

"My sightseer
ness I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."
—Job. 27.6

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

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PEACE WITH HONOR IN NEW YORK CLOAK INDUSTRY

Cloak Manufacturers Withdraw Their Demands Working Standards Remain As Heretofore—No Reduction in Wages

The settlement of the controversy in the New York cloak industry is, under the present industrial conditions, a splendid achievement and a great credit to the organized workers in these trades.

We do not wish to speak here in terms of victory. The conference between the representatives of the Union and the Cloak Protective Association were not conducted in a spirit in which a desire to "defeat" the other party was manifested by either side. The present leadership of the Protective Association, to its credit we must state, came to these conferences in a peaceful frame of mind, which enabled the negotiations to continue in a friendly spirit. It is true, they have persisted right along upon carrying out the three demands embodied in the resolution of their association, namely, a reduction in wages, the lengthening of work hours and the indiscriminate right to discharge. After our conference committee had made it clear to them that the concession of these demands is unthinkable, they have, however, finally agreed to seek a way how to come to a peaceful settlement in which there would be neither victory nor vanquished.

The terms of the settlement, indeed, fully reflect this spirit. The principle, that the workers who make a living from the cloak industry must also be interested in the progress of its development, was accepted as the basis of the agreement. The committee of the Union, however, insisted that industrial progress must not be made exclusively at the expense of the workers, and defended its point of view very energetically. The conference committee of the Union continually drew the attention of the conferees to the fact that it is in the interests of the industry that the workers in the shops, in order to fulfill their obligations honorably, are given humane conditions and satisfactory working standards.

The following is the official memorandum which was adopted at the last conference as the working basis in the understanding reached between the Union and the Association:

MEMORANDUM

June 1, 1921.

After a number of conferences held between the representatives of the Cloak, Hat and Suit Manufacturers' Protective Association and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the Joint Board of the Cloak, Hat and Suit Manufacturers in New York, the parties have reached the following general understanding:

1. Both sides are in accord that it is in the interest of the industry to continue to make the manufacturers to

sell their product at more attractive prices and they, therefore, agree to improve their work and to maintain a plant committee of five members, of the Association and three members of the Union, whose task it shall be:

- (a) To visit shop and labor production records, and other available data with a view of working out measures which would tend to bring up the productivity of the workers to a small fair and proper to both sides.
- (b) The committee shall report once a month, and on November 1, 1921, it shall make a final report of its activities and findings before a Joint Committee of the representatives of the Association and the Union, and shall recommend such report with complete and appropriate recommendations.
2. Until November 1, 1921, the committee shall act as a joint wages committee and shall pass upon all complaints on the part of employees and discharged workers, presented to the Union Association, referring out of any controversy or discharge of any worker in the shop in question shall be taken as final for the committee's decision. If such records will justify the action of the employer shall be established by the committee.
3. Both sides agree to comply with the terms of the present contract.
4. All grievances shall first be taken up by the courts of the Union and the Association for investigation and arbitration.

The first to be apprized of this settlement were the delegates of the Joint Board, who gathered in regular meeting, on Friday evening, June 3, at 62 East 106th Street. President Schlesinger, the Chairman of the Conference Committee of the Union,

arrived at the hall in company with Vice-President Sigman and Secretary Baroff, and delivered the report of the committee to the delegates.

The report was listened to in profound silence. The delegates had already become familiar with most of the clauses of the understanding at former meetings of the Joint Board. At that time, however, it was not altogether certain how the negotiations would terminate. Now the task was complete and the big job at an end. Small wonder that the delegates of the Joint Board were drinking in, with rapt attention, every syllable and word of the final report masterfully presented to them by Brother Schlesinger. There was pride and satisfaction in the gleam of every eye as the unity and strength of their organization was unfolding itself before their eyes, while the terms of the agreement were gradually read to them.

After the report was ended, a hearty and stormy applause broke out. The air of the meeting room was full of enthusiasm and an infectious holiday spirit. Of course, the report was unanimously adopted and the conference committee re-elected the delegates from the Board for its conscientious and tireless work.

At the last meeting of the Board there was adopted a very important decision—to order election for business agents, instead of having them appointed, as was the practice for quite some time.

(Continued on page 2, column 4)

Amalgamated and Furriers Greet Cloak Settlement

The general office of the International received a large number of letters and telegrams congratulating it upon the splendid settlement in the New York cloak industry. Among these are telegrams from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the International Furriers' Union. The Amalgamated message reads as follows:

"It is indeed with a sense of extreme pride in the attainment of our own victory we are in a position to extend our sincere congratulations upon your splendid victory in New York City. Those which had been and were among the most serious and menacing to the country for special attack. It is in the nature of the strike movement that our people in striking their hands upon their own heads and have managed to bring about a settlement which is a greater loss and with renewed vigor. All credit is due to the workers of the country in the settlement of all kinds of grievances. We are confident that all of our organizations are something that all workers may well be proud of."

"In our behalf of my membership we greet you with our cordial approval of your knowledge efforts for our common cause and the best interests of the working man."

"JOSEPH SCHLESINGER,
General Secretary-Treasurer."

The following message was received from the Furriers' International:

"Accept our hearty congratulations upon the successful and peaceful settlement between your organization and the Cloak Manufacturers' Association of New York. We understand that settlement as a great achievement and greet not only for your own organization but for the entire industry in America."

"THOMAS KATZMAN, Sec'y.
(ANN'WR WINKLER, Pres'y.)"

NEW DRESS AND WAIST BOARD INSTALLED LAST WEDNESDAY

An important event in the life of the organization of the waist and dressmakers of New York has taken place last Wednesday night, when the newly elected delegates to the Joint Board in the Waist and Dress Industry were installed. The meeting took place at Beethoven Hall and was marked by an unusual air of earnestness which animated every delegate and visitor present.

General Secretary Baroff, of the

International, in company with First Vice-President Sigman and Editor Yanofsky, installed the incoming Joint Board. The speakers dwelt at length upon the recent history of the locals affiliated with the Joint Board, and called particular attention to the detrimental effect disunion, and grave dissensions were having upon the general trade conditions and working standards in the industry. They exhorted the delegates to use

every bit of energy and influence at their command to begin a new period of constructive activity and leadership in the locals and to place the organization of the workers in the waist and dress industry on the high plane which the general intelligence of its members rightfully entitles it to.

Brother Harry Berlin, of Local No. 10, was elected as permanent Chairman of the Joint Board. The following were elected as members of the Board of Directors, one from each local: J. Levine, from Local 10; Louis Shapiro, from Local 22; Miss N. Drasin, from Local 25; M. Steitelman, from Local 58; A. Fuhrer, from Local 60; N. Reisel, from Local 86; and Salvatore Millano, from Local 89.

JULIA ADLER, JENNIE VALIERE AND MAURICE NITKE AT UNITY OPENING CONCERT

Executive Boards of All International Locals Invited to Send Delegates

The program for the opening concert at Unity House is now complete. Jennie Valiere, the noted European tragedienne, who for several years has successfully played on the Yiddish stage, is one of the artists who will appear at this concert. Maurice Nitke, the well known violinist is another. Julia Adler, daughter of the celebrated Jewish actor, Jacob P. Adler, and Sadie Chalfetz, pianist, complete the list. Miss Julia Adler is an artist of exceptional ability and

growing popularity. She recently appeared in the role of Naomi in the opera "Marabees," at the Manhattan Opera House, and has made an exceptionally favorable impression.

The celebration will take place on Saturday evening, June 18th, in the big hall at the Unity House. Members can leave Friday night and be present at the celebration on time. A very representative gathering is expected at Unity House for the event. Members of the executive boards of all locals of the International have been especially re-

quested to come. Teachers of the various unity centers and of the Workers' University have also been invited.

All information regarding rates, trains, etc., can be secured in Room 6, 16 West 21st Street, or at the various branch offices of the Union.

Members of the International who wish to register their wives or children for any time during the summer should do so immediately. It should be remembered that only ten children will be permitted during any week at the Unity House.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

WASTE IN INDUSTRY

IT would have probably been of greater importance to the labor movement had that report of the Committee on Elimination of Waste in Industry of the Federated American Engineering Societies made public last week, been published about two years ago. It was then, in the early days of the anti-inflation drive, that the combined interests of capital have raised the cry that labor was shacking through its non-productivity was "ruining" the industries of the country.

That particular cry, as will be remembered, lasted only for about a year and was supplanted, later, by a concerted drive for wage cutting on the pretext that labor was "holding up the prices of commodities at a high level" through its refusal to permit a reduction in earnings. The assertion that the workers were not as productive as they should be, somehow receded to the background, and in view of the general industrial stagnation that has set in, it has not been much heard of since.

Now comes this authoritative report and lays on the doorstep of the employers' management almost the entire guilt for whatever waste of production there exists in industry. Labor is charged with less than 25 per cent by the Board of the Engineering Societies, and capital is held responsible for more than half of the waste, duplication and losses that occur in the daily pursuit of industry in the country. Briefly, the report finds that billions of dollars are tied up in idle equipment; that duplication on bids in building trades run into millions of dollars annually; that losses from accidents and deaths could be cut 75 per cent, and what is highly interesting, that labor-capital conflicts are not as expensive as popularly supposed.

In making recommendations designed to eliminate waste on a nation-wide scale, the report suggests that:

- 1. A national information service be established to report on industrial conditions;
- 2. That a national statistical bureau be established to cover employment requirements;
- 3. That a national health policy be adopted;
- 4. That a national policy be adopted for handling labor disputes;
- 5. That industries standardize and adopt efficient methods;
- 6. That trade associations help standardize their lines, and;
- 7. That the public distribute their purchases through the year to stabilize production.

After all, it is better late than never. This puncturing of the non-production bubble, with which labor was charged only a while ago, is a wholesome thing. It strengthens the position of labor in its daily contest with capital and points again the only true road to the elimination of chaos and anarchy in industry.

ENGLISH COAL STRIKE DEVELOPMENTS

AFTER several weeks of dilly-dallying, in the course of which Lloyd George has made several unacceptable offers to the miners, the mine owners and the miners held for the first time during the present coal deadlock a full and frank conference on the situa-

tion, without the presence of government representatives, last week. The miners' executives promptly accepted the owners' invitation to meet them, and at the end of the first sitting a statement was issued to the press saying that the discussions were being held in a friendly spirit and that the conference would be resumed.

It is considered possible that the miners will call a national delegates' conference, and, if necessary, arrange for a national ballot on the owners' latest offer. These are forebodings of peace, but it would be premature to jump to the conclusion that a settlement is in sight. A breaking point during these conferences might arise at any hour. It is, however, apparent that both sides are anxious to secure a settlement, if possible, within the time limit of the two weeks during which the government's offer of \$10,000,000 for compensation in the low-paying mining districts is available.

Meanwhile, the question of unemployment, which has grown more acute on account of the coal strike, is becoming a greater threat from day to day to British industry. It is calculated that about five million men and women are out of employment in England today, and their number is being augmented every week by about 500,000. Small wonder that both the Lloyd George Cabinet and the mine owners are anxious to see a settlement in the mine situation as quickly as possible.

ITALIAN STATE EMPLOYEES ON STRIKE

AN item of news of absorbing interest has filtered through the cable dispatches last week which attracted but limited attention in the American press.

The employees of the Italian governmental bureaus in Rome have engaged in a form of a peculiar strike against the State, declared on June 2. This strike, takes the form of refusing to do work in part in all the State departments, including the courts. According to the plan, every day, for three hours, all public offices will be deserted by the clerks, while big meetings are being held. This apparently will continue until the new Parliament meeting June 11, will pass a law increasing all official monthly salaries by 200 lire.

The salaries of state employees in Italy are woefully inadequate, not having been increased in years and badly affected by the depreciation of money which has trebled the cost of living. On the other hand, it would appear that with the huge sums of money for armaments and the navy that the Italian government has loaded its budget and the deficit which has been caused thereby, the government cannot find any reason for increasing these salaries unless it resorts to additional taxation.

The government proposes to solve this problem by decreasing the number of the employed officials and increasing the pay of those that will remain. As this cannot be done before Parliament meets, it is proposed to pay just a small increase in the form of a bonus at the end of each month. The leaders of the government employees, however, are dissatisfied with this proposal and they have declared hostilities on the Giolitti Cabinet. A full trial of

strength is now in view and it is to be seen what attitude Giolitti will now display in the contest of the bureaucracy with the State.

STRIKING ENGRAVERS RETURN TO WORK

THE strike of the newspaper photo engravers, which has created such a stir in New York, who have been out because the publishers have refused an 88 increase, has come to an end last week, a truce having been declared pending conciliation arrangements. The strike, of course, involved only a small number of these highly skilled men, nevertheless, tied up, while it lasted, a certain part of the work on almost all the papers in the city. And as it affected the newspapers, it naturally received a lot of publicity and discussion.

The preliminary agreement is to run for 60 days, the workers returning to their job at their old wage scale. In event no agreement is reached within 60 days, the matter goes to arbitration and the award will be retroactive to the date of the resumption of work.

The settlement came about as a result of the intervention of Matthew Wolf, President of the International Photo Engravers Union and Vice-President of the A. F. of L. The photo engravers are now receiving \$55 a week for 44 hours on the day shift and \$60 a week for 40 hours on the night shift. In their demands for a 95 increase is granted, it will put them at the head of the best paying of all organized trades.

AUSTRIA AGAIN NEAR COLLAPSE

LAST fall the Social Democrats and the laborites of Austria were replaced in power by a Clerical government. It was deemed at that time that the elimination of the Socialists from power would tend to placate, to a certain extent, the Allied powers and would give the Austrian authorities an opportunity to improve the economic condition of the country.

After several months of holding power, the Clerical cabinet has proved to be a complete failure, and already, in the April legislative elections in lower Austria (which no longer includes Vienna), the vote of the clericals fell heavily and the Socialists again increased their strength.

Today, Austria is practically without a government. The Clerical Cabinet resigned and no other party appears to be anxious to assume the reins of administration. The unofficial referendums which were held in the various provinces of Austria have disclosed an irresistible desire on the part of the population of Austria to unite with Germany. This the Entente will not permit, and as the government was compelled to flinch against the desires of the population, it was doomed to fall. Today, Austria lies more prostrate than ever before, and its unity is completely destroyed. It is doubtful as to whether the Socialists will again attempt to form a cabinet as long as the few provinces that still belong to Austria are in open antagonism with the city of Vienna. The general economic condition in that distracted country is as bad as before. The farmers refuse to bring their goods to the city, particularly to Vienna, in exchange for paper money, and in the cities unemployment and starvation is continually on the increase.

So Austria teters along, divided against itself, with no government possessing authority and daring to do anything, big or small.

RAIL WAGES CUT \$400,000,000 MORE TO FOLLOW

THE Railroad Labor Board is "reconstructing" matters fast and swift on the railroads. As mentioned in these columns, it has ordered in a few weeks ago a general reduction in wages, to take effect on July 1. Last week, this decision was handed down in concrete form, and from it it appears that approximately two-thirds of the wage increase granted to the railroad employees a year ago by this Board, was ordered deducted.

Last July, after a struggle which lasted months, the railroad workers were given an increase in wages which amounted to approximately \$600,000. At this rate, two-thirds of the increase will be cut by the reductions directed by the Board last week. The reduction averages 12 per cent of the railroad workers' wages and affects, so far, 164 lines. Already another 146 railway lines have applied, on the strength of this order, to the Railway Board for similar reductions, and, from all appearances, the Board will grant these applications. It would occasion little surprise if, after all these reductions have been made, last year's wage cut will have been entirely wiped out.

The attitude of the leaders of the Railway Brotherhood with regard to these reductions has not been made known. So far comment on the Board's decision has been withheld, except for the announcement that a meeting will be called at Chicago on July 1 to discuss the award. It will be recalled that when the Railroad Labor Board first announced, three weeks ago, that it will order a cut in wages, the railway unions intimated that they might ask for a court review of the Board's decision. From present indications, however, it appears that the railway brotherhoods will not offer any determined opposition to these reductions.

STUBBORN HACKENSACK FIRM SIGNS WITH UNION

S. Weinstein, of Hackensack, N. J., who is well known in New York cloak circles and whose controversy with the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union last August has led to a fight in the local courts, has signed an agreement, last Saturday, with Local No. 134, of the International.

Bro. Nathan Weiss, International Organizer for New Jersey, signed the agreement on behalf of the local. This shop, which is the biggest cloak factory in New Jersey, will now be a real union shop, under strict union control.

For ever a year the Weinstein shop has been an "asylum" for those cloakmakers who were "in bed" with the Cloakmakers' Union. The International as well as the New York Joint Board have reason to congratulate themselves on this settlement.

(Continued from page 1)

To be sure, this "reform" is not altogether a new one in the Cloakmakers' Union. Until three years ago, business agents used to be regularly elected by all the cloak locals in New York City and the return to this former practice was prompted, to a considerable extent, by the wish expressed on many occasions by the rank and file in favor of elections of all paid officers.

Arrangements are already being made by the Joint Board, to carry out this decision. Beginning Monday, June 13, applications are to be made out at the office of the Joint Board, 40 East 23d Street, and will be accepted until July 2. Further information regarding these elections will be printed in the next issue of "Justice."

Pages From Garment Trades History

By DAVID P. BERENBERG

I BEFORE 1750

Many of the workers in the garment trades remember their homes in "the old country"—in Russia, Galicia, Poland, Italy. They may remember the grinders, spinning-wheel, tool. They remember how the flax, home-grown, was spun into yarn, and then woven into linen, at home. Perhaps the yarn was carried to the village weaver, who for a small sum, wove it into cloth.

When the time came to sew garments for the family, mother and the older girl did all the work. They cut the cloth, they operated the machine, they finished the garments. They were good garmenters, too, those made at home in the "old country," even if they did look lumpy. They had no style, but they lasted a long time.

In many out-of-the-way corners of the world women's clothing is made that way even yet. The old hand-method of spinning and weaving is still to be found. Hardly a farm-house in the more advanced countries is without its sewing-machine, on which clothes for the women and children are made. One hundred and fifty years ago there was no

other way. In those days there were no sewing machines, either. The whole job had to be done by hand. Elias Howe, who later gave us the sewing machine had not been born. There was no spinning jenny, to run hundreds of spindles at one time; there was no power-loom, run by steam or electricity, to produce a hundred yards of cloth where the hand-loom produces one. In those days there were no factories, no homes, no unions.

Most of the people lived on the land then. They raised their crops, ate what they needed, and sold the rest. There were a few tailors and dressmakers living in the big cities. They made clothes for the wealthy, for the nobility. "Common people" were home-spun and home-made clothes.

The tailors and dressmakers that did exist were the own masters. They did employ a few helpers, called journeymen (men who worked by the day), and a few apprentices. But nearly every journeyman and every apprentice became a master-tailor himself. It was just a question of learning the trade. After a man knew his trade—as soon as he could prove it to the members of the tailor's

guild by making a "master-piece"—he could start for himself. All he needed was a couple of chairs, a table, a few needles, a pair of scissors and a tape-measure. He worked at home, and did not have to pay shop rent. His customers brought their own cloth. It did not take much money to start in the tailoring business in those days. Nearly everyone who learned the trade could do so.

The tailor was often an artist. Some tailors became famous. Men came from miles around to get their suits made by the tailors of London. Their fame even spread over seas. A tailor had as much chance to become known for his skill with the needle as a painter with his brush, or writer with his pen.

The working conditions of the tailor, or of the dressmaker, were in his own hands. He could fix his hours of labor. His journeymen and his apprentices were not so fortunate, but in the end their turn would come to be master-tailors, and to control their own lives. Prices were fixed by competition, but the competition was one of skill against skill, and all started on equal terms.

The old-time tailor had his troubles. Social customs, imposed on him by the aristocrats, kept him down. Taxes were often high. Famines came, and plagues. Wars hurt his business. There were good years and bad years. But he was never unneeded. He never starved.

Alongside of his house there was usually a patch of ground—an acre or so on which he grew a few vegetables and raised a cow and few chickens. His job was safe as long as he kept his health. In old age, or during sickness, if he had nothing laid by, his guild helped him.

He was socially despised. People made fun of the tailor. He had to live in certain parts of the town. His wife had to wear certain kinds of clothes—she could not wear silk, for example, no matter whether she could afford it or not. In some countries he had to go to church, even when he would rather have stayed at home. He had no political rights. But much as all this might have hurt his feelings—much as he might consider himself oppressed and badly treated—he always had his trade. He could always be sure of a living.

Then a change came over the world. That change ripped every worker, first in England, later in other countries, up by the roots. That change brought things the world had never seen. It created conditions that the independent worker of those days had never dreamed of. This change we call the "Industrial Revolution." It is the greatest change that the world has even seen. It did not pass the tailor by. He too was hit by the change. His life too was affected.

(To be continued.)

At The Waterfront

By HARRY LANG

THE FUNERAL

That was Sunday a week ago. The port workers on strike assembled at the Hudson piers to pay final respects to a brother of theirs. A striking fireman on one of the ships was killed two days before by a strikebreaker, and the thousands of seamen, dock workers, engineers, sailors and stokers, came to his funeral.

It was rather an early hour. The customary Sunday quiet at the northern end of New York seemed even quieter on that Sunday morning. The eternal week-day rush and everlasting tumult which stirs the air along the shore front of the Hudson and which comes to a standstill on Sunday, appeared to have entirely died out. The river rippled lightly, as if in subdued mourning, and the huge towers of finance and industry, the great skyscrapers, looked like disproportionately tall tombstones raised in memory of the countless stormy lives beneath them that have passed away.

Thousands of silent human beings had gathered at the piers, all with heads bent low and stepping noiselessly in the stillness of that Sunday morning. The Hudson, the adjacent streets and the colossal buildings, as if falling in with the spirit of these sad thousands, were sunk in heavy meditation, perhaps, in a silent, niter protest.

The commander of the fallen strikers, preceded by the bears carried with a black cloth, began their march. In the front ranks some one lifted a black banner with an inscription in silvery white letters: "The Owners of the Earth would not let us Live!" The banner flapped over the heads of the marchers, angrily fighting back the ripples of wind which, from time to time, wafted over from midriver. The silvery letters of the inscription, which in the bright morning sun appeared sharp and keen, were piercing the quiet of the dead streets: "The Owners of the Earth won't let us Live!" These lines were challenging the air, as thousands of feet were beating rhythm upon the hard pavement of the dead streets of the water front.

Suddenly a ship came to anchor at the shore and sent out a hovering shrill, full of pain and anger. Did the ship that came to stop recall the days when this fallen fireman had aided her in cutting the stormy waves of the coast? Its draw-out and shrill tolling fell upon the Hudson and sent an echo through the dumb and lifeless buildings along the water front, rolling far and wide to the lower tip of the city.

Chimes of a nameless, poor man's chapel in the neighborhood were heard in the distance. "A human life has come to an end," the chimes were weeping.

"The Owners of the Earth would not let us Live," the silvery white words on the black banner replied.

II

A SHIP ON FIRE

It is night. The skies are heavily laden, while here and there small, slow-moving gray little clouds are wandering across the horizon. The New York shore is wrapt in a thick darkness. A lone light from a tall, black water front building stares like an open eye of a huge, lifeless body. The Hudson has become a part of the stark blackness of the night, and even the small, occasional lights from the night tugs wink uncertainly and unfriendly. It is night upon the Hudson.

Of a sudden, a blaze bursts out on the river. Tomorrow the owners will say that it is the handiwork of the strikers. The strikers will retaliate, and say that the ship was destroyed because the strikebreakers were negligent and careless. But the vessel is a-burning, and coils of smoke and snakes of flame shoot out in all directions enveloping it in a sheet of fire. The tongues of flame are fighting a fash battle with the mountains of smoke. For a moment the Hudson becomes wonderfully bright from the reflex of the flames that have mastered the smoke for the while. Then the smoke gains upper hand and the darkness of the river grows even more augmented. Amidst the thickness of the smoke and the unending arriere of the

The Open-Shoppers Reasoning

(From the California "Labor Clarion")

While most of those who talk about the open shop really mean to favor the shop closed to the organized worker, now and then one comes upon a person who honestly believes in a genuine open shop, where organized and unorganized work together. It is true, of course, that such persons are without any great amount of experience in the modern industrial world, else they would not entertain the delusion that such an establishment could long remain an open shop. Lincoln's statement that the government of the United States could not long endure half slave and half free is just as applicable to industrial establishments as to governments. In the end they must become one or the other, union shops or non-union shops. The history of our industrial development amply proves this contention.

One of the favorite questions of the open shop advocate is: "Must a man pay dues to work?" The union man answers: "In order to work with me he must pay dues. It is not fair that I should pay a part of my earnings in the shape of dues to better working conditions and bring about reasonable pay, while another man is permitted to take advantage of these improve-

ments without contributing anything toward bringing them about."

The questioner would be entirely logical were he to ask: "Must a man pay taxes in order to live?" The civilized human who believes in government because of the benefits it brings to society as a whole would reply: "To live with me a man must pay taxes. It would not be fair to permit a man to enjoy all the benefits of a flowing stream without contributing anything toward bearing its burdens."

There may be some employers who will contend that the unions are of no value to the worker, and in fact, are a detriment to him, but there are also men, known as anarchists, who set up the same contention against governments. Sane and honest men, however, will not be influenced by such arguments, either in the one case or the other, because there is nothing in them to appeal to reason, and the great mass of civilized humans are reasoning beings.

The man who advances the opinion that the open shop would be a good thing for society under modern wage-making conditions is just as surely insane as is the fellow who insists that mankind would be better off without the influences and powers of government. This, it seems to us, is the logic of the situation. The trade unionist can just as surely justify the position he takes with reference to the union shop as can the citizen the stand he assumes with regard to government.

flames, crackling and noises were heard. Something has fallen with a thud; something has gone down to the bottom in the silence of the night!

"A ship on fire!" a voice near the shore is heard, shouting. Intense whistling of a sudden begins from all boats. The galloping of the mounted police and the knocking of police clubs on the pavement follow quickly.

"A ship on fire!" The night population of the waterfront is rushing from all directions to the pier.

"The ship is a goner," one remarks. The flames from the boat are rising high to the skies that overhang the Hudson. The volumes of smoke have enveloped everything within sight. The river is on fire, and it seems as if it is suffocating under this thick cover of darkness, smoke and flame.

"A ship is on fire! No, perhaps it is something more serious than that." There is something in our whole order that is crumbling, that is on fire, a thought flashes through my mind.

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

CREDIT TO ALL WHOM CREDIT IS DUE

Our International has scored a splendid success. The victory is even greater for the fact that it was a bloodless contest, a contest without resort to force, a contest in which tact, patience and reasoning have been the principal factors.

For ourselves, we never, from the first hour of the conferences, doubted that strife was wholly unnecessary, and, under the circumstances, entirely senseless in this controversy. The arguments advanced by the opposing side, their tone, and the indelible impression of President Schlesinger's statement at the very first conference, have led us to believe from the outset that only a gross blunder on either side could cause a permanent rupture of the peaceful negotiations.

Nevertheless, from time to time, we must admit, certain nervousness did overtake us, particularly when, after the first two conferences, negotiations had to be called off for a time. The general industrial situation in the country was a strong factor conducive to uneasiness, coupled with the daily accounts of wage cuts in every industry. Under our very eyes the Amalgamated strike has ended after a 26-weeks' conflict in a wage reduction of 15 per cent. and a 15% increase of production. It was, therefore, reasonable to expect that our cloak manufacturers might not, in view of these facts, abandon their belligerent attitude and would insist upon their original demands. When on Friday last the great glad news was finally announced that the Union had agreed with the manufacturers that all trade conditions and scales remain as heretofore for the next five months, our hearts, indeed, were filled with joy. And this feeling of sincere gratification was echoed among the countless thousands of the membership of our International and our friends in the labor movement from coast to coast.

To whom, then, is credit due for this truly remarkable achievement?

First of all, of course, it is the great Cloakmakers' Union that deserves the lion's share of felicitation. Had the employers in the cloak industry known of a single vulnerable spot in the workers' organization, they could not have resisted the temptation of attacking it. Our cloak manufacturers, however, have acted as real intelligent men upon the true and logical assumption that notwithstanding the many advantages on their side, they could not wage a successful battle against the Union. Secondly, full measure of credit is due to the able leadership of the union, and above all, to its President, Brother Schlesinger. His tact, invincible firmness and abundant patience have impressed the employers with the fact that they cannot expect any concessions from the workers in this controversy. It must be kept in mind that these conferences have not dropped upon our heads like a bolt from the clear sky. A tremendous amount of preliminary work had to be done before these negotiations were begun, and this advance work was consummated almost entirely by President Schlesinger. Miracles do not happen nowadays, and those who are inclined to wonder how it occurred that after their warring proclamations, our cloak manufacturers have begun to see facts in the light of moderation and reason, can be assured that this was the result of incessant and persistent missionary work which preceded the conferences and which changed the entire aspect of the situation.

And again, full credit is due—and we give it wholeheartedly—to the leadership of the Protective Association. Upon less intelligent employers our arguments, no matter how convincing, would have had little effect. It is, indeed, a creditable fact that regardless of tempting circumstances these men have perceived that the wisest and best course would be to agree with the union and to adopt the logical and just method of averting a conflict in the industry. Their attitude at this particular moment has revealed the cloak manufacturers as standing head and shoulder above the ordinary employers in our industries in their ability to appraise correctly their own true interests and to judge humanely the general interests of the industry. The popularity which they have gained among their workers through this act will not cause them regrets in the future. Our union men and women know how to appreciate the immensely difficult and splendid work achieved by their own leaders and the very human and liberal attitude of their employers.

It is, perhaps, superfluous to explain to our readers the importance of the results of these conferences. Suffice it to say that there are very few industries in this country today in which wages have not been cut more or less, work hours lengthened and the work system changed during the past year. We likewise believe that here is not a cloakmaker who does not know that even though, according to the agreement, all scales and standards remain as before, our workers have in fact received somewhat of an increase in their earnings. For, while not all commodities have come down a price, the cost of living has been reduced to an extent during the past twelve months. And if our workers will earn during the coming season as much as they have earned during that similar

period a year ago, they will be the gainers to that extent. This is a concrete and substantial gain, and therein lies the true meaning of the cheerful news of last Friday. Of course, our manufacturers rightly expect that our workers will appreciate this fact fully. The question arises, how can this recognition be best expressed?

The agreement meets this point as follows: Upon the proposal of our own committee it was decided to appoint a committee of six, three from each side, whose task it shall be to study all important facts and available data in our industry and upon the basis of these investigations to present plans for future cooperation between the Union and the Protective Association after the five months of "truce" will have elapsed. This is the principal object of this joint commission. In addition, it will also be charged with the duty of investigating cases of underproduction upon complaints of the part of employers, and of passing judgment upon such complaints. It is our sincere hope that the recognition of our workers will find expression in the fact that this newly created commission will not have to waste its efforts as far as its second function is concerned; that as judges in cases of underproduction they will always find an empty calendar and that such cases will not occur in the cloak industry of New York.

We do not want to be misunderstood, of course, as advocating a system of task and over-intensified work such as prevailed in the good old days of piece work. This our workers cannot and should not be expected to do. They must not work beyond their strength, and we can hardly believe that our employers would expect them to do that. We, however, believe that our workers will not work below their normal strength, and that they will not endeavor to give less than a fair return in accordance with what they are in reason expected to give. The employers have asserted that there were in the past such workers who have not produced as much as they were expected to, according to their ability. This, we hope, will not happen in the future. The Union has given its pledge of honor to the employers for its thousands of members, that there will be no more "under-production" or what is called "soldiering on the job" in our industry. Our members will surely sustain this pledge of the union and will increase thereby its influence and strength in the future.

The achievements in the cloak industry will pave the way for all our industries in every other city in the land. It was not only an accomplishment for the New York cloakmakers, but for our membership in general. We may justly reiterate the sentence with which we have begun this statement: Our International has won one of the most notable victories in its history. The victory is even greater for the fact that it was a bloodless contest, a contest without resort to force and brutality, a contest in which tact, patience and reasoning have been the principal factors.

A WORD TO THE A. F. OF L. CONVENTION

No matter what one may think of the A. F. of L., one must admit that the A. F. of L. represents the only labor movement we have in America. Because of that alone, its annual convention is of the greatest significance to every friend and foe of the Federation. The A. F. of L. is too powerful for anyone to ignore it, and those who disagree with it cannot point even to a vestige of a new movement that would be even likely to take its place.

The truth is that the American labor movement did not fall plump into our midst from the blue skies. It isn't the result of the good or evil will of this or that particular leader. It is the result of many and many circumstances, and, perhaps, because of that it cannot be anything else but what it is. A true friend of the labor movement must not, therefore, endeavor to injure or wish it ill, even if he could. Labor's sincere friends must apply all their energies to make it better, more wholesome, more militant and class conscious.

We disagree with many and many dogmas of Lemine's gospel. We agree with him, however, on one point: An intelligent worker must not remain without the labor movement, grumbling and criticizing, but must stay within it and use his brains, tact and energy to eradicate what is wrong and false in its philosophy and practice. Our attitude to the A. F. of L. even though we have never failed to see its shortcomings and failings, at least, as well as its so-called "critics" have, has always been an attitude of friendliness and fraternity. The leaders of the A. F. of L. were never "fakers" and "swindlers" to us because we could not agree with them. Such an attitude of animosity to the only labor movement in America we always regarded as detrimental and unjust in the extreme.

Of course, we frequently disagree with the A. F. of L., but we do it not in a spirit of enmity, but actuated by the sole desire and thought to see the American labor movement progress and make headway. And unless we are totally in the wrong, our labor movement is forging steadily ahead, slowly perhaps, not as fast as we want it to, but surely, nevertheless.

We would hope, therefore, that the present Convention, which begins next Monday, June 13th, in Denver, will register a substantial forward movement made by the American Federation of Labor during the past year. The voice of protest and combat against the unbridled reaction and the capitalistic conspiracy to break down the labor movement in America will surely be heard louder than ever at this convention. Judging by the spirit of the speeches made by President Compers during the last year, and his statements to the Executive Council, we may expect that this convention will not rest contented with hackneyed phrases of protest; but will decide to achieve something tangible and concrete in counter-attacking against the dark schemes of capital for the subjugation of the workers.

Above all, we hope that this convention will adopt a firm attitude against Brindellism, which has found a nest in many A. F. of L. unions. We have stated and reiterated our opinion in these columns that it was a matter of eternal shame for the labor movement to have housed a Brindell within its ivorons and that a judge and jury were required to remove this pest from the body of the

AT THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD

By S. YANOFSKY

III

A goodly part of the proceedings of the meeting were devoted to the discussion of the New York cloak situation, which has now become a matter of past history, after the settlement of the controversy in that industry. We can only mention in connection with that situation, that a special committee of the Joint Board of the New York Cloakmakers' Union, consisting of Bros. L. Feinberg, L. Finkelsky, L. Langer and J. Breslau, came to St. Louis to present the problems involved in the New York cloak dispute to the members of the Board.

The G. E. B. declared itself in full accord with the plan of action undertaken and carried out by the Conference Committee of the Union during these negotiations, and expressed its full confidence to President Schlesinger, empowering him to do all he might deem necessary in going on with these negotiations.

The results have proven clearly that the G. E. B. had made no error in vesting our conference committee and its chairman, Bro. Schlesinger, with full authority and trust. As a matter of fact, these discussions did not consume too much time. Everything connected with the cloak controversy was so concrete and clear that it could be argued about but one decision, and that is, a determined attitude and a will to win.

The situation in the Waist and Dressmakers Locals in New York City took up a good deal more time. Readers of "Justice" are quite familiar with that problem, as it was discussed in these columns more than once. All the members of the Board were thoroughly acquainted with every side and feature of the problem and all agreed that there exists in the waist and dress industry a small, though vociferous element, which constitutes a menace to the union. There was, however, a difference of opinion among the members of the Board as to what should be the best means of combating this element and of saving these locals from destruction.

Some were of the opinion that these union-smashers who disturb meetings, create scandal, and scatter

defaming and bring handbills against the officers of the union (such as was the case in the distribution of handbills on the day before the elections in Local No. 22 were to take place), that these persons "must be cast out of the union without loss of time. Others believe that such a drastic measure would hardly help the situation. They advanced the argument that the malady afflicting Locals 22 and 25, affects to a greater or lesser extent the entire labor movement. The expulsion of a handful of men or girls would give them a halo of martyrdom and would pave the ground for other would-be martyrs. Still others believe that it would be perhaps best for the International to expel both these locals and leave them to drift for themselves. This opinion was fortified by the following motives: The Waist and Dressmakers' Unions has had times rather nice and contented during the last few years. Whenever an attack was leveled against these locals they ran to the International and appealed to its officers to make things comfortable and easy for them. The membership of these locals has become accustomed to regard this as a matter of course, in the belief that so it must be and not otherwise. That is why they have been wasting their time at meetings in discussing almost every question on the face of the earth, in indulging in all sorts of fantasies, except engage in practical union activities. They must be taught a lesson now. It would be a waste of the precious minutes of daily life. If these locals would be handed over to that coterie of phrasemongers and "revolution-makers," the membership would quickly come to the realization how truly incapable these fellows are and would quickly awaken to the cold facts confronting them.

According to this opinion, within a short time, the membership of these locals would realize the importance of the International for their every-day existence and welfare. Today, thanks to the incessant campaign of calumny and mudslinging, they regard the International as an enemy, as one who would rise them against their will, and no matter what the International does for them during the past few years or might do for them, it is never appreciated. Only an attack upon their living standards and conditions from within the shop would sober up the membership to the extreme importance of being affiliated with the Inter-

national and of remaining part and parcel of the organized labor movement.

Nevertheless, regardless of the strength of this argument, it did not appeal to most of the members of the G. E. B. It was admitted that such an occasion might perhaps yield desired results. It nevertheless harbored a great menace, namely, that the locals themselves might become destroyed in the course of this operation. The shops may be filled up with non-union workers and the general apathy and lack of interest might become intensified. It would be unpardonable to permit a vicerection of this sort upon the living body of the organization.

As a result of all these discussions, which consumed two sittings of the Board, it was decided to approve fully the action of the special election committee of the International, appointed to supervise the voting in Locals 22 and 25, and to entrust it with full authority to go on in the same direction until Local 22 will have elected its officers upon an honest and democratic basis.

It was also the consensus of the Board that the International is not wanting in any particular "ness" to the union. Each union member has a right to his or her convictions and are entitled to agitate for their principles among their fellow workers. The International stands firmly for the right of every member to their opinions with regard to religious, political and social questions. It would be a mistake to think that the leaders of the International would persecute anyone on account of one's opinion or convictions. The International demands only one thing: That the Union as such should devote its activities, first of all, to the interests of the workers; to the necessary organization plans and activities; to the continuous strengthening and solidifying of its forces. It insists, therefore, that the meetings of the Union be conducted in an orderly way and brands all those who disrupt the discussion of union problems and break up orderly meetings of the union as enemies of the organization who betray its interests.

The G. E. B., through its decision at the St. Louis meeting, appeals to the membership of these two locals to take a sincere interest in the affairs of the union, to perceive the danger in which their locals, the defenders of their living interests, find themselves today. They must cast off their apathy and not per-

mit a few tumult makers to destroy their power of resistance.

The election for an executive board in Local 25 has taken place already. It is to be hoped that these elected men and women are composed of the best material within the organization. Very soon the election for an executive board in Local 22 will take place, and if its large membership will participate in it as a proper set of men and women are elected, it is to be hoped that the unselfish and sincere motives which have guided the G. E. B. in its decision at St. Louis, will be fully justified and vindicated.

The report of Vice-President Fania M. Cohn on the matter of labor education brought forth a lively debate. All were, of course, agreed that labor education is a very important matter. The question only was about the kind of education the workers of our union should receive. A doubt was expressed by some about the true value of the educational work conducted heretofore by the International. It appeared to those who doubted that the results did not justify the presumption that the students of the various classes have become more intelligent union members through their educational efforts.

Vice-President Miss Cohn, the Secretary of the Educational Department, upon whom a great deal of the burden and responsibility for educational work rests, defended very strongly the educational work of our organization. While no concrete results could be pointed out, she stated the inevitable effect of this educational work must be of great use to the union. Of course, it is difficult to point out concretely, when dealing with such an abstract subject as education, how much the Union has gained through the maintenance of these classes. It is altogether different in case of economies on the economic field. Here gains or losses can be easily calculated.

The debate attracted the general interest of the members, but as it was so long and the Board did not want to work overtime on this particular subject, the educational report was generally fully approved of.

This, however, does not completely the recital of the activities of the International during this period. It must be mentioned again that the International had decided, several months ago to build a hall of its own, that it has bought a house and

(Continued on page 7)

organized building trades workers of New York City. The action of the Building Trades Department of the Federation, in silencing the attempt of the New York Central Trades and Labor Council to investigate the Building Trades Council of New York, was a travesty upon the principle of labor autonomy. After all, we hope that this entire painful and unsavory situation will receive a thorough airing at the Convention, and that ways and means will be found to carry out this much needed investigation, "autonomy" and such other specious excuses to the contrary notwithstanding.

As in former years, our International will be represented at the convention by six delegates: Benjamin Schlesinger, Louis Langer, Saul Metz, Harry Berlin, Mary Goff and Luigi Antonini. At the time of this writing, they are on their way to Denver. Like at previous conventions, they will introduce a number of resolutions permeated with the new spirit, the advance spirit of the labor movement. We hope that among these resolutions they will not fail to introduce one relating to Brindellam in the Building Trades Council of New York and another with reference to trade relations between this country and Russia. We see no reason why the convention of the A. F. of L. should not appoint a committee to go to Russia and investigate conditions at first hand. It is quite likely that the present Russian Government may refuse to admit such "undesirable" visitors. But that would not be the fault of the A. F. of L.

THE NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD OF LOCAL NO. 25

We were present last Friday night at the installation of the new Executive Board of Local No. 25. The impression we gained on that evening was that the election was a thoroughgoing success.

It was easily discernible that men and women with firm convictions imbued with lofty ideals, though not fanatics, are to sit on the new Executive Board of the Waistmakers' Union. They impressed us as persons who are ready to listen to opinions other than their own, and whose minds are open to conviction.

This impression we have obtained from the reception accorded on that evening to the speeches delivered by President Schlesinger, Secretary Baroff and Brothers Halpern, Berlin, Mackoff and the writer of these lines. Indeed, these speeches were listened to not only with absorbing attention, but from the frequent applause that greeted them we had reason to judge that they were very welcome. Mind you, the speeches were of the kind that could have provoked a degree of resentment, as the speakers did not mince words in appraising the recent events in the local and the damage which the local has suffered through these occurrences.

We are inclined to hope for the best. And in the strength of this hope we congratulate Local No. 25 in all sincerity with its new Executive Board. We would that the incoming Executive may, at the end of the year, term of its incumbency, offer, when it is ready to deliver the leadership of the union into the hands of a succeeding board, be able to conscientiously state that it has done all in its power to bring a revival of strength and a renewal of activity within Local No. 25. We wish to repeat the concluding words of President Schlesinger's speech on that evening:

"If the new Executive Board of Local No. 25 will proceed along the lines that it marked out for itself, every ounce of strength that the International can muster will be given to it generously in this highly deserving and constructive task."

Educational Comment and Notes

WHAT SHALL WE HAVE NEXT SEASON?

During the summer vacation, when our members think of woods, lakes and picnics, the Educational Department is busy preparing the work for next season, so that when the summer is over and our people are ready for serious intellectual work, the classes, teachers and courses will be all ready for them.

The plans are being completed now and detailed announcements will be soon published. Our students are promised some interesting work. Perhaps the most important and significant of all will be the course in the Workers' University on the subject of Trade Unionism. This course will be given by Dr. Leo Wolman whose class attracted so many students last year. In this course our members will have an opportunity of studying the organization and methods employed by the workers not only of their own industry, but of the other basic industrial activities of our country. An interesting feature of this course will be that specialists in industrial fields will address the class at various times. Their practical knowledge of the subject will supplement the theoretical study of the class. In all, it is expected that those of our students who are anxious to understand thoroughly the workings of industrial organizations in America will be attracted to this course in large numbers.

It is planned to give the same course in Yiddish in various parts of the city for the benefit of those of our members who cannot attend the Workers' University.

Other courses will be described in the following issues of "Justice" very soon.

OUR MEMBERS TO HAVE ANOTHER OUTING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 28

The outing arranged by the Students' Council of our Workers' University for Sunday, June 28, was a great success. Scores of our members met early in the morning at South Ferry, from where they journeyed to Silver Lake, Staten Island, N. Y., one of the most picturesque spots in this part of the country. After arriving at the lake, our members remained below the hill, while a scouting party went in search of a delightful spot in which to spend the day. The party then climbed the steep hill from the top of which they could see a beautiful panorama of the country for miles around.

They built a fire and baked potatoes and all ate lunch together. Jolly games and sports were played.

The day was spent so delightfully that before going home in the evening all these present unanimously decided to have such outings every two weeks throughout the summer. The following committee was appointed to take charge of the arrangements:

Henry Pollack, Local 9; Anna Gydakovsky, Local 11; S. Garber, Local 2; Anna Pasachowitz, Local 22; Tillie Chad, Local 90; S. Warrant, Local 25; Rose Gill, Local 25; Fannie Farber, Local 15; Anna Amelin, Local 62; and Anna Altshuler, Local 41.

The next outing will be held on Sunday, June 28. Members are requested to look for further details in the next issue of the "Justice," "Gerechtigkeit, the New York Call" and the "Forwards."

Those present also decided to spend the Fourth of July at Unity House.

The Opening of Our Summer Unity Home

The summer is with us. We find ourselves stopping work now and then and dreaming of cool, green spots in the mountains, fields, meadows and seashores. We want a real vacation in some beautiful spot where nature has been unspoiled by man.

But under our present system not all can spend the summer resting, playing, rowing, ransing—playing in the bosom of nature. Only a comparatively small number of men and women are fortunate enough to be able to do this. The workers are denied these opportunities as well as many others.

But we have learned that in spite of the obstacles which the present economic system has placed in our path, we can achieve a great many of the things in life by working together—by practicing the spirit of cooperation. We have also learned that it is through our Union which represents us collectively, that we can secure not only higher wages, shorter working hours, better working conditions, but also cheaper food, cheaper homes, better education, more recreation, more art and beauty. This is the fundamental idea underlying the educational movement of the International and of our Unity Homes.

Three of our local unions own their summer Unity Homes. The splendid Unity House of the Waist and Dressmakers of New York, the summer resort of the Waist and Dressmakers of Philadelphia, and finally the summer home of the Italian Dress and Waistmakers' Union of New York are illustrations of

what can be accomplished when we get together, pool our efforts, and by combined enterprise decide to satisfy some of our desires.

The opening of Unity House in Forest Park, Pa., on June 17, will be a striking event in the activities of our organization. On this occasion friends and leaders in the Labor Movement from New York and elsewhere, together with hundreds of our active members come out to wish success to Unity House. The committee has made arrangements to celebrate the third year of the existence of Unity Village, and special significance will mark the opening this season on June 17.

Unity Village has already become a part of the life of our members and they know that this is the place where they can meet their friends and fellow workers as well as their teachers and spend a few days in pleasant companionship.

This is significant not only because of the opportunities it offers to our workers to enjoy some of the beautiful things of life in an institution owned and controlled by themselves, but also because it furnishes a splendid illustration of what the results of education should be.

The people who are not taught the value of high ideals and who are not inspired with the desire to improve conditions, seldom, if ever, participate in a movement to better things. The value of an educational movement lies in stimulating such people to want to live under better surroundings.

AN UNDELIVERED SPEECH

By FANNIA M. COHN

I was observing the hundreds of young men and women who filled the auditorium of the Waistmakers' Unity Center, at a "Get together" of students, teachers and their friends. They were all seated comfortably, looking pleased and listening to a musical program. I was wondering who they were. I asked many of the active members of the Union whether these were the people who participate actively in the affairs of the Union, come to meetings, express opinions on important questions, and help to solve the problems of their organization. But none of my acquaintances could tell me who they were. They assured me that they knew very few of them even by sight.

Indeed, I was wondering who they were! Did they belong to the passive section of the "citizenship" of the Dress and Waistmakers' Union, the element that is so much in evidence in every community, those who never participate in the economic, political and social life of their group?

I looked into the faces of these young men and women and said silently to them:

"Who are you? It is true that you are children of the working class; but the working class is composed of so many groups. You hold so many conflicting ideas and opinions, and although you all agree on the ultimate aims of the labor movement, you suggest so many different means to achieve it. And each of your groups contends that it speaks for the majority of the membership.

While looking into their faces, I questioned those who stood and brothers of ours, "which group is speaking for you and which is not. Who is voicing your sentiments and expressing your ideas?"

I felt that if I were to speak to them at that time, I would tell them that if they belong to the passive group, they commit a great wrong by not participating in the life of their organization, and not taking up a share of the responsibility which rests upon each and every one of them. I would tell them how much they lose by neglecting the opportunities which active participation in the Union offers to the workers, I would tell them that it is only through active participation in the Union and through the effort to solve problems and answer questions, that the worker can develop his personality and character. I would also tell them how their silence and passivity is sometimes misinterpreted and misused by many who pretend to speak for them, and that they will suffer with the rest for any mistakes made by their self-appointed spokesmen.

I had a desire to tell those members of the Union who possess energy, idealism and a desire to serve the labor movement, that they cannot do a greater service than to stir up this inactive and passive citizenship of the

Union to realize their duty and responsibility, and to appreciate the satisfaction and joy which such activities offer.

We all know how important is the work of organizing workers into trade unions and of awakening a class consciousness. Is it of less importance that these workers should be enlightened, that a desire for fellowship be awakened in them, and that a genuine, warm interest be created in them for their own organization and for the labor movement?

Do these members of ours who are so eager to accomplish something realize the danger of permitting only a small minority of the rank and file to be active and to speak for the silent membership, no matter how honest and sincere such a minority may be? For many a time it is not only the honest and sincere minority or a group that speaks, but dishonest and insincere persons who may arrogantly declare themselves the spokesmen for the silent membership.

I looked into the contented faces of the hundreds in the audience, and saw their eyes gleam with pleasure and enthusiasm when the views of the Unity House were shown on the screen. Our good comrades and sister, Jennie Matras, stood with hand outstretched, pointing proudly to the pictures, and exclaimed: "This is our charming lake at Forest Park, with its swimming docks and boats. These are the billiard rooms and bowling alleys, tennis courts, baseball grounds. There is the main building with its twelve adjoining cottages, surrounded by gardens of flowers and forests of trees. All this belongs to more to the rich, but to us—the 30,000 members of the Dress and Waistmakers' Union."

I wonder whether the people who filled every seat and available standing room, realized that all this was accomplished only through the collective power of their organization and with the assistance of their International Union. Those who went up afterwards to the gymnasium, where they watched a drill of the members conducted by the physical training teacher of the Unity Center, realized that the International Union and their local union were also concerned in preserving their health and developing their bodies.

I want to believe that before the evening was over, our members, who enjoyed watching the Rand School Dancers, who enjoyed the refreshments served by their fellow-workers, and who afterwards joined in social dancing, all realized what their organization can offer for their economic, intellectual and spiritual well-being. I want to believe that they all resolved to devote their energy, ability and intelligence to the interests of their organization in order that it might become an example and inspiration to the entire labor movement.

The workers in our organization are being continually told that as human beings they are entitled to a full, rich and happy life. This means better homes, and wider opportunities for recreation and amusement.

The chief test of civilization is not as a great many people think the quantity of available wealth and material accomplishments. A civilized person differs from the savage and ignorant, mainly in the way in which he employs his leisure time. That after all, the test of true progress. Crude, unrefined and vulgar recreation is the work of one class of persons. On the other hand, such institutions as the Unity House distinguish the people whose ideals are on a higher plane.

Perhaps in time there will be other proofs that our educational activities have real value. Perhaps very soon, all of our members will rest disatisfied unless they live in beautiful homes, in beautiful sections of the city, enjoying the beauties of nature and art and spending all their leisure in beautiful activities. This is bound to come. All that is necessary is continued raising of the ideals of the workers through our educational activities. Once these ideals are firmly planted in their minds, the workers will determine sooner or later to carry them out into actual realization.

The Unity houses are a beginning. There should be no limit to what will follow.

Labor The World Over

WHY IS BREAD STILL SO HIGH?

"We would like to know," says the All-American Co-operative Commission, in its press bulletin, "why bread still sells at war prices in most of the cities of the country although wheat has fallen to one-half its last year's price, so that the wheat in a pound loaf of bread now costs but 2.3 cents.

"We would like to know why coal that sells for \$2.50 a ton at the mine costs us \$13.15 by the time we coax it into our cellar. Of course, we do not suspect that the mine owners are still making their 200 to 2,000 per cent. war profits.

"We would like to know where the difference goes between the \$1.16 that the farmer gets for a whole beef hide and the \$5 to \$10 we have to pay for a pair of shoes. This enormous discrepancy cannot be attributed to labor costs. According to the figures submitted to a government commission, the profits of the shoe industry are approximately five times the total labor cost and one-third the total price of shoes. In order to maintain high prices, some shoe factories are now shutting down because of 'over-production,' although a recent Massachusetts investigation reveals that thousands of shoe factory employees in that state are themselves in need of shoes.

"There are a lot of things we would like to know, but we do not suppose we ever shall know them until the workers of farm and mine and rail and factory who produce and transport the nation's wealth, cooperate to demand that abolition of monopoly privileges and to secure the distribution of the fruits of industry to those who labor to create them."

GOVERNMENT WAGES LOW

The government pays \$50, \$60, \$70 and \$83 a month to 50,000 of its employees, according to witnesses who urged the House labor committee to favor the Nolan minimum wage bill.

The witnesses said large numbers of government positions are vacant because of low wages; that the high turnover in the government service; due to low wages, costs millions of dollars annually, and that these low-wage employees are forced to seek outside work to eke out a living.

The Nolan bill provides for a minimum of \$3 a day or \$1,080 a year for all full-time government employees. It has been twice approved by the senate, but has been defeated in the house.

THIS EMPLOYER WAS SURPRISED

"It is a surprising fact that opposition to reduction in wages in the building trades is found only among workers who form part of organized labor."

The above discovery has been made by E. D. Flannery, chairman of a committee of employers who are conducting a fight against carpenters who have been locked out because they refuse to accept wage reductions without a voice in the proceedings.

It might be stated that Mr. Flannery's discovery is the real reason why certain employers insist on the anti-union shop.

SWISS RESIST WAGE CUTS

The Swiss Trade Union Commission has made this declaration against wage reductions:

"The Swiss Trade Union Commission contests the right of the employ-

ers and their organizations to reduce the wages of workers under the pretext of lowering the cost of living, while they themselves are largely responsible for the inflation of prices as long as they refuse to consent to a reduction of their profits. It is notorious that at the present time enormous profits are being made in commerce and industry."

HOW PACKERS GOUGE

New Chicago meat packers have forced farmers' prices down to pre-war levels while upholding their own prices, was shown by Congressman McLaughlin of Nebraska, who quoted from the National Provisioner, published by the meat packers.

In the second week in April, 1921, the average price of cattle on hoof in the Chicago market had fallen to \$8.25 a hundred. This is the same price at which they sold the first week in February, 1914, the average price was \$9.30.

"So live cattle," said Congressman McLaughlin, "may be said to have returned to the prewar level."

Against these figures are presented the meat packers' wholesale prices which show an aggregate increase of 29 1/2 per cent. for carcass beef in Chicago.

The wholesale price of whole dressed hogs advanced 26.6 per cent. during the same period, while large increases are recorded in every product of beef and pork.

BAD CONDITIONS SHOWN

The United States child labor bureau says the administration of the first federal child labor law has shown the vicious circle of child labor, illiteracy, body feebleness and poverty. In five states it was found that many of the children were underweight when examined by a physician. They had been working in the mills for several years. Some gained weight when taken out of the mill and put on a better diet. With others it was difficult to reach even the low standard called for by the physical requirements. Many parents were reported unable to pay for medical attention, and in most cases no public clinics were available to lend assistance.

One-fifth of the children in the five states left school when they were in the fourth grade; almost one-tenth of them had never attended school or had not gone beyond the first grade, and only one twenty-fifth had attended the eighth or a higher grade. Their educational equipment was even more limited than the grade which they last attended would indicate.

One-fourth of the children would be refused certificates if ability to write their names legibly had been a requirement.

ITALIAN WAR PROFITS ARE BEING CONFISCATED

No other nation has ventured to confiscate all war profits. But Premier Giolitti, faced with the problem of an enormous deficit, announced that those who had profited by the war must pay for the war. The new law provides that before assessing the war profits the following deductions are to be made: Ordinary income, based on the average for 1913 and 1914, but in no case less than 8 per cent. of the capital invested; all taxes and super-taxes paid on profits and all other payments to state, provincial and municipal authorities;

expenses incurred in incorporating; income tax paid on interest due to stock and bondholders and on salaries of employees; amounts due on social insurance set aside for welfare among employees or paid out of net income for charitable work, besides a general exemption of 20,000 lire. A single return is to be made for the period August 1, 1914, to June 30, 1920, and payment is to be made in bi-monthly instalments.

What sum will be realized from this extraordinary tax it is, of course, impossible to guess, but legislation of this type explains to a great extent the rapid rise in the value of Italian money.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Continued from page 5)

It is about to begin its reconstruction. It is intended to convert this old place into a real labor temple, a monument to the International in New York City, as Secretary Baroff expressed himself. It is, of course, a very important undertaking and will require a big outlay of money before it can be fully accomplished.

We must add to it the organization work undertaken by the International in New York City and in out-of-town territory. It is true the report about this particular work was far from satisfactory. A lot of energy and money was expended in this direction without any gratifying results. This, however, cannot be ascribed to lack of initiative or energy on the part of our organizers. All that could be done under the circumstances was done. Yet it ap-

pears that the industrial conditions of this period are not favorable to a wide organization campaign in the smaller towns and the G. E. R. has therefore decided, much to its own dislike, to slow down for the time being its organizing work in this particular direction. At the same time it was decided to undertake strenuous organization work in New York City proper, where conditions are not as unfavorable as in the smaller towns. According to reports, there are tens of thousands of workers in New York City in our industries who are not yet organized. These work under very inferior conditions and it is the opinion of the G. E. R. that a strenuous organization effort must be launched right here in New York City.

In order to carry out this work with the best chances of success, it was decided that First Vice-President Morris Sigman was appointed as General Organizer in charge of the New York territory. It is to be expected that he will pursue his work with the same ability and success that he has carried out every other undertaking in connection with our International.



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The Week's News in Cutters Union Local 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN

The situation in the cloak and suit industry has been "ironed" out at a number of conferences held between committees representing the Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Protective Association and the union.

According to the terms of this pact, there will be no lengthening of working hours, nor a reduction in the pay of the workers in the trade. As to the question of the right of the manufacturers to discharge, a joint commission was created, which will pass on each and every case on its merits, as it presents itself. This same joint commission will also settle all complaints of non-productivity, as well as all other grievances.

Of course, we need not tell our members that the cry of non-productivity against the workers, raised by certain manufacturers' associations in different industries, was simply a false alarm. In an industry comprising 55,000 workers, there may be, occasionally, a few individuals who will take advantage of the week-work system, to "lay down" on the job, but there are so few of them that they do not justify a general accusation. As a matter of fact, we, the members of the Cutters' Union, have always worked week-work, and there have hardly been any complaints against us for non-productivity during all this time. The union, as such, is very much opposed to "soldiering" on the job by any of its members, but it will demand sufficient and convincing proof before it will permit a discharge.

The Conference Committee of the Joint Board, with Bro. Benjamin Schlesinger, President of the International, at its head, deserves the gratitude of the entire membership of the Cloak and Suit Makers' Union, for the able manner in which it conducted the negotiations between the union and the association, and is to be congratulated upon the successful conclusion of the deliberations. The Cloakmakers' Union may well be proud of the fact of it being the only one in the country today which successfully opposed a slash in wages and the lengthening of the working hours.

The next special meeting of the Waist and Dress Division, to be held on Monday, June 13, will prove of great interest not alone to the members of this particular division, but to all others as well.

The special business of the evening will be the impeachment proceedings brought by the Executive Board against Bro. Julius Levine, Delegate to the Joint Board of the Waist and Dress Industry. The issue in this case involves the fundamental principle of representative government. The question that will have to be answered by the membership that evening will be as to whether a representative of the union to another body, who is given definite instructions on how to act in certain instances, can, in defiance to the membership, assume and maintain a totally different attitude.

The Executive Board contends that a delegate to the Joint Board is fully entitled to his own ideas and views on any subject whatever. But it further contends that once a question has come up before the membership, been discussed and finally decided upon by a majority of votes, that that decision is obligatory on all members of the union, including the delegates to the Joint Board. Any elected official who fails to carry out the orders and instructions given him by the membership is subject to removal

through impeachment, for malfeasance of office.

It is to be expected and hoped that the members of the Waist and Dress Division will attend the next meeting in large numbers, as the importance of the meeting calls for.

The following are extracts from the last meeting of the Executive Board:

Max Merker, member of the Amalgamated Clothing Cutters' Union, Local No. 4, appeared on summons. Brother Merker was granted the privilege of working in the dress trade some eight weeks ago, having been out on strike for a considerable length of time, and he is now charged with having received time and a half for overtime. Brother Merker denies that he abused the privilege granted to him and states that some two weeks ago he worked three hours overtime. The firm paid him only single time. He thereupon complained to the chairlady, who in turn complained to the office, and a collection was made for time and a half. This statement was corroborated by Bro. Philip Orelsky, Business Agent of the Joint Board, who informs the Executive Board that the difference between time and a half and double was also collected. On motion, case against Brother Merker was dismissed.

Charles Gershon, No. 5492A, appeared on summons, charged with having been found on Saturday, May 21, at 2:45 P.M., at the house of Lou L. Glick, 158 West 27th St. He is also charged with working with two non-union boys at the table. Brother Gershon denies the latter charge, but admits that he worked on Saturday afternoon, May 21, and some other Saturday afternoons. However, he promises not to do so in the future. On motion, a fine was imposed.

Isidor Marcus, No. 5552A, appeared on summons, charged with receiving only time and a half for overtime at the G & S Dress Co., 142 West 24th Street. A collection of \$5.95 was made in this case. He is also charged with working on Saturday, though this is a five-day house. Brother Marcus claims that he did not know that he had no right to work on Saturday. On motion, Brother Marcus was instructed in the future not to work on Saturdays, as long as he makes up the 44 hours during the first five days of the week, and a fine was imposed upon him for receiving time and a half for overtime.

Herman Strumwasser, No. 3728, appeared on summons, charged with working day work and hour work at the Federation Cloak Co., 54 West 34 Street. Brother Strumwasser states that he worked day work and hour work for a short while, and as soon as he was told by Business Manager Perlmutter that he was not allowed to work by the hour or day, he insisted on a full week's wages, which he received. On motion Brother Strumwasser was censured and case was dismissed.

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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

WAIST AND DRESS:

Monday, June 13th

SPECIAL

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Action on the recommendation of the Executive Board in the case of Bro. Julius Levine, delegate to the Joint Board of the Waist and Dress Industry.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Monday, June 20th.

GENERAL:

Monday, June 27th

Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

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