

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

—Job 27.6

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

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Seventeenth and Jubilee Convention of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Opens in Boston

Parade to Greet Our Delegates—Opening Day a Holiday for Boston Garment Workers—First President Grooms Convention—Greetings of Textile Workers Conveyed by President McMahon

The Seventeenth Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was opened at 10:15 a. m., Monday, May 5, 1924, to the strain of several bands of music leading a parade of all the ladies' garment workers of the City of Boston. They marched into Convention Hall, and were greeted by a tremendous outburst of applause from the assembled delegates and guests and visitors on the platform and balconies. As the paraders marched in carrying banners of the various locals, they stationed themselves in lines along the walls of the beautifully decorated hall.

A Holiday for Boston Members

The parade began at the headquarters of the Boston Joint Board at 17 Essex street and marched through the principal streets of the city up Boylston street and to Convention Hall. At least 5,000 people took part in the procession. Tens of thousands of Bostonians lined the sidewalks and gave a cordial reception to the paraders. Particularly impressive was

the number of women workers among the paraders, some of the columns being composed almost exclusively of girls. Every ladies' garment worker in Boston made the opening day of the convention a holiday, and every cloak, waist and dress shop in Boston was closed in the forenoon.

After the paraders had occupied every available inch of space in Convention Hall, several bands of music rendered a number of selections, among them being the Star Spangled Banner, the Internationals and the Marseillaise. The crowd responded to the music with tumultuous applause, after which Myer Frank, on behalf of the Boston Joint Board, introduced Brother Harry Jennings, representing the Central Labor Union of Boston, who was greeted with hearty applause.

Mr. Jennings as temporary chairman, extended to the delegates the fraternal greetings of the Labor movement of the City of Boston. He congratulated the International upon the success thus far attained and ex-

pressed the hope that the efforts of the delegates during their stay in Boston would be successful.

Brother McMahon's Address

At the conclusion of his address, Brother Jennings introduced Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers of America, who delivered a stirring address, urging the members of the International to stand behind their leaders and to work harmoniously together. He said in part: "I take this opportunity to thank the International, its General Executive Board, as well as the membership as a whole, for the hearty support given us in our struggle in 1922. For ten months we fought the barons in our industry. Your organization came to our aid, and for the \$1,000,000 given to us by the great American Labor movement we give our most sincere thanks. I hope that victory will come to all who are struggling in the darkness, and that the vision will come to all the workers to set in union and in accord. Stick to your organization, men and women of the Ladies'

Garment Workers. I wish you every success in your convention."

Brother Jennings next introduced James Fitzgibbon, representing the Chauffeurs' Union in Boston, who urged the delegates to patronize union cabs only, during their stay in Boston.

First President Grooms Convention

Brother Herman Grossman, the first president of the Ladies' Garment Workers' International, who was elected in 1900 and who served five years, was next introduced and was greeted with great applause.

Brother Grossman spoke with great feeling of the early struggles of the International as he contrasted the wretched condition of the organization at its inception with the remarkable progress it had since made. He concluded his address by exhorting the membership to avoid dissension in the ranks, by standing behind their leaders, and wished the delegates every success in their deliberations.

Mayor Curley of Boston Welcomes Convention

President Sigman Presented With Golden Key to the City of Boston

Before delivering his opening address, President Sigman introduced Mayor James M. Curley, who addressed the convention on behalf of the City of Boston:

"It is a very great pleasure to attend the opening exercises of any organization that convenes in our city. As a rule, the convention exercises are held in some hotel. It is doubly a pleasure to be present at the opening of a convention made up of the representatives of a great industry, that has acquired standing and character and dignity, that represents intelligence in the direction of affairs on the part of the workers, and that represents a large investment of capital on the part of the employers, in a building that is a monument to the unity and to the harmony and to the intelligence and to the progress of organized Labor, such as this building represents.

"After all, Convention Hall must be regarded as a milestone, marking the progress of the toiler in America from a condition which, one hundred years ago—yes, 25 years ago, bordered—on serfdom, to a condition that spells advancement, that spells progress, that spells opportunity for recreation, for mental development, which is the cornerstone of useful American citizenship. This is a real monument in which we are assembled. It is a challenge to those forces in America, which would deny the work-

er the opportunities through which alone it is possible to develop a helpful and intelligent and worthwhile American citizenship.

"And if in a small way it has been possible for me to have ironed out some of the difficulties which arose from time to time between men representing Labor and men representing capital, who failed to realize that the only worthwhile progress is progress that results from cooperation, and that after all, in the last analysis, all legislation and all agreements, whether they affect Labor or finance or legislation or religion or politics are invariably the result of compromise—and when a man refuses to be a party to compromise, he says to every intelligent individual within his hearing that he has not a good case—I say, if I have been of any help, I am thankful for the opportunity.

"When the employers recently said that they would not agree to a compromise, I was satisfied that they did not have a good case, and I held out and assisted your representative here in the women's garment workers' industry in a settlement, that I believe will ultimately prove to be a benefit both to the workers and to the employers.

Predicts Presidency of Governor Smith

"Now then, we cannot always get together on a compromise, but there are some things that we can get to-

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Flood of Telegrams Greet Jubilee Convention

Messages of Congratulation and Good Wishes From Needle Trades Workers' Unions—Ex-President Schlesinger Sends Telegram—Chicago Dress Strikers Thank Convention for Message of Encouragement

A considerable part of both the morning and afternoon sessions of the convention last Tuesday was taken up with the reading by Secretary Baroff of congratulatory messages sent to the International from all parts of the country, on the occasion of its Seventeenth Convention and twenty-fifth birthday. These represented not only individual well-wishers of our Union, but groups of workers from various shops, the locals of our International, our various joint boards, ex-presidents, and Labor organizations, both large and small.

The striking dressmakers of Chicago, in whom a message of encouragement and greeting had been sent by the unanimous consent of the convention during its first session, forwarded the following telegram in reply:

The striking dressmakers of Chicago wish to thank the officers and delegates of the convention for their encouraging message which was received with great enthusiasm. We are determined to strike until our employers will come to terms. We have full faith in the officers of our International and are confident that the convention will find ways and means, both morally and financially to carry our banner to victory. Are we downhearted? No. Yours for victory,

THE STRIKING DRESSMAKERS OF CHICAGO.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America sent the following greeting:

The General Executive Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America sends greetings to you, and hearty wishes for successful deliberations. Twenty-five years ago you raised your banner in a sweat-shop industry. Today tens of thousands of workers are rallied around your victorious banner. You have built up a powerful organization, improved your working conditions and secured rights in the industry. Your great membership is entitled to the congratulations of the Labor movement. Your success has encouraged large numbers of other workers to organize and raise their standards. May this convention prove fruitful of new benefits to the workers in your industry.

SIDNEY HILLMAN,
General President.
JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

The message received from the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers' Union read as follows:

The United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers join with you in the celebration of the twenty-five years of militant existence and great achievements of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. By thorough organization, militancy and self-sacrifice, the Ladies' Garment Workers have succeeded during these twenty-five years in raising the conditions in

(Continued on page 2.)

Prominent Labor Representatives Address Convention

After the reading of the telegrams on the morning of the second day of the convention, President Sigman introduced as the first speaker of the morning session, Dr. Frank H. Hollander, Professor of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University, who is serving as the Impartial Chairman in the cloak and dress industry of the City of Cleveland, who was received with great applause. After a very interesting talk, which space does not allow us to reprint in its entirety, he concludes as follows:

"Now, one thing more and then I am done. I have spoken of my interests as an economist; I have spoken of the manner in which, quite contrary to my expectations I have become involved in a number of your activities. As an American citizen, I believe that the future of our Republic is dependent in a large measure upon the progress of industrial peace and for that reason I am tremendously interested in seeing how a great body of workers like you are going to grapple with their problems. Of course, you have a problem that is tremendously difficult. I can claim a moderate acquaintance with the American trade unionism and I have no hesitation in saying that the problems of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union are as acute and as profound as any, and very much more so than a great many. And, of course, the explanation of it is almost on the surface. Your craft is one that is affected very largely by things as fluctuating and vacillating as a woman's taste in fashions. It is more than the traditions of your trade are bad, and I think you ought to face that fact squarely. Its origins are those of an exploited industry, an industry in which you had almost everywhere dealing with an unlimited flow of unorganized labor unable to assert its demands. That is the fact, and that is the great reason why the work of the enterprisers that this was a business trade. It had been very slow, you see, to accept the conclusion that like any other legitimate business it must allow legitimate profits and not exploit-

ation profits; and some part of that passed on to the consumer. In other words, the enterprisers shared these exploited gains in the form of unreasonably low consumers' prices, so that the consuming public to a considerable extent became parasitic on the industry, and the same process which has been necessary to reconstruct the mining industry has been necessary here. It is necessary to assert a new relation, as it were, between the consumer the producer and the worker. And out of this process of complexity has grown a body of extremely unwholesome, vicious trade practices in the matter of distribution. Even aside from the organization of manufacture, you have to deal with an intricate and wasteful and undesirable body of trade practices.

"And finally, I can offer you my most earnest hope for a successful solution of the problems which confront you, and with it the belief that a convention such as this, offered in the way it is, cannot fail to work towards that goal which not only trade unionists but all well-wishers of mankind share, the elevation of your workers, as you yourselves have expressed in one of the messages of generalization before a standstill life conformable to American conditions with a proper share in that economic and social program which is our birthright and our heritage."

Dr. Hollander was followed by Brother Frank A. Doyle, representing the United Garment Workers of Boston, who brought a message of goodwill and fraternal greeting from that organization. In his address, he urged "closer cooperation and more coordination among the organizations in the needle trades, and urged that the International never surrender its rights to outsiders, but that it work out its own fundamental principles for which its organization stands."

President Sigman then introduced William H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists, who congratulated the International for having uplifted the great

mass of the people who had been so long sweated in the most sweated industry of the nation. He commended the International for having established the first educational department in American Labor organizations, and trusted that the other Labor organizations who have not yet done so would soon follow its example in this respect. He told the convention that his organization, like ours, had found the injunction plague one of its greatest difficulties, he mentioned the attempts of the sheriffs all over the United States to help break their strikes, and concluded that:

"It is useless to expect the Labor unions to perform the work, the duties, the functions that they are organized for as long as you permit special interests to control the government. We are going to have a convention in Cleveland on July 4, and we are looking forward with great expectations to it because it now looks as though the same selfish, servile interests control both of the old parties and they will, in all probability, nominate reactionary candidates. It seems to me the time is most propitious to launch a new party representing the toiling masses of America. I am going to ask this convention to consider sending delegates to that conference. I hope you will consider making contributions to the work of educating the great masses and organizing them throughout the land."

In the afternoon session, President Sigman introduced as the first speaker Brother John P. Coughlin, secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Council of Great New York, who urged the consideration by the convention of the question of the forty-hour week, offered the ready cooperation of the Central Council in the achievement of the aims of the International, and urged that the present method of passing legislation in the City of New York be stopped, and for

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

By H. SCHOOLMAN

This Week Twelve Years Ago

The New Post calls upon all the workers in the cloak trade to protest against immigration restrictions proposed in a bill by Congressman Ellsworth and against still more severe restrictions proposed by Senator Elkins Root. Meyer London, Jacob Finken and other representatives of labor organizations leave for Washington to fight against these bills.

The ladies' tailors of Chicago declare a strike against their South Side employers. The employers picket the shops, together with the striking workers and clashes are occurring daily. The Union is confident of winning.

In the financial report of Local 9 for the first three months of 1912, the secretary states that the income was \$71,024.23. The expenses for this period were \$53,373.12.

It must be substituted the selection of men and women from our own ranks whom we can depend upon, who will watch legislation and control its machinery in order to keep our Labor bodies intact."

Brother Arturo Giovanni followed, conveying the greetings of the Italian workers of New York City, and predicting the speedy coming of the day when the workers of the world will get together and when there will be no longer any room for their masters.

The next speakers were James MacCenley, the third president of the International, ex-President Charles Jacobson, and ex-Vice-presidents Metzger and Simon Slotchin, who congratulated the International on its remarkable growth and wished it all our Labor bodies intact.

Flood of Telegrams Greet Jubilee Convention

(Continued from page 1)

their trade to the level of the best organized trades in the United States and in putting the organization in the vanguard of the Labor movement. The recent achievements of your International Union in further improving the conditions of your members, in the matter of banking are full of promise and inspiration for the Labor movement. Your organization continue on the road of glorious achievements and may the deliberations of your Jubilee Convention advance the cause of your membership and of the entire Labor movement.

M. ZUCKERMAN, Secretary-Treas.
M. ZARIETSKY, President.

The United Textile Workers sent this message:

Extend to your officers and delegates hearty greetings of the United Textile Workers of America. Much has been accomplished by the International Ladies' Garment Workers for its membership, but much remains to be done. With faith in the justice of our cause, with heart and soul we forward the splendid work of organized Labor shall and must be continued to the end that justice may be had for the men and women who toil.

SARA A. CONBOY,
International Secretary-Treasurer.

The telegram from the International Pocketbook Workers' Union read:

Kindly accept the greetings of the International Pocketbook Workers' Union on the day of your jubilation and triumph of twenty-five years of service, and may the new century be a very bright one for the entire Labor movement. Your organization inspired many a union, including our own, to struggle on and fight on for freedom and industrial

democracy, work in your industry, decent minimum scales and wages, the right of the worker to his job, protection for the masses, and the short working day. The International Bank will forever be the shining star on our Labor horizon. The fundamental principles must assure success for the International in the present struggles against the jobbers, manufacturers, sub-manufacturers, contractors and social abusers.

OSSIP WALINSKY,
General Manager.

The following message was received from the International Union Bank:

Accept hearty congratulations on your twenty-fifth anniversary celebration convention from your new institution, not directly chartered by you in the same manner as the rest of your branches, but nevertheless dependent upon your success. The officers of the International Union Bank congratulate you upon this occasion and wish you all success in your undertakings and hope that the outcome of this convention will bring forth results that will strengthen the growth of our bank and enable it to report enormous progress at your next convention.

INTERNATIONAL UNION BANK,

PHILIP R. RODRIGUEZ,
Vice-president and Manager.

PHILIP KAPLOWITZ,
Cashier.

Benjamin Schlesinger, ex-president of the International Union, greeted the convention as follows:

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the officers and delegates' convention and to the great membership of our International in general. I am cer-

Mayor Curley of Boston Welcomes Convention

(Continued from page 1)

gether on,—giving an expression of the esteem and affection which we have for an individual leader, because of his splendid qualities of leadership, through which pitfalls have been avoided, the reefs and the rocks of disaster have been safely passed and that has brought the organization through storm and stress to the peaceful harbor of victory and progress. This individual comes from the great neighboring state of New York, a state that has given much to America, a state I believe that will give to America its next President, within the coming year, Al Smith. President Sigman Receives Key to the City

"Now it is just possible that your International President, when he comes to our city with Al Smith, who has not been here in many years, may find some difficulty in getting in, because this old State of ours represents a different political party than that represented by Al Smith. So

when he comes here and he arrives at the portal, whether it be at the Rhode Island end, or the New York end, or the New Hampshire end, or the Vermont end, or the Maine end, it is only necessary for him to show the golden key of the city, the golden key whose power is greater than the power of any political party, and he received with acclaim and accord and welcome by all the people of Boston. And on behalf of the City of Boston, I present the International President of your organization with the golden key of the good old patriotic and historic city of Boston."

Mayor Curley was greeted with tremendous applause, everybody rising. President Sigman, in accepting the key on behalf of himself and of the organization, expressed to Mayor Curley thanks for his splendid address of welcome. He next delivered his opening address to the convention which will be found in full elsewhere in this issue.

ly happy to be counted among those who have helped to build up the organization and regret exceedingly that I cannot be with you to participate in the opening ceremonies of this convention. May our organization continue to be in the front ranks of the American Labor movement fighting for more and ever more improvement into the conditions of the workers and may we all live to see the day when society will be so constituted that the producers will get all they produce and true brotherhood and genuine democracy will dominate the whole universe. BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER.

Among others to greet the International were the United Garment

Workers, Hebrew Bakers' Union of Boston, several of the branches of the Workers' Circle, the American Labor Party, the Women's Trade Union League, the Anagarmated Knit Goods Workers' Union, Dr. Louis Levine, Alexander Fichandler, the Joint Executive Council of Miscellaneous Trades, Leo Finkelstein for the editorial staff of *Gerechtigkeit*, and F. Nathan Wolf for the auditing department of the International, in addition to messages from practically every local and joint board of the International Union.

Trade Union Wives in British Labor Movement

By PAULINE M. NEWMAN

I enjoyed England more than space permits me to tell. I liked England for itself. I liked its beautiful gardens, its interesting cathedrals and its lovely country places. But more than all that I liked England for its inspiring, hopeful and constructive Labor movement. I admire its breadth of scope and its wide inclusiveness. I should like to discuss its methods of organization, its political aspect and the part played by its allied movements. But since space is limited, I shall discuss one phase only, a phase which aroused in me great admiration, namely, the married women's part in the British Labor movement.

Through our friends, Miss Bondfield, Dr. Marion Phillips, Miss Manicom and others who are leaders in the movement, I had a good chance to observe the activities of the housewives. These friends made contacts for me by taking me to the meetings of the women and their demonstrations. At their meetings they dealt with problems not unknown to our working men's wives—child labor, minimum wage laws, mother's pensions, political representation, housing conditions and the building of a new State. These questions were discussed with intelligence. Just then the Housing Bill was being debated in Parliament. The women seemed to know not only the general principles of the bill, but all of its details. And while they listen to speakers from the platform, they seem to make it their business to understand a question thoroughly. That impressed me much. It was interesting to watch the interest that prevailed at these meetings, an interest which does not die when the meeting is over. It was evident that their kind of interest is shared with their children at home.

Their political demonstrations are not gotten up so much for the particular individual as for the things their party stands for. They are loyal to and active in their district organization. For instance, when the party's choice is up for election in a certain district, the women of that district are called upon to aid in the campaign. We witnessed an example of this sort of work in the

election of Bob Smillie. Bob Smillie had been defeated several times in the same district. This time the women took a hand in his campaign and he was elected. The climax of the campaign was marked by a women's demonstration gotten up by the women themselves, in which no less than eight thousand women took part. Most of them were the wives of miners. They marched through the streets acknowledging their wish to see Smillie represent them in Par-

The anti-union employer has made another about-face.

As usual, this change is for public effect; it is not intended to interfere with his control of workers.

Today the company "union" is popular among these employers. This "union" presents an interesting study in the shifting and tricky attitudes of those who would control Labor while professing conversion to democracy in industry.

Up to approximately two decades ago this employer openly opposed his employees uniting.

Later he was forced to yield to organized Labor's educational campaign, and then he championed the "open" shop.

This was a concession to the spirit of "a square deal," the vogue at that time.

It was popular then to affect an indifference whether workers belonged to a union or not.

These employers hired spies to discover trade unionists among their workers, but this made no difference to the 100 percents of that time.

It was the claptrap and bombast that they applauded.

The "open" shop propaganda gradually lost its charm. The theory could not stand analysis.

Today an employer would hardly dare indulge in one of the Parry-Post-Kirby eruptions on "independence" and "liberty."

In some sections the so-called

liament. Their efforts seem to bring them results, and results are an encouragement to those who have an object in view. The British work have a definite object to work for—helping to build Labor's realization of its new work, its new power.

Needless to say, the men appreciate the knowledge and understanding on the part of their women. Let me illustrate this point: We were at the meeting when the London Labor party celebrated the election of

The "Right Kind" of Union

"American" plan has replaced the "open" shop, but this second-hand attempt to commercialize patriotism only appeals to provincials and other low-grade intellects.

When his "open" shop propaganda no longer attracted, the anti-union employer was again forced to shift his position.

He is now seen in a new role. He no longer affects an indifference whether his employees are union or not.

Now he favors joint action by employees. He announces his conversion to unionism—but it must be the right kind.

To satisfy himself that his employees get the right kind of unionism, he organizes a company "union." He writes its constitution and by-laws, and in many cases deducts the dues of every employee who is compelled to join the new device.

A summary of this employer's changes in the last 20 years shows: First, opposition to employees uniting; declaring for absolute individualism among these workers;

Second, a public indifference whether employees join unions or not; secret discharge of unionists on word of spies;

Third, professing belief in "the right kind of unions"; forming company "unions."

Thus it is seen within one-fifth of a century the anti-union employer has taken three positions. In the last po-

Smillie. Queens Hall was packed with men and women. They came to hear the victor, of course. They expected to listen to a political speech—his plans for the Parliamentary career. Instead they listened for a whole hour to a very touching and beautiful tribute to the work of the women members of the Labor party. He told of their sacrifices, of their willingness to endure all sorts of hardships now, in order to make the future endurable for their children. He stated time and again that he owes his election to the splendid work of the women comrades.

The married woman, the wife of the trade unionist in Britain, is an integral part of the Labor movement. She shares its victories as well as its defeats. Whether it is the Labor party, the cooperatives or the trade union, she is back of them all, knowing that only by solidifying the ranks of Labor can her dream of a better world be realized.

To me the working women's movement in Britain is a reflection of the Labor movement as a whole,—intelligent, constructive, full of hope and courage and a determination to make life worthwhile for every man, woman and child who works for a living! I would that the wives of our trade union men in America could follow in the footsteps of their British sisters! It is not impossible, if the American trade union movement would once and for all realize the power that is back of the women in the homes!

tion he maintains a complete control of his employees as in the first. The company "union" will eventually collapse, as have other quick remedies.

The anti-union employer's psychologists and welfare workers can evolve no substitute for trade unionism.

Only control of their own lives will satisfy the workers. Some of them still hope for a shorter route to better conditions. Once again are they putting their trust in others rather than in themselves.

In time these workers will be disillusioned. They will discover the company "union," as they have discovered other fakes that bear attractive labels.

Organized labor can hasten the day of discovery by agitation against this latest trick that continues the employers' control over workers.

With Local 62

By MARY GOFF

The White Goods Workers' Union, Local 62, celebrated May Day in all its glory and significance. The 1924 May Day celebration was the most successful, most genuine and best attended gathering our Union has held since the pre-war period.

The Union had arranged for a mass meeting and Mayflower dance at Aristocrat Hall. Among the speakers were Comrade Marie McDonald and Comrade Shipplacoff. Brother Snyder presided. The speakers stressed the meaning of the International Labor Day, and reviewed the struggles of the workers in Europe and in America in a constructive and eloquent manner. Sister Marie McDonald and Comrade Shipplacoff, left a very deep impression, as did Brother Snyder, the chairman, and provided sufficient food for thought and reflection. They were warmly received and generously applauded by the enthusiastic members.

Before the dance, a violin duet was given by two little girls, who played classical selections with unusual technique and feeling, considering their age. Old and new members joined in the dance which followed and lasted until 6 p. m.

This was indeed, an inspiring, encouraging and glorious welcome to the coming spring. We hope for closer cooperation and unity for the benefit of the toilers in our shops, which is the essence of our goal. It is the sincere hope of the writer of these lines, that this occasion will work the beginning of a new era in our local. Let us put aside the individual differences of opinion and, having before us the symbol of the International holiday, unite our efforts in making the White Goods Workers' Union a more influential factor in the underwear industry.

The farewell to our delegates to the Convention in Boston, was also an inspiring and encouraging sight. Most of them said it "with flowers" as the saying goes. Beautiful bouquets of roses came from the girls of the Reliable Underwear, Progressive, Underwear, L. Adelson & Son and H. Silverman, and the Maderight Manufacturing Company and others.

We urge our members to read the convention news and reports and continue to display their interest not only in the life of our Union, but that of our International, and thereby obtain a better understanding of the Labor movement as a whole.

Local 89 Rewards Shop-Chairmen

The workers of Brambr & Hendricks, 1063 Madison avenue, the majority of which are Italian workers, have presented their shop-chairday, Augusta Hirsch, a fine camera as a token of their appreciation and gratitude. Miss Hirsch does her utmost to maintain the shop in 100 per cent union condition.

It is to be remembered that the shop of Brambr & Hendricks is one of the most important ones in the industry.

The Executive Board of Local 89, after a recommendation by the Finance Committee, decided to extend a vote of thanks, together with a gift of a beautiful electric lamp, to

the shop-chairman of the Patullo Gown Shop, 16 East 33rd street, our comrade Gaetano Cannarozza, to whom most of the credit is to be given for the reorganization of this important shop. This shop is practically composed of Italian workers and at present, owing to the efforts of Brother Cannarozza, is one of the best organized shops we have.

Local 89 extends its heartiest congratulations to those who were thus rewarded and trusts that their example will be an incentive to all the brothers and sisters engaged in the arduous and difficult work of acting as shop-chairmen.

JUSTICE

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"The Poor Taxpayer"

By LOUIS F. BUDENZ

Lay it all on Andrew Mellon of Pittsburg. Under the canny guidance of his master mind, Big Business and its politician-servants have found a new victim over whom to weep generally and promiscuously.

No longer do they all learn fall upon the grave of the "dear public"—whom they succeeded so well in strangling; or on the home of the "widow and the orphan"—whom they defrauded to such perfection. It is now "the poor taxpayer" who comes in for the briny soliloquy of the Powers that Be.

In a hundred cartoons, all over the land, is this bewildered individual pictured in the depths of desolation about to be rescued therefrom by none other than the brave and doughty Mellon. His Tax Plan will keep the wolf from the poor man's door—by cutting the taxes of the rich. Otto Kahn writes a booklet all about it. After his historic conference with colleagues at the White House, Mr. Hearst swarms to Mellon's defense—as the progressive owner of Mexican oil lands should. In short, this scheme to make still more unequal our present inequalities of wealth is being feverishly promoted in the name of the "poor taxpayer."

Having learned the knack of the thing, the privately-owned public utility interests are now using it broadcast in their propaganda—particularly to the small-town newspapers. These papers, being short on editorial ability and long on space, swallow it wholesale. The plan of the Public Ownership League for a federally-owned superpower system is being attacked—because it would be such a burden on the "taxpayer" in the rolls after release. It is solemnly stated that the present electrical cone line can relieve the taxpayer of this burden, by relieving him of the ownership of their waterpower sites.

Despite the action of the New York voters in refusing to give away these water rights to these private interests—and despite the campaign of the Public Ownership League—these interests regard the waterpower sites as already in their pockets. In all their financial reports in the journals of the exploiting interests, it is pointed out what a bright future they have—when they will have completed the great grab in the history of our country.

The taxpayer himself, beset on all sides by these dire predictions, becomes confused as to where his real interests lie. To complete his perplexity, the bogey of "Socialism" is brought up before his startled vision, whenever the possibility of public ownership of these utilities and of nature's resources is mentioned. He is not told—and therefore does not know—of what public ownership has done for the people of Ontario. He is not aware that their own hydro-electric system—using their water power for themselves—has saved the farmers and workers of that province some \$100,000,000 in a few years' time. He does not know that the low cost, which public ownership of electric power has introduced there, has caused the extension of electricity into far-distant farmhouses and into humble homes—where it could not have been placed before. He does not understand that these blessings could be brought to these United States on a nation-wide plan, if the Norris Bill were to become a law. (That is the Superpower Bill, drawn up by the Public Ownership League, and now pending in Congress.)

At least, many taxpayers do not know these things. They are at the mercy of the press factories of the interests. Many—in the West, in particular—have the real facts at their finger-tips. They have had a long course of education (as H. G.

Teigan, secretary to Senator Magnus Johnson always says) through the Non-Partisan League, an education that was never given so thoroughly before to large groups of men and women. Then, the Public Ownership League is spreading the gospel as best it can—and it is an organization that deserves the help and cooperation of all working folks. Every one of us should make himself a special mission to spread the facts—to offset the press factories' lies, and thus prevent the steal of our water rights from the American people. Even now, the gift of Muscle Shoals to private interests—Henry Ford or General Aterbury, it matters not—is being considered in Congress, right on the heels of the deals for our oil lands. By a strange irony, the very oil investigation is distracting attention to a degree away from the Muscle Shoals danger—and Muscle Shoals is one of the greatest sources of water power, ready for the use of the people of the South.

When will the American people ever learn that the real way to lessen the taxation burden on the humble classes is to exempt them altogether from taxation, and put the burden entirely on the higher-ups? When will we ever realize that the way to reduce the cost of utility service is to take and keep these utilities for the people themselves? The dawn seems to be coming with a Third Ticket

headed by Robert M. La Follette. Firstly, the Conference for Progressive Political Action—a powerful factor in making any such Third Ticket a reality—stands firmly today for public ownership of railroads and of natural resources, including water power. Then, the platform brought forth by the Wisconsin delegation to the Republican convention stands for the same thing. It is a platform worthy studying for other reasons, demanding a referendum before war can be declared and all of Organized Labor's fundamental demands.

When it is realized that this platform is put forth by the La Follette delegation to the Republican convention largely to establish the basis for a "belt," its importance can be understood the better. We are approaching a time parallel to that which gave birth to the Republican party on the slavery issue, over the dead body of the Whigs.

Now that public ownership of railroads in particular will be a rallying cry for the fight of 1924, it is of some account to look for a moment at what that step alone would mean for the "poor taxpayer." Private ownership means regulation. Every one admits that. It is the only way that some semblance of keeping the railroads faithful to public service can be maintained. Regulation is good for the railroads and bad for the people—so much so that Senator La Fol-

lette introduced a bill in the present Congress giving back the rate-making and valuation-creating power to that body.

Regulation has meant a constant boosting of valuations—not only for the railroads, but for street railways and other public utilities. Boosting of valuations means boosting of rates or a curtailment of service. The Interstate Commerce Commission has just presented the railroads with a solid ten billions of dollars, in valuing them today's value for rate-making purposes on the lands presented to the roads years ago by the Government!

And in order to keep up this machinery of regulation, the Federal Government must pay out each year seven millions of dollars for salaries, offices and expenses. That is for the general upkeep of the Interstate Commerce Commission. It does not include the Railroad Labor Board and other like bodies. It does not include the special (unfinished) Federal Valuation, which has cost the government, up to June, 1922, some \$25,000,000 and the railroads almost \$60,000,000 more.

Payment of these amounts, even the railroads' share, is not made by the railroads themselves. It is made by you—and me—the "poor taxpayers." As Vanderhulst and Burgess say in their standard book on railroads: "The cost of regulation must be borne by the users of the railroads." Perhaps some day the worm will turn, and demand to own as well as pay for railroad expenses. Perhaps that day is even now here. The signs all point in that direction.

Swapping Muscle Shoals for the Presidency?

By NORMAN THOMAS

Did Henry Ford stop his own political activities and pledge his support to President Coolidge because the President agreed to support, or at least not to oppose, the gift of Muscle Shoals to Henry Ford? On the face of things it looks suspicious and Senator Norris has increased suspicion by bringing into evidence a telegram sent by a certain Mr. Miller

to Ford's representatives on October 12, 1923. This telegram quotes the President as saying that he was "trying to deliver Muscle Shoals" to Ford and that he hoped Ford would not make it hard for him. On December 3, Mr. Ford called on the President; on December 6 the President advocated the sale of Muscle Shoals and his message was construed by mem-

bers of Congress as being favorable to Mr. Ford; and on December 19 Mr. Ford endorsed the President.

That is a sequence of events whose force is not altogether shaken by the President's cautious denial. It will be noted that that denial refers in detail to his conversation with Mr. Ford and not with Mr. Miller. In the denial he urges an examination of all bids but does not declare himself against the outrageous bid which Mr. Ford has offered.

Mr. Ford's secretary merely denies that Mr. Miller's telegram was ever shown to Mr. Ford. Unfortunately, Henry Ford and his entourage have no reputation of veracity, since they allowed a biographer and eulogist of Mr. Ford to announce that he was returning war profits to the government though he never returned them. Whatever part Miller played in the proceeding, if Coolidge aids the gift of Muscle Shoals to Henry Ford, it will be a worse blow to the public than the Teapot Dome affair. And a man may be bribed by the promise or the hope of political support as well as \$100,000 in a suitcase.

Ford offers to produce 40,000 tons of nitrate at a profit not to exceed 8 per cent from power at Muscle Shoals. That would fertilize 1/400 of the farming land of the United States. And for that fertilizer which the government could produce as well as Ford, we are to give away an important unit of our national water power virtually forever!

RAND SCHOOL NOTES

On Saturday afternoon, May 10, Scott Nearing will discuss "Where is America Going?" in his current Events Class at the Rand School, 7 East 15th Street.

At 8:30 p. m. on the same day, the Hon. Bertrand Russell is lecturing at the Rand School on the topic, "How to Secure World Peace."

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High Lights of a Liberal Immigration Policy

By MAX D. DANISH

In discussing immigration, it is frequently taken for granted that all unions in the American Federation of Labor are strongly in favor of almost any sort of restriction of the labor supply from abroad. This is a distinct error. There are a number of unions which favor as liberal an immigration policy, as is possible to safeguard at the same time the worker already here.

Most of these unions, it is true, are located in New York City or are composed of recent immigrant races. But they are none the less a part of the American Labor Movement. More than ever have they blazed the way for new and more effective ways of carrying out the union program. When big strikes have rocked other industries, they have rushed to the help of their brothers with financial and moral assistance. The advancement of the Labor movement is their chief thought and aim.

Back of the viewpoint of these unions is this consideration: Immigration is not merely a question of self-preservation for the American worker. There is also a humanitarian question involved. The immigrant must also be considered. He is our brother—a worker like ourselves. The door must be kept as wide open as is feasible for the oppressed of other nations—being often because of religious, racial or political persecution.

Even the economic problem which the immigrant raises is not so great as is commonly imagined. He unionizes as rapidly as the American workman, if not in some cases even faster. Language is scarcely a handicap to organizing work today, when every union is well equipped with a speaking almost every tongue. Only in flooding the labor market with certain critical times, and in impeding organization work normally a year or two, is there real danger from immigration to the Labor Movement of this country.

Can We Shut Out the "Oppressed"?

This viewpoint can pretty well stand the test of facts. There are certain races and religions which are hampered and harassed in European countries. There are certain political ideas which from time to time are anathema. Wave upon wave of political ferment may lead to the exclusion of new ones, new schools of thought from Europe. Were the Socialists and trade unionists to escape from Russia, would they be denied admittance here? Under the quota law they would. Why should not these men, trampled upon by the Communist regime, be allowed to enter our doors?

That is merely one case. It might be applied in many different instances and to many different groups of individuals. The thing exists, and American workmen can ill afford to shut their eyes to it.

Again we come up against the economic difficulty. "These men, if admitted in large numbers, would break the backbone of American labor." That is certainly cannot be allowed to occur. American Labor has made a remarkable march forward, in the face of too many difficulties, as it is. That movement must be allowed its full strength. But it is well to remember that the immigrant in the garment industry has formed strong and effective organizations. He has taken as much control there as has the American worker elsewhere. In the last big steel strike, the immigrants welcomed the message of unionism even more than did the native-born workers.

But let us grant the economic objection to unlimited immigration. For it can scarcely be denied that the newcomers mean a halting of unionization for a year or two. That much time is required for reorganization of the ar-

rivals. And that much time is perhaps too much for the healthy life of the Labor movement. It could be using these energies in other directions, to its great advantage. It can be using them to perfect its organization among the American workmen. Even in that case, however, there is no reason why one set of racial groups should be discriminated against in favor of other groups.

The Bible As a Test

A writer in a current standard magazine has said that the Bible is the great book of Americanism. Any case or creed which breaks down the teaching of the Bible in the public schools should be debarred from entry. And the author of such "tommyrot" bears an almost appreciable foreign name! That it can be emphatically said, is not the view of American Labor. It is the view of many of the non-labor restriction-manics. It is the reason which has dictated the provision in the pending immigration bills, applying the 2 per cent quota test on the basis of the number of persons of each nationality within the American borders in 1890. Why 1890? Because in 1890, nations of Catholic and Jewish heritage were not here in great numbers. They came later. And Catholicism and Judaism are "anti-American!"

This K. K. K. poison cannot be written into our restriction laws. If any test should be applied, it should be that of 1910. That was the last census year before the Great War. Such a test would not merely be fair to every nation and race, it would at the same time benefit those who need the blessings of immigration the most, so far as idealistic reasons are concerned. The Englishman, the German or the Scandinavian do not face problems of persecution, based on "heretical" ideas, so much as do men from Russia, Austria, Hungary and other southeastern European countries.

The "Backward Peoples"

So far, so good. There still remains the touchy question of inferior races. The "purer European strains must not be injured by the bar admission of backward peoples. The German—denounced as a barbarian during the war—has now been restored to the grace of an "English-speaking nation." The Slav, Magyar, Italian and Jew are stamped, however, indelibly with the mark of "inferiority."

When we go through the Southland and see the low status—intellectual and economic—of the pure Anglo-Saxon "poor white trash," we cannot but wonder at this nice distinction. When we see the rapid strides made by these other (new immigrant) races—settled in the North—despite the language handicap, our wonder further grows. When we see how the "poor white" refuses persistently to join labor unions, and how readily the southeastern European, headed by a unionist, we cease to wonder—and merely say that the so-called "inferiority" stuff is pure and simple bunk. "There ain't no such animal."

That being the case, there is no good reason under the sun why the quota law should apply to the peoples here in 1890. There is every reason why it should apply to the numbers present in 1910.

There are other inhuman provisions in the proposed Johnson restriction bill that might easily be modified without injury to the American workman. One can be mentioned as an example. The wives and children of resident aliens cannot be excepted from the proposed quota law; these can only come in after their husband and father has applied for citizenship. A wait of several years in Europe is involved in this impossible provision.

Aiding Immorality

It seems, unless there is some good argument to the contrary, that we should encourage the alien to bring his family here, if we are to let him in at all. There is, as a matter of fact, no good argument to the contrary. Immorality is promoted by the present provision—and also instability on the part of the alien. Why—if the immigrant is to enter—should we break up his home life? "Restriction" certainly does not mean that sort of thing.

With the close of the World War, new sets of political refugees were developed in Europe. Anthony Caminetti, then Commissioner General of Immigration, pointed to this in his testimony before the United States Senate Committee on Immigration, in January, 1921. There are people, he said, "who find that with the formation of new boundaries their homes are now in countries that are racially alien to them. Sooner than subject themselves to the rule of their new governing authority they prefer to emigrate overseas."

This desire to escape to America is increased by the tyrannical methods used to dominate them, by the race in power. Even in countries, supposedly helped by the after-war division of territory, this thing is going on. The Croats, for example, are in revolt against their cousin, the Serbs. The latter, it is claimed, are carrying on an autocratic sway in the Jugo-Slav Kingdom. Some of the Croat leaders have found refuge and sympathy in England, just as many of the Hungarian Socialists have hurried to Austria, to get away from the fangs of the Horthy regime.

Some consideration, it does seem, should be given these political refugees. America, in the past, has never regretted the aid it gave Carl Schurz, Louis Kosuth and the other men of that type who fled to our shores.

These few points indicate that we can afford to blend some thought of the immigration in our restrictive measures. After all, it is only a matter of a few years, until he becomes a part of the "American workmen"—it is time to be protected. A quota law which takes into consideration religious, political and racial persecution:

which protects the home life of the newcomer, and which exercises its right of test at European ports rather than here, can stand much better on its feet than the one proposed.

Those unions which favor a policy of this kind, also think that American Labor might well make a thorough study of this whole problem. No such study has as yet been made. A conference on immigration, in which all the different labor points of view could be represented, would do no harm. It might do much good.

Such a conference would not merely iron out inconsistencies in the "restriction at any terms" policy. It would also cause some change of view on the part of the "liberal" unions. There is no doubt that, at the present time, the members of these unions are not particularly over-anxious to bring into their own ranks the immigrants they ask to have allowed the right of entry. They do not exactly live up to their own ideals. They also do not, perhaps, wholly appreciate what the Mid-West Labor movement has to face.

In the hurry and confusion of a large convention, like that of the American Federation of Labor, the detailed and careful study cannot be given this problem that could be devoted to it in a face-to-face assembly of interested unions. No matter what happens to the present proposals, this assembly should be held.

In brief, the American worker must be protected. But this need not be at the cost of inhuman treatment of the immigrant. The two ideas of restriction and a humane and just method of dealing with the newcomer do not conflict. It is the task of American Labor—standing not only for itself but for the workers of the world—to adjust this matter, and create a liberal protective program.

—Reprinted from Labor Age.

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JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

It is a highly interesting report which lies before us, replete with the events of the last two years of the life of our International Union. And as one reads this report, all the big and little happenings which occurred in our midst during this period come back to mind in full relief, all the struggles we have gone through with such gratifying results.

One cannot indeed help feeling elated, upon reading this report, over the fact that one belongs to this International Union, this big family of ours, whether as a private in the ranks or, if fortunate enough, as one of its leaders.

That the delegates might more intelligently discuss and vote upon the questions that will daily come up to the surface of this convention, it would be well that they carefully peruse this report. Such care is even more imperative in view of the fact that this report is couched in a terse and brief form. As it is, it consists of a volume of 176 pages, and if all the facts contained in it were to have been given in detail, the report would have grown to a book of several times that many pages.

We cannot of course, even attempt to cover the contents of this report in a few newspaper columns. We shall leave that to the delegates themselves and we know that they will do it eagerly, inasmuch as this report mirrors their own efforts and the activity of their own organizations—struggles in which they themselves have taken a part. We only wish to convey here the impression which this report has made upon us.

And the impression which one gains from reading this report is, indeed, a powerful and inspiring one. Page after page, the history of our union passes before our mental eye, all of these chapters and sections forming at the end one grand portrayal of a virile, fighting organization of Labor, striving to do its utmost to safeguard and better the labor standards of its members.

Industrially, the last two years were quite hard ones for the members of our Union. We have had more idleness during this time than at any other similar period in recent years. We shudder at the thought of how work conditions in our industry would have been dragged down were it not for the existence of strong unions in our trades. As we read of the struggles which our Unions have had to pass through in New York, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and many other cities in order to defend working standards and to stem the tide of the "open shop" epidemic which has set out against us; as we realize that in practically all these cities we have succeeded in repelling the assault of the employers, we cannot help marvelling at the steadfastness, the loyalty and the fighting quality of our workers, typified so well by their organization, their International Union.

And this wonder becomes even greater as we realize that our defensive and offensive fighting has been successful not merely because our Union has had a mighty treasury with which to finance its battles—for the case has been quite the opposite. Owing to the depressed industrial conditions our finances were quite low during this period. We had to live from hand to mouth, so to say, a fact to which a perusal of the financial report submitted by Secretary Baroff will eloquently testify. Nevertheless we carried on our work on a greater scale during the last administrative term than ever before and have succeeded in holding our positions in every locality in which they were threatened.

Moreover, we have succeeded in winning new fields and in bettering conditions substantially here and there. In the dress industry of New York, we have won a forty-hour work week. In Boston, after some obstinate fighting, the dressmakers secured a forty-two-hour week, and in Philadelphia we won back control in a majority of the dress and waist factories of that city

after a short strike which restored union conditions that were lost after the long and bitter struggle in the winter of 1922.

This, however, is not all. The report presents to us a vivid account of the remarkable organization work conducted in the smaller towns in the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maryland and many other districts into which a number of non-union employers have drifted, in the hope of dodging union control and union work conditions. The number of new locals organized in these districts and the large number of members gained, testifies to the excellent results scored in this field. And one must never lose sight of the fact that this organization work, besides its attendant expense, has also met with such handicaps as bitter local opposition and, above all, an unlimited number of injunctions which have plagued our movement for so many years past.

Not even this exhausts all our achievements for the past two years. An analysis of the report brings to light the fact that we have not neglected, even under the most difficult conditions, the extensive educational work carried on by our International for the past nine years among our workers. As before, we have led in this field, and as in former years we have blazed the way of adult Labor education for other unions in the American Labor movement to follow.

And to top it all, comes now the great constructive program prepared by our General Executive Board and endorsed by our entire membership for the reconstruction of industrial standards and conditions in the cloak trades, a program which is not only far-reaching in its consequences for our workers, but which bears the mark of genuine industrial statesmanship and which testifies to the clear thinking and rational consideration of our pressing needs and problems by the leadership of our Union.

It goes without saying that these achievements were made not by the touch of some magic wand. They were the result of dogged, obstinate fighting and of a determination to win second to none in the annals of the American Labor movement.

We have only touched upon the fringe of the history of our last two years, yet what a splendid, inspiring picture there stands before our eyes! We heartily recommend our delegates to read the report of the General Executive Board and, after reading it, to make an effort to understand what heretofore they may have failed to grasp of the activities and the doings of their International Union. It will enable them, as we said before, to act more clear-headedly at our Jubilee Convention upon the paramount questions that will be brought before them to decide.

From this report they will learn how baseless and meaningless have been the slanders cast upon their organization by unscrupulous detractors; from this report they will learn the truth about what has taken place in the life of their Union. For, throughout the length of this book there is not a single word, a single fact that can be challenged or refuted by straight-thinking and honest-minded persons.

THE NEEDLE TRADES WORKERS' ALLIANCE

The fate of the Needle Trades Workers' Alliance, we may say, is not yet sealed. It is quite likely that the convention may, yet instruct the incoming General Executive Board to make another attempt to put this alliance into working shape. For, we must not ignore the fact that an alliance of all the workers in the needle trades, provided it does not deprive any of the component organizations of their freedom of action; might do some good at some time. The idea of such an alliance has always strongly appealed to our members and to our leaders.

So far, however, as we see from the report of the General Executive Board, an alliance of this kind has but a meagre chance for existence. What's more, the reasons advanced by the General Executive Board for such an outlook are rather well taken and sound. To begin with, it appears that the internationals which have joined in this enterprise do not seem to agree on fundamentals concerning the Labor movement. Under such circumstances the alliance obviously cannot function as a harmonious body. Another reason is, the alliance cannot work properly as long as the United Garment Workers remain outside of it and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers are still not a part of the American Federation of Labor. And the report ends in the following words: "As long as these important obstacles exist, an alliance in the needle trades, in the full meaning of the word, will not be possible and its work cannot be productive!"

On our part, we sincerely regret that this is the case. We like the idea of an alliance too well to have to give it up on account of these obstacles. To be sure, we knew of the existence of these difficulties before the alliance was launched. But we hoped that, given the will, these obstacles might be overcome in time. It appears, however, that for the time being, at least, such an alliance cannot prove workable, and, of course, it would be quite inadvisable to keep up such an organization for the sake of form alone.

So it seems that the alliance may have to be given up for the present. Nevertheless, we are confident that sooner or later the obstacles enumerated above will be removed. There is no reason in the world why our unions should not come to an agreement on fundamental principles in the future. Surely we cannot bring ourselves to believe that there is a labor union in our industries which could afford to disagree with the attitude of our International Union that "no union can permit dual groups, no matter under which title they operate, to shape its policies and direct its activities from the outside."

And if any of the unions in the needle trades which aspire to form an alliance have not yet made their attitude clear on this point, we hope that they will be in a position to do so sooner or later and will serve notice on these outside intermeddlers to keep their hands off the Labor movement. When the proper

Opening Address of President Sigman to the Jubilee Convention

I take great pleasure in greeting you, delegates, to the seventeenth convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. This convention represents an extraordinary event. As we are gathered here, we are in a position to reflect and to recall twenty-five years of collective human effort and struggle to bring happiness and better living conditions into the homes of the workers affiliated with our International, and those employed in the ladies' garment industry.

I feel proud of being the president of the International on this occasion and it seems to me that every one of the delegates sent here by their local unions to represent the interests of those unions must feel just as proud.

I hope you will give me the opportunity to express my personal feeling about this gathering of ours, here in the city of Boston. Even though many persons say that I am not very emotional—still on an occasion like this, even I have been overwhelmed and impressed with your enthusiastic reception.

On behalf of the International, I express my profound thanks for the brotherly welcome extended to us by the representative of the Central Labor Union, Mr. Jennings. I also extend my thanks on behalf of the International Union and the delegates present to our friends, the United Textile Workers of America, represented by President McMahon. I am thankful for the greeting extended to us by Brother Fitzgibbon, and I wish to extend my warmest thanks on behalf of the International to the members of the General Executive Board of the local arrangement committee, who have prepared a wonderful program and reception for us.

Of course, I did not have the privilege of being affiliated with it when the International was first organized. I first became acquainted with the Labor movement in this country in 1905. After I came to the United States, I succeeded in learning one of the more skilled trades in the ladies' garment industry—that of an under-presser. There was no Labor union in that trade then. What privileges we now have we only attained by a hard struggle. But we have with us a number of the pioneers who struggled for the success of the International from its first days to the stage of its present success, and we have with us also those who have gone through the many crucial periods in our organization.

Some may think that there is no need of referring to the early stages of our organization, that it is an ancient

moment arrives, we see no reason why the United Garment Workers and the Amalgamated should not form one powerful body affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

That is why we do not consider the idea of an alliance in the needle trades as entirely dead. This idea will sooner or later come back with great force and it will yet accomplish big things for the needle trades workers. Meanwhile, we desire to state that, though officially we shall soon part company, so to say, with the Amalgamated, the Furriers, the Cap Makers, etc., as members of the Alliance, we shall remain spiritually united with them as before. With or without an alliance, we cannot forget the fact that only recently it was the Amalgamated Joint Board of Chicago which contributed \$10,000 to the strike fund of the Chicago dressmakers. The International, the Furriers and the Cap Makers will not fail to reciprocate by similar action toward the Amalgamated in time of need, for after all, all our unions, regardless of certain differences, belong to one big family.

We wish to congratulate the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the International Fur Workers' Union sincerely and from the depth of our hearts upon the event of their conventions to be held in the near future in Philadelphia and Chicago respectively, a wish in which every one of the members of our Union no doubt heartily joins us.

history, but I cannot speak at a gathering of our Union without making some reference to the early struggles, without referring to the long hours spent by the workers in the sweat shops. I still remember that in the busy seasons of our industry I had to report at 3 o'clock in the morning and sometimes work till 10 or 11 o'clock at night, and in those days there was no such thing as extra compensation; in fact, the wages we received were barely enough to keep us alive. I can still remember the days when operators in the cloak and suit industry in New York, after securing a job, had to carry their machines on their shoulders; and I still remember the days when the operators had to pay their employer for the thread, when finishers exploited their own sisters and brothers, paying them at 30¢ as two or three dollars a week until they became efficient workers; I still remember the day when finishers had to carry the garments home to have their wives and children do some work on them, then bringing them back to the factory.

I still remember the days when the native American workers looked down upon ours as the most enslaved industry, when the native worker would have nothing to do with the ladies' garment industry and looked down upon the Jew, the Italian, the Pole, as workers who came to this country to undermine the American standards of living and the American standard of wages. But I am proud to say that today, although conditions are not yet quite satisfactory and our workers do not get enough to make their lives as happy as they should be, there are inducements even for the native worker to come into the industry.

As we are celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the birth of the International, you must remember that in this city, in 1910, the first great effort was made by us to organize the unorganized forces in the ladies' garment industry. In 1910, at a convention in this city, a resolution was adopted to call out on strike the 60,000 cloakmakers in the city of New York; and the previous year another branch of the industry, the waist and dress workers of the city of New York, had been in a similar position. There is no doubt in my mind that the spontaneous effort made by the waist and dress workers in 1909 to free themselves from slavery served as a great inspiration in calling these 60,000 men and women to seek their freedom. But since 1910 we have not been at peace. I want you, delegates and members of the International, to realize that in our cause there can be no peace under

this present system of society. We are at war not only when we are on strike, but even after we arrive at an adjustment of our differences with our employers. The strife goes steadily on. It must go on because the interests of the workers and of the employers are so far apart; because the effort on the part of the employer is always to hinder the advancement of the worker and to reduce his standards, while, on the other hand, the goal of the worker is always upward and forward.

We have some very important problems to consider at this convention. I know that many of you have read the program of demands adopted at one of the meetings of the General Executive Board. This begins a new move forward, and in my judgment, this movement is just as important as was the question at the 1910 convention whether or not we should call out the cloakmakers in a general strike. It is important, because in the next ten years our industry has been going through a tremendous upheaval and change. The world is making progress, and industry is making progress along with it. Capital has reorganized itself in the ladies' garment industry. You will find that in the cloak industry of the city of New York there are forty individuals who represent 60 to 65 per cent of the capital operating in the cloak industry. These are the jobbers, while, on the other hand, this development has given rise to the growth of thousands of subcontractors and contractors. They have been in conference with our organization before the convention, but they are not as yet ready to submit their reply to us. It is quite possible that the situation will necessitate a repetition of the 1910 demonstration of the cloakmakers of the city of New York before we can be at peace again. After this has been settled, the dress industry in the city of New York, which is a part of the great combination to which the cloakmakers belong, will have to make a similar effort.

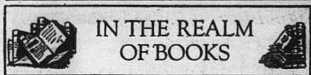
There is one more thought that I want to bring to your attention before I close my remarks. You know that an strike of the representatives of the International by force of circumstances, by accident. At the last convention held in Cleveland I was not elected president; in fact, I left the East altogether. I came back because the originally elected president, due to ill health, was obliged to withdraw from the activities of the International. It is now fifteen months that I have filled this office. Many of the delegates at the last convention remember that there was a special convention held in Baltimore at which I was elected to complete the unexpired term of Brother Schlesinger as president of the International.

I should like to relate to you some of the experiences which I have had in the course of these fifteen months which in my judgment deserve the attention of the delegates of this convention. When I came back to New York, the first gift bestowed upon me was not a golden key; it was a strike of the dressmakers of the city of New York, called with the expectation of great success, which did not, however, materialize. The very first day of my arrival I came in contact with some of the employers and on the following morning we had concluded an agreement whereby a forty-hour week was inaugurated. Immediately after this we were very busily engaged in Philadelphia in the dress industry. You will remember that the Philadelphia workers struggled for twenty-six weeks and the employers were the victors. I immediately went into con-

ference with a member of the Board, Brother Reiberg, the manager of the dress industry of Philadelphia, and another strike was called, which, in my judgment, was a tremendous success.

I then began analyzing conditions in our Union and I want to say to you, fellow delegates, that I found them very unsatisfactory. Organized Labor has suffered not only because of the constant attacks that employers have hurled at it but also because of the general reconstruction period after the war. Instead of strengthening the organization, some individual members of ours have assumed an attitude which I could not construe otherwise than as an act of treason to the Labor movement. For, did not love their organization. For, after all, if you have grievances and if you love your organization, you will try to adjust such grievances, not by attacking the organization, but in a friendly spirit. You can't cure your grievances by methods of slander, by methods of abuse, because if you do, then it is not love for your movement that you are demonstrating but an attitude which must, if permitted to continue, destroy and destroy it. I must realize that every human being has a right to dignity and self-respect, no human being wants to tolerate abuse, slander and accusations of the meanest sort without any justification. So, while confronted with the tasks in our industries in New York and elsewhere, and in meeting the problems that are continually arising, we have had also to contend against this distasteful element; but, fortunately, we have had the backbone to fight all such treason and we have a General Executive Board which will not permit the tumor to develop into a deadly cancer. You must realize, nevertheless, that it has been quite a hindrance to the efforts of our organization and to the efforts of the General Executive Board during the past two years.

Now, in conclusion, I want to say this to you: It is my sincere desire, and I am sure that it is also yours, that when we begin deliberating upon the various problems with which this convention is confronted, problems which we shall touch upon as outlined in the report of the General Executive Board, every one of you delegates, men and women, will bear in mind that at this convention you are not present merely as individuals, but that you are the representatives of those who have elected you, and it is their spirit and their desires that your actions here must reflect. I am saying this because in a good many cases delegates come to conventions or to other gatherings of Labor organizations under the false impression that they represent their own individual selves and express their own individual desires and their own individual aspirations, forgetting that they are mere servants of those who sent them here. I hope that during the course of this convention one of the delegates will bear this thought in mind. We have much constructive work to accomplish at this convention and you cannot accomplish that work by serving your own individual interests; you are only representing your Labor union. And it is the Labor union only that can bring about conditions through which the worker shall have the opportunity for living a better and a saner life. If you and I know more today than we did ten years ago, it is the joint effort of the workers in this union that has made it possible. I know that all the delegates to this convention, working together, will accomplish the great purpose that this organization is striving for and that our efforts will enable the tens of thousands of ladies' garment workers and the hundreds of thousands who are depending on them to live the contented lives to which they are entitled.



The Labor Press for April

By a venerable tradition April is All-Fool's month. Spring has come; young men's fancies have turned lightly to thoughts of love, green things stir up from the ground, and life becomes buoyant and restless and gay again. Can workers preserve this tradition? Perhaps; but only perhaps. To them as men and women, April may still mean these things, may still mean an urge to this divinely human folly. But to workers, April also means the beginnings of summer unemployment. Light thoughts of love confront dark things to rent increase; green things do stir in sweltering tenements. The April Labor press certainly reflects this darker side of All-Fool's month which the new season turns up for workers. As ever, union interests flow turbulently in its three well-worn channels — through the industrial struggle, internal affairs, and world affairs. But there are few light notes in the sound of its courting. No, union interest still turns upon troublesome issues, momentous questions, disturbing circumstances. The union's life is a big thing, however the seasons may come and go.

The Industrial Struggle

In the field of the actual industrial conflict, there are the usual ups and downs. It is difficult to say whether the sea-saw of events tends more towards the down or up. There are wage increases and decreases, union gains and losses, court injunctions, sets-to in Congress and State legislatures, and all the familiar rest.

The Carpenter hails the latest propaganda of its industry's employers in the name of the season: "Spring Fever." Says the *Employers' Journal*, "With thousands of unemployed men walking the streets, wages will soon be adjusted to an equitable level, they say, and then building will be able to go ahead on a steady basis." And unless this genial picnic thought becomes reality, building will collapse. Certainly, however, figures published elsewhere in the *Carpenter* give small comfort to the prophesy of the employers. For at existing wage rates building activity during January and February showed an increase over that of the same months last year of 15 per cent (\$2 per cent in January and 7 per cent in February). Consequently, carpenters in Charleston and Hudson County have won wage increases, and contractors are attempting to set aside in practice the well-known Chicago Landis Award.

The *Typographical Journal* records the stormy passage which many of its compositors are having, especially in New York. True, the members of the Six Six have just won a notable wage rate increase totalling through the year \$5.00 per week, and setting a scale of from \$58 to \$64. But the many newspaper mergers engineered by Frank Munsey in New York have thrown hundreds of workers out of employment. The most recent merger of the *Herald* and *Tribune* has practically eliminated the working force of one entire paper. The Executive Committee of Big Six had to essay the disagreeable task of deciding which men should be thrown out. Since the *Tribune* bought the *Herald*, it was decided that the *Herald* men had the poorer claim to the jobs open and that questions of priority could not be considered. And so about 125

compositors have joined the large force of Munsey casualties.

The *Union Postal Clerk* reports the progress of the "Kelly Bill" through Congress. Under the first phase of approval which greeted the proposed wage increases for postal employes, more ominous notes are sounding. Postmaster General New discovers that the costs of living wages for the workers would involve heavy burdens on the service and, therefore, increased rates. But, asks the *Postal Workers' Journal*, why does one never hear of the need for a self-supporting army or a self-supporting navy? Why, indeed?

Equity, discussing the situation now existing because of the deadlock between the union actors and the organized managers, assures its membership that "before deciding for war the membership as a whole, or, at least, a representative body of the membership should be called in. . . . We believe that this policy is followed in every big democratic organization and we intend to follow it in ours. . . ."

As the *Bakers' Journal* records the advent of negotiations with local employers over the new working agreement which has been endorsed by the General Executive Board, one's eye travels sadly to the remainder that must still be flung from its page-tops. "A new contract with some employers beginning May 1—Labor's Day—and 'All Ward Products are still One Hundred Percent UNFAIR to Union Labor.' The imperialists adopted for one of their mottoes: 'Let Us Forget.' The bakers ask that all workers adopt that same motto for their own every day as they buy their daily bread. 'Let Us Forget—All Ward Products One Hundred Percent Unfair to Union Labor.'"

The *Labor Press* and *Our Own Fight* the momentous and far-reaching struggle that our union is undertaking in the clothing industry could not fail but produce reactions in the minds of Labor. Even at this early date there is comment upon our move. The plan submitted by our union involves extension of true workers' control over industry and it is most natural that unionism should watch with tense interest the events among us. The *Bridgemen's Magazine* explains the program proposed by the I. L. G. W. U. under the caption, "Unionists Plead for Order in the New York Cloak Trade." The article and quotations from *JUSTICE* which follow, show, of course, that it is even more than a plea for order. It is a plea for steady employment and regular wages and decent conditions and unionism.

On Other Fronts

The industrial struggle during April as always has been fought not only in industry. The railroad journals, for instance, continue their reports on the progress of the Howell-Barkley Bill, which seeks to "abolish the Labor board and provide machinery for adjustment of all disputes." The *Machinists' Monthly Journal*, for instance, presents a full account of the provisions of the bill, and a diagrammatic explanation of the adjustment machinery proposed in it. The machinery includes conferences, boards of adjustment, and voluntarily invoked Boards of Mediation and Conciliation and Boards of Arbitration.

The *Railroad Worker*, however,

enters a hot protest against this bill. Under the signatures of its president, Edward Hopkins, the American Federation of Railroad Workers opposes strenuously the bill and the efforts of the unions "to jam it through," the chief ground of this union's protest being the provisions contained in the bill for "compulsory membership-in-the-craft-organizations" and the consequent outlawing of all independent railroad unions.

The *Weekly News Service* of the American Federation of Labor calls attention to the injunction issued against the Brotherhood of Painters in Washington. The Brotherhood sought to compel the Barker Company of New York City to pay New York rates on a Washington contract. This has always been accepted practice in accordance with a long-standing union rule. Now an injunction judge has said "No." In the Illinois primaries, Governor Small, victor in the Republican primaries, ran on an anti-Labor injunction platform. Can Labor secure primary victory to count in the anti-injunction fight, as the *Weekly News Letter* of the Illinois State Federation hopes?

Internal Affairs

Is it spring or merely the pressure of the industrial conflict which accounts for the minor space allotted to both internal and world affairs in the month's journals? The December wage report of the Interstate Commerce Commission which has just become available records wage decreases and increasing unemployment for the latter half of 1923. Apparently the industrial trend has continued into 1924, for the industrial struggle has loomed steadily larger in Labor's journals.

New Political Policies of Farmers

Under the title of "The Farmer in Politics," Magnus Johnson, Farmer-Labor Senator from Minnesota, contributes an article, *The Country Gentleman* for March 2, 1924, giving a summary of the reasons for the entry of the farmers into politics, and a prediction of their program during the next few years. The reasons were entirely economic. The depression of the last three years has caused the loss of 230,000 farms in the fifteen corn and wheat producing states. 373,000 more farmers are retaining their property through the leniency of creditors. More than one-quarter of the farms in this area have become involved. In 1922 and 1923 alone 387 state and 43 national banks failed in the states of North and South Dakota, Montana, Iowa, and Minnesota. These facts and the conditions which caused them have forced the farmer into politics. His enemies are numerous but three are outstanding, according to the Senator—the railroads, the big banks and the grain interests. To counteract the influence of these enemies Senator Johnson thinks the farmers will propose government ownership of the railroads, a reorganization of the Federal Reserve System to make it a government agency in fact as well as in name and a federal agency to assist in the marketing of farm products. In addition to these banks in the farmer platform will be another one, and efficient government. Says Senator Johnson, "I don't believe the Teapot Dome scandal could have occurred under an administration of farmers and workers. Our viewpoint would have prevented such a possibility."

With this program it is stated the small town banker and business man agrees. "The farmer hasn't gone into politics for fun," says the farmer Senator from Minnesota, "but now that he is he is in to stay." In this connection it is interesting to note that the various farmer and labor

Yet the life of the union must go on. Thus our own *JUSTICE* and our fellow workers' *Advance* chronicle the preparations afoot for the now impending conventions. *Advance* also reports the accession of Charles W. Ervine, formerly of the New York Call to its staff. The *Far Worker* also reports convention preparations for the sections which will open in Chicago on May 12. At Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, during month or less the same time, the needle workers' unions will look back on things done and forward to things still to be done.

The American Federation of Teachers celebrates its ninth anniversary by a summary in its *Bulletin* of the accomplishments of the crowded eight years that have passed since its birth. It may indeed look back with pride.

And The World

And once again the world must be touched by the smallest nook in Labor's chronicle. We can do so more in the space left us than chronicle (as usual) the high points of Labor's interest this month in world affairs. Mexico, the continued revelations in Washington, trades union conditions in Germany, the attempted Ford-grab of Muscle Shoals, and the proposed immigration bill share the bulk of this part of Labor's attention. The American Federationist considers each of these things and the other journals all touch upon one or the other of them. On the whole, the Johnson bill wins favor for its continued restriction of immigration.

Finally the New Majority continues its interesting experiment of a weekly Open-Forum where various subjects of general interest are discussed pro and con.

JOURNALIST.

groups in Minnesota, including the Non-Partisan League, succeeded in ironing out all differences at a series of meetings held last month. The result was the formation of a Farmer-Labor Federation. Conferences were also held in that State last month which looked definitely toward the organization of a third party for the presidential campaign. Seven agricultural States were represented.

UNION HEALTH CENTER NEWS

In order to better satisfy the members of the I. L. G. W. U. and to improve their relations with the Union Health Center Medical Clinic, the Board of Directors has appointed Miss Pauline Newman as Administrative Manager of the Clinic for the next four months, during Dr. Price's absence in Europe.

Dr. Price is leaving on a trip to Europe on May 15 for his health and for study.

Miss Newman is well known to the members of the International as a former organizer. She has also been for a long time with the Joint Board of Sanitary Control and for the last few years has been organizer for the Women's Trade Union League of Philadelphia.

Now that it is getting warmer our friends who suffer from hay fever will soon begin to sneeze and suffer all the tortures of the damned.

As last year, the Union Health Center is ready to make the proper injections for hay fever provided the patients come early enough.

With the beginning of April, we will accept all patients who wish to be treated at the same rate as last year. Last year we had a quite a success and many of the patients who complained of hay fever were greatly relieved. This year with the improved clinic we hope to benefit many more persons.



LABOR THE WORLD OVER

FOREIGN ITEMS

SWEDEN

HOW THE SWEDISH WORKERS SPEND THEIR LEISURE.

A government commission on social questions has recently conducted an inquiry into the results of the eight-hour-day, with special reference to the use made of the free time obtained. The Workers' Educational Union of Sweden has assisted this inquiry by itself investigating the educational work done in ninety-five different localities. The answer to its questionnaire leave no room for doubt that there has been a great increase of educational work since the introduction of the eight-hour day; far more classes have been organized, and they have been attended by a far greater number of students. In the session 1916-17, for instance, only 138 classes were held; while in 1920-21, there were 615, and in 1922-23, 845. The number of students attending the People's Collegia has also greatly increased.

Many of the localities record rapid progress in the popular movement among the workers for the building of their own houses. One little place named Bofors announces that, since 1920, between 500 and 600 workers have built houses for themselves. At Hismofors, the workers have in their free time built themselves a People's Clubhouse with library and reading-rooms. The Allotment Gardens' Movement has made great strides; and there has been a notable increase in the interest in sports, art and music.

Careful inquiries were made with a view to ascertaining whether there was a tendency for workers to spend their free time in doing paid work in other trades. As a rule this was denied; it appears to be done only in a few exceptional cases.

In conclusion, it was declared that the eight-hour-day act has proved itself to be absolutely indispensable to cultural development, and an unequalled blessing to the worker.

JAPAN

THE JAPANESE TRADE UNION CONGRESS.

From February 10 to 12 a trade union congress was held at Tokio. It was resolved to organize two special propaganda days annually, to be observed throughout the whole country. A special department is also to be established for the organization of propaganda work among women workers. A history of the Japanese Labor movement is to be compiled, and also a Japanese Labor Year Book. Another projected innovation is the establishment of a special department for the settlement of labor disputes; this department will work in conjunction with the local trade union branches in settling local disputes.

GREAT BRITAIN

IN THE MINING INDUSTRY.

The British miners have rejected the mine-owners' offer by a narrow majority of about 16,000 on a total vote of about 360,000. It seems unlikely that there will be any strike. A strike ballot would have to show a two-thirds majority in favor of a strike, and the small majority which has now turned the scale against acceptance would probably have been much decreased had the issue been that of the strike. A Court of Inquiry is now to be held, and during its sittings work will go on under the old agreement. The Court of Inquiry will in all probability recommend the closing of mines which are relatively exhausted, but as new and richer beds are being opened up, this will not necessarily mean any decrease in the aggregate number of miners employed.

AMALGAMATION AND COOPERATION.

There is hope of amalgamation in the near future between the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks and the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers. Both unions will discuss this question at their Easter conference.

Last month the Amalgamated Engineering Union invited five other unions to a joint meeting to discuss improvements in organization. The suggestions agreed to are that there should be consultations between the executives on questions of common interest, and that such consultation should precede negotiations with employers.

The annual reports of many trade unions are now showing a rapid return to financial stability.

HUNGARY

TRADE UNIONS THREATENED.

At the recent national conference the Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of Hungary discussed the attitude of Social Democracy to the proposals for the reconstruction of the national finance of Hungary, and resolved that the parliamentary group must spare no effort to combat these.

A further subject of discussion at this meeting was a recent threat of Count Bethlen, to put an end "to the terrorization practised by the trade unions." The general belief is that this threat means that Bethlen will strike at the trade unions if the Social Democrats oppose the reconstruction proposals in Parliament. It was resolved to ignore the threat and to leave nothing undone to prevent or hamper any attempt on the part of Bethlen to consolidate and extend the dictatorship.

NORWAY

NO AFFILIATION WITH THE RED INTERNATIONAL.

The last congress of the Norwegian trade unions, held in 1923, decided to hold a referendum of the members on the subject of affiliation with the Red International of Labor Unions of Moscow. This referendum has now been held, and the majority proposal of the Executive Committee of the National Center, not to affiliate with the Red International Labor Union but only to maintain friendly relations with it, has been adopted by 15,602 against 7,564 votes.

Press Bureau, International Federation of Trade Unions

DOMESTIC ITEMS

CANNERS' PEONAGE IS AIDED BY STATE.

The Washington State contract labor law, which makes peonage possible in the Alaskan salmon fields, was denounced by Justice Gordon when called upon to enforce this act. The court was aroused when nine Filipinos, who received money from a Chinese labor contractor, were arrested when they failed to take passage on the boat bound for Alaska.

The law is an aid to labor contractors who advance a few dollars to penniless workers if they sign a contract to go to Alaska. Later the worker discovers that the contract he signed strips him of every right and he will receive practically nothing for his several months' labor in Alaska. If he attempts to escape from this contract the State is called upon to throw him in jail under criminal proceedings.

Justice Gordon insists that this alleged violation of contract is a civil matter and workers should be given the same treatment accorded all others charged with the same offense.

TAX FAVORS OPPOSED BY UNION TEACHERS.

The Chicago Teachers' Federation is waging another campaign against small tax assessments on the property of big business. Several years ago the teachers waged a successful war against this favoritism.

The city's educational fund is facing a deficit of more than \$15,000,000. The teachers say if big business paid its share of taxes, Chicago's public schools would be benefitted.

William H. Weber, member of the board of assessors, defends big business by intimating that the teachers intend increasing all taxes.

Replying to Weber, Miss Margaret Haley of the Teachers' Federation shows by public records that when the stock yards barons were battling for high rates before the Department of Agriculture, they claimed the average value of their 240 acres was \$3 per square foot.

For taxing purposes, the Chicago appraisers have placed a value of 35 cents a square foot on this property.

Most property in this county is assessed ten and twelve times more than the stock yards.

WIRELESS IN MINES.

A wireless system of communication can solve the problem of talking with the underground mine workers, according to J. J. Jakosky of the Bureau of Mines.

In tests recently conducted in a coal mine 400 feet deep, no difficulty was experienced on the surface in receiving radio messages from a transmitting set mounted upon a mine locomotive as long as the apparatus was in the vicinity of metallic carriers.

SIGN LABOR BILLS.

Governor Smith of New York has signed four amendments to the State Workmen's Compensation Bill that were favored by the State Federation of Labor.

The Governor also approved the Antin Bill, recreating the New York children's court, "to the end that the care, custody and discipline of the children brought before the court shall approximate, as nearly as possible, that which they should receive from their parents."

CAN EVICT WORKERS; DENIED USUAL RIGHTS.

The West Virginia Supreme Court has ruled that a worker living in a company house has none of the rights assured tenants and he and his family can be ejected when he quits the company's employment.

This strikebreaking decision was made in the case of Watt Angel, who was ejected from a house owned by the Black Band Consolidated Coal Company when he ceased working for that concern because of unjust conditions. Angel and his family were thrown on the highway during the winter months.

Attorneys for the corporation are jubilant over the decision. They say this "simplifies" injunction proceedings against striking miners, as these workers insist on their rights as tenants and refuse to have their families sleep on the roadside.

TEACHERS WANT VOICE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The Teachers' Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, of New York, has submitted to the board of education a plan for the democratic organization of a public high school in this city.

The teachers call attention to the faulty system of selecting high school principals. There is no agreement between school officials as to positive and constructive capacities to be demanded of these principals, and the custom has grown up of selecting the candidate against whom no serious objection can be urged, it is stated.

"Owing to the fact that no matter how erroneous the judgment of the school authorities may have proved in the election of the head of a high school, it is practically impossible to rectify the mistake and to dismiss a principal, and thus to save the school for significant service to the community," they say.

To make this democratic organization possible, the Teachers' Union proposes that the superintendent of Schools be authorized to form a committee on organization for a high school. This committee should consist of two members of the board of superintendents, two members of the Teachers' Union and one citizen who resides in the district of that high school.

A committee of teachers should be elected to draft a constitution for governing the school.

The Teachers' Union states that if the board of education accepts this principle, a committee of the union will aid the board in working out details.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Two Years' Work of the Educational Department

(Continued from last week)

During the past two seasons our courses increased in number and were more systematic in character. The following brief description will indicate their character:

I. Labor and Unions.

1. Trade Union Policies and Tactics David J. Sapos. This course consisted of a diffusion of the underlying forces determining the structure and functions of trade unions, such as economic, racial, geographic, political, social, etc.

This course was given with the assistance of the following:

Paul F. Brisenden: "Development of Trade Agreements."

R. W. Bruere: "The Coal Industry and the United Mine Workers."

Morris Sigman: "The Problems of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union."

Benj. Stolberg: "The Labor Situation in Basic Industries."

Members of the Labor Bureau, Inc.: "Industrial Situations Affecting Labor."

How is the railroad industry financed and managed, and what are the difficulties of the railroad unions?

What is the importance of the textile industry, and how about the workers in it? What is its relation to the garment industry? What is the importance of publicity to the workers, and how can they get it? Such questions were answered in this course.

- a) Economic Waste Stuart Chase
- b) The Railroads and the Workers Otto S. Beyer, Jr.
- c) The Textile Industry George Soule
- d) Labor and Publicity Evans Clark

2. Policy of American Trade Unions Towards Unemployment. Dr. Leo Wolman

This course was devoted to a consideration of what would seem to be a sound labor unemployment policy.

3. Current Problems and Tendencies of the Labor Movement Max Levin

This course gave special attention to the aims, problems, and form of organization of the I. L. G. W. U.

4. History of the Labor Movement in the United States Theresa Wolfson

A comparative study of the development of industries in this country and the rise of the Labor Movement.

5. Current Economic and Labor Problems Theresa Wolfson

A study of current economic problems arising each week in the industrial and labor world.

6. Some Problems of the Working Woman Theresa Wolfson

A survey of the working woman's position in our political, social and economic world.

7. Trade Unionism in the United States Margaret Daniels

Survey of the beginnings of trade unionism in the United States and the industrial conditions responsible for its growth.

8. History of the Labor Movement Max Levin

A study of the present Labor Movement in America, England and France, from a historical and comparative point of view.

9. History of American Trade Unionism Max Levin, Theresa Wolfson, Margaret Daniels

History of the development of the unions in America.

10. History of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Max Levin and Margaret Daniels

A study of the origin, struggles, victories, organization and aims of the I. L. G. W. U.

11. Current American Labor Problems Theresa Wolfson

A study of problems affecting men and women workers.

12. Labor in Modern Economic Society Prof. Paul H. Douglas

A consideration of what the position of the worker actually is in modern society and what it might be.

13. American Labor Movement E. L. Oliver

A discussion of the underlying principles of the Labor Movement: its aims, methods, and forms of organization—the Labor Movement as a factor in the political and economic life of the country. In this course was included a brief study of the I. L. G. W. U.; its development, aims, methods, and problems, its place in the American Labor Movement; its place in the American Federation of Labor.

14. Social and Trade Union History B. Glasberg

A study of the social and economic conditions of the United States that led to the formation of the American Trade Union Movement.

15. Social and Labor Problems of the United States. Theresa Wolfson

A study of how the United States came to be what it is in 300 years—what were the social and economic forces that started things going and made of a great wilderness one of the most civilized and greatest countries in the world.

II. Applied Economics.

1. Economic Problems and the Workers Solon De Leon

Examination of the modern industrial and financial system to show its direct bearings on the lives and conditions of the working people.

2. How Man Makes a Living A. L. Wilbert

A study of different ways in which people make a living and their relation to the life of the worker.

Extracts of Lecture by Professor Schapiro

Professor J. Salwyn Schapiro, in his illuminating lecture on "Modern Tendencies in History," given in the International Building on April 2, 1924, discussed the new method of teaching history. In part he said that the purpose of the study of history is to find out what is going on in the present, and the teacher, in presenting the subject, should select the material which has a bearing on the present. The real problem of the teacher is that of selection.

Someone said that history does not repeat itself but that historians repeat each other. In the view of the lecturer, it is the historian who to a large degree makes history, and he makes it according to his understanding. The spirit of the time guides the writer. Therefore, every true history should be a contemporary history. The true historian is he who writes with one eye on the past and the other on the future.

Man is curious and is always puzzled by events, and history is one of the ways to satisfy his curiosity. If man becomes curious about the past, he becomes interested in history; but if he becomes curious about the future, then he becomes interested in religion.

The first interpretation of history was that it was the biography of great men, but with the advent of the French Revolution, people began to realize that the social force of the mass as a whole and humanity make history and not the individual.

True history is world history, and not national history. With the French Revolution, nationalism ascended. A new conception of history emerged, which emphasized that everything important was expressed in the State, that the rise of the people is the rise of the State and that the decline of the people means a decline of the State.

Political history became more and more standardized, and histories written by different persons and in different countries resemble each other.

It created a new abstraction called the State, new religion called nationalism, and new theology called political science.

The contention that a powerful State represents a great nation is not true. Germany and Italy are examples. They produced the greatest spiritual values when they were small and weak politically.

Of course, historians find it easier to write a political history. It is probably due to the fact that events of the 19th century were political, and not dramatic as in the past. The historian of the new type tries to introduce into history environment and atmosphere. He has a vision of a new life of the world and selects from the past only those facts that

will build anew. Walter said that "History is a storehouse from which one can take whatever he needs." The trouble is that in all countries, text books of national history are written mainly with propaganda purposes, whereas history should be based on facts.

We must remember that the history we make today is a part of yesterday. History is man's memory. It is one of the efforts to solve the riddle of the universe. Man seeks in history explanations of past and present phenomena. The great tragedy of the World War set man thinking of the relation between nations and of the relation between classes. Many assert that history is more responsible for war than human nature. H. G. Wells said that the last world tragedy is due to a mis-teaching of history along national lines. This conception inspired him to write his "Outline of History." His object was to show the unity of mankind and people, irrespective of nationality.

The economic interpretation of history as expressed by Karl Marx, is based on the ground that geography does not change, human nature does not change, but economic conditions do change, and they influence human action. It is the first philosophy of history because it considers universal causes. The fundamental idea is that human institutions and ideas are the outgrowth directly and indirectly of the existing system of production and distribution of wealth. All changes in history, it asserts, are due to changes in the economic structure of society. Professor Schapiro declared that the economic interpretation makes man not self-directing, but a slave of his conditions, that it does not consider the individual, his motives and his passions.

The next interpretation will be psychological. This interests many historians who are reading history with this viewpoint. This conception is new. But it is getting a greater hold on the minds of many. Facts are of no value unless passed through psychological analyses. It was said that history is the mental background of mankind and as Remy de Gourmont said: "Since everything in man comes back to the intelligence, everything in history ought to come back to psychology."

H. G. Wells said: "All human history is fundamentally a history of ideas between the men of today and the Cro-Magnard. The physical and mental differences are very slight; their essential difference lies in the extent and content of the mental background which we have acquired in the five or six hundred generations that intervene."

2. Modern Economic Institutions A. L. Wilbert

A study of the family, town, nation, bank, market, railroad, etc.

4. The Cooperative Movement Dr. J. P. Warbase

A study of the aims, principles, organization and methods of the Cooperative Movement.

8. Economic Geography Lucy Brancham

A study of the surface, climate, resources, occupations, and transportation of the important countries of the world, and of the relations between these and the life of the workers.

6. Economics and the Labor Movement Sylvia Kepald

This course attempted to show the purpose of modern industry, its organization, and how the business management of modern industry has and is working out; it pointed out how and where the waste in modern production comes in; it analyzed the internationalism of industry.

РУССКО-ПОЛЬСКИЙ ОТДЕЛ

RUSSIAN-POLISH BRANCH

О ПЕРВОМАССОМ ПРАЗДНИКЕ.

Устроивший Русско-Польский Отдел Казимежберга перламутровый концерт в массовый праздник, можно бы было считать удачным, если бы не превзошли надежды с ораторами. Обещавший выступить на нашем митинге тов. А. Брановский, благодаря неосторожному стечению обстоятельств, не мог прибыть в залу 7-го мая. Президиумом в начале митинга в 6 ч. веч. для открытия праздника соответствующий доклад прочел. Поняв, что было решено открыть вечер концертом по-морскому. Прибывший в самом разгаре концерта тов. Брановский решил, что время для его выхода не было подходящим и по согласованию с распорядителем по устройству вечера, было решено, что он выступит в конце концертной программы, в 9 ч. веч. Концерт окончился в 9 ч. вечера, и об ораторе "из сагу на дугу", в прерывающую минуту около 30 минут, распорядитель заявил, что вечер окончен. Как только оканчивался тов. Брановский говорил в этот вечер на нескольких митингах и по 30-40 мин. на них был выделен до 9 ч. 30 мин. вечера.

Публика и концы концерта собралось до 400 человек, которые по объявленной русской программе начали собираться поздно, но всей вероятности рассчитывая, что в начале концерта не поступит от объявленного праздника, но на этот раз собралась и в конце провела самую интересную часть программы.

Хотя в отчете и не подается отчета об исполнении, но так как все они выступили на нашем концерте по герцогу иному делу что их заслуживают, то мы считаем своим долгом перед всеми объявляя, что все из хороше и как отношение и сказать несколько слов ввиду заслуженной похвалы, прибавляя, что для того чтобы помочь их по достоянию у нас нет достояния похвалы в митингах и восторженных приветств.

То что называется "господом" всего вечера была несравненно исполнителем русской песни А. В. Петрова, которая за короткое свое пребывание в Америке две недели, своим живым голосом и очаровательной манерой исполнения, завоевал себе всю русскую молодежь в Нью Йорке и окрестностях.

Нам особенно успех "интересный" польский танец и мисс М. Янковиц.

Поняв же и говорить о незаключенном на все русские концерты и вечерам "Мисс Сам", от отсрочки

слово и заходою доктору публике, что называется "драла живота" от смеха. Но приходится в нашей программе и так-названное исполнение поводом мисс Галенски, по которому можно было сказать, что русская рабочая молодежь не слышит такой веселости.

Поняв, что живая веселость и разнообразие в программе вечера своим так-названным исполнением характерных русских и польских танцев Галка Шуралева, которая, несмотря на свою очевидную молодость, весьма уверенно держала себя на сцене, по всей вероятности от сознания, что публике по достоянию организует прекрасное исполнение.

Аккомпанировал всем мисс проф. С. Куниавер, как известно аккомпаниатор вечера уверенно держится на сцене, что по всей вероятности происходит от сознания, что публике ценит прекрасное исполнение.

Аккомпаниатор, как известно, больше чем кто другой способствует успеху вечера, как всегда случалось в этом, и поэтому и в данном случае успехи вечера есть а успех аккомпаниатора, и аккомпаниатор получает выгоды не от публики, а от артиста.

Нельзя пропустить без заметки и наш доморощенный студийный оркестр из десяти музыкантов, которые играли очень хорошо, но еще лучше экспромтом.

На этом концерте был сделан малозначительный сбор в пользу стрел в России, который дал \$29.74, и влезавший стрел был добавлено \$20 износился в распоряжение отдела за сумму \$50.00 была в субботу, 7-го мая, послана кассиром отдела А. Александровичем по назначению на имя Е. Н. Каленчикова, в Москву.

Следует упомянуть, что кассир износился была "Интернационал" Феликс Каленчикова, как только он узнал куда идут эти деньги и сейчас же заявил, что банк принимает на себя расходы по переводу этих денег.

ПОПРАВКА.

В отчете за прошлую неделю по ошибке было вычислено: будет сделан малозначительный сбор в пользу годовалых детей Гержкича, в назо было записано "в пользу годовалых детей в Соф. России".

На очередном собрании членов Русско-Польского отдела и в порядке дня были заслушаны и приняты следующие вопросы:

Были заслушаны и приняты протокол собрания Исл. Кош. и очередных собраний т. П. О.

Выступила и принять разработанную Комитетской резолюция о Русско-Польском отделу на конвенцию в Лондон.

Выступила и приняты докладом Летописца В. Дюков Борд, в доклад 1 и 35, доклад секретаря и доклад Комитетской по устройству праздника 1-го мая.

М. Шевцова, Секретарь.

Review of Industry in April

Again contradictory signs appear in the industrial situation, but this time there is little doubt that the immediate tendency of employment and production is downward. The main question is whether the movement will become severe enough to threaten a general industrial depression.

Well developed disease-spots are seen in textiles, especially cotton, though also in silk and wool. Shoe manufacturing and the cheaper grades of clothing are suffering. Bituminous coal production is light and unemployment has appeared in many coal fields. Iron and steel production, though still high, is falling rapidly, and unfilled steel orders have declined. Automobile factories, after record production, seem to have overproduced their market and operations are ceasing. Building construction is still far above normal, but new contracts placed are falling off except in New York and a few other centers. Railroads have car surpluses and are restricting advance orders for equipment and shop employment.

The optimists point to certain favorable factors as giving assurance that the slackening of trade will not be long or serious. The Paris settlement gives hope of revival in Europe and greater demand for export products. There has been no inflation of prices or credit. Plenty of funds are available for investment. Though production has been heavy, few large stocks have accumulated and there have been no speculative advance orders. Wholesale and retail trade are fair. The buying power of the general public is still higher than at any time within three years, since unemployment is not concentrated in a few industries and average wages have not fallen. On top of this favorable basic situation encouragement has been given to investors by another extra dividend of U. S. Steel and a lowering of the bank rate for loans.

These influences certainly are important and should lead to moderation in the business slackness and an early revival unless we see the development of one unfavorable factor.

Some time ago we stated that the main question was, if inflation does not arise from a period of inflation, would be caused by inability of the current normal demands of the country to keep industry going at its recent high pace. Many industries have much more equipment than is necessary to supply normal demand at the existing level of purchasing power. Some time the emergency demand for new building, caused by the war shortage, will slow up. The

railroads will recover from their long-continued shortage of equipment. All those who can afford to purchase automobiles will be supplied, and the new demand will be smaller, since it will be mainly for replacements. And so on.

The situation seems already to have appeared in the case of textiles, shoes and men's clothing. Big war profits attracted the investment of much new capital in these industries. Stock dividends increased the financial burden of capitalization. They suffered severely in 1921, but were able for the most part to avoid bankruptcy by paying interest out of accumulated war profits. The labor force was laid off, but the over-expanded plants and the capital burden remained. The revival of 1922-1923 kept them fairly busy filling up the slackness that had been created by the depression. Demand for their products was also increased by the higher general wage level. But now it appears that even the enlarged current demand is not sufficient to keep them going at capacity. The basic trouble here appears to be—too high profits, too much investment, and too low wages in the war period.

There are, of course, other special troubles. Scarcity and rapidly fluctuating prices of raw cotton, failure to install enough modern machinery and good management in New England, a falling off of exports and a revival of imports, and expensive and wasteful distribution methods all play a part in the cotton situation, for instance. But they are not so important as over-expansion.

The result of over-expansion in the bituminous coal industry and of short-sighted railroad management is explained in separate articles.

Will the same troubles become serious in other industries such as building, steel, automobiles? If enough others follow suit the balance will be upset, unemployment will spread in widening circles, and we shall be in for a real depression. Such an eventuality can be avoided not, as Secretary Mellon and others suggest, by increasing profits, lowering taxation and making heavier investments in productive equipment, but by the reverse process of bolstering up trade by public works and distributing a larger share of the national income to labor and the farmers. If a general depression does not appear, it will be because the purchasing power of labor and the farmers has expanded enough to furnish a normal demand which will keep industry busy.

—Facts for Workers.

Japanese Exodus from California

Anti-alien land legislation, upheld by Supreme Court decision, has practically eliminated Orientals from the agricultural situation in California. Possible effects in rural communities were soon apparent in the suggestions that white settlers come to the State to take up land.

The greatest areas of Japanese concentrations were in the cantaloupe and lettuce fields of the Imperial Valley, in one of the northern fruit counties, and in the so-called Delta region in the center of the State where strawberries, potatoes, celery, onions and asparagus are raised. In at least two of these areas Japanese did not displace white men for few white men will work there. After Japanese came in and saved the industry they were barred from land ownership, from becoming partners in any farming corporation and from leasing land, and now they are barred from working it on crop contracts. George A. Atherton, former member of the State Reclamation Board and for years identified with Delta devel-

opment is quoted as saying, "The decision at Washington is a fiasco. White people will not do the larger part of the work necessary to produce Delta crops. The Japanese are too independent to work as day laborers. To finance the hiring of men, even if we could get them, together with the purchase of seed, implements and other necessary expenditures is for the owners of such large units practically impossible. . . . They cannot swing such a proposition unaided by the Oriental cropper." Until readjustment comes and white people will take to growing these valuable crops and are able to finance them, the landowners must stand the loss and will find it difficult to meet their obligations.

Of course there is another side to the situation. In places the Japanese have competed with white farmers. Japanese farm laborers apparently do underbid white laborers. Hence white owners in sections where both are available prefer the Japanese.

III. Sociology.

1. Foundations of Modern Civilization Dr. H. A. Overstreet, Dr. Julius Drachler

This course attempted to discover what the basic forces are, individual and social, conscious and unconscious, historic and new that are actually at work in the shaping of our developing civilization. What are the institutions that mould our ideas and ideals? Are they themselves undergoing changes; and in what direction? The course was as much an experiment in cooperative thinking as a straight lecture course for stress was laid upon working out these ideas by means of a large amount of group discussion.

2. Social Institutions Dr. Arthur W. Calhoun

The aim of this course was to cultivate wide-drake, reflective attitude toward the problems of the world, especially the world of labor, and to leave the members of the class with a habit of inquiry on social matters. Much inspiration was provided by a careful balancing of the good and bad features of institutional life, to the end that the student may be helped to take every institution at its real value and react to it accordingly.

(To be continued)

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

The organization's activities for this and the next week have been halted in New York City and all attention is now directed towards the 17th convention and jubilee celebration of the International.

On Monday, the convention was opened by President Sigman. And it was a most impressive opening. Enthusiasm was at its height. What is more, the enthusiasm reached unprecedented proportions when the Mayor of Boston tendered to President Sigman the key to the city, made of gold. This was the first time that a convention of the International was honored so highly.

The Boston garment shops were practically empty when the workers decided to parade to Convention Hall to tender the delegates welcome. Thousands lined the streets as members of the International paraded. They were preceded by a platoon of mounted police and a band of music.

When President Sigman followed the Mayor to address the delegates and the mass of members who crowded the large hall beyond capacity, there was cheering and prolonged clapping of hands. In his address the president of the International reviewed the history of the past twenty-five years of the International. Coming down to the present, he reviewed the activities of the union, and particularly stressed the action of the General Executive Board to purge the International of the disruptive element.

The president said, in effect, that the energies of the union must be directed towards the betterment of the conditions of work for the thousands of its members. He besought the delegates to forget their personal ambitions and to direct their efforts in behalf of the members who elected them. He said that it is they who must and should be represented. He especially warned the delegates against attempts to inject into the convention issues foreign to the union, and repeated that it is the vast membership who elected them that they must legislate for.

That the 17th convention of the I. L. G. W. U. would be an epoch-making one was felt by the members of Local 10. Over 600 of them outdid themselves in their efforts to make the send-off of their delegates one to be remembered.

It will be recalled that the Executive Board of the local reached a decision, which the members approved at the last meeting, to tender a send-off to the delegates. But the delegation did not dream that the send-off would be so unusual. When they took their places at the dinner table, they were surprised to find about a hundred active members gathered there. The fact that for the dinner was for the delegates did not deter them from reserving for themselves at their own expense places at the dinner.

That was only one of the many surprises. At the end of the meal there were at the doors of the restaurant about six touring cars. These took the delegates to Arlington Hall where were waiting the six hundred members. The majority of these had supplied themselves with buses and a band of music. The buses fell in after the touring cars containing the delegation and escorted them amid music and shouting to the pier. And to the use of the music were added at the pier the fustig shouts of the cutters and hundreds of members of other locals as the boat departed.

The boat was chartered by the International for the majority of the three hundred delegates, many of whom represented out-of-town locals,

such as Chicago, Canada and cities nearer to New York. These came especially in order to go by boat with the New York delegation.

Manager Dubinsky, Isidore Nagle, chairman of Local 10's delegation, and the rest of the delegates were, it is needless to say, overwhelmed at the send-off. It was a small group of the active members who had charge of the escort and who, unknown to the officers, had made possible this most impressive of all send-offs. Mention should be made of the committee who had charge of the affair. Names of all are not now available; however, a few of the most active ones were Sam Greenberg, Abe Reiss, and Meyer Freidman. Maurice Jacobus was the chairman of the arrangements committee for the dinner. Other members of this committee were: Milton Civin, Samuel Kerr, Harry Zaslowsky, Louis Forer and Charles W. Serrington, all of whom are members of the Executive Board.

Monday morning was entirely given over to greeting and addressing the convention. The credential committee, of which Joseph Breslaw, manager of the Pressers' Union, is chairman and Manager Dubinsky is secretary, was not fully ready with its report. The work of the committee is two-fold. While there was appointed an appeal committee, the credential committee, in addition to examining the credentials of the three hundred delegates with a view to ascertaining the standing of the locals they represent, acts also in a way as an appeal and objection committee. This committee was therefore, because of the volume of its work, compelled to meet Monday afternoon.

That the delegates of Local 10 will make a fine showing will be seen at once when mention is made of the various committees to which they were appointed. Manager Dubinsky, as was mentioned, serves as secretary of the credential committee. Brother Samuel Perlmutter was appointed as one of the Committee on Resolutions. Isidore Nagle serves as a member of the Appeal Committee. This committee, by the way, is a new one. Heretofore the credential committee acted as such in a large measure. Owing, however, to the many appeals which were filed, it was found that the credential committee would not be able to handle so much work.

Brother Joseph Fink was appointed a member of the committee on officers' reports. The writer of these lines was appointed as a member of the Committee on Resolutions. Brother Philip Ansel, president of the local, serves as a member of the Committee on Rules and Regulations. To Brother Benjamin Evry, chairman of the Executive Board, fell the honor of serving as one of the general officers of the convention. He serves for the two weeks as Sergeant-at-Arms. And Brother David Fruhling is appointed a member of the Committee on Adjustment.

As yet resolutions have not been presented, and it is therefore not opportune to say what course the resolutions presented by the cutters took. The delegates of Local 10 will, without a doubt, put forth their best efforts to carry these through.

The cutters of Boston, though a very small local, were very much elated over meeting the representatives of Local 10. They felt that they must pay their respects to the powerful organization of New York cutters. Hence a very fine affair of welcome was arranged.

Among the vast number of members of the Boston locals which crowded the dock to welcome the New York delegates was the former manager of the dress division of Local 10 and secretary to the executive board, Brother Israel Lewin. He is managing the Boston Dress and Waist-makers' Local 49. That he was elated on meeting his former colleagues was evident.

Among the many telegrams of greetings and congratulations which were showered on the convention were two which made Local 10's delegation very happy. Of course there were many more from cutters, representing the greetings of shops and from individual members. But these came in later. Executive Board Member Harry Zaslowsky sent greetings. In his telegram he congratulated the International on its 25th birthday and for its achievements which made it possible for the workers in the ladies' garment industry to live decently.

The second telegram, which especially warmed the hearts of the cutters' delegates, was from the Executive Board of Local 10. The telegram follows in full:

Greetings to the Seventeenth Biennial and Jubilee Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. It is a privilege to greet the officers, delegates and guests on the twenty-fifth birthday of an organization which has brought sunshine and freedom into the hearts and homes of tens of thousands of men, women and children. The workers are proud of your achievements. You have put an end to the long and interminable hours of slavery. You have made it possible for the members and their families to live as befits human beings. By your tenacity and grim determination you have lifted the standards of our workers until today the entire Labor movement is watching your deliberations, confident in the continuance of your future progress.

We once more greet you and congratulate you heartily on this festive occasion. We are certain that the next two years will see your present efforts in behalf of the vast membership crowned with success. We also express the fervent wish that the day is not far distant when the ideal of the I. L. G. W. U.—industrial democracy and the end of the exploitation of Labor for the enrichment of a few—will attain realization.

Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union, Local 10.

MAURICE JACOBS,
Acting President.
BENJAMIN SACHS,
Acting Manager.

No doubt the membership is aware of the fact that invitations to be pre-

sent for the first few days of the convention have been sent out to ex-presidents, ex-secretary-treasurers and vice-presidents to be the guest of the International on its 25th birthday.

Among these guests who are members of Local 10 up to the time of writing are James McCaully and John C. Ryan. McCaully came as one of the presidents. Records are not available to show just when he served and whether he was the second or third president. Ryan is at the convention as one of the early vice-presidents. Elmer Rosenberg is expected as a guest. He served as one of the first vice-presidents in 1918. It was in that year that he was elected a delegate by Local 10 and after his election served the International for two years.

By the end of this week the convention will be under way. One of the most important things, among many, that the delegates will act upon is the report of the General Executive Board on its program for reconstructing the industry. This report, as the members well know, has been presented to the various associations in the cloak and suit industry in the form of demands.

The action of the delegates is being watched very closely by the entire country. Both workers and employers are interested. The International is not satisfied to institute the changes it proposed to the employers in New York alone. And it will not be satisfied to do this in that city and its cloak industry only.

The union is ready to exert its energies to the last iota for the successful outcome of these demands. And when that is accomplished in New York the same drive will be made in other cities. And then there is needed the institution of the same changes in the dress industry. Hence the three hundred delegates to the 17th convention have a grim task before them.

One of the last acts which the union has done before it prepared for the convention was to demand a concrete reply from the jobbers. President Sigman told the representatives of this association that the time was ripe to come to a definite decision.

"We all want results," said President Sigman to the jobbers. "And it is obviously useless to go on with endless debating. We request the sub-committee representing the jobbers to give the terms of our demands thorough consideration before they come to the next meeting . . ."

The Protective Association sought another conference with the union, and said that it was ready to confer. Owing to the fact, however, that the convention began its sessions on May 5th, the Protective was informed that a conference could not be held for two or three weeks.

CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

MISCELLANEOUS MEETING Monday, May 19th

REGULAR MEETING Monday, May 26th

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Mark's Place