. W. Bidstone, representing the employers, to devise the ways and means for the maintenance of a director and his equipment for inspecting the entire industry here. This director will classify shops as A, B, and C establishments and distribute the Proseal sanitary labels to those shops answering the requirements of A and B classifications while taking the necessary steps to have shops listed

New York Local Managers Confer With Matthew Woll On Labor Life Insurance

Conference Arranged Through President Sigman.—Woll Asks Local Heads to Support Insurance Company Promotion.

Last Tuesday, April 6, the managers of all the I. L. G. W. U. locals in New York City met in the Council Room of the International Building in conference with Vice President Matthew Woll of the American Federation of Labor and discussed ways and means of participation in the projected Labor Life Insurance Company, of which Brother Woll is president.

In attendance at the conference, which was called together on the initiative of President Morris Sigman,

were the heads of every local in the Greater City. Vice-president Woll in a detailed talk outlined the plan of the life insurance company as spoke out enthusiastically of the tremendous possibilities for constructive work the development of such an enterprise might open for the organized workers. He stated that nearly half of the stock of the company has already been sold to national and international unions and asked the representatives of the cloak and dress locals present to take up with their respective organizations the matter of subscribing to the capital stock of the company.

A number of questions were asked of Brother Woll concerning the scope of the projected company's work and the prospects of its growth and usefulness, which were answered to the satisfaction of all present. The local managers promised to take up this matter with their locals at the first opportunity.

Sigman's Third Lecture Draws Big Attendance

Harlem Hall Crowded to the Doors—Hundreds Are Turned Away

The third lecture on the affairs of the I. L. G. W. U. in the past three years, given by President Morris Sigman last Sunday morning, turned out to be even a greater success than the two preceding ones. It was held in Harlem, under the auspices of the Clockmakers' Branch of the Socialist Party.

The hall of the Progressive Center, where the lecture took place, was crowded to capacity long before President Sigman began his talk, and literally hundreds of workers had to be turned away, despite the fact that a small admission fee was charged by the arrangement committee. President Sigman's theme was—"The Industrial and Internal Crises in the Clockmakers' Union," and he gave his audience a detailed analysis of economic and organizational conditions and changes that affected the clockmakers' union in the past few years.

The lecture was listened to with earnest attention and when he ended, President Sigman was awarded a genuine ovation. After the lecture, President Sigman replied for over an hour to questions submitted to him from all parts of the hall.

Local 89 To Elect Officers Next Week

Balloting for Executive Board and General Secretary on Thursday, April 15th. — Vice-President Luigi Antonini Will Stand for Re-election.

The election for secretary-manager and executive board in Local 89, the Italian Dressmakers' Union, will take place on Thursday, April 15.

The polling places will be open from 9 A. M. to 7 P. M. They will be located as follows:

Main Office, 8 West 21st street; downtown office, 23 Second avenue; Brooklyn district office, 165 Montrose avenue; Harlem and Bronx district

office, 165 East 121st street; Women's Trade Union League, 247 Lexington avenue.

All members of Local 89 in arrears for not more than nine months will have the right to vote by presenting their union cards to the election committee. The following names will appear on the ballot, qualified and classified by the examination committee under letters A, B, and C (A means very good, B means good, and C signifies poor.)

For Executive Board Members: (Operators) Classified A: Anna Alfano, Martino Apuzzo, Joe Costa, Jennie Fabrizio, Anna Fama, Rose Faranda, Leon Galasso, John Gio, Oreste Grassi, Nicola Lauritano, Frank Lo Scuto, Albina Luvio, Joseph Fircu, Anna Radosti, Joseph Ranno, Joseph Salerno, Carlo Siracusa; Classified

(Continued on Page 2)

Rocker Reception Evening This Saturday In Manhattan Opera House

This Saturday evening, April 10th, there will be given a big popular reception in the Manhattan Opera House, to Rudolph Rocker, prominent labor writer and radical lecturer from England, at present on a short visit and lecture tour in the United States.

Though a German Gentle, Rudolph Rocker, has during his young exile days in Paris later in London, mastered so well the Jewish language that for the past 28 years he was able with singular brilliancy to edit several radical and labor publications in the Jewish language—among these, "Das Freie Wort", "Germinal", and "Der Arbeiter Freund". Rocker is also master of German, French, English and Spanish, and is the author of several essays on sociology and revolutionary history.

An unusual concert program will also be rendered at the Rocker reception next Saturday night, and among the artists that will take part

in it there appear the names of Ina Burabay, mezzo-soprano of the Metropolitan Opera House, Rudolph Polk, renowned American violinist, and Leo Slutz, first cellist of the Philharmonic Orchestra.

Chicago Joint Board to Install Big Organizing Committee on April 15

Concert and Speechmaking Will Mark Event

As we go to press, we received the following telegram from I. L. Davidson, the secretary of the Chicago Joint Board:

"Public installation of the five-hundred organizing committee to organize dress makers will take place on Thursday, April 15th, at 8 o'clock in the evening, at Schoenfeld Hall, Ashland and Milwaukee avenues. There will be a big concert and a number of

speakers. Anton Johanson, chairman of the organization committee of the Chicago Federation of Labor; J. Lewis, manager of the Joint Board; C. S. Zimmerman, of New York; and a Polish and Italian speaker will address the audience.

"A singing society of one hundred voices, a mandolin orchestra, a Polish chorus and other soloists will take part in the concert.

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.

Italian Dressmakers Will Elect Officers Next Week

(Continued from Page 1)

Red B: Gaetano Albergo, Raffaele Iannantonio; **Classified C:** Mike Biscardi, Frank Milazzo, Raimondo Rita. (**Pressers**) Members are to vote for not more than 7. **Classified A:** Antonio Barone, Carlo Burrascano, Giuseppe Di Mella, John Egizio, Antonio Grassano, Stefano Iovine, Joseph Piccolini, Puffo Vigilante; **Classified B:** Santo Averano. **Classified C:** Matteo Innocenzo. (**Finishers**) Members are to vote for or against. **Classified A:** Clara Pabiani, Costanza Ghilini; **Classified B:** Paolina Buonocore. (**Miscellaneous**—**Drapers, Examiners, Cleaners, etc.**) Members are to vote for or against. **Classified A:** Anna Ruggiero; **Classified B:** Ida Finocchio, Esther Selvaggio.

Members are to vote only for 12 persons of the above given list as their choice for executive board members.

As to the other applicant for the office of general secretary, Brother Salvatore Milazzo, the majority of the examination committee found him unfit to run for lack of elementary literacy and executive ability. The minority of the examination committee, Brother Louis Hyman, argued that notwithstanding a member cannot be deprived of the right to run for any office when said member has not violated any rules of the International and who is a good standing member.

Milazzo's Unfitness Upheld

The Executive Board of Local 59 sustained the decision of the majority of the committee and found the contention of Brother Hyman out of place, because it is in conflict with the bylaws of the local, which specifically demands that every candidate must pass an examination of fitness for the office for which he is running, and also with the constitution of the International, Article 5, Sec-

tion 16, which states: "The election and objection committee shall examine the due book of each candidate, his record, eligibility and general qualifications for the office. All candidates must appear before that committee on written notice and request. Candidates failing to appear for examination before the objection and election committee shall be removed from the ballot by that committee. The election and objection committee shall have the power, subject to appeal to the local union or its executive board, to remove any candidate who was or is proven guilty of violating the bylaws of the local union or constitution of the I. L. G. W. U., or who, in their opinion is not qualified for that specific office. The committee shall possess such other powers as may be conferred upon it by the local union or not inconsistent with the Constitution of the I. L. G. W. U. The election and objection committee shall meet at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of election."

The other candidates cancelled from the ballot by the examination committee are the following: Eietta Biagiotti, Finisher, who did not pass the examination, and Angelo La Villa, presser, who was found guilty by the grievance board on March 24th, 1925, and fined \$10 with a suspension from holding office for 2 years.

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Dr. Ripley Heads Boston Sanitary Board

(Continued from Page 1)
safety, to create the basic standards to be required from establishments, is under the direction of Dr. Parsonnier, Brother Hochman and Mr. Rosenberg, representing the employers. These latter committees stand ready to function when the ways and means committee has worked out its plan for displaying expenses.

It was estimated that a salary of \$25 would have to be paid a competent director and that approximately a total of \$4,500 yearly would be required for the director, suitable offices and labels. A plan for a public ceremony to observe the sewing of the first label in a garment by some prominent local person will be arranged for immediately.

The Facts About The Proper Dress Shop

By H. GREENBERG,
Manager Local 91

In the early part of January, at a meeting of the New York General Executive Board, Vice-president Portnoy made a statement that he has learned that Local No. 91 controls a number of shops, where large size dresses are made. He contended that it is wrong of Local 91 to have such shops under its jurisdiction, as in doing so it affords an opportunity to such employers to compete with the shops that are controlled by Local 22.

I then requested Brother Portnoy to mention the names of those shops and the only shop he mentioned was the Proper Dress Co. of 245 7th Avenue. After a discussion for quite a while on this subject, it was finally agreed in the presence of the rest of the New York members of the General Executive Board that Vice-president Antonini is to make an investigation in the shop of the Proper Dress Co. and after such an investigation his decision shall be binding upon both sides.

On the 25th of January, I received a letter from Brother Antonini stating that he investigated the shop as to the kind of dresses that are made in it that in addition to that, Mr. Ackerman, the official investigator of the Board, investigated the books of the Proper Dress Co. for the entire year and has found that the most of the work made in that shop consists of ladies' dresses and that therefore, the shop is to be transferred to the Joint Board.

On January 27, I sent a letter to Brother Portnoy calling his attention to the letter that I received from Antonini and asked him to give this matter his immediate attention, stating that the agreement between the firm and our Union will expire on February 1st.

From that date until February 15, I have time and again called upon Brother Portnoy to finally settle this matter; and his answer was that he must wait until the Board of Directors of the Joint Board would act on this case.

"During this time, I have reported to the Executive Board of Local 91, that the shop of the Proper Dress Company may have to be transferred to the Joint Board, as Brother Portnoy representing the Dressmakers' Union, contends that large dresses are being made in that shop and that it was agreed that an investigation be made by Brother Antonini and that both parties are to abide by his decision. I did argue at the Executive Board that once the Joint Board makes a request for the transferring of the shop, contending that we are

competing with their union shops by permitting our workers to work longer hours and for lower wages on the same line of work that their members work, their claim would be a justifiable one.

Fortunately or unfortunately, as one may consider it, four members of our Executive Board, who claim to be "progressives", are working in the shop of the Proper Dress Co. and at the moment this question came up, they immediately forgot the principle of trade unionism and the right of the Joint Board to claim the shop of the Proper Dress Co. and have used all means possible to have the shop continue under our jurisdiction, regardless whether the conditions they are working under are inferior to those existing in other dress shops or not. On February 15th I received the following letter from Brother Portnoy notifying me that the Joint Board after investigating decided to take over the two shops in question as regular dress shops and that a Joint Board-agent will be assigned to make this transfer.

When this letter was read to our Executive Board, the so-called progressives, insisted that we ignore the decision of the Joint Board; that we ignore the letter that was sent to us by the representative of the Dress Department and that we sign up the shop of the Proper Dress Company without any further delay. When they failed in that attempt, it was finally decided that a committee appear before the Joint Board and request of the Joint Board that they officially withdraw their request that the shop be transferred to them.

On January 26th, I received a letter from Brother Fish, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Joint Board, informing me that the Joint Board has decided to postpone action on the request made by our committee until an investigation will be made in all the other shops controlled by our Union that make a similar line of garments.

Up to March 5, I received no information of the Joint Board as to whether an investigation had been made or not. And on that date I have again addressed a letter to the Joint Board calling their attention to their former decision with reference to the Proper Dress shop and also that the contract with the employers expired on February 1st and that this matter must be finally disposed of.

This letter was sent by messenger to the Joint Board office in order that it may be given immediate attention. As no answer was received to this letter, I have again addressed (Continued on Page 3)

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With the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board

By JOSEPH FISHL,
Secretary-Treasurer.

A meeting of the Joint Board was held on Friday, April 2, 1936 at the Auditorium of the International, 3 W. 16th Street.

Committees:

Rubin Zuckerman, member of Local No. 1, and Benjamin Teitelbaum, of the Millinery Workers' Union, appeared as an authorized committee representing the Warsaw Needle Trades. Brother Teitelbaum describes in brief the deplorable condition of the needle trades in Warsaw and pleads in their behalf, stating that they will eventually break down if the needle workers of this country will not come to their rescue.

The request is referred to the Finance Committee.

Lucy G. Brannan, representing the Russian Reconstruction Farms, Inc., which organization teaches the Russian farmers American methods of agriculture, request the Joint Board to purchase tickets for a concert to be held on April 11th arranged by them.

The report is referred to the Finance Committee.

NINFO AND ANTONINI RESIGN AS FUND TRUSTEES

Vice-president Ninfo submits the following communication to the Joint Board:

Greetings:

"I present to you herewith my resignation as trustee of the Special Strike Fund of the Joint Board and desire to state my reasons for doing so.

When I, together with the other six trustees, accepted service as an administrator of this special fund, I understood that this fund was to be administered by representatives of all the largest locals of the Joint Board on terms of equality and without regard to faction or politics. I had in mind that this great strike fund was a joint enterprise of all the workers in the cloak and dress industry and that we were all equally interested in making it a success, and should therefore have an equal say in its control and distribution.

That was four weeks ago. What happened at the last meeting of the Joint Board proved a bitter disappointment to me. After it was all settled and adopted that the fund should require the signatures of all its trustees for any disbursements, the Joint Board majority of a sudden went back on its former decision and adopted a recommendation to the effect that four of the seven trustees be sufficient for signing authorizations for the withdrawal of money from that fund.

Most surprising to me was the fact that some of the leaders of the dominating faction in the Joint Board who only a week ago spoke so strongly for the rule of seven trustees, now changed front and agitated for the change that gives four trustees the right to control the fund, just enough to give the representatives of the majority faction over the fund to do as they may choose.

I consider it below my dignity as a trade unionist to remain as a member of this board of trustees as a mere dummy, and, as I stated frankly at the Joint Board meeting on March 12, I therefore tender my resignation from it. This fund is not being collected by a single group in our Union. It is our Joint defense fund, and no opportunity should be given any single faction in the Joint Board to control it to the exclusion of others.

I submitted my motion to the Executive Board of Local No. 48 on

Thursday, March 26th and they were in unanimous accord with it. I am fully convinced that the entire membership of our Union, as well as my organization, will sustain me unqualifiedly in this action. I am equally confident that the Italian cloak and dress-makers' organization of New York, and who, according to membership, will have to contribute approximately a quarter of a million dollars to the special fund, will demand to know the true reason behind this maneuver which bars to all practical purposes their representatives from any control of this fund, and why their locals have actually been disfranchised from any supervision of the reserve money which we are called upon to contribute for the emergency that is facing the union in the near future.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) SALVATORE NINFO

The resignation is accepted.

Vice-president Antonini tendered his resignation as Trustee of the Assessment Fund in the following letter:

Greetings:

"I herewith tender my resignation as trustee of the Special Reserve Strike Fund of the Joint Board, at present being raised through the \$20 assessment levied upon all the members of our Locals, a post to which I was elected at the regular meeting of the Joint Board on Friday, February 19th, 1936.

In handing in my resignation, I desire to make clear the following reasons which prompt my action and which make my continuance on this board of trustees incompatible with my sense of honor and obligation as a trade unionist, and which would violate my duty to the organization which I represent in this Joint Board.

The large strike fund which the Joint Board is now collecting for the great emergency that is facing the workers in our industry—the coming general strike—is a joint voluntary undertaking of the entire membership of our Union and is not the property or the concern of a single group or faction of it. To make this fund a success all our Locals, without exception, pledged their efforts and co-operation and all our Locals have contributed and are contributing their utmost to make this fund as large as possible.

When I accepted service as trustee of this fund, as one of seven representing the largest organizations of the Joint Board, it was this thought I had in mind. I well remember how some of the present leaders of the Joint Board complained bitterly in the past that their organizations were deprived of the right to be represented on the finance committee of the Joint Board, that they were suffering from a policy of taxation without representation. And so when the Joint Board decided that this highly important fund was to be administered by a committee of seven, I regarded it as a fair and just action.

My premature belief that the present leaders of the Joint Board would obtain in this case from narrow party and factional politics and would act in a proper trade-union spirit was, however, quickly shattered. Four weeks after it had created this board of trustees, the Joint Board repudiated its former decision, and, upon invitation of the four executive boards of the majority faction, adopted a recommendation brought in by the Board of Directors to the effect that only four of the seven trustees be re-

(Continued on Page 7)

UNION HEALTH CENTER COLUMN

HAY FEVER, ITS CAUSE AND TREATMENT

By DR. S. RINKOFF

It has been roughly estimated that every year there are almost a million hay fever sufferers in the United States and Canada. Hay fever has been popularly so called because it was supposed to be caused by contact with hay or grasses of various sorts. It is not a hereditary disease, but certain families of a high strung and nervous nature seem to be more disposed to it than others. Thus the doctor often finds two or more sufferers from hay fever in the same family, or else one or more patients having related conditions such as asthma, hives or eczema.

Hay fever is a seasonal disease recurring every year. It is characterized by sneezing and discharge from the nose with a burning sensation of the eyes causing tears and a congestion of the mucous lining of the nose, throat, and eyes. Due to the above symptoms there is often a great difficulty in breathing at night with consequent insomnia or sleeplessness. Asthmatic attacks are present in 15 per cent of the cases and very often bronchitis follows which lasts throughout the entire winter.

The Cause of Hay Fever

Hay fever is caused by the pollen that is the very fine powder to be found in the flowers of trees, grasses and weeds. This powder or pollen is very light and is carried by the wind for many miles. It becomes mixed with ordinary dust and when inhaled by persons susceptible to it and deposited on the lining of the nose and the eyes, causes hay fever. Why these pollens should be harmless to some people, but act as poison producing hay fever in others is a problem which medicine is still trying to solve.

In this part of the country hay fever may be divided into three types: The first type is caused by the pollen of trees and lasts from the middle of March to the end of May. The symptoms of this kind of hay fever are mild and ordinarily affect the person for a few days. Usually a patient thinks that he has contracted a severe cold in the head. The second type or rose fever as it is often called begins in late May or early June and lasts till the middle of July. It is caused by the pollen of grasses such as June grass, orchard grass, etc., and is accompanied pretty much by the same sort of symptoms. The third type is due to the pollen of a group of plants such as the golden rod, sun flower, and giant and short ragweed. This is the most common and most troublesome type of hay fever and lasts from the middle of August until the beginning of cold weather.

The Union Health Center is making appointments now for the Hay Fever Clinic which is to be conducted by Dr. S. Rinkoff, beginning the end of April.

Facts About the Proper Dress Shop

(Continued from Page 2)

a letter to the Joint Board, on March 12th, notifying them that in view of their failure to take any action, Local 91 decided to sign up with the Proper and Schneider & Tuchner firms, and asking the Joint Board to have a representative present at the time of signing.

I have personally gave this letter to Brother Louis Hyman, the general manager of the Joint Board. Receiving no reply to this letter the firm of the Proper Dress Co. was called to the office of our local in order to sign the agreement. We demanded an increase in wages and when the firm refused to grant that increase, the shop was declared on strike. After being out on strike for a few days, the firm finally conceded the demand of the Union, granting the increase and the agreement was signed.

After the agreement was signed with the firm which was on March 17th, I received the following letter from the Joint Board:

"Dear Sir and Brother:

Your communication of the 12th inst. at hand.

The reason you have not as yet heard from us regarding the transfer of the Proper Dress Co. under our control is that this shop, as well as all others controlled by your Local are being investigated.

As soon as we get any results you will surely hear from us.

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) JOSEPH FISHL

Secretary-Treasurer."

As the readers will note from the correspondence in this statement, the Joint Board, for one reason or another, after an investigation was made in the shop of the Proper Dress and after it was found that the work made in that shop consists mostly of ladies dresses, has, nevertheless, failed to insist that this shop be transferred to the Joint Board. The reason, of course, is best known to them.

I am making this official statement in "Justice", because a group of so-called "progressives" have made it their business to spread various rumors and insinuations among our members as well as among members of other local unions that I have conspired with Brother Antonini to have the shop of the Proper Dress Co. transferred to the Joint Board in order to get rid of some of the so-called "progressives" who are members of our executive board. I have also learned from the answer given by the editor of the "Brooklynite" that a letter was sent to the "Gerechtigkeit" reporting to be in the name of the chair-lady of the shop, to the same effect.

It is not new to me that this element is ready at all times to deny facts and state things which have never taken place. I am ready to have this matter investigated by a committee of the General Executive Board and once for all, determine the real reasons why the Joint Board is satisfied to have this shop continue under our jurisdiction after they had convinced themselves that the firm is manufacturing ladies' dresses.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2148

MORRIS SIGMAN, President

A. HAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.50 per year.

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EDITORIALS

THE A. F. OF L. CAMPAIGN TO ORGANIZE WOMEN WORKERS

The first practical steps taken by the American Federation of Labor to carry out a nationwide program to organize women in industry will be welcomed by organized labor in every section in the country.

The urgent necessity of enrolling the great masses of women workers into the trade union organizations need hardly be emphasized at this hour. Women wage earners already constitute more than one-third of the wage-earning population of the land, and their number and influence upon industry keeps continually increasing. In some trades and occupations, to be sure, the woman element is both in quality and quantity the dominant factor.

The question of organizing the millions of women workers is, of course, not a new question. But until the last few years it has occupied only the attention of the individual international unions affiliated with the Federation, each of them grappling with it to the best of its ability, and frequently far less than that. During the last two conventions of the A. F. of L., however, this problem of converting the masses of women in industry to trade unionism has loomed up as dominant national issue for the whole labor movement. It has finally dawned upon the leaders of the organized workers in America that until woman in industry joins her fellow workers on terms of economic equality and becomes a full-fledged member in the family of organized labor, the men workers' organizations, or the organizations where the woman element is but meagerly represented, will remain insecure, or, at best, poorly representative of the modern trend of evolution in American industrial life.

Organizing women workers is not an easy task. The New Jersey Conference launched last week will, no doubt, soon find out that it has a huge job ahead of it. We, of the women's garment trades, who have been confronted with this problem of enrolling the American woman worker into the trade union organization, have known the difficulty of this task for many years past. The anti-union employer in the New Jersey mills, who is a past master in the art of wielding the whip of intimidation and oppression over his men workers, is even a more refined slave driver with regard to the women mill workers. And "Jersey justice," the police authorities, and organized thuggery for hire will, of course, rally to the cause of the mill and factory owners at the critical moment. The daily story of the struggle in Passaic fully substantiates this.

Nevertheless, we are not at all pessimistic about the prospects of this organizing drive undertaken by the A. F. of L. What will be necessary, however, is a genuine will and a resolute fighting spirit on the part of the organizers and missionaries from the ranks of the local bodies and the international unions enlisted in this service. And, for that matter, we are in a way satisfied that the Executive Council of the Federation has picked the New Jersey industrial district as its first field for organizing operations. The movement in New Jersey will be met with severe handicaps and obstacles from the outset, no doubt, but this baptismal fire will also give this tremendously important campaign the strength, the soul and the hardened virility which it will require to carry out successfully its mission all-over the land.

CLOAK AND DRESS WAGES IN CLEVELAND

In less than two weeks, the Board of Referees in the Cleveland Cloak and Skirt industry will hold hearings on the subject of wage increases to the workers in the Cleveland cloak, skirt and dress market.

The Cleveland Joint Board will request the Referees, through its local spokesmen and through President Sigman, who will attend these hearings on behalf of the International, to grant all the workers in the cloak and dress shops an increase in the minimum wage scales. Under its agreement with the Cleveland Cloak Manufacturers' Association, the Joint Board may demand such an increase and may present facts and data to support its demand. The employers will, quite likely, if former precedents are taken into account, oppose the Union's request. A glance at prevailing wage rates and earnings in our trades in Cleveland will, therefore, be quite appropriate at this moment.

Under the Cleveland agreement, it must be noted, the workers are entitled to a time period of employment of not less than 40 weeks. In the event of an employer failing to provide his workers with the minimum of forty weeks, the workers are to receive one-half of the minimum rate for that portion of the 40 weeks

during which they are laid off work. The wage scales, both for the cloak and dress trades, are approximately as follows:

Full-skilled cutters	\$42.00 per week
Skilled men operators	44.00 " "
Skilled men finishers	34.00 " "
All-around men pressers	40.00 " "
Skilled women operators	30.00 " "
Women fore-pressers	28.50 " "
Skilled women finishers	26.50 " "

These scales hold good, with minor modifications, in the skirt trade, too. Besides, there are a number of workers in the crafts enumerated above, classified as semi-skilled and minor operators, who receive substantially smaller rates.

When computed on the basis of the 40 guaranteed weeks it may be seen that the Cleveland cutters average approximately \$52.00 a week per year, the full-fledged men operators—\$34.00, the men pressers—\$30.00, the men finishers—\$25.00, the women operators—\$23.00, the women pressers—nearly \$22.00, and the women finishers—a little above \$20.00 per week. And even assuming that there exists in Cleveland, as in other markets, a certain percentage of above-the-minimum scale workers, it must be kept in mind that if these workers happen not to be employed during these guaranteed 40 weeks, they get only one-half of their rate, which would bring down the averages given above considerably, and also that in fixing these averages we took in account only the best and highest paid workers leaving out the large mass that get paid substantially lower scales.

It is evident, therefore, without going much further into the case, that the Cleveland workers receive much lower wages, and that their earnings, on the whole, are considerably smaller than in other cloak and dress markets. It is similarly evident that, while the general cost of living for workers may be slightly lower in Cleveland than in New York or Chicago, the Cleveland cloak and dressmakers are not earning a living wage.

We hope that the Cleveland Board of Referees will not fail to take this fact into account and that they will grant the demand of the Union for a material upward revision of the wage scales. The Cleveland cloak and dress industry is a big and thriving industry and the workers engaged in it are surely entitled to a decent living for themselves and their dependents.

TWO TEXTILE STRIKES

Out in Passaic, and in two nearby towns of Clifton and Garfield, a strike of ten thousand woolen mill workers is on for nearly two months. The mills in Passaic and Garfield—the Botany, the Forstmann Company, and the others are nearly all foreign-owned and controlled. To be sure, their owners, so it is plausibly reported, established their huge plants in the hospitable province of New Jersey in order to escape higher cost of textile production in the European manufacturing centres and the annoying influence of organized labor. It is far more convenient to run a woolen mill on a peonage basis in New Jersey than, let us say, in Germany. These foreign owners were confident to obtain the help of "Jersey justice," and of the Jersey police Cossacks in time of "trouble"—and their confidence, so it appears, was not in the least misplaced.

The Passaic mill strikers are nearly all foreign born, or of foreign extraction. Their wages are wages of semi-starvation, their hours are long, and their lives, as a look into the mill workers' quarters in the Passaic district could quickly convince the most cynical doubter, are cheerless and stunted. Twice during the past ten years the Passaic mill workers broke out in rebellion against their masters, demanding a larger slice of bread, a trifle more of leisure and light for themselves and their children, and a measure of self-determination as organized factory workers. Both these outbreaks failed, and the Passaic mill workers were driven back to labour under the lash of the master.

Their present strike, however, is far better organized than any of their past attempts. It is a wonderful battle that the Passaic woolen mill "hands" are waging against the brutal and sinister combination of the policeman's club, the jail sentences meted out daily by the petty judges, and the brutalities of hired squads of gangsters. The sympathies of the labor world, without regard to affiliation, is entirely with the strikers. The Passaic mill boys and girls are fighting against a wage reduction which pares down to the bone their already slim earnings, and the labor movement in the East, in particular, should uphold the hands of these valiant fighters—until their cause is won and they are able to return back to the mills with the sunlight of victory glowing in their eyes.

In another dismal textile mill town, out in Willimantic, Conn., 2,500 workers employed in shops of the American Thread Company have been out on strike for more than a year. Some of them, driven by hunger, have left the town, but the great majority of them, housed in a tent city on the outskirts of Willimantic, are as determined as on March 9, 1925, when they walked out of the mill in protest against a wage reduction.

The "American" thread factory in which these Willimantic workers are striking is also, note the coincidence, a subsidiary of a foreign group of textile capitalists, the English Sewing Cotton Company of England. The year before this company had ordered the wage-cut it had declared a dividend of 10 per cent and also placed \$1,400,000 in its reserve fund out of profits. In the last 10 years the profits of this poor concern totalled only a meager 13 million dollars.

The Willimantic strike is being conducted by the United Textile Workers' Union, and is being supported by organized labor

Senator Wheeler's Plan To Nationalize The Anthracite Mines ::

By H. S. RAUSHENBUSH

A bill to establish a Federal Anthracite Corporation to take over all or part of the anthracite coal industry upon the threat of a new emergency has been introduced by Senator R. K. Wheeler. The board of directors is to be appointed by the President from representatives of the anthracite consuming states and from the union, the two groups most interested in steady production at a reasonable price. The corporation is also empowered to enter the business of wholesaling coal wherever it is necessary to check profiteering. The bill carries a maximum appropriation of \$600,000,000 to buy the mines, on which the corporation is obligated to pay interest and sinking fund charges regularly.

Senator Wheeler said in behalf of his bill:

"The establishment of this Federal Anthracite Corporation is absolutely necessary. It will end the ludicrous situation in which this country has found itself so often, that during a coal shortage no bill is considered, not because it cannot be passed in time to end the shortage, and after the emergency is passed no bill is considered because we have a fool's hope that everything is permanently settled. At present there is no bill before the Senate that will protect the country when the present truce in the industry ends.

"The country must remember that wage negotiations may begin all over next January and that the truce may end then for the simple reason that both sides think it means very different things diametrically opposed to each other. The operators in their official organs say it means arbitration. The miners through their officials say they have defeated arbitration. Both sides have been claiming great victories. In such an acute difference of opinion where is there any promise of even a five year's peace?"

"There is no protection for the public in the administration bill providing for fact-finding and emergency control of distribution. We tried fact-finding with the \$600,000 Coal Commission. It did not prevent the three weeks' strike of 1923 or the five month strike of 1925-26. Even the chairman of the anthracite operators, Mr. S. D. Warriner, has publicly favored a fact-finding agency. Control of distribution in an emergency, when there is almost no coal to distribute, is not only locking the barn door after the horse has escaped, it is locking it after the horse has starved to death."

This is an honest looking facts in the face. No other bill before Congress does anything but nibble, in a deceiving way, at the edges of the anthracite coal problem. Fact-finding is good. It is not good enough. The present settlement, like the three that preceded it, does not tackle the essential economic deadlock in the industry. It is this deadlock which Senator Wheeler's bill gets at.

The deadlock is this: The operators are a unit and the union is a unit. So when there is a wage increase all the operators, all the companies, have to pay it to all the workers. Some of the companies make great profits. They would have little trouble in paying the increase. But some of the companies in this last year or two have been making very little profit. Possibly one-fourth of the anthracite production has so low a margin of profit that they have in the past few years only been able to stand wage increases because they were able to raise prices and people would still buy their coal at any price. Now those

days are about over. People want anthracite coal badly. But they will not year in and year out, pay what many people of New York were forced to pay, \$1.60 a hundred-weight, \$32 a short ton. Some of the operating companies can no longer go on increasing prices and sell the large and necessary production all year around that will show a profit and sustain them in their industry.

That is only the first half of the deadlock. The second half lies in the fact that some of the companies, a large proportion of them, earn very considerable profits and can pay increased wages without increasing the price of coal.

There is no reason to believe that as the miners see large profits and stock dividends being taken out of the industry and watered capitalization in it that they will ever be content to forego a claim to it. What goes out of

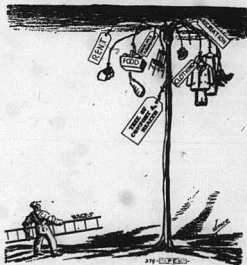
Senator Wheeler's proposal for a Federal anthracite company. It is to have a Federal charter, is to act as a governmental agency for the regulation of interstate commerce in anthracite coal and for the maintenance of a continuous supply in commerce at fair and reasonable prices.

With the threat of the very next emergency it is given the right-to-exercise the right of eminent domain for the purpose of acquiring any or all anthracite coal mines and the necessary coal lands and even wholesale coal storage yards if necessary. It is empowered to control and manage the industry.

The present security holders are to be bought-out at the cost of their prudent investment. Upon demand of the board of directors of the corporation, the Secretary of the Treasury is to issue U. S. bonds, the funds of which are to go to reimburse the present security holders. The interest on those bonds and a fund for their amortization are to be the first charge upon the industry. The bonds are not to exceed \$600,000,000.

The formal control of the company is to be invested in the parties most concerned in having the industry fulfill its social function—the consumers and the workers. Three of the direct-

TOO HIGH TO REACH



L. E. Journal

the industry in the form of payment on excess capital claims the miners cannot get in the form of wages, and they know it.

The disputes in anthracite are less between the miners and the operators than between the miners and the organization of the industry into a monopoly that does not work like a monopoly, does not establish uniform prices, does not pay all stockholders the same return and does not even cut the sums annually available for wages among all its workers.

This situation, the figured failure of the industry to function, the great need of consumers and workers, their essential common interest, all lead to

ers are to be appointed from the anthracite consuming states and three are to be appointed from nominations made by the union. They are to choose a chairman from outside their number. This board of directors is to run the industry, to appoint managers (and there is no reason to believe that the present managers will not be retained except in cases of notorious inefficiency to fix the price of coal and fulfill all the functions of any ordinary board of directors.

These two groups have so much in common that their hearty cooperation on the board of directors is to be expected. They both stand to gain from increased efficiency and continuity within the industry. There will under the Federal anthracite company no longer be any question as to the facts of the industry on the ground that the operators are continuing their past practices of charging capital expenditure into costs and inflating depreciation and depletion charges. There will be no further question of the motives and purposes of the banking groups behind the operating com-

panies. The essential nub of the deadlock—the high cost companies—will have been eliminated from the scene, are cost of all the companies. In addition, with excess capital claims held down, there will be more to distribute between the two groups than there is now. The main opposition to this will come from those who prefer the uncertainties of a gamble to the surety of a fixed income. In other words, we may expect the opposition to this Federal anthracite company to come from those who still want to consider the companies of the anthracite industry as a speculative investment.

While the fundamental causes for strikes are removed, the freedom of collective bargaining is maintained. The anthracite mine workers have had a union for over a quarter of a century. They have developed from their own ranks leaders of ability, thoughtfulness, social sympathy and understanding. The union has never been with the consuming public—it has always been with the excess claims of the investors and the peculiar structure of the industry that made them stand a large part of the burden of those claims. They have been forced to spend most of their time and energy in an attack upon these factors. This company will remove that necessity. They will be free to contribute their ability and skill to eliminating waste and other losses attendant upon the present practice of their opponents. They should be encouraged to develop their union activity in such a way as to play an increasingly responsible part. Their right to bargain collectively with the board of directors, is protected. They will have little cause to suspend production, but if they choose to do so, after proper deliberation and consideration of all that is involved, they should no more be restricted in this right than consumers should be restricted in the right to stop buying anthracite coal."

World Migration Labor Congress To Be Held In May

A world migration Labor Congress is being organized by the International Federation of Trade Unions and the Labor and Socialist International jointly, to take place on May 18-21st in London.

Back in 1924, the I. F. of T. U. held a congress on migration in Prague. At that time it was decided to collect all the material available on this subject so that at a future conference it might be possible to lay down guiding principles for the regulation of emigration and immigration.

The great importance of migration to the workers of the world is evidenced by the many bodies and conferences which have lately been concerning themselves with migration. Among others may be mentioned the International Labor Office, the Pan-American Federation of Labor, the Pacific Conference, the British Commonwealth conference, etc. It is considered that the time has come for organized labor, industrial and political, to define its attitude to this problem of ever-increasing importance.

The London congress will be attended by delegates from every trade union center in countries in Europe, Asia, America and Australia, to whom the question is of importance. On the agenda of the congress appear, among others, the following subjects: 1) Short Historical Survey with statistics; 2) Regulation of Migration; 3) The Position of the Immigrant in Respect to Social Insurance; 4) Population and Unemployment in Relation to Migration; 5) Economic Conditions in Relation to Migration; and 6) Labor Migration Policy.

everywhere. At our last convention in Philadelphia, a girl representing the Willamantic strikers appeared and pleaded for support. The convention unanimously voted to send some aid to the strikers.

This, however, is far from enough. The tent strikers of Willamantic, who for a year have been fighting so tenaciously against terrific odds, deserve the wholehearted support of organized labor, and of our own workers, on a much larger scale. Their need is as urgent as ever, and their outstretched hands must not be turned back empty.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



New Paths In the Workers' Education Movement

By FANNIA M. COHN

(in Labor Age, October, 1935)

The movement for Workers' Education in the United States is of comparatively recent origin. Like many other movements, it has had the sad fate of being misunderstood by many—over-estimated by some, under-estimated by others. Every group has offered its own interpretation of it. The onlooker has been bewildered in his effort to define its policies, aims, and objects.

Many individuals who confess that they possessed an enthusiasm for the movement at its inception a few years ago, express their growing discouragement about its future at present. In their pessimism they have become crusaders against it, and in their efforts to uncover its futility and "tear it down," they have used tens of thousands of words in defining what they discovered real workers' education to be. The average reader of these polemics loses himself in the underbrush of beautiful phrases, but a diligent reader will separate the phraseology from the "meaning" and the practical suggestions made. Then, if he is in doubt, he will make a study of the aims and objects of the founders of the Workers' Education movement who are still influential in it, and of their literature, and will discover that the new point of view of these crusaders lies in an objection to the presentation of the subject matter rather than to its substance.

The aims of the workers' education movement have always been clear. The pioneers of this movement have always emphasized that it had a double meaning: a collective and an individual one. While it does offer the worker as an individual an opportunity to develop his personality and character and acquaint himself with the world he lives in, they feel that its particular aim lies in making him more effective in his group, thus strengthening the workers' organization. It aims, first, to interest him in the industry in which he is engaged, with its productive processes, its technique of craftsmanship, its specific economic problems and the various suggestions made for their solution, the relation of his industry to other kindred industries, and the place it occupies in our economic and social structure.

Beyond the Classroom

They further desired to interest the workers in their trade unions, in the aims, problems and policies of these unions; to make them conscious of their responsibilities as citizens of an industrial organization, and the place it offers them in our industrial society.

The founders of the Workers' Education movement, who were trade unionists themselves, were always conscious of the fact that the real workers' college is the trade union. It is there the worker learns of economic and social problems; it is there he learns how to solve them. These founders always emphasized in their literature that it is at the trade union assembly, whether, shop meeting, general meeting, or convention, that he gets his real schooling. They held, further, in their various writings on workers' education, that all the education given must be coordinated with the interests of the trade union; that

workers' education cannot be called such if it is carried on abstractly.

Some individuals mistakenly confine workers' education to the classroom alone, and judge it by the number of students enrolled in the class. The influence of workers' education, however, goes far beyond the classroom. It is reflected in trade union publications, in the discussions at trade union meetings, at conventions and in the meetings of the executive councils. As a consequence of this movement, many books and pamphlets have been written on trade union problems, policies and tactics.

At the beginning, indeed, workers' education was confined largely to the classroom. It has, however, at present broadened its old scope and entered into many new activities. While the classroom has not declined in importance, new phases of the work have been entered upon. Through the influence of the workers' education movement, labor has become more self-conscious, begun to study its history and formulate its aims. The needs of the classroom have called for greater articulateness on all these subjects, so books and pamphlets have been written on them. The workers' education movement is being used more and more by trade unions to interest more of their membership, and to bring into understanding of their aims the wives and children of their members. Another new development has been in the direction of getting more individuals at the classes and conferences held—chiefly through summer sessions and chautauques. The labor movement, recognizing the value of all these new developments has undertaken official support of the workers' education movement, by urging all unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to pay affiliation dues to the Workers' Education Bureau.

(To be continued)

HIKES WILL START THE FIRST WEEK IN MAY

Our Educational Department is making arrangements to begin our yearly Spring hikes the first week in May. We will have competent persons to take the lead. Several places of interest will be visited.

It is needless to say how important these hikes are for our members who are compelled to work in doors every day. It is a great pleasure to be in touch with Mother Nature even one day a week. Our hikes have always been most welcome to our members.

Those who wish to join should get in touch with our Educational Department, 3 West 164th Street, through correspondence or in person.

PHYSICAL TRAINING CLASS WILL BE RESUMED TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Our Physical Training Class which meets in P. S. 40, 326 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.

Weekly Educational Calendar

P. S. 40, 326 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. What Kind of Education Do Women Need?

By Fannia M. Cohn and Max Levine

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

77th Street and Columbus Ave.

Saturday, April 17

2 P. M. Lecture by Dr. Sylvia Kopald—Walk through Museum.

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, 3 West 16th Street, from 6:30 to 7:30 P. M.

THEATRE TICKETS AT REDUCED PRICES FOR OUR MEMBERS FOR STRINDBERG'S "EASTER" AND CONRAD'S "ONE DAY MORE"

At the 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.

Passes 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.

"WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION DO WOMEN NEED?"

Lecture-Symposium for the Wives of I. L. G. W. U. Members in Harlem, Tuesday, April 13th, 7:30 P. M.

On Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 P. M. there will be a lecture for the wives of our members in the Cloakmakers Center, 73 East 104th Street. The topic will be "What Kind of Education Do Women Need?" The lecturers will be Fannia M. Cohn and Max Levine.

It is important to discuss this question as there are various opinions expressed on this subject. All agree that there is no hope for a better future unless mothers will be prepared to bring up a new mankind with new conceptions, who are ready to build

a new social order. Before this can be achieved mothers will have to be prepared for this great work.

This lecture will be the first of a series for the wives of our members. This does not mean that men will be excluded, but where there are little children to be taken care of, we expect the husband to stay at home and let the wives attend the lecture.

The date is Tuesday, April 13th, 7:30 P. M. The place is Harlem Cloakmakers Center, 73 East 104th Street. Admission free.

LECTURE AND WALK THROUGH THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Lecture by Dr. Sylvia Kopald on Saturday, April 17th, 2 P. M.

On Saturday, April 17th, at 2 P. M. our Educational Department has arranged a lecture in the Museum of Natural History, 77th St. and Columbus Avenue, in the Academy Room or the Main Floor.

Dr. Sylvia Kopald will talk to our members about the exhibits which they will see at the Museum. There will be a discussion of the formation of the Earth as pictured through the specimens in the Geology Room. The students will be told of how life developed on the Earth and Man came to be, from the specimens in the Darwin Room. There will be discussion also on what can be seen in the Hall of Man, where human life from the Cave-Man to the modern city is pictured. Finally the students will be led to the rooms showing the civil

izations of primitive peoples like the Indians, the Eskimos and the African Negroes.

These lectures and visits to the Museum have proved very successful and valuable to our members in previous years, and we urge as many members as possible to take advantage of the opportunity offered this year.

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, 326 East 20th Street, on Tuesday April 13, at 8 P. M. He will give two more lessons.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

The latest development in the matter of the personnel of the board of trustees charged with the duty of administering the million dollar fund is the resignation of two trustees representing, as managers, two large Italian locals, the cloakmakers, Local 48, and the dressmakers, Local 33. The resignations, tendered by managers Salvatore Ninfo of the cloakmakers and Luigi Antonini of the dressmakers, were accepted by the Joint Board at the last meeting.

Explains Position in Resignation

Manager Ninfo in his letter explained the position of the Executive Board he represents as well as his own, with regard to his acceptance and election as a member of the board of trustees. The letter is published in full elsewhere in this issue.

When Ninfo accepted as one of the administrators of this special fund he was under the impression that the board would function without regard to faction or politics. He said he was considerably surprised when a week later, after one of the "leaders of the dominating faction of the Joint Board" had strongly favored the rule of seven trustees that the same leader agitator for a board of four members, thus giving the "majority faction full domination over the fund, to do as they may choose."

He also considered it as below his dignity as a trade unionist, to continue service on the board of trustees without any ray in the administration of the fund and resigned, feeling that to remain as a member of the board would be in the form of "a mere dummy".

Cooperation of All Locals Necessary
Luigi Antonini, manager of the Italian Dressmakers' Local 33, in tendering his resignation as a member of the board of trustees, opened his letter of resignation with the statement that he considers "continuance on this board of trustees incompatible with his sense of honor and obligation as a trade unionist."

He expressed the opinion that the collection of the fund was intended, and properly so, for any emergency that is facing the workers in the cloak and suit industry and for that matter that may face the dressmakers as well as the expiration of their agreement. This he looked upon as a "joint voluntary undertaking of the entire membership of our union and is not the property or the concern of a single group or faction of it."

In his letter of resignation Antonini recalls the bitterness with which some of the present leaders of the Joint Board were wont to complain against a system of "taxation without representation." Hence, when the Joint Board decided "that this highly important fund was to be administered by a committee of seven he regarded it as a fair and just action."

Fall to Elect Other Trustees

Then he went on to cite in detail the original decision for the formation of a board of trustees of seven which was to administer the fund and with equal powers to everyone of the seven members. He also recounted the sudden reversal, or as he termed it, "right-about-face," from the original decision to the decision that the power be centered in the hands of four members who represented a single shade of political opinion.

Antonini states in his letter that the leaders of the Joint Board "may try hard to conceal their true motives for adopting" the change from seven to four trustees. But to him, he says, it is plain, that they are only seeking to secure for themselves, "for the ma-

jority administration faction, the sole and exclusive control of this fund."

The resignation of the two managers were plainly worded and their positions were clearly outlined. For the Joint Board there was no other alternative but to accept the resignations. Following the acceptance of these resignations the Joint Board at the same meeting on Friday, April 2, sought to elect two other trustees to take the place of those who had resigned.

There was placed before the meeting the nomination of two managers representing some of the smaller locals. These, however, refused to accept. And for the present the board is lacking two members. Apparently, nominations were declined on the ground that since only four signatures were required for the administration of the fund the trustees above the number of four would serve as mere figureheads.

Strikes Against Dress Firms Continue

The function "granted" the firm of Maurice Rentner, 493 Seventh Ave., against whom the Joint Board is conducting a strike for nearly three months time, little changed the situation in so far as the strike is concerned as originally declared and conducted. Picketing continues in the same form as insisted upon by the police department when the strike was first declared.

The police department at all times insisted that regulations permitted no more than six pickets at any time. However, what the firm sought in its application for a permanent injunction was something altogether different from that which it secured when the decision was handed down.

Brushes Aside Charge of Violence

In the first days of the strike, pickets were arrested without any provocation on their part and the charges of disorderly conduct were merely trumped up. The firm's objects came clear when it sought to charge the union with being guilty of violence. Justice Bijur of the Supreme Court states his opinion that "a large part of the moving and answering papers relates to the industrial merits of the controversy...."

He said that these were "matters of social, not of judicial cognizance. Plaintiff, (the firm), submits a number of affidavits in reference to alleged

threats and minor acts of violence.... Many of these are so vague and the parties involved so largely unidentified as not to merit serious consideration as importing a charge against the defendants or its members."

Another strike against a large dress firm which the union is conducting in the Roth Costume Company, The premises of the firm, 550 Seventh Ave., are practically without "strike-breakers. However, this firm is having its work done up in a large shop in the suburbs and in spite of the fact that this out-of-town shop secured some time ago an injunction in connection with strike work performed for another striking firm, when a good many of the workers found that they were making scab work they quit.

However, this out-of-town firm, seeing that the workers out, is seeking to elicit the union for contempt of court. Whether or not the firm succeeds in this is not important in that no member of the union can be compelled to scab against his will.

It is the impression of many of the firms in the city that work can be made up the suburbs by non-union workers. However, they find themselves sadly mistaken as in the case of this out-of-town shop. It employed nine cutters, eight of whom were members of the union. The ninth man is of no consequence since he is an elderly man and his remaining at work has little bearing on the situation.

Research Bureau Prepares More Reports

The Research Bureau of the Governor's Special Mediation Commission of the Cloak and Suit Industry, which has been at work for the past few weeks making a study of the trade in the light of the hearings on the demands of the union, is continuing its studies. It expects to issue another report within two weeks or so on other phases of the problem placed before the Commission by the employers and the union.

Parts of the completed studies were published on this page in the last issue of "Justice," dealing with the minimum scales and the average wage rates as well as the state of employment. It will be recalled that the article in this connection pointed out that the cutters' average wage rate was \$11 above the minimum.

In order not to confuse this with the earnings of the cutters and other workers per year it was pointed out that these were far below the basic living needs of the workers. It was also pointed out that unemployment increased during the year of 1925.

The report by the Research Bu-

reau now in preparation will deal with a condition that concerns mainly the sub-manufacturers and stock houses, that is, jobbers. It seems that the sub-manufacturers, too, have their grievances, and have placed them before the Commission.

So far, no conclusions on the demands of the union have been reached by the Commission. The fact that the studies consume so much time is due to the counter-demands submitted by the manufacturers and the so-called grievances of the other employing and procuring groups.

The subject of the progress thus far made in the matter of the hearings before the Commission will be dealt with by the manager at the membership meeting on Monday, April 12th, which will take place in Arlington Hall and will be gone into in detail.

Cloak and Dress Trades Slacked Up

It was not necessary for the office to assume that the slack season in the cloak and dress trades had set in from the fact that calls for jobs greatly diminished. In fact, during the first few days of the week about one call a day came in.

That the trade slowed up was easily evidenced when the unemployed cutters began coming into the office in an effort to secure a job and when the number of job-seeking cutters began swelling not only in the office but also in the various markets.

This situation of course gives rise to the usual slack-time complaints, such as discharges and unequal division of work. Employers who reluctantly were compelled in the busy season to hire additional cutters now seek ways and means of getting rid of these men. This object has a two-fold aspect. The smaller manufacturer, the contractor or sub-manufacturer, seeks to rid himself of his cutter in order that he may not be found cutting. The large shop desires to discharge a cutter in order to permit the foreman to do cutting, who, in this time of the year, has little to do.

When the union makes clear the rule that a foreman is not to do any cutting in the slack season, or, if he must, is to divide work, the employer generally builds up some form of an excuse to the effect that whatever garments he gets in to cut in the slack season are special measurements or samples.

Slack Time Rules Enforced

However, this problem is by no means a new one to the union. In most cases these "special measurements" and "samples" are regular stock orders and could be cut by the cutters. The office points out to the foreman or the employer that either the foreman is to earn his salary by virtue of the capacity in which he is employed or else is to be considered as one of the staff of cutters and must divide work.

The cases of this nature which the office handled during the past two weeks or so were by no means few and far between. Thus far they have been adjusted to the satisfaction of the cutters, as they must, if the cutters are to earn something to tide them over the slack season.

The slack has also increased the vigilance of the office with respect to offenders of the rules governing overtime work. The slack season having set in, there is certainly no need for overtime work. If a shop here or there happens to be busy and is in need of extra help to turn out the work the office can easily supply the necessary men.

CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

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