

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

—Job 22:8

# 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. 28.

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

PRICE 3 CENTS

## Not A Wheel Is Turning In New York Cloak Shops

Entire Industry At A Standstill.—40,000 Workers Assigned to Halls and Registered.—Strike Subcommittees Working in Fine Order.—Settlement Committee Opens Headquarters At Cadillac Hotel.—Mass Meetings Daily in All New York and Brooklyn Halls.—President Sigman, Secretary Baroff, Vice-Presidents Hyman, Hochman, Antonini, Dubinsky and Ninfo Enthusiastically Received At Hall Meetings.

The cloakmakers of New York have shown once again that they are dependable, staunch unionists. They have proved again that they are ready and willing to occupy the trenches at the call of the organization in defense of their elementary rights as workers and human beings.

Last Thursday, July 1st, has added another red-letter day in the history of the cloakmakers' organization. On the morning of that day, the cloakmakers' army, 40,000 strong, left its shops in the five boroughs of Greater New York and, at the order of the general strike committee, marched down to the 15 halls assigned to them. It was an orderly demonstration, that created an impression of self-confidence, strength and invincibility. It began exactly at 10 o'clock, and before the noon hour struck not a worker remained in the shops, and the huge, seemingly endless lines of cloak workers were streaming in all directions towards the lower end of the city, where most of the assembly halls are located.

On Union Square, the marching masses passed by and vociferously acclaimed a group of International officers, which included President Sigman, Secretary Baroff, and Vice-presidents Greenberg, Boruchowitz, Portnoy and Antonini. Other thousands, marching by the offices of the Joint Board on 25th Street and Lexington Avenue, staged a great demonstration in front of the Union headquarters.

This began the great struggle of the cloakmakers, in a spirit of harmony and self-imposed discipline. The cloakmakers have begun their 1926 strike as the full knowledge that they have an obstinate struggle ahead of them; but the cloakmakers none the less are confident that they will win this struggle, as they have won in former years every other general strike against their employers. The spirit which animated the workers in the cloak and suit industry of New York last Thursday morning may well serve as a warning to their employers that they will not return to the shops until all their just demands are conceded.

### President Sigman's Statement

The general walkout in the New York cloak and suit industry is a complete success. The 40,000 cloakmakers quit in a body, and the trade is at a standstill.

This strike was inevitable. The jobbers who control most of the trade, and the manufacturers who are half-jobbers have made it unavoidable. The misery of the cloak workers, their inability to make a living in the cloak shops, their intolerably long periods of unemployment, their meagre earnings, and the general demoralization in the industry fostered by the jobber system of production, have left for the cloakmakers no other avenue of relief but to quit the shops and to strike for their demands.

The cloakmakers and their Union appreciate the efforts of the Governor's Special Advisory Commission which, for the last two years has made a study of the outstanding evils in the cloak industry. The workers are particularly gratified because the investigation conducted by this Commission has fully borne out every grievance and every complaint made by them with regard to the chaos, the lack of responsibility and the appalling lowering of earnings and employment created by the jobbers in this industry.

The general public by this time knows, what the industry has known for years past, that the jobbers are the real capitalists and employers in this industry. The issue between the workers and these jobbers is that they be made to assume the responsibility of real employers which they actually are. And our experience with this group of employers for the past few years, with the growing misery of the cloakmakers in their submanufacturers' shops, has ripened into the conviction that without a strike, without stopping off production, no real responsibility for work standards and conditions in the shops of their submanufacturers can ever be established.

The cloakmakers have suffered long enough. Their strike means that they refuse to accept any longer flimsy and indefinite promises from these jobbers, but that they want them to accept concrete obligations for conditions under which cloaks are manufactured for them in their subsidiary shops. The cloakmakers' demands are moderate and very reasonable. They demand a limitation of the number of contractors to be employed seasonally by the jobbers, that would regularize and stabilize the trade. Cloakmaking does not need thousands of petty, wasteful, mushroom-growth shops to satisfy its legitimate demands. The good of the industry, the welfare of the workers and the needs of the consumers can be satisfied by half the number of shops now in existence. The cloakmakers want a guarantee of 36 weeks of employment, which is certainly not an exorbitant demand for supporters of families to ask. They want an increase in wages and a forty hour week as measures that would tend to raise their

earnings and lengthen the incredibly short work-seasons in the shops.

The cloak industry has in the past few years grown tremendously big and prosperous. Toward this growth and prosperity the cloakmakers have contributed a great share, while they themselves remain actually pauperized and are unable to make a living. Their strike today is a movement to make the masters of this industry concede to them work standards that would enable them to earn a more secure and decent living for themselves and their dependents in a more stabilized and better ordered industry. In this endeavor, every right-minded and socially-spirited element in the community will, we hope, cooperate with them.

### Big Crowd Taxes Unity House Capacity On July 4th Week-End

Dancing, Concert, Readings Make Guests Happy

Nearly 500 guests came out last week-end to the Forest Park Unity House to spend the Independence Day holiday, taxing to the utmost the capacity of the place.

It was the biggest crowd in the history of the House and the management was put to it very hard to give every visitor comfortable accommodations. It did, however, the best under the circumstances, and the guests, especially the younger element, had a lot of fun and joy.

On Friday night, July 2nd, the Unity Housers had a dance, which lasted until the small morning hours, and on Saturday night a concert, in which several well-known artists participated, among them Miss Ray P. Miller, soprano, Miss Nina Wolf, violinist and Mr. G. Rubin, Jewish stage favorite.

On Sunday morning, David Pinsky, renowned Jewish dramatist and writer, read some literary selections to a audience several hundred at "Pine Grove", after which an appeal was made for the Pacific strikers which brought 135 dollars.

On Sunday night another dance-masquerade took place in the main hall,

which brought festivities to a close. The meals and the general attention at the Unity House, save for some inconvenience caused by the unexpected overcrowding, were excellent and elicited high praise for the management. From Philadelphia came a group of sixty members of Local 56, headed by Vice-president Elias Reiberg.

### Phila. Joint Board Elects Officers

Last week, there took place in Philadelphia the annual election of officers of the Cloakmakers' Union. Despite strong agitation conducted against them by a group within the locals, Brothers Damsky and Rubin were re-elected to office by big majorities.

The Philadelphia Cloakmakers' Joint Board, as soon as it was learned that the New York cloakmakers had left the shops on a general strike, issued an appeal to all its members to be on guard against the possibility of strike work being imported and made up in the Philadelphia cloak shops. It must be borne in mind that such attempts by New York cloak manufacturers had been made in former strikes and it is the plain duty of every cloakmaker in Philadelphia, the appeal pointed out, to prevent the strike-bound firms in the New York market to get any aid from Philadelphia.

### Join Our Hikes

Next hike arranged by Educational Department will take place Sunday, July 11th.

Details of time and place are announced on the Educational page.

### LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS, ATTENTION!

Ladies' garment workers of every craft and trade, cloakmakers, dressmakers, raincoat workers and embroidery workers are asked by the General Strike Committee of New York to report to the headquarters of the Out-of-Town Committee of the strike any information they might obtain with regard to the opening of new cloak shops during the strike in any locality in New York City or elsewhere where strike work might be made.

The office of the Out-of-Town Committee is in the International Building, 3 West 16th Street, New York City, and its chairman is Vice-President Jacob Halperin. Brother Halperin, or his secretary, may be found in the office at any time during the day until late in the evening.

Workers! Don't fail to report any valuable information you may have that would help to make the cloak strike a speedy and sure success.

# Daily Mass Picketing In Force

Advisory Board of Nine Elected by Strike Committee

The first mass picketing of the strike occurred on Wednesday morning, July 7th. It was scheduled to take place on Tuesday, but was called off on account of the subway strike which occurred on that morning.

The demonstration was staged in front of a great many jobbers' stockrooms and several "inside" shops. So far the picket committee of the strike has failed to discover any scab shops of significance in the New York district, though it is suspected that some employers might attempt to open shops in the country, and the out-of-town committee is concentrating its efforts to prevent it.

Advisory Committee of Nine Elected  
The last meeting of the General Strike Committee, on Wednesday evening, June 30th, elected Brother Louis Hyman, the manager of the New York Joint Board, as its chairman, and Bro. S. H. Zimmerman, the manager of the Dress Division, as vice-chairman.

The Executive Committee of the Strike Committee, at a meeting on Tuesday, July 6th, chose the following nine persons as an Advisory Board with special powers to operate during the strike: President Sigman, Hyman, Boruchowitz, Stensor, Zirlin, Zimmerman, Goretsky, Dubinsky, Nifno, and Fish to act as its secretary.

## Mass Meetings Begin In All Halls

Cutters Have Great Meeting in Cooper Union

The first mass meeting of the strike occurred on Friday, July 2nd, in Arlington Hall, the headquarters of the cutters. The cutters' meeting was addressed by Louis Hyman, the chairman of the General Strike Committee, Vice-president David Dubinsky, the manager of the Cutters' Union, Vice-president Julius Hochman and Vice-president Antonini.

A second meeting of the cutters occurred on Wednesday, July 7th, at Cooper Union, and was addressed by President Morris Sigman, and Vice-president Dubinsky. The purpose and the details of this meeting the reader will find on page 8th of this issue.

On July 6th the first series of general mass meetings was begun and will henceforth continue daily in the large

ent strike assembly halls in New York and Brooklyn. The biggest and most enthusiastic meetings were held in Webster Hall, Bryant Hall, Stuyvesant Casino, Manhattan Lyceum and Clinton Hall in Manhattan, and Vienna Hall and Brownsville Labor Lyceum in Brooklyn. The speakers included Louis Hyman, Chairman of the General Strike Committee, Salvatore Nifno, Chairman of the Settlement Committee, Vice-president Julius Hochman of the International Union, Luigi Antonini, leader of the Italian dress workers, and several representatives of other needle trades organizations. The designers and fashion graders, who for the first time responded to the strike call in a body, met in the Central Opera House.

## I. L. G. W. U. Greets Striking Cap Makers

The walkout of several thousand cap and cloth hat makers in the New York market on Tuesday morning, July 6th, which tied up this entire industry, added another large division to the army of striking needle trades' workers, the cloak and suit makers, forty thousand of whom have been out of the shops since July 1st. The capmakers are demanding an increase of five dollars a week, limitation of contractors to be employed by cap jobbers, the 40-hour week, and several other concessions.

The General Office of the I. L. G. W. U. sent the following telegram last Wednesday to the cap strikers, expressing the hope of the ladies' garment workers for a speedy and successful termination of their struggle:

July 7, 1926

Max Zuckerman,  
General Secretary,  
Cloth Hat Cap and Millinery  
Workers' International Union  
Please convey to the strikers of  
the capmaking industry in New

York City this message of greetings from the workers in the ladies' garment industry affiliated with our International Union. Tens of thousands of our own men and women are at this hour engaged in a similar battle in New York City, fighting against practically the same trade evils and inequities which forced the capmakers to leave their shops in a general strike movement. Our workers fully realize the tremendous importance of the issues involved in your strike and they anticipate with eager hope your victory in this struggle and the complete vindication of the sound and constructive industrial demands for which you have entered this fight.

International Ladies' Garment  
Workers' Union,  
MORRIS SIGMAN,  
President

ABRAHAM HAROFF,  
Gen. Sec'y-Treas.

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# All Out-of-Town Shops Stopped

Vice-president Jacob Halperin, chairman of the out-of-town activities of the New York cloak and suit general strike, and the manager of the Out-of-Town Department of the International Union, announced on the day following the declaration of the strike in New York City, that the shops located in the districts under his supervision, nearly all of them doing work for New York jobbers and manufacturers, have ceased working on July 1st, simultaneously with their fellow workers in the entire metropolitan district.

All cloak shops in New Jersey, Westchester County and Long Island, stopped work on the same day as the New York shops. In charge of this branch of the work is the Eastern Organizing Department of the International Union, which for the duration of the strike will patrol the several hundred shops located in this zone to the end that no strikebreaking is done in them. This territory involves some four thousand additional cloakmakers in shops located chiefly in Hackensack, Newark, Passaic, Arbury Park, Camden, Long Branch and Vineland in New Jersey, Mt. Vernon, Yonkers, Port

Chester and New Rochelle, New York, and Bridgeport and South Norwalk in Connecticut. The International Office, in addition, forwarded instructions to its joint boards in Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Canada to guard against the possibility of any New York strike work being made up in local cloak factories.

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## Where Strike Sub-Committees Meet

The following is a list of the sub-committees of the General Strike Committee and the places where they meet during the strike.

Picket Committee—Arlington Hall, 19-23 St. Mark's Place, Chairman, J. Goretsky.

Organization Committee—Beethoven Hall, 210 E. 5th St., J. Kaplan, Chairman.

Hall Committee—16 West 21st Street, Jos. Boruchowitz, Chairman.

Speakers' Committee—16 West 21st St., I. Stensor, Chairman.

Law Committee—Joint Board Office, Jos. Fish, Chairman.

Out-of-Town Committee—3 West 16th St., J. Halperin, Chairman.

Finance Committee—Joint Board Office, Ab. Baroff, Chairman.

Settlement Committee—Cadillac Hotel, Sal. Nifno, Chairman.

Information Bureau—Joint Board Office, 130 East 25th Street.

ALREADY OPEN!

ALREADY OPEN!

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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

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Our Registration Office is located in the I. L. G. W. U. Bldg., 3 West 16th St., New York, 3rd Floor, Tel. Chelsea 2148.

The Office is open until 7 in the evening to enable workers to register on the way home from work.



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## Labor Bodies Greet Strikers

From the hour the cloakmakers of New York left their shops on Thursday last, July 1st, a steady stream of congratulatory messages has been pouring into the International office and the headquarters of the General Strike Committee. These messages all, without exception, pledge the support of their senders to the strikers. Some of them came from the following organizations:

From the national office of the Workmen's Circle, a fraternal organization for mutual benefit and sick insurance, of about 35,000 members:

"Mr. Morris Sigman,

President of I. L. G. W. U.:

"Brotherly greetings to all officers and members of your splendid organization. We hope you will stand firm for your just demands and your membership to a speedy victory. Our organization will stand by you until you receive human treatment and attain your goal."

From the Boston Joint Board:

"Brotherly greetings of the Boston Cloakmakers' and Dressmakers to the strikers on the splendid walkout. We have recently won a general strike in our city under the leadership of our great International. Stand solidly under the same banner and defend your rights courageously and speedy victory will be yours. We are with you in your just cause and struggle to obtain all demands you

Union is fighting for. We pledge ourselves to help the strikers in every possible way to a successful end. Wish you speedy victory.

"Boston Joint Board Cloak and Dressmakers' Union

Locals 12, 39, 46, 56, 72 and 80."

From the Amalgamated Clothing Workers:

"Mr. M. Sigman,  
President I. L. G. W. U.,  
Greeting!

The general strike of your membership in New York is the greatest event in the American labor movement today. The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, which has already been conscious of a close kinship with your great organization, will follow your present struggle with equal interest. We ask you to accept our message of solidarity as coming from our innermost soul. We assure you that our members consider your strike as if it were their own.

Your organization was a power in your industry when the Amalgamated raised its banner for the first time. Your struggle and progress gave us courage to organize and fight and win. Your memorable strike of 1910 in New York brought new hope to the clothing workers and helped them build up a strong organization whose history and achievements are universally known.

If I may inject a personal note, I wish to say that I look back with a thrill to my own connection with the historic cloak makers' lockout in New York in the summer of 1890 as one of the locked out workers. The victory then achieved by our united action was a new experience for the workers on the Needle Trades in this country.

That event has left an indelible impression with me; likewise my participation in your great strike of 1910. As a result, I have always been keenly interested in the welfare of your organization.

On the occasion of this strike I wish your members and their employers to know that the clothing workers, who are powerfully organized, will stand by the strikers until victory is achieved; that while we may belong to different trade organizations we consider ourselves as flesh of your flesh and bone of your bone.

Power to you, fellow workers! You are now writing a new page in the history of your militant organization. We shall be with you in your fight and rejoice with you in your victory.

Yours for a working class unity,  
JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG,  
General Secretary-Treasurer."

From the Boston Italian Workers:

"The Italians of Boston of the Cloak Industry realize and know the significance of strike. Whenever a cause is just it will always triumph. We morally and financially stand by the cloakmakers of New York City until your unfurled banners are carried triumphantly into the shops.

JOSEPH MORABITO,  
Organizer."

From the New York Teachers' Union:

"Mr. Morris Sigman,  
President I. L. G. W. U.,  
3 West 16th St., New York.

Dear Sir:

The Tenth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Teachers, the sessions of which have just closed, unanimously passed the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union has called a strike to rid themselves of an intolerable situation, namely, the undermining of the standards of their industry by irresponsible jobbers and

WHEREAS the International Ladies Garment Workers Union has always been very active and progressive in education and has rendered distinguished service to the cause of labor and education in the maintenance of the Workers' University and through other activities of its Educational Department, be it

RESOLVED That the American Federation of Teachers in convention assembled express its sympathy in the efforts of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to maintain their standard of living and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Union and given to the Public.

Fraternally yours,  
HENRY R. LINVILLE,  
President."

From the Cleveland Joint Board:

Morris Sigman, President,

I. L. G. W. U.

Please, convey to our brother and sister strikers of New York our fraternal greetings and message of encouragement. Assure them of our full loyal support in their present

struggle to place responsibility for working conditions upon employers, whether jobbers or manufacturers. We are confident that every member on strike realizes the great cause of this fight and will unitedly strive to abolish the chaos in our industry. With best wishes for a better and happier life for all our workers.

LOUIS FRINKA, Chairman  
F. J. CHALUPKA, Secretary  
CHAS. KREINDLER, Treas.  
ABRAHAM KATOVSKY,  
Business Agent  
Cleveland Joint Board.

From the State Convention of the Socialist Party:

July 7, 1926

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
3 West 16th St., New York

Sisters and Brothers:

This is to advise you that the State Convention of the Socialist Party at New York, July 4, 1926, went on record as unanimously concurring in the following resolutions:

"The Socialist Party of the State of New York meets in convention at the moment when thousands of workers in the women's garment industry are involved in a general strike. Chaotic economic forces that still survive in the industry tend to break down standards won by many decades of sacrifice and struggle. To check these evil tendencies the workers are compelled to invoke their organized powers.

We rejoice in the magnificent unity which the strikers have displayed. Their solidarity is an inspiring example for the organized workers of the whole nation. This struggle is a crucial one in the needle trades and its success will check the disintegrating forces that affect the industry, encourage the workers in other trades, and mark another step forward to the ideal of industrial democracy.

Such a struggle is a call to service for every member of the Socialist Party in New York State. We pledge the services of our members in the union, our press in giving publicity and encouragement to the strikers, our speakers for service at mass meetings and our office staffs for any aid that we can render.

We send greetings of socialist and trade union solidarity to the striking workers in the garment trades with confidence in their ultimate victory."

Your attention is called to the bold type matter of the foregoing resolution, and we trust that you will deem it a sincere offer of service, and not a mere gesture.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,  
HERBERT M. MERRILL,  
State Secretary, and Secretary  
of the Convention.

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## Halls Where the Strikers Meet

**BRYANT HALL**—Sixth Avenue, between 41st and 42nd Streets:

All shops on 39th, 40th, 56th and 58th streets, and the shops in the buildings—625—7th avenue, 650—7th avenue, 666—7th avenue, 671—8th avenue, 675—8th avenue and 681—8th avenue.

**WEBSTER HALL**—119 East 11th Street:

All shops on 38th street and the shops in the buildings—1572 Broadway, 1585 Broadway, 500—7th avenue and 501—7th avenue.

**MANHATTAN LYCEUM**—66 East 4th Street:

All shops on 37th street and the shops in the buildings 1351 Broadway, 1370 Broadway and 498—7th avenue.

**STUYVESANT CASINO**—140 Second Avenue:

All shops on 35th and 36th streets and the shops in the buildings 1333 Broadway, 462—8th avenue.

**GREAT CENTRAL PALACE**—96 Clinton Street:

All shops on 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd and 34th streets, and the shops in the buildings 253—7th avenue, 99 Madison avenue, 112 Madison avenue and 130 Madison avenue.

**HENNINGTON HALL**—

All shops on 27th, 28th and 29th streets, and shops in the buildings 450—6th avenue, 484—6th avenue, 490—6th avenue, 301—7th avenue, 308—7th avenue, 330—7th avenue and 333—7th avenue.

**LENOX ASSEMBLY ROOMS**—

All shops on 25th and 26th streets, and shops in the buildings 282—7th avenue and 293—7th avenue.

**CLINTON HALL**—

All shops on 22nd, 23rd and 24th streets and the shops in the buildings 363—6th avenue and 245—7th avenue.

**LAFAYETTE CASINO**—

All shops on 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st streets and the shops in the building 246—6th avenue.

**JEFFERSON HALL**—

All shops on 14th street and on streets further downtown.

**ODD FELLOWS HALL**—

All workers without permanent shops will register in this hall.

**LAUREL GARDEN**—

All workers in the Harlem and Bronx shops.

**VIENNA HALL**—103 Montrose Avenue, Brooklyn.

All workers in the Brooklyn shops.

**LABOR LYCEUM**—219 Backman Street, Brownsville

All workers in the Brownsville shops.

ALL STRIKERS ARE CALLED UPON TO REPORT IN THE HALLS  
TO WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED

## 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 2146

MORRIS SIGMAN, President

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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

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## EDITORIALS

### THE CLOAKMAKERS' STRIKE

The strike of the New York cloakmakers is on.

What appeared to be a practical certainty last week became a fact on Thursday morning, July 1st, when the 40,000 men and women employed in the cloak shops of the Greater City quit work and marched down to the strike assembly halls. It was the most orderly and complete strike demonstration New York had seen in many years. Literally not a cloakmaker remained at work. Not even the employers could lay claim to any defection in the ranks of the Union workers, nor did they assert that any shops remained operating.

And the hundreds of thousands who watched from the sidewalks and the windows of the great buildings that line the streets of the garment districts the steady outpouring of the great army of cloak makers could not help being impressed with this remarkable mass movement, the solid march of battalions of workers converging upon Herald, Madison and Union Squares, from where, in closed ranks, they proceeded to the meeting places assigned to them in the lower section of the city.

There was something about the appearance of the strikers on march last Thursday morning that must have particularly impressed a seasoned observer. It was the determined, business-like look on most of the faces of the marchers. There was not much hilarity, no outbursts of emotion that is so customary with our crowds. But there was instead grim determination and the glint of steadfast will that shone in the eyes of the thousands of men and women, old and young, as they swept along the sidewalks of New York for nearly two hours.

The army of striking cloakmakers obviously resembled like one person that they have a mighty serious business ahead of them, a colossal task that would require strenuous attention. The cloakmakers did not quit their shops because of any special affection for war. They quit because they could not endure any longer the "peace" in the shops which has kept them constantly in dread of insecurity of a livelihood, in the grip of spirit-breaking unemployment, and of a precarious, haphazard existence.

The cloakmakers of New York last Thursday morning left their shops in a body, forty thousand strong. This everybody expected. General cloak strikes are always one-hundred per cent strikes. And such of the newspapers as have lately, under the influence of some employers' spokesmen, begun to insinuate that a large portion of the New York cloakmakers is today outside of the Union's influence, have now had the opportunity to correct their opinion. Today, the entire cloak industry is at a standstill at the Union's signal. The power of the workers' organization in the industry has been completely vindicated and the loyalty of its members proved beyond civil or doubt.

The New York cloakmakers are experienced, seasoned warriors. They know not only how to leave their shops as an orderly, organized mass; they know what they are fighting for and they know how to fight. In this fight especially, the issues of the conflict have been assimilated by each and every one of them in the clearest and most convincing manner. And the strikers' thorough familiarity with the issues of the strike should prove one of the Union's chief weapons of resistance and a bulwark of strength against the organized forces of the enemy.

It is hardly necessary here to restate in detail again the principal demands of our cloak workers in this struggle. It is a moderate and wholly sound program of demands from the point of view of the industry itself and of the immediate needs of the workers. The cloakmakers demand a limitation of the number of contractors to be employed seasonally by the jobbers, that would regularize and stabilize the trade, and would eliminate the cut-throat competition between contractor and contractor that is debasing work standards in all their shops. The manufacturing of cloaks in New York City does not need thousands of petty, wasteful, mushroom-growth shops to satisfy its legitimate demands. The good of the industry, the welfare of the workers and the needs of the consumers can be satisfied by half the amount of shops now in existence. The cloakmakers want a guarantee of 36 weeks of employment, which is certainly not an exorbitant demand for supporters of famulus to ask. They want a substantial increase in wages and a forty-hour week as measures that would tend to raise their earnings and lengthen the incredibly short work-seasons in the shops.

For these principal demands, and for the several other smaller concessions, the 40,000 striking cloakmakers intend to fight to the last, to the final winning hour. The cloakmakers did not court

this struggle. The jobbers who control most of the trade, and the manufacturers who are half-jobbers themselves and work in part for jobbers, have made it unavoidable. The cloakmakers and their Union have for over two years tried desperately hard to find a way to remedy the evil conditions and the chaos fostered by the jobber system of production without a strike. But the jobbers, persistently and doggedly, have refused to commit themselves to any concrete obligations for conditions under which cloaks are manufactured for them in their subsidiary shops.

Until finally, with the growing misery of the cloakmakers in the submanufacturers' shops, the Union became definitely convinced that without a strike, without stopping off production, no real responsibility for work standards and conditions in the industry could ever be established.

The cloakmakers will win this great fight, as they have won every other big struggle for the improvement of work conditions in the past sixteen years. The jobbers in the cloak industry have thrown out a challenge to the cloakmakers' organization of New York, and the cloakmakers have now eagerly picked up this challenge. The cloak jobbers, since they had come to the front as the controllers of the cloak industry in the last few years, have never yet had a square-footed, up and down fight with the workers. Small wonder that they have grown arrogant and callous to the burning needs of the men and women who have made and are now making their success in this industry possible—the workers employed in their submanufacturers' shops.

We predict that before many weeks of this strike are over, this indifference of the jobbers will have undergone a material change. The jobbers will soon learn that they are in a real fight, such as they may never have expected. These "merchants" will soon discover that if they choose to drag this strike to undue length, their dominant position in the trade might become gravely threatened. They will then consent to come down from their high perch, as other groups of arrogant employers have done in former conflicts with the cloakmakers' organization, and begin "talking business" with the Union. Not as "stockhouse owners," not as would-be jobbers, but as real employers of labor, which they actually, as the whole world knows, are.

The cloak industry of New York has in the past few years grown tremendously big and prosperous. Toward this growth and prosperity the cloakmakers have contributed a great share from their sweat and toil. But the cloakmakers themselves remain impoverished and are unable to make a living. Their great strike which began last Thursday is a movement to make the masters of the cloak industry concede to them work-standards that would enable them to earn a more secure and decent living for themselves and their dependents in a more stabilized and better ordered trade.

The entire labor world, the whole organized workers' movement will watch their struggle with keen attention and will wish them success. The organized labor movement, speaking through the American Federation of Labor and the heads of the needle trades' organizations, has pledged to the cloakmakers its unequalled support.

The cloakmakers of New York will win their great fight. On to victory!

### THE CAPMAKERS ON THE FIGHTING LINE

By the time these lines reach our readers, the capmakers of New York will be out on a general strike, only a few days after their fellow-workers in the cloak trade had walked out of their shops.

The coincidence of the two strikes, however, does not extend merely to the time of their occurrence. The analogy of these two movements in the cloakmaking and the capmaking branches of the needle industry goes far beyond that. Both the cloakmakers and the capmakers have gone out on a general strike for the enforcement of practically the same demands, for the elimination of the same evils that have for years blighted the existence of the workers in both the cloak and cap shops.

The capmakers are demanding a raise in wages of five dollars a week, the limitation of contractors to be employed seasonally by the cap and cloth hat jobbers, a control over work-conditions in the shops where caps and hats are being made for the jobbers, and the 40-hour week. Like the cloak trade, the cap industry has in the last few years become demoralized and chaos-ridden by the unscrupulous and anti-labor practices of the jobbers; like in the cloak industry, earnings in the cap trade have declined to an alarming degree and the work-seasons have become shorter from year to year.

Furthermore, the cap jobbers, like their fellow "merchants" in the cloak industry, refuse to become "burdened" with any responsibility for labor conditions in the shops of their contractors. They, too, prefer to hide behind the contractor and would create the appearance that they are not at all employers of labor but just plain wholesalers who should not be held accountable for the misery obtaining in their subsidiary shops.

The striking cloakmakers greet the capmakers on the fighting line and extend to them the salutation of their common struggle. The capmakers are old, true and tried union men, and their organization has been in the vanguard of the labor movement in the needle industry for more than a generation. History, and the industrial developments in the needle trades have so willed that they begin their struggle against oppression and degradation of work-conditions at the same time with the big army of the workers in the cloak industry.

And like the cloakmakers, the capmakers will not return to their shops until they win completely their program of industrial reforms and compel their jobbers and manufacturers to concede to them a measure of industrial justice and decency.

# Labor Productivity Here and In England

Lecture Room Echoes

By HARRY LANG

COMPARISONS between productivity here and abroad are not new. In one of my letters, you may recall, I have touched passingly on the subject of production results in the United States and England, referring to our old habits of copying English ways and methods and to the more pronounced, though much more recent, tendency which leans toward carving out our own mode of life and activity. Some thoughts on this subject came back to me the other day in the lecture room of a prominent professor of economics in a Western university.

The lecturer was explaining, or rather attempting to prove, that America has little to learn from England concerning production methods and results. Which, of course, was nothing new. A high school student of ordinary intelligence is presumed to be familiar with the fact that the United States is today industrially the most developed country, the best equipped with machinery, and the best adapted, consequently, to the greater production. The lecturer, however, aimed to reason out this phenomenon along entirely different lines. According to him, the American worker produces more not because he has the better tools, but for reasons entirely apart from that.

This lecturer belongs to the group of economists who advocate casting to emulate English ways and fashioning our eyes upon our own methods—trade, social and industrial—if we are to make sustained headway. This line of thought, candidly, appeals to me. I like it because I dislike self-enclosed, timidity and that touch of humility which is so closely associated with the "Europeans" in our midst. This "back-home" movement is to me furthermore, a sign of growing self-determination, whether it reflects itself in industry, social theory, or, for that matter, in the labor movement. It appears to me that a constructive labor movement could not be possible in the United States. If we are to insist upon fashioning it after the European model. Our radical movement is in the doldrums because for years it would would itself after the European pattern.

Let me, however, get back to our lecturer and his subject—Why are our workers producing a great deal more than the workers of England? In order to prove his premises, the lecturer began with some of the basic industries in each country, pointing to the similarity of machinery employed in these industries in the United States and England, and concluding with figures proving that the production in the same industries is immeasurably higher here than in England. He quoted liberally from economists and statisticians here and abroad, including a recent report by Philip Snowden, erstwhile chancellor of the exchequer in Ramsay MacDonald's Labor cabinet.

"Let me give you a recent fact which may serve as an illustration," the lecturer continued. "A group of English workers came over to the States a short time ago to study this question of production from first-hand observation. They were sent over by some firms interested in the introduction of American work methods in their own establishments. This group traveled from one industrial plant to another, marveling at the speed, the coordination and remarkable economy of effort in the American factories which results in astonishing productivity, notwithstanding the fact that the work-hours in the States were materially shorter than in similar industries in the British Isles."

The professor thereupon launched into an analysis of the character of American and English industry, or

rather into an analysis of the English and the American character. Are the American workers the greater producers because they work longer hours? Not at all! Because they are driven harder? By no means. Because they have better and more tools and machines? It would seem that such is not the case—Where, then, lies the explanation?

Here is what our professor has to say concerning it:

"It is not a question of machinery, primarily. Machines are wonder workers, of course, but there is nothing to prevent England to harness such machinery for production purposes. Obviously, there are other forces at work which make for greater results. There is, to begin with, the psychology of America. It is a freer, younger continent, where human beings move about with less restraint, where there is greater elbow room for one who has the will and the energy to build, to create and to organize. There is something in the air of the 'new world' that makes a person lift his head higher, that fills him with ambition to rush ahead and to do things."

"America's natural wealth still is well-nigh inexhaustible, despite the terrific drain upon it. America's resources are fortunately distributed within the comparatively easy reach of its consumers. America's home market is so enormous that it actually supplies the chief driving force for its industry, and she is less than any other country dependent for her prosperity on her exports. The American

worker gets quicker and more palpable returns from industrial progress and he therefore has a greater incentive to maintain his industry on a high level of productivity."

What is this "prosperity" of the American worker? Says the professor: "American wages are much higher than in England. American workers own more homes than English workers and the number of such homeowners is growing continually. American workers drink less than the workers of England, they spend less on gambling, they are less occupied with betting on races. The English workers regard themselves as a lower caste than their employers; they seem to feel that they can never rise beyond their caste and their natural energies are therefore always kept in check, which is, naturally, reflected in their productivity. The American employers in successful industries are, as a rule, interested in introducing greater and more permanent improvements in these industries. Industry and its promotion is their life work, their sole ambition. In England, a successful employer has his eyes riveted toward retirement, toward 'graduating' into society. His life's aim is not industry, but the 'ennobling' of his family tree. In other words, industry in the United States is essentially far more democratic, and this fact accounts for the greater interest the individual worker takes in his industry, and for the greater productivity of this individual worker."

The lecturer also called the attention of his audience to the fact that the European worker is so much more dependent on the State for his welfare than the American laborer. The State in the "old world" is all; and this in-

creased paternalism acts as an all-pervading influence on the selfactivity, the self-help impulse of the working citizenry. This line of demarcation is the result, he explained, of the different historical background of the European worker and his fellow worker on the new continent.

The lecturer spoke for nearly two hours. I listened with keen attention to his talk, trying to salvage some grains of truth from his lecture. Obviously, most of it constituted but an honest attempt to explain a highly complicated subject. But his search for an answer to this tantalizing question was plainly too colored with the taint of jingoism. America was being placed upon a pedestal of such dizzy height that the rest of the world could do nothing better than to worship at her feet in quest of knowledge and experience. It is the kind of "back-home" philosophy that borders very closely on intolerant provincialism.

I did like, however, the discussion which followed the lecture. Several students bombarded the lecturer with keen, pointed questions—If the American worker is so far in advance in productivity, if America is truly progressive, why is not America as equally progressive in affording the workers a greater measure of industrial justice?

To these questions no satisfactory answer was given, though the professor promised to touch upon them in his next lectures.

## Accidents Among Women Workers

Jointresses, cleaners, hotel and restaurant workers suffer the majority of accidents to women workers according to an analysis of cases made by the Women's Trade Union League Compensation Service and published in the convention report of the organization covering work done between June 1, 1924, and May 31, 1925.

The report states that "the great majority of these accidents are due to falls. So many jointresses work in such wretched houses that they are constantly in danger. These women are nearly all old or middle-aged. They make very poor recoveries from accidents. Women's injuries fall in the minor injury class, generally speaking because women seldom work at dangerous trades. Laundries supply the most serious accidents to women, particularly due to machinery. Cuts on glass, broken dishes, tin boxes et cetera, cause many accidents with resulting infection to restaurant and candy workers. Garment trade accidents are nearly all due to wire needles and pins, which often develop serious infections. The great majority of their cases owe their serious aspect to infection with the resulting stiffness or loss of the member. Women's nervous system is so constituted that shock often plays a much larger part in her disability than the injury itself."

The Compensation service also made a study of wages of claimants based on 404 typical cases. Wages were found to be as follows: 77 women received between \$10 and \$15 per week; 97 between \$15 and \$20; 49 between \$20 and \$25; 54 between \$25 and \$35; 41 received \$35 and up and one, a designer, received \$100. It was found that some jointresses work for \$10 a month and lodging.

The report states that the Women's Trade Union League has devoted a great deal of its educational work to organizing laundry workers and hotel chambermaids during the past two years, in addition to having given assistance to unions already organized. Classes have been held for women workers at the League Club House and a number of meetings and social affairs arranged at the club.

## Two Girl Pickets Leave County Jail



Lillian Greenberg (on the left) and Minnie Spidel (on the right) were released from the Cook County Jail after serving sentences for defying "Injunction Judge" Sullivan's injunction. Minnie Spidel served 5 days. Lillian Greenberg served a 10-day sentence. She is now taking an economics course at the Bryn Mawr Summer School.



# EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



## "Is This Unity House?"

By FANNIA M. COHN

The delegates and guests at the League for Industrial Democracy Conference held at Camp Tamiment two weeks ago, were invited to visit Unity "House" by the management of our International's summer home. They were directed to the "House" and started out along the road to it. They had not walked a great distance when they found themselves in a beautiful village.

They saw a group of charming cottages surrounding a large house. All the buildings stood on a mountain top in a large clearing made in the dense forest that stretched for miles. Greatly impressed by the village, they got their destination and began to explore the grounds and buildings around them.

They walked past the central building proudly looking down on the lake, and to the small cottages each with its balcony, to which the visitor might come for closer contact with nature. They saw a post office, a bowling alley, an electric generating plant, a laundry equipped with every sanitary device. They found the shade of the covered walkways joining all the buildings very grateful and remarked on how convenient such a shelter would be in the rain. They admired particularly the lake, seventy acres completely surrounded by trees. They noticed the high tower overlooking the lake, and the piers extending into the water, perfect refuges, they thought, for hot days. The concrete swimming pool, evidently designed for the safety of the swimmers, impressed them.

This fairy village had no inhabitants to be seen. Far out on the water, some canoes could be observed moving slowly about, but nowhere else was there any sign of life. The L. I. D. visitors did not know that they had come directly after dinner when the village dwellers were all scattered about their large estate resting. It seemed like an enchantment—a veritable fairyland with no one in it. The visitors were extremely anxious to know to whom this estate belonged.

But their curiosity gave way to a recollection that they had been intending to visit Unity "House". When a dark eyed girl passed—one of them stopped her with "Is it far to Unity 'House'?"

She looked at them in surprise—"Which cottage? Do you want, Cottage Y or E or International?"

They answered in a quick chorus—"Why Unity House—of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union."

### "This Is Unity House"

The girl was bewildered. Fortunately for the visitors, a young clockmaker who had had a previous experience with guests who wandered over the estate for half an hour without discovering its name had heard the questions. To the amazement of the L.I.D. visitors, he assured them "But you are in Unity 'House'."

The visitors accepted the joke good humoredly, but after he showed them a sign above their heads, which illuminated at night casts its light for miles, "Welcome to Unity", they realized 'twas the truth. They protested however, that the place had a misleading name. This was no "house", but a village. A place that can accommodate five hundred people at one time is certainly more than a house.

And when their two new acquaintances escorted the L. I. D. visitors

through the grounds, they were even more insistent that the place be called a village. They based their judgment first on the main house with its parlor whose many windows overlook the porch and whose soft Turkish rugs, walls hung with paintings and imposing fireplace give it an appearance of dignity, its writing room, its library and reading room with hundreds of books for children as well as adults, its concert room and dance hall.

When they saw the kitchen and dining room, also in the main house, they insisted more emphatically that this place alone was too large to be called a "house". The kitchen's large bakery where all the baking is done, its refrigerator where food is kept fresh and sanitary, and its huge sanitary dish washing machine were indications of the village's large size. The separate dining room for children indicated the conveniences. And the strongest proof of the efficient organization that makes this "house" much more than a house, lay in the arrangement of the kitchens so that all the five hundred guests in the dining room can be served within ten minutes.

Ten of these visitors, prominent in many walks of life and friends of the labor movement, were invited to dinner on the next day. Their admiration for Unity was decidedly increased after the meal. Every dish had been delicious—from appetizer to cake. They wondered how all these good things could be offered to our members for eighteen dollars a week. They realized, of course, that it was the result of collective effort, accomplished in an organization, operated by workers for workers. Of course, they praised the management for securing such an excellent chef and able assistants.

Many readers may wonder why we should be describing at this time something we have possessed for five years, but I was led to write about Unity again by the fact that on the last weekend I spent there, I met so many of our members who shamelessly and gratefully confessed that they were in Unity for the first time. When I asked them why they did not take an earlier advantage of our summer home, they answered that they had not been able to imagine so beautiful a place as they found. That convinced me that the name "house" is misleading.

We are still faced by the problem of making our members appreciate the beauty and grandeur of Unity. They should realize that spending a few weeks vacation on an estate with such an expense enriches the imagination and stimulates the desire for that noble life that only nature can provide in the fullest measure.

### Educational Department Gives Lectures

We try to enable the vacationists to secure education along with rest and recreation in the Village. Of course, there is abundant provision for rest—nature and modern science and art make that possible. So the visitors may rest on the grass, leisurely looking at the mountain landscape, in a hammock on the balcony, in the wood on a thick carpet of pine needles, or in the heavy growth near the lake. The other activities are provided for by the social director of the village, the inspiring Miss Blanche Blum, who conducts the recreational activities so vigorously, and by our Educational Department which has

## Educational Activities at Unity House

Our Educational Department is arranging weekly lectures at Unity House. As already reported on this page, each instructor spends a few days at Unity and gives several lectures during his stay.

Two weeks ago Margaret Daniels discussed "Applied Psychology". Last week, Ch. Nigier lectured on (a) Sholem Alechem, and (b) Theatre and Literature Criticism. On Sunday mornings, David Pinsky, the eminent Yiddish dramatist, reads from his own works.

Next week, Laura Elliott will discuss (a) "What We Live Through When We Listen to Music" and (b) "How Do We Respond to Nature".

On July 29 and 31st, Max Levin will lecture on "The Place of Organized Workers in Modern Society" and "The Economics of Industry With Special Reference to the Ladies' Garment Industry".

Other lecturers who will come to Unity are V. F. Calverton, Robert Morse Lovett, John H. Lyons, Spencer Miller, Jr., Joseph Rowman, A. J. Muste, David J. Sapota. Their subjects will be announced later.

Our Educational Department is sparing no effort to make the Unity

workshop an extensive educational program for the summer.

The library is kept stocked with such books as the visitors may desire for study or recreation, and regularly watched over by Sister Sarah Shapiro, prominent instructors and lecturers will come out to Unity for a few days at a time to carry on discussions of social, economic and trade union problems. Literature and music, too, will be considered. Aesthetic interests are not overlooked, for concert artists come to the Village very often and the Unity Community Singers do excellent chorus singing. After each of these musical performances, the visitors and the evening happily with dancing. Even these serious enterprises fit into the vacation life, for the lectures are given out of doors, where the audience can settle itself comfortably on thick grass and have its eyes shaded by the overhanging branches of pine trees above. Indeed, whatever is humanly possible is done to assure to our members a pleasant and healthy vacation.

### Former Visitors Should Spread Gospel of Unity

I cannot believe otherwise than that if a sufficient number of our members appreciated how splendid Unity is, they would take advantage of it and spend at least a few weeks there. Those who know its beauties should regard themselves as mission-

aries of the Village to their fellow workers. If our members will come in sufficient numbers to Unity Village, they will ensure its future.

I have been writing of the joys of Unity not only to inform those members of our International who have never seen the place, but to express my own feelings about it. Each visit to Unity inspires me again with its beauty. Each time I come from it, I am moved again to tell every one in our International, through the columns of Justice, as the best medium, that in Forest Park, in our Unity Village, our International has a vacation home where we can rest from the city's heat and renew our strength.

But Unity Village is more than a vacation home. It is a collective enterprise which has proved itself successful, a demonstration that service is a more effective incentive to effort than profit. So our Unity Village is not only a spot where our members may find beauty and rest from the city's noise and heat, but a promise of a better day, an evidence of our ability to bring on that better day.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT SEASON

Within a short time the announcement of activities of our Educational Department for next season will be ready. It will be a 3 page pamphlet and will be distributed free to our members on request.

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# The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

## Special Cloak and Suit Cutters' Notice

Watch this page every week. In every issue, for the duration of the cloak and suit strike, you will find in it announcements and information important to the cutters on strike. Next week there will be printed on this page a list of cutters' vice-chairmen in all halls, as well as an announcement of the day on which striking cutters will meet.

True to the traditional manner of Local 10, the cloak, suit and refter cutters, on the stroke of 10 o'clock, Thursday morning, July 7th, marched in a body out of their shops, with the rest of the workers in response to the call of the Union, into Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks place, where within a few moments twelve lines were formed in front of as many clerks and registered. Before noon, ninety five per cent of the two thousand cutters recorded themselves as present. Later in the day every man was accounted for.

### Record Meeting in Cooper Union

It was in Cooper Union, on Wednesday, July 7th, that the cutters wrote a new and important chapter in the history of Local 10. There were nearly two thousand present, almost every cloak and suit cutter crowded into the historic auditorium for the purpose of hearing the report on the question of a separate hall. International President Signman received an ovation as he stepped upon the platform to speak.

The final proposition is a modification of the original demand for the hall. The cutters will meet once every week in a hall especially assigned for that purpose, instead of meeting every day. And in view of the fact that for the rest of the time they will be assembled in the different halls with the workers of their shops, a vice-chairman for each hall will be assigned for the cutters.

These chairmen will be placed in order to check each day the men and see that none are missing and will attend to the cutters in any manner necessary. The working card will be in the hands of the cutters. No cutter will be permitted to go back to work upon the settlement of his shop unless he secures a working card from Local 10.

For a moment it seemed as if the modified proposal, which came to the cutters in the form of a recommendation from the Executive Board of the local, would not be accepted. There had been a meeting of the general strike committee on Tuesday, July 6. This proposal was adopted by the strike committee. Dubinsky had made a statement in which he said that the local Executive would accept it tentatively, subject to approval by the members of Local 10.

A resolution was proposed at the Cooper Union meeting in which it was declared that the cutters assembled declare themselves standing by the Executive Board with regard to the tentative acceptance of the modified proposition. Only one out of a possible dozen speakers declared himself in favor of the general strike committee's proposal. And when a vote was called for the adoption of the resolution it seemed that a majority favored its rejection.

### Stand Behind Organization

This elicited an appeal for acceptance by Dubinsky. "I say to you, brothers," he urged, "a strike is more than a grievance. I expect that you will register a unanimous vote and if you cannot decide to vote for it at least refrain from voting altogether." Nagler also urged the men to the same

effect. And when a second vote was taken there were only about six men who rose against, the rest of the men standing up as voting in favor. After the second count Nagler, the chairman, declared the resolution as practically unanimously adopted.

In opening the meeting Nagler declared that what the cutters' Executive Board fought and strove for was to preserve a tradition that always made possible a victory for the union. Whatever it was that the cutters were called upon to decide, they always acted in a unanimous manner. Samuel Perlmutter ridiculed a remark to the effect that the cutters were seeking separation. "The cutters," he said, "have never been foreign to the tailors. I have been in the trade for eighteen years and the people with whom I worked never felt in any way separated from the rest of us."

The tremendous ovation which President Morris Signman received while he stepped forward on the platform to speak was the second one. The moment he was aspled upon his entrance into the hall he was cheered by the standing masses of cutters. He came, one sensed as soon as he began, prepared to speak to trade unionists. He interated and reiterated that he had no doubts as to where the cutters stood on the hall of the union. However, seeing the bitterness which prevailed over the fact that they were to be sent into different halls he calmed them by his plea for unity in the strike.

"I want you, brothers," he commenced, "to bear one thought in mind. The cloakmakers' union, involving all the locals in this industry is at this time engaged in an industrial battle. And when a labor union is engaged in an industrial battle it must always bear in mind that to make such a struggle a success there must exist absolute unity and harmony amongst the members engaged in that particular industry. And while there may be differences of opinion due to purely union politics, in a time of strike, when you are to stand on the open battlefield facing your real, common enemy, every political difference, no matter of what calibre or what character it may be, every personal grievance, no matter what calibre or character, must be cast aside in favor of the great aim that the strike presents."

After the conclusion of the debate and the adoption of the resolution Nagler and Dubinsky told the men that with the next day they are to report in the halls with the rest of the workers. In the hall there will be met by vice-chairmen sent in by Local 10 who will care for their complaints and give them information. Striking cards will also be issued to them in these halls. Through this page in "Justice" they will be told when and where they will meet every week. They are to turn over their dues books to the chairman. They are also to report on time for the purpose of going out with the workers of their shops on the picket line.

When the letter was sent out to the cloak cutters asking them to attend the Cooper Union meeting, dress cut-

ters were also sent letters at the same time to attend a meeting on Wednesday evening, July 7th, in Arlington Hall. Since the matter for a separate hall was issued to the officers at a special meeting of the local as a whole, it was necessary that dress cutters too be advised of the developments. However, since the matter was adjusted there was no need for the meeting and hence it was called off.

### Cutters Cheer Demands in Two Halls

Unlike the first days of general strikes in past years, there was an air of uncertainty among the cutters as to where they will assemble. It is no news to the membership of Local 10 that in former strikes they were always gathered for purpose of registration, checking and the receiving of information in a hall especially assigned to cutters.

In this strike, however, there was an eleventh hour change of a decision for a separate hall, which was to be finally determined by the Executive Board of the General Strike Committee. Until this would be finally settled the usual arrangements for the conduct of the strike as far as the cutters were concerned was unsettled. For the men had reported to Arlington Hall in response to a letter Manager Dubinsky had sent out notifying the men that in this strike too a separate hall for the cutters was set aside.

It will be recalled that at the special meeting which was held Monday, June 29th, rumors had reached the men that there was a change with regard to the hall. The assembled cutters immediately adopted a resolution calling upon the Joint Board to make a final decision. Dubinsky told the men that the General Strike committee was to meet June 30th and that at that meeting this matter would be taken up for disposition. A report on the action, he said, would be given them at a meeting of the striking cutters on the second day of the strike.

Friday, July 2nd, saw a fitting chapter added to the local's history on the organizational methods of the cutters. At one o'clock in the afternoon the men and small meeting halls of Arlington Hall were packed to the walls with the two thousand cutters on strike. An ovation met Dubinsky when he entered the hall. Louis Hyman, general manager of the Joint Board, and chairman of the strike committee, was overwhelmed when he saw the masses of men, when he came to address upon invitation of Manager Dubinsky, who addressed both halls, as did Julius Hochman, International vice-president, and Manager Dubinsky.

The question of the separate hall was not taken up at this meeting in that word had reached Local 10 that the Executive Committee of the strike was to meet in the late afternoon of the same day and the Manager told the assembled men that they would be called together if and when it would be necessary for the purpose of reporting to them on the final outcome.

### Union Determined to Win Demands

The keynote of Hyman's address to the cutters was that any agreement signed without the 40 hour week and limitation would be worthless. He said that the jobbers insisted that they were not merchants and not employers and therefore not obliged to the workers in any manner. But the Union, he emphasized, has learned its lesson. The jobbers, he pointed out, seek to secure as many contractors as possible.

In this manner, Hyman told the cutters, they manage to secure for themselves a large market for the purpose of cheap production. The Union must show the jobbers that their hiding behind the phrase that they are merchants is a mere bluff. He said that the Union must place itself in a position so that it can tell the jobber that "we will give you as many shops as you require," that is limitation. The

jobber must be impressed with the fact that he is the employer.

The workers, he insisted, employed by a group of contractors must act as a unit and be called together whenever necessary for the improvement of their conditions. He declared that he would sooner see the union broken than sign with the jobbers a meaningless agreement. He touched upon the important demands submitted by the Joint Board to the employers, such as the 40 hour week, the guarantee of a period of 36 weeks employment and said that each demand was based upon the needs of the workers for a decent living.

Julius Hochman briefly sketched the chaotic conditions in which the cloak industry now finds itself. He said that while the recommendations of the Governor's Commission were not acceptable, nevertheless there is contained therein a clear indictment of the jobbing-manufacturing system.

While, Hochman said, this was no news for the union, still coming from a body of impartial men, it backs up the union's contention. Two and one half years ago, he pointed out, the General Executive Board worked out into a program the demands which the Union now submits to the employers. This program even when was stated as a life need.

### Challenge Meets Spirit of 1910

The speaker said therefore that the cloakmakers must stand solidly behind the union now to enforce these conditions. The 40 hours is an important need in view of the simplified methods of manufacturing cloaks, which has been the cause of throwing out of employment many workers. And only a cut in the hours of work will help.

Limitation, he went on to say, is the only means of checking the jobbers' section-manner of producing garments. And with that must be won the guarantee period of 36 weeks' work. For without this he said that limitation would not mean much. He expressed confidence in the fact that he was certain that the cutters would accept themselves with credit.

Dubinsky was the last to speak. He sketched the history of the rise of the contracting system of production in the cloak industry, which had its inception after the 1910 strike. In 1913 the union conducted a strike to drive the system out. However it kept growing. After briefly reviewing the history he launched into the issues of the present strike.

"I say we must win," he declared, "the 40 hour week. Forty hours will be a victory, but forty hours without limitation will not be worth the paper it is written on and we must strike for the program and the demands of the union, as well as for the time guarantee."

"As for the general strike situation, it is necessary for me to convince you that this is a life-and-death struggle for the union. And if the union loses you will have lost your future. If the union wins you have won the opportunity to live decently and improve your conditions. You must go out on strike like martyrs and heroes. The trade is demoralized. The union was demoralized. But when we have been challenged the spirit of 1910 must be renewed and we must preserve the union and improve conditions."

### Where Cutters Will Report for Strikes Duty

On page 3 of this issue you will find a list of halls and their locations where the strikers meet. Every cloak, suit and refter cutter will carefully read this list through, find the location of the hall in which his shop meets and report there every day and once a week to a meeting of cutters. Further details and information in respect to this will be given in these columns next week and each succeeding week.