

"My righteous-
ness 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. 38.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1926

PRICE 3 CENTS

Settled Shops Hold Cooper Union Meeting

Condemn Injunction and Pledge
Loyal Support

A mass meeting of workers, and shop representatives of all settled shops in the New York district took place this Thursday, right after work, in the main hall of Cooper Union, called for the purpose of discussing the most effective ways and means whereby the workers in the settled shops may help in the prosecution of the strike.

A resolution pledging unqualified support to the cloak strikers still in the fight, financially and morally, and the continued collection of a strike levy in favor of the workers still engaged in the battle was adopted without a dissenting vote.

A meeting of shop chairmen in Bryant Hall on Wednesday afternoon, September 15, adopted a ringing resolution condemning the injunction issued at the behest of the Industrial Council and refuting with scorn the assertion of the leaders of the manufacturers' association in paid advertisements that the shop chairmen were being bribed by the strike committee to stay in the strike. The resolution was signed by the chairmen of the biggest and best known shops in the trade.

San Francisco Local Revives Activity

Los Angeles Local Aids in Revival—Vice-President Mollie Friedman Stirrers New Life Among Frisco Cloakmakers.

The loss of the cloak strike in San Francisco, in 1925, for a time appeared to have sealed the doom of an organization among local ladies' garment workers. The depression created by that setback had hung for nearly three years so heavily over the heads of the San Francisco cloakmakers that even the thought of an efficient labor body among them seemed far and unrealistic. The shops became filled with favorites, work conditions were brought down to an intolerable level, making it next to the impossible for the workers to make a living.

In recent months, however, a number of events took place that brought new courage to the San Francisco cloakmakers. A small group of workers, who had stuck to the local thrift thick and thin all these dismal years, encouraged by Brother Reinish, manager of the Amalgamated organization in Frisco, began to do some missionary work among the cloakmakers with good results. Later, Vice-president Mollie Friedman, who was visiting the Coast, arranged some meetings with the members of Local 8 and her stay in Frisco produced a very favorable effect upon the local workers. Local 52 of Los Angeles sent over its manager, Brother Abraham Plotkin, for a short stay, and in a brief space of time a pretty strong sentiment for the organization of a lively local had been aroused among the Frisco cloakmakers.

The local appointed Brother Louis Gold manager of the organization. The San Francisco cloakmakers also

Picketing of All Cloak Shops Will Continue

"Picketing Has Not Been Abolished in New York State Yet,"
says I. L. G. W. U. Head—Final Hearing on Writ This
Friday—Locals Outside New York Continue to Send Financial Aid.

Protest Meeting Against Injunction Next Tuesday In Madison Square Garden

The sensational event in this week's chronicle of events in the New York cloak strike undoubtedly has been the temporary injunction issued last Saturday afternoon, September 11th, by Supreme Court Justice Charles L. Gay. It was signed by him at the request of the attorney for the Industrial Council of Cloak and Suit Manufacturers, Inc., Mr. William Klein.

The restraining order is one of the most drastic ever issued in New York City against workers on strike. It prohibits not only picketing of any kind but by implication forbids even the holding of strike meetings to discuss the business of the strike insofar as it affects the shops of the members of the Industrial Council. The temporary order was made returnable on the morning of Wednesday, September

15, at Special Term, Part 1 of the Supreme Court.

At the time of this writing, the order, we are informed had been served on Joseph Fish, the secretary-treasurer of the Joint Board and Louis Hyman, the chairman of the General Strike Committee. President Sigman, who is also named as a principal in this writ, has not been served yet.

Hearing Postponed Until Friday

As scheduled, the argument in the Supreme Court on the temporary injunction procured by the Industrial Council began promptly on Wednesday morning before Justice Ingraham. Morris Hillquit, counsel for the Union, however, succeeded, upon motion to secure a postponement of the hearing to this Friday, September 17, in order to give the Union's counsel more time to examine the affidavits supporting the application of the Council and to expose their worthlessness as a basis for a restraining order.

On Monday morning, before the news of the issuance of an injunction had reached the market, and before its nature and scope had become known to all concerned, the police got busy and arrested 480 pickets on the assumption that they had violated the

(Continued on Page 2)

Italian Chamber of Labor Launches Big Organizing Drive in New York

Furniture Workers, Piano Makers, Hat Block and Die Makers, Tailors, Pastry and Ice Cream Workers, Spaghetti and Caccaroni Workers Form Local Unions.

The Italian Chamber of Labor, a central body representing nearly 75,000 Italian organized workers, affiliated

Boston I. L. G. W. Members Pledge Day's Pay For Cloak Strikers

Big Meeting at Paine Memorial Hall
Votes Day's Earnings for New York
Cloakmakers—Pledge Further Support
If Necessary

A large gathering of all the ladies' garment workers of Boston, cloakmakers, dressmakers and raincoat workers, met this Monday night, September 13, at Paine Memorial Hall and voted to tax all members of the locals affiliated with the Boston Joint Board a day's pay for the support of the New York cloakmakers, now in the eleventh week of their strike. The vote was unanimous.

The resolution pledging the Boston I. L. G. W. U. members' support to their fellow workers in New York City reads as follows:

"We, the cloak and dressmakers, members of the Joint Board of the City of Boston, assembled at a mass meeting at Paine Memorial Hall on Monday, September 13, 1926, pledge ourselves to support the striking cloakmakers of the City of New York morally and financially. To begin with, we tax ourselves one full day's pay to be collected from our next pay roll and promise to continue our support until the cloakmakers of the city of New York win the demands they are fighting for."

Vice-president Julius Hochman, international representative in Boston and vicinity, presided at the meeting. Brother Hochman reports that the Boston workers, who themselves had only recently gone through a strike for improvement of work conditions, are fully in earnest about doing their utmost in a financial way to help win the struggle in New York.

Pioneer Youth Closes Camp Season

Children of Strikers Cared for Without Charge.

The two children's camps conducted by Pioneer Youth of America for workers' children of New York City, Philadelphia and vicinity closed on Saturday, September 11th, after an unusually good season. Three hundred children of trade unionists were accommodated. Eighteen were children of textile and garment strikers, who were taken care of without charge.

Both camps, one at Pawling, New York and the other at Media, Pennsylvania, were situated on wooded hillsides. The brooks, the woods, the farm, offered the children innumerable opportunities for close contact with nature. Hardened by life in the woods—tramping, hiking, sleeping in

tents—they were ready to enjoy headlighting activities and athletic games of all kinds. Neither was the cultural side neglected. Music, dramatics, arts and crafts, folk-dancing, nature study, discussions and literary readings formed a vital part of the program. The reality of farm work fascinated a good many of the children, and the evening campfire, bringing everyone together in song and story, was a fitting close for each day.

B. W. Barkas, of the Philadelphia Labor College, was the director of the Philadelphia Camp, and Joshua Lieberman was in charge of the camp at Pawling, New York.

ed through their respective unions to the American Federation of Labor—has launched a general organization campaign to unionize the tens of thousands of Italian workers in the different industries.

General Organizer Leonardo Prinsins, who is in charge of this campaign, stated at the headquarters of the Chamber that besides the Subway Construction Workers' Union, which has been organized by the Italian Chamber of Labor recently, the Piano Makers, the Cabinet Makers, the Furniture Industry and the Bushmen of the department and retail stores are conducting an extensive organization drive to bring about a complete unionization of these industries.

He also stated that the Hat Block and Die Makers have already formed a hundred per cent organization under the auspices of the Italian Chamber of Labor. This is only a small industry, probably one of the smallest in the city, comprising only six shops

(Continued on Page 2)

Protest Meeting Next Tuesday In Madison Square Garden

(Continued from Page 1)
order. When brought before Magistrate Rosenblatt, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, 450 of these strikers were released, while 30 received fines of \$2 each for "obstruct-

MASS MEETING OF PROTEST TO BE HELD NEXT TUESDAY IN GARDEN

The executive committee of the General Strike Committee, at a meeting held on Tuesday night, decided to full the temporary injunction obtained by the Industrial Council and decided to hold a great protest demonstration next Tuesday in the new Madison Square Garden on West 60th Street. When asked about the effect of the writ on the strike, Louis Hyman, the manager of the Cloakmakers' Joint Board, declared that "injunctions do not make cloaks. Sooner or later the manufacturers will have to come to terms with the union. Every effort that they make to delay the final settlement will rebound to their own disadvantage. They can get the workers back into their shops not through the intervention of the governor nor through an injunction, but only by conceding to the workers their just demands."

PEACEFUL PICKETING WILL GO ON, SAYS PRES. SIGMAN

"The cloak strikers will go on with peaceful picketing of all shops on strike, injunction or no injunction," declared President Morris Sigman, when informed that he, together with Joseph Fish, secretary, and Louis Hyman, manager of the Cloakmakers' Joint Board had been named as principals in the anti-picketing writ signed by Justice Charles L. Guy of the Supreme Court last Saturday afternoon, at the request of the attorney for the Industrial Council of the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective Association.

"This injunction, which has not been served on me yet," continued Sigman, "prohibits our strikers from picketing, from maintaining our strike halls, and practically outlaws our

ing traffic." The magistrate held that the pickets had no knowledge of the existence of an injunction.

The next day, the Industrial Council got busy and distributed thousands of copies of the temporary injunction among the strikers in the district.

This meeting is scheduled to take place at five o'clock in the afternoon. William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, is among those who will be invited to address the protest meeting. Others invited include John F. Coughlin, secretary of the New York Central Trades and Labor Council, Hugh Frayne, organizer of the American Federation of Labor, and John Sullivan, president of the New York State Federation of Labor.

President Morris Sigman of the I. L. G. W. U., and Louis Hyman, Chairman of the General Strike Committee, will speak at this meeting. Other speakers will represent the Italian Chamber of Labor, the United Hebrew Trades, the Joint Board of the Furriers' Union, and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

strike. I am inclined to believe that Justice Guy, who is quoted in this morning's press as having stated that he 'did not remember the exact contents or the names of the parties against whom the order was directed'—did not realize in signing that order that he was attempting to nullify by a stroke of the pen, every right guaranteed to American citizens under our State and national constitutions and our statutes. Peaceful picketing has not been abolished in the State of New York yet, and I shall therefore advise our strikers to continue picketing and to meet in their halls in the same peaceful and legitimate manner that they have picketed the shops and held their meetings heretofore.

"It is preposterous, in the face of

the records of this strike, to even assume that our workers are resorting to 'acts of violence.' Hundreds of men and women, true, have been detained by the police for a few hours after each picket demonstration, but nearly all of these workers would be set free by the magistrates who could find no grounds for holding them, as invariably the evidence would show that they committed no crime whatsoever."

"The rebuke administered yesterday by Assistant District Attorney Wesser to Mr. Klein, the attorney for the Industrial Council, for his allegation that the cloak strikers had used 'guerrilla tactics,' should bear out my assertion that whatever violence had been committed in this strike came from the camp of the manufacturers but not from our men and women."

"The entire American labor movement and unbiased, fair-minded public opinion, have given us their unequal-

led aid and support in all our efforts to secure humane working conditions for the New York cloakmakers. The American Federation of Labor and all its affiliated internationals, we are confident, will lend us their full assistance in resisting the efforts of the manufacturers to crush our strike by judge-made law."

Outside, Bodies Held New York Cloak Strikers

In the meantime, the steady stream of assistance from I. L. G. W. U. organizations outside of New York City continues. From the Chicago Joint Board the first installment of \$4,000 reached the treasurer of the Joint Board this week, as well as \$2,500 from the cloakmakers of Philadelphia, \$2,000 from Local 29, and \$500 from Los Angeles. Collections on a large scale are under way in Montreal, Toronto, among Philadelphia dressmakers, in Cleveland, Baltimore and even in far-away San Francisco.

Closing Entertainments at Unity House

The Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U. this summer has assisted in arranging a number of successful entertainments at the Unity House. A week ago Saturday we had a fine musical program. Abraham Berg, the gifted, 16-year old violinist, a pupil of Professor Auer, enchanted the audience. The young man displays exceptional musical talent and his playing has style, vigor and warmth. Not less charming was his young accompanist, Rebecca Brookmeyer, a girl of 14, who played several selections on the piano.

Ludmila Toretska evoked much admiration by her rendition of several Russian and English folk songs. Her interpretation especially of the Russian songs was spirited. She actually created the Russian type, and the au-

dience called for encores until Miss Toretska emptied her portfolio. A fine contribution to her performance was made by her accompanist, our good friend, Sadie Becker.

On Labor Day, after luncheon, there was an impromptu concert in the lobby. The guests surrounded Miss Toretska and the violinist, Abraham Berg, who accompanied her, and she led the gathering in singing Russian and English folk songs. Several amateur singers of Yiddish and English songs swelled the chorus.

It may also be mentioned that these artists who performed at Unity House have also given their services gratis for the New York cloak-strikers' concerts arranged by the strikers' entertainment committee and the Educational Department.

"Married Woman In Industry"

The place of the married woman in industry will be debated at the Fourth Annual Autumn Conference of the Women's Trade Union League of New York, to be held at Brookwood Labor College, Katonah, N. Y., on Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10.

Mrs. Maud Swartz, vice-president of the League, and a member of the Printers' Union, will lead the discussion on "The Married Woman in Industry." According to the call to the conference just issued by the League "the married woman in industry is becoming the rule rather than the exception. This raises some new problems." The problems will be discussed by delegates from organizations and Women's Trade Union Leagues in the eastern states that have been asked to send delegates, on Saturday morning, October 9.

Mr. A. J. Maste, director of the

Brookwood Labor College will discuss the "Development of the Industrial Welfare Movement and its effect on Trade Unionism" on Saturday afternoon. The program on Sunday will consider questions of organization such as the need for a new technique in organizing women workers and the working out of new methods of organization.

Miss Rose Schneiderman, president of the Women's Trade Union League of New York, will preside. Credentials for the conference are being accepted at the offices of the League at 247 Lexington Avenue.

READ THE EDUCATIONAL PAGE OF JUSTICE which appears weekly. This will keep you in touch with the activities of our Educational Department which are free to you and your family.

Union Labor Almost Ready for Entering Life Insurance Field

The income of American life insurance companies could pay the national debt in five years. It has gathered a momentum and accumulated a total of funds which mark it as the business marvel of the age. Into this tremendous field of finance union labor is about ready to step with the formal launching of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, under the presidency of Matthew Woll, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor.

Mr. Woll believes the company will begin writing insurance policies shortly after the closing of the American Federation of Labor convention, which opens in Detroit on October 4.

The life insurance companies of the country hold in trust more than \$11,000,000,000 for over 35,000,000 policy holders. It is pointed out. In addition to that, officers of the new company point to the fact that no policy holder in a legal reserve life insurance company has lost a dollar in forty years, and this applies also to holders of stock. Life insurance is regarded as the best conducted and most systematic and best protected financial undertaking of the present day.

It is the announced purpose of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company to bring to the labor movement the tremendous strength of accumulated

funds and the dividend increment of a business which now turns its strength and profits in other directions.

Approximately \$100,000 worth of stock remains to be sold before the company begins operations, but a large portion of this amount is already pledged. When that amount has been distributed, making a total stock subscription of a half million dollars, the books will be closed and the company will begin writing policies. It is announced officially.

It is made clear at the headquarters of the company that organizations and individuals wishing to secure stock ought to make application at once. At least four conventions are to act within the coming week and each of these is expected to subscribe for a substantial amount, if not for the limit in each case.

The company has literature descriptive of the undertaking and of this it has distributed large quantities. It may be had upon request. Central bodies which have not yet formed committees in connection with promoting the insurance company are urged by President Woll to do so at once and to request literature from the headquarters which are in the American Federation of Labor Building in Washington.

Buy Union Stamped Shoes

We ask all members of organized labor to purchase shoes bearing our Union Stamp on the sole, inner-sole or lining of the shoe. We ask you not to buy any shoes unless you actually see this Union Stamp.

Boot & Shoe Workers' Union

Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor

246 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

COLLIER LOVELL

General President

CHARLES L. BAINE

General Secretary-Treasurer



Italian Chamber of Labor Launches Organizing Drive in New York

(Continued from Page 1)

employing between one hundred and twenty-five and one hundred and fifty men. Since the first meeting, a few weeks ago, very many working in these shops has now a union book, and preparations are being made by the new elected officers and the Executive Board of the Union to present their demands to the manufacturers.

The Italian Pastry and Ice Cream Workers are also trying to organize under conditions in the industry and to establish the Union Label on all Italian pastry and the famous Italian apicol.

The Piano Makers and the Furniture Workers, who were once organized, are also engaged in a big organization drive under the auspices of the Italian Chamber of Labor. The past experience of these workers has taught them to work together, altho'

affiliated under two different international, because of the fact that a piano maker is also a cabinet maker as well. These two organizations have come to the understanding that they must work together and fight together in order to bring about the unionization of these industries.

A move is being made to organize the spaghetti and macaroni workers in Greater New York. There are between two and three thousand of these workers, nearly all Italians, work long hours and receiving poor wages. The Italian Chamber of Labor has taken a keen interest in these men.

The Italian Chamber of Labor will hold its Annual Convention at the People's House, 7 East 15th Street, on Saturday, November 6th, Sunday, 7th and Monday, 8th, 1926. Prominent labor leaders will address this gathering.

Designer Injunction Revived Last Week

Justice Clarke of the Appellate Division Revives Writ Vacated Four Weeks Ago

The temporary injunction issued about a month ago by Supreme Court Justice Black to the United Cloak and Suit Designers Mutual Aid Association, a benefit society of designers, prohibiting the members and officers of the I. L. G. W. U. from "molestation or picketing" its members, subsequently vacated by Justice Crain, has been reinstated on Saturday, August 28th, by presiding Justice John Proctor Clarke of the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court. October 5 was set as the date for further argument.

In the papers presented to Justice Clarke, William Klein, attorney for the benefit society, who is also the attorney for Industrial Council, charged the Union with "illegal and unlawful acts," and cited the Union's refusal to accept the recommendation of the Special Commission as adequate

for the solution of the cloakmakers' difficulties and problems among these "illegal" acts, averring that the Union had accepted the recommendations of the Commission when it suited its conveniences and "walked and refused to accept its recommendations" when the Commission ruled against the Union.

The injunction is sweeping and prohibits the designers' Local No. 45 from "interfering in any way at all" with the members of the society. When the officers of Local No. 45 were informed about the revival of the injunction, they stated that it could in no way interfere with their legitimate work as, at no time, have they in the past molested any of the designers belonging to the benefit society and that all their recruits and new members have joined the local voluntarily and will, they hope, continue to do so in the future.

San Carlo Opera Season Begins

Pietro Mascagni, composer of "Il Piccolo Marat," which will be performed during the early part of the season of the San Carlo Grand Opera Company, has chosen a story of the French Revolution for the libretto of his newest opera.

"Il Piccolo Marat" deals with a brut-

APPRECIATION

In appreciation of his services in collecting a wage claim recently, four workers of the Langdon Dress Co., 64 West 23rd Street, presented S. Malchek, investigator of the Joint Board, with a Waterman fountain pen.

The workers, who are still employed in this dress shop, are M. Ulrich, chairman, M. Serwet, Jos. Hellman and M. Mordich.

al uncle—the Bear; his nervous niece, a child, Mariella, a young Prince disguised as a Revolutionist who rescues his mother from the clutches of the people, a soldier representing the law, order and the coming of peace, who is lynched by the bloody adherents of Marat; a carpenter who devises a cunning trick whereby a boat upon the Loire sinks, drowning a cargo of aristocratic captives.

Fortune Gallo has arranged with Mascagni for eleven performances to be divided between New York, Boston and Philadelphia; there will be two in each of the latter cities, and six or seven in New York. where the San Carlo Opera season opens at the Century Theatre, Sept. 13th. The Boston performances will be given during the fortnight commencing Oct. 11th; while his visit to Philadelphia will be during the week of November 1st.

New Light on Productivity

The American Federation of Labor has adopted a wage principle to the effect that the average of real wages, or purchasing power of the workers, should advance as the productivity of industry increases.

Productivity means, briefly, the average output of goods per hour per man. Numerous economists and other authorities have commented favorably on this principle. It is, therefore, of great interest that the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has begun a series of studies of productivity in various industries. These studies are based on statistics which probably contain a certain margin of error, but on the whole they are fairly representative of the facts.

We have undertaken to compare the productivity figures published in the July "Monthly Labor Review," covering the iron and steel, boot and shoe, and motor vehicle industries with the wages in these industries. Our figures of wage-earnings are derived from the U. S. Census of Manufacturers, by dividing total wage bills of these industries for the years in question, by the average number of wage earners. This method also involves certain errors, yet the results will give a rough idea of the facts. The index of earnings is divided by the index of the cost of living, to determine the changes in purchasing power of the worker's wage.

Since available census figures do not yet go beyond 1923, our comparison ends with that year.

Iron and Steel

— 1914 —	
Average Yearly Earnings.....	\$ 758.52
Index of Earnings.....	100
Index of Cost of Living.....	100
Index of Real Wages.....	100
Index of Productivity.....	100

— 1923 —

Average Yearly Earnings.....	\$1,639.77
Index of Earnings.....	216.2
Index of Cost of Living.....	189.7
Index of Real Wages.....	127.4
Index of Productivity.....	130.5

Boot and Shoe

— 1914 —	
Average Yearly Earnings.....	\$ 550.23
Index of Earnings.....	100
Index of Cost of Living.....	100
Index of Real Wages.....	100
Index of Productivity.....	100

— 1923 —

Average Yearly Earnings.....	\$1,115.22
Index of Earnings.....	202.
Index of Cost of Living.....	169.7
Index of Real Wages.....	119.4
Index of Productivity.....	121.0

Automobile

— 1914 —	
Average Yearly Earnings.....	\$ 801.59
Index of Earnings.....	100
Index of Cost of Living.....	100
Index of Real Wages.....	100
Index of Productivity.....	100

— 1923 —

Average Yearly Earnings.....	\$1,629.21
Index of Earnings.....	202.2
Index of Cost of Living.....	167.7
Index of Real Wages.....	119.7
Index of Productivity.....	205.0

The important columns in these tables are the last two. They mean, roughly, that while production per worker-hour increased nearly 21 per

cent in iron and steel, between 1914 and 1923, average earnings enabled the worker to buy a little over 27 per cent more in the latter year. In boots and shoes the gain in productivity was 21 per cent; in wages 19 per cent. In automobiles the productivity gain was 195 per cent, while the wage gain was about 29 per cent.

These figures must not be taken too literally, because they are rough averages which may involve error as between any two special years. A truer picture of the situation can doubtless be obtained after the figures are available over a longer period, and the statistical methods of deriving them have become more accurate.

Yet certain broad conclusions may be drawn. One is that it is possible for real wages to advance as productivity increases. Another is that while the advance of real wages may be due to the increase of productivity in any given industry, as in iron and steel, and boots and shoes, it may, on the other hand, be quite far from the productivity rate of increase, as in automobiles. There is nothing surprising about this if we think it over. Any one industry, like automobiles, may make unusually rapid advances in technique. It might on that account, afford to advance wages very much faster than other industries. But it would hardly do so, because it would not need to pay so far above the market rate to secure all the labor it needs. What is more likely to happen is that it will seek to expand its sales by reducing prices. That is just what automobile manufacturers have done since 1914. Insofar as the workers consume the particular product in question, price reduction will also tend to increase their real wages—which depend not merely on the dollars in the pay envelope, but what those dollars will buy. The important point, however, is that a reduction in price will slightly increase the real wages of workers in all industries who purchase the product, rather than increasing by a large amount the wages of the workers who make it.

Other studies have shown that we should not expect real wages to advance at exactly the same rate as no productivity in any one industry, but rather that they may advance as the general average of productivity in all industries increases.

—Facts for Workers

POLITICAL NEUTRALITY AMONG THE CO-OPERATIVES

During recent years there has been considerable trouble aroused among the members of many co-operatives by political factionalism. The greatest friction of this kind has developed between the Socialist elements and the Workers' Party elements.

At the Eastern States Cooperative Convention, held in Worcester, Mass., on April 18th and 19th, the following resolution was presented by the Committee on Resolutions and adopted unanimously by the delegates present from all co-operatives regardless of nationality, political affiliations or other differences:

"Whereas, it appears from the reports of many co-operative societies present at this conference that the progress of the cooperative movement is impaired in certain societies because of the division of the members into hostile political groups; and

"Whereas, it appears that there is a lack of true co-operative educational work; Be it therefore

"Resolved, that this Conference of Co-operative Societies of the Eastern States recognizes the Cooperative Movement as a movement which aims to embrace all consumers, and must therefore be neutral in politics and all other matters external to co-operation.

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 3148

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

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

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Buy

WHITE LILY TEA
COLUMBIA TEA
ZWETOCHNI CHAI

Exclusively

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EDITORIALS

THEY CAN'T BLUFF THE CLOAK BUYERS

The New York cloak manufacturers and jobbers may hope to convince some innocent bystanders that "everything is well" with them, and that the strike of their workers is not hurting them any. They may also crowd the trade press with doctored information and "authentic figures" tending to show that scab production is coming along fast enough to meet their needs. In a measure, they may even succeed in bolstering up, for another short while, the fast drooping spirits of some of their own weaker brethren with a vague hope that somehow, by some "miracle," they would beat the striking cloakmakers in this great fight.

There are, however, two highly essential groups, we should say vital groups, in the cloak industry, upon whom all their broadcasting and their volleys of propaganda appear to have no effect whatever. These groups, moreover, are best qualified to know what is really going on in the trade at this hour; they are the thick of affairs, and their information and impressions are first-hand and unvarnished. These two factors, above all things, are convinced of one outstanding, irrefutable phenomenon, namely, that at this peak-period of its season, the cloak industry is crippled and paralyzed as it never had been dislocated in a general strike in the past.

The first of these vital groups is, of course, the army of the striking cloakmakers themselves. The strikers, by this time, have become so accustomed to the weekly outpouring of venom by the leaders of the Industrial Council that they are treating these attacks upon their leaders and their Union more in contempt than in anger. The strikers laugh at the repeated assertions by the "inside" manufacturers and the jobbers that their season is "in full swing" and that "in many cases the manufacturers are seeking more orders as they have completed all their old orders." The strikers, from their steadily augmenting picket lines, have time and again called this bluff of the "insiders", and time and again have they proved to themselves and to the industry at large that these fulminations against their leaders and this bragging about "sufficient production" is sheer fake and tommyrot.

Particularly amusing to the strikers should be the role of good, kind, paternal employers which the leaders of the Council are trying so hard to assume today. They are so liberal and magnanimous, indeed, that they are ready to concede to their workers most everything—except, of course, a guaranteed period of employment, the 40-hour week, and the new wage scale demanded by the Union. For themselves, these altruistic bosses want nothing—except the right to discharge workers without cause and review, a right that would place a whip in their hands to "get square" later with such of the workers whose Union activities had given them "trouble" in the past, near or far.

Who, indeed, has invented it that these advertisement-writers of the Industrial Council are not liberal, philanthropic and generous employers?

What the strikers do, nevertheless, infer from these periodic squawks by the Council is that it is desperately hard hit. The strikers have kept a vigilant eye on their factories since the outbreak of the fight, and they know quite well that, while these gentlemen might be able to manufacture a lot of propaganda, they can produce very little, if any, cloaks. Never mind that boasting about being able to get work in the settled shops or from out-of-town shops! The settled shops are one-hundred per cent union shops and their records, daily and weekly, of production and shipments, especially now during the strike, are not only open to the Union's accountants and investors but are actually being controlled as strictly as is humanly possible to control. What concerns scab production in out-of-town shops, the strikers know equally well that never in former general strikes has an out-of-town committee worked with as uniformly good results in shutting off strike-breaking activity as in this strike.

And what is true with regard to the "inside" manufacturers is equally true with regard to the cloak jobbers. With the exception of a few small back spots here and there, the sources of the jobbers' supply of cloaks are bottled up as tightly as a drum. The only difference between the jobbers and the "insiders" is that while the latter are screaming and gesticulating and heaping abuse upon the strikers and their leaders, the former are keeping their mouths shut, allowing the Council to do their talking for them. They apparently have not the natural gift, or the brass, for poison-gas propaganda, of which their fellow-manufacturers among the "insiders" are such consummate artists. So they are relying on the vociferous braying of the Industrial Council to do their "bit" for them in this scheme to demoralize the ranks of the cloak strikers.

But there is another, very important national factor in the cloak industry which is as cognizant of the failure of the New York cloak manufacturers and jobbers to move ahead with their production plans during this strike as are the cloak strikers. These are the cloak buyers.

With convincing uniformity, from every section of the country, East, West, South and North, a mighty chorus from buyers for department stores and for specialty dealers, swelling and increasing in volume daily, is rising above the din created by the propagandists of the cloak manufacturers and demanding cloaks. The rumblings of this chorus have been heard for a number of weeks past, practically since the strike had gone into effect, but until recently this insistent demand for cloaks on the part of buyers had been kept sub-rosa and quite effectively muffled in the trade press. In point of fact, the trade press, faithful to the interests of the cloak manufacturers, would from time to time even publish stories, probably manufactured on their own desks, to the effect that retailers all over the country do not seem to "feel at all the pinch of the strike." In dispatches, dated from such important retailing centers as St. Louis, San Francisco, Baltimore, Detroit, Cincinnati and other pivotal markets, it would be stated that the local merchants were plentifully supplied with goods for the coming fall trade, that they weren't in the least worried about getting their orders filled in time, and that everything from the retailers' viewpoint was bliss and serenity.

This rosy optimism of the retailers and their buyers appears to have undergone a decided change in the last week or so. In fact, it is fast turning into black pessimism, which finds expression in cries for production and for delivery of orders. Obviously, what they had been asked to suppress and to conceal for a time, on the promise that soon, soon the strike will be broken—and everything will be running ship-shape, is now breaking loose with a fierce and disconcerting frankness.

The buyers are clamoring loudly and persistently for cloaks, for shipments of manufactured goods; they are threatening to take their trade and patronage to other markets; they are, in fact, flying in desperate anxiety from one market to another—but of cloaks there is none. And what is worse, for such buyers as supply the needs of the higher grade stores, which cater to the wealthier class of consumers, the scanty amount of cloaks that they succeed in obtaining is so poorly made up, so inferior to the quality which are accustomed to handling, that it only adds to their agony instead of allaying their fears and worry for the Fall retailing season.

The manufacturers, both "insiders" and jobbers, have for weeks now been engaged in a futile attempt, first, to demoralize the strikers by a series of fairy tales concerning their ability to beat the Union and to manufacture scab cloaks despite the strike, and, second, to create a similar impression among the retailers and the buyers of fall garments. Their strategy has been twofold: to create dissension and division among the workers and to force their leaders into accepting a boss's settlement of the strike, on one hand, and to stave off as long as possible the legitimate and natural demand of the market for cloaks, on the other, so as to give them a free hand in attacking the Union.

By this time, the most short-sighted among them must have realized that none of their poison arrows could infect the strikers, whose love of and devotion to their organization has stood the test of a generation. Their alternating pleas and threats have had only one effect upon the cloakmakers: it solidified their ranks and banded them closer together in this momentous battle for their rights as freemen and organized workers.

Their last hope and stronghold, their anticipation that the retailers and buyers of cloaks would stay on with them "indefinitely" in their campaign to destroy the Union, is now fast crumbling. This outcry for cloaks on the part of the part which is inundating the market today, indeed, can have but one meaning. It is the handwriting on the wall indicating that the buyers would not be fed any longer on promises; they must have cloaks, and if the New York manufacturers and jobbers would have their business, they will have to supply their needs.

With September more than half gone, there can be no more postponements and delays of shipments, either. The mass of women buyers in the cities have returned by this time from their vacation places and the stores are becoming crowded with prospective purchasers of coats and suits. In the country districts, too, with the end of the harvest period over, the farmers' wives and daughters are beginning to visit the small city store for their winter garment needs and to send in their orders to mail houses. These customers, the storekeepers and the buyers know well, wouldn't be satisfied with the explanation that they can't get the cloaks they want at the price they can afford because the New York manufacturers are engaged in a fight to destroy the union of their workers!

This about sums up the situation of the strike toward the end of its eleventh week. The cloak manufacturers and jobbers have pretty nearly exhausted every trick in their bag in an effort to break down the morale of the workers and to befuddle the cloak market, as a whole, and have failed. Firmer than ever, the strikers are arrayed against them, determined not leave their posts until their Union had won the day for them, until their conditions of life and labor are made tolerable, until they are safeguarded decent and regularized standards of earnings and employment.

The loyal army of cloakmakers is fighting a winning battle, severe and prolonged though it may be. United and inspired by one great objective they have never lost a conflict in the past. They will win this strike, too.

The Prosperity Bubble

From the headlines in the daily press it seems that the United States is passing through one of the most prosperous periods in its history. Unceasingly, it seems, the newspapers carry news to the effect that this is a year of prosperity. Yesterday it was some notable banker who announced that prosperity was here; the day before it was a steel magnate who sent forth this good news to the American people; today it is a prominent railroad official who broadcasts these glad tidings.

"The American worker is better off today than he ever was before," speaks the great banker. "The American worker is receiving higher wages today than ever before in the history of this country," continues the banker. And with great pride and with his chest expanded he goes on to tell us of the great prosperity of the American wage-earner; he tells us that the American worker is riding around in automobiles and of the good houses he owns and lives in; of the good clothes and of the many luxuries he is able to enjoy. "The workers of the United States are far better off than those of any other nation of the world," the banker exclaims with greater pride than ever.

These quotations are not only typical of the speeches made in 1935, but are just as typical of the speeches made in any other year. The leaders of industry and finance are continually delivering these "prosperity" speeches. It is as if we were taken for granted that the American worker is so inherently stupid that he does not even know when he has an automobile, or when his wife has a fur coat, or when he lives in a good, modern home, or if he were ignorant of the fact that he owns his home—if such were the truth—which is not of the great army of workers. But personally I do not think that such is the case. I do think that the American workers (though not all industrial plants and areas of their prosperous condition—by their conditions are indeed prosperous. And therefore I do not think that it is necessary for the leaders of the American capitalists crowd the daily press with their prosperity speeches. Because if the workers are receiving high wages; if they are "prosperous," no one can know it any better than the workers themselves. Hence to me it seems as if our leaders of industry and finance are not so interested in placing before us the facts of our economic position, but rather in making industry speeches filled with beautiful phrases and rich exaggerations. To put it tersely and pleasantly, they are attempting to "talk" us into believing that we are prosperous. In other words, prosperity is merely a matter of auto-suggestion.

However, to sensible and practical people it is merely a question that it is, it is and if it is not it is not. Therefore, let us inquire into the real facts of the situation and thus ascertain whether or not the American workers are receiving higher wages today than 30 or 25 years ago.

Rainy Day Accounts

In the midst of all this talk about prosperity the Savings Bank Division of the American Bankers' Association comes out with the announcement that prosperity is truly here. And this organization of America's leading capitalists serves us with great masses of dollar signs and great big numbers following these "prosperity" marks.

We are told that in 1912 there were 12,584,316 savings depositors with a total of \$8,423,375,000 savings de-

Is the American Worker Lolling in Wealth?

By BENJAMIN CHASS
(Labor Age, September, 1920)

posits, or a per capita savings of \$59. In 1917 there were 11,385,724 depositors with total deposits of \$11,115,790,000, or \$105 for each person of our total population in 1917. In 1920 the number of savings depositors jumped to 20,915,812 with a total of \$14,672,178,000 or a per capita of \$137. In 1922 the number of depositors was 30,323,330 with a total of \$17,331,475,000 or \$158 per capita. In 1924 the number of depositors rose to 38,347,994 with total deposits of \$20,873,542,000 or \$186 for each of our 112,900,000 men, women, and children. Thus in twelve years the number of depositors was trebled and the total deposits almost doubled. This, we are told, by the Bankers' Association, is a sign of genuine prosperity. Let us carefully analyze these huge figures and see what they really signify.

Suppose each family of five were to have \$950 in a savings bank (which would mean the per capita of \$190 for each person) suppose this would really be true of the high 25,000,000 families in this country—would this be called genuine prosperity? Is it more than reasonable to expect every person to have a few hundred dollars put away so when sickness or the rainy day comes along, the emergency will not have to give way to poverty or charity?

However, the fact is that every family of five does not possess this sum in a savings bank. As the figures show, below 40 million people are depositors and many of these are no doubt duplicates, as innumerable numbers have two, three, or four bank books in as many different banks. Then again children are included in this number. A child may have a dime in the bank and he, too, is counted as a depositor. Thus the number of depositors means very little. That

this number has trebled in twelve years is also indicative of little meaning. It does not mean that people are earning more money or saving more money. The increase in depositors is largely due to the great amount of advertising done by banks.

That the amount of the total deposits has almost doubled in these twelve years is also of little value in measuring the supposed increase in wages and our so-called prosperity. The decrease in the purchasing power of the dollar since 1912 accounts to some extent for the increase in deposits. According to Irving Fisher's Index of prices, the purchasing power of the dollar was 62 cents for the average of 1924, if 1912 is to be indexed as 100. Thus the \$186 per capita deposit in 1924 would be reduced to \$115 if we are to use the dollar value of 1912. Hence in "real" dollars the increase in per capita deposits in the twelve years—1912-24—would, only amount to \$68.50, instead of \$97, or approximately 45 per cent increase in deposits over 1912 instead of high 100 per cent as has been calculated by the Bankers' Association.

Wages and Living Costs

Taking this sum of \$68.50 as the per capita increase in savings deposits, does it mean that every person is today richer with this sum? No. It means that bank deposits have been increased by this sum. Again, it does not mean that the wage-earner is the depositor who largely composes this great number of depositors who have saved this 46 billions of dollars. No doubt there are people who have thousands and tens of thousands of dollars in savings banks, and of course these people are not wage-earners, but rather do they belong to the employing class. Hence, bank deposits do not indicate the wealth or prosperity of the average wage-earner, nor does it signify that there have been any great increases in wages. Thus, we can easily understand that money in savings banks is no fair measure by which to gauge the wage-earner's

wages or his so-called prosperity. Some other gauge must be applied if we desire to ascertain the real amount of wages the workers receive. And the most accurate way to find this out is to analyze the trend of wages and the cost of living during a certain period of time.

To ascertain the trend of wages in this country, to find out the increase or decrease or standstill of wages, I shall reproduce the figures analyzed by the United States Department of Labor and by other reliable sources. Then, after careful consideration, we will be capable of knowing the real facts of the worker's "prosperity."

In the following table (quoted by the Federated Press and based upon U. S. Dept. of Labor statistics) is contained a review of the increases in wages and the increases in the cost of living for the period of 1900-24:

	Wages	Cost of Living
	per cent	per cent
1900	3.0	1.9
1901	5.0	8.5
1902	8.1	14.6
1903	11.0	14.7
1904	11.9	16.2
1905	13.2	16.4
1906	16.2	20.3
1907	19.3	25.9
1908	20.6	30.1
1909	21.7	37.2
1910	24.1	44.1
1911	25.5	43.0
1912	27.5	54.2
1913	30.4	58.7
1914	32.5	58.8
1915	33.5	62.3
1916	38.5	74.0
1917	41.7	103.1
1918	69.1	147.1
1919	92.8	186.7
1920	146.0	224.1
1921	152.3	185.4
1922	134.7	165.0
1923	159.0	166.0
1924	179.5	165.5

A glance at the above table shows us that since 1900 wages on a par with the cost of living. Only in 1924 did wages reach the mark where they could meet the soaring cost of living. All the other years wages in this country failed to meet the increase in the cost of living.

From 1900 to 1910 the average weekly wages had advanced only 24 per cent whereas in the same period the cost of living had advanced 44 per cent. The margin grew greater as the years advanced and by 1919, when the situation was at its worst wages were only 25.3 per cent above the average of the last 10 years for the 19th century, while the cost of living advanced by 186.7 per cent. This signified that a family depending for its necessities and comforts on these wages could only purchase two-thirds of these things that it could purchase during the last decade of the 19th century. In other words the workers were approximately 34 per cent worse off in 1919 than in this earlier period. And it is important to remember that this report is based solely on the union scale of wages. Non-union wages were no doubt lower and hence non-union workers must have fared still worse. Whether or not analysis of this report spells progress and prosperity for the average American wage-earner is left entirely to the reader's own judgment.

(To be continued)

CURRENT BOOKS AT REDUCED PRICES

Our Educational Department is continuing its arrangements with leading publishers, which enables it to furnish books to our members at wholesale prices. Lately, very interesting books have appeared on social and economic problems, and also fiction.

Our members can order these through our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.



TIME TO GET BUSY

—American Federationist



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Project Method in Kindergartens

Prepared by the Research Department of the American Federation of Labor

Does your little girl of kindergarten age want to be doing something? Does she always want to be doing or making something which she thinks will be worthwhile? Even her play world—and that is so much of her whole world—is ever so serious, and she wants to crowd it full of worthwhile doings. Giving her an opportunity in a schoolroom of learning by doing, of creating something which she deems to have a social value, that is what school people call "the project method." Professor William Kilpatrick of Columbia University, and one of the Directors of labor's school, Manumit, who is in a sense both father and god-father of the "project method," says it is "a whole-hearted, purposeful activity carried on in a social environment."

Now, of course, first of all we have the attention of the child and then his interest in the scheme before him. And the teacher ought to arouse the interest, not by telling the child what to do—that is deadening—but by having the child express himself freely, express himself in words and actions. And so the teacher gets to know the child, know his experiences, know his world, and so she gets to know what material would interest him most of all. (Of course the teacher has to remember that a conversation is carried on by someone besides himself.)

The child is interested; he opens his world to others, and other worlds are opened to him, thus a project is launched. Sometimes a very small, crude idea of the child mind grows and grows under skillful guidance into experiments of real educational value. For example, in one of our Washington kindergartens, such an experiment was carried on for several months and the interest of everyone in the class grew and grew with the project. It began like this:

A group of small boys were one day building with blocks on a rather crude looking structure. They were satisfied with their work. They had a master's real pride of accomplishment. So the teacher asked them: what that house was going to be. "A furniture factory," was the proud announcement. The teacher took this cue and talked with them about factories and furniture and gradually evolved the story of furniture from the forest to the home.

One day, on the suggestion of a child, the class thought that they should build a house to accommodate some furniture, because after all the people who work in the factory would have to have houses to live in. The children liked the idea immensely. A number of conferences were held with the teacher on what kind of house the people would like, what kind of house the people should have, and where that house should be. The house seemed very important to the children—they had seen a house but many of them had not seen factories. And so the house was built.

Plans were blocked out on the floor, and the building of the house was started. This took some time for it had to be done carefully and under the supervision of the whole class. The keenest interest was exhibited in all details of building. The door spaces were left large enough for a child to enter each room, and this was one of the pleasures of building, to stand in the rooms while planning the de-

tails. While some children built others talked about what should go into the house. Magazine pictures of furnished rooms were brought from home and put upon the walls over each room. The teacher of course was conscious that every child had an interest in this project, and saw to it that each contributed his ideas and each child soon learned that his ideas might be better or not so good as those of the other members of the class, and that he must be prepared to defend his own ideas if he wanted them to prevail.

Kitchen, pantry, dining room, wide hall, living room, bedrooms, and bath comprised the house. The pictures were studied and furnishings decided upon. Heavy brown and green paper were used and with scissors and paste the work of making equipment for a real home progressed. Windows were fitted with shades, curtains and cretonne hangings, pictures were painted and hung on the walls, standard lamps with gayly colored shades were placed in the different rooms. Every object was discussed before its acceptance as suitable for the home.

But who were to live in this house? Father, mother, children—a comfortable chair beside the open fire. And then the deck was needed, and common had to have a piano. Books were made because they were needed for rainy days. It grew to be a lovely house.

By Thanksgiving time the house was completed and preparations for the festival became a part of the project. Guests arrived from Philadelphia with baggage to spend the holidays. The dining room table was laid in readiness for the dinner. Dishes and table utensils had been dextrously made, and there were dollops too at each plate. Fruits were modeled with clay and properly colored to make an attractive center piece. A clay turkey and vegetables were prepared in the kitchen for the feast.

And the table conversation was quite proper too. They were thankful for what they had and began to wonder how many other people did not have things to be thankful for—and why.

And later the guests dressed themselves for the evening. In the well-equipped bathroom, the keenest towels of white crepe paper were hung, and the spare room which had been made ready for them was viewed with real pride by the hosts.

Again at Christmas the house became a delight with its wreaths at every window and door. A gayly trimmed Christmas tree with toys heaped at its base was placed in the living room and rows of stockings hung by the chimney with care. And then again they asked why some people could get their stockings filled and others who were "just as good" could not. And they thought and talked about it.

Though this project had lasted for several months, the children never ceased to show from day to day the greatest enthusiasm and pleasure in its growth. They were living and their work was alive. They brought mother, father, grandmother, uncle, aunt, and all the neighbors to gaze with them in admiration at their wonderful house.

Their teacher did not have to worry about the "busy work"—she never had to "keep the children out of mischief." They were doing something;

By ARTHUR W. CALHOUN
Instructor in Economics, Brookwood

VIII. The Profit System

If the people who direct business were really concerned with satisfying all the needs of mankind in the order of their importance, there might be some chance that the wants of the population would really be taken care of and that in the course of time poverty might be banished from the world. Only gross mismanagement of the economic system could account for the continuance of poverty in a world so well endowed with natural resources, human powers, technical developments, and capital equipment. The trouble is not merely that the dispensers of credit fail to govern themselves by the requirements of the people as a whole; but also that the enterprisers, the captains of industry, are not really interested in whether human wants are satisfied. All that concerns them is the prospect of profit.

Another way of saying the same thing is that industry and business

are conducted as a gamble. Some win large income, but if the needs of the consumer are met, the result is a mere by-product. No one ever goes into business in order to meet human needs; he always goes in as a speculation in the hope of large winnings.

In consequence of this peculiar arrangement (such as no sensible people would ever think of establishing if they were planning to have their needs met) business and industry are first of all a grand scramble for gain. If any production at all occurs, it is only incidentally. No one is charged with any direct responsibility for seeing to it that the quantity and kinds of goods required by mankind are on hand when wanted. Everybody is a prey to chance and circumstance.

There is, in fact, no system; but rather a vast conglomeration of conflicting effort and cross-purposes, for all the world like the tumblings of a gull full of potato bugs. How could we expect the wants of the world to be met when we make a gamble of the whole business and trust to chance for a supply?

ORGANIZATION AND EDUCATION GIVES YOU POWER

ORGANIZATION gives you the POWER to make the WORLD A BETTER place to LIVE in. YOU HAVE YOUR UNION.

KNOWLEDGE will help you to use that POWER intelligently and effectively. YOU NEED KNOWLEDGE.

The union is growing more complex. You must grow in KNOWLEDGE if YOU want YOUR VOICE to count in its affairs.

THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT of YOUR INTERNATIONAL offers you activities through which you can gain KNOWLEDGE.

You can learn through them to understand your economic, industrial, political and social conditions, the problems of your organization and of the Labor Movement.

You can study the History of Trade Unionism; Economics, Psychology, Literature, and other important and valuable subjects.

You can study the various methods proposed to ABOLISH the EVILS of the existing system.

You can learn to read, write and speak English.

This KNOWLEDGE will help you to act intelligently on the questions you must decide as WORKER and CITIZEN.

KNOWLEDGE will make YOUR LIFE and YOUR FELLOW WORKER'S LIFE HAPPIER.

The classes and lectures are given in the language you understand best.

They are conducted at times and places convenient to you.

YOUR UNION also provides RECREATION and SOCIABILITY—lectures, concerts—for you and your family.

ADMISSION FREE TO MEMBERS.

they were thinking in terms of their experiences and in terms of reality. The school was a live place.

To be sure such a method in education must be handled in a skillful way. It does not just "happen," but when it "happens" it takes. It grows and it helps the child grow. Fortunately such teaching is being done to a great extent in our kindergartens. Some day we may have it through our whole school system. Perhaps even the older child will be given an opportunity to earn by doing and to feel that his school life gives him the opportunity to do something worthwhile.

ENGLISH CLASSES IN EVENING SCHOOLS BEGIN NEXT MONDAY

On Monday evening, September 20th the evening schools will be reopened. Those of our members who wish to learn how to read, speak and write English can join the school nearest their home.

We would advise those who register for these classes to mention that they are members of the I. L. G. W. U.

For further information apply to our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

Pointing to the fact that the twelfth week of the cloakmakers' strike has reached its crucial stage, Manager Dubinsky, addressing a well attended meeting of the striking cloak cutters, last Wednesday, September 15, urged the men to carry on in the old, valiant manner displaying especially at this time the spirit the cutters manifested in 1916.

He repeated to the cutters the call issued by the leaders of the strike for recruits to swell the picket lines. Dubinsky said that a rumor had reached him to the effect that the cutters are seeking to break away from the Joint Board. He said it is not certain whence this rumor sprang, whether from employers or other sources. However, he declared, no matter how it originated, it is vicious and false and is an attempt by the enemies of the union to weaken the morale of the strikers.

Appaied Clothing Representative's Message

The meeting was presided over by Isidore Nagler and was also addressed by Abraham Beckerman, manager of the New York Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and Alexander Trachtenberg, formerly of the research department of the I. L. G. W. U. Beckerman is better known to the cutters as the former representative of the Clothing Cutters' Local No. 4. The cutters gave Beckerman a stormy ovation as a reward for the enthusiasm which his address aroused. As Beckerman concluded, the cutters massed in the large auditorium of Arlington Hall room, upon motion, is a body in appreciation of his address.

In introducing Beckerman, Nagler reminded the cutters that it was as a result of the vote calling upon the speakers' committee to invite him to address the striking cloak cutters that Beckerman came over to address a meeting of the cutters. Nagler said that he is best known to the members of Local 10 as a cutter who was recently called upon to assume the leadership of the Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union. The result was the solidification of the Amalgamated, which enabled it to devote its entire energy to the improvement of the economic conditions of its membership.

The manager of the clothing workers' Joint Board opened with the remark that it was the first time in the course of the now twelfth week of the strike that he had been called upon to speak. He said he happily accepted it and considers it not only a pleasure but an honor to speak to the cutters of Local 10. Other officers of the Amalgamated, he added, would have felt themselves equally honored and pleased to have spoken to the striking cloakmakers.

Cloakmakers' Fighting Spirit Will Win
A genuine outburst of applause greeted his statement that he brings "to you a message of cheer from the forty thousand members I have the honor to represent. We have received from your organization an appeal for financial assistance. Rest assured that the appeal will be heeded." On this score Beckerman expressed regret over the fact that the officers of the Amalgamated Joint Board had as yet not been invited to address the strikers.

One of the first points he touched upon in speaking on the issues involved in the strike was the anxiety on the part of the employers to wrest from the workers their pot ten per cent reorganization plan. He warned

against the granting of any such thing in that it means the certain loss of control by the union over the union shops.

Beckerman also considered the limitation of contractors as one of the cardinal points in the list of the union's demands. Every organization, he said, has problems peculiar to itself internally as well as industrially. But it is not at all a coincidence, he pointed out, that one organization learns from another. The tailors in the Amalgamated have secured minimum wage scales, something which the clothing cutters and the cloakmakers have been enjoying. Likewise, he pointed out, the cloakmakers will decidedly improve their conditions by securing limitation, which has been and is still now operative in the Amalgamated shops.

Long and prolonged applause greeted his concluding remarks when Beckerman urged a solid front in the strike to a victorious end. It was this condition in the Amalgamated, he said, which made possible for them the regaining of lost ground and control of labor standards in the clothing industry. The rising vote of thanks which followed Beckerman's speech was a remarkable demonstration of the solidity and orderliness of the striking cloak cutters.

Alexander Trachtenberg expressed confidence in the fighting ability of the cloakmakers to improve their conditions despite any attempt by the henchmen of the bosses. "When Sigman said the strike will go on despite all obstacles he expressed the true spirit of a labor union representative. The International has always been in the forefront of American labor and was the first, as was the Joint Board, to secure conditions which many organizations have not yet secured. Your organization has years and years of fighting traditions behind it and will never submit."

Commends No Arbitration Policy

In the course of his reviewing of the strike situation, Dubinsky said that it was wise of the leadership of the strike to reject the proposal for arbitration. It is easy, he pointed out, for philosopher-labor-leaders to speak of arbitration after a strike has been in progress for some time. Men with practical experience in the labor movement know well that to accept arbitration in the midst of a strike is an admission of weakness. To the practical type of labor leaders arbitration can only be considered, if at all, before a strike is called.

An effort was made by the Industrial Council last Monday to put to rest the solid ranks of the 40,000 striking cloakmakers, when the Council through its attorney secured a temporary injunction enjoining the union and its members from as much as setting foot in or near the garment centers populated by the members of the Council. The order, signed by Supreme Court Justice Charles M. Gay, was argued this Wednesday morning.

Injunction Cannot Break Strike

Following the meeting of the Strike Advisory Committee, which was held

on Monday, September 12th, the following statement, in part, was issued.

"The strike will not be broken by any injunction. We are of the opinion that the taking out of the injunction is another glittering, but false hope dangled in front of the manufacturers by their leaders to get a settlement on their own terms. They will feed them this hope for some time to come, but the manufacturers who believe the strike will be broken this way will soon find this mistake. Nothing will break the determination of the workers to obtain livable conditions. Mr. Finder and other leaders will never see the day when workers will return on their 'indecent terms.'"

Following service of copies of the temporary injunction upon officers of the union, a series of mass meetings was arranged throughout the city in which organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor are expected to participate. Vigorous assurances of support from other unions were received.

Quite an interesting rift occurred, between Assistant District Attorney Waser and the attorney for the Industrial Council, when the latter attacked the magistrate and the district attorney's office for releasing the strike pickets, after nearly 430 of them had been arrested and subsequently released. Waser declared that he, himself, might have been arrested for walking through the garment zone if the policy of the attorney for the manufacturers of wholesale arrests prevailed.

Cloak Settlements Continue

In the meantime, settlements with independent jobbers, contractors and manufacturers, continue. Thus far over 10 thousand workers have returned to work who, according to Manager Dubinsky, who is secretary of the 'Settlement Committee, are back at work in accordance with all the terms demanded by the union from the employers in the present strike.

According to the terms of the settlements thus far effected the employers are required to employ a certain number of cutters. Dubinsky has compiled this list for the office and has assigned controllers to see to it that the order of the General Strike Committee prohibiting overtime is strictly enforced. Hence, such shops, as are required to employ additional cutters, will be forced to hire the extras men.

As a result of the work of the controllers, numerous violations were filed with the Joint Board against settled shops. The majority of these complaints were filed after the bosses of certain firms were found doing their own cutting.

These complaints are at once filed with the Joint Board, where a number of business agents have been placed to attend to them. So far, the results of the taking up of these complaints are not known as the staff working in the Joint Board is preoccupied with a great deal of work. The controllers, however, continue their investigations and revisit the shops they had already visited.

Holidays Slacken Dress Drive

The fact that the organization headquarters in the dress department of the Joint Board were removed to the Joint Board about two weeks ago does not mean that the union intends to

discontinue the organization of "open" dress shops, Local and Jewish holidays during the past two weeks have caused many employers to close down for days at a time, and the slackening of activity was due entirely to this cause.

There is every reason why, with the passing of the holiday periods, the Joint Board should resume the drive against the "open" dress shops. For one thing the "lay-off" that occurred in the past week or ten days did not last long. The idle cutters who came to the office last Monday and Tuesday seeking jobs were not to be found in the office without jobs on the next morning.

They were either called back during the middle of the week or sent to different jobs when calls for men came in. It is in the opinion of the Joint Board necessary to enlarge the organization committee which the Joint Board had cut down at the beginning of the holidays.

The campaign begun by the office about three weeks ago for the unionization of cutters employed in the large non-union dress shops, was also slowed down because of a full causal in the industry but by lack of work. It is doubtful as to whether this work can be resumed during the course of this or next week or, for that matter, this season.

The men who were laid off during the early part of the week were absorbed by the shops manufacturing a cheaper line of dresses. This, quite naturally, keeps the office busy with handling complaints from members and fighting them with the Joint Board and with the checking and re-checking of the shops visited by the controllers.

STRIKE INFORMATION

CUTTERS WILL HOLD REGULAR MASS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 2 P. M. IN ARLINGTON HALL.

No meeting will be held next week owing to Madison Square meeting.

Apply for all information to Local 10's vice-president who are stationed in your respective strike halls.

Manager Dubinsky may be found in the office of the local every day between 5 and 7 P. M.

DRESS CUTTERS CHANGE WORKING CARDS

All dress cutters are hereby instructed to change their working cards for the new ones now in force beginning with July, 1936. Any dress cutter who fails to change his card or to secure one upon getting employment will be subject to discipline.

SPECIAL CLOAK AND SUIT CUTTERS' NOTICE!

According to the decision of the General Strike Committee, no permission is given to any member of craft to work overtime during the period of the strike.

Cutters are strictly to observe this rule.

Miscellaneous Cutters!

The members of the Miscellaneous Division are required to change their working cards. These cards are to be changed twice a year. The new cards for the recent season have been in effect since July, and every miscellaneous cutter must see to it that he is in possession of the July working card.

To Cutters Who San Sing!

Any cutter who has had experience in their singing or feels that he is competent to do so is requested to report in the office of Local 10 and give his name and address to the writer. This is in connection with a specially prepared song to be rendered in their form at the jubilee celebration of the Local's 26th anniversary.

CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

MISCELLANEOUS MEETING

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, Sept. 20th

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