

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

—Job 27.8

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

Vol. VIII, No. 49.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1926

PRICE 3 CENTS

Statement to the Membership of the I.L.G. W.U. From the General Executive Board

December 1, 1926

The fate of the cloakmakers' strike is practically settled. It is true that no agreement has yet been reached with the association of jobbers. But since the strike leadership has definitely abandoned the demand for a guaranteed period of employment and has accepted limitation of submanufacturers in the agreement with the Industrial Council in principle only and conditionally, the issues between the Union and the organized jobbers have been relegated to the background. It goes without saying that the Union must continue whatever fight is still left against the jobbers with the greatest possible energy and determination, and try to secure the most favorable agreement obtainable under the circumstances.

Under ordinary circumstances your General Executive Board would have waited until the complete and formal end of the strike before making a public statement to the membership about the conduct of the strike. But the left wing leadership of the cloakmakers' strike in New York has seen fit at this time to make a public statement charging the officers of our International with bad faith and even treachery in connection with the strike. Under these circumstances we can remain silent no longer. We consider it our imperative duty to the cloakmakers of New York and to the whole body of membership of the International, as well as to the labor movement as a whole, to lay before them the true facts in all their naked ugliness.

The chief issues for the achievement of which the cloakmakers of New York were called out on strike five months ago have been cast overboard or abandoned. They were abandoned solely through the incompetence of the Communist leadership of the strike and through their criminal indifference to the fate of 32,000 workers who have placed their welfare and their whole existence in their keeping.

That the strike has been shamefully mismanaged cannot be argued away by all the sophistries and misrepresentations of its leaders. The gains which the Union has made, in its agreement with the Industrial Council, over the recommendations of the Governor's Commission consist in some additional increases of the minimum wage scale. Those of the operators and cutters are very insignificant. In the other crafts the increases average about three or four dollars per week. It must be remembered, however, that these are not real raises given to the workers, but merely increases of the minimum wage scales which do not benefit the large masses of workers who are being paid at or above the new minimum.

The Union also obtained a reduction of work hours from 44 per week to 42 hours and eventually to 40 hours. This may seem like a gain, although it is doubtful that the New York cloakmakers would have gone into a general strike for the reduction of their hours of labor at this time, especially in view of the fact that it is generally known and accepted that the Union could have induced the manufacturers to concede a reduction of hours without a strike.

As against these gains over the Commission's recommendations, the Union in its settlement with the Industrial Council has practically given up the provisions for limitation of submanufacturers which the Commission had definitely granted. The Commission's recommendations, which were to go into effect at once, provided that every jobber and manufacturer should designate a number of submanufacturers who shall be employed exclusively for his work, and that every jobber shall equitably distribute his work among all his submanufacturers. This recommendation the Industrial Council accepted at that time. In its present agreement with the Industrial Council the Union accepted a provision which leaves the entire subject in the air by referring it to a joint committee to work out a system of limitation "in conformity with plans put into effect generally in the outside system of production."

Another defeat for the Union is in the reorganization right granted to inside manufacturers. The Commission recommended that such reorganization right shall be exercised only once a year; that it shall be granted only to employers having a regular force of at least 35 workers, and that it shall be free from "unfair discrimination." Under these provisions any worker claiming to have been unfairly discriminated against in any manner would have had the right to reinstatement if his complaint were sustained by the Impartial Chairman. This too was accepted by the Industrial Council at that time.

The reorganization clause accepted by the strike leadership gives to the employer the right to make three reorganization between June 1927 and December 1928, that is, in the period of one year and a half. The organization right is not limited to manu-

facturers, employing 35 workers or more, but is extended to the smaller manufacturers employing less than 35 workers who do all their work inside. The workers have no right to complain of unfair discrimination, but only of discrimination for union activity.

It is true that the reorganization rights go to only such employers as give their workers earnings equal to 32 weeks' wages in the year, but the inside shops have always given more than 32 weeks' earnings. And what is most important, this term does not mean 32 weeks of work but 32 weeks of earnings, including pay for overtime, which in most instances would amount to much less than 32 weeks of work.

Weighing gains against losses the cloakmakers have thus gotten less than was offered to them voluntarily about half a year ago. For this they have been on strike about 20 weeks. They have been deprived of earnings for a whole season and have suffered untold misery and privation. The strike has cost the Union about three million dollars and has left it under the burden of a tremendously heavy debt. Scab production has been increased in all directions and a new crop of substandard non-union shops, in the New York market and outside of it, has been produced. It will take the Union years of hard work and sacrifice to repair the damage which the ill-fated strike has caused.

The General Executive Board fully realizes that when workers in an industry go on a general strike they take the chances of victory or defeat. A loss of a strike is not always the fault of the leadership. But we charge that in this case the strike was provoked without necessity and authorization and that the defeat was brought about by the incompetence and criminal negligence of the leadership of the Cloakmakers' Union.

The great movement which our International Union has conducted for the past three years to force responsibility upon the jobbers for work standards in the submanufacturing shops controlled by them, was seized by the Communist leaders of the Joint Board as a political move for fortifying the positions of the Communist leadership and for carrying out the philosophy and tactics of the Communist Party. That explains the reason why they brushed aside the recommendations of the Governor's Commission which offered a workable basis for negotiating an agreement and which contained definite proposals regarding jobber responsibility and contractor limitation,—and threw the whole industry into a strike. This strike was decided upon by them long before the Commission had made its recommendations and would have been called no matter what concessions the Commission had granted the Union.

For the first time in the history of the Cloakmakers' Union a general strike was called without the vote of the membership. It was the workers in the shops who had to bear all the hardships and privations of a general strike. It was they who were called upon to make heavy sacrifices,—and yet they were not even given a chance to state in a referendum whether they cared to undertake the fight. The large body of the membership had no voice in this matter of vital importance.

Before the strike was called, we had time and again urged the leaders of the Joint Board not to plunge the cloakmakers into a general struggle with all the employers' associations in the industry, without first attempting to negotiate an agreement on the basis of the Governor's Commission's recommendations. We pointed out to them that on most important issues the Commission's recommendations were not final and that through negotiations a satisfactory agreement could be reached, at least with one important group, the "inside" manufacturers, which would give us a chance to concentrate our strength and wage a winning fight against the jobbers. We emphasized the fact that our chief concern was the jobber-submanufacturer problem, and that the Union must, first of all and primarily, impose responsibility for work conditions in the submanufacturing shops on the jobbers and thereby put a stop to the disastrous growth and spread of the substandard shops in the industry. The severe indictment of the jobber-submanufacturer system contained in the report of the Commission, and the Commission's definite recommendation for limitation of contractors, we pointed out to them, gave the Union an excellent weapon to force the issue against the jobbers with the backing of the entire public opinion behind us.

But the Communist leadership of the Cloakmakers' Union ignored our warning and completely disregarded our advice and suggestions. The very first step in the strike was a childish and unpardonable blunder.

The main grievances of the cloakmakers, as we stated above,
(Continued on Page 3)

General Executive Board In Quarterly Meeting

First Three Sessions Consumed by Reports of Vice-Presidents on Trade and Organization Conditions in Their Districts—President Sigman Reports on New York Cloak Strike.

The first three sessions of the quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board of the I. L. G. W. U., which started this Tuesday, November 30, at the Continental Hotel, 41st Street and Broadway, New York City, were devoted exclusively to reports rendered by Board members on the activity of the International and the state the ladies' garment industry in the cities and districts where they are stationed.

Among the interesting reports during the first day of the meeting was an account given by Vice-president David Glingold, manager of local, the raincoat makers' organization of New York, on the recent general strike in this trade. He stated that local 20 succeeded, with the aid of President Sigman, in winning not only a 40-hour week but substantial wage increases. President Sigman, he said, had contributed a great deal toward the present splendid condition of the raincoat workers' local. Another thing which played a role in the strengthening of this organization was the disposition among the members not to allow political differences to interfere with their work as labor unionists.

Vice-president David Godes of Boston reported on Boston conditions, underscoring the fact that conditions in that market, both in the cloak and the dress trades, have improved materially. The Boston Joint Board and its affiliated locals have done all in their power to collect money for the New York cloak strike. The Boston raincoat workers, he stated, are also in a satisfactory shape.

Vice-president Max Amdur reported on conditions in Canada—Montreal and Toronto. In Montreal the cloak situation has improved materially since Communist political intrigues have been relegated to the background. In Toronto, however, this malady is still hurting the organization and the union has been materially weakened. Amdur also reported about Baltimore which he recently visited and where a lively organizing campaign is now being conducted under the direction of the International.

Vice-president Kreindler reported that the Cleveland Joint Board had requested the agreement with all but two local manufacturers. Under this agreement the Cleveland workers are getting a guarantee of 40 weeks of work during the year, and have also received a raise of two and a half dollars per week. In Toledo, Kreindler stated, the employers closed the shops toward the end of the season in order to discourage organizing activity among the local cloakmakers. When the season opened they made an attempt to compel the workers to sign individual "yellow dog" agreements, but the workers refused to have anything to do with it and are determined to stick to their Union.

Vice-president Hochman reported on the general strike of the cloakmakers which he recently led in Boston. Among some of the gains achieved in that strike was the establishment of a Joint Board of sanitary control, at the head of which is Prof. Wm. Z. Ripley of Harvard University. The Union in Boston also introduced the Sanitary Union Label and is carrying on a campaign in that city for this label. The Boston Joint Board today controls 117 shops and has gained a large number of new members.

The dressmakers and the Italian

local of Boston realizing that they cannot get along on their former dues have now increased the weekly contributions by their members from 35 to 45 and 50 cents. Vice-president Hochman also reported that the Worcester, Mass., cloak and dress local, No. 75, is in good shape and is doing gratifying organizing work among the local women's garment workers.

Vice-president Greenberg gave an interesting account of the situation in the children's cloak and dress trades in New York City. Local 1 had organized during the cloak strike 19 such shops in the New York district. It is quite likely, he suggested, that Local 91 would be confronted with serious opposition when the time comes for the renewal of the present agreement in the trade.

Vice-president Mollie Friedman reported about the tour she had made, during her vacation this summer, thru California, Washington, and British Columbia. She told of the growing garment market in that section of the country and of the condition of the I. L. G. W. U. organizations in those States. She also reported on the situation in Chicago and informed the Board that the Communist leadership of the Chicago Joint Board had alienated from itself the sympathy of all the other labor organizations in that city. These unions supported the cloak strike, but would have nothing to do with the Joint Board which continually attacks and maligns these trade unions.

Among the others who reported were Vice-presidents Hyman, Boruchovitz and Portnoy who dwelt largely on the New York cloak strike and the part they have taken in it.

Vice-president Dubinsky reported on the condition of the cutters' organization in New York and Vice-president Ninfo on the condition of the Italian cloakmakers' organization. Vice-president Antonini reported on the condition of the Italian dressmakers' union, Local 89.

President Sigman took the floor to report on the cloak strike in New York City at the beginning of the 4th session of the meeting, on Wednesday afternoon, December 1. His report took the form of a statement addressed by the General Executive Board to the membership of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, supplemented by a number of remarks. The statement appears in full on the first page of this issue.

American Association Demands Reorganization Right

Sub-Committees of Union and Association Fail to Reach Understanding on Terms

What amounts virtually to a threat of a lockout, was issued this Wednesday evening, Dec. 1, by spokesmen for the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association after a meeting of this group held at the Metropolitan Annex. The ultimatum of the submanufacturers' association stipulates that unless the Union agrees by next Monday to arbitrate their demand to be given a contract similar to the one granted by the Union to the Industrial Council, they would "close the shops until such time as the union is ready to accede to it."

This action of the submanufacturers followed a series of conferences last week between the leaders of the strike and the representatives of the American Association, which ended in a deadlock when the Union refused to grant the contractors the right to reorganization or discharge embodied in the agreement with the Industrial Council. The submanufacturers base their claim upon an alleged promise made to them several weeks ago by Louis Hyman, chairman of the General Strike Committee, that they would be given a "square deal" in the final settlement, while the Union interprets an agreement similar in terms to the Industrial Council contract. Brother Hyman, however, denied ever having made such a promise to the leaders of the American Association.

The arbitrators named by the submanufacturers' association are Louis Marshall, A. E. Rothstein, who was in-

strumental in bringing about an agreement with the Industrial Council two weeks ago, and George Gordon Battle, chairman of Governor Smith's advisory commission which made a study of the cloak and suit industry preceding the strike.

Sub-Committees Fail

The first meeting between the American Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association and the leaders of the cloak strike, on Wednesday, November 24, resulted in little practical achievement, save for the election of two small subcommittees, which were instructed to attempt to reach an agreement. The submanufacturers selected on the subcommittee were Samuel O. Bekins, president; H. Uviller, manager; J. Rosenfeld and Charles M. Sussman.

At that meeting the Union's representatives definitely refused to consider the demand of the American Association to be given an agreement containing reorganization rights. In order, however, not to bring the negotiations to an abrupt close, both sides agreed to elect subcommittees who would consider the propositions submitted by the Union and the Association, reporting back to the full committees whatever results they might be able to achieve. The subcommittees met in two sessions last Friday and Saturday, November 26 and 27, but, it appears, have failed to reach any conclusions.

Designer Injunction Made Permanent

Appellate Division Reverses Judge Crain in Favor of Mutual Association

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York reversed last Friday, November 26, the decision of Judge Crain, who refused to grant an injunction to the United Cloak and Suit Designers Mutual Aid Association against the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union. The Appellate Division decision restrains picketing.

The court in granting the injunction assumes the viewpoint that these cloak designers are beyond the sphere of organized labor and that it would

be "impractical" to ask them to join a union just as it would be impractical to ask "artists or architects" to do so. The court ignores entirely the fact that the great majority of these designers are not fashion creators but mere wage earners and rather mistreated workers who need the protection of a strong union to make their vocation tolerable. Nor does the court pay any attention to the testimony presented by the Union's counsel that at no time has the designers' union employed anything but persuasive methods in their efforts to organize the designers and that the so-called violence "affidavits" are fiction pure and simple.

The grant of a permanent injunction was hailed by Mr. William Klein, their attorney, with jubilation as a distinct victory for the designers' benefit society.

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Statement To the Membership of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union From the G.E.B.

(Continued from Page 1)

were not primarily directed against the inside manufacturers but against the jobbers. It is the jobbing-submanufacturing system which at this time is the greatest menace to the workers because it demoralizes the industry and bids fair to bring back sweatshop conditions. The inside shops are infinitely superior to the sub-manufacturers' shops in point of wages, length of employment, stability and general working conditions. Yet the erratic leadership of the Cloakmakers' Union managed to turn the struggle into one against the inside manufacturers and practically neglected the fight against the jobbers.

The principal demands on the jobbers were limitation of sub-manufacturers and a guaranteed time period of employment. The wise leaders of the strike have so maneuvered the situation that these demands were practically dropped before any negotiations with the jobbers had even been attempted. The fight revolved around wages, hours and reorganization rights—all matters that concerned the inside manufacturer rather than the jobber.

In organizing the General Strike Committee, no attention was paid to experience and fitness in the selection of members for the various committees. The leadership of the most important committees was entrusted to persons who had nothing in their favor except membership in and adherence to the Communist Party.

Another sample of their unpardonable management of the strike is shown in the manner of settling individual shops during the strike. In general strikes, and especially in this one because it was supposed to have been directed against the jobbers—the question of settlements with individual manufacturers was a very serious one and should have been weighed carefully in each case. Caution should have been exercised to make sure that the work produced in the settled shops would not find its way to strike-bound firms. But we find that large numbers of shops were settled in this strike which were known before the strike to have been producing work in large quantities for jobbers and inside manufacturers. Settlements were made also with a number of shops which were notorious as unfair to the Union.

Yet, in spite of this glaring misconduct of the strike, in order to cover up their own blunders and treachery, these incompetent leaders have the audacity to cast the blame for their misdoings on others who are in no way responsible for this mismanagement. They, for instance, have now raised the cry that the Philadelphia cloakmakers have scabbed on the New York strikers during this strike, though it is a known fact that the Philadelphia cloak trade is a very small one, and that the Philadelphia Joint Board exercised every possible precaution to see to it that no scab garments were made for striking New York firms in the same manner they are slandering the cloakmakers of other cities and calling them scabs. It is quite logical that the small markets should have gained somewhat as a result of the New York strike, for it is likely that those who customarily dealt with New York manufacturers and jobbers should try to have some work done for them in other markets which were not on strike. Striking firms in New York no doubt tried also to have work done for them in these outside markets and doubtless succeeded to an extent, though the amount of work done for them could not have been sufficient to demoralize the New York strike, especially in view of the fact that our cloak locals in other markets were vigilantly on the watch to prevent the production of work for striking firms in New York. So that the charge that the cloakmakers of other cities were scabbing on the New York strike is obviously but a smoke-screen raised by the leaders of the strike to cover up their own sabotage, the scab-booglegging caused by the large number of individual settlements that they made, and their woeful incompetence.

All previous general strikes of cloakmakers succeeded in attracting public support. In these days a large strike of workers must always reckon with public sentiment. The last strike met with general disapproval and antagonism which showed itself in the treatment of the strike by the press and the public at large. A sample of the treacherous tactics of the leaders of the strike is reflected also in their attitude towards the American labor movement in this conflict. While the International Union has actively sought the cooperation of the labor movement and its financial and moral support, and has gained it on a scale unequalled in the past in all our struggles, the left wing chiefs of the strike have continually in their press and at meetings attacked the labor movement, heaping abuse and calumny upon it and antagonizing every organization that would not subscribe to their policy of wreck and disaster.

The strike had been on for about three months before it ever occurred to the leadership that this strike is not an end in itself and that efforts should be made to bring about a settlement. It is a matter of general knowledge that we could have settled this strike more than once during these five months on terms more advantageous than those secured now, but the leadership of the strike which shaped its strike policy to suit the wishes of the Communist politicians, sidetracked all these opportunities and kept on groping blindly with the fight.

Throughout this heartbreaking procedure the officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union did not utter a word of public criticism of the ruinous tactics of the left wing leadership, though we constantly pointed out to them their blunders and mismanagement. We felt that any dissensions in the ranks of the cloakmakers while the active fight was on would still more aggravate the situation. We cooperated with the strike leadership faithfully and steadily to the extent that we were per-

mitted to cooperate. Time and again we endeavored to bring some measure of system and reason into the conduct of the strike, but our advice and admonitions were rejected by the left wing leaders who got their orders from the Communist Party.

We cannot stop the Communists and their party from black-guarding and besmirching the characters of trade unionists and of leaders in the trade union movement. Character assassination and mud-slinging are the Communist stock-in-trade. But our International Union and the American trade union movement must not and shall not permit Communist blackmail chiefs, or such as serve their nefarious schemes and purposes, to assume positions of leadership in the trade union movement. It is the sacred duty of the labor movement to rid itself of this pestilence. The Communist leadership of the Cloakmakers' Union has all but ruined the organization. The great task before the cloakmakers of New York at this time is to rid themselves of that irresponsible and ruinous leadership and to concentrate their whole strength and energy in the effort to rebuild the Union under sane and sensible leadership and to regain its former power and standing for the true benefit of the men and women who work at the trade.

Emergency Labor Conference Calls Another Meeting

To Continue Fight Against Injunctions in Labor Struggles

The Emergency Labor Conference, which was formed on October 8 for the purpose of helping the striking cloakmakers and conducting a campaign against the evil of injunctions in industrial clashes between workers and employers, is calling another meeting for December 22, 7 P. M., at Beethoven Hall, 216 East 6th Street.

The call for this second conference is signed by J. M. Budish of the Cap-makers' International Union, who is the secretary of the Emergency Committee. In the letter addressed to all labor organizations in Greater New York, secretary Budish states that "the great movement of protest" developed by the Emergency Labor Conference was helpful in checking the unwarranted police persecution and brutalities to which the cloakmakers

were subjected. Now that the most important section of the employers of the cloakmaking industry, the Industrial Council, has settled with the Union, the Emergency Labor Conference will concentrate to a greater extent upon fighting the evil and danger of injunctions.

Every labor organization in the city is requested to send three delegates to this conference. After a report by the active workers of the Conference will have been submitted, the meeting will proceed to consider ways and means for mobilizing the forces of labor against the curse of injunctions and for securing legislation, sponsored by the New York State Federation of Labor, which will curb the usurping power of the courts to issue injunctions in industrial disputes.

Local 62 Calls Meeting of Members Employed In Non-Union Shops

In connection with the very active organization campaign being carried on by the local, a meeting of all union workers and sympathizers, who are now working in open underwear shops, has been called for Tuesday, December 20, right after work, at the Woman's Trade Union League, 217 Lexington Avenue. It is hoped that not only will members of Local 62 respond, but that members of other locals of the International who may be working during this season in underwear shops, will come to the meeting.

On Saturday evening, December 11, the White Goods Workers' Union, Local 62 is giving a dance, at the Washington Irving High School. Admission to this dance, given under the auspices of the local's Educational Committee, is without charge to members of the local and their friends. An excellent dance orchestra has been engaged and the indications are that

the occasion will be a joyful reunion. Tickets can be obtained at the office of the local, 117 Second Avenue.

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JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
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MORRIS SIOMAN, President A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer
MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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EDITORIALS

SOME LESSONS OF THE CLOAK STRIKE

The gentlemen who direct the destiny and policy of the New York Cloakmakers' Joint Board and who have shaped its course months before and all during the long weeks of the cloak strike, the General Executive Committee of the Communist Party, have now come forth with an official "review" of the struggle, to explain some of its "victories" and to talk away its defeats, and to draw from it the proper lessons how to run strikes in the future.

Like most Communist documents dealing with trade union affairs, this statement reeks with misrepresentation, slander and wholesale abuse. Nevertheless, it is a document that should interest the New York cloakmakers a great deal. After all, it comes from a group who are today the bosses of their union, whether they like it or not and whether they had elected them to be the masters of their destinies or not. And besides, the very fact that the Communist chiefs deem it necessary to make public "explanations" and apologies for their strike policy is very significant in itself. As a rule, the Communists prefer to ply their business in the dark and to pull the strings from behind the curtain—in genuine dictator fashion. That they are compelled, week after week, to come out now with explanations and alibis is an eloquent sign that their conscience is heavy and that "something is rotten in their Denmark."

The document, of course, starts with a list of the gains made by the cloak strikers during the settlement with the Industrial Council. First and foremost, naturally, comes the 40-hour week. The writer of the Communist statement conveniently forgets to mention that the 40-hour week would not come until two years from now, that until the fall season of 1928 the work-week would remain at 42 hours; he also shyly evades a discussion of the importance of a 40-hour week in such a highly seasonal trade like cloakmaking, where the workers average about 27 weeks of labor during the year. Such considerations do not belong in a Communist statement. They might disclose the fact that the cloakmakers, if they had been allowed to vote on the question of the strike before it was called, would not have been willing to endure 20 weeks of suffering for the glory of an elusive Communist slogan.

Next among the "gains" listed in the strike document issued by the Communist chiefs is the "limitation of contractors." This information, we are sure, will come to the cloakmakers as startling news. Until now, from reading the terms of the agreement, the strikers have understood that the Industrial Council agreement concedes the point of contractor limitation in theory only, as a matter of principle, and that, too, on condition that it be left in abeyance until it is definitely settled in the industry as a whole. To call this a concrete achievement of contractor limitation is worse than misrepresentation: it is common faking or stark ignorance, if not a mixture of both.

The Communist Party directors of the cloak strike, however, are evidently not altogether at ease when enumerating the "victories" of the settlement. Obviously it is not a pleasant subject to talk about, and they dispose of it in about fifteen lines in a statement of several thousand words. It is so much more convenient to cast the blame on the other fellow for what they themselves had failed to achieve, so much more in accordance with Communist fashion and tactics.

We do not propose to burden our readers with all the gems contained in that literary effort to whitewash the staggering results obtained under Communist leadership in the cloak strike. We shall only cull from it some items that the cloakmakers of New York might appreciate best and understand without overmuch comment.

1. The 10 per cent reorganization clause is a "weakness" in the agreement. Not a word is mentioned that under the contract the Union is compelled to accept three reorganizations in the course of one year and a half—from June, 1927, to December, 1928, while under the proposal submitted by the Commission only one such reorganization was to be made in two years. The right to review cases for "discrimination for union activity" is presented in the light of a general right of review, and not a hint is even made that under the report of the Commission the right of review of reorganization cases was extended to all cases of "unfair discrimination" which offered a real protection to the workers.

The 32 weeks of wages stipulation is offered as a "time guarantee", and not a syllable is mentioned that this 32 weeks does not mean 32 weeks of work but weeks of earnings, including overtime, which, as all cloakmakers know, would bring down this "time guarantee" to much less than 32 weeks, probably 27 weeks. The Communist statement also hides the fact that, while under

the Commission's plan, the right of reorganization was given only to firms employing 35 workers, the Council settlement takes in all members of the Council whether they employ 35 or 10 workers, if the smaller units do all their work inside the shops.

2. The conduct of the strike along Communist lines and its settlement is hailed as a victory for the left wing leadership over the "discredited right wing leadership." The "Sigman machine" has supported "class collaboration" and has thereby seriously weakened the Union, it is charged. Of course, the statement does not disclose in the faintest manner what is generally known to every cloakmaker and to every person who has at all watched the development and growth of the strike, namely, that its leaders had consistently tried to bring in mediators and conciliators from the outside and that it was actually settled thanks to the intervention of such mediators on the solicitation of these strike leaders. This talk about "class collaboration" of right-wing leaders after such maneuvers is just typical Communist humbuggery and is characteristic of their moral and mental fibre.

3. The strike did not turn out a victory because the "Sigman machine" sabotaged the collection of funds. The strike admittedly has cost already over three million dollars, of which over two and a half million were raised from labor organizations and from assessments on the settled shops during the last two years of the strike. The fact is not a member of the International from coast to coast who is not aware of the fact that all during this strike the International Office, with President Sigman at the head, has incessantly bombarded the whole membership of the organization for help to the New York strikers and that every dollar that could be collected from our workers in every city had been raised. And this was done in the face of the generally known situation that neither President Sigman nor any one of the minority locals of the Joint Board had any voice or say in the spending or distribution of the collected sums at any time of the strike and that this was done solely under the undisputed authority of the Communist leadership.

4. The strike was not a success because the "Amalgamated betrayed it." Only a year ago the Amalgamated was the "most progressive union in the needle trades." Today, there is not enough invective in the Communist vernacular to blacken and damn it. The story is a simple one. About a year ago, the Amalgamated Joint Board in New York was a wrecked organization, without influence or power in the clothing market. But it was then run and controlled by a Communist group, therefore, it was a "progressive" organization. Today, the Amalgamated Joint Board is a redeemed, powerful and fighting organization. But it would not kowtow to Communist dictatorship and would run its business as a trade union only. So it is damned, and is "the most reactionary organization" in America.

And now a word or two concerning the "lessons of the strike" which the Communist leaders are now offering to the New York cloakmakers.

The first lesson is that the cloakmakers should continue keeping them and their satellites in office. You see, they have done so wonderfully well, they have proved themselves to be such excellent strategists as strike leaders and trade union directors, that it would be a shame, they believe, if the cloakmakers should now reward them with a permanent leave of absence. The pretty part about this "lesson" is that, after themselves admitting the deplorable outcome of the strike, they have the face to proclaim that the "Sigman leaders and followers" can lead the cloakmakers to defeat. This is for sublime reason.

The second lesson is that the "workers should support the movement of a mass political party of their own," of course—the Communist Party. This they expect as a bonus for their splendid achievement on the Industrial field—as exemplified by their efficient and honest conduct of the cloak strike. This, after all, is all they are out for in the labor movement, political advantage for their party. It is the alpha and omega of all their "experimenting" in the needle trades, the goal to which they strive and for the attainment of which they would sacrifice the welfare of any number of trade unions—cloakmakers, clothing workers, miners—at any time and whenever they could lay their hands on them.

And the third lesson is amalgamation. Amalgamation is one of those pretty catch-phrases which the Communist leaders put out on parade from time to time whenever it suits their business and drop it when political expediency does not require it. On the other hand, every member of the International knows that his Union is fully and honestly in favor of the principle of amalgamation but is still stronger in favor of sincere and fraternal cooperation between the needle trades unions in time of strikes and in time of industrial peace. And the cloakmakers know equally well that amalgamation in the needle trades cannot and will not come through the efforts of a group of about a dozen politicians to browbeat and coerce these unions into a form of artificial "amalgamation" that is based only on a multitude of high-sounding words but has no roots in the industrial and organizational needs of these unions.

And while speaking of fraternal cooperation and assistance from sister organizations in the needle trades during the cloak strike, we should like to add another word.

The Communist chiefs have boasted in their statement that, while the Amalgamated has contributed so far only \$27,000 for the strike, the "left-wing" furriers' group, which had contributed \$60,000. We are quite certain that the New York cloakmakers would rather not have received a single penny from the Communist furriers' joint board if instead of it this "militant" organization, which is so vehemently in favor of "amalgamation", would during this strike have prevented its members from supplying fur trimmings for the cloak shops where scab work was being manufactured. Every cloakmaker knows that not a single coat this

Louis D. Brandeis

Two weeks ago, the liberal and progressive world in America celebrated the 70th birthday of Louis D. Brandeis, the only Jew on the bench of the United States Supreme Court.

Justice Brandeis, for a few years prior to his elevation to the highest court in the land in 1913, had occupied a very conspicuous place in the life of the American Jews. Brandeis appeared on the Jewish horizon in the United States with a suddenness that was rather startling—after having spent most of his life away from Jewish interests and environs.

He first emerged on the Jewish-American scene as a Zionist, with the dream of a re-established Jewish homeland in his eyes, and quickly became the leader of the American Zionist movement. That was during the early days of the World War, when Jewish life on the continent of Europe appeared like one huge hideous nightmare, hanging over the brink of a precipice which was ready to swallow it. On this panorama of destruction and terror Jewish life in America was the only safe haven and refuge. Brandeis' personality brought to the Zionist movement a tremendous amount of influence, personal magnetism and strength which impressed not only the faithful followers of the Palestine ideal but even such as were far removed from the tenets of Jewish nationalism and Zionism.

For readers of "Justice", however, and for the members of the I.L.G.W.U. in general, the personality of Brandeis has a significance quite apart from his interest and activity in general Jewish affairs. Brandeis' name became a household word among the ladies' garment workers at about the time they made their first serious attempt to build up one of the most advanced labor organizations in this country; in 1918.

To be sure, the name of Brandeis is first mentioned in the annals of the I. L. G. W. U. in 1907, when during a cloakmakers' strike in Boston, he came forth as attorney for the manufacturers. He, however, showed no unfriendliness to the workers and had by no means sought to fight their union. In that clash between the Boston cloakmakers and their employers, a fight which hinged on the "closed" shop proposition as against the "open" shop, Brandeis, for the first time, proved a way out by suggesting the compromise of a "preferential union" shop, which has since become quite a familiar term in the I. L. G. W. U. industrial vernacular.

In the summer of 1916, when the great cloak strike raged in New York City, Brandeis came forth, as the representative of the public, with the advocacy of a peace based on industrial justice plus industrial discipline. He became the arbitrator for both sides, created the "protocol of peace", and later became the "chief justice" for both the cloak and dress trades.

That was the first big constructive period in the life of the International Union—and, for that matter, in the life of the entire mass of immigrant Jewish workers. Over eight almost tens of thousands of workers, who before that time could conduct their industrial struggles in guerrilla fashion

Renowned Jurist Seventy Years Old—His Place in the History of Cloak and Dressmakers' Unions

By HARRY LANG

only, had found themselves, after a well-organized and bitterly contested struggle, partners in the affairs of great industries and sitting as equals with the masters of these industries to attempt the solution of the manifold and complicated problems which affected these industries. These problems, knotty and bewildering as they at times were, offered the garment workers their first opportunity for constructive industrial legislation.

Brandeis soon found himself at home amid this apparently irreconcilable conflict of interests and psychologies—this conglomeration of typical ghetto proletarians, former "students", and petty traders from the "old country", on the one hand, and the potent of "Potashers and Perlmutter's", and younger Jewish-American business men, on the other. This labyrinth must have appealed to Brandeis as a fertile field for experimenting with a new machinery designed to create industrial peace. The jurist in him, and the sociologist, have found a new sphere for genuine usefulness, and Brandeis, indeed, has shown his influence in this sphere on a wide and varied scale.

For a while it appeared as if the experiment in the garment industry would serve as a working example in "industrial peace" for other industries, too. The "protocol", of course, was in no sense an attempt to bring about the substitution of the class struggle by class peace. What it really amounted to was an attempt to formulate a class understanding in modern terms. This attempt, it may now be frankly stated, has both failed and succeeded in a measure. The "protocol" in the cloak industry gave rise to collective agreements guaranteeing both parties mutual rights and obligations, but on the other hand, it produced an interplay of forces which eventually smashed the original machinery for class-understanding, the "protocol".

But the influence of Brandeis on the relations between the workers and the employers in the women's garment trades persisted long after he had ceased to take a direct interest in them. He set the custom for all sides to "come to court" not with mere allegations or protestations but with every claim fortified by facts and economic data and testimony, which lent the hearings a new and entirely original atmosphere, an air of keen research and of a desire to reach solutions that would be permanent as well as equitable.

Brandeis came to the ladies' garment trades a "ready" person, with a clear and defined outlook on industrial conflicts, an outlook that could frankly be termed liberal if not radical.

His career as a lawyer was distinctly different from the career of the regular legal practitioner. Brandeis, was born in a well-to-do family, and

aided by his great native ability early reared a big place as the Boston bar. To him the law profession soon became a tribune from which to carry on a fight for social justice rather than a vehicle for serving private interests. As a lawyer he had waged many fights against railway companies, public utility corporations, insurance companies, always on the side of people, always against the greed and avarice of the public fleecers. He fought in the courts and at constitutional conventions against labor injunctions in time of strikes, for minimum work hours and for minimum wage laws for women and minors, for municipal administration of public and semi-public utilities.

As justice of the United States Supreme Court, Louis D. Brandeis always is found on the side of liberal thought and liberal interpretation of existing laws. The finest tribute to

Brandeis as a leader of the forces of liberalism and advancement was rendered to him by the bitter opposition displayed against his confirmation as justice of the Supreme Court in 1913 by every influence for darkness, oppression and reaction in the United States Senate and outside of it.

In the Supreme Court, Brandeis has a comrade with whom he nearly invariably agrees, in the person of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, the venerable jurist from Brandeis' home State—Massachusetts. Justices Brandeis and Holmes always may be relied upon to be found in the minority in any decision in which human or popular rights are involved against property rights. Small wonder that neither of them fits well into the official governmental family in Washington. It is told, for instance, that when Andrew Mellon had recently celebrated on a grand scale the marriage of his daughter, at an affair in one of the most important official Washington had been invited, including all Supreme Court members, both Brandeis and Holmes had absented themselves from the "aristocratic" ensemble.

Labor The World Over

The Portuguese Trade Union Movement

THE Portuguese Trade Union Movement, which has not long been in existence, was at first of a syndicalist character, being entirely guided by the principles of Bakunin. For that reason there are not even yet any really useful and comprehensive organizations. The Syndicalist unions are not greatly interested in practical results, but prefer to devote themselves to propaganda for revolution. Wages are exceedingly low and working conditions very bad.

Although the land-workers, for instance, have a comparatively strong Syndicalist organization, they do not earn more than from 10 to 15 escudos for a working day of 10 or 12 hours. In other industries also wages are very low, for there are only about 30,000 workers in the Syndicalist trade union centre, and about 10,000 in the Socialist, while the total number of unorganized workers is about 700,000, not including peasants, handicraftsmen and small tradesmen. Even the best-paid workers, the railwaymen and seamen, only get from 20 to 25 escudos a day. Efforts have been made in the past to raise wages by means of strikes, but this has only been successful in the case of quite small craft unions, such as the tramwaymen's union; for 60 to 70 per cent of the rest of the workers are illiterate, and quite indifferent to both politics and trade unionism.

Then there is also the religious question. The Church has so great an influence over the masses of people that it is very difficult to spread trade union ideas, among the workers who are both bigoted and indifferent.

The Socialist Party and the "free" trade union centre, which has two secretaries, one in Lisbon for the South, and another in Oporto for the North, find it advisable, therefore, to concentrate chiefly on educational and organizational work. In all the larger towns labor schools have been established, which have both day and evening classes, the expenses being borne jointly by the party and the trade union. But much hard work will have to be done before the Portuguese worker is educated to labor politics and trade unionism. Moreover, the trade unions and the Socialist Party formerly had two members of parliament, and a certain amount of influence in the municipalities; but since the establishment of the military gov-

ernment, and the dissolution of parliament, their position has been very difficult.

Unity in Czechoslovakia

ON the 15th of September, 1926, an important joint meeting was held at Karlished between representatives of the Czechoslovakian and German National Trade Union Centres of Czechoslovakia, Ousepest, secretary of the I. F. T. U., being in the chair. The discussions lasted for a day. Principles were laid down for the joint work of the unions belonging to the two centres, and the duties to be discharged by the Joint Trade Union Committees were agreed upon and defined.

Thus the negotiations have, so far, been successful, although the principles laid down have still to be approved by resolutions of the executive conference of both Centres. As there have been earlier agreements dealing with principles, it is almost certain that both parties will ratify the present agreement, and hence the Karlished Conference may be regarded as a success; for, if formal ratification does, it will mean that half a million organized workers will have been brought into friendly and united co-operation. When the agreement is ratified, it will probably not be long before a joint meeting of the two centres is held.

Russian Cooperators Study American Bakeries

THREE delegates from the Leninist Co-operative Societies of Russia according to the Bakers' weekly, have been in the United States making a special study of the most modern automatic methods of baking bread. Their names are L. Rubinstein, P. J. Verers, and S. Monass.

Eighteen of the Leninist Co-operative Societies manufacture in ten plants about 600 tons of bread per day, or 70 per cent of all the bread consumed in the city. This is the 100 per cent rye bread, known as "Russian black bread." As the consumption of bread in Russia constitutes a larger proportion of the food eaten than in America, there are large forces of employees at work in the Russian bakeries.

The installation of the most modern machinery will free many of these people for other kinds of labor, and at the same time reduce the price of bread for the workers of the city.

season was made without fur trimmings, and that without the fur trimmings supplied to the scrub shops scrub production would have died at its source.

This is the kind of cooperation that the members of our International expect from their fellow workers in the needle trades, the only kind of cooperation that counts. The rest is Communist camouflage and lip service, the sort and quality of which the cloakmakers of New York by this time are fully familiar with.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Current Events In the Labor and Social Worlds

Course by A. J. Muste in Workers' University

Interesting subjects were discussed this week in the Current Events Class conducted by A. J. Muste, in Washington Irving High School, on Sunday morning, 11 A. M. in Room 530.

He discussed some of the aspects of foreign relations of the United States of importance to Labor. He stressed the happenings in Nicaragua and the relations between Mexico, the U. S. and Nicaragua. He also spoke of the status of workers in the Philippines, and the attitude of the great powers toward China. The lecturer discussed what effect the low economic condition of the workers in these countries may have on the stand-

ards of workers in the U. S. If capital is unchecked in exploiting the workers in these countries they may find it profitable to open plants in these countries, and so have cheap labor compete with organized workers in our country.

A lively discussion followed the lecturer's presentation and many questions were asked. This Sunday morning discussion has proved to be most helpful to the group in understanding the vexing problems confronting the Labor Movement.

The discussions conducted by A. J. Muste will be continued on Sundays 11 A. M. at our Workers' University, Washington Irving High School, Room 530, Irving Place and 16th Street.

Educational Activities Begin in Phila.

A meeting of the educational committee of the Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local 50, and of the Joint Board of Cloakmakers of Philadelphia, was held last Wednesday, Nov. 24th.

The result of this meeting was the formation of a joint committee to carry on educational activities in Philadelphia. The meeting was attended by Fannie M. Cohn. The officers elected were Minnie Rubinstein, chairman, and Abraham Bloomfield, secretary. Bertha Stein, Jacob Davis and Mary Koretzky represent on this committee. The Joint Board of Cloakmakers. The names of members of Education Committee of Local 50 appeared in last week's "Justice".

A program of education was adopted for the season 1926-27 and plans worked out. The educational program

included lectures in Yiddish for members of the Waist and Dressmakers' Union, in intermediate and advance English were also formed, which will be conducted by Bertha Gruenberg each Friday evening at 7:30, in the headquarters of Local 50, 52 North 10th Street. At 8:30 the same night and in the same place Robert Morley will conduct a course on Labor Problems.

The program also includes a course of three lessons by A. J. Muste of Brooklyn, on "The History of Civilization". This will be given Wednesday evenings at 8 P. M. in the Labor Institute, 810 Locust Street.

The Philadelphia Committee is looking forward to a successful season and have confidence in a group of members who enthusiastically support this work.

NIEGER WILL LECTURE IN THE BRONX, FRIDAY, DEC. 10

Sh. Nieger, our distinguished critic will begin a series of three lectures on Yiddish Literature and Theatre Criticism on Friday, December 10, 8 p.m. in McKinley Square Garden, 1258 Boston Road, Bronx.

The first lecture will deal with "Why Do We Need the Critic?" He will discuss the importance of criticism; what it offers to the reader and its value to the writer.

These discussions will be continued Friday, December 17 and 24. The topics will be "Various Kinds of Criticism" and "The Difference between Literary and Theatre Criticism".

A SOCIAL STUDY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Next Saturday, Mr. Holloway will discuss William Dean Howells and other Utopians. Howells became interested in social problems as an old man. His books "The Traveler from Altruria" and "Through the Eye of the Needle" show the beginning of his interest. They are rather significant in indicating how his realistic studies led him to consider the labor movement.

As a young man he was interested merely in picturing the social life of the "better class" of Boston. Later he came to New York and was quite close to the Labor problem about 1890 when it was becoming strongly felt. Howells was greatly influenced by Belamy.

Mr. Holloway will also discuss William Morris, "News from Nowhere".

This will be followed (1) by a course "of three lessons by Alexander Fichandler on "The Economic Basis of Modern Civilization", (2) "Social Psychology".

Admission is free to I. L. G. W. U. members.

These courses are being arranged in the Bronx at the request of our members who reside there.

NEW TACTICS IN SOCIAL CONFLICT

Symposium Edited by Harry W. Laidler and Norman Thomas

In this age of rapid change both proponents and opponents of capitalism must frequently reform their positions and adopt new weapons. Recently leaders and workers on labor's side of the class struggle met and considered the present situation. Current questions such as the development of modern imperialism, of labor banks, and of company unions, were examined and debated. The publication of the record of this symposium under the title of "New Tactics in Social Conflict" should have a wide appeal.

We recommend this book to our members. It will help them in discussing some of the Labor problems which will be presented to them in our Workers' University.

This is a Vanguard Press publication which sells for 50 cents. Our members can get it at reduced prices thru our Educational Department.

Weekly Educational Calendar

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

Saturday, December 4

1:50 p.m. Kimory Holloway—A Social Study of American Literature.
2:30 p.m. Current Labor Problems—lecturer to be announced.

Sunday, December 5

11:00 a.m. A. J. Muste—Current Events in the Labor and Social World.

EXTENSION DIVISION

McKinley Square Garden, 1258 Boston Road, Bronx

Friday, December 10

8 p.m. Sh. Nieger—The Social Significance of Yiddish Literature.

A. W. Calhoun—Glant Power. Time and place to be announced.

UNITY CENTERS

East Side Unity Center

P. S. 25, 326 E. 5th St., Manhattan

Waistmakers' Unity Center

P. S. 40, 320 East 20th St., Manhattan

Harlem Unity Center

P. S. 72, Lexington Ave. at 105th St., Manhattan,

Bronx Unity Center

P. S. 54, Freeman St. and Intervale Ave., Bronx

Lower Bronx Unity Center

P. S. 43, Brown Place and 135th St., Bronx

Brownsville Unity Center

P. S. 150, Christopher Ave. and Sackman St., Brooklyn

EAST SIDE UNITY CENTER

P. S. 25, Room 410, 330 East 5th St.

Tuesday, December 7

8:30 p.m. Dr. Theresa Wolfson—Happenings in the Social and Labor World

HARLEM UNITY CENTER

P. S. 72, Room 406, Lexington Ave. at 105th St.

Wednesday, December 8

8:30 p.m. Alexander Fichandler—How to Learn to "Think Straight".

Headquarters Local 91, 7 E. 15th St.

Monday, December 6

6 p.m. Alexander Fichandler—Bernard Shaw's "St. Joan"

Monday, December 13

6 p.m. Dr. Theresa Wolfson—"Our Changing Morality"

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Friday, December 3

7:30 p.m. Bertha Greenberg—Intermediate English.

8:30 p.m. Robert Morley—Labor Problems.

Wednesday, December 8 and 15

810 Locust Street

8 p.m. A. J. Muste—History of Civilization.

HAPPENINGS IN THE LABOR AND SOCIAL WORLD

Course by Dr. Theresa Wolfson to Be Given in East Side Unity Center, P. S. 25, Tuesday, December 7.

Dr. Theresa Wolfson will give a course of three lessons on "Happenings in the Labor and Social World" beginning Tuesday, December 7, 7:30 P. M. in the East Side Unity Center, P. S. 25, 326 East 5th Street, Room 410.

The following two lectures will be given on Tuesday, December 14, and 21, at the same place and time.

Admission is free to I. L. G. W. U. members.

HOW TO LEARN TO "THINK STRAIGHT"

Discussion by Alexander Fichandler in P. S. 72, Lexington Avenue and 105th Street, Wednesday, December 8, 8:30 P. M.

Mr. Alexander Fichandler will lecture in our Harlem Unity Center, P. S. 72, Lexington Avenue and 105th Street, on Wednesday, December 8, at 8:30 P. M. in Room 406.

The topic of the lecture will be

"How to Learn to Think Straight". Everybody thinks. But not everybody thinks correctly. It is not difficult to learn how to do so. There are certain definite ways in which one can learn how to arrive at correct conclusions and to "think straight".

In this lecture a few suggestions will be given which may be of assistance to those who want to learn how to think properly.

Admission is free to I. L. G. W. U. members.

LECTURE FOR LOCAL 91 "OUR CHANGING MORALITY"

By Dr. Theresa Wolfson, Monday, December 13, 6 P. M.

Dr. Theresa Wolfson will discuss "Our Changing Morality" for Local 91 members, in their headquarters at 7 East 15th Street, on Monday, December 13, 6 P. M. sharp. Dr. Wolfson will describe the changing conceptions of the status and attitude of men and women as it affects the Labor Movement.

This will be the third of a series of lectures given for the Organization Committee of Local 91.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM E. SHENKER

With the signing-up of the agreement between the Joint Board and the Industrial Council, the union is enabled to reinstate its machinery to nearly the normal extent. Among the initial activities in this direction, the executive board of Local 10 at a special meeting last Monday night, November 29th, decided that the election of officers for Local 10 take place at the regular time, that is, the election for the ensuing term of 1927 will take place on Saturday afternoon, December 18th.

Nominations on December 6

The only change with respect to the election is that nomination of candidates for the various offices will be made on Monday, December 6th, in Arlington Hall. Normally, nominations take place at the last meeting in the month of November. Because of the cloak strike, however, it was first believed that the elections would have to be postponed to some distant date. However, the settlement with the Industrial Council having affected the bulk of the members of the union, leaving out on strike 6,000 workers of whom 2,000 are unemployed, included among whom are about 350 cloak cutters on strike together with the unemployed, the executive board felt that the election could be proceeded with.

At the present time the strike is being conducted against the jobbers and the contractors in the cloak industry. A further postponement of the nominations the election would interfere with the plans of the union in the contemplated organization campaign in the dress trade which must take place at the expiration of the present agreement, that is, on December 31st.

With the shifting of the date of the meeting for the nominations of candidates for the local, proper, it also becomes necessary to shift the date of the meeting for nominations by the members of the Miscellaneous section of Local 10. The Miscellaneous section will make their nominations following the meeting after the regular nominations, that is, on December 13th.

According to the provisions, installation of officers is to follow the election by one week. This year that would mean on Christmas Day, which is a legal holiday. A postponement for the installation also becomes necessary. The week after Christmas is New Year's Day, which also means that installations cannot be held even two weeks following the election. It will therefore be necessary either for the members at the meeting or for the executive board to set a date for the installation. The most logical date for the installations, therefore, is on a Monday following the elections.

In addition to the notice posted on this page announcing the special meeting for the nominations, members of Local 10 have also been notified by a general circular announcing the special meeting for nominations. It is necessary that the meeting be well attended inasmuch as the executive board has made a number of important recommendations with respect to the holding of the election.

Striking Cloak and Suit Cutters Register

The number of cloak and suit cutters, as stated above, on strike, including unemployed, totals from 350 to 400. The unemployed cutters are those who were not attached to shops at the time of the calling of the strike. However, they are considered strik-

ers in the strict sense of the word, for upon obtaining a job they must secure a release in the same manner required of strikers attached to shops.

The purpose of Manager Dubinsky in calling upon the cloak and suit cutters to register is to keep a proper check on the remaining strikers and to determine their number. The registration was made in the office of Local 10 last Monday and was the result of a special notice carried on this page in the last issue.

These men were given to understand that the strike is by no means at an end in that no settlement has as yet been contracted with the jobbers and the contractors, which latter are known as the American Association. "Quite a number of cutters concluded that when the settlement with the Industrial Council was effected the strike was practically at an end. That was an error was pointed out to the men and they were reminded that the jobbers were a very important factor and that the union must conduct the strike against them and their contractors as intensely as heretofore.

The bulk of the cutters on strike are those who reported out against the contractors. These men, as well as the unemployed strikers, are required to conform to all duties required of them. The striking unemployed cutters, numbering about 150, are registered in Beethovens Hall, and about 180 cutters in Manhattan Lycium and 109 in Webster Hall.

The conference which took place last Saturday afternoon, November 27th, between the union and the American Association, the contractors in the cloak industry, broke up abruptly when the union refused to accord the American Association ten per cent reorganization, as contained in the agreement with the Industrial Council.

As to whether another conference will take place is a matter of conjecture. At the time of writing the only news that reached the office was with regard to the deadlock. The union did not issue any statement with regard to the conference with the American Association. It will probably make a complete report at a meeting of the General Strike Committee.

Strike Tax Reduced

The only decision adopted at the General Strike Committee meeting held on Monday, November 22nd, was the reduction of the strike tax paid by the workers of the settled shops in support of those still on strike. The tax which the workers are required to pay now is 10 per cent of their weekly earnings, which is a reduction of an equal amount from that which they had to pay heretofore.

The members of the General Strike Committee had met, as was supposed, to hear a report on what had been accomplished and on the plans for the conduct of the strike against the jobbers. But aside from the decision reducing the assessment and a report by Vice-President Ninfo, chairman of the Settlement Committee, on the number of shops settled and the number of workers who returned to work, a report of which was rendered in these columns last week, the meeting was turned into a gab-fest which lasted until past midnight and without the accomplishment of anything else in the form of concrete strike activities.

As reported in the last issue of "Justice," The rest of the meeting was devoted to tumultuous harangues

Cutters Union, Local 10

SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, December 6, 1926, at 7:30 P.M.

in Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place

Purpose: Nomination of Candidates for Office for 1927.

Special Miscellaneous Meeting

Monday, December 13, 1926, at 7:30 P. M.

Purpose: Nomination of Candidates for Executive Board for 1927

and wild charges preferred by some of the communist strike leaders against the International union and to personal attacks by them on President Sigman. President Sigman in a forceful speech refuted all the fantastic political blatherings heaped upon the leadership of the International by the communists, who packed the meeting with their adherents, and pointed out the inefficiency of the leadership of the strike as the sole reason responsible for its unsatisfactory outcome.

In their attempt to place responsibility for the conclusion of the new agreement with the Industrial Council, the leaders of the Joint Board charged that they were compelled to effect this agreement because of the fact that cloaks were being made up in other markets, thus making for the necessary supply. They particularly pointed to Philadelphia.

Brother Samuel Perlmuter, however, ridiculed these arguments by recalling the story of the visitor to the zoo, who, upon being asked what he had seen, replied that he saw very pretty birds, and certain peculiar insects. And upon being asked as to whether he had seen the elephant he replied in the negative. So, Perlmuter continued, it was with the present leadership of the Joint Board.

They saw Philadelphia, but they failed to see Brooklyn and other immediate outlying districts of New York; they failed also to take cognizance of the fact that with the settlement of many small shops even in New York City during the first few weeks of the strike the resultant over-production of cloaks in this market was inevitable.

Preparing for Dress Organization Drive

With but four more weeks of the present agreement with the association in the dress trade, the union during the course of the past week has taken steps towards effecting the machinery for an intensive organization drive and for the purpose of being prepared to cope with whatever other emergency it may be faced.

The present agreement, with the contractors' association expires on the 31st of December. As to whether the

union will present any new demands to the employers and whether it will declare a general strike have not yet been decided. Last Monday, November 29, a meeting of the dress managers of the various shops comprising the Joint Board took place at which these and similar questions were considered.

Certain recommendations were adopted and were presented to the Board of Directors, a special meeting of which took place last Tuesday evening, November 30th. Whatever decision is effected and whatever will be the attitude of the union in connection with the renewal of the agreements in the dress trade are matters that were taken up by the Board of Directors, details of which, for obvious reasons, cannot be made public at the present time.

One thing, however, is certain, and that is that the union is confronted with a great deal of work in connection with organizing open shops and with eliminating hordes of 8-by-night shops which have sprung up and the existence of which merely serves as a menace to the workers and the trade.

Dress Cutters Must Be Ready

In the course of the next few weeks it will be necessary for the dress cutters to hold themselves in readiness for any call that may be issued to them, such as attendance of special, regular or shop meetings. It is of special importance that dress cutters employed in open shops report.

The Joint Board will no doubt call meetings of active members or of shop chairmen for the purpose of explaining to them the plans of the union in connection with the organization drive and the renewal of the agreements. Cutters should also attend these meetings. They are further required to respond when the union calls upon members of offer their services in connection with whatever work the union may require them to do.

In the event that the official publications of the union go to press before any decision is made which would make it impossible for the posting of proper notice, the cutters should in that event inquire of the office for meetings and other activities.

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

Associated with the American Federation of Labor
246 SUMNER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.
COLLIS LOVELY General President
CHARLES L. BAINE General Secretary-Treasurer

