

"My eighteen-month 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."

Vol. III. No. 20

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## CONFERENCES CONTINUE IN NEW YORK CLOAK INDUSTRY

THREE CONFERENCES HELD ALREADY—FOURTH CONFERENCE POSTPONED—PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER AND GENERAL MANAGER FEINBERG REPORT TO JOINT BOARD ON NEGOTIATIONS

Three conferences have already taken place between the Cloakmakers' Union and the Protective Association. The situation, nevertheless, remains unchanged. On Tuesday evening last, May 10, the fourth conference was to have been held. But at the request of the other side, it was laid over for the time being. The ways and means committee of the Protective Association has called together for Tuesday evening a meeting of the executive board of the association to decide upon definite proposals to bring before the next conference.

Last Saturday the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union had an exceptionally impressive meeting and the gravity of the hour was felt in every speech and statement made on that occasion. The moment, undoubtedly, is a very earnest one. Nevertheless, there seems to be no speechless entertained whatever

among the officers of the union. The organization is well prepared for any emergency and could meet any challenge of the employers. The Cloakmakers' Union is a well-disciplined army, tried and proven in a number of battles which it never lost. That explains the calm which prevails both at the meetings of the officers and among the rank and file of the union who dispassionately await further developments.

President Schlesinger and General Manager Feinberg reported in detail at that meeting on the negotiations with the representatives of the association at the conference. Brother Feinberg spoke first and gave a general outline of all that transpired at the conference. President Schlesinger dwelt in detail on every phase of the controversy and told that the manufacturers have come to each conference with identical demands, regardless of the fact that the commit-

tee of the union had answered these demands in full at each preceding conference. The committee of the union had proven conclusively to the employers that it cannot concede any of their demands as that would tend to abolish any of the evils in the trade that the employees claim they intend to do away with. Brother Schlesinger's speech made a deep impression upon the delegates and was received with a general applause and a rising vote of appreciation of the work of the conference committee and as a token of full confidence.

As these lines are being written, it is not yet known what the executive board of the Protective Association decided at its last meeting and when the next conference will take place. Readers of "Justice" will probably have learned of it through the daily press in a few days.

## Dress and Waist Unity House Opens June 17

Registration Already Begun

On Monday, June 17th, the Unity House of the Waist and Dressmakers' Unions, in Forest Park, in the Elk Mountains of Pennsylvania, near the Delaware Water Gap, will throw its doors open for visiting vacationists.

The Unity House of Forest Park was more than once described in the columns of "Justice." The attractions of the place, however, were never yet given the exhaustive writ-up that they truly deserve. We have already remarked at one time that the name "Unity House" is not quite appropriate for the place. It is more than a house; it is an entire estate consisting of a chain of homes and cottages which surround the principal building. These houses are equipped with all modern improvements of a city hotel. Had this splendid place belonged not to a labor union, but to a private owner, a worker could not have dreamed of spending his vacation there. As a matter of fact, this place at one time was a kind of a "select" summer resort. The rich manufacturers in the ladies' garment industry used to send their families to Forest Park Hotel, while the workers in their shops never even knew of its existence. The only workers that would come to Forest Park Hotel in previous years were those who came there to serve the rich visitors.

As mentioned before, the opening of Unity House will be celebrated by an impressive entertainment, in which well known performers from New York will take part. Next week the program will be announced in these columns and a large crowd is expected to be present at this opening. It is desirable that those who intend to go register at one at 16 West 21st Street, Room 6.

## BRAND NEW TYPE OF INJUNCTION SOUGHT BY TOLEDO FIRM

It is not a novelty in the life of our International to deal with an injunction. They have rather become a daily event of late, these injunctions of the old type, which purport to prevent picketing of a shop on strike.

This week, however, our International had a preliminary injunction issued against it on totally different grounds. It is an injunction, as the New York "Times" characterizes it, that "is similar to the well-known Duplex Machine case." The facts are as follows:

Cohen, Friedlander & Martin, a cloak firm of Toledo, Ohio, have employed about 250 cloakmakers. The firm could not agree with the workers and locked them out. The Cloakmakers' Union of Toledo replied with

the declaration of a strike. This took place several months ago, before the beginning of the last season.

Now, this firm sues our International. It alleges in its charges that here in New York strikes were conducted against shops that have been making work for that firm and that through those strikes in New York its business in Toledo was injured.

The application for an injunction was made before Judge MacAvoy, of the Supreme Court. He granted the firm a temporary injunction and has ordered a hearing for Friday, where the union will be able to present its argument, and the Judge will render a final decision as to whether the temporary injunction is to become permanent or rescinded.

Last Monday morning another in-

junction suit against our International was heard before Supreme Court Justice, John V. MacAvoy. The Laak Manufacturing Company, which owns a dress shop at 153 Madison Avenue, demanded through its lawyer an injunction prohibiting the union from picketing its shop. The shop of this firm is one of those which is still on strike as a left-over from the last general strike in the waist and dress industry. The Judge denied the application.

The same lawyer, who obviously had made it his life's work to "destroy the Jewish unions," appeared for this firm too, using the hackneyed and threadbare argument that the union was breaking "individual contracts" concluded by the firm with a few strike breakers in the shop—the same argument that was rejected already several times as spurious in the course of former applications for injunctions. This argument appears to be an original "invention" of this law firm, and it is high time that the

## LOS ANGELES CLOAKMAKERS AID AMALGAMATED STRIKERS

Loyal union men, no matter where fate forces them to find a haven of refuge, always remain good union men.

The Cloakmakers' Union of Los Angeles, Local No. 52, is not a big organization. The reason is simple: There are not very many cloak shops in Los Angeles. But as many cloakmakers as there are in Los Angeles, they are all members of the union and the trade in that city is organized 100 per cent. The local is an active and live body and responds warmly to all its duties and obligations.

This union has now complied with the decision of the General Executive Board, calling for a donation of

a two-hour tax for the Amalgamated strikers. This donation was given with the same good-will and generosity as the cloakmakers of New York have demonstrated. This small local has forwarded to the office of the International \$610.75, which is an act of honor and real achievement for Local No. 52.

Bro. Jacob Laneh, of Montreal, Canada, who for years was an officer of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union of that city, and was well liked and appreciated by the rank and file of the Montreal cloakmakers, has left for Los Angeles. The reason for his departure appears to be a case of illness in his family. He picked the

balmy climate of Los Angeles as best fitted to facilitate the recovery of his wife and child, whom he is accompanying. On his way to Los Angeles, Brother Laneh stopped over at New York, visiting the general office and the editorial rooms of "Justice," and bade good-bye to all his friends and acquaintances.

President Schlesinger has given Brother Laneh a letter of introduction to our Los Angeles members and to the organized labor of the Pacific Coast in general, instructing him to investigate the waist, dress and skirt shops of Los Angeles and to prepare a report to the general office with a view of undertaking new organization work in that territory.

In the person of Brother Laneh, the Los Angeles Cloakmakers' Union has certainly acquired an important addition and a loyal fighter for the interests of the organized workers.

firm had taken out a copyright on it; least it might be used by other unscrupulous legal luminaries. As stated on previous occasions, the substance of this "invention" is as follows: A firm on strike makes a so-called individual contract with a few scabs whom they succeed in inveigling into the shop, and then the courts are asked to grant the firm an injunction to prevent the union from picketing the shop so that the sacredness of these "agreements" with the strike breakers might not be desecrated.

Morris Hillquist and Morris Rothenberg, the lawyers of the union, of course, did not fall for the ploy of the court the insincerity of this argument. They pointed out that these "contracts" have no value and that they are being made to order to prepare a flimsy groundwork for an application for an injunction. Judge MacAvoy thereupon refused to enjoin the Union.

Of course, that does not mean that the injunction pestilence is already at an end. We are certain that this self-same lawyer will try for better luck before other judges. And in those days permeated with anti-union propaganda and sentiment, no one can really tell when an application, even on such flimsy ground, may not be granted.

## TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

### BUILDING HOLDUP ASSOCIATIONS STILL FLOURISHING

Any of our unsuspecting citizenry have still cherished the belief that the revelations made by the Lockwood Committee last winter of the struggle lately conducted by employers' associations over the building industry in all the large cities of the country, and the sentences imposed by the courts at subsequent trials have put an end to their iniquitous methods—they were rudely shocked last week. The existence of a price-fixing group of hawking associations, consisting of about 1,900 jobbers and manufacturers of all kinds of plumbing materials and fittings, with a capitalization of about \$300,000, was revealed again before the final sessions of the hearing of that Committee.

It was brought out in the course of the examination that manufacturers of every kind of building apparatus, plumbing and brass and copper fittings, were in league to fix prices and gouge the consumer without restraint or mercy. For this purpose an extensive organization was maintained, with branches in every city of the country, which "standardized" prices in accordance with orders from the chief centers. Independent jobbers or middlemen were forced out of the market by this association and could not retain their trade unless they became members of the price-fixing combine.

So it appears that the great flourish made by the Lockwood Committee has, after all, not scored or done the profusion out of business. What else could have been expected? In a world of 100 per cent. commercialism, it would be idle to take real earnestness any legislative attempt to suppress profiteering. These manufacturers and jobbers have seen how the Sherman and the Clayton acts have failed to stop industrial combinations in restraint of trade; in fact, they have seen these trusts grow and develop at top speed in spite of the enactments of these laws. They are, apparently, acting on the correct presumption that after the noise and bustle created temporarily by this Committee has died out, they will continue on their "legitimate" career un molested.

### UNEMPLOYMENT STILL GROWING

POPULAR BELIEF that unemployment has gradually lessened over the April period, has been officially denied by the Department of Labor in an announcement made last week. Actual figures reveal that conditions at the close of April are worse than at the close of March.

The report received shows that of 23 industrial centers east of the Mississippi, 28 show increases in employment as against 25 showing improved conditions. The Pacific Coast reports a heavy slump owing to inactivity in shipbuilding and lumbering.

The general review of the national situation reports that employment offered by 1,424 firms located in 65 principal industrial centers shows a net decrease of 7,887 workers on the payrolls for the month of April. Since January the net decrease of these establishments has been almost 50,000. Unemployment is "about evenly distributed in the iron and steel trades, textiles and leather products, automobiles, rubber, chemicals and sugar. In many cities continued stagnation in the building trades, due to combined high costs of materials and unsettled wage controversies between employers and workers has affected large numbers of other workers.

### A. F. OF L. URGES COOPERATIVES

AN interesting news item has come out from Cincinnati, where the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor is at present in session, engaged in the preparation of a report to the annual convention of the Federation, to be held next June in Denver, Colo.

The Council will ask the Federation to give its full support to the cooperative movement which has already gained headway in the Central States. Adequate plans for promoting this plan through the trade unions, which will put organized labor in a position of meeting the high cost of living and profiteering by the establishment of cooperative societies, have been discussed and decided upon. It is too early to foretell what the convention of the Federation will decide to do in this matter in the way of practical action. It is, however, quite encouraging that the Executive Council of the Federation has finally decided actively to line up the Federation on behalf of the distributive and industrial cooperative movement.

The example of England, Belgium, Italy, and even Russia, where the cooperative movement exercises tremendous power and usefulness, has been starting at the organized labor movement in this country long without inviting similar action. Cooperation can, and must be, a forceful auxiliary in the daily struggle of the American worker to maintain his living standards. There certainly is enough initiative, energy and resourcefulness within the working class of America to accomplish what the workers in other countries have done. The fact that, engaging in cooperative enterprises, might distract organized labor from its "sole" legitimate problems, is, of course, totally unfounded.

### CENTRAL BODY TO INVESTIGATE BUILDING COUNCIL

THE Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York has voted last week for an investigation of the form of organization of the New York Building Trades Council, to see whether or not it conforms to the requirements of the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, and as to whether in its activities it has conducted itself in accordance with the basic rules of a trade union organization.

This action was taken upon the request of the Painters' Union, which was barred from the Building Council some months ago by Brindell, the building trades' chief, who is now serving a term in Sing Sing for extortion. The committee to carry on the investigation will be appointed March 1st by the President of the Central Body and it is understood to take steps to reorganize the Building Trades Council along democratic lines.

The labor movement of New York City has waited long enough for such a committee and such an investigation. The events of the last six weeks and the miserable condition within the Building Council exposed in the course of the Lockwood Committee investigation, have proved beyond doubt that a house-cleaning of a most thorough order is imperative at this council. The words of the resolution which preceded the adoption of the motion to investigate the Council, stating that the Building Trades Council was "controlled by the most powerful interests and combinations and was a detriment and menace to the labor movement at

large and to the wage workers of the building industry in this city in particular" adequately size up this situation.

We hope that this investigation will be a thorough one and will not be halted by any personal or other considerations in exposing those who deserve to be pilloried and in attaching blame and penalty upon those who have violated the tenets of labor unionism. The country at large will have a sigh of relief upon learning that the labor movement of New York has finally determined to purge itself of the blot which the activities of Brindell and his henchmen have put upon it.

### AMERICAN RABBIT UPHOLD UNIONISM

IN the torrent of anti-union propaganda which is flooding the country from one end to the other, it is, indeed, quite pleasing to note that here and there elements otherwise not connected with labor and its cause are taking a courageous stand in defense of the labor movement. We have noted in these columns once before that the National Catholic Council has come out in fearless denunciation of the "open shop" movement, branding it as selfish and destructive propaganda. Last week labor's right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of its own choosing was approved at a conference of American rabbis held in Washington.

The widespread propaganda now being made against labor unions and collective bargaining is being stamped with the proper terms of disapproval in the following sentences:

The conference holds that the overthrow of the labor union would mean the collapse of the whole structure of industrial peace and order, which rests upon the labor union as one of its chief foundations. Without the union, labor would be the victim of the long work-day, insufficient wage and similar injustices. Under the present organization of society, labor's only safeguard against the retrogression to former inhuman standards is the union.

### STEEL TRUST CUTS WAGES, RETAINS 12-HOUR DAY

THE long-expected cut in the wages of seven hundred thousand workers in the steel industry finally came last week. Judge Gary, the Chairman of the Steel Corporation, announced a reduction of 20 per cent. in the wages of all workers employed in its manufacturing plants, to take effect May 16th. This reduction will bring the wage scale back to a level which existed during the early months of 1918.

This staggering blow to the steel workers is ostensibly justified on the ground that the cost of living has been materially reduced. It would require no particular familiarity with market conditions to learn that between the spring of 1918 and 1921 the cost of living has advanced markedly. As now reduced, the wages of an average worker for a ten-hour day is \$4.05. The decline of \$1.01 a day in such a meager budget is admittedly inhuman. Still more cruel, nevertheless, are the words in the statement issued by Judge Gary, in which he says that "the 12-hour day must be maintained for the time being." Indeed, with the reduction in wages, the steel workers, according to the statement, "will not be satisfied with any shorter limit."

The logic of the steel barons is certainly inexorable. As a reply to the general feeling of resentment against the 12-hour day in the steel mills, the Steel Trust orders a cut in wages, which would bring earnings down to such a low level that it would compel the workers to cling to any number of hours in order to maintain their dependents. Unfortu-

nately, the steel workers can retaliate against the aggression of the steel combine only in one way. The national organizing campaign started recently by the new committee appointed by the American Federation of Labor, must now go with redoubled energy to its task. The bitterness engendered in the steel mills by the wage reduction will offer to the organizers even a more fertile field for their activities.

### THE FIFTH WEEK OF THE BRITISH MINERS' STRIKE

THE miners in England have entered the fifth week of their struggle for uniform wages in all mines, with undiminished energy and determination. "No surrender" was the keynote of decisions reached at mass meetings of miners held throughout the English coal fields last week.

An appeal to the whole labor movement to support the miners was issued by the Joint Committee of the Parliamentary Labor Party and the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress. In the course of this appeal, it is stated:

"The mine owners and the government have declared war upon the miners. Its weapon is starvation; its first victims, women and children. It is to be a war of attrition. They count upon hunger forcing the miners back to work in a fortnight on the terms which they tried to dictate to them last week. They calculate that before the end of the month the only way of the Federation will by then be broken. Organized labor must defeat such strategy; it must defend its own future by rallying to the miners now."

The transport workers are having another conference this week, to consider possible action to support the miners. In order to prevent the creation of a split in the ranks, the men and the unity of the Federation will by then be broken. Organized labor must defeat such strategy; it must defend its own future by rallying to the miners now.

### HEADS OF PRESSMEN OUSTED BY COURT

A SITUATION of unusual interest arose in the Pressmen's International Union, which is a direct outgrowth from the memorable "outlaw" strike in the printing press trade in New York about two years ago.

As our readers probably remember, at that time George Berry, the President of the International Pressmen's Union, came to New York and suppressed with an iron hand the strike of the locals in New York. In retaliation, locals Nos. 2, 51, 23 and 1 of New York and locals of Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, Indianapolis and other cities have brought charges against Berry and other officers of the International Union, alleging misuse of funds and speculation. Last week saw a record of this action, in the form of a decision by a federal judge sitting at Lexington, Ky., which ousted the officers of the International Printing Pressmen's Union and appointed receivers for the printing pressmen's home and all its assets, including a monthly union journal, a school for technical education and several land, lumber and power contracts, by private persons and financed by the funds of the union.

The men who opposed Berry at that time and who pushed the court action against him are jubilant over the decision. It must be remembered that Berry is one of the arch-conservatives in the American labor movement and had at every chance fought every progressive tendency in the American Federation of Labor in and out of conventions.

# THE END OF "WORKERS' CONTROL" IN ITALY

By IRA W. HIRD

(Special Correspondence to "Workers")

ROME, April 17.—Dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies by the king on April 7, and the national movement by the employers of Italy to break down the standards of wages and working conditions that were won by the organized workers during and after the war, have ended all possibility of peaceful establishment of workers' participation in the management of the industries of Italy. When the king dissolved the Chamber, and called for a general election on May 15, the workers' control bill that was before the Chamber died with the Chamber.

The workers' control measure was drafted by Premier Giolitti and others of the government in accordance with the promise they made to the workers when a peaceful settlement was made after the seizure of factories by the metal workers last September. The seizure of factories began at Turin in the great shops of the F. I. A. T. automobile corporation and spread throughout Italy. Many workers other than those in the metal trades seized the factories and operated them during the months in which the workers were masters of Italy.

When the settlement negotiations passed to meeting the workers' terms for evacuation of the factories. The workers wanted complete control over working conditions and considerable participation in the management of the metal works. Only after pressure was brought to bear on the employers by the government, did the employers agree to the workers' demands. The workers' control bill was to have brought part of the demands of the workers. Now the workers have no control of the factories, no bill before the Chamber and a great conflict ahead in which they will be on the defensive.

Although the bill is dead, it always will be of interest as a document to show what the seizure of factories forced the government to promise. The bill placed in the hands of the workers general supervision of industrial provision of industrial operations in the metal, textile, chemical and electric factories, mills and plants, land and water transport, real estate, mines and hotels. State industries, concerns which have been

doing business less than four years and factories employing less than 60 workers were exempt from provisions of the measure.

The workers opposed the bill from the start, declaring that it did not give enough control to the workers; the employers opposed it because "it gave too much power to the workers." So each side submitted its idea of the workers' control bill, and the three were before a special committee of the Chamber of Deputies when it was dissolved. Whether they ever will be revived will depend on the outcome of the general election and the present lockout of 15,000 automobile workers at the F. I. A. T. works in Turin. If reaction triumphs in the general election or in the lockout, the workers' control bill is a long way off. Conditions are no less unsettled with actual bloody civil war in all parts of Italy, that it is difficult to predict which side will triumph in the two contests. But a defeat for the workers will be only temporary. They will come back stronger than ever.

The general election contest is more important now than the F. I. A. T. lockout, though the lockout may be extended into a general strike of the 400,000 metal workers of Italy in defense of their wage scales and working conditions. The general election campaign is the most bloody ever known in Italy, with the newspapers reading like the journals of the Great War. From one-fourth to three-fourths of the space in newspapers is devoted to the election clashes, with reports of the number killed and wounded by the Fascist in the attacks on workers' election meetings.

Most of the Chambers of Labor, the central meeting halls of the workers of all trades in the industrial cities, have been destroyed by the Fascist, together with the meeting halls of the land workers' leagues, cooperative societies and homes of individuals who were especially prominent in some movement against the master class. In the great fire five persons were killed and about 500 injured by Fascist, who wantonly fired into meetings of workers or shot down defenses

propagandists in their homes and offices. In no case were the assassins halted by the police in their terrorism nor were arrests made, though the police were witnesses of many of the murders and assaults.

General strikes are in progress in Pisa, Leghorn, Ancona and a number of other cities in protest against the murders and violence of the Fascist. The Pisa strike was aroused by the most vicious murder in its long line of assassinations by the White Guard. Carlo Cascone, secretary of the Socialist Federation of Pisa and editor of the Socialist daily "L'Orto Nuovo," was shot down and killed in the school of which he was principal. He was killed because he had written an article attacking the Fascist. The general strike became effective as soon as the workers heard of his death. Several have been killed and many wounded in clashes during the Leghorn strike.

There appeared to be a lull in the violence of the White Guard during the week in which the Chamber of Deputies was dissolved. Now the White Terror is more violent than ever, with daily assassinations of workers' leaders and destruction of meeting places. It is apparent that every effort is being made to frighten the workers from the polling places on May 15 so the Socialist and Communist groups in the Chamber can be kept down to the irreducible minimum.

The lockout at Turin is believed to be the first move by the employers of Italy to smash the organizations of the workers, as similar moves are being made in the United States and England. The employers have the advantage, for there is great unemployment throughout Italy because of the industrial depression. They think this is the time to attack the General Confederation of Labor, which has kept them on the jump for five years.

The lockout began on April 4, when the workers, on arriving at their shops, found them in control of the military. The management took no chances this time, for the workers might have tried another seizure of a factory otherwise. After the lockout the management sent registered letters to the Communist,

shop chairman, members of shop committees and others active in the factory occupation movement, notifying them of their discharge. Then notices were published in the capitalist newspapers announcing that workers could obtain employment in the F. I. A. T. shops if they signed individual contracts. The individual contracts are similar to those employed in the United States by traction corporations, mining companies and other labor-haters to break labor organizations. The contracts provide that the worker will obey all disciplinary provisions of the employer as well as accept the employer as the subject of wages, working conditions and factory management. Under the individual contract the worker goes back to the position of slavery from which he emerged during the war. Only a few have signed the contracts, and the rest are out to fight.

The strike to fight the lockout has the support of all labor organizations and workers' political parties. The national office of the Federazione Italiana Operaia Metallurgica (Metal Workers' Union) are in Turin to direct the fight and it may be extended throughout Italy if a national move is thought to be a good blow at this time. The Turin workers say there must be a national strike to put the workers on the offensive. "If they beat us, we will be next" is the warning of the Turin automobile workers, and all realize that this is the situation.

Many believe the Turin lockout was initiated at this time to increase the violence throughout the country so that the government can have an excuse to use its troops at the polls on election day. It would be a simultaneous move in the United States if a Tammany mayor of New York sought to get an excuse to put Tammany men in charge of the polls in every precinct. The victory of Tammany would be a sure thing. Many leaders of the Socialist party are urging that the party abstain from participation in the general election on May 15 as a protest against the campaign of violence. The Communists, who have opposed participation in elections in the past, are entering this campaign in obedience to the decision of the Third International in favor of participation in elections. The Communist parties of all countries; The Communists are organizing fighting groups with which to conduct the "Communist Terror" in revenge for attacks of the White Terror of the Fascist.

## A Month With The Waist and Dress Joint Board

By JACOB HALPERN

In taking a retrospective view of the general strike which took place in the waist and dress industry in the early spring, I can best describe it by stating that it was partly a success and partly a failure.

It was partly a failure because the principal object of the strike, namely, the securing of the non-union shops in the City of New York, was only achieved in a limited degree. There are still a great number of small shops to be organized; and let me say that their smallness and their ability to move from place to place with rapidity makes it still harder for us to achieve results with them. On the other hand, there are about 50 very big shops which we did not succeed in organizing, and these offer a separate problem for us at present.

I wish to emphasize that it is not such a simple matter, this organization work in the non-union shops in New York City. It cannot be tackled in the ordinary way, because the workers in these shops have been approached time and again with the union message and have refused to

listen to it. I would suggest that a special person be appointed to devise ways and means to organize these big and small shops, and I am sure that the expense incurred will be fully warranted by the results.

Due to the general lack of work in the industry and to the holiday season which has just passed, we were not able to accomplish very much in the organizing work we have conducted during last month. We have, however, succeeded in organizing 16 non-union shops through investigations of the jobbers' accounts. About 270 workers were employed in these shops. It is interesting to observe that in making investigations of the books of members of the Jobbers' Association, we invariably found that practically everyone of them is employing non-union contractors. It will require a good deal of energy and hard work to follow up and remedy these delinquencies.

A case in point will probably be of interest. Upon investigating the books of the Cecil Dress Co., 118 Madison Ave., it was found that the

firm was employing the Anne Costume Co., a non-union contracting shop, which the union had always found difficult to organize. The jobber was, of course, instructed to discontinue sending work to this shop. In the course of the investigation it was disclosed that this firm employed this non-union contractor during the month of March. It also continued sending work to it in April, without revealing this fact on its books. We traced the matter still further and found that our charges were correct. We presented a demand for liquidated damages to the Association and subsequently this firm made application to the association of Dress Contractors, which means an application for an agreement with the union. This is clearly a victory for the organization when it is considered that in all former strikes it was impossible to organize this shop.

From Feb. 19th to April 23rd there have been filed with the Association not less than 1,200 complaints. These complaints cover a wide range of violations, from the "maintenance of a dual system of work" to "payment by check" and "failure to register outside shops." We have classified not less than 28 forms of violations which might be of interest for every member of the union to become acquainted with and learn. All these complaints have been amply ad-

justed either by our representatives directly or, after disagreement, by the Chief Clerks, with the exception of two cases, on which the Chief Clerks could not agree and which had to be brought before the impartial chairman.

The number of central visits made during the above mentioned period in the Association Department is 571. When our depleted force of business agents and the large number of complaints is taken into consideration, the results obtained offer us a great deal of satisfaction. The number of shop meetings during that period, in the Association Department alone, amounts to 202. Of course, this number does not represent the actual number of meetings held, as many of reports have not been handed in by the various clerks as yet. We are trying our utmost to follow up employers who are violating the clause of the agreement which forbids them to do their own cutting. In such cases where violations occur, we impose money penalties. We have collected from the Association for the above mentioned period \$611 as liquidated damages for such violations. We also succeeded in placing cutters in several cases where we found that no cutters were employed.

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## EDITORIALS

### THE HINDRANCE TO AN UNDERSTANDING

We cannot point, as yet, to anything tangible achieved by the committees of the Cloakmakers' Union and the cloak manufacturers. Nevertheless, these conferences have, in a sense, accomplished some good already. Not only have the employers begun to understand better our viewpoint, the viewpoint of the worker, but they were compelled to admit, in more than one instance, that our attitude is the only just and correct one.

The self-confidence with which the cloak manufacturers have put forth their first demands as an all-cure for all the evils in the industry, has disappeared considerably. Their conviction that they have found the master-remedy for the troubles that beset the cloak industry was shaken to a great extent by the persuasiveness of our arguments. Many of them (the most intelligent, we must say) are beginning to see that all their proposals have turned out to be, after a thorough analysis, no more and no less than quick remedies.

Take, for instance, the proposal of the employers to cut wages in order, as they had put it, to place the New York manufacturers on a "competitive basis." The big manufacturer, they said, must be able to compete in prices with the small manufacturer, and the workers in the bigger shops must, therefore, work for less wages. This was the chief and only reason advanced by the employers for a reduction in wages. At these conferences, the manufacturers did not even think of putting forth the canard that the cloakmakers are the "best paid" workers among all skilled laborers in America, as they had repeatedly stated in the press. They know too well that this is not the truth. The cloakmaker who works on the average only about 30 weeks in a year, earns barely enough, even at high wages, to make a living. The employers also know that the argument of a reduced cost of living would not hold water. They do not inhabitate the planet Mars, but live together with us on earth, and they know well that the principal articles of living necessities are as high as before. Rents have not fallen; fuel and lighting is on the same level; meat is just as costly; bread is not cheaper.

The argument that the big employer must be placed on a competitive basis with the small one was just as easily shot to pieces by the irresistible logic of our committees. To begin with, the myth of smaller wages received by the men and women who work in the smaller factories, was completely exploded. Secondly, it was proven beyond peradventure that even if the contentions of the employers were true and the workers in the smaller factories were receiving lesser wages, it would stand to reason that the reduction of wages in the bigger shops would be but a futile measure in that direction. The workers in the smaller shops would take a proportionate reduction in wages and the basis of this much vaunted "competition" would disappear.

As regards the demand for "the full right for hiring and firing," our employers know, first of all, that they will never achieve that as long as there is a drop of energy left in our workers to contest it. Secondly, they know by this time that this will not solve the problem. President Schlesinger made this point clear at the first conference. He put the question bluntly before the employers: Why didn't they take advantage of this right to discharge workers indiscriminately in the course of the last eight or nine months, when their relations with the union were abrogated? What has prevented them in doing so? They have not done so because they knew that through indiscriminate hiring and firing they would make things much worse and would cause stoppages without number, an even greater evil than the keeping of an "undesirable" worker in the shop. The employers had no reply to make to this question. And in the course of the subsequent debates it was made clear that no reply to this question could be had. In fact, many of the employers present have admitted that the granting of this "right" would not improve matters a bit.

What, then, is the hindrance to an understanding? After all these matters have been cleared up, what is there which deters our employers from renewing the agreement, the term of which expires only in a year? As it appears to us, there is only one answer to this situation: It is exterior circumstances, the outside, which hinders our manufacturers from arriving at a definite decision. They read, for instance, that the steel trust has cut wages by a mere managerial order. They very likely ask themselves the question: "If Gary, why not we?" Again they read in the press about the "open shop" movement and their hearts are probably filled with envy and unmasked with sadness. "Why should we be worse than other employers who somehow or other manage to free themselves from the 'tyranny' of the union?" We are inclined to believe that it was precisely these sentiments that have led our employers to the abrogation of the agreement with the union. It is these subtle considerations which deter the employers now from acting in a way that would serve their own interests best, namely, to drop their unjustified demands and to insist only upon one: that the union lend them its full cooperation in observing that the work-

ers give a fair day's work in return for their pay. The union is certainly ready to cooperate in this respect with all his power.

We have not, under any circumstances, lost hope that after a few more conferences our employers will realize that the cloak industry is differently situated from the steel and copper industries. One thing must be clear to them already: While the steel workers are practically unorganized and the steel magnates have accordingly a dictatorial hand in the industry, the cloakmakers are organized 100 per cent. and are, in this respect, distinctly different from the men in the steel mills. This is a situation which they cannot overlook or change, even if they were as rich and powerful as the steel trust. We hope, therefore, that our cloak employers will appreciate the fundamental difference between industry and industry, and between worker and worker. Once this is realized, we believe, the final obstacles to a complete understanding in the cloak industry will have been removed.

### FOULING THEIR OWN NEST

The elections for executive boards in Locals No. 22 and No. 25, which were to have taken place last Thursday, failed to materialize. We are eager that the big membership of these two locals may understand in full all that is involved in this situation. We are eager to inform the tens of thousands of dress and waistsmakers, who are not involved in local politics and know how helpless their condition in the shops would be if they had not had the protective power of the union back of them—we are eager that these masses understand that the situation is really a grave one. A danger is staring them in the face, a danger that their union, their only weapon against the employer, is likely to be wrested out of their hands and dashed to the ground. Only their own determined stand can remove this menace and call a halt to the infamous union-smashing tactics of a certain group which parades under the mask of "revolution," "communism" and other alluring and fascinating catchwords. The facts are as follows:

The election for executive officers of these two locals was to have taken place several weeks ago. A number of members of the local, however, brought charges to the office of the International stating that the usual procedure of elections would not permit of a true expression of the will of the membership. It appears that it was originally arranged that voting for the executive officers of both locals, consisting of 30,000 members, was to have taken place in a small meeting room that would permit an audience of not more than 200 people, and rushed through in the course of a couple of hours.

Any person with a spark of common sense could see through the farce of this procedure. It would have resulted in the virtual self-appointment of some persons ambitious of becoming executive officers in true dictatorial fashion. The General Executive Board of the International, having analyzed this situation, decided that the elections must be held in a manner that would give the widest opportunity for the greatest number of members to participate therein. Not only was this decision taken on the ground of the preservation of the principles of democracy alone. The General Executive Board was actuated by the additional motive that the more representative of the rank and file an executive officer of the union is, the more influence, respect and attention is he or she likely to gain from the employers. The consciousness that they were elected by thousands instead of a dozen or two would lend strength and courage to the man and woman elected as an executive officer of the organization.

A special committee was, therefore, appointed by the International to supervise the elections, to provide halls, ballot boxes, and to examine the candidates as to their general moral and mental fitness, and to sift out those who have either through scabbing or through flagrant misconduct at meetings proven to be enemies of the union. It was primarily understood that no one was to be objected as a candidate on account of political or economic principles, and that the only condition of fitness be that he or she is a loyal union member. The Election Committee of the International has acted throughout in this spirit and candidates who have declared their loyalty to the union have passed the Examination Committee, no matter what their political principles were.

A few days before election an incident occurred which we regard as the most scandalous and abominable in the history of our labor movement. There appeared on the streets a handbill full of calumny and vituperation against the General Executive Board of the International, carrying with it a slate of 21 names endorsed by the anonymous signers of the handbill, and asking members of Locals No. 22 and No. 25 to vote for these. We shall quote a few lines from this leaflet in order to present to the readers an idea as to the calibre of our "opponents":

"The General Executive Board of the International has done everything in its power, using the most crooked means, to keep the members from carrying out their wishes. Suddenly it becomes world's steel democracy, about giving all the members the right to conduct the affairs in the same manner."

"The General Executive Board is panic-stricken for fear radicals will be elected. . . ."

"Fellow Workers! The International has thrown down the challenge to you. Answer that challenge! Show the officials of the International that crooked work will do them no good."

This leaflet is presumed to have been issued by a "Shop Delegate Propaganda Committee," of which no one has ever heard before. The International would have ignored this entire incident on the supposition that the whole affair is the handiwork of spies and miserable underlings who had sold themselves to the employers. However, it became known later that some of the candidates appeared on the list of the handbill had distributed the leaflets themselves, and the majority of them, when they were called before the Election Committee, refused to sign a statement that they were not in accord with the vile charges leveled against our international officers in this anonymous handbill.

Under these circumstances the Election Committee has decided to postpone the election until further notice. Now the big member-

# RAILWAY UNIONS BEATEN—WHAT NEXT?

By HENRY LANG

In speaking, in a former article, of the conferences which have taken place between the railway companies and the unions and the hearings before the Railway Labor Board, I stated that the railway unions felt right along that they could not expect any particular benefits from the decisions of that Board, and that they were, therefore, elected to start negotiations directly with the companies and their financial agents.

As far as the decision of the Labor Board is concerned, their forebodings came true. The decision rendered by the Railway Labor Board after the hearing was completed and the submitted evidence was examined is a decided blow for the unions. One point in that decision is, beyond doubt, an open and unqualified support of the companies against the labor unions. It is the only point which deals with the national agreement between the workers and the companies and is contained in the following sentence: "The national agreement between the workers and the railway companies shall be repealed, and each company shall have the right to make an individual agreement with its workers."

This issue was the crux of the contention between the union and the companies. True, the controversy involved standards and wage reductions and such other matters. All these questions, however, revolved about the point as to whether the companies were obliged to retain the national agreement with the unions, or not. This issue arose right after the railways were returned to their private owners after the war came to an end. The fact is that the companies themselves were hesitating as to whether they should come out with a flat demand for the abrogation of the national agreement, in the belief that it would be an exorbitant request. It was an admission on their part that this was a complicated problem and could not be solved off-hand by themselves.

Nevertheless, what the companies hesitated to demand from the unions, the Railway Labor Board granted to the private owners without even an adequate examination of facts. This offers additional proof that a governmental commission entrusted with deciding labor questions, no matter how vital and important for the workers, is always likely to treat these with scanty courtesy in their eagerness to satisfy the employers' side.

There is in that decision another point in which the railway board assumes a position of open antagonism towards the workers. That point covers the treatment of workers in general and the attitude of the companies towards union men. It reads as follows: "The companies should

not treat union men differently than non-union men. The unions, however, must not insist that only union men are to be employed." In other words, the companies are, first, given the right to deal with the unions in accordance with their personal dictates and, secondly, it imposes upon the union an obligation not to demand from the companies that they must employ only union men. This decision, thus, robs the unions of a distinct right which they gained in the war-years after a great deal of effort and sacrifice.

The repeal of the national agreement between the railway unions and the employers is of greater consequence to the workers than the result of a similar action in any other industry. If, for instance, all the cloak manufacturers of the country would have had a national agreement with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union—and such an agreement would have been abrogated, the strength of the union would not have been in the least affected by it. Each cloakmakers' union in each cloak manufacturing market could conclude an individual agreement with the employers of their particular locality. The only condition to be looked out after would be that wages and work-standards should be more or less uniform in all these markets. In the case of the railway industry, the situation is altogether different. There are so many interests and factors involved in it that to have agreements with individual companies means no agreements at all. Of course, agreements are not all and everything in the life of a labor union. But the railway companies are so closely allied with each other and many of them are so interlocked and grown together, that the conclusion of separate agreements amounts to a splitting up of the union forces into small bits and a frittering away the influence back of it.

It must be considered that this demand for separate agreements came from the companies, who have admitted at the hearings that they have spent millions of dollars to destroy the unions, and their anxiety for the repeal of the international agreement can be easily understood. The Railway Labor Board, of course, is little concerned with the detrimental effect of this decision upon the unions. Perhaps this "impartial" board is not altogether disaffected with the adverse effect its decision might have upon the labor organizations in the railway industries. However that be, the railway unions are for the time beaten, and even though they have not publicly stated so and are continuing to confer with the financial agents of the companies, the comment of President Gompers is a fair index of the importance of

that decision. Immediately after the decision was announced, Gompers stated that it was "a terrible blow for organized labor in America." Gompers and all trade unionists have fought against the idea of a Railway Labor Board, which, as commonly known, is an offshoot of the Cummins-Zech Railway Act and was bitterly contested by the organized workers.

It must not, however, be interpreted that the controversies between the unions and the companies, the open hearings and the present decision of the Railway Labor Board have left no influence upon the policy of the railway unions. The present conferences between the various railway unions are of an extraordinary nature. These meetings have been summoned not only to formulate a policy for dealing with the momentary question of the day but they purport the strengthening of the position of all the railway unions for the future. The question of bringing together more closely the various unions in the industry is receiving a great deal of earnest consideration and attention at these conferences. It must be kept in mind that at present there are as many unions in the railway industry, independent and self-acting, as there are branches and factors in the transportation system of the country. First, there are the four big brotherhoods—engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen—national organizations concerned directly with transportation, which have been accustomed to act in common for a number of years past. Then come the six auxiliary unions that are directly involved in the transport business and are also organized on a national basis. These are the telegraphers, clerks, switchmen, signal men, stationery firemen and maintenance of way employees. These unions have national agree-

ments with the companies. After these follow the unions of railway constructors—the machinists, the trial workers and sheet metal workers. These workers are organized separately in international organizations. There are also several special smiths, boilermakers, carmen, electricians who exercise jurisdiction over most necessary trade or occupation in the railway industry. Their influence is limited and affects, in most cases, only individual shops or stations.

The four brotherhoods of transport workers do not belong to the A. F. of L. and are not a part of the Railway Department of the A. F. of L. All the other unions are affiliated with the A. F. of L., and, while they often work hand in hand, they have no definite understanding for common action in general.

Recent events are beginning to force the conviction upon all the workers on the railways that not only is a closer affiliation of the unions in the industry a matter of supreme necessity, but that a unification of forces and an amalgamation is the only binding force that can insure progress to the railway workers. It is this problem that occupies, at present, prominent place in the consultations between the various railway unions. We do not expect, quite naturally, that such an amalgamation will take place at once. The railway unions have traveled upon individual roads for too long a time that we may anticipate that their amalgamation is near at hand. The very fact that this unification of forces is being earnestly discussed, however, is a good omen. The money which the labor movement is receiving these days are, doubtless, driving the unions fast in that direction. Such an amalgamation, if it is accomplished, will make the railway unions more aggressive and militant and will change entirely their present structure. From separate craft unions they will become industrial labor bodies, and from individual units, one powerful labor organization.

## Organizing In Baltimore

By SOL SEIDMAN

Baltimore is one of those of our centres in the East where the International has spent a lot of money and effort without obtaining until now tangible results. One of the reasons for our very slow progress in Baltimore is, perhaps, the fact that most of the workers employed in the ladies' garment shops of that city are native girls who easily succumb to the spell of benevolence cast upon them by the employers, and who still entertain the belief that these employers are doing all they can to make their existence in the shops pleasant and comfortable.

Let me say, to the extent this is true. All the big factories in Baltimore are impossibly clean, have nice lunch rooms, dancing floors and victrolas, and pleasant surroundings. Of course, as far as wages go, they are, to my knowledge, the lowest in our trades of any city where women's wear is manufactured. In some of the larger shops the employers have created a system of sick and death benefits in order to tie the workers even stronger to the firm. In most of the shops the bonus system is very much developed, and this has developed the obnoxious practice of speeding up and task work in these factories.

Lately, however, conditions have changed somewhat. The unemployment season was longer than before and the women were without work for a long time. Some of these "good" employers have taken advantage of the slack period and have cut prices mercilessly. It is enough to say that in some shops experienced

girls are working for \$10 and \$12 a week and the working hours have been increased to 48 and 60 a week.

Our organization campaign is now in full swing. As soon as work reappeared in the shops, we flooded every factory in Baltimore with circulars. (In a brief space of time, over 50,000 circulars of various calibre, color and content were distributed. The employers have tried, with the aid of the police, to hamper the work of the committees. Nevertheless, our campaign continues and it is to be hoped that in a short time we shall obtain substantial results from these efforts.)

At a mass meeting on May 5th we succeeded in getting as one of the speakers a Catholic priest, Father McNamara, and his speech produced profound impression upon the girls present. It must be kept in mind that most of the women workers in our trades in Baltimore are of the Catholic faith. We have organized small missionary groups of active members to visit workers in their homes during evenings and to reach the gospel of unionism to them. Miss Harriet Powdermaker, an active member and the secretary of the Women's Trade Union League of Baltimore, is our local organizer, and she is in charge of the organization work for the time being.

The cloak trade in Baltimore is very slow just at present. The season was a very brief one and seems to be at an end a few weeks ago. The new fall season will probably not begin until the situation in New York is settled.

ship of the two locals is face to face with the question: "What will you do? Will you permit a few individuals to besmirch publicly your International and to heap calumny upon the heads of the officers elected by yourselves?" That small, though sly and cunning element, has no other object but the breaking up of the union. Will the big membership of these locals permit them to do that? And would they cast the prestige, the honor and the solidarity of our International into the mire?

Heretofore, the International conducted the fight of the workers in times of strife and peace with its banner borne aloft and surrounded by the love and loyalty of its members. Will the members of Locals No. 22 and No. 25 permit an employer now to point to these scurrilous handbills as evidence that the workers themselves, have kept silence while their organization was being reviled and sullied by its enemies?

This leaflet is not an attack upon one or another International officer. It is an attack on the entire Union. If the membership of the waist and dress locals will not immediately and determinedly rid themselves of this pestilence that has found lodgings in their midst, the International will have but one alternative left, and that is to cast off from itself these deluded individuals in the waist and dress industry.

# Educational Comment and Notes

## MEETING OF THE FACULTY

Last week occurred a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Faculty of our Educational Department. The teachers, Dr. Leo Wolman, Mr. Gustav F. Shultz, Miss Elsie Ghosh, Educational Director of the Waitmakers' Union, Local 25; Alexander Fickelander, Educational Director of our International, and Fannia M. Cohn, Secretary, spent considerable time in discussing the curriculum and plans for next year's work. After careful consideration, they decided to recommend certain courses which they believe will be of value to the members of our Union and help them not only to gain information and culture, but also to participate effectively in the affairs of our Union and of the Labor Movement.

There will be another meeting of the Executive Committee of the Faculty and the results of the conference will be published in JUSTICE.

## OUTLINES

The Educational Department is not only gratified but very pleasantly surprised at the large number of applications for outlines. The demand during the past week has been so large that additional copies had to be printed. It is needless to say that this Department will be only too happy to print as many more as will be necessary. This demand on the part of our members shows an increasing interest in the rank and file in the value of education. It also proves beyond doubt that the courses given during the past season met a real need on the part of our members.

Of course, these outlines cannot take the place of the lessons themselves. But to those people who have attended the sessions of our University and who want to refresh their minds and to continue the study of the subject by means of additional reading, the outlines are undoubtedly of great value.

It may interest the membership that a particularly great demand has been shown for outlines of the courses which deal with the immediate problems of workers, such as Trade Union Policies, Economics, etc.

## THE STUDENTS' COUNCIL

The Students' Council of the Workers' University met last week to wind up matters connected with the "Get together" of the students which was held last month.

The Council decided to continue its work during the summer and planned a number of activities for the membership. An outing will be arranged by the Students' Council and the date and place will be announced shortly.

## UNITY HOUSE LIBRARY

Our members who spent part of their vacation last summer at the Unity House, in Forest Park, Pa., remember the library there. No doubt, a great many of the guests spent many an hour reading some of the excellent books contained in the library. The committee in charge has made an additional appropriation of \$400 to buy additional volumes, and our Educational Department was asked to help in selecting books for that purpose.

This Department is preparing a list of carefully selected books for the committee. It contains the works of the greatest modern writers, selected mainly because of their interest literary value.

## THE MOUNT VERNON LOCAL AND EDUCATION

Last week a communication was received by our Educational Committee from the Mount Vernon Local of our International, No. 113, stating that they have decided to request our Department to organize educational activities for their members because they believe that there is a necessity for such activities. The Educational Committee asked the Educational Department to get in touch immediately with the Local Union and plan the work with them and make the necessary arrangements in order that these activities may commence next Fall.

This movement initiated by our membership in Mount Vernon is encouraging and gratifying. Only by such methods can our organization and the Labor Movement increase their power. An educated rank and file is the only hope for the future of the Labor Movement. It is urged earnestly that more Locals concern themselves with this matter and begin at once to prepare plans for next year's educational work.

## "GET-TOGETHER" A REAL SUCCESS

Over five hundred members of the Joint Board of the Wait and Dressmakers' Union and the International attended and participated in the concert and entertainment arranged by the Educational Department of Local 25 last Saturday at Public School 40, 314 East 20th Street.

Besides the regular musical program, which was very cordially received, slides of Unity House were shown to our members. Many of the audience had never come to our entertainments before and they applauded enthusiastically as Sister Jennie Matyas explained the slides. Later in the evening our members really "got-together" and merrily danced not only the waltz and the fox trot, but the Virginia reel and Russian folk dances.

The success of this evening proves once more the desirability of such informal gatherings of our members.

## Philadelphia Unity House Opens for Registration

The Philadelphia Unity House at Orville, Pa., is open for business. The Unity House, Committee of the Philadelphia Wait and Dressmakers' Union, which owns this beautiful vacation home, has issued a call for registration to its members and to all members of the International in the city of Philadelphia, which reads as follows:

"While private persons engaged in the business of keeping vacation homes maintain them only for gain—a motive which is primarily responsible for the high prices which they are charging and for the inferior quality of foods and commodities which they supply—our Unity House is operated upon a different basis and for a different purpose. We strive to give to all those who come to us the place the very best of things at the lowest possible price. Our Unity House was built up and is being maintained not only for the purpose of giving our visitors rest and wholesome food, but, in addition to that, we strive to offer spiritual recreation and intelligent and wholesome amusement. We have arranged for the coming season a series of concerts and recitation in which such well-known artists as Hans Kinder, Sasha Jacobson, Tanenholz and Bertha Levin will take part.

"The Unity House is a place which calls forth within us the seeking for

the nation's best and holiday cheer of life. We sing our own songs, we dance our own dances and we live our own lives at Unity.

"We have succeeded in securing as manager of our house for this season a member of our own union, our dear friend and sister Sophie Goren. We have also engaged for this season a very capable recreation teacher, Miss Beatrice Morton, not only an expert in her line, but a very engaging and amiable personality. We are also negotiating at present with two celebrated concert performers for our two weekly concerts at Unity.

"We have desired this year to give the opportunity for visiting the Orville Unity House not only to our own members, but to our friends of the labor movement in Philadelphia in general. Registration has already begun and applications can be made in the office of the Union, 28 North 11th Street. All prospective applicants are requested to make their appointments in time, either in person or through writing, in order to secure accommodations."

## THE UNITY HOUSE COMMITTEE OF LOCAL No. 15.

H. BRONSTEIN, Secretary.

# Our Educational Work — A Survey

By FANNIA M. COHN

(Read before conference on Workers' Education in the United States, held in New York City, April 2-3, 1921)

## Activities

As far as the history of our work is concerned, the main fact is that since 1916, when the Convention appropriated \$5,000 per year to carry on the educational work of the International, to the present time, we have organized three kinds of activities: (1) the Unity Centers, (2) the Workers' University and (3) the Extension Division.

## The Growth of Our Educational Activities

In 1917, we started with two Unity Centers and our Workers' University, with its very limited curriculum. Gradually this work has extended so that at the present time we have seven Unity Centers and the Workers' University, which now has an extensive curriculum of subjects.

## Unity Centers

The seven Unity Centers are in public school buildings in different parts of the city where our members reside. In each Unity Center, there are classes in English of elementary, intermediate, advanced and high school grade. The teachers are assigned by the Evening School Department of the Board of Education. In each Unity Center, there is an educational supervisor, who is assigned by the Department of Community and Recreation Centers of the Board of Education.

Our International arranges independently series of courses. They consist of the following subjects: History of the Labor Movement Today, American and European Trade Unionism, Applied Economics, Applied Psychology, History of Civilization, Literature, Understanding of Music, etc.

At the Unity Center, our members meet from four to five nights a week. Since most of them are of foreign birth, it is natural that English should occupy a very important place in our educational plan. About forty teachers instruct our people in the various classes in English. We try to make these studies as profitable as possible.

One evening a week in each Unity Center is devoted to Health. For one hour a lecture on health topics which affect the home and factory life of the workers is discussed by lecturers assigned by the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene of the Board of Health. These lecturers are physicians. The second hour is spent in the gymnasium, where, under the supervision of competent physical training teachers, our members receive instruction in gymnastics.

Registration for the Unity Centers is over 2,000.

## Workers' University

Our more advanced activities are conducted in the Workers' University, which meets on Saturday afternoons and Sunday morning in the beautiful and artistic building of

the Washington Irving High School. The Courses given in 1920-21 were: Trade Union Policies, Labor Problems, Current Economic Literature, Correct Economic Opinions, Economic Geography, Applied Psychology and Logic, Sociology, Literature, History of Civilization, The Role of the State in Modern Civilization, Recent Developments and Events in the Labor Movement, Study of the Cooperative Movement, Problems of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Public Speaking, etc.

Registration for the Workers' University is 300. It is worth while to emphasize the fact that in all cases we adhere to the principle of a "small group," because we believe that the most valuable kind of education is that which is carried on among small groups where the teacher comes into intimate contact with the students.

## The Extension Division

As already mentioned, the initial steps in our educational work were calculated to reach the more active and serious-minded groups of our membership. We felt, however, that we have no right to neglect the great mass of our membership, and that it is our duty to create and cultivate in our members an interest in education. For this purpose we have organized an Extension Division in our Educational Department.

The Extension Division is trying to reach the larger number of our membership. Its work consists not only in organizing special lectures to which all our members are invited, but also in arranging concerts and other entertainments. These are very popular with our membership.

For the convenience of the members, many of the lectures are given at the business meetings of the various Locals of our organization on such subjects as Problems of the Modern Trade Union, with special reference to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, New Tendencies in the Organized Labor Movement in the United States, Trade Unionism and Collective Bargaining, The Industrial Labor, The Place of Organized Workers in Modern Society, The Cooperative Movement and Trade Unionism, The Significance of Unauthorized Strikes, etc.

In addition, groups meet at the offices of Local Unions, where courses are given to them which bear on the Labor Movement.

Courses of a post-graduate nature are also arranged for officials of our Union.

The activities of the Extension Division are growing.

The plan of our International is to provide educational activities for every group of our large membership.

(To be continued)

# Happenings in Local No. 3

By C. SCHATZBERG

For a number of reasons the cloak manufacturers have begun working on samples a few weeks earlier this year than ever before. In fact, some houses are very busy now on samples for the next season. The questions which naturally present themselves to us are: Are our members prepared for the sample season? Do they know how to conduct themselves in order to preclude the necessity of having to search for new jobs every other week?

There are, we believe, a number of means for preventing these evils. In a good many instances the sample tailor is directly responsible for this state of affairs because of the lack of interest he displays in the welfare of his own organization. As we know, in the sample trade the majority of our members are employed more or less regularly in many shops. It is also a fact that these workers are the most fortunate in our trade as far as wages are concerned. Thanks to the strength and activity of our local the men make a very decent living without much trouble. We do not believe, therefore, that it is right for them not to take a more active interest in the welfare of our organization, especially during the very critical period through which we are now passing.

Of late many problems have come up within our organization on which we deemed it necessary to ask for the decision of the membership. For a time, therefore, we have called meetings for the second and fourth Saturdays of every month, but the attendances were not very satisfactory. It is very possible that if things go on as they have, the piece tailors and sample makers' branch will be entirely abolished. Would they like to see that happen? The only way to prevent such a state of affairs is for the piece tailors and sample makers to take an active part in the life of the local and not leave things to fate.

With our other two sections, however (ladies' tailors and alteration workers' section, and the Italian section), things are entirely different. The Italian section especially is coming along in the shape, in spite of the fact that some people maintained that our Executive Board was making a great mistake in organizing an Italian branch; some even prophesied that the local would become disorganized on that account. But we can now state with pride that had our Executive Board accomplished nothing besides the organization of this branch, they could still be credited with doing a great good for our local. We have attended a few meetings of the branch and are becoming more and more convinced that the organization of this branch was an absolute necessity. At their meetings, which are always very well attended, they discuss the recommendations of the Executive Board with great interest and in an intelligent manner.

We must not misinterpret the meaning of the term branch. Some "friends" of our local have said that the executive board of Local No. 3 has established an Italian Ladies' Tailors' Local. They know well enough that the membership would not approve of having two locals in the same trade, and they know also that the amalgamation of our two locals would never have taken place had the membership actively demanded it.

We have confidence, however, in the intelligence of our members. They know that a branch is not a separate union; they are aware of the fact that the Italian branch came into being upon the request of the Italian-speaking members, who claimed, and justly so, that they would be of more benefit to the or-

ganization if they could conduct their meetings in their own tongue.

Our local celebrated the 1st of May with a fine concert, at which the majority of our members were present and demonstrated again their increased interest in the local since its amalgamation. The celebration took place in the Harlem Socialist Auditorium and Brother Samuel Leffowitz, Vice-President of the International, was chairman. In a short but instructive address he explained the significance of the 1st of May. The artists, Mrs. Fickander, Mr. Piroshnikoff and Mr. Werner, did their utmost to please the audience.

Special praise is due the Educational Director of the International, Mr. Alexander Fickander, who delivered a most interesting address. He said that early in the history of unionism the conflict between workers and employers was more physical than intellectual; the only aim of the worker was to earn a little more. Now the conflict between the two elements is conducted on a different plane; the question is "Who shall have the say over all the wealth which the worker produces?" For this reason the workers must be intellectually prepared, and the International is doing everything in its power to help the good work along. It is only up to us members to take advantage of the opportunities offered them.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Sister Fannia M. Cohn for her kind assistance in arranging the concert and making it a success.

## MR. DOOLEY ON THE OPEN SHOP

"What's all this in the papers about the open shop?" asked Mr. Hennessy. "Why, don't you know?" said Mr. Dooley. "Really, I'm surprised at your ignorance, Hennessy. What is the open shop? Sure, 'tis where they keep the doors open to accommodate th' constant stream of amin' comin' in 'r take jobs cheaper than th' min what has th' job." "Like this, Hennessy: Suppose you wan these free-born citizens is workin' in an open shop fr' th' princely wages as was being paid a day or a tin hours. Along comes another non-av-a-gun and he set to th' boss: 'O! think O! could handle th' job fr' ninety cents.' 'Sure, sez th' boss, and th' wan-dollar man gets out into th' cool world 'r exercise his inalienable rights as a free-born then as was born in Amerik' in on some other poor devil. An' so it goes on, Hennessy. An' who gills th' benefit? Thrus, it sars th' boss money, but he don't care no more for money thin he does fr' his right eye." "It's all principle wid him. He sars if ses men robbed of their independence. They must have their independence, regardless of anything else." "But," said Mr. Hennessy, "these open shop min ye menahon say that they ar' fr' unions iv properly conducted." "Shure," said Mr. Dooley, "if properly conducted. An' they have thim: no strikes, no rules, no contracts, no scales, hardly iv wages an' dern few members."

BUY

WHITE LILY TEA  
COLUMBIA TEA  
ZWETOCHNI CHAI

Exclusively

## WITH THE WAIST JOINT BOARD

(Continued from page 3)

In accordance with the request that came to us from Local No. 66 that the Joint Board enforce the clause of the agreement that the Association forbid its members to send their embroidery to non-union shops, a conference with the Association was held and after that the Association has sent a circular letter to all their members, advising them to live up strictly to the above mentioned stipulation.

There are at present 632 shops in the Association Division. Prior to the strike the Association consisted only of 455 members. Since the strike they have gained 203 members, all of these, of course, non-union shops.

We wish to make this explanation on behalf of the waist and dress-makers for that we wish to contribute to the fund of the Amalgamated strikers as their fellow workers of the Cloakmakers' locals have done. We have sent a letter to the International explaining our peculiar position in this respect, and I hope that it will prove satisfactory. We have conducted in the recent past a general strike and we still have a great number of shops out, which involves us in a large expense. It is obvious, therefore, that the Joint Board was not in a position to levy an additional tax upon its members at the time when we were calling upon them to contribute a tax for their own strikers.

We have received a complete audit of the general strike, submitted by the General Auditor of the International, covering the records and accounts of the Joint Board for the past several months. The recommendation of General Secretary Baroff, that the Secretary-Treasurer of the Joint Board give his entire and undivided time henceforth to the important work of the Financial Department, adhering strictly to the system of our International, is very appropriate and will be carried out fully in the future. The post of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Joint Board is too big and important to permit its occupant to give up any

part of his time to any other duties, no matter how pressing they might be.

I wish to commend the activities of Brother Hochman in connection with the organizing work that we are doing to your attention. He is in charge of the necessary arrangements for an extensive organization campaign and is supervising the business agents who have been instructed to do the work from the branch office. The preparation of literature has been under his management and he expects that distribution will start in the next future.

I have had during last week a conference with Brother Shearer, of the Cutlers' Union, and Brother Hertz of our Association Department, and subsequently conferred with the Association on the following arrangements for day work for the cutters of our trade. We agreed that a firm, in slack time, shall have the right to give employment to a cutter for not less than two days in any given week, provided the firm notifies the cutter and the chairman on Saturday prior to the layoff.

\*\*\*\*\*

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By ISRAEL LEWIN

As was predicted in the cutters' column of last week's issue of "Justice," the decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in the G. M. Piermont injunction suit has already borne fruit. Supreme Court Justice Mackay, before whom a number of injunction suits were impending against the waist and dressmakers' union, as well as against the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, dismissed all of these suits without expressing an opinion as to why they were dismissed.

It is interesting to note that it was Justice Mackay who granted the injunction to the firm of G. M. Piermont, whose decision was reversed by the Appellate Division.

Among the firms to whom injunctions were denied during last week were Feldman Brothers, a vest house, 145 Madison Ave., the Lank Manufacturing Company, a dress house, 15 Madison Ave., and Rosenthal Brothers, the "Big Six," one of the most important clothing houses in New York City.

It is hoped that all other injunctions pending against our unions will be disposed of in a like manner.

Taking advantage of the fact that the courts are not now as liberal in the granting of injunctions as they were a short time ago, the Joint Board in the dress and waist trade is preparing the ground in the slack season for a thorough organization of the dress industry, as it expects not to be hampered by the courts in the future.

The method to be employed in this organization cannot be gone into in detail at the present time, as the plans are now being worked out.

The preliminary steps taken in the organization of the waist industry have revealed the fact that nearly all of the smaller shops which have grown up in New York City within the past year have gradually moved out to Brooklyn. It is expected, therefore, that the greater part of the organization will be carried on at that city. Thus far a number of waist shops have been already organized. These have settled with the union.

While the complaints of the waist and dress cutters are being attended to by the different officials of the Joint Board, still, a proper supervision is being maintained by the office of the waist and dress branch of the Cutters' Union through its manager, Brother Sam B. Shenker, who personally follows up all complaints lodged by cutters. The shops are also being controlled through the medium of shop meetings of the cutters in the bigger shops at our own office and the direct visits of the business agents in the smaller shops.

Business Manager Perlmutter of the Cloak and Suit Division is again making a thorough control of all shops under his jurisdiction by calling numerous shop meetings every day, at which our members are being instructed by him as to their conduct in the shops during the slack season, especially as regards equal division of work.

Ever since our proper affiliation with the Cloak and Suit Makers' Joint Board, the cutters as well as the rest of the workers in the shop have learned that their interests are identical, and as a result the relations between them have become closer. In a great majority of shops, the shop chairman are taking care of the cutters' interests in the same manner as they do of the rest of the workers, which eliminates the necessity of the cutters choosing their own shop stewards.

In the shop of R. Sadovsky, which employs more cutters than any other concern in the city, the cutters, at a recent shop meeting held in the office, decided to have the shop chairman attend to them and that their own shop steward is to act in a sort of advisory capacity until such time as the regular shop chairman will acquaint himself with all details concerning the cutting department.

The Executive Board insists that all members live up to the instructions of the shop chairman. Failure to do so usually results in being summoned on charges of behavior unbecoming a union man. Should a member of ours be dissatisfied with the orders given him by the shop chairman, he can at all times come to the office and consult the manager; but within the shop, in order to maintain union discipline, instructions of the shop chairman that are not directly contrary to union laws, must be carried out.

The children's dress trade is not very busy just at present. In spite of this, however, there are hardy any mechanics left. This is due largely to the fact that ever since the recent General Strike in the children's dress industry the union has enforced the rule that every shop, no matter how small, must employ a cutter, and no manufacturer is permitted to do his own cutting.

The next meeting of the Miscellaneous Division will be held on Monday, May 16th, at Arlington Hall, 25 St. Mark's Place, where Business Manager Joseph Weinstein will render a detailed report on the conditions in all the branches of the Miscellaneous Division.

The following are extracts from the minutes of the Executive Board of the past week:

Morris Schoenbaum, No. 5885, appeared on summons, charged by Miss Beale Halpers, 1459 Washington Ave., member of Local 22, and Business Agent Libert of the Joint Board, with acting in a manner unbecoming a union man at the G & Z Dress Co., 28 West 15th St. The firm, in trying to get rid of Miss Beale Halpers, claimed that she, who is a week-worker, is "soldiering" on the job, and when Business Agent Libert, in company with a clerk from the Association, appeared at the shop to investigate this matter, Brother Schoenbaum testified that Miss Halpers is "laying down" on the job. Upon investigation it was found that Miss Halpers turned out as much work as any of the other operators, and she was retained. Brother Schoenbaum admits that the statement of Brother Libert is correct, but claims that he testified to what he thought was true. On motion a fine was imposed upon Brother Schoenbaum.

Gabriel E. Meyers, No. 2568, appeared on summons, charged with having worked on a Saturday afternoon in the shop of Horowitz & Son, 28 West 21st St. Brother Meyers denies the charge and states that at Saturday previous he ever refused to work the two hours that everyone else in the shop worked for the Amalgamated Clothing strikers, and that he paid for the two hours' work from his own wages, rather than work on Saturday afternoon. He does admit, however, that as foreman in the shop he stayed in about five or ten minutes later. Brother Meyers was censured by the Executive Board and the case was dismissed.

## MAURICE NITKE AT THE UNITY OPENING CELEBRATION

Unity Registration Begins Monday, May 10

With the opening celebration at Unity House only five weeks off, all arrangements are speedily being made to have this the Jolliest and best of all celebrations. Already the committee has secured the services of Mr. Maurice Nitke, the well-known violinist. Rumors are abroad that the committee is interviewing a well-known Metropolitan tenor. At any rate the entertainment alone will be worth the trip to Unity House.

The committee announces that the entire house is being carefully gone over and will be in spick and span condition for our membership. And we are completing arrangements to

have chickens—real, live chickens—at Unity so that our members can have fresh eggs and chicken.

Registration begins this coming Monday, May 16, at Room 6, 16 West 21st Street. Members are urged to register soon, especially for the weekend celebration. Members must bring their union books when registering. Members can also leave their names and addresses and registration fees at the various branch and local offices.

Remember, those who register first will get the best accommodations. Register now.



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**CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10**  
**ATTENTION!**

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS**

MISCELLANEOUS:	Monday, May 16
GENERAL:	Monday, May 23d
CLOAK AND SUIT:	Monday, June 6th
WAIST AND DRESS:	Monday, June 13th

Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.  
**AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place**  
Cutters of All Branches

should secure a card when going in to work and return it when laid off. They must also change their cards when securing an increase.