

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

—Job 27:8

JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. VIII, No. 36.

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

PRICE 3 CENTS

Unity House Will Have Labor Day Celebration

Dances, Games and Boat Races

Elaborate plans are being made to celebrate Labor Day at Unity House this week-end. There will be a performance of David Pinski's "The Dollar" for which special costumes have been ordered. Well known actors, as well as artists of Unity, will participate under the direction of David Pinski. A concert will also be given by prominent musicians. The Unity Chorus of Adults and Children will sing folk and labor songs directed by Mr. Perren.

Arrangements are being made for various games, dances, singing and swimming, and boat races. It will be a week-end of fun and good fellowship.

Philadelphia I.L.G.W.U. Members Give Day For New York Strikers

Dressmakers Also Vote to Work 2 Hours for British Mine Strikers

The cloakmakers and dressmakers of Philadelphia have, during this week, shown their true colors, as members of the I. L. G. W. U., when at two big meetings they voted to assess themselves one day's wages for the striking cloakmakers of New York City. The dressmakers, in addition, voted to work two hours for the relief fund of the striking British miners.

The cloakmakers' meeting took place last Saturday. The dressmakers held their meeting on Tuesday night, August 31, at the big hall of the Phil-

Cloak Strike Leaders Meet With Industrial Council

Union Notifies Governor It Will Not Consent to Arbitration.—
Governor in Reply Offers to Arrange Conferences With Various Employers' Groups Through Impartial Chairman's Aid.—
First Official Conference Held on Wednesday Afternoon in Ingersoll's Office.—Mass-Meetings, Arrests, Settlements Continue.

The leaders of the cloak strike and the representatives of the Industrial Council of Cloak and Suit Manufacturers, Inc., the group of "insider" manufacturers, met in official conference on Wednesday afternoon, September 1, for the first time since the strike went into effect, exactly sixty days ago on July 1, in the offices of the

Impartial Chairman in the Cloak 952 Sult Industry, Raymond V. Ingersoll, at 120 West 31st Street.

The meeting began at 2 o'clock and lasted for six hours, and upon its adjournment, Mr. Ingersoll, who presided at the conference, declared that the parties had a "full and open discussion of some of the points in controversy, but have reached no agreement on any of them." "Both sides," Mr. Ingersoll added, "apparently show a disposition to seek some sort of friendly settlement and the conference was quite amicable."

The conference continued the next day, Thursday, September 2, and is still in session at the time of writing. President Morris Sigman headed the delegation representing the strikers, which consisted of Louis Hyman, chairman of the strike committee, Salvatore Ninfo, David Dubinsky, Joseph Fish, Joseph Boruchowitz, Abraham Zirin, Leduc Stenor and Charles Zimmerman.

The manufacturers were represented by Henry H. Fieder, chairman of the Industrial Council, Louis Lustig, George Jablow, Max Mayer, Jacob

(Continued on Page 3)

President Sigman Visits Baltimore

Local Organization Active and Growing

The cloakmakers of Baltimore have, in the last few months, shown greater signs of activity and of a genuine desire to build up their organization and to become a factor of influence in the local market, than for many years past.

The revival in Baltimore union circles, under the direction of the Eastern Organization Department of the International Union, has become especially pronounced since the outbreak of the cloak strike in New York. At once the Baltimore cloakmakers became aware that, unless they take the proper steps, their city might become a haven of refuge for strike-breaking activity for New York.

An organization committee was immediately formed, which, in addition to guarding against the manufacture of strike cloaks in the Baltimore, set to work to organize local non-union cloak shops. Meetings were called to which non-union cloakmakers were invited, and shortly this work began to show fine results. Already one big non-union shop was organized and others are expected to follow.

Last Saturday afternoon, August 23, President Morris Sigman addressed a large and enthusiastic meeting of Baltimore cloakmakers at Conservatory Hall, 1023 East Baltimore St. Twenty additional volunteers were added at this meeting to the organization committee. President Sigman reports that the Baltimore local is growing and that the workers are displaying commendable activity.

Cleveland Workers Raising \$10,000 for New York Strike

Cloak and Dressmakers in Ohio City Collecting Fund—Promise Day's Work if Necessary

As reported in "Justice" two weeks ago, the Cleveland Joint Board locals had voted to collect as big a strike fund for the New York cloak strikers as under the circumstances they can possibly raise. Cleveland garment workers, it is in place to mention here, have always responded with warmth and zeal to any call for aid on the part of their fellow workers in any part of the country.

A telegram received by President Sigman this week from Vice-president Charles Kreindler, secretary-manager

of the Cleveland Joint Board, announces that the relief fund is now being collected and that the Cleveland workers are ready to work a full day, in addition, should it prove necessary. The telegram is in full reads:

"Cleveland membership decided to help New York strikers with approximately ten thousand dollars. Assessment being collected at present. First half will go to strikers at once. Money is coming in fast. In case of necessity to help further, day's work will follow." "CHARLES KREINDLER"

Boston Raincoat Makers Win Strike

Workers Celebrate Victory at Meeting—All Demands Granted

After a strike lasting barely a week, the raincoat makers of Boston, members of Local 24, won a clean-cut victory from their employers on Monday, August 30. On the following day, the strikers assembled at 11 Beach Street, and ratified the settlement. The meeting was addressed by Vice-president Julius Hochman, the leader of the strike.

Today there is joy and satisfaction in the ranks of the Boston raincoat makers. And well they may rejoice!

For only a week ago their local union was disintegrated and their situation looked hopeless. Today they have a strong organization to maintain the conditions they have won. The Boston raincoat makers have now a 43-hour work week, time and half for overtime, three legal holidays with full pay, and the right to observe other local holidays without pay. Each worker, whether he is working by the week or at piece work, who is called

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LABOR DAY—1926

A Message From President Sigman

Labor Day, 1926, finds the workers in our industry, like those in many others, face to face with a bitter paradox. In the past eighteen months, they were marked for the country as a whole by comparative economic prosperity; our people have been suffering from unemployment and its accompanying evil of miserably low annual earnings. Our Union has won a 44-hour, and in some cases a 40-hour, week; union recognition and collective bargaining are unquestioned principles in the industry; a system of unemployment insurance to which employers contribute two-thirds and which has paid out over two million dollars in the last year and a half, has been instituted; the introduction of the sanitary label has led to a check on the growth of the sweatshop system and an enforcement of union conditions—these and many other important reforms and gains have been won. But the main problems of the industry—unemployment, low yearly earnings, insecurity—are still before us, and today 40,000 cloakmakers are on strike since July 1st, to bring about conditions which will remedy these evils.

The cloakmakers will win their strike. But they and other branches of organized labor must be ever on the alert against these two great dangers—the menace of unorganized, underpaid labor kept in misery by autocratic employers who will use any means to fight unionization—and the continual onslaughts of employers, even in industries where organization prevails, to prevent labor from carrying on its efforts to bring about improved conditions.

To Labor in America, all these difficulties will act as a spur and a challenge for the workers to unite their forces and continue in their brave and uninterupted struggle for a better social order in which poverty, misery and oppression shall no longer be the lot of working men and women.

Strike Leaders Start Conferences With Industrial Council

(Continued from Page 1)

Rppport. I. Grossman and Samuel Klein. The jobbers and the subcontractors were not represented at the conferences.

Union Leaders Reject Arbitration

The cordial though brief refusal of the Union leaders to agree to the proposal extended to them by Governor Smith at the private conference last Wednesday, August 25, at the Biltmore Hotel, and the reasons for this rejection were made clear in a letter, signed by President Sigman and the chairman of the general strike committee, Louis Hyman, and forwarded the following day, Thursday, August 26, to the Governor at Albany, N. Y. Speaking on behalf of the striking cloakmakers, the leaders of the strike made it clear that while the Union is not opposed to arbitration as a method for settling disputes with employers, it could see no practical results arising from an arbitration venture at the present moment and asserted that the only direct conferences with the various employers groups could be relied upon as the only practical means for settling the strike, provided the manufacturers and the jobbers are ready to concede the workers' most important demands leading to a thorough reorganization of work conditions in the shops and the fastening of real responsibility for these conditions on all employers, manufacturers and jobbers alike.

Shop Chairmen Vow to Stand Behind Leaders

At the special meeting of all cloak and suit shop chairmen, held on Wednesday morning, September 1, in place of the regular weekly meeting on Thursday, the shop heads unanimously voted to uphold the stand of the leaders of the strike in refusing arbitration and insisting on conferences directly to negotiate the terms of peace with the employers.

Louis Hyman, chairman of the general strike committee, addressed the shop chairmen, giving a detailed account of the proposal made by the Governor and explaining the Union's viewpoint. He objected strongly to some parts in the Governor's letter which severely criticized the strike leadership for refusing to accept his arbitration proposal.

Hyman was followed by Bro. Zimmerman and Vice-president Boruchwitz, who spoke in a similar vein. The meeting adjourned without a dissenting voice being heard against the adamant resolution of the strike leaders to continue the struggle until the terms of the workers are met in direct conferences with the manufacturers and jobbers.

The Union's letter follows:

Hon. Alfred E. Smith,
Governor of New York,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Governor:

Our Union has given careful and respectful consideration to your suggestion that the pending strike in the Cloak and Suit Industry of this city be settled by arbitration.

We are very grateful to you for your keen interest in the fate of our members who are now struggling to secure livable conditions and we deeply appreciate your efforts to establish peace in the most important industry of New York. The general strike which was forced upon us entails daily hardships against the 40,000 of our workers and their families and it is therefore the supreme and ardent desire of our Union to see the strike settled and work in

our shops resumed as speedily as possible.

Our Union throughout the twenty-five years of its existence has given ample and consistent proof of its general disposition to settle its differences with employers by conciliatory methods and with the aid of voluntary and impartial outside tribunals. We should have welcomed arbitration at this time if we had any hope that the particular difficulties which confront our industry could be solved by that process. Our Union has, however, after mature deliberation reached the conclusion, reluctantly but definitely, that arbitration would serve no good purpose in our present conditions.

When the differences between the employers and the workers in the Cloak and Suit industry first assumed their present acute form, about two years ago, and a general strike seemed inevitable, the threatened clash was averted through your kind and public-spirited interposition. With the full consent and approval of our Union you appointed a special commission to make a thorough study of the grievances of the workers and the problems of the industry; to hear all sides of the controversy and to recommend such measures of redress or reform as would, in their opinion, furnish a solid basis for just and peaceful operation of the industry. The persons thus appointed by you were exceptionally well-qualified for the difficult task by ability and training as well as their generally recognized fairness and high-minded devotion to the cause of industrial peace. These gentlemen have generously given us their time and attention for a period of fully two years. They have on numerous occasions heard all parties to the controversy representing the various factors in our industry and learned the details of the respective problems to the full extent to which such problems can be understood theoretically. They have caused several extensive and thorough investigations of the industry to be made by trained and qualified investigators. On the basis of such work and study they have finally handed down recommendations for certain reforms in the industry, which undoubtedly represented their best judgment of a practical adjustment of approximately equal fairness to all sides. Yet our Union has found itself unable to accept the recommendations as a proper and adequate solution of the difficulties which confront the workers in our industry and as a sufficient redress of their many and justified grievances. The "Jobbers" who are responsible for about seventy-five per cent of the total production in our industry have officially ignored the recommendations of the Commission and practically rejected them in toto.

It is, of course, true that the Commission appointed by you in 1924 was merely advisory in character and function and had no power to make a binding award. But its recommendations were at least as carefully weighed as any award of an arbitration board could be and we are deeply convinced that the same Commission, acting as a Board of Arbitration, or a new body of arbitrators could not and would not produce more satisfactory results.

The fault does not lie with the personnel of your Advisory Commission, their keenness of perception or fairness of mind, for all these are fully conceded by all parties. The difficulty is deeply rooted in the unusually intricate and diversified practical problems of one of our chief employers in the worker in the shop and employer in the office, which cannot be

fully explained in all details to any party of outsiders and which can only be adjusted by the parties directly involved in mutual conference by a process of patient negotiation in a frank and fair-minded attitude of mutual fairness.

Our industry has in recent years undergone many radical and thoroughgoing changes, which widely affect the lives of the workers. As conditions stand now the important and worthy Cloak and Suit Industry in New York is fast degenerating into a pauper and parasite business as far as the workers are concerned, with alarmingly long periods of unemployment, low wages, a large body of irresponsible employers and general anarchy in management. A mere temporary compromise, a "patched-up" peace, which will leave the root of the evil practically untouched, will serve no useful purpose and will only perpetuate misery, strife and discontent in the industry. What we need at this time is a thoroughgoing reorganization in the form and processes of our industry which will make it impossible in the future for the largest and most important body of employers to evade all responsibility towards their workers by assuming the transparent guise of jobbers or merchants and which will guarantee to the workers such work and earnings as will enable them to live upon a modest American standard of life without periodical starvation or recourse to public charity.

The best service that you, Mr. Governor, can, in our opinion, render to the workers as well as to the employers in our industry at this time in pursuance of your public spirited interest in our industry, is to bring about a conference or series of conferences between the workers and the different types of employers in the Cloak and Suit industry for the purpose of an open-minded discussion of the pending issues and a sincere effort to solve our intricate problems. Our Union will be ready at all times to participate in such conferences in this spirit.

Once more thanking you for your efforts in behalf of industrial peace, we are, dear Mr. Governor,

Respectfully yours,

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION.

(Signed) MORRIS SIGMAN, Pres. JOINT BOARD OF THE CLOAK, SUIT, DRESS AND REFRESH MAKERS' UNION.

(Signed) LOUIS HYMAN, Manager, General Strike Committee

Smith in Reply Proposes Conferences to Be Arranged by Impartial Chairman Ingersoll

Within two days, Governor Smith crowded a reply to the International Union and to the Joint Board in which he stresses the point that the strike, if prolonged, "would lead to intense suffering and a breakdown of standards in the industry which have already been established." The Governor said he would, therefore, communicate with the various parties concerned asking them again to undertake conferences with the Union and he would at the same time ask Raymond V. Ingersoll, the impartial chairman of the industry, to renew official meetings which failed of practical results a week or two ago. "Should this line of effort not prove successful, I shall expect you to consider again the question of arbitration," said the Governor in conclusion.

Governor Smith's letter to the Union follows

State of New York, Executive Chamber,

Albany, August 26, 1926.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 3 No. 16th St., and Joint Board, Cloak and Skirt Makers' Unions, 130 E. 25th St., New York.

Dear Sirs:

While I appreciate much that you may in your letter, I regret that you have not given a favorable reply to my proposal that your differences in the industries be submitted to immediate arbitration.

In urging this plan upon your leaders I had fully in mind the welfare of cloak and suit workers. I had also in mind the interests of city and State, which are injured by existing disorders. The present strife protracted, if greatly prolonged, to lead only to intense suffering and to the breaking down of such standards in the industry as have already been established. Whatever contracts individual firms may be coerced into signing, they are no substitute for the orderly procedure under collective agreements which it took the union so many years to accomplish.

Praises Commission's Work

Two years ago it was largely at the request of the union that I appointed the commission, of which your letter speaks so favorably, to consider the many problems in your industry and to make recommendations to the parties involved. No commission ever worked more conscientiously or with greater ability and courage. Their first and second reports resulted in doing away with a number of abuses and in the adoption of several constructive measures advocated by the union. It is enough to mention the establishment of an unemployment insurance fund and the setting up of effective machinery for settling all disputes arising while collective agreements are in force. As you indicate in your letter, the commission has shown keen appreciation of the complexities of the industry, and they have directed their efforts toward basic and permanent improvements.

In their recent and final report the commission made comprehensive recommendations. Among other things, this report outlined a basis for making new contracts between the organized manufacturers and the union and gave powerful reasons why there must be peace and cooperation between these two important bodies if conditions in the industry are not to become more and more chaotic.

These recommendations were accepted by the manufacturers but rejected by the union. While the union repeatedly says that the present strike is directed chiefly against the jobbers, whose position has thus far been uncompromising and whose differences with you are great, you do not deny that its chief weight falls upon the manufacturers, who accepted the commission's report and whose differences with you are much less serious. It is in the establishments of these very manufacturers that the commission found the best conditions as to wages, and as to the length of work seasons and as to enforcement of all agreed labor standards.

Height of Fall Season Here

For eight weeks the strike has been going on and the height of your short Fall season is here. Last week informal conferences between the union and the Industrial Council were held under favorable conditions but no definite result was secured. It was because of this deadlock that I proposed a speedy and final arbitration. Usually it is the employers who hesitate to ac-

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Conferences Begin in Cloak Strike

(Continued from Page 2)
 cept arbitration but this time it is the union.

Your leaders last Wednesday offered certain objections, partly repeated in your letter, to make any settlement with the organized manufacturers until you can reach an agreement with the jobbers. These objections seem to have little force, in view of the admission that you have already settled with a large number of so-called independent manufacturers.

If order and progress are to be established in this complicated situation a beginning must be made at some promising point. Agreement with the manufacturers will easily be followed by agreement with the sub-manufacturers. So far as the jobbers are concerned, you will not be without support in disposing of your issues with them, especially when you shall have worked out an agreement with the Industrial Council of Manufacturers.

You are the leaders who must take responsibilities for not accepting my arbitration proposal, and I sincerely hope that conferences with the various parties may bring early and constructive results. I shall communicate with the several parties, asking them to take in such conferences. I shall also request the impartial Chairman in your industry to cooperate and to begin by renewing in a more official way the meetings which I under-

stand he initiated a week or two ago. It is to be hoped that all persons taking part in these conferences will do so with a genuine desire to reach agreements.

Should this line of effort not prove to be successful, I shall expect you to consider again the question of arbitration. Very truly yours,
 (Signed) ALFRED E. SMITH.

Finder Continues Abusive Campaign
 The Industrial Council, though ostensibly clamoring for peace, has nevertheless, kept up during the past few days its campaign of slurring propaganda against the strike leaders, charging them with every crime under the sun, including "reprehensible and brutal methods" and "utter disregard for legally constituted authority" because they had chosen to reject arbitration of the strike issues and preferred to settle the conflict by direct negotiations. On Tuesday, when the stand of the Union respecting arbitration became known, Henry H. Finder, chairman of the Council, in addition, issued another one of his familiar challenges to the Union leaders, daring them this time to present the question of arbitration vs. direct negotiations to a poll of the general membership of the Union, and reiterated his favorite charge that "the strike issues are merely a mask for Communist propaganda."

SIGMAN STRIKES BACK AT COUNCIL

When asked about the prospects of a settlement with the Industrial Council of Cloak and Suit Manufacturers, on the eve of announced conferences between the leaders of the strike and this group of employers, President Sigman declared that while the Union is entering these conferences with a genuine desire to reach a just and stable agreement, it does not appear that the leaders of the Industrial Council are inspired by similar motives.

"The very fact," President Sigman said, "that just a few hours before we are to meet with them in conference arranged by Mr. Raymond V. Ingersoll, the impartial chairman in the cloak and suit industry, the leaders of the Industrial Council choose to issue a violent attack upon the leaders of the workers' organization, indicates how little they desire peace."

"The spokesman for the Industrial Council on the eve of the conferences, denounces the strike leaders as persons having 'disrespect and utter dis-

regard for legally constituted authority' because they prefer direct negotiations to arbitration, and heaps abuse upon them as 'so-called leaders who with characteristic defiance of the law are using reprehensible and brutal methods.' I do not wish to enter into any exchange of invective with the leaders of the Council, except to remind them that in July 1924, at the very first hearing before the Governor's Special Mediation Commission, the representatives of the Industrial Council openly declared the Union's demands 'undefeatable' and informed the mediators that they had dissolved their association and would therefore be no party to any mediation, arbitration or conciliation proceedings.

"That farcical dissolution was later exposed when they reorganized their association into the present Council. Today, they have become such fervent adherents of arbitration that they would denounce anyone declining it to suit their whim, as lawbreakers and

criminals. It is, to say the least, a display of bad temper which would have to improve materially if we are to expect anything substantial to come out of these conferences."

Settlements With Independent Firms Continue Uninterrupted

During the week, the settlement headquarters of the Union at Hotel Cadillac, announced the settlement of

OUT OF TOWN SHOPS FAIL TO SUPPLY SCAB WORK IN STRIKE

Efforts by R. Sadovsky, Inc., one of the largest firms in the New York market, to have work done out of town, were frustrated last week when the non-union workers operating a shop for Sadovsky at Park Ridge, N.J. walked out.

Another shop, operated by Gordon, Fried & Furman for the jobbing firms of Engel and Abraham Katz of New York, was stopped at Mountaintale, N. Y.

Hired gangsters, provoked by the successful efforts of the out-of-town committees in stopping a non-union shop, threatened last week violence to Max Bruck, Newark organizer of the Cloakmakers' Union. The gangsters, according to Bro. Halperin, chairman of the committee, were em-

ployed by a scab firm in Beach Street, Newark, whose shops was closed Friday, when the workers joined the strike. The thugs invaded union headquarters at 2 Beacon street, in that city, seeking Bruck, but prompt police intervention prevented any violence. Halperin promptly appealed to the Newark police commissioner for protection against thugs employed by non-union manufacturers and was promised that union officials would not be molested.

The out-of-town committee announced that a survey of the last three days' activity showed that 51 attempts in Brooklyn and Manhattan to run non-union shops were frustrated. The committee claimed 100 per cent stoppage.

PICKETING AND MASS-MEETINGS CONTINUE ON LARGE SCALE

The mass picket demonstration last Monday, August 30, in the Garment Center district, attracted about 20,000 strikers who patrolled the shops for several hours under the direction of the strike leaders. It was a big and peaceful parade, though the police, as usual, in their effort to please the manufacturers, made about fifty arrests, of whom ten were discharged, ten were let off with a suspended sentence, and 30 were fined two or three dollars each.

Mass-meetings this week were ar-

ranged in accordance with schedules during preceding weeks, except that Wednesday meetings were laid over until Thursday on account of the conference with the Industrial Council on that day.

The regular weekly shop chairmen's meeting held on Thursday afternoon, this week took place on Wednesday morning, September 1, at Webster Hall, to give the shop heads a chance to discuss the recent developments in the strike, especially the prospects of the peace pacts with the Industrial Council.

Boston Raincoat Makers Win Strike

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into a shop, is guaranteed one-half day's wages. Cementers are guaranteed a full day's wages. The employers also agreed to abide by the sanitary code of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control of Boston.

The minimum scale of wages for workmen is as follows:

Operators (Male)	\$14.00
Operators (Female)	\$75.00
Cementers	\$4.00
Cutters	\$14.00
Pressers	\$14.00

Under Pressers	\$25.00
Tailors	\$44.00
Taylor Hands	\$52.00
Finishers	\$25.00

For piece-work, the minimum scale is as follows:
 Operators (Male) \$1.25 an hour
 Operators (Female) \$1.00 " "
 Cementers \$1.25 " "
 Cutters \$1.25 " "
 Pressers \$1.25 " "
 Under pressers \$1.65 " "
 Tailors \$1.25 " "
 Tailors Hands \$.91 " "
 Finishers \$.71 " "

Dressmakers May Register Unemployment Fund Claims Until September 15

Important Notice to Workers in the Dress Industry

The trustees of the Unemployment Insurance Fund have decided to extend to September 15th the time for registration of claims of workers who have contributed to the Unemployment Insurance Fund of the Dress Industry.

This is to allow an opportunity to those workers who have not as yet registered. It is not necessary for any one who has registered before to again file a claim. Those who have

registered before are being notified regarding their eligibility.
 No registration claim will be accepted after September 15th.

Dressmakers, Attention!

All dressmakers in New York City are notified that they are allowed to work this coming Saturday, September 4.

This permission was granted by the Joint Board in view of the fact that next Monday is Labor Day, a legal holiday in the trade, and the Jewish New Year occurs during the same week.

JOSEPH FISH,
 Secretary-Treasurer
 New York Joint Board.

Buy Union Stamped Shoes

We ask all members of organized labor to purchase shoes bearing our Union Stamp on the sole, inner-sole or lining of the shoe. We ask you not to buy any shoes unless you actually see this Union Stamp.

Boot & Shoe Workers' Union

Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor
 244 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.
 COLLIS LOVELY, General President
 CHARLES L. BAINE, General Secretary-Treasurer

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
 Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2148

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

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READ THE EDUCATIONAL PAGE OF JUSTICE which appears weekly. This will keep you in touch with the activities of our Educational Department which are free to you and your family.

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EDITORIALS

DIRECT CONFERENCES—NOT FUTILE ARBITRATION

The correspondence between the leaders of the cloak and suit strike in New York and Governor Smith, printed elsewhere in this issue, on the subject of submitting the issues in this conflict to arbitration brings out clearly and succinctly the very gist of the controversy in this great struggle and its entire background. It is hardly an overstatement to say that the Union's reply in declining to accept the medium of arbitration as an effort toward settling the strike under present conditions is a doxument of matchless logic, frankness and sincerity that breathes conviction in every word and syllable.

From the outset, the leaders of the Union make it plain that, in refusing this offer of arbitration, they are not animated by any downright opposition to settling grievances with employers by "conciliatory methods and with the aid of voluntary outside tribunals." The history of the ladies' garment workers' organization in New York City and elsewhere offers abundant proof of the readiness of our workers to avail themselves of arbitration and mediation in industrial controversies offered by public-spirited and disinterested groups or individuals.

But in accepting, or rejecting, arbitration in the past, our Union always has been guided by one sound consideration. If the contemplated arbitration could serve a good purpose, if its outcome could affect materially the crux of the situation and help to right a wrong or settle a grievance, the Union never hesitated to leave its case with a body of trustworthy arbitrators. If, on the other hand, the prospects of concrete results were either nil or meager, the Union would hesitate just as little in rejecting arbitration as a means that would be likely to bring only procrastination of the dispute in question.

That the Union is not opposed to arbitrating its disputes with employers is still further evidenced by the very fact that for two years, since the beginning of the present controversy with the employers in the cloak and suit industry in 1924, the cloakmakers have had their case under examination and study by a body of outside citizens, the Governor's advisory commission, appointed with the consent and approval of the Union "to make a thorough study of the grievances of the workers and the problems of the industry; to hear all sides of the controversy and to recommend such measures of redress or reform as would, in their opinion, furnish a solid base for just and peaceful operation of the industry."

This commission has, for two years, conducted numerous hearings, collecting oral information and documentary data from the various factors in the industry. It has made several extensive investigations by able and experienced investigators. And it has, on the basis of these investigations and hearings, submitted a number of recommendations for certain changes in the industry which, in their judgment, no doubt, represented a fair adjustment of the controversy and a square deal all round, but which the Union has, nevertheless, found as entirely inadequate as a solution of the difficulties which confront its members in the cloak shops and as a means for the abolition of the fundamental evils which harass this industry.

In other words, it may safely be stated that, while that commission was not empowered to make binding awards, its investigation of the industry, its analysis of its ills and its final recommendations had been carried on for a period of two years in the nature of an extensive arbitration proceeding, with ample time and opportunity to delve into the complex and intricate problems of the cloak and suit trade. No one, we presume, would suggest that a new body of arbitrators, appointed at this hour for the purpose of reaching an award on the controversy which is convulsing the cloak industry, could produce greater or more satisfactory results in the course of a few days or a week than what it has taken this commission full two years.

Obviously, it was not a question of lack of fairness of mind or of readiness to delve into the problems of an intricate industry on the part of the members of the Governor's commission which has made their recommendations unacceptable to the workers. Far from that,—the personnel of the commission were men of recognized fairness and ability, endowed with keenness of perception conceded by all parties.

Nevertheless, with all their good intentions and well-meaning these men were outsiders to the cloak and suit trade. So, while they may have understood to a perfection theoretically the problems of the industry—inasmuch as such problems can be mastered theoretically—when, after months of study, they had to offer a practical solution of the basic difficulties of the industry they failed even to mention in the scope of their recommendations some of the principal demands presented by the workers on which their whole hope of ever improving their conditions in the shops has hinged.

We say this not in a mood of carping criticism of the commission's report. Quite to the contrary, the Union has always appreciated sincerely the generous efforts of the Governor's mediators to solve the grave difficulties which for years have plagued the workers in the New York cloak industry. The Union is, of course, just as sincerely grateful to the commission for the splendid diagnosis of the evils of the industry so ably presented in its report, fully bearing out the Union's indictment of the disgraceful conditions in that industry and of the employing interests responsible for them.

The difficulty with the commission's work, or with the work of any other group that might be called in as outside arbitrators, is deeply rooted, in the words of the Union's reply to Governor Smith, in "the unusually intricate and diversified practical problems of our industry as they affect the worker in the shop and the employer in the office, which cannot be explained in all details to any party of outsiders and which can be adjusted by the parties directly involved in mutual conference by a process of patient negotiation in a frank and fair-minded attitude of mutual fairness."

So rather than turn over the situation to outside arbitrators, in whose ability to solve adequately the basic issues in this controversy the strikers and their organization have little confidence; rather than jeopardize the whole outcome of this great struggle by a development which, at best, is likely to produce a patched-up peace and leave the root of the evils practically untouched, the cloakmakers were constrained to decline this proposal, in the firm confidence that very soon they will succeed in convincing their employers, of every shade and variety, that this strike can and will be settled only on the basis of a thorough reorganization of work and production conditions in the industry that will guarantee them in the future the earning of a decent living.

There is, in addition, another reason which compels the Union, at this hour, to reject this offer of arbitration.

This reason is very ably brought out in the Union's reply to the Governor. It should be kept in mind that the Industrial Council, in behalf of which this arbitration proposal is specifically invoked, is, despite all the efforts of its spokesmen and leaders to magnify it into a great force in the industry, but a group representing a comparatively limited factor, employing no more than 15 per cent of the workers. This group, it will be remembered, refused even to consider the entire program of the Union's demands shortly before the strike went into effect.

The other, much larger factor, the jobbers, who are responsible for about 75 per cent of the total production in the cloak industry, have not only officially ignored the recommendations of the Governor's commission and practically rejected them, but have also refused to confer with the Union. It is, therefore, quite clear that, for the Union to accept at this moment an arbitration offer involving a fraction of the industry, an offer in the practical worth and value of which it has no faith, would only weaken its position with regard to the other more important factors in the trade and would serve no useful purpose whatever.

That Governor Smith appears to have at last grasped the Union's viewpoint, as expressed in its reply to his offer, is shown by his readiness, as stated in his answer to the Union's letter, to "communicate with the several parties asking them to take part in conferences that . . . may bring early and constructive results." The Governor further expresses the hope that "all persons taking part in these conferences will do so with a genuine desire to reach agreements."

The strikers, through their leaders, will be found ready to take part in such conferences, and they certainly share in the Governor's hope that its participants will enter them with a sincere desire to settle this great conflict not on the basis of a temporary compromise but on terms that will promise a durable peace. Such terms must include guarantees that will make it impossible in the future for the largest and most influential group of employers to evade all responsibility toward their workers by assuming the "transparent guise of jobbers or merchants", and which will make reasonably certain that the cloakmakers could depend on their industry to give them and their dependents a fair living.

Regularization of Employment

By DR. HERMAN FRANK

Regularization of employment is probably the most effective antidote to illness in industry. Sharp industrial crises, with accompanying unemployment and general economic depression, have, in the last twenty years, occurred in the United States with periodic regularity. Like in the biblical story telling of Egyptian economic cycles, our own waves of "prosperity," have in the last few decades reached their high crests every seven years or so, after which they would assume a sharp down grade ending in bitter depression. Thus, for instance, have the intervals between 1907, 1914 and 1921, come to be termed as "business cycles"—the span of time between the high water mark of a year or two of prosperity and the period marking the end of an acute economic crisis.

The last of these periodic crises, 1921, was accompanied by severe distress and widespread unemployment involving over five million industrial workers and approaching the dimensions of a national catastrophe. The unprecedented misery it brought in its trail in that year had served as a powerful impetus for the beginning of a movement among the leaders of economic and industrial life in America to seek means for the prevention of the recurrence of such widespread tragedies. The creation of "equilibrium in industry" became at once a burning problem, accentuated by Secretary of Commerce Hoover's campaign against industrial waste, of which unemployment is, of course, a very important phase. A number of learned economists, and several industrial leaders, became seriously interested in a thorough study and analysis of the business cycles, of the outstanding phenomena between the swing of the industrial pendulum from "prosperity" to "slack," on the one hand, while others have just as earnestly begun planning practical projects for the permanent elimination of the catastrophic swings in the economic life of the country which imperil the well-being or the very existence of the overwhelming portions of the general population who depend on industry solely for their living.

In the past few years, it must be admitted, a great deal has already been achieved in this direction. Several trades, and some entire branches of national production, such as the construction industry, the soft coal industry, and even agriculture, have received careful investigation at the hands of the economists and statisticians with regard to their relation to the beginning and ending of business cycles, and the material thus obtained has been thoroughly and systematically treated to pave the way for practical steps aimed at more rational distribution of employment. Such an approach to this problem in trades largely affected by sharp seasonal fluctuations is of especial significance, of course, in the construction, metal and clothing industries.

As will be seen, therefore the study of the question of irregularity of factory employment was for theoretical and practical reasons, divided into two distinct parts. The solution of the problem affecting general unemployment became the subject of a well-thought out campaign against unem-

ployment. The purpose of this crusade is the stabilization of industrial occupation. On the other hand, all planning to eliminate violent industrial starts and lapses in seasonal trades, at times when so much of the general life in the country is in a state of comparative "normalcy," had been included in a special program, in which trade specialists had become particularly interested and which set its task as the finding of ways and means for the regularization of the industries affected by these sharp seasonal fluctuations and the hardships they brought in their wake.

From the results of these investigations, it seems to appear, that all problems bearing on the stabilization of industry, have a direct relationship to the regulation of bank credits in each particular industry. Speculation in credits leads, as a rule, to "booms", and these, in turn, result in unwholesome and abnormal industrial activity in one branch of production at the expense of other parts of the economic body. Such a "protesting" is bound, in the natural run of things, to lead to a temporary overproduction and this unbalancing generally results in an economic crisis to guard against such chaos, there has, in the last few years, been introduced the Federal Reserve System, which consists of 12 Federal Reserve Banks, charged with the duty of guarding the thousands of banks the country over against imprudent or risky financing of industry. It is the first serious effort on a national scale in the history of American industrial and financial activity towards industrial stabilization.

A second practical effort towards stabilization of industry is the launching of the construction of large public works in periods of employment depression. It is, not a new thought, of course, but the consolidation of public construction plans in times of industrial depression could, no doubt, serve to mitigate considerably the ravages of illness. Along with these projects may also be classed the constructive proposals to establish unemployment insurance in industry with the support of state funds.

I do not intend to discuss in this brief article at any length the merits of these significant plans for the amelioration of unemployment. I should like, however, to point out that these efforts at stabilization of industry can hardly succeed until the trades which are affected most gravely with permanent "slack" and "busy" seasons are thoroughly regularized. Regularization of employment in these trades becomes, therefore, a condition precedent to any successful campaign against unemployment caused by the so-called business cycles in general, which make many of our vital industries into that perilous reservoir of human wealth—man's labor power.

Seasonal fluctuations present daily concrete problems in trades which are subject to them, while the general crises resulting from "business cycles," as a rule, appear to the business man or employer as abstract things little understood and still less predictable by him. The problems of stabilization of industry on a national or international scale, moreover, as we indicated above, will probably not find a solution before many years of effort and the scrutiny of a multitude of factors and contributing causes. But the question of elimination of seasonal fluctuations in the separate industry, insofar as they can be avoided and eliminated, or at least the prolongation of periods of employment to prevent undue hardships occasioned by brief and high seasons, may well be tackled by

each industry individually through the cooperation of its principal factors. It is very often, if not largely, a question of adjustment of technique in an individual industry, or the single branches of an industry, through such an inquiry into the possibility of technical changes or new adaptations cannot naturally be had, and consequently no real progress toward industrial stabilization was acquired, without the good will of all parts composing it.

These efforts to regularize industry, by manufacturers and large scale employers who feel a responsibility for the industry of which they form an important part, have met with considerable success some trades, notably in the construction industry and in several large enterprises in other trades affected by sharp seasonal fluctuations. The cost of guaranteed employment in all these enterprises is paying well, and it appears, as one large firm had declared a short time ago, that it pays to invest not only in machines and raw materials but in human nature as well. It pays to make the necessary outlay that would re-

sult in the raising of the workers' morale and in freeing them of the constant worry about lack of employment. Among the enterprises which have carried out such a regularization of employment to this day, the most notable are the Dennison Manufacturing Company, the Dutchess Bleachery, the Procter & Gamble Soap Company, several large paper mills in Ohio, and a score of other large and small concerns.

The fight against the acute general periodical crises can also be waged through effective mitigation of the seasonal fluctuations in the separate industries. The coincidence of both forms of depression usually is responsible for the greatest measure of suffering which the workers, without any fault of their own, have to undergo. Seasonal unemployment and other irregularities of industrial occupation, besides, undermine the entire system of unemployment insurance. They devour funds which could otherwise be used for a period of general economic depression. With the seasonal fluctuations becoming less sharp, the effects of a countrywide economic crisis are bound to become less severe. The regularization of industrial occupation is, therefore, the cornerstone of any practical program to raise industry to a wholesome and normal state.

Labor The World Over

The Canadian Labor Program

A DELEGATION of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress has presaged to the Government a number of demands made in the name of the Canadian workers. The Primo Minister in reply declared that the government was in a mood of agreement to the demand made in certain quarters for the abolition of the Ministry of Labor.

Among the important demands made by the delegation are the following: the introduction of unemployment insurance, to which not only employers and workers shall contribute, but also the government and if possible the provincial authorities; the exemption of small incomes from the Income Tax; the abolition of military training in the public schools, on the ground that this is one of the forces which help to instill militarist and nationalist ideas into the minds of youth; the amendment of the law limiting use of armed forces in industrial disputes; the re-enactment of legislation recognizing peaceful picketing; the abolition of the Senate (a non-democratic body whose members are appointed for life by the government); the abolition of the rule requiring a \$200 deposit from candidates for election; old age pensions of \$30 per month starting at 65 years; and the passing of legislation to prevent the misuse of the union label (placed on goods produced under trade union conditions).

"Reform" in Unemployment Insurance in Austria

THE Austrian government has now published its program for the long discussed amendments to the unemployment insurance Act. The "reform" consists chiefly in robbing as many workers as possible of their right to unemployment pay. Seasonal workers for instance, will generally speaking, only get unemployment pay in future if they are out-of-work for the whole of the season. All workers whose unemployment lasts for more than 29 weeks will receive a reduction in relief amounting to 20 per cent, and the number of weeks will be reduced for which they can claim the payment. But the most tragic part of the whole proposal is that unemployed workers who have reached the age of 56, and who at present are entitled to relief indefinitely, will un-

der the amended Act cease after a certain number of weeks to be entitled to claim relief. What however is going to happen to these workers who are unable to find employment?

The Vienna "Arbeiterkorrespondenz" answers the question: "Let us have old-age and invalidity insurance with all the necessary regulations for the transition period and then we can limit the period of assistance to old people. But so long as we are without this old-age and invalidity insurance it is nothing but shameless brutality to deprive them of relief."

Seventh Annual Convention of the Mexican Confederation of Labor

AT the recent 7th Congress of the Mexican Confederation of Labor, of the 1925 delegates 65 per cent were peasants. Among the resolutions passed was one on the founding of a workers college, to be supported by the Mexican trade unions, and intended to be the training ground for organizers of the labor movement. All trade unions will be entitled to nominate students to the college in proportion to their membership.

Resolutions were also passed for the foundation of a "Rehabilitation Institute" to be supported jointly by the government and the Confederation, in which workers who have been disabled by industrial accidents may learn another trade and thus be able to earn their living again. It was resolved that the Confederation should interest itself in the foundation of a labor bank and a co-operative bank, and in the further development of producers' and consumers' co-operative societies, as particular co-operative building societies, all to be based on the principles of the Rochdale pioneers.

Other important resolutions were passed calling for conference of miners in order to form a national federation, and protesting against the organization of separate unions of catholic workers in competition with the existing unions. Ricardo Trevino was elected general secretary.

READ OUR 32 PAGE BULLETIN

in which is described the activities of our Educational Department for 1925-27. Select the course you wish to take up, note the number and get in touch with us at 2 West 14th Street, either in person or by mail.

REGISTER AT ONCE for the courses and lectures offered by the Educational Department of our International, and get in touch with us at 2 West 14th Street.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES

Extracts from a Review

Which Appeared in "Workers' Education"
Quarterly Journal of the Workers' Education Bureau

THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES'
GARMENT WORKERS' UNION
AND WORKERS' EDUCATION

By PROF. HARRY J. GARMAN
History Dept., Columbia University

(Continued)

"It is possible that all they learned was not used immediately by them in their daily organization activities. It is possible that to some, all this information was merely so many words. But, knowing human nature as we do, and knowing how all great movements for freedom and emancipation originated in similar efforts, we cannot doubt that a large part of this instruction and training had a practical outcome. There is no doubt that a great many of our members who attended our educational activities were inspired there to greater sacrifice in the cause of human welfare, to higher ideals, to more strenuous endeavors to make life happier for all humanity and to a greater desire to serve their fellow men."

"Viewed from another angle, the International has even accomplished much more. Starting as the pioneer in the field of workers' education in this country it faced tremendous obstacles. The majority of its members were of foreign birth and the organization itself was considered radical; strikes and other labor disturbances were frequent; the American Federation of Labor was skeptical; the non-labor world either scoffed or paid no attention; the rank and file of the International itself was unfamiliar with the program and the leaders apathetic. By many it was regarded as a visionary undertaking which would not long endure."

"And yet in less than a decade these obstacles have been either surmounted or partly overcome. Exhibiting a moral and spiritual courage unexcelled by any organization in our day, the Educational Department with remarkable patience, tenacity and single-mindedness of purpose has won a notable victory against great odds. Not only has it convinced the International that "Knowledge is Power" but it has convinced organized labor the country over that Workers' Education within the trade union is of paramount importance to the American labor movement. It has proven conclusively that it had the ability to make this experiment of Workers' Education, which it had the vision to originate, an unqualified success."

"This year marks the eighth anniversary of the Educational Department of the International and it is significant that during the time the educational work was carried on uninterrupted. Moreover, during those eight years not a week passed that some labor school did not seek information as to methods of organization, methods of teaching, subjects of curriculum, outlines, and a dozen and one other details. The Educational Department of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was, in a word, headquarters for Workers' Education. Its accomplishments not only opened the eyes of American labor but inspired it to play its part in this new field of endeavor."

"To prove that the efforts of the Educational Department of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union have brought forth fruit a hundred fold we need only to point out

that the American Federation of Labor in its Atlantic City Convention in 1919 approved the educational plan of the I. L. G. W. U. and went on record in favor of Workers' Education; that this same organization in 1922 joined the Workers' Education Bureau of which the I. L. G. W. U. was one of the leading founders; that at its convention held in El Paso in November, 1924, it not only frankly declared that the education of the worker was a matter of vital concern to trade unionism, but definitely provided a plan for financing such education; that Brookwood Resident College, an out-and-out labor institution, was established in 1921, and that the International actively participated in its development; that the Workers' Education Bureau with which the majority of the unions of the American Federation of Labor are now affiliated, was organized in the same year; that workers colleges and study classes now exist in upward of two hundred industrial centers distributed through thirty of our States; that at present tens of thousands of American trade unionists are at present receiving workers' education of some sort; and, finally, that representatives of American labor participate in International conferences on workers' education. True, the I. L. G. W. U. would not claim that it alone should receive credit for all these advances in the field of workers' education. But, on the other hand, no one will deny that it, perhaps more than any other institution, has been responsible for these epoch-making developments."

"That the International has been able to achieve so much in the field of Workers' Education is in large measure due to the vision and energy of those who planned and directed its educational work, to the willingness of the General Executive Board to spend tens of thousands of dollars in supporting it and to the enthusiasm, inspiration, and cooperation of the rank and file. Without the material and moral support of the latter the leaders, no matter how fitted, could have accomplished little. And if the historian may for a moment trust prophet he would venture the prediction that the future success of educational activities of the International, and, indeed, its leadership in the world of affairs will depend upon the happy co-ordination of these same all-important factors of wisdom, effort, sacrifice and loyalty."

Libin Day at Unity

Unity House had another big day last Saturday, at a celebration in honor of S. Libin, the Yiddish short story writer.

The hundreds of guests at Unity assembled in the pine grove and listened to readings of Libin's sketches. They also enjoyed Mr. Casber, the Jewish actor, who read Kobrin's "Avera". The children at Unity, under the direction of Minnie Maso did several interpretative dances, and the combined chorus, under the direction of Mr. Persen, was enthusiastically received. Mr. Persen was presented with a brief case in appreciation for his services.

Gregory Matsewich, the concertino virtuoso, accompanied by Mr. Samons on the piano, gave a masterful performance on his unique instrument.

By ARTHUR W. CALHOUN
Instructor in Economics, Brookwood

VI. The Industrial Outfit

Having found that the present poverty of the world is not due to the stinginess of Nature, nor to shortage of human powers, nor to insufficient development of technic, we may next examine the capital equipment available—the factories and other structure, the engines and dynamos and machines, the laboratory outfits, and all the other artificial instruments of production with which man has sought to lessen his burdens and make his work more productive.

Now so far as the United States is concerned (and the same thing is true of the other well developed industrial nations) there is a pretty complete equipment of tools, machines, and industrial plants. In fact there is in this country no important industry that could not, if worked product than it now produced—far more; in fact, than could, under present conditions, find a market. It is true that much of the machinery and equipment is out-of-date and would be replaced by more modern devices if the best engineering standards had a chance to prevail; but yet our industrial plant has a capacity far in excess of what we ever allow it to turn out unless in some exceptional situation, such as a great war, when the emergency is sufficient to release pent-up industrial energies.

There are, of course, many undeveloped regions of the world, whose available horse-power and available

machine equipment is very low, but the wants of those regions could easily enough be supplied by the surplus productivity of the industrial nations if only the whole economic plant of the world were running full pressure all the time. At least it would be a very simple matter to provide the backward lands with all the necessary machinery of production. This is, in fact, being done as fast as it suits the purposes of the business men to do so. But the complete industrialization of the world would not of itself solve our problem. It would even make it worse; for if South America, Asia, Africa, had a complete mechanical equipment of their own there would be the markets to keep the wheels of our own industries turning!

We see, then, that some countries already have an industrial plant more than sufficient to supply the existing effective demand in those countries, and that the backward lands are rapidly being supplied with similar equipment. It is impossible to believe, however, that this process will solve the problem of poverty. There is nothing to indicate that it will give the consumers, in any country purchasing power enough to buy the full product of industry. It will be with the world as it is with our own land now, Factories and machinery will stand idle while the wants of the people go unsatisfied. We have to look further than to the mechanical equipment of the economic system if we would really find the point at which a solution of the problem of world-wide poverty can be got under way.

Ben Tillet Sends Farewell Message to I. L. G. W. U. Members

Hopes American Labor Will Not Let Children Starve

Ben Tillet, famous English Labor leader and member of Parliament, left this Wednesday for England, after having spent about three weeks in the United States as head of a delegation sent over by the British Trades Union Congress to arouse interest among the American workers for the British striking miners and to raise a relief fund for their families. While in this country, Bro. Tillet was cordially received by the trade unions which he visited and succeeded in organizing a permanent relief committee for the miners, of which Bro. Frank Morrison, secretary of the A. F. of L., is treasurer.

Prior to leaving for England, Ben Tillet sent the following message to the members of the International Union, which we publish, at his request:

"Brothers and Sisters:
"For the first time in the history of the British Labor movement we are making an appeal for financial assistance to the workers of other lands.

We are doing it because that British Labor movement is attacked by an unscrupulous, parasitic capitalistic class. The million miners with the two million children and 750,000 mothers are being made the victims of this onslaught. Our Labor movement did whatever it could to relieve the distress of these four million tortured souls. But our treasuries are depleted. Three million able-bodied men and wo-

men are unemployed; and it has now reached the point where we can't carry on longer our struggle unless you, members of trade unions, and your friends and sympathizers, will help us.

"I thought that after serving the Labor movement for 45 years, I would at last get some rest, but when I have seen these two million children suffer and running after food, I said there is no rest for me and I accepted the commission of the British Labor movement and called three thousand miles to appeal to you for help.

"I am certain that you will respond and we in Great Britain will always remember it. If not for my ill health after working tirelessly since I arrived in this country, I would have made this appeal to each of you in person.

"With fraternal greetings to all,
"BEN TILLET."

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Our members can order these thru our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.



The Religious Question In Mexico

By **FRAN. BETETA QUINTANA**,
of the National University of Mexico

Mexico's problems are economic, political, and social but never religious. There is much talk on all sides today about the religious problem in Mexico. There are announcements in the press each day. The cathedrals and chapels are filled to overflowing with the praying multitude. But none is trying to convert them to religion or from religion, nor is anyone trying to change their creed in any way. Mexico's problem today may be religious on the surface. At bottom, it is economic and social.

Mexico has had only one revolution. This revolution started in 1808 and still continues, the last demonstration being in 1923 when De la Huerta made an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow President Oregon's government.

But there is cause for revolution in Mexico. Revolution in Mexico is due to the existence of two classes, those who have Indian civilization, meaning the Indian way of living, and those of the Creole class, whites in Mexico or those of mixed white and Indian blood who have in large part a European culture. These two classes do not understand one another, do not know one another and do not like each other. Even their ambitions and aspirations are entirely different. The marked social and economic gap between them is strongly felt by the lower classes. They sense deeply the misadjustment of their leaders come who while they use the masses see at the same time their hideous economic condition, these down-trodden multitudes join the armies of the revolution because they are hungry and they believe their situation would be bettered. Undoubtedly thru the long years of revolution, they have gained much but after each active revolutionary period, nothing is left to hold the two classes together. Here, in their own country, the Creole and the Indian classes have nothing in common.

In Mexico, the vast majority of the population is Indian in civilization. In the balance against them, making up the middle and upper classes are first, some few foreigners who are here because they have or represent capital invested in the country, second, the whites born in Mexico who have assimilated the capitalist system of capitalism. The mestizo who is ambitious to be like the white class. This is the class which longs for the "good old days" of General Diaz. Diaz meant order; Diaz meant urban development even to the point of luxury.

From the beginning, the Church has consistently been on the side of conservatism. It is in the nature of things that this should be so. The Church is unchanging, unvarying, and, consequently, from the first, it had to be on the side of those who believed in stability. The Church just naturally had to be on the side of Spain and against Mexico in the latter country's first revolution. The Church ex-communicated Miguel Hidalgo Costilla, Mexico's first revolutionary leader and a consecrated priest. Jose Maria Morelos, Mexico's next leader of the revolution, also a priest, was killed by the Insurrection.

During the second revolutionary period in Mexico which extended up to the Reform Movement of 1856, the Catholic Church consistently with both moral and financial support backed the conservative side until 1856 and 1861 when the Church was dispossessed. The matter was entirely political. The Church possessed practically two-thirds of all lands in the Republic and the Constitutional restrictions related only to this institution's material or temporal power.

Then came the long rule of General Diaz. Diaz has been perhaps the most outstanding of the typical mexican leaders of the lower classes, and, like most of them, he led these masses for his own power. His extreme cleverness, his extraordinary energies and abilities are universally recognized and he permitted himself to be bought but by the vested interests. Diaz failed to see Mexico's real trouble, and, gathering about him a comparatively small group of trusted associates, he soon succumbed to their influence and that of a very Catholic wife and it was not long before the Church had regained practically all it had lost during the Reform Movement. Monasteries again flourished throughout the land.

When the revolution broke out again in 1910, the issues at stake were more clear-cut and the ends to be gained more organized. The revolutionary movement began in 1910 was that of a workingman, and the feeling against the temporal power of the Church was in truth slight. By 1915, this social aspect had assumed quite definite aspects. In 1917, the Constitution of the Republic was rewritten and, among other things, the laws relating to religion from the Constitution of 1857 were couched in more definite and powerful terms. Again, they contain no word against the spiritual Roman Catholic religion as such and against its practice. Rules regarding education were added but to all classes of Mexican people these seemed a dire necessity for the Mexican rural and lower classes were ignorant, the result of the Church's control of education for over 200 years. During the last year alone, under the Calles Government, 4000 rural schools have been opened and this is only a bare beginning. Many, many more schools are needed throughout Mexico.

Now into these later revolutionary days comes official advice from the Episcopate of the Catholic Church with the approval of the Pope in Mexico asking Mexican citizens who hold the Catholic faith, and that is 96 per cent, to resist the Constitution of their country. Since 1857 all churches, monasteries, etc., and the lands connected with them have been the property of the nation. The government has asked that priests administering this property comply with the Penal Code of the Constitution and register with the municipal authorities in each case. The government which is responsible for national property may know who are the direct keepers of it. Officials and priests of the Roman Catholic Church have refused to do this although the few ministers in Mexico of other creeds have complied.

The Constitution in Mexico does not represent the feeling of all the people in Mexico but it does represent a century of fighting in Mexico. In like manner, the present government is obliged to see the Constitution respected. The Catholic clergy were expected, as to the government, on its part, could only say "According to the law, church property belongs to the nation, and if you, the priests in charge, leave the cathedrals and chapels, we are obliged to protect them ourselves and in our own way." The municipal authorities have appointed committees of neighbors who, after inventory has been taken, guard the churches so that they may be open to the public.

But the troubles today are part of the same revolutionary wave which started in Mexico a century ago. Revolution, it appears, can be cured only by revolution, which clears away the causes for revolution. Betterment comes as the result of each revolutionary period. Each revolution in

РУССКО-ПОЛЬСКИЙ ОТДЕЛ

РОЛЬ ГУБЕРНАТОРА СМИТА В КЛОУИМЕРНСКОЙ ЗАБАСТОВКЕ.

Забастовка польских рабочих в Нью-Йорке в течение нескольких недель протекала довольно успешно. С первого дня забастовки можно было предвидеть успех и побед рабочих над своими эксплуататорами. Успех забастовки сильно зависел от того, насколько правильно будет действовать Нью-Йоркский комитет, чтобы победить в своем рабочем движении и Америке, в смысле достижения лучших условий жизни. Холмса начали искать защиты у тех, в чьем ряду лежала власть. Польши первой пришла на помощь и стала обвинять в предостережении забастовки рабочих, в лице истребителей. Но это не ослабило рядов рабочих, а наоборот, усилило и подняло дух терпеливых рабочих. Холмса стали считать в чине за Аргенту, так как он сдался договору с индустриями, которые достигли до 200 тысяч долларов, но за исключением власти польской забастовки. Холмса, обещавшие в свою, видя что им придется тоже сдать свое положение, решили встать защиты у тех, которые стоят у руля забастовки этого штата Нью-Йорк и они призвали на помощь губернатора Смита, который как будто бы являлся в качестве посредника, для прекращения обеих сторон, но все свои действия направил против рабочих. Губернатор Смит в пятницу утром, 25-го августа, пригласил представителей индустрии на совещательную конференцию, в которой предложил, чтобы представители и руководители забастовки, в виду того, что они назвали забастовку незаконной, а к тому и держали праздники, признать, что в которых рабочие должны заработать пару долларов, потому что губернатор Смит предложил: немедленно позвать рабочих в мастерские для выполнения заказов, а вопрос об условиях договора передать для решения в посредничестве холмса.

Представители от забастовки рабочих отпустили "услужливому" губернатору.

Mexico brings that country nearer to no more revolution. Being an Indian in Mexico is not a question of blood but of a standard of civilization. And during each revolution, more Indians join the armies, leave their limited tribal areas in the fastnesses of the mountains, form some conception of their country, of its vastness. In army life, they come into contact in a certain sense with modern civilization and as they are very adaptable and take naturally to new ways when not forced to them, the class of the revolution finds them no longer Indian in civilization. And in accepting modern civilization, in just so much does each individual contribute to solving one of Mexico's most disturbing problems — that of two classes with two entirely different civilizations existing in immediate proximity.

It is the temporal side of the Church the Mexican Government has and does attack. Catholicism is ninety per cent Roman Catholic. Of the remaining 10 per cent, some 8 per cent are free thinkers who practice no creed in active form and about 2 per cent protestants. Catholicism in Mexico's personality and most Mexicans will tell you they do not wish nor do they want their country to have any other dominant religion, that they do not want to see this Roman Catholic personality of the country changed in any way. The defense President Calles and his government is making of the Constitution, of the highest law of the land, which they are elected to protect is a noble offering for peace in Mexico.

что они готовы в любое время вести переговоры с индустриями, для выработки определенных условий в прекращении забастовки, но передает вопрос для решения в посредничестве холмса, но может быть достигнуто со стороны рабочих, что являлся бы равным насилию над рабочими, которые согласны вести переговоры с холмсами.

Холмса же пригласил посредничестве Смита с распростертыми руками. Губернатор вторично прислал письмо холмсе с предложением перейти на конференцию в пятницу предположение губернатора Смита Генеральным Забастовочным Комитетом на своем собрании во вторник 31-го августа решил позвать представителей на совещательное собрание у которого Мра Негрера с индустрией согласился на созыв общей конференции с холмсами, для обсуждения вопроса об условиях договора, но в том случае не передавать решения судьям забастовки в руки посредничества холмса.

Хотя губернатор и заявляет, что он желает "доброй" договоренности, но в этом pretende совмещаться, так как это последнее письмо написано в резкой форме и является наказ, что клуимернцы должны принять это предложение и прекратиться перед силой воли губернатора.

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The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

The cloak and suit strike, called for the purpose of enforcing the demands, containing among other things limitation of contractors, a thirty-six weeks' guaranteed period of employment and the forty-hour week, submitted by the union to the various associations in the cloak industry and now entering its tenth week, reached a new stage in its development this Wednesday, September 1st, when the first of a series of formal conferences took place. An offer for arbitration was declined.

Union Prefers Conferences to Arbitration

It was after the conferences between the Governor and representatives of the union and the Council about a week ago, that the union received the offer for arbitration. This offer was considered on Wednesday, August 26th, by the Executive Committee of the General Strike Committee, and the decision to decline it was then reached.

In the letter which the Union's Governor Smith is answer to his offer, it is stated in part that "we are very grateful to you for your keen interest in the fate of our members who are now struggling to secure livable conditions, and we deeply appreciate your efforts to establish peace in the most important industry of New York...."

"Our union throughout the twenty-five years of its existence has given ample and consistent proof of its general disposition to settle its differences with employers by conciliatory methods and with the aid of voluntary and impartial outside tribunals. We should have welcomed arbitration at this time if we had any hope that the particular difficulties which concern our industry could be solved by that process. Our union has, however, after mature deliberation, reached the conclusion, reluctantly but definitely, that arbitration would serve no good purpose in our present conditions."

Informal Conferences Already Held

That official conferences would be held was foreseen by the cutters when

Manager Dubinsky at the mass meeting on Wednesday, August 26th, reported to them that two informal conferences between the union and representatives of the Industrial Council did take place. Somehow rumors concerning these conferences began to float. Up to the mass meeting on Aug. 26th the union was not in a position to make them public. However, since the question of arbitration and conferences began to persist it was felt that a report could be rendered on the informal meetings with the employers.

These two informal conferences took place about four weeks ago and were attended from the union's side by International President Morris Sigman, Louis Hyman, chairman of the General Strike Committee, Salvatore Nino and David Dubinsky, chairman and secretary, respectively, of the Settlement Committee, and Joseph Bruchowicz, Chairman of the Hall Committee.

The first informal session showed some signs leading towards a settlement. After the union had discussed with the employers' representatives the demands point by point the belief was held out that the strike would not last much longer. When, however, the second informal session took place, the air of amiability seemed to have disappeared and the employers assumed different attitudes. At the conclusion of that session the strike was, so near a settlement then before the conferences began. One thing, nevertheless, seemed to have impressed itself upon the union and that is that the Industrial Council was anxious for a settlement.

It is too early to predict the outcome of the first conference which took place last Wednesday, September 1st, and it is doubtful whether a definite decision would be reached at it. Readers are advised to turn to the first page of this issue of "Justice", where they may find a more complete report of this conference, for at the time of writing the conference has not been concluded.

Special Minimum for Cloak Cutters Hired for Jobs

Manager Dubinsky is calling the attention of the cloak cutters to a new clause in the agreements now being signed with the independent employers, requiring the cloak and suit cutters to receive fifteen per cent above the minimum scale if they are hired for a job only or if they are not retained for more than a week.

This means that any cloak cutter who is hired to make a job or to fill in a week, or is not kept after completing the first week's work in a shop, must receive at least \$65 for his first week or a fraction of that amount in proportion to the number of days he worked.

This clause was put into the agreement to guard in some measure against the hiring of men by employers who seek either to reduce wages or to avoid keeping a cutter.

Cloak cutters are again informed that they are not permitted to work any overtime for the duration of the strike, according to a decision of the General Strike Committee. This decision applies to the cutting as well as to every other craft. Cloak cutters whose shops have been settled are not to return to work before securing working cards from Local 10.

Next Cutters' Mass Meeting Important

Due to the conferences, which were arranged by the Impartial Chairman,

Raymond V. Ingersoll, for Wednesday, no strike meeting of the cutters was held on Wednesday, September 1st. The meeting scheduled for that day was postponed for the following day, Thursday. The report of this meeting will be found in these columns in next week's issue of "Justice". The following meeting, however, will be held in regular order on Wednesday, September 8th.

It is expected that at that meeting every cloak and suit striker will be present, as the officers of the union will submit the report of the conferences. At the meeting of August 15th, the absence of quite a number of cutters was noticed. Manager Dubinsky therefore appeals to all the strikers not to neglect their weekly mass meetings, particularly the coming one, where important matters will be taken up.

Many Workers Return to Work

Manager Dubinsky, who is the secretary of the Settlement Committee, says that up to the present week to the effect that about two hundred shops have returned to work under new conditions, such as the 40-hour week, 36-weeks' guarantee of employment, limitation of contractors, as well as all other demands originally submitted by the union.

These two hundred shops employ over seven thousand workers. According to the records of our office, about six hundred cutters have returned to work. In most of these cases the cutters received increases in wages. In some of the shops where they previously received \$55 they are now getting \$60 and in shops where they formerly received \$60 they are now being paid \$65. Some of those who have not yet received increases are requesting a permission of the office to demand a raise. However they are being told to be patient until the bulk of the workers will have returned to work and they will then have a better opportunity to secure increases.

Dress Cutters Receive Higher Wages

The situation as respects work and wages in the dress trade is better now than it has been for at least a year or more. Within the past few months nearly 1,500 working cards were secured or exchanged. Manager Dubinsky says that he notices that the dress cutters are receiving \$60, \$65 and \$70 per week, which is a considerable jump over the \$50 and \$55 rates of last year.

The situation with respect to employment is so improved this season over the past two seasons that the dress men are turning down jobs for less than \$50 per week. A dress cutter upon being refused an increase in wages by an employer for whom he is working invariably quits his job or, in the language of the cutter, he "jumps" and secures his higher wage.

It is this situation which makes a constant change by cutters of working cards for different jobs at higher rates of wages. Due to this condition the office is kept busy and lately has been kept open till seven o'clock in the evening and late Saturday afternoon for this purpose.

When the organization headquarters were opened in Stayman Casino by the Joint Board, the office request of the officers making settlements not to settle shops unless the cutters secure an increase. The result is that cutters who have been working in open shops at rates of wages of \$50 per week and less do not return to work unless they secure at least \$55 per week. And cutters receiving \$55 per week and more have their wages raised by the settlement to \$60 and more.

This situation in the dress industry offers a wonderful opportunity to those dress cutters who are receiving less

than \$60 a week to ask for an increase in wages in the shops where they work and to obtain such increases, as there is a great demand for cutters and the cutters can easily get more than \$60 if they change their jobs.

According to the decision of the Joint Board, due to the Jewish holidays, "Rosh Hashonah" and "Yom Kippur", the workers have been permitted to work on Saturday, September 4th. The decision meant that the workers should be permitted only that Saturday.

There has been no opportunity to take up this matter in order to get a decision of the membership on this question. The local officers took up the question with the officers of the Joint Board and our local officers were informed that the association and the employers had already been informed to the effect that the workers will be permitted to work on that Saturday.

That being the case, the cutters are informed that if they obtain permission to work they are to receive double pay for overtime.

Dress Drive and Control Continues

The drive begun in the dress trade by the Joint Board about five weeks ago continues. Until last Tuesday, August 31, about forty shops had been settled. The drive will continue for some time yet. In compliance with the request of the Joint Board, quite a number of cutters have been assigned to this drive.

Due to the "busy season" in the dress trade it was found difficult to assign dress cutters to this work as the men are taking advantage of the present state of employment to secure themselves with jobs. However, the office is not at a loss for the lack of men.

There are a considerable number of cloak men registered in the unemployment hall as "orphans", if a cutter who were unattached to shops at the time the strike was called out. Through an arrangement with Bro. Elias Bava, cutters' vice-chairman of Union Hall, the office manages to secure the cutters necessary for the drive.

In spite of the fact that there is very little unemployment among the dress men, which under ordinary circumstances would make controlling by the office unnecessary, the control instituted about four weeks ago continues in degree. Among the hundreds of dress contracting shops there are many employing as few as five workers in a shop. These employers do their cutting at night and attend during the day to other branches of their business. It is for this reason that controlling continues.

In addition to this, as the Settlement Committee of the Organization Department notifies the office of settlements, the controllers are at once assigned to these newly-settled shops for investigation with a view to determining as to whether the provisions of the agreement are complied with.

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STRIKE INFORMATION

CUTTERS WILL HOLD REGULAR MASS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 2 P. M. IN ARLINGTON HALL.

The next meeting will take place Wednesday, September 5.

Apply for all information to Local 10's vice-chairmen who are stationed in your respective strike halls.

Manager Dubinsky may be found in the office of the local every day between 5 and 7 P. M.

DRESS CUTTERS CHANGE WORKING CARDS

All dress cutters are hereby instructed to change their working cards for the new ones now in force beginning with July, 1936. Any dress cutter who fails to change his card or to secure one upon getting employment will be subject to discipline.

SPECIAL CLOAK AND SUIT CUTTERS' NOTICE!

According to the decision of the General Strike Committee, no permission is given to any member of craft to work overtime during the period of the strike.

Cutters are strictly to observe his rules.