

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

—Job 32.3

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. 51.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1936

PRICE 3 CENTS

International Takes Over Cloak Situation; Submanufacturers Withdraw Lockout; Arbitrators To Settle Dispute by Monday

General Executive Board Orders Remainder of New York Cloak Strike and American Association Lock-out Placed in Hands of New General Strike Committee Composed of Cloakmakers from Various Locals—Joint Board Administration Reorganized and Provisional Committees Appointed for Locals—Conference With American Ass'n Results in Withdrawal of Lockout Order—Controversy Submitted to Arbitration

The events in the great drama which is playing itself out on the arena of the cloakmakers' situation in New York City have moved during last week with breath-arresting speed

and force.

On Thursday, December 9, the Communist leaders of the Joint Board called three meetings of the cloakmakers locked out by the American

Association two days before—in Arlington Hall, Manhattan Jiverson and Cooper Union. But hardly enough of the cloakmakers responded to this call to fill even one hall—Cooper Union, despite the fact that the Communist had mobilized their full strength of the various paid strike committees, including large contingents of dress-makers, furriers and camp followers from other trades. About half of those who came to the Cooper Union meeting, however, were non-Communist cloakmakers who this time were determined to make their voices heard

and to tell the Communists to their faces what they thought of their leadership of the strike and of their Union.

When the Communist speakers, including Boruchowicz, Rubin and Hyman, have, therefore, begun their regular harangue against the International Union, they were met with a volley of blows from the audience and with effective heckling. One after another, despite threats by the chairman to put out the lights and close the meeting, cloakmakers arose and hurled ques-

(Continued on Page 2)

Pres. Sigman Appeals To Members of I. L. G. W. U.

To the Cloakmakers of New York:

Sisters and Brothers:

The leaders of our ill-fated strike have brought your organization, which was never defeated in all its history, to the brink of destruction. They have dragged you, on the orders of their Communist chiefs, into a disastrous strike which after twenty-five weeks resulted in the loss of an entire season and in hunger and starvation for yourselves and your families. They have led you and deceived you at every step and turn of this tragedy and have abandoned every vital issue of the strike for which you were called out of your shops six months ago.

They have conducted the strike not for you but for the Communist Party, not to win concessions and better conditions for you, but to please the Communist politicians under whose heel they have been all the time. And now, after they had made you lose one season, they have brought upon you this lockout that threatens to bring more hunger, more misery and the loss of another season to you.

The mind freezes, the heart shudders at the thought of this new calamity that is facing you at this hour. But this misfortune must be averted. The thousands of cloakmakers who until now have been duped and deceived by the Communist misleaders are now thundering their protest and resentment. They are determined to save their Union, their bread and butter, and the fate of their families from the disaster of Communist leadership.

The General Executive Board, in response to your appeal for help, has now taken over the conduct of the lockout and of the remainder of the strike in their hands. The General Executive Board has appointed managers and provisional executive boards for the locals of the Joint Board to administer these locals in the interest of the cloakmakers and not in the interest of the Communist Party. Special headquarters for each and every local and for the joint Board have been appointed, at which all the work of the organization will be carried on until normal conditions have been restored in our Union.

Sister and Brothers: This is a great day for our Union, a day of united action, when every loyal member of the organization who wishes to see it saved from the clutches of Communism, should rally to the call of the International and do everything in their power to help rebuild our Union on a basis of tolerance, orderliness and true usefulness to our workers. This lockout and this strike must be brought to an end at the quickest possible hour and on the best terms that may be obtained, and if it cannot be settled, it should be managed as a trade union fight and in conformity with trade union tactics and methods.

Cloakmakers: Remember, we must save our Union and our future. Let us set aside our individual and personal dislikes, and let us bear in mind that we must preserve the organization for the upbuilding of which we have toiled, bled and sacrificed tens of years. Keep yourselves ready and in orderly fashion in the halls, awaiting the orders of the General Executive Board, and let us together restore our great Union to its former strength and to its proud position as one of the best organized trade unions in America.

Fraternally and sincerely yours,
GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD, I. L. G. W. U.
MORRIS SIGMAN, President;

Joint Board Headquarters Established in General Office

Immediately following the proclamation of the General Executive Board on Monday, December 14, the officers of the International, with President Sigman taking the initiative, took steps to organize a provisional machinery for shop control in the cloak trade to supersede the machinery set up by the deposed Communist leadership of the Joint Board. It was decided to locate the provisional Joint Board in the office of the International assigning for it the entire 3rd floor of the building.

Within two days the office of adjusting grievances and handling information for both striking cloakmakers and for workers in settled shops was

formed and put in operation at 3 West 16th Street.

The provisional administration committee, jointly with the General Executive Board, on Wednesday, December 15, forwarded a letter signed by President Sigman to all the shop chairmen in the cloak and suit shops calling on them to rally to the call of their International Union and to help the provisional committee to rebuild the Union on a basis of sanity and tolerance. The shop chairmen were instructed to notify the workers that they shall henceforth pay all dues and assessments only in the office of the International Union until further instruction. The letter to the shop chairmen follows:

To All Cloakmakers!

As we go to press, we are informed that the deposed Communist band and their allies, the politicians of the Communist Party, are going to have a meeting this Saturday afternoon at Madison Square Garden.

The clique which has ruined your strike and nearly smashed your organization is now making a last effort to complete their job of disaster and destruction in the hope that they may yet save their backs from the wrath and indignation of the cloakmakers.

Cloakmakers! Don't stay away from this meeting. Go there in your thousands and don't fail to make your voices heard. Go to that meeting and demand an account from these misleaders and Communist lackeys for their misdeeds, for the season which they ruined for you, and for the additional misery which they are still conspiring to bring upon your heads!

Make them answer your questions! Make them plead to your burning charges!

International Takes Over New York Cloak Situation

(Continued from Page 1)
tions at the Communists that made them squirm, dodge and run for cover. Among the most effective non-Communist speakers at the meeting were Brothers Ben Maurer and Isidor Nagler who succeeded in reaching the platform and demanding that the chairman invite all Communists who did not be-

long to the cloakmakers' organization to quit the hall and leave the meeting to the cloakmakers only.

The meeting ended in a perfunctory "vote of confidence" extracted from the motley crowd for the Joint Board leaders given among boos and hisses from the rest of the audience.

HUNDREDS OF COMMITTEES URGE PRESIDENT SIGMAN TO TAKE ACTION

On the next day, the International building, at 3 West 16th Street, was literally besieged from early morning until late at night by committees from cloak shops and groups who came to urge President Sigman to take immediate action to extract the Cloakmakers' Union from the intolerable situation into which the Communist leaders of the cloak strike have dragged it. Among them were scores of workers who formerly belonged to the so-called "left wing," and several of them actually were on the Joint Action Committee" which led the fight against the International Union in the

summer of 1925. The fiasco of the Communist meetings the night before opened the eyes of the cloakmakers to the fact that the evil influence of this band has dwindled down to a negligible quantity and that the hours of their domination in the Union are numbered.

President Sigman, thereupon, summoned a meeting of the General Executive Board for the following day to take up the emergency situation. On the same day, President Sigman issued a stirring statement to the cloakmakers in the press to hold themselves in readiness, awaiting action by the General Executive Board.

SUNDAY MEETING OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

On the next day, Sunday, December 12, the meeting of the General Executive Board took place at Hotel Cadillac.

President Sigman, after a brief introductory talk, confronting the three Communist members of the Board, Hyman, Boruchowitz and Portnoy, demanded that they render an account of their strike conduct in the past few weeks and also that they state their plans for meeting the situation arising from the submanufacturers' lockout. Instead of a square and direct answer, however, Hyman and his colleagues resorted to long harangues and a mass of artful dodging which contained everything, from direct abuse of the General Executive Board to veiled insinuations, except a direct answer to the questions which they were called upon to give.

"You have attacked me," president Sigman told the Communist members of the Board, "as 'traitor' to the strike which you have brought to a defeat, and now you are coming here with a proposal that I help extract you from the mess you have created. Have you ever during this strike followed even a single suggestion of mine or of the other members of the G. E. B.? Have you ever made a step that would convert the strike into a fight against the jobbers, on whom the Union originally had planned to place responsibility for conditions in contractor shops?"

"Can you dare deny now that you have, all during this strike and before it was called, accepted only orders from the Chicago commissars of the Communist Party and from no one else? Why don't you call them into conference, and ask them to make settlements for you?"

"You have spent millions in this strike. You have sunk the union into a quagmire of debt, for which the

workers will eventually have to pay. Have you ever asked my advice about it? Have you ever consulted any other sane and rational leader concerning it?"

At the end of the session, President Sigman appointed Vice-presidents Amdur, Hochman and Kreindler to bring in a report the next day containing recommendations with regard to the pending crisis in the Union.

International Takes Over Management of Strike

The next day, Monday, December 13, was another day of fast moving activity.

The General Executive Board met at the Hotel Continental in the morning, and there President Sigman called upon the committee of three vice-presidents—Hochman, Amdur and Kreindler, appointed on the previous day, to render a report. Bro. Hochman responded on behalf of the committee and read to the members of the Board a declaration, which included an order by the General Executive Board to all existing strike committees to hand over their authority to the Board which would form at once committees of active workers from all cloak local unions to administer the strike and the lockout, and also to take over the affairs of the Joint Board and provisionally to administer the affairs of all cloak local unions affiliated with the Joint Board until normal relations are restored in the industry and in the organization. A full text of this declaration the reader will find on the third page of this issue.

Simultaneously with this declaration, President Morris Sigman issued a statement to all the cloakmakers of New York, which appears on the first page of this issue.

At twelve o'clock several thousand cloakmakers came marching from the garment district and from several halls and held a splendid demonstration in front of the International building. They sent up a committee to President Sigman and other leaders asking them to address them, and shortly afterward the familiar figure of the chief of the garment workers' organization appeared in the open window of the first floor, and was greeted by a storm of applause from the masses of workers below. President Sigman then addressed the cloakmakers for a few minutes, and was followed by Vice-presidents Dubinsky, Antolini, and Hochman.

Later in the day, a demonstration of several thousand striking cloakmakers took place in front of the Joint Board building on East 25th Street, who loudly demanded that the deposed "left wing" chief of the strike come out and explain why they had led the workers into the impossible situation in which they find themselves and that they at once vacate the offices of the organization.

Conference With American Association Results in Withdrawal of Lockout; Controversy Submitted to Arbitration

The immediate result of the ouster of the Communist agents in the cloakmakers' organization were shown when, twenty-four hours after the General Executive Board took over the management of the Joint Board and of the cloak unions, the International Union arranged to meet with the American Association in the office of the impartial Chairman at 130 West 31st Street, and to make an effort to bring the lockout in the settled sub-manufacturer shops and the still pending strike in the not-settled shops to a close.

After a conference which lasted four hours on Tuesday evening, December 14, the submanufacturers agreed to withdraw the lockout at once in all settled shops and to open

the factories to the workers on the next morning. The leaders of the Union and the American Association committee also agreed to submit all the points in controversy between the workers and the submanufacturers to a board of arbitrators, stipulating that the arbitrators meet within 45 hours and that their decision be rendered not later than Monday, December 20.

The arbitrators agreed upon were Judge Bernard L. Sheintag, Prof. Lindsay Rogers, and Herbert Lehman, all former members of the Special Commission in the Cloak Industry appointed in 1924 by Governor Smith. They are fully conversant with the problems of the cloak and suit trade.

The arbitration committee had its first session on Thursday, December 16, just at press going time. We shall present full details of the arbitrators' decision in our next number.

Later at midnight the provisional general strike committee organized from the various cloak locals by the International Union had received a report of the conference committee and gave it its unanimous approval.

The remarkable result of this first conference with the submanufacturers is that the Union's committee, which was headed by President Sigman refused to concede to the American Association any of the concessions already granted to them by the ousted Communist leaders and carried its point that the arbitrators decide on the whole clean slate of demands and counter-demands proposed by both sides.

Letter To Cloak Shop Chairmen

TO ALL SHOP CHAIRMEN IN THE CLOAK, SKIRT AND REEFER SHOPS OF GREATER NEW YORK.

Greeting:

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, through its General Executive Board and provisional committee of all the cloakmakers locals in Greater New York, is making this appeal to you at this grave hour in the history of our organization to prove that you are a loyal and devoted trade unionist and a worthy representative of the workers in your shop.

At last, after long months of despair and misery, the sun of hope is again rising upon the horizon of our Union. The Communist politicians who have nearly wrecked our great organization, who are responsible for the great sufferings of our men and women in the last strike, these commissars who brought humiliation and disaster upon us, are no more the masters of our Union. The Cloakmakers' Union, under the leadership of the International, is once again in the hands of the cloakmakers, it is once again going to be administered and run in the interests of our workers and not for and by a brutal political clique.

At this moment, the International Union is calling upon you to stand up as a union man and do your share in helping to rebuild our shattered ranks. We have had enough of abuse, enough of destruction, enough of the suicidal tactics which the Communists have brought into our Union. The time has now come to build, to construct and to heal the wounds which they inflicted upon us.

We, therefore, call upon you to notify all the workers in your shop that from today, and until further notice, the provisional headquarters of the Joint Board are located in the Main Office of the International Union, 3 West 15th Street, occupying the entire third floor. Notify the workers in your shop, please, that they are not to pay any dues or assessments in any other place, except in the office of the International and that payments in no other place will henceforth be recognized by the Union.

All shop complaints will be received and attended to from this office, and all information obtained and grievances received and adjusted.

Now that we have rid our Union of Communist disruption and mismanagement, let us all get together and in a mighty effort put back our organization on a sound, real trade union basis. Let us make it again what it formerly used to be—a bulwark of strength against the greed of our employers and one of the most progressive labor unions in America.

Fraternally yours,

General Executive Board
INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT
WORKERS' UNION

MORRIS SIGMAN, President
ABRAHAM BAROFF, Gen'l Sec'y-Treas.

WONDERFUL DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING

Before the meeting of the General Executive Board started, there had taken place in front of the International Building on West 16th Street a demonstration which will for long remain fresh in the memory of those who witnessed it.

From early morning committees from shops and individual groups of workers crowded the offices of the International Union and besieged the office of President Sigman clamoring that the International save the work-

ers from a new hunger-season and settle the remainder of the strike and of the lockout.

At twelve o'clock several thousand cloakmakers came marching from the garment district and from several halls and held a splendid demonstration in front of the International building. They sent up a committee to President Sigman and other leaders asking them to address them, and shortly afterward the familiar figure of the chief of the garment workers'

Declaration By the General Executive Board

To all Locals and members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and particularly to the members of the 'Cloakmakers' Union of New York:

GREETING.

The New York Cloakmakers' Union is facing the gravest crisis in its history.

The so-called "Left Wing" leaders of the Union have brought the organization to the brink of utter ruin and demoralization and have exposed its 35,000 members to acute suffering and misery.

They have precipitated a disastrous general strike in the industry without necessity and without the consent or sanction of the membership in gross violation of the Constitution of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

They have instigated and conducted the strike under the direction of the Communist Party for purely political purposes and in criminal disregard of the welfare and the interests of the workers.

Through their irresponsible tactics and the method of stupid and brutal violence they have alienated the sympathy and support not only of the public at large but also of the great body of legitimate trade unions.

They have exhausted all resources of the union and saddled it with a tremendous debt of more than one and a half million dollars.

They have paralyzed the operations of legitimate manufacturers with the best labor standards in the industry but have permitted work through individual settlements in shops conducted by irresponsible employers and even in shops controlled by notorious underworld characters. They have neglected the fight against the jobbers which was the main issue of the strike.

They have fostered gangsterism, terrorism and scabdom within the ranks of the cloakmakers, and have subjected their Union to public disrepute.

Through their incompetence, negligence and utter lack of a sense of duty and responsibility they have dragged on the gigantic struggle with the inside manufacturers over a period of 28 weeks, thus totally and for the first time in history, ruining an entire season for our members, and now, when the workers are thoroughly exhausted they are plunging them into a new fight with the sub-manufacturers and jobbers which may ruin the coming season. They are ready to let the workers bleed to the last drop of blood just because the Communist principles and half-brained Communist leaders will not permit them to arbitrate the outstanding differences and to permit the long-suffering membership to go back to work.

No paid agency of the most unscrupulous employers could have brought more crushing defeat and greater disaster to the rank and file of the Union than did these false leaders.

A continuance of this insane management would inevitably lead to a total destruction of the Union and the sacrifice of all achievements for which the cloakmakers of New York have fought and suffered during a period of sixteen years.

Such a calamity the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union cannot and will not permit.

By our constitution the General Executive Board is charged with the general supervision of all the affairs of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and is empowered to adopt regulations for the government of the organization, to adjust disputes between employers and the workers and to make contracts with employers. It is also authorized to appoint any sub-committees which it may deem necessary to perform special functions.

In the performance of these duties and in the exercise of these powers the General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in special session on the 12th day of December, 1926, ORDERS:

1st. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union hereby take over the exclusive management and direction of the pending strike of the cloakmakers' union of New York and of all negotiations for settlement with individual employers and associations of employers, and no member, officer, board, committee or subordinate body of the International shall in any way interfere with the conduct of the strike or negotiations for settlement unless specifically authorized thereto by the General Executive Board.

2nd. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union through its General Executive Board and the sub-committees hereafter named takes over the exclusive management and direction of all the affairs of the Joint Board of the Cloak, Suit, Dress, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Union of New York and all the local cloak makers' unions affiliated with it, and no member of the Joint Board or of any of its said affiliated locals and no officer, executive board, or other board or committee of these organizations shall in any way interfere with the conduct, management or direction of the same without express authorization of the General Executive Board. All dues and assessments must be paid to the General Executive Board or its duly authorized representatives and all working cards must be signed by them. Dues and assessments paid to or working cards signed by other persons will not be recognized.

3rd. This order shall remain in effect and the direct management of the International as above set forth shall continue during the period of the present emergency and until such time as normal conditions shall have been re-established in the Union and a free and honest election of officers has become possible.

4th. All officers and members of the General Strike Committee, and all its committees; the president, secretary, treasurer and general manager of the Joint Board and all other officers, employees, business agents, and members of the Board; all chairmen, secretaries, treasurers, trustees, managers, executive board members, and all other officers, representatives and employees of all locals affiliated with the Joint Board, are hereby directed, within 24 hours of the receipt of a copy of this order, or upon personal demand, to deliver to the General Executive Board at the headquarters of the International, or to the respective sub-committees appointed by it, as hereafter set forth, all books, records, documents, securities, money, and all other properties of their respective organizations in their possession.

5th. The sub-committees of the General Executive Board appointed for the administration of the business and affairs of the Cloakmakers' Unions of New York in accordance with this order are as follows:

A. To act as a strike and settlement committee in conjunction with the general officers of the International.

B. To act as a committee in charge of all the business and affairs of the Joint Board of the Cloak, Suit, Dress, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Union.

C. To act as committees in charge of all business and affairs of the individual locals.

Communists Attempt to Stage Riot In Front of I. L. G. W. U. Building

Running true to form, and maddened by the revolt of the cloakmakers against their ruinous leadership of the cloak strike, the handful of the deposed Communist leaders of the Joint Board attempted last Tuesday to stage a demonstration in front of the International Building at 3 West 16th Street with about 500 of their faithful followers.

The "demonstration," however, turned out a complete fiasco and after a half-hour of noise-making petered out. The few policemen present succeeded in checking the small mob from entering the I. L. G. W. U. building without making a single arrest. The mob was composed largely of

surfer "picketers," led by their "Black Glove" chief Member, of girl dress-makers, of groups of "left wing" jewellers and painters, of the paid picket committee and of some business agents who still expect wages from the deposed "strike leaders," and of a few cloak strikers brought over by sheer force from Webster Hall.

After the Communists had made their futile gesture in front of the International Building, some 250 of them, mostly girls, marching down to Seward Park to stage a "revolution" in front of the Jewish Daily Forward. They were, however, intercepted at the park gates by a detail of policemen and dispersed.

Italian Cloakmakers Challenge Slanders

We received the following communication from the Executive Board of the Italian Cloakmakers' Union, Local 451, signed by its Secretary, Bro. Attilio Perrone:

"We wish to make public the following resolution passed by our Executive Board at its last meeting held Thursday, November 20, 1926.

"Having taken notice of all the filthy and irresponsible news circulated by persons who are none but instigators and fabricators of lies, and who have launched the accusations that during the general strike the administration and officers of Local 451 sent workers to scab and sabotage the strike, the Executive Board and its local officers feel that they have given the strike all the responsible and honest cooperation and service, second to none. They, therefore, decide:

"To challenge any person to bring

charges or evidence against any officer or Executive Board member of Local 451 of any of the above mentioned slanders or charges, launched for no other but political reasons.

"In order to give an opportunity to those who desire to press such charges the administration has appointed a committee of seven members of Local 451, who are, and have been during the strike, shop chairmen. They are recognized by everyone as not being 'Local's 451 Administration Sympathizing Group.' They have been nominated, without their being aware of the fact, to act as the impartial committee to investigate and pass judgment on all charges that may be presented against any or all officials of Local 451. The committee consists of the following: Raffaele d'Agostino, Tony Locaso, Giuseppe Di Smeduto, Americo Panaro, Luigi Ferrari, J. Schlopote and Giuseppe Speranza.

"All charges, proofs and information must be addressed to the Special Investigation Committee of Local 451, 231 East 14th Street, or personally to any of the above mentioned members of this impartial committee. All communications will be forwarded to this committee and their reports will be published in our official organs."

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 General Secretary-Treasurer

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
 Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2145

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

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EDITORIALS

THE HOUR OF ACTION HAS COME!

The cloakmakers of New York, at last, have heard the call of their International Union.

It is a stirring call for action, a bugle call that will resound throughout the breadth and length of the land and will fill with cheer and gladness the hearts of our members.

It is a message for which the men and women working in our trades, and the cloakmakers of New York in particular, have waited long months, filled with exhausting desperation. It is a welcome act of leadership carried out at the right hour and at the psychological moment.

The movement against the Communist terror and dictatorship which is today sweeping like wildfire through the ranks of our membership has not come from "above". It has sprung from the rank and file of our masses, from the broad strata of our workers in the shops. It is the movement of the thousands of cloakmakers who until now have been duped and deceived by Communist propaganda, lies and malicious misinformation. It represents the protest and the resentment of the thousands of cloak strikers who had been made the football of Communist politics in the course of a disastrous strike.

What a price the cloakmakers of New York have been made to pay for having permitted these "revolutionary" politicians to make Communist "experiments" on the living body of their Union! What an ocean of misery, despair, hunger and blasted hopes they got for turning over their union to the Communist union-wreckers and slogan-jugglers!

A little over a year ago, the band of Communist demagogues rode into power in a number of locals in the New York Joint Board on an avalanche of "revolutionary" phrases, of slander, abuse and reckless promises. They denounced everything and everybody in sight who would not see eye to eye or hear ear to ear with them as traitors and reactionaries. The entire past history of our International Union, all our struggles, our strivings and achievements of twenty-five years, all our fighting traditions and treasured memories they spat upon and trampled under foot as "class collaboration", as "working hand-in-hand with employers", and similar delicacies of the Communist vermin.

Once in power in these locals they have craftily proceeded to build up for themselves and for their Communist Party adherents a powerful mercenary machinery in the hope of perpetuating their rule no matter what comes, a machinery that would make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the cloakmakers ever to dislodge them from power should the latter become exasperated with their wild antics and blundering leadership.

Once in power they have brazenly converted the Joint Board and their subordinate locals into out-and-out Communist agencies, employing only Communist henchmen, boycotting and suppressing every member who dared to oppose their tactics, and flagrantly supporting with funds and every other form of assistance the Communist press, the same press which day in and out has kept up a ceaseless barrage of slander upon our International Union and its leaders.

What a year this has been for our cloakmakers—what a nightmare of terror and villainous abuse! An orgy of favoritism, of distinction between "left" shops and "right" shops like a poisoned arrow struck at the heart of our Union and ripped it wide apart. Old and tried members of the organization, because they happened to be either Socialists, syndicalists, or plain trade-unionists, had been discriminated at every turn in favor of such who chose to call themselves "lefts" or Communists. Men who disapproved of the Communist grossness, greed, cowardice and blundered at the meetings and were discriminated against at the machines. As heads of departments in the Joint Board were appointed persons who on their merits could never aspire to become even business agents—solely because they had been deemed "loyal Communist boys" who would play the game according to approved instructions.

Elections—the honest, undefiled elections of which the Communists had talked so much before they got into power—became a sordid mockery under their leadership in the locals controlled by them. They had instituted the same terror at the ballot box as they had introduced at the meetings and on the market corners; they had switched around ballots of the faithful from one election place to another to insure "impressive" majorities, and whenever the least danger of being outvoted despite their terroristic tactics confronted them, they did not hesitate to bring in furriers, dress-makers and Communist followers from other trades in order to maintain themselves by a safe margin, resorting even to down-

right ballot box stuffing after they had assured themselves of full control of the election machinery.

Under this nightmare, in such a stifling atmosphere of oppression, the New York cloakmakers were groaning—and waiting. There were still the promises, the broad, reckless promises that were made by the Communists to be fulfilled. The new messiahs were to lead to cloakmakers out of the wilderness of "class-collaboration", they were to show the cloakmakers a new and successful "left wing" strategy for winning strikes. It was to be a brand new method, approved by the "Trade Union Educational League" and endorsed by the Communist Party. No more arbitration, no more "cooperating" with the employers—it was heralded in advance as a sure one-hundred-per-cent winner, as a non-stop march on the road to social revolution!

Events moved swiftly to a climax. In full control of the Joint Board machinery, the Communists swept out of the way the investigation and the recommendations of the Governor's Commission as so much worthless thrash, and set the stage in quick order for a general strike against all the employers' groups in the industry.

Then came the strike—a general strike for the first time in the history of the cloakmakers' organization under the leadership of the Communist outfit, and the Cloakmakers' Union—undefeated in the sixteen years of its existence—went down in defeat. For twenty-five weeks the cloakmakers have struggled as courageously and as stubbornly as ever they had fought in their former struggles, but even their fighting spirit could not overcome the bungling incompetence, the criminal neglect of the Communist tacticians.

We do not intend to recount here the endless series of blunders, mismanagement and ignorance of elementary strike tactics displayed by the Communist chiefs of the Joint Board. Elsewhere, in this issue, the reader may find a complete and terse account of it in the indictment of these misdeeds issued by the General Executive Board. And besides, the New York cloakmakers do not have to be told the story of this crushing disaster. They have felt it on their own backs; they themselves have paid the price of Communist leadership—in hunger, pain, misery and anguish.

And on top of it all—the loss of one complete season—this Communist group, which only a short time ago proclaimed from every street corner that it was the only competent leader of the proletariat, has maneuvered the workers into a new calamity, a lockout, which, unless straightened out in time, threatens to ruin for the cloakmakers another season.

Then the cloakmakers revolted. The fires of discontent of bitter disappointment and disillusion which have been smoldering in the ranks of the cloak workers all during these long months of suffering under the Communist yoke, are bursting forth and sweeping before them the tottering structure of make-believe "revolutionism," of hypocrisy and demagoguery. The cloakmakers have drunk the last bitter drop of the Communist cup and would have no more of it.

It is not only the loss of a strike that is staring them in the face at this hour. The cloakmakers have realized that their entire union is at stake, that as a result of the insane leadership of the false messiahs, they are in danger of losing the very organization which for a generation has stood like a bulwark of strength between them and the sweat shop—between them and the greed of the employer.

In this hour of supreme need they turned to their International Union for help—and this help came swift, resolute and unhesitating.

The epoch-making decision of the General Executive Board, to take over the misdirected management of the remainder of the cloak strike and the settlement of the lockout and to reorganize the administration of the Joint Board and of its locals, is an act of sound leadership that meets the needs of an acute and burning situation. The outburst of great popular approval from the masses of the cloakmakers testifies to this. And the labor movement of America—from coast to coast—will applaud enthusiastically this move which signifies the return of the cloakmakers' organization of New York to sanity, tolerance, and an effective and efficient trade union policy.

The revolt of the cloakmakers against the Communist dictatorship which has all but ruined their organization, has now reached its climax and found its expression in the decision of the General Executive Board. The International, after months of patient and watchful waiting, has answered the cry of the cloakmakers and has taken the situation firmly in hand. It will not let it out of its hands until normal conditions are restored in the organization and in the industry and Communist domination is definitely eliminated from the councils of our Union.

The Communist misleaders of the Joint Board, reluctant to climb down from their seats of power, will undoubtedly even now attempt to raise the yell of "illegal" ouster and of "splitting" the Union. The cloakmakers who have endured the tortures of hell under their rule and who have seen their Union crushed and humiliated under Communist authority will never again be misled by this sort of camouflage.

It is their International Union that has stepped into the emergency situation in response to their own appeal to save their organization from threatened destruction and to bring orderliness and adjusted relations with their employers. It is the General Executive Board of their International, adequately clothed with power under the Union's constitution to assume charge under such circumstances, that is acting in the present emergency and there cannot, therefore, be any question of "illegality" involved in this matter.

It is their own decision, the decision of the masses of the

The Wage Buyers

By LEON HENDERSON,
of the Russell Sage Foundation

Jim Magee was a brakeman on the New York Central in Cleveland. One day he received a nice, smoothly-worded letter from the Union Purchasing Company. The letter advertised "Money for Salaried Men. No Mortgage—No Enforcement—No Collateral." We let you have money at the time you apply for it."

Jim was a little short of ready cash and thought this was just what he needed. So the next day, which was Tuesday, he called at the Union Purchasing Company and found it surprisingly easy to get money. All he had to do was to identify himself as a railroad employee to "sell" some of his "time." This he did by signing in blank an "application to sell account for wages or salary." The clerk handed out \$25 immediately, telling him to bring back \$7.50 Saturday, which was pay day. The whole transaction did not take three minutes.

When Saturday came, Jim was a bit embarrassed. He could not pay all his bills and his loan too. But the fellow at the Union Purchasing Company was very obliging. He "bought" some more of Jim's time. He let Jim slide \$27.50 over the cashier's counter, sign another set of papers, and gave Jim back \$25.

What Jim Magee did not realize then was that he had paid \$250 for the use of \$25 for four days, which is at the rate of 210 per cent a year; and that he had let himself get entangled with a chain office gang of interstate loan sharks, which utilizes every weapon of terror, threat, intimidation, corruption, and evasion of law known to their kind.

Scavengers of Finance

"Just so many human scavengers and financial hoarders" is the language used by Milton Bell, cashier of the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank, to describe the same gang.

But Jim did come to realize the slavery into which he had sold himself when, later, he fell from a slippery car and was held up again. The body died. Jim figured up that he had paid the loan twice over, particularly since he was now paying interest on several interest payments that he had not been able to meet. The least the lender could do was to give him an extension of time. So Jim thought. But, instead, the loan shark terrorized Jim Magee, demanding payment, and finally tacked a notice on his door where every passerby might see it. (The salary buyer had advertised "All transactions strictly confidential.")

If we do not hear from you by the 23d of January, we will collect \$35 from the N. Y. C. R. R. Remember this time it will mean your job also.

Union Purchasing Co.
Jim was desperate. So he called at the Legal Aid Society office, and the counsel there told him not to pay. This was the best advice Jim had had for a long time, and he followed it.

Bondage for Thousands

Jim escaped from this degradation and bondage, but thousands of others

are still enslaved. Jim found that literally hundreds of railroad men in Cleveland were paying tribute just as he had; some had been paying for years, under similar threats of loss of jobs. Many men had grown desperate and thrown up their jobs; many others had been "fired" when, after payment had been impossible, a garnishment was "run" and the employer followed a rigid rule of discharging employees whose wages were attached.

Salary buying is the most vicious type of usury yet evolved. It calls for full payment of principal and excessive interest on pay day, a condition which cannot be met by those whose need for cash is so great that they feel they must resort to the loan shark. The inevitable result is a costly series of transactions in which the debt mounts higher, interest is compounded, and the borrower becomes involved with one or more companies in the city, all greedily sapping his pay. These companies are, almost invariably owned by the same gang, although the borrower does not know it.

Root of Evil in Atlanta

The owners of the salary buying companies are known as the "Big Four" and hail from Atlanta, Georgia. Two members of the "Big Four" were formerly railroad employees, and began their nefarious business by making loans at exorbitant rates to fellow workers. Atlanta is ashamed of them, and the Chamber of Commerce and the Legal Aid Society of the city are conducting a valiant fight to scotch them at home. Several criminal indictments are now pending and others will be sought at the next grand jury. Cases against them are plentiful everywhere, but are sometimes difficult to prosecute.

The salary buyer gives no receipts and allows no witnesses to his transactions. Workmen, too, are reluctant to testify as to transactions in which they seem degraded. If the case is a strong one, the loan shark settles or tries to "buy off" the witnesses. Recently a witness in Cleveland was offered \$500 to "forget it." In St. Louis, a railroad employee with sixteen years' service was induced to quit his job for a large cash consideration and leave town just as his case against the salary buyers was coming to trial.

Employers Should Ignore Claims

The usual procedure following non-payment is for the salary buyer to notify the employer, who, not being aware that the transaction is an illegal, usurious one, holds up the employee's pay until a release is obtained. Some employers send the entire check to the salary buyers. Recently this was done in a case where the amount was \$7. The loan shark took out \$15.75—"to teach the borrower a lesson."

"What could I do?" said the borrower. "He had my check, and I had to have money."

Why do borrowers continue to pay these usurious exactions and suffer their families' welfare and standard of living to be lowered? Sometimes it is fear of loss of job, distaste for publicity and embarrassment, or lack of knowledge of legal rights. It's easier

to pay than to fight. The loan shark knows this and trades on it.

This much may be said—salary buying is an evasion of the usury laws regulating the lending of money, and salary purchasing contracts are usually either void or voidable. In some states heavy penalties, fines and imprisonment can be inflicted. None of the salary buyers are licensed lenders. The counsel almost uniformly given to harassed borrowers is "Don't pay the loan shark," and this seems to be excellent advice.

In Chicago recently the State's Attorney, the Ullrich Charlies and the licensed lenders opened war on the salary buyers. The railroads agreed to ignore their assignments. Borrowers were invited to bring their cases to the State's Attorney's office and hundreds came. If a borrower had repaid the full amount of the loan, he was advised by the State's Attorney not to make any further payments. In a short time some of the companies went out of business, and the others are barely staggering along with a small percentage of accounts being collected.

Nation-wide War on Usurers

A nation-wide organized fight to stamp out the vicious practices of the salary buying loan shark is under way. Already individual campaigns are being conducted against them in several cities. Atlanta, which has been plagued perhaps more than any other city of its size, is determined to get rid of this vermin. Employers, and particularly railroad companies, everywhere are coming to see that holding up the pay or discharging an employee who becomes entangled with the loan shark is furnishing a black-mailing weapon for collection of usury.

Chicago continues its good fight. The Western Conference of Railway Counsel recommended to the General Managers' Association that salary buyers' notices be ignored because

they were evasions and unenforceable. Other conferences of railway counsel are considering the same step. Legal Aid Societies and Better Business Bureaus are fighting the menace by warnings, publicity, and assistance. The Department of Remedial Loans of the Russell Sage Foundation is cooperating with many agencies to eliminate this corrupt practice and to jail the law violators. The assistance of the Department is available in every concerted action against the salary buyers. The "salary loan shark," as the time buyer is sometimes known, is a social menace and must go.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad had an illuminating experience with the salary buyers. In 1923 the railroad took the position that salary buyers' assignments filed at its Baltimore office was usurious, and refused to honor them. A suit resulted, and was carried to the Supreme Court of Maryland, which sustained the B. & O. The salary buyers left Maryland at once, and henceforth not only have avoided the state, but also have not filed their illegal assignments with the railroad, and so the Union has the Way Out.

Out of the writer and suffering resulting from the exactions of salary buyers and other loan sharks should come a great wave of credit unions—those cooperative mutual loan societies owned and administered by their members, loaning to their members for worthy purposes at low rates of interest, and paying all profits to members in the form of dividends. Already there are more than 40 credit unions among postal workers. Railroad workers have been lagging in taking advantage of the spread of credit union laws to 21 states, but enthusiastic credit unions organized by railroad men in New England and Chicago are already doing an amazing business that serves as an example.

A credit credit union is a real remedy for salary buying.
—The Locomotive Engineers' Journal

Margaret Bondfield, Hillquit and Jessie Stephen at Rand School

Morris Hillquit's course on "Labor and the Law" which began at the Rand School of Social Science last Thursday night, December 2, and continues to December 22, has awakened keen interest as evidenced by the large attendance at the first meeting. In the first lecture Mr. Hillquit discussed the law and the ruling classes, the changing legal status of the workers, and the development of modern labor legislation. "The Legal Status of Labor Organizations" was the subject of the lecture on December 9, including the rise of trade unions, their struggles for legal recognition, strikes, boycotts, and lockouts. On December 16 he will take up "Injunctions in Labor Disputes," the original growth of the practice, its effect on the labor movement, and attempts to curb the abuse. The last lecture on December 22 will be on "Collective Bargaining Between Employers and Workers"—the meaning of the term, modern economic foundations of the practice, collective agreements and their enforcement and mediation of labor disputes.

The enrollment for the second Workers' Training Course, which will meet two nights a week for three hours each night, is meeting with much success. Already over forty trade unionists representing fourteen local unions have enrolled. These students will study such subjects as English, Public Speaking, Trade Unionism, Labor Problems, History, Economics, Sociology and other subjects. Any Unionist in good standing is eligible for a free scholarship for this course, and if interested should see the Educational Director at once.

Margaret Bondfield, the only woman member of the recent British Labor Government, will speak at the Rand School on Wednesday evening, January 5. She will have just arrived from the country of tremendous social upheavals, and she will bring first-hand facts and views on "Labor Struggles in Great Britain."

The English lecturer, Jessie Stephen, who addressed a number of meetings in New York during the campaign and is now on her way back from the Pacific Coast, will give four lectures in the Rand School on Tuesday evenings, Dec. 21, 23 and January 4. Her subjects will be "Nine Days That Britain," "The Epic Struggles at the British Miners," "Labor's Bid for Power in Britain." Miss Stephen is a tireless and trusted worker for the Independent Labor Party, having served three years as an elected Poor Law Guardian and six years as a member of the London County Council, and is also vice-president of the Catering Trade Industrial Council of Great Britain and divisional secretary of the National Federation of Women Workers.

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 18th Street.

clockmakers emancipated from Communist dictatorship, that finds its voice in the move of the International Union, the one and indivisible union of the ladies' garment workers of America.

And now on to the big task!

The period of demoralization, of destruction and chaos is at an end. The nightmare which has held in its grip thousands of our men and women in the past sixteen months is fast vanishing. And after the pressing problems of the hour will have been settled, and the strike and lockout adjusted, the clockmakers, under the lead of their International Union, will turn their attention in grim earnestness to put their union once again on a sound trade union basis, mortgaged to no political party or faith, on a basis of tolerance and fair play to every worker in the trade.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Workers' Education Bureau Publications

We want to call the attention of our readers and especially of the students in our classes to the list of W. E. B. publications. Many of them they will find very useful in their studies. We will enumerate a few of them which we advise our members to obtain.

"The Tragedy of Waste," by Stuart Chase, is a book dealing with a most interesting subject which should be of concern to all workers. This book published by Macmillan & Co. is \$2.50 in cloth. The W. E. B. has put out a paper edition which is only 75 cents. "A Short History of the American Labor Movement," by Mary Beard, is recommended for those interested in the Labor Movement who cannot spare the time to read voluminous books on it. Mary Beard's books gives a short and concise survey of the Labor Movement and contains valuable information. This is also 75 cents.

"Readings in Trade Unionism," by David J. Saposs, is a book we highly recommend to those desirous of acquainting themselves with the problems, aims and principles of the Labor

Movement as discussed in the official trade union publications. It is an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the mind of the American Labor Movement and get a better understanding of it. This book is \$2.00 cloth-bound. Through our Educational Department, member can obtain it at a reduced price.

"The Humanizing of Knowledge," by J. H. Robinson, is a most enjoyable volume. It is thought-provoking and at the same time discusses problems of the mind simply and beautifully.

"Joining in Public Discussion," by Alfred White Sheffield is a book each worker should possess. One can learn how to discuss simply and effectively and intelligently the problems which confront the Labor Movement. Intelligent workers most of the time try to convert others to their ideas, and this book will help them to learn how to do it successfully.

These books are all 75 cents excepting "Readings in Trade Unionism." The W. E. B. publishes many more books and pamphlets which will be announced next time.

S. NIEGER WILL LECTURE IN THE BRONX

This Friday, December 17th, 8 P. M. McKinley Sq. Garden, 1258 Boston Road.

S. Nieger will lecture on "Various Kinds of Criticism" on Friday, December 17th, 8 P. M. in the McKinley Square Gardens, 1258 Boston Road Bronx. The next lecture will be on Friday, December 24, on "The Difference Between Literary Criticism and Theatre Criticism."

The first lecture given by Mr. Nieger last Friday was successful. We were pleasantly surprised to find that three times as many people came to the hall which we rented would hold, and we were compelled to take a larger place. The registration of those present shows that most of our local unions were represented. Many of the members came with their wives. The next two lectures promise to be as interesting.

These Friday evening discussions

UNITY REUNION DANCE

Saturday, Feb. 12th, Lincoln's Birthday, Grand Ballroom of Manhattan Opera House.—Paul Whiteman's Piccadilly Players.

Groups of our members are planning to spend the evening of Lincoln's Birthday, on Saturday, February 12th, at our Unity Reunion Dance which will take place in the grand ballroom of the Manhattan Opera House, 34th street, near 5th Avenue.

Many are wondering whether the hall is large enough for all those who will want to come and live through an evening in the spirit of Unity, and dance to the music of the famous Paul Whiteman Piccadilly Players.

We realize that the hall is not large enough, but we selected it for its beauty, because we want the surroundings to remind our guests of the happy days at our Unity House.

Naturally those who obtain their tickets early will be among the few fortunate ones who will attend our Unity Reunion Dance, on Saturday, February 12th.

Tickets are \$1.50, and may be obtained at the office of our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street, Chelsea 2148.

will be continued throughout the season in the same place.

The next lecturer will be Alexander Fichandler, who will discuss "How Can We Learn to Think Straight?" This will be Friday, January 7, 1927. Admission is free to I. L. G. W. members.

HOW TO LEARN TO THINK STRAIGHT

Discussion by Alexander Fichandler in P. S. 72, Room 406, Lexington Ave. and 105th Street, Wednesday, Dec. 22nd, 8.30 P. M.

Alexander Fichandler will discuss in our Harlem Unity Center at Public School 72, on "The Necessity of Straight Thinking to Form Correct Opinions," Wednesday, Dec. 22, 8.30 P. M.

He will stress the possibility of learning to think straight and that this ability to a certain degree can be acquired and applied to our daily life.

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

COURSE IN "ENGLISH LITERATURE" IN PHILADELPHIA

Mr. Robert Kerlin will start a course in "English Literature" for our members in Philadelphia beginning Wednesday, December 22, 8 P. M. in the Labor Institute, 810 Locust Street.

The instructor is known to many of our members as an effective and interesting lecturer and we are sure that those who attend this course will find his presentation of educational value.

Other courses given for our members in Philadelphia are as follows: Friday nights in the headquarters of Local 50, 52 North 10th Street;

7.30 classes in intermediate and advanced English by Bertha Greenberg; 8.30 corner in Labor Problems by Robert Morley.

For further information apply to Sister Ada Rosenfelt, at Local 50, 52 North 10th Street, or to Sister Bebe Stein, at the Joint Board of the Cloak-makers' Union, 810 Locust Street.

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

Weekly Educational Calendar

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

Saturday, December 18

1.30 p.m. B. J. R. Stolper—Social Tendencies in Literature. "Yiddish Literature a Lively Invalid."

Sunday, December 19

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 17-24

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

Friday, January 7, 1927

8 p.m. A. Fichandler—"How Can We Learn to Think Straight?"

UNITY CENTERS

East Side Unity Center.....P. S. 25, 326 E. 5th St., Manhattan
Washmakers' Unity Center.....P. S. 40, 230 E. 20th St., Manhattan
Yiddish Unity Center.....P. S. 72, Lexington Ave. at 105th St., Manhattan
Bronx Unity Center.....P. S. 94, 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. & Sackman St., Brooklyn

EAST SIDE UNITY CENTER

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

Tuesday, December 21

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 22

8.30 p.m. Alexander Fichandler—How to Learn to "Think Straight"

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Friday, December 17

Local 50 Headquarters, 52 North 10th St.

7.30 p.m. Bertha Greenberg—Intermediate English.

8.30 p.m. Robert Morley—Labor Problems.

810 Locust Street

Wednesday, December 22

8 p.m. Robert Kerlin—English Literature.

"Social Tendencies in Literature"

Course by B. J. R. Stolper to Be Given in Our Workers' University Beginning Sat. Dec. 18.

B. J. R. Stolper will start a course in "Social Tendencies in Literature" on Saturday, December 18 at 11.15 p.m. in our Workers' University, Room 530 of Washington Irving High School.

The first topic will be "Yiddish Literature—A Lively Invalid." Mr. Stolper will discuss how old is the Yiddish literature, is Yiddish a Jargon or a Language, How Long Will It Live, Its

Weakness, Its Strength, Its Themes, Its Forms, Its Great Names, and the Difficulty of Judging.

Mr. Stolper's course will consist of 14 sessions, and he will take up the following:

Yiddish dramatists, novelists, critics, etc.: Peretz, Sholem Asch, Sholem Aleichem, Jacob Gordin, Mani Leib, H. Leivick, Yehoshaf, Halkin, Nigam, Hirschbein, Pinski, etc.

Modern Italian writers: D'Annunzio, Leopardi, Carducci, Benedetto Croce, Fogazzaro, Anna Neri.

Modern Spanish craftsmen: Echegaray, Benavente, Alarcón, Galdós, De Ayala and Martineau.

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

GIANT POWER WILL REVOLUTIONIZE INDUSTRY

"Giant Power" was discussed by A. W. Calhoun of Brookwood College in Workers' University last Sunday, December 12, at 11 A. M., in Room 530, Washington Irving High School.

The development of Giant Power is now considered one of the paramount problems confronting the labor movement. It is expected that Giant Power will do for industry now what machinery did a century ago.

If the labor movement is to have a say in the development and direction of Giant Power, it must be prepared in advance by studying it.

Dr. Calhoun, who conducted a Giant Power Institute for the Electrical Workers in Brookwood, has made a thorough study of it, and we are making arrangements now for him to discuss it before our members. The time and place will be announced later.

GREGORY MATUSEWICH WILL GIVE A RECITAL IN TOWN HALL, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DEC. 26

Only one week remains before the recital of Gregory Matusewicz, virtuoso of the English concertina, at Town Hall, on Sunday, December 26, at 3 P. M. He will be accompanied by the well known pianist Yasha Samos, and by Leon Cortilli, assisting tenor.

Our members who have heard Mr. Matusewicz need no introduction to him. He will give an exceptionally fine program, and we are sure that our members will attend this recital and will spend an enjoyable afternoon.

Tickets may be obtained at the office of our Educational Department at 3 West 16th Street.

Annual Report of Dressmakers' Union, Local 22

(Continued from last week)

Assistance Given to Other Unions

In submitting a report on the activities of the Executive Board we wish to lay particular stress on the part that our local Dressmakers' Local No. 22 was the first to extend a brotherly hand to the Furriers at the most critical period in their strike, when the enemies from within and without made common cause to break the ranks of the fight Furriers. We have turned over our entire treasury to the aid of the Furriers and have also made loans in banks and together have raised the sum of \$162,000.00.

We also wish to state a few facts about the assistance rendered by our Dressmakers in the strike of the Clockmakers. The Dressmakers have contributed more than \$100,000.00 to the clock strike. Of the \$20.00 tax, the members of Local No. 22 have already paid in \$161,445.00, of which sum \$95,250.00 has been paid in the office of our local. Our local has also carried the biggest burden of the organization campaigns undertaken by the Joint Board, supplying both volunteers as well as finances. We have brought home to the workers the idea that if the industry is to be organized, the workers of the shops must be the ones to make the sacrifice. They must go to the workers of the open shops within the message of unionism, for no professional organizers, no matter how numerous, can accomplish this task. Our accomplishment in the organization campaigns would surely have been crowned with great success in the number of shops, as well as membership, had we not been faced with the united opposition of the contractors, jobbers and former union officials, who exerted all their efforts in an attempt to interfere with our campaign to place our union on a more sound basis. During the past few months, our union has centered a great deal of attention in assisting the Clockmakers' strike. This strike, the outcome of which will vitally affect the future of the Dressmakers, required the fullest assistance of our local. Brother Zimmerman, the Manager of the Dress Department, was compelled to leave the office of the Dress Department entirely and devote all his time to the clock strike. The same was also true of the Secretary of our local.

We are confident, however, that as soon as the clock strike is over, all the energies of the Joint Board will be directed to the Dress Department, so as to establish a strong union control in the dress industry. We are sure that with the active cooperation of the membership, we will accomplish the desired results.

We will now proceed to a detailed report on the activities of our standing committees:

Report of Standing Committees

The Executive Board, as you all know, is divided into several standing committees, so as to facilitate the administrative work of our local. We will enumerate the accomplishments of the respective committees, so that you may have a correct idea of all our activities.

Membership Committee

4,337 candidates have appeared before the Membership Committee last year. Of these, 2,999 have become members, 879 are recent applicants, who have not yet succeeded in taking out their union books, and 559, who have applied for membership some time ago, but for some reason or other not taken out their books as yet.

These are classified as inactive applicants. The largest number of them will sooner or later take out their books.

Grievance Committee

The Grievance Committee had to investigate and act on 562 charges of various character. They can be classified as follows:

Of these cases 136 received reprimanding letters, 106 were dismissed, 157 were fined, 4 cases defendants are to leave shop, 7 cases members were expelled, 9 received suspended sentences, 143 were withdrawn.

In addition, a special committee has expelled seven of our former business agents, who have left the trade and have business connections with the bosses of our industry.

Of the 350 members fined a total amount of \$5,570.00, 313 members paid their fines, amounting to \$4,460.00.

Of the seven members expelled, five were either foremen or contractors, and two have refused to carry out the decision of the Grievance Committee with regard to their shops.

Appeal Committee

108 cases were acted upon by the Appeal Committee.

In 51 cases the Grievance Board decision was sustained. In 57 other cases the fines were either refunded or reduced.

Total amount paid to workers where fines were refunded or reduced, \$3,523.75.

(To be continued)

ALL EYES ON UNION LABOR LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY AS DAY FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS APPROACHES

All eyes, including the eyes of the country's great financial institutions and insurance companies, are on the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, as the day for the actual entry of this new company into the insurance field draws near. This is made clear by inquiries and reports coming to the offices of the company here.

Meanwhile several important developments are under way:

First, there is a rush of those who want to secure stock before the stock books are closed.

Second, the company itself is working day and night to bring arrangements to completion for the beginning of business. Actuaries have been at work for some time in the preparation of rates, policies accounting forms and other necessary arrangements.



CHANGES IN THE UNION HEALTH CENTER

To those of us of the Health Center who are eager to guarantee to the patients a maximum good treatment, sympathy and understanding, there has been one problem of extreme importance. This problem is the overcrowding of the clinics, the inability of the doctor to give as much time as is necessary to the individual patient; not so much in the matter of medical advice as in the matter of sympathetic understanding of the patient's troubles.

Frequently a worker will come into the Center and will find that he is compelled to wait an hour before the doctor can see him. This means that the patient is irritated. If the physician spends only a brief period with him, the patient has not the opportunity to "talk out his troubles." Talking out one's troubles is the best remedy for the illness. Because the hours of the Union Health Center have been limited to suit the convenience of the workers, and because practically all the workers come at the same time the degree of privacy is limited.

Bearing these conditions in mind the Union Health Center is contemplating changing all of its clinics to the appointment basis. That is beginning with January 1, 1927, every patient will have to make a special appointment for himself before he can

be examined. This installation of the appointment system will guarantee a specified time to the patient and at the same time will limit the number of patients which the examining physician can interview.

It is hoped that this new policy will give more time to the individual patient as well as the physician and that greater satisfaction to all will result.

ACCIDENTS AMONG OUR WOMEN WORKERS

The Minor Surgery Clinic of the Union Health Center, treats many injuries received by workers in the shop. Pressers come with burns. Operators come with injuries inflicted by the needle of the machine. Cutters come with cuts from the scissors which they use in their work. Every type of minor surgery, cut, or infection is treated in this clinic of the Union Health Center, including many injuries which have become Workmen's Compensation cases.

During the recent strike members of the union came to the Minor Surgery Clinic to obtain treatment for injuries received on the picket line. In fact all sorts of industrial accidents have been handled at the Union Health Center despite the fact that the needle trades industry has been accepted as a non-hazardous one.

In a recent report of the New York State Department of Labor on accidents to women in industry, it was estimated that the clothing industry ranks first among the manufacturing industries in the number of accidents to which women are subject.

Twenty-nine per cent of all the accidents during the year 1924-5 were incurred by women in the clothing industry. These injuries were mainly obtained in the handling of sewing machines. In fact practically 32 per cent of all machine accidents were received by women in clothing industry. During that year 396 women in the manufacturing of clothing were injured. This number includes those employed in millinery, fur workers, corsets, etc. 481 women were injured in the garment industry alone.

This large percentage of accidents to women workers in the clothing industry is due primarily to the fact that the largest proportion of women workers are employed in this industry.

MEDICAL CLINICS OF THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE

The Medical Department of the Workmen's Circle, which is an institution organized seven years ago for the purpose of rendering medical aid and advice to the members of the Workmen's Circle, is now conducting a campaign for membership. Its appeal is directed largely to the working class population of New York City, and its members are nearly all recruited from the ranks of the Circle.

The Medical Department is located at 175 East Broadway, but it has an additional clinic at 55 Irving Place. All members of the Workmen's Circle are entitled to free medical assistance and are given the best care and attention.

The Medical Department is an institution of voluntary membership. It stands to reason therefore that the greater its membership becomes the more extensive will become its facilities and its scope of usefulness to the workers of New York City. Any worker may become a member of the Department by applying to the main office or the branch clinic. The annual fee is a very small one.

REGISTER AT ONCE for the courses and lectures offered by the Educational Department of our International, and get in touch with us at 2 West 16th Street.

РУССКО-ПОЛЬСКИЙ ОТДЕЛ

ОБРАЩЕНИЕ К ЧЛЕНАМ

Уважаемые товарищи!

Все из вас получили письма от президента нашего комитета М. Зигмана, в котором он извещает, что в Польше происходит борьба, которой нужно положить конец и Генер. Экз. Борх Интернационал взял на себя эту задачу.

Многие из членов, получившие такие письма, приходят в контору Отдела с просьбой объяснения и советам, что делать в эту критическую минуту. Но это не все. Конторгир П. Ш. Отдела получил письмо от Генер. Экз. Борха, в котором дается всего лишь 24 часа времени для ответа, какую позицию мы намерены занять в этой

борьбе. На этот вопрос наш Ком. не вынес решения и передает на массовый митинг всему членскому составу.

И лично воздержался от участия в борьбе до общего собрания и обратился к през. М. Зигману с просьбой, дать нам времени до общего собрания, на котором члены нашего единственного членского комитета в Польше и займут ту позицию, которую должны занять каждый честный рабочий в эту тяжелую минуту исторических событий в нашем мире.

Наш Отдел не может дальше отложить этого вопроса, как только до митинга 17-го декабря, а поэтому долг и обязанность всех членов быть на митинге и решить вопрос в положительном смысле.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

In response to the demonstrations and urging by great masses of the members of the International union, the General Executive Board at a session at the Continental Hotel last Saturday, December 12th, decided to save the membership and the union from further subjection by the puppets of the Communist party by taking over the leadership of the strike from their hands and reorganizing the union on the basis of the principles of trade unionism.

Suffering Only Result of Communist Leadership

Not only have the "revolutionists" delivered the workers, through the agreement which they concluded with the Industrial Council, body and soul into the hands of the employers, but the subjection perpetrated upon them when the members attempted to disagree with them during the course of the meetings in the various halls is without precedent in the history of the union.

That the strike in the cloak industry was an experiment in the new type of unionism under communist dictatorship was admitted to be a fact more than once by the leaders of the Joint Board. As early as six weeks after the beginning of the strike on opportunity presented itself for a settlement on better terms than those secured under the agreement with the Industrial Council. When International President Morris Sigman urged the leadership to begin negotiations one of the leaders of the general strike committee very boldly replied in effect that the strike was only six weeks old and that the workers had not yet struck long enough.

Following the decision of the General Executive Board, thousands of workers appeared in and outside of the headquarters of the International and practically demanded that the International take the situation over into its own hands with a view to effecting a settlement with the American Association and the Jobbers. They also demanded that the union be saved from further dictatorship by the communists and that it be established along the lines that made possible during the course of the past sixteen years the steady improvement of working conditions and which made for the model organization which the cloak makers' was up to the time the communists took control.

In the resolutions presented by the rank and file at the various meetings, they pointed out that never in the history of the union was so much suffering visited upon the cloakmakers as in the present year. Not only were the forty thousand members forced to stay out on strike for nearly twenty weeks but they had been unemployed since practically April and up to the time of the calling of the strike on July first.

Cutters Participate in Various Meetings

Beginning with the rousing Cooper Union meeting on Friday, December 3, at which thousands of disillusioned cloakmakers were present, demanding that the International take over the management of the union, and up to Monday, December 12th, when a demonstration took place in front of the International building, many meetings took place at which similar action was demanded by the members of the International.

In an attempt to diminish the forceful effect of the Cooper Union meeting and of other gatherings at which the International was cheered and opposition against the "left" leadership

manifested, the communists attempted to stage another one of their artificial demonstrations against the International leadership, by calling last Thursday, December 10, three mass meetings of the workers of the American Association shops, which workers are still out on strike.

But the cloakmakers, however, plainly showed their opposition to communist leadership by abstaining from attending the meetings. In a futile attempt to make some sort of a showing the paid hirelings, that is, the so-called picket committee, and communist furriers, attempted to pack the meeting. It is a widely known fact, by the way, that these so-called pickets were largely used to intimidate innocent members who dared show any opposition to the ruinous policy of the "lefts" during the strike, instead of using their energies to prevent the scabbery which resulted in an over-production of cloaks. But the days of packing meetings are over. In spite of this effort on their part the Cooper Union meeting called by the "lefts" was practically turned into a demonstration against them.

Another interesting feature of the demonstration against the "red" dictatorship in the cloakmakers' union was the pressers' meeting which took place Monday night, December 12th. In the usual manner of the tricksters, they sought to pack the pressers' meeting with their adherents. The result, however, was the holding of a large and rousing meeting of pressers at which International President Morris Sigman and Vice-presidents David Dubinsky, Julius Hochman and Joseph Halpern, spoke amid rousing cheers.

As a result of these meetings and the demands voiced by the members, the International organized a general strike committee and decided to take steps to demand that the American Association withdraw its lockout order and call them and the jobbers to a conference for the purpose of effecting a settlement. In the meantime, members are instructed by Manager Dubinsky not to take orders from the Joint Board, not to make any payments or contributions to them, and to file their complaints either at the office of Local 10 or at the office of the International, 2 East 14th Street.

Unprecedented Local 10 Election Premised

From the various meetings of the cutters, not only in the office of Local 10, but also in the meetings of other crafts which they attended, it is very evident that the election of officers which will take place Saturday, December 12th, will be without precedent in point of number of participants. That the cutters have just cause to vote their dissatisfaction against "lefts" and "leftism" need hardly be questioned when it is remembered that during the course of the strike a request or a wish of a cutter was met with "You are a Dubinsky man; we know you."

In a letter dated December 15th which Manager Dubinsky sent out to the cutters calling their attention to the election and the issues involved, it is stated in part: "The elements responsible for this (chaotic) state of affairs preferred to serve the interests of a political party instead of the interests of the workers. Their scheme of denying the cutters a separate strike hall, instigated by the 'left' element of our local, was not for the benefit of the cutters or the union but was a maneuver to weaken Local 10 regardless of the effect it might have upon the strike. The fact

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR LOCAL 10

This Saturday, December 18

in

ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE

Polls Open From 12:30 to 6 P. M.

Due to the strike, members owing up to nine months' dues will be permitted to vote.

• • •

MEMBERS WHOSE BOOKS ARE IN THE POSSESSION OF THE STRIKE COMMITTEE SHOULD APPLY TO THE OFFICE OF LOCAL 10 OR AT ARLINGTON HALL ON THE DAY OF ELECTION, WHERE THEY WILL RECEIVE THEIR BOOKS OR WILL BE GIVEN OFFICIAL DUPLICATE MEMBERSHIP RECORD CARDS. THESE CARDS WILL ENABLE THEM TO VOTE WITHOUT THEIR DUES BOOKS.

• • •

Because of this, registration of all cutters participating in the coming election will take place.

• • •

BE SURE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION OF LOCAL 10!

• • •

BE SURE THAT YOUR NAME IS REGISTERED, signifying that you were among those who participated in the election!

• • •

DO NOT LEAVE IT TO OTHERS to elect those who are to administer the affairs of your local for the coming year!

• • •

ELECT THOSE IN WHOM YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE and in whose hands you are willing to place the future of your economic conditions!

• • •

Don't Be A Slacker !!

Watch further details on this page in connection with the increase for the cutters in the cloak industry, which is to go into effect the first week in January.

Installation of Officers

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1936

The installation of the newly-elected officers will take place at the Special Meeting on

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1936

in ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE
THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 7:30 P. M. SHARP

that they are now sending out letters to cutters who never gave them their names and addresses and who are opposed to this clique is additional proof that they have utilized the machinery of the strike to secure the address of our members for political purposes. And I demonstrate that instead of devoting their time and energy towards the success of the strike they have utilized both machinery and effort for propaganda against the membership and officers of Local No. 10!

FRESH FLORIDA ORANGES

Fresh Sweet Florida Oranges \$3 per box of three hundred large size. Sound fruit and satisfaction guaranteed or money back! We pay express charges. A box of these makes an appreciated Christmas gift.

Remit with order.

Acme Farms, Gainesville, Fla.