

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

—Job 27.6

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

Vol. VIII. No. 46.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1926

PRICE 3 CENTS

Ladies' Tailors Fall in Line with Cloak Relief

Will Give Two Hours' Pay This Week

The Ladies' Tailors and Alteration Workers' Union, Local 38, held a special meeting last Monday, November 8, at Bryant's Hall, and voted to donate two hours' pay this week for the strike relief fund of the cloakmakers. The meeting instructed the officers to get in touch at once with all shop chairmen and to make arrangements to deduct the sum voted for from this week's payroll of all workers in the ladies' tailoring establishments.

The meeting adopted a further decision to tax all the ladies' tailors one hour's pay each week for the duration of the cloak strike. Owing to the recent strike in the ladies' tailor trade, the tailors until now were unable to contribute their share toward the strike of the cloak workers, a duty which they recognized had rested on them as well as on the other I. L. G. W. U. organizations. They will, however, try to make up for this during the final weeks of the struggle.

Secretary Baroff in Cleveland at Cloak Strike Relief Conference

Meeting of All Labor Unions Called by Cleveland Federation of Labor—Vice-President Kreindler Active in Strike Aid Movement...

Secretary-Treasurer Abraham Baroff left this Tuesday for Cleveland to attend a conference of all labor unions of that city called by the Cleveland Federation of Labor for Wednesday, November 10, to raise a big fund for the New York cloak strikers.

The movement for obtaining in Cleveland a large sum for the striking New York cloakmakers was started several weeks ago by the Ladies' Garment Workers' Joint Board of that city under the leadership of Vice-president Charles Kreindler and business agent Abraham Katorvsky. The Cleveland cloakmakers and dressmakers already collected a considerable amount of money, sending over to the strike committee several thousand

dollars from shop collections and from proceeds of a half day's work.

On Thursday, November 11, Secretary Baroff is planning to attend a meeting of the Joint Board in Cleveland at which the question of a 10 per cent contribution of weekly earnings to the cloak strikers by all the Cleveland workers will be taken up for a decision.

Chicago Federation Votes to Tax All Members for Cloakmakers

Hochman Speaks Over WCFL, Federation Radio Station on Cloak Strike Issues and Needs—Worcester, Mass., Central Body Aids Relief Work.

Last Friday afternoon, November 5, Vice-president Julius Hochman attended a conference of Chicago labor unions, called under the auspices of the Chicago Federation of Labor, for the purpose of launching a big relief movement for the New York cloak strikers. On Sunday afternoon, November 7, Hochman addressed a big meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor. The hall was packed with delegates and visitors.

John Fitzpatrick, the president of the Chicago body, made a very effective talk on behalf of the New York strikers and suggested that each organization tax itself 5 cents for each member for 10 weeks, making a total of 50 cents per member. The meeting voted its approval of this suggestion. As the Federation, however, has no power to levy taxes, Fitzpatrick, Nockels and Johansen were placed at the head of a committee to get in touch with the individual unions and

shifted to the following morning as it became evident that the time consumed by the attorneys in placing the proper interpretations on some of the ambiguous terms in the contract would make it impossible to hold another meeting on the same night.

At the time of writing, the conference with the Industrial Council is still under way, and while it is reasonably expected that an agreement will be reached by the time this issue reaches the readers, for the moment, we are not inclined to take anything for granted. At any rate, the agreement, if reached, will have to be submitted to the strikers for final approval before it becomes operative.

Amalgamated Shop Chairmen Vote \$1 Tax for Cloak Strike

President Sigman Speaks to Tailors' Shop Heads on Urgent Needs of Cloakmakers

The Amalgamated Joint Board of Greater New York held last Tuesday evening, right after work hours, a big meeting in Beethoven Hall, 210 East 5th Street, to discuss ways and means of aiding the cloakmakers of New York City, now in the nineteenth week of a strike against their employers.

The chairmen represented all the coat, pants, vest and children's clothing shops. President Sigman, who was invited to speak to the clothing shop chairmen on the pressing need of immediate support to the cloak

strikers, addressed the meeting and provoked a storm of enthusiasm when he referred to the traditional friendship existing between the tailors and the women's garment workers, a kinship of interests which always manifested itself in mutual aid and co-operation in times of need. Abraham Beckerman, the general manager of the Joint Board, preceded President Sigman and made a stirring plea for help to the cloak strikers. Vice-President David Dubinsky also spoke to the Amalgamated shop chairmen and assured them of the strong feeling of solidarity which exists between the cloakmakers and the workers in the men's clothing industry.

The meeting voted without a dissenting voice to tax each member of the Amalgamated belonging to the Joint Board one dollar and to forward the money to the strikers without the least possible delay. It is reported that some shops have already begun collecting the tax in advance of the chairmen's meeting and it is expected that by next week the entire sum will be turned over to the strikers' fund.

Workmen's Circle Gives \$25,000.00

Nearly \$25,000 Already Collected for Strike From Outside Organizations

After the conference of Workmen's Circle branches in New York last week had decided to vote in favor of a voluntary tax for the cloakmakers' strike, the National Executive Board of the order decided to speed action on this matter without waiting for the collection of the tax from the individual branches.

Last Sunday afternoon, November 7, the national governing body of the Circle had a meeting and voted to send to the strikers \$25,000 on account of the anticipated collections,

turning a check for that amount over at once to Secretary Baroff of the International Union. President Sigman and Secretary Baroff were present by invitation at the meeting of the Workmen's Circle executives and explained the urgency of immediate action in this matter.

A number of branches of the Circle, in addition to the tax, have, of course, and are still sending sums of money directly to the International Union for the strike fund.

(Continued on Page 2)

LOCAL 20 NOMINATES OFFICERS

Election December 17

This Thursday, November 11, the raincoat makers' organization of New York, Local 20, held a regular meeting to nominate officers for 1927. The officers to be filled are those of secretary-treasurer, chairman and vice-chairman of the local, an executive board, and a manager. Instead of first and second nominations, the local will hold this year only one nomination meeting, as it was found necessary to hold the regular election on December 17 instead of December 24, Christmas eve.

The local therefore expects all the members of the raincoat makers' organization to come to the meeting and put in nomination their candidates.

Workmen's Circle Gives \$25,000

(Continued from Page 1)

Relief Funds Fast Pouring In
The Finance Committee of the strike has announced that it is quite satisfied with the response for financial aid for the strikers during the past week. Since the first day of October a quarter of a million dollars has already been received for the strikers from outside organizations, including I. L. O. W. U. bodies in other cities and trade union and fraternal organizations. This does not include, of course, the money realized from the two special days worked by

the settled cloakmakers in New York City for the strikers, or the regular weekly percentage that is being contributed by them to their fellow workers.

The news that the Amalgamated members had taxed themselves a dollar per head for the strike was received with acclamation by the strikers, who are aware that the Amalgamated Joint Board is itself at present involved in one of the costliest battles ever waged by it against a powerful non-union firm, the Finkelstein shop in the Bronx.

Chicago Labor In Drive for Cloak Fund

(Continued from Page 1)

United Hebrew Trades, which is a part of the general committee of the Federation, is visiting all Jewish organizations, and has succeeded in raising a sum of several thousand dollars already for the strikers.

Worcester, Mass., Trade Unionists Active

Brother Hochman, in another communication to President Sigman, writes that the Central Labor Union of

Worcester, Mass., has appointed a committee of ten to collect money for the cloak strikers. A special meeting of Local 75, the Worcester Cloakmakers' Union, was held at which a group of active members was elected to cooperate with the C. L. U. committee to organize an effective campaign for relief in the city of Worcester. Hochman will try to cover other industrial centers in New England for the cloak strike.

Two Theatre Performances for Strikers Next Tuesday Afternoon

At the National and Second Avenue Theatres

On Tuesday, November 16, at 1:30 p. m., two theatre performances will be given for the striking cloakmakers in the National and Second Avenue Theatres.

These two big performances were made possible largely through the efforts of Joseph Guskin, manager of the Hebrew Actors' Union, whose members will perform free. Brother Guskin has also helped to make many of the other entertainments for our strikers a success, by providing stage talent to participate in the programs. Not only will the members of his Union give their services free, but the theatre owners are donating the use of the theatre and the Executive Board of the Protective Theatrical Union No. 1 consented to instruct its members to give their services free. So also will the Musicians and Ushers' Union. A detailed announcement will appear in the daily press.

These performances have been arranged by the Educational Department of the International jointly with the Speakers' and Entertainment Committee of the strike.

Two Other Entertainments

Entertainments for the striking cloakmakers were given last Friday, November 6, in Webster Hall and this Tuesday, November 9, in Arlington Hall. Thousands of strikers were present, exceeding the capacity of the halls. Interesting programs were given by the following artists: James Phillips; basso; Ray Porter Miller, soprano; Abraham Burg, violinist, all of whom have given of their time and services most generously and have become great favorites with our strikers. Michel Hoffman, violinist, and Bertha Forman, soprano, new to our members, also assisted in these programs and received enthusiastic applause. The Schiller Band opened Tuesday's program, which was a treat for the strikers who cheered them loudly. Mr. and Mrs. Budkin, and Samuel Levenberg, actors from the Hebrew Actors' Union, and prominent on the Yiddish stage, also came and entertained the strikers with their wit and humor. David Shapiro and Marcus Perper, accompanists, contributed a great deal to the excellence of these programs.

Strikers' Wives Meeting

Last Saturday afternoon hundreds of wives of cloak strikers with their children assembled in Hennington Hall and listened to a fine musical program and short addresses.

The speakers pointed out the importance of the wife in a strike. It is she who has in her power to encourage or discourage the husband who is carrying on the struggle for the very life of his union. The women showed great interest, and after the meeting volunteered their services to the strike committee.

The musical program was given by Ray Porter Miller, young coloratura soprano who is well known to the strikers, Samuel Cibulsky, tenor, also a favorite; Isidor Chasler, well-known Yiddish actor; Hyman Pinson, talented violinist, and Marcus Perper at the piano.

Concert for Strikers

An exceptionally fine musical program and meeting has been arranged for the wives of the cloak strikers in Brownsville Labor Lyceum, 215 Sackman Street, Brooklyn, this Sunday, November 14, at 2 p. m.

In the program will participate the following artists: Samuel Cibulsky, tenor; Ray Porter Miller, coloratura soprano; Abraham Burg, violinist; members of the Hebrew Actors' Union, Marcus Perper, accompanist.

Prominent speakers will make short addresses. The women are asked to be on time so as to start the meeting at 2 p. m. sharp.

This program is arranged by the Educational Department of the International jointly with the Speakers' and Entertainment committee of the strike.

Box Makers Hold Their Ranks Intact

After five weeks of bitter struggle the ranks of the paper box strikers are as firm as ever, despite the continued brutality of the police and unwarranted fines imposed upon young girl pickets hailed into court on charges of "disorderly conduct" and "attempts at assault." The bosses are still recruiting colored boys and girls in their effort to break the union.

The union has just issued a circular, written by one of its colored members, appealing to "fellow-workers of the colored race" to help in the fight by refusing to set up strikebreakers. The circulars are being distributed among the workers of Harlem by the colored members of the union. The circular is signed, "The Colored Boys and Girls of the Paper Box Makers' Union of Greater New York" and reads, in part, as follows:

"We of our own race are appealing to you for help in winning the fight that we are now engaged in. We are striking for better conditions, less hours and more money so that we can live a little better. The bosses refuse to grant us better conditions, but if they could not get many of our own race, along with a few white ones, to work for them and betray us, they would be compelled to give us our conditions.

"They are telling you that the leaders of the union discriminate between white and colored. Let us assure you that this is not true. The leaders that we have now are honest and upright

in all their dealings and treat all members alike, regardless of race or nationality. Before we went out on strike our leaders refused large sums of money because they would not take colored girls out of factories and put in white girls as some of the bosses wanted them to do.

"Now those same bosses are employing all the colored girls they can get to do their work and are making people look down on you as mean, degraded scabs who are used as tools for the bosses to keep us out of work. When a few colored people, through ignorance, do such a mean thing as scabbing, it is a disgrace to the whole colored race."

Many of the colored girls who have been brought in as strikebreakers have not been paid more than \$15 and \$18 a week. Three of them refused to return to work for the United Mine of 1922 Greene St., on Monday because the boss deducted Saturday's pay and didn't pay them the weekly wage that he had promised them.

UNION HEALTH CENTER COLUMN

The Union Health Center and Strikes

The Union Health Center has weathered a number of strikes during its history; it has served union members during these periods of strike, not only the members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, but other workers of the needle trades. Its service during strike periods has varied from tending broken heads and arms, secured on the picket line, to sending doctors to the homes of the strikers who were too ill to attend the clinics at the Union Health Center.

We have often been asked by people who visit the Health Center, "How does the strike affect the clinics of the Union Health Center? Do you have more workers or less workers attending the clinics during strike periods?"

A study of the attendance records at the Health-Center during the period of strikes reveals a most interesting fluctuation. For instance, in January, 1919 there was a serious strike in the dress and waist industry. This strike lasted until April. The attendance at the Union Health Center clinics reached its highest peak in March of that year. This would indicate that despite the strike and its hardships the Health Center continues a record service to union members. In May, 1919 the cloak and suit industry had a brief strike which resulted in an in-

crease in the number of workers attending the clinic because of the large number of applicants who received medical examination as the shops set closed.

In November, 1921, there was another strike in the cloak and suit industry and again the attendance figures indicated that the clinics were well attended. In January, 1922 which marked the end of the strike in the cloak and suit industry, again saw an influx of applicants to the union requiring medical examination as the basis of their admission. In July, 1922 a brief stoppage in the cloak and suit industry was the beginning of an increase in the attendance at the Health Center to counter-balance the seasonal slack period.

In February, 1923 the dress and waist industry had a strike lasting but a short time, and in no way affected the attendance at the Union Health Center.

From July 8, 1924 to August 11, 1924 the cloak and suit industry had a brief stoppage, and the attendance of the Health Center increased during this period to the highest record.

The attendance at the Union Health Center during the present strike has been greater than during any previous strike. The attendance figures so indicate, however, that in certain seasonal slack periods and always at the beginning of the busy season in the industry there is a slight drop in the attendance at the Union Health Center. These figures seem to indicate that strike activity certainly does not hamper the work of the Union Health Center. On the contrary it usually means that workers through their enforced leisure pay some attention to their health.

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Workers' Wives Can Be A Force for Labor

By FANNIA M. COHN

It is extremely unfortunate that the education of the wives of the workers has been so largely neglected. For the power of the women to help or hinder their husbands in their union activities and particularly during strikes cannot be overestimated. And when the women use this power to support their husbands vigorously or by their complaints to make the task of the men more difficult depends so largely on their attitude towards the union and its work, an attitude determined by what they know about the union, that the education of women seems a venture of the greatest practical importance.

During a strike it is the woman who suffers most; it is she who must feed her children and provide them with whatever necessities she can manage to procure. It is she who must keep the house running though her husband is on strike and unable to provide her with the funds necessary for it. Yet all the while, she is kept unaware of the details of the struggle which is causing her suffering.

Her husband is on strike, thrilled on the picket line, fighting the police; in the meeting hall where the speakers explain to him the problems with which his union is confronted, the aims and objects of the strike; in his contact with his fellow-workers; fighting for the same cause. All this gives him much emotionally as well as in experience, for a person who is alert and capable of living fully through all the events of a strike must be enriched by its activity. He feels constantly the importance of being one of those engaged in the life-long struggle of the workers immediately for their rights as human beings; for a greater share in the goods which their labor produces, for a better life, and ultimately for a finer world, a world in which the masses of the people can live fuller and richer lives; a form of society based on a new conception of right and wrong.

His wife, in the meantime, due to her position in the home must remain far from the battlefield on which her husband is fighting. She goes on with her dreary, badly engaged in the daily routine tasks of the housewife. Uninformed of the issues of the struggle that led to the strike it is natural

that she should grow impatient as the struggle continues. She begins to annoy her husband when he comes home exhausted after a day of exciting toil; she depresses him with questions; she grows "touchy"; she begins to bother him with her domestic problems.

The result is an exchange of unpleasantness which cannot lead to a better understanding of the problems with which husband and wife are confronted each day in their separate fields. The husband grows impatient with his wife who he feels "even in this great strike continues to be only a woman". He cannot understand why this life and death struggle in which he is engaged, one that will affect not only his welfare but hers and that of their children, a strike watched by millions of men and women, is of less importance to her than her "home economics" with its petty problems.

Does the husband start to consider whose fault it is that his wife doesn't take the proper interest in a strike? Women have never been accused of lack of patience, endurance and willingness to suffer for a cause they understand. History records the devotion and the sacrifices they made in every great revolution. All the struggles of the oppressed of the world for freedom were enriched by the martyrdom of women who willingly gave of their best to a cause they desired ardently to succeed. They were aroused to fight not by the exciting stimulation of the revolution; long before it came, many of them had been actively engaged in preparing the ground for the great event to come.

Military leaders have recognized that wars could not be successfully carried on without the support of the women of their country. In every war, strenuous efforts have been made to enlist the sympathies of the women because it was realized that soldiers have behind them mothers, sisters, wives or sweethearts who can encourage them in their efforts and make them valiant fighters or by the discouragement of their women weaken their fighting spirit. During the World War, for instance, the governments created agencies to win and maintain the support of the women in their cause.

Women are always ready to give that support to a cause which they understand and of which they approve. And their support is made effective by their practicality and endurance—qualities which all acknowledge them to possess. Women whose task it has been to bring up children have acquired in that task infinite patience and willingness to endure. And their daily job as home keeper has also developed in them a profound practicality, a realistic approach to all the problems facing them, for the slightest mistake might be fatal to their dearest—their children, their husbands, their homes. There is no doubt that women can be convinced of the importance of the labor movement. They can be made to see how the ultimate ideals of the movement may be brought nearer day

Hat Block and Die Makers' Strike Settled

Italian Chamber of Labor Successful in Organizing Other Trades

Leonardo Frisina, General Organizer of the Italian Chamber of Labor, announced this week the settlement of the general strike of the hat block and die makers in New York City.

The general strike of the hat block and die makers went into effect three weeks ago, and the men now returned to work with Union conditions and full union recognition.

Frisina pointed out the fact that this is one of the smallest industries in the city, and was organized only a little over two months ago. The men working in this industry as well as the employers are almost one hundred per cent Italians. They are now fully organized.

Among the conditions won by the strikers there are the forty-four hour week, an increase from a minimum of five per cent to a maximum of twenty per cent, plus a small percentage to even up pay; and nine legal holidays with pay. The classification of the different crafts was also established, with a minimum scale of wages for all crafts. The status of the apprentices was also decided upon as a period six months for each department.

The negotiations for this settlement were conducted at the Broadway Central Hotel, in which Mr. Frisina and Bro. Zaritsky of the Jewish Daily Forward participated as representatives of the Union.

The agreement entered into by the

day by day advances that bring with them immediate advantages. They can be brought better to realize when the needs of the workers make necessary a strike.

The experience of the 40,000 striking cloakmakers of New York City, members of the I. L. G. W. U. in their present struggle gave practical point to this view. In the seventeenth week of that strike, when no prospect of a speedy termination was in sight, the leaders of the strikers turned to their members' wives in a successful effort to win their moral support.

But this enlightenment should not be left for strike time. Women should be interested in the labor movement when the strain on them is not so great. Then they will realize when the strike comes that it is a last resort for the attainment of ends whose importance they will understand.

The education of the wives of workers has another very significant reason to recommend it, the potent influence on children that women possess. A study of the lives of many of the world's great men reveals that almost all of them were inspired by their mothers. Most of them ascribed their achievements to this material influence.

As workers we want our children to understand the problems, the purpose, and aims of the labor movement

Union and the Manufacturers' Association for three years, but the workers will have the right to ask for a revision of wages every six months.

The men held a meeting after the negotiations ended at the Italian Labor Center, and unanimously accepted the report of the strike committee. They all returned to work the following morning.

Macaroni Workers Strong for Union
—Bro. Frisina announced also that the campaign now being conducted by the Italian Chamber of Labor to organize the macaroni and spaghetti workers of greater New York, Long Island and New Jersey has now reached a stage when union conditions are being discussed and preparations are being made for the demands to be presented to the manufacturers in the very near future.

There are between 2500 and 3000 macaroni and spaghetti workers in these localities, and Frisina believes that through the efforts of the Italian Chamber of Labor a one hundred per cent organization will be effected before long.

The conditions of these workers are much inferior to the conditions of any other group of workers in this district. They are working as long as sixty hours per week at an average of less than thirty dollars.

These workers will soon be affiliated with the International Bakery and Confectionery Workers' Union of America.

to which their parents belong. We want them to know the trials and tribulations, the victories and defeats, the joys and despairs their parents experienced in the process of building their unions, the supreme sacrifice many of them made for the cause of the workers. Who can bring this to the child's consciousness better than the mother?

We must realize that the better future for humanity of which we speak cannot be achieved without the new generation which will have to carry on our struggles in the future. Our hopes for success in that great task we have undertaken will be much greater if the mothers are intelligent and informed enough to carry it on.

But if the labor movement is to win the fullhearted support and co-operation of the wives of its members, they must be treated as equals. They must be taken into the confidence of the men and inspired to realize their importance as a social force. The men must frankly share with them their experiences and keep them fully informed about the affairs of the organization. So informed they will be willing to place at the disposal of the labor movement their will power, their practicality, their influence to aid their husbands in the struggles of the labor movement.

(Labor Age, Nov. 1926)

Education Season Opens Next Week

(Continued from Page 1)
the labor movement and in workers' education.

The students' council of the classes will act as a reception committee. Admission is by ticket only, which may be obtained from the local unions and the Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street. As the demand for tickets usually exceeds the seating capacity of the hall, the members are advised to get their ticket at once. Seats will be reserved until 8 o'clock. Admission is free to members of the I. L. G. W. U.

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

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EDITORIALS

A PRECIOUS ASSET

We have just scanned through a list of cities where, on a larger or smaller scale, the labor unions have organized conferences to raise relief funds for the cloak strikers of New York, for our men and women who have been battling for the past nineteen weeks for a "place in the sun" for themselves and their dependents.

It is an astonishing, heartening list. Practically not a city of importance has failed to respond to the cry of the cloakmakers for financial and moral assistance issued in their behalf by our International Union. From Montreal to Baltimore, and from Philadelphia to distant Los Angeles, the labor movement is busy raising money, forming relief funds, canvassing workshops, visiting meetings of Jew and Gentile wage-earners—with an earnestness that testifies to a deep-seated sincerity and an almost pathetic interest in the cause of the cloakmakers and of their Union.

It certainly is a significant phenomenon when in a town like San Diego or in Ventura, on the Pacific Coast, cities which the great majority of our strikers have doubtless never heard of in all their lives, a single visit by the International organizer from Los Angeles is sufficient for the local central labor body to decide on an hour's work by each member, to raise a fund that would be divided in equal shares for the New York cloak strikers and the English miners—or when a tiny metal polishers' local in Ohio or a plumbers' union in New York, women forward on their own accord ten-dollar checks, which, when measured by the size of their exchequer, are, indeed, substantial contributions.

If anything was still needed to prove that our movement, our International Union, has become not merely an official part of the family of organized labor in America, but literally an integral part and parcel of it, this splendid outburst of ready aid has certainly supplied that testimony.

It was only a short few years ago that the rest of the labor world used to regard us with a degree of suspicion, as a sort of a "state within a state", as a curious aggregation of Ghetto workers, in whose ability to form a stable, enduring trade union organization they doubted despite the fact that the garment workers invariably had proved themselves to be excellent strikers. There seemed to be a psychological barrier between us and the other divisions of the movement—the "American" unions—which made our language strange and our problems of but distant interest to them, a spirit with which our delegates to former A. F. of L. conventions had been quite familiar.

Moreover, we ourselves had come to regard this feeling of separation, of being a movement quite apart from the others, as something natural if not inevitable. We failed to realize that this aloofness, this invisible wall that stood between us and the other trade unionists and their organizations was largely the product of our own reluctance to make an effort to get closer to them, to be of help when help was needed, to cooperate instead of merely criticizing in and out of season.

The years of the war have brought us into closer contact with the other labor bodies of the country. Then along about seven or eight years ago, the American labor movement "discovered" us. The organizing movement among the steel workers resulted in the great steel strike involving tens of thousands of workers in a battle against the whole entrenched wealth of the land. The ladies' garment workers were among the first to respond to the call for aid to this army of strikers with tens of thousands of dollars. The next few years witnessed tremendous struggles in the mine fields and collieries, and again our workers came forth with wholehearted, spontaneous assistance to the coal diggers which set an example for other labor unions to follow.

With it came our extensive workers' educational movement, cutting a new path for trade union activity that other labor unions readily and quickly embraced. We began to work hand in hand with the labor movement in evolving plans for the organization of women workers, a problem that to us has a special importance; we joined in the labor banking movement and have attained a very satisfactory beginning in this field; we gave our share of assistance to the labor life insurance enterprise—in a word, we found ourselves soon not an isolated, sectional group of workers but, in the true sense of the word, flesh of the flesh and bone of the bone of the organized workers' movement in our land.

And when the hour of our own need came, when our workers in the cloak and suit shops in New York, after months of fighting against a cunning and resourceful enemy, have decided to turn to the world of labor for help, we are happy to say, the voice of

our International Union had been heard in the remotest corners of the land. True, we used to receive official endorsements from our strikers in the past, too; true, the more progressive and virile portions of the movement never have denied their cooperation to us in former years. But our workers certainly will not forget the magnificent reception accorded our message for aid at the Detroit convention last month, that act of working class solidarity which is now beginning to bring tangible relief to our strikers from every nook and corner of the country.

This nation-wide movement of relief, therefore, transcends even its important material and monetary value to our workers, inasmuch as it represents a precious asset and a manifestation of the good will that our International Union has won for itself within the body of organized labor. This good will and this genuine fraternity is today being interpreted to us in the zeal with which everywhere through the width and breadth of the land the workers are rallying to the aid of our strikers with the little or big they can offer.

It will be up to our workers to cherish and conserve this priceless asset tomorrow, and the next day, long after this strike has become history. This they can do by always remembering—and practicing—the truth that they belong wholly to the American labor movement, that with this movement they must live and work if they are to progress and advance.

THE TENTH EDUCATIONAL SEASON BEGINS

The Workers' University of the I. L. G. W. U. begins this Saturday its schedule of regular courses. A few days later, the Unity Centers all over the city will open up to accommodate the larger number of elementary worker-students, and will be followed up, toward the end of November, by the Extension Division which offers courses to such of our members as cannot attend regular classes.

The 1926-27 educational season marks the tenth year of this immensely useful activity. From a tiny beginning in 1917, our educational work has in nine years developed into an institution which serves as a model in its field for the rest of the labor movement. In these nine years, it is hardly an exaggeration to state, thousands of our members, through their contact with the varied activities of our Educational organization, have increased their knowledge of the aims, policies and problems of their Union, of its history and experience, and have widened their outlook concerning the social, economic and industrial conditions confronting them. Many hundreds of them, besides, have acquired a knowledge of elementary and advanced English, and have become familiar with the general outlines of American and European history, literature and social sciences.

The outstanding merit of our educational work, in our judgment, lies primarily in the fact that its main concern, through all the years of its functioning, has been to supply facts and information to our students in place of theories and opinions. This information, though always presented from the viewpoint and angle of the labor movement and its needs, has, nevertheless, had its chief aim to give our students material and facts from which they might draw sound and accurate conclusions, and to develop in them mental habits and skill which might enable them to reach such conclusions.

It is primarily this reason, we believe, that is responsible for the popularity and for the growth of our educational work among the large mass of our workers. And this policy, if adhered to, as we hope it will be, is bound to secure for our educational activity an ever wider and brighter future in which its usefulness and value could not be impaired by any stress and storm in the life of our organization as a whole.

Morrison and Tobin Condemn Injunction In Cloak Strike

Two A. F. of L. Heads Send Protest to the Emergency Labor Conference

Condemnation of the injunction issued against the New York striking cloakmakers was contained in letters of protest to the Emergency Labor Conference, received from Secretary Frank Morrison of the American Federation of Labor, and Vice-president Daniel J. Tobin, Treasurer of the Federation. The Emergency Labor Conference was formed by the trade unionists of this city to help the strikers combat the injunction which they say seeks to prevent peaceful picketing.

Tobin declared that the injunction "is so dangerous that the masses of our people should rise up against it." He said that in a strike in which he was engaged an injunction prohibited him from giving food to starving men and women.

"The latitude of the injunction depends entirely upon the prejudice of the judge, and judges, being human, are very often deceived and preju-

diced," he said. "Every trick known to the legal fraternity hired by the employers against the cloakmakers was called into practice to prejudice the Court when the application for an injunction was made, and all honesty, decency and truthfulness, set aside. Insinuations were made that the cloakmakers are foreigners, imbeciles, the danger to society, American institutions and many other dangerous, hidden charges were conveyed in the plea for the injunction with the result that a most sweeping injunction was granted."

In his letter, Frank Morrison said: "The resistance of the New York cloakmakers against the threatened revival of the sweat shop system is an inspiration to the organized workers of North America. The labor injunction and the sweat shop go hand in hand. Both must be annulled, if harmony between workers and employers is to be approximated."

The Five-Day Week

Labor's enunciation of the policy of securing a shorter week as rapidly as industry is ready for it, coming by coincidence immediately after Henry Ford's adoption of the five-day week, marks a new milestone in the effort of the unions to secure better conditions for the workers. It is not merely that a new line of advance is marked out, but also that a new set of ideas is being brought forward to justify it.

In the historic movements for shorter working hours, various arguments were used. One of these was based on the conception that there was a certain amount of work for labor to do, and that if fewer hours were put in each week by each worker, there would be more work to distribute to other workers who were unemployed or to the same workers in slack weeks. This argument is still heard occasionally, but it is not emphasized as much as previously. Economists have shown that while it may be true for a limited period or set of circumstances, it does not hold in the long run. Because the amount of work to be done depends on the market for the goods in question, and the market for goods may be narrowed if costs and prices increase, as they may possibly do when men work shorter hours for the same pay.

More scientific consideration of the subject therefore turned to the question of productivity under shorter hours. Numerous investigations have shown that labor's efficiency has risen in many cases when hours were decreased, so that as much or more was turned out per week under shorter hours as under longer. It is now a generally accepted principle that too long hours injure efficiency, because of the evil effects of fatigue on the worker. This is especially true where the speed and quality of production depend on the skill of the individual. Even where the pace is set by automatic machinery, however, it is frequently found that spoiling, accidents, absenteeism, labor turnover and other factors are sufficiently reduced by shorter hours to make them worth while from the point of view of production.

It certainly is true that at every step made towards shorter hours by labor or progressive employers, others have protested that the advance was impossible without ruining industry; yet the long-continued trend towards shorter hours has never filled the dire predictions made by its opponents.

Students of labor fatigue and efficiency have never contended, however, that the shorter the hours, the greater the production, without limit. It would be a manifest absurdity, for instance, to say that labor could produce more in one hour a week than in forty. The majority of experts seem to be agreed that the working period of maximum labor efficiency differs according to the occupation, but is usually somewhere about eight hours daily.

In progressing beyond the forty-eight hour week, therefore, labor can no longer say with confidence that shorter hours will in themselves increase or at least not decrease production. And in the pronouncements of the American Federation of Labor and of Henry Ford on the subject, while fatigue and its bad effects, particularly in repetitive processes are mentioned, chief stress is laid upon new considerations of which economists, progressive business men and laborers are becoming more and more conscious.

Productivity is increasing with ever greater rapidity, not so much through the efforts of individual workers as through the application of science to

Less Hours—More Productivity

industry. More and better forms of power, better processes, better machinery, constantly increase the output per man, at such a rapid pace that the effects can be seen almost year by year in the statistics of production and employment. This has an effect on the thinking both of wide-awake employers and of labor.

The employer thinks—if I keep on producing more and more products, how am I going to sell them? It does me no good to have large plants and immense capacity of economical production if I am going to turn out more than can be sold. But my market is limited, first by the purchasing power, and second by the ability to use, of the consuming public. To increase the purchasing power it is necessary to have more people with more money to buy. To increase the using power it is necessary to have more people with more leisure. Rather than going on to produce indefinitely more under present conditions, it is therefore better for me to raise wages and shorten hours.

This is the reasoning of Henry Ford. He may very well have found that he could not sell as many cars as he could make in five and a half days weekly. He may have figured that he sold all the cars he could sell to the rich, to the middle economic classes, and to the farmers. He may therefore have reasoned that to extend his market, wage-earners must be better-paid and have more time off for motoring.

Labor appreciates this line of reasoning. But it also has another, which differs from it. With an ever-increasing capacity to produce, the modern world, going on indefinitely, striving to add merely to material goods? As capacity to produce more per hour of work increases, should not labor enjoy the result not merely in more things, but in more free time? The operations of industry, as they become more automatic, give less and less satisfaction to the individual worker. They change from the creative handicraft to the mere monotonous task. It is, therefore, necessary for the worker to seek the development of his personality in his leisure, and leisure should be correspondingly expanded.

Basic Industries in America

XVI. The Electrical Equipment Industry

The electrical equipment industry is, like the manufacture of automobiles, at the same time one of the youngest and one of the strongest in the country. In 1879 there were engaged in it but 1,271 wage-earners, turning out a product worth roughly two and a half million dollars. In 1925 there were 235,000 wage-earners producing over a billion and a quarter dollars' worth of goods. At present the industry is ever larger. Its growth has in recent years shown no signs of stopping.

The chief articles produced are known to nearly everyone. Generators, motors, cables, telephone equipment, incandescent lamps, vacuum tubes, radio equipment comprise but a few of the long list of manufactures. Of recent growth has been the extensive manufacture of electrical household conveniences, such as refrigerators, stoves, washing machinery, etc. Not all this production is directly classified in the electrical equipment industry, though all use at least some of its output. There is probably no other industry which at the same time and in so many ways serves both industrial purposes and the requirements of individual consumers. From searchlights to x-rays, from marine engines and locomotives to delicate laboratory instruments, its output is found in nearly every type of human activity.

The industry is primarily one of large establishments and large corporations. At least 90 per cent of the wage-earners are found in factories turning out a product worth a million dollars or more annually, and the total product of these large plants accounts for at least 80 per cent of the output of the country. At the same time the industry is not, except for a relatively few articles, such as insulated wire or electric lights, characterized by mass production, in which the wage-earner merely has to operate a repetitive process, as in the automobile industry. The products are so many and so highly varied, and technical progress is so rapid, that anything like standardization of process is difficult to achieve.

The prevalence of the large estab-

lishment is accounted for rather by other causes. One of these is the large amount of capital necessary for plant and machinery, and the necessity for financing continuous experiment and improvement. Another, closely related to the above, is that the industry is dependent on specialized knowledge, and large aggregations of capital can tend to monopolize this knowledge in much the same way that in other industries, capital monopolies limited deposits of raw material, such as hard coal. Still a third cause, and in some respects the most important, is that the industry is built up on a complicated structure of patent rights, which are in effect continuous because of constant modifications, and which it would be foolhardy for a new competitor to try to break. In the electrical industry, the patent privilege granted by the government has become not so much a stimulus and protection for the individual inventor, as it was originally intended to be, but a guarantee of corporate monopoly.

The great corporations making electrical equipment, as is well known, are the General Electric Company, Westinghouse and The Western Electric Company. The latter is a subsidiary of the American Telephone and Telephone Company and has a monopoly on the manufacture of equipment for the Bell companies. Each of these corporations of course owns numerous plants in various parts of the country. The leading states in the industry are, in the order of their importance, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

The General Electric may be taken as perhaps the most important single corporate unit in the industry. Its net sales are between a quarter and a half billion annually, and it makes large profits, adding great sums to its surplus every year and occasionally distributing stock dividends as well as maintaining a good rate of cash dividends. Its stock is widely distributed to the general public and the employees, but neither public nor employee stockholders have much to say about its management. In so far as this is not controlled by the capable executives who have risen in the affairs of the corporation, it is in the

It was to be expected, of course, that reactionaries like Judge Gary and Mr. John F. Edgerton of the National Association of Manufacturers would oppose anything suggested by labor, and that they would be blind to such considerations as the above. Unless we are much mistaken, however, there will be a somewhat less continued opposition to the new step than there would be less calculated periods to the ten-hour and eight-hour movements. The chief argument of the anti-labor manufacturers seems to be based on a literal acceptance of the Sabbath commandment — not that man should rest on the seventh day—but that "six days shalt thou labor." We never noticed either gentleman protesting against Sunday work, and of course the General Electric establishment long practiced the seven-day week. We wonder if either of them had heard of the Pharisees who, when insisting on a literal observance of the commandment in question, were told by a high authority that "the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath?" Mr. Edgerton even suggests that if labor is given an extra day off it will swell the ranks of crime. Such arguments are so far beneath contempt that they will scarcely be generally accepted by intelligent employers.

—Facts for Workers

hands of large banking firms. Until recently the General Electric Company had a large interest in public utilities through the Electric Bond and Share Corporation, but a formal separation of the two interests was made by giving the shares of the latter holding company to the stockholders of the General Electric. Thus the actual ownership was not changed. The General Electric Company has other subsidiaries to care for its international interests.

Unions have but small foothold in the great electrical equipment manufacturing industry. The General Electric, for instance, by developing company unions, has so far managed to keep the genuine labor movement from retaining much membership in its plants. Its policy, both in labor relations and in stock ownership, is apparently to grant its employees fairly good conditions but no power. It may be compared with a benevolent feudal lord in the middle ages who, while servants were on the whole contented, but checked freedom and citizenship.

LONDON'S PORTRAIT IN RAND SCHOOL LIBRARY

A portrait of the late Meyer London, painted by Alexander L. Berthe, is now by the courtesy of the artist being exhibited in the Library of the Rand School of Social Science at 7 East Fifteenth Street. Those who have seen the picture have been unanimous in praising it both as a faithful portrait and as an admirable work of art.

The Rand School Library has just put a circulation service into effect for the benefit of those who wish to borrow books dealing with sociology, history, economics, political science, the labor movement, and related subjects. A 25 deposit is required, but there is no service charge.

The Rand School Fellowship met last Saturday evening, with an attendance of about sixty persons, most of them present students in the school, the rest former students, with a few of the instructors. There was an enjoyable musical program and a few short speeches; refreshments were served by the lady members, and steps were taken to assure the success of the Fellowship's first big enterprise, the concert and dance to be held on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 24, for the benefit of the Scholarship Fund.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



A Social Study of American Literature

Outline of course given at Workers' University, Washington Irving High School, commencing Saturday, November 13, 1.30 p. m.

By EMORY HOLLOWAY

Lesson 1. FRANK NORRIS

INTRODUCTION—This course is a continuation of one given last fall, in which an effort was made to show how through a study of literature one finds protest. But in the authors then studied the problems were most often individualistic. Almost none of the writers belonged to the working classes, or knew much about them. American industry had not yet attempted mass production as it did after the breakdown of slavery and the end of the Civil War. The writers to be taken up in the present course were those who have observed closely the life of the toiler or who have tried to see life from his viewpoint.

We shall see that these writers have two general attitudes: either they write propaganda for some special theory as to how the world can be made into an industrial and social heaven or they content themselves with dreams of what the world should be. One or two conclusions will be reached by our study. First that economic problems are not merely mechanical ones, but are organic and are to be solved, if solved at all, by a general treatment rather than a specific panacea. Second, that the principle of survival is not mere strength, but intelligently directed strength. Third, that a study of literature is the only adequate method of seeing the problems as a whole, and feeling it as a whole, even though no one writer may himself have so grasped it.

Norris

The place of Norris in such a study is in showing the emergence of the trust, of mass production, of cooperation, as distinguished from the individualistic industry on which the Constitution was based, and the early economic ethics formed.

Norris also is serviceable in showing that together with employer and employed, master and slave, trust and small competitor, a third factor always enters, that of impersonal economic law, that of Nature's will to survive. Norris presents these ideas in what was to be "The Epic of the Wheat," the "Octopus" dealing with protection, "The Pit," a story of the Chicago grain market, dealing with man's attempt to control distribution for private interest, and the third volume, "The Wolf," never written, intending to picture the consumption of wheat in famine-stricken Europe.

COURSES IN WORKERS' UNIVERSITY BEGIN SATURDAY, NOV. 13

This Saturday afternoon, November 13, the Workers' University starts its classes in room 526 of Washington Irving High School. From 1:15 to 2:15 Emory Holloway will discuss "A Social Study of American Literature," scheduled as a course of six lessons.

From 2:30 to 3:30, A. J. Muste of Brookwood will give an introduction to his course, "Current Events in the Labor and Social World."

Dr. Holloway will continue his course on Saturday afternoons at 1:30, p. m. and Mr. Muste will give his course on Saturdays at 11 a. m. in the same place.

Admission to the classes is free to members of the I. L. G. W. U., but they must register and obtain a season admission card from the Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street. Those of our members who are not acquainted with our educational ac-

"THE BIGGEST BOOB IN THE WORLD"

"The first English language proletarian theatre in America" announced that the opening date of its first production, "The Biggest Boob in the World," a fantastic labor comedy translated from the German by Upton Sinclair, will be December 4. The play will be given in the Church of All Nations, 9 Second Avenue. The author is Karl Wittvogel, whose "Tragedy of Seven Telephone Calls" was prepared for production by the Greenwich Village Theatre last year and dropped at the eleventh hour. Florence Rush, executive secretary of the Workers' Dramatic League, announced that 100 seats a night will be given to the strikers of New York and vicinity. The play will be repeated in the Church of All Nations on December 8 and 10, and will then be taken to the halls of various labor organizations in Greater New York.

tivities should visit our classes and select the courses that might interest them.

The opening celebration of the Educational Season will take place on Friday, November 19, at 7:30 p. m. in the auditorium of Washington Irving High School. There will be an excellent musical program and an excellent musical program and an excellent musical program. Admission is by ticket only to be obtained at the Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street. Free for members of the I. L. G. W. U. Detailed description in this issue.

THE PASSAIC STRIKE ON THE SCREEN

The Passaic Strike will come to New York Friday night, November 12, when the thrilling seven reel film of that historic struggle is shown at the New Star Casino, 167th Street and Park Avenue; continuously from 8 o'clock.

New York workers will have an opportunity of seeing before their very eyes the actual scenes of the big struggle of which they have heard so much through the newspapers. The powerful picket lines, the huge mass meetings, the police atrocities with club, gas bombs and fire hose in zero weather, all these were caught by the camera and are included in this gripping picture of the strike.

A musical program will be included with each showing during the evening. The New York Conference for Passaic Relief, 799 Broadway, under whose auspices the picture is being shown, has obtained the co-operation of the following well-known artists: Anna Shatkin, famous coloratura soprano, Lenina Opera; N. Donizoff, Russian accordion player; and George Righland, who will perform on a carpenter's saw. There will also be selections in English, Russian, Jewish and Italian.

The entire proceeds of the presentation will go for milk and bread for the Passaic strikers' children.

By ARTHUR W. CALHOUN

Instructor in Economics, Brookwood

XIV. WORKERS' CONTROL

If the economic system were balanced and controlled with a view to the maximum satisfaction of human wants, it would be easily possible to guarantee to the entire population of the world security and plenty. We have not opened up, as yet, however, the questions of freedom and power.

So far as industry is concerned, it might be that if the hours of labor were made few enough, and the products were great enough to satisfy the workers, they would not object to strict labor discipline by the (special) staff during working hours provided the rest of their time were left free from arbitrary restraint. The necessary amount of shop control might be regarded as a small price to pay for security, plenty, leisure, and social freedom.

It is possible, on the other hand,

that the attainment of three good things might what the workers' appetite for power, so that they would insist on determining for themselves all the conditions and circumstances of labor. It is even possible that they might prefer a less effective system with a smaller product if they were given a chance to run it themselves. It is pretty certain, however, that the demand for workers' control of the industrial process will not assume wide dimensions till the minimum problems of output are nearer solution than at present.

As we look forward, however, we can not help believing that the time will come when not only shall we have real economic system operating continuously and effectively at full capacity for the general good, but we shall have also a vast increase in individual freedom from drudgery and restraint as well as a growing range of power for the workers as a collective group.

UNITY REUNION DANCE ON LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY NIGHT

In the Grand Ballroom of Manhattan Opera House

An arrangement committee has been chosen by last summer's Unity House vacationists to plan for a reunion of all of Unity's past and future guests and of all the friends of the "Unity" ideal. The committee have already arranged for a dance to be given on Lincoln's Birthday, Saturday eve, Feb. 12th, 1927, in the Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Opera House, at 34th Street near Eighth Avenue.

The ballroom has been chosen for its size and excellent dance floor. The dance will offer an opportunity to old friends to renew their friendships and to others to form new friendships.

Dancers and non-dancers may expect a pleasant surprise in a portrayal of life at Unity by prominent artists.

Reserve Lincoln's Birthday—Saturday evening, February 12th, 1927—for the dance.

For further information apply to the Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street, or phone Chelsea 2118.

SCHEDULE OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES NOW READY

The detailed schedule of courses and lectures arranged by our Educational Department is now ready for distribution. In it are announced the day, the place and the hour of each activity. Get this folder from our Educational Department, and keep it for reference.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE BRONX

Courses for our members in the Bronx will begin Friday evening, Nov. 12th, at 8 o'clock. At this time Alexander Fichandler will start his course on "The Economic Basis of Modern Civilization," in the McKinley Square Garden, 1251 Boston Road. This will be a study of the natural resources of the great production areas of the world, the methods of production employed, their effect on the social, political and economic life of the people and their relations to the Labor Movement.

This course will be followed by others to be given by S. H. Nieger, Max Levin.

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

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.

OPENING CELEBRATION of our Educational Season will take place Friday, November 13 in Washington Irving High School. Prominent artists will participate in the musical program. Dancing in the Gymnasium.

Weekly Educational Calendar

Washington Irving High School, 16th Street and Irving Place, Room 530

Saturday, November 13

1.30 p. m. Emory Holloway—A Social Study of American Literature.

2.30 p. m. Current Labor Problems—lecturer to be announced.

Sunday, November 14

11.00 a. m. A. J. Muste—Current Events in the Labor and Social World.

Friday, November 19

8 p. m. CONCERT to celebrate opening of Educational Season. Prominent artists will participate. Dancing after concert. Auditorium of Washington Irving High School.

EXTENSION DIVISION

McKinley Square Garden, 1251 Boston Road, Bronx

Friday, November 26

8 p. m. Alexander Fichandler—Economic Basis of Modern Civilization.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

With the twenty-week old strike of the cloak and suit makers apparently about to reach a climax, as indicated by reports in the newspapers of the unofficial conferences held during the week, nearly all the cloak and suit cutters still on strike attended the mass meeting this Wednesday, November 10, filling the spacious meeting room of Arlington Hall to listen to the announcement made by Manager Dubinsky that after a series of informal conferences, a formal conference with the Industrial Council was scheduled to take place, probably this Thursday noon.

Striking Cutters May Be Called to Special Meeting

Dubinsky reported that, according to the information he had, the purpose for which the informal meetings between the officials of the Union and the leaders of the Industrial Council had been arranged was accomplished, and a basis for a settlement had been reached. The manager, however, warned the men against taking a settlement for granted already. He called the many breaks which had taken place at the previous formal conferences and emphasized that there was nothing to guarantee against a repetition of such breaks.

He also told the men that in the event that a tentative settlement with the Industrial Council and the union is reached that this by no means implies the end of the general strike. A settlement is still to be effected with the jobbers and with the American Association. Dubinsky informed the men that, pending the final outcome of the official conference, they are to keep in close contact with the vice-chairmen of their respective halls and to attend meetings of their shops. In the event that a settlement is effected, all of the members of the union will be called upon to vote on the acceptance of the settlement either at mass meetings or by a ballot. The cutters should also bear in mind that in the event of a settlement they will be called to a special meeting.

The cutters were further told that, if peace with the Industrial Council is concluded, shop meetings will be held at which they will be instructed with regard to securing working cards and other matters of importance. The cutters are to see Page 1 of this issue for a complete report of the scheduled conference.

Isidore Nagler and Samuel Permuter also addressed the cutters. Permuter emphasized the necessity of the men keeping up their activities and warned them against lulling themselves into a false sense of security because of the conference talk. The struggle of the cloakmakers had a far-reaching effect, and was viewed everywhere with great interest. And the cessation of strike activity while the strike is still on may create a lot of harm.

Bro. Sam Permuter spoke of a meeting last Tuesday night, when International President Morris Sigman and Manager Dubinsky addressed, upon invitation, a meeting of shop chairmen of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union, and pleaded for the aid of the clothing workers in behalf of the cloakmakers. The answer was the unanimous adoption of a decision to tax the clothing workers a dollar each per week, which means an additional forty to fifty thousand dollars to the strike fund.

Other speakers who addressed the meeting were Samuel Nelson and J. M. Budish, of the Cap Makers' Union and

also secretary of the Emergency Labor Conference.

"Bitter-Enders" Responsible

After a week of informal conferences between the union and the representatives of the Industrial Council in the cloak industry, at the time of this writing, the expected formal conferences is about to be materialized.

That the "die-hard" group among the employers may, in a measure, be responsible for the failure of an official conference to take place until now could be seen from a letter written by one of this group to the leading spokesman of the Industrial Council, which appeared in the issue of the "Women's Wear" for November 2nd. Marcus Klepper, member of the Industrial Council, writing to Henry H. Finder, president, says in part: "I would like respectfully to call your attention to one or two points that seem to me to warrant your consideration for the spring season.... A few of us feel that we are better off without the union."

Since the report in these columns last week on the holding of unofficial conferences, official confirmation of which was given in "Women's Wear" by Brother Louis Hyman, chairman of the General Strike Committee, events seem to have proceeded progressively enough. A formal conference was looked for ever since Manager Dubinsky's report to the striking cloak cutters at their regular mass meeting on Wednesday, November 3rd. The "Women's Wear" for November 8th reports this as follows: "Should the conference be held, it would follow a week of informal conferences at which the Industrial Ladies' Garment Workers' Union made their positions clear."

"These informal conferences date from, at least, last Monday night, when a meeting was held at the home of a prominent intermediary. Since that time, there have been other meetings. The tentative understanding, it is understood, differs very little from the settlement plan which was under consideration for so long at the formal conferences in October."

Strikers Accept Jail Sentences

Fifteen striking cloakmakers a day in jail last Monday rather than pay one-dollar fines for alleged disorderly conduct when they were brought before Magistrate Corrigan in Jefferson Market Court. Thirty-two other cloakmakers, all of whom were picketing, were freed of similar charges. These were the first mass arrests in the garment zone since the election period. The renewed activity of the police is considered especially significant now that the elections are over.

Hopeful for Active Dress Season

Optimism has been expressed in the trade paper for an active season in the dress industry. The expression of this belief followed an analysis of the reasons for the present dullness. The consensus of opinion among some employers is that this is a normal condition for this time of the year, a con-

dition that always takes place in between seasons and that it is by no means an indication that the spring season will not be an active one.

Manufacturers in most cases believe that the demand for dresses will pick up quickly when the early spring showings had been made that the local market may experience as active and as successful a season as during last fall.

In the meantime the Association of Dress Manufacturers seems to have adopted the attitude of the boy with a chip on his shoulder. In last week's report on this page mention was made of an article in the association's official organ on the "problem" of the contractor. The union came in for some criticism and the dress contractors general were urged to band together.

There also seems to be trouble arising on between the association and the jobbers as the result of a decision by an arbitrator in a dispute between a contractor, a member of the association, and a member of the jobbers' organization. The decision rendered by the arbitrator brought forth lengthy replies by officials of both associations in the local trade paper, showing considerable friction.

Attempted Discharges Fail

The crop of discharged dress cutters' cases which engaged the attention of the office during the past three weeks was adjusted in every instance to the satisfaction of the men. Only in two instances, where there happened to be a mutual desire on the part of the employers as well as the cutters concerned for adjustment without further payment, were the men not reinstated. The cutters accepted compensation after which they quit their jobs.

So large a number of discharge cases in one week was not experienced by the office for the past two or three seasons. In order not to permit the employers to feel that to secure the discharge of a cutter is a simple thing the office made strenuous efforts even in the doubtful cases to secure an adjustment that would be favorable to the cutter.

That this has had some effect was borne out by the fact that, one day this week, an employer called up the office directly instead of filing his complaint with the association, and requested the office to see what could be done with respect to the employment of a dismissed cutter and cutter instead of the cutter whom he had employed, and who, according to the claim, was not competent.

Both cutters' business agents, Brothers David Frubling and Jacob Fleischer, were busy with cutters' complaints. The acting manager of the dress department of the Joint Board, in view of expert investigation by a cutters' business agent of cutters' cases, requested a number of instances that Brothers Frubling and Fleischer undertake cases of cutters whose shops were not in their districts.

Fail to Meet Warning

Aside from these activities in the dress division, controlling of shops with a view to guarding against slack time violations and the investigation of shops on Saturdays and Sundays, still continues. Employers who had been found doing cutting themselves were reported by the controllers to the Joint Board.

At the last session of the executive board the usual number of slack and dress cutters were summoned before the board on charges of working Saturdays or Sundays. The usual lame excuses were offered for their presence of a cutter in the shops. The chairman of the executive board pointed out to them that the union strongly condemns and prohibits the presence of a cutter in the shop after work hours and urged that they be properly guided in the future when the circumstances requiring his being in the shop after the regular work hours are sufficiently pressing, permission should be secured from the office.

It seems that warnings in these columns have failed to reach the eyes of many of them, as evidenced by their claims. Mention of this, therefore, is once more made in these columns with the hope that they may be properly guided in the future when their presence in the shop on a Saturday or Sunday is required.

Only Real Problem

In a certain shop there were employed two cutters during the height of the season. When the slack season set in, one cutter was laid off and the other cutter, a pattern maker, who did no cutting, was retained. Both men were called to the office and the head cutter was instructed that the firm may retain him on a steady basis provided he only made and graded the patterns and did the necessary supervisory work.

The firm, however, isolated, through the association, that it could not employ the second cutter and that it must retain its head man for all the work. Naturally, the office persisted in its demand that the second man be reinstated, saying that there was no ground for which the employer could discharge the cutter. How much this was the case was borne out when the association based the right of the employer to discharge the cutter on the ground that the cutter took his wages at the time that he was laid off, that is, on Friday night instead of the regular pay day.

This, of course, was no reason to discharge the man, and especially so after the head cutter had testified that the second cutter had asked for a loan until pay day as he was short of funds.

Whatever may be the plans of the dress association one thing should be made certain, that the cutters of the union will safeguard at any cost the rights of the workers and will be prepared for any emergency that might arise. It is not the first time that articles of this sort have found space in the columns of the association's publication. And the union has always managed to place its finger on the real problems of the industry and has always made out a sound case.

Miscellaneous Cutters to Meet Monday

The members of the Miscellaneous Division, cutters employed in the hair-dress, house-dress, children's dress and underwear shops, will hold their regular meeting on Monday evening, November 15, in Arlington Hall. It is important that these members attend this meeting, in view of the fact that the agreement for the underwearer cutters expires next March and they should be thoroughly acquainted with the situation.

Brother Ansel, who devotes most of his time to the control of the shops in this branch of the union, has held quite a number of shop meetings during the past week and, aside from taking up the regular complaints and adjustment of shop differences, had seen to it that the men place themselves in good standing and comply with other rules. Work in these shops still continues in a fair degree, affording the cutters an opportunity to secure increases in wages.

Miscellaneous Cutters!

A Regular Meeting of the Miscellaneous Branch will take place on Monday, November 15, in

At Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place

Meetings Begin Promptly at 7:30 P. M.