

"My righteousness I had fast, and will not let it go."
—Job. 27.6

JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. III. No. 21

New York, Friday, May 20, 1921

Price, 2 Cents

NEXT CONFERENCE WITH PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION THURSDAY, MAY 26th

When we wrote the news about the situation in the cloak industry in last week's "Justice," the atmosphere was a great deal heavier than when these lines are being penned.

It appeared last week as if heavy, ominous clouds covered the horizon. The manufacturers have withdrawn from the conference a day before it was to take place, in accordance with arrangements made, and it looked as if no conference would be held for a long time to come. The manufacturers have insisted that as long as the representatives of the union would not concede to a lowering of the prevailing standards in the trade, there was little use in continuing to confer. The situation was, therefore, left hanging in abeyance.

Today, the state of affairs is somewhat clearer. On Tuesday afternoon last, President Schlesinger met Mr. Louis Lestig, the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Protective Association, and they agreed that both sides meet at another conference where a final attempt would be made to come to a peaceful understanding. The conference will be held on Thursday next, May 26th. The reason for this postponement is the fact that the General Executive Board of our International is now in quarterly session in St. Louis, and will not return to New York before that day.

Before President Schlesinger left for the Board meeting, he stated that he entertains the hope that at the

next conference both sides will reach an agreement, and that a peaceful arrangement might yet be reached without infringing upon the present living standards of the workers in the cloak industry of New York.

The last meeting of the Joint Board, Saturday, May 15th, was pre-empted with a holiday spirit owing to the presence of several guests who have addressed the delegates. There were at that meeting Congressman Meyer London, Editor S. Yanovsky and President Schlesinger. The speeches delivered by the visitors were received with wholehearted applause and thanks. Brother Israel Feinberg, General Manager of the Joint Board, also delivered a speech, which closed the meeting.

Waistmaker's Election Next Thursday

On Thursday next, May 26th, the elections for an Executive Board and local officers in Local No. 25 will take place. Only waistmakers will participate in this election; dressmakers should register with Local No. 22 so that they might be able to participate in their own elections, which will occur shortly.

The election in Local No. 25 will be held through a ballot vote all day Thursday. In order to afford the widest opportunity for waistmakers in the various sections of the city, voting places have been established in every district in Greater New York. Balloting will be secret and the members will have the chance to vote for their choice without hindrance or interference. It is expected that this election will set a record as far as the number of members participating in the voting is concerned.

The following are the polling places for this election:

1. The Main Office of the union, 16 West 21st St.
2. The Downtown Office, at 129 Spring St.
3. The Brownsville Office, 229 Sackman St.
4. The Brooklyn Office, 60 Graham Ave.
5. The Harlem Office, 145 E. 21st St.
6. The Bronx Office, 1255 Boston Road.

Voting will begin at 9 in the morning and continue until 7 in the evening. Votes may also be cast at the two public schools at 314 E. 20th Street, and 225 W. 24th Street, between the hours of 5 and 7 in the afternoon of that day.

All those who intend to vote must have with them their union books. No one will be permitted to cast a ballot without first exhibiting his or her book.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD IN QUARTERLY SESSION AT ST. LOUIS

On Thursday morning, May 19th, the Fourth Quarterly Meeting of the General Executive Board opened its sessions at St. Louis, Mo., at the Claridge Hotel, 18th and Lowe Sts.

This Quarterly Meeting is somewhat belated. It should have taken place several weeks ago, but owing to a number of events that transpired in the course of the last month, such as the conferences with the Protective Association in New York City and the work involved in the injunction defense, have caused the postponement.

This quarterly meeting is taking place at a very grave hour in the history of the union, at an hour when a number of complex problems and far-reaching conflicts are facing it, demanding immediate solution. General Secretary Baroff has prepared a

very interesting report to this meeting, where all the problems and activities of the International are touched upon. In the course of the meeting they will all come up for discussion. The report contains a complete statement of the many-sided organization work conducted at present by the International in New York City and adjoining towns. The injunction plague and all court persecutions which our organization has had to withstand during the last few months are coming in for a measure of description and detailed elaboration.

The order of the day of the quarterly meeting will also contain the recent events in the cloak industry of New York. President Schlesinger will render a full report of all the conferences conducted with the Association until this date and the final

issue of this particular situation will receive due consideration. The recent happenings in the waist and dress industry of New York will also be discussed along with many other timely and important questions that have drawn the interest of our members and involve their welfare.

The meeting will last several days. As usual, a good deal of its time will be devoted to the discussion of requests and demands which will be forwarded to the Board through communications and by visits of committees from various cities.

In addition to President Schlesinger, Secretary Baroff and all our Vice-Presidents, the meeting is also attended by Brother S. Yanovsky, who will give a detailed account of the meetings' transactions in the forthcoming issues of "Justice."

COURT HEARS PLEADINGS IN TOLEDO INJUNCTION SUIT

As reported in last week's "Justice," our International is confronted now, in addition to the ordinary week-day injunctions, with an injunction of a new-fangled kind. This injunction comes from a cloak firm in distant Ohio, namely, the Cohen, Friedlander & Martin concern of Toledo, who came to New York charging our union as a "conspiratorial organization," one that "disregards the laws of the land," and is intent upon the destruction of the present order and the establishment of Bolshevism in America.

The hearing for the permanent injunction in this case took place on Thursday, May 19th, before Justice MacAvoy, who had issued last week to this firm a temporary restraining order against our union. Morris Hillquit and Morris Rothenberg appeared for the union. The lawyer for the Toledo firm was Walter Gordon Merritt, the attorney who conducted the well-known Danbury case against the Hatters' Union and the Duplex Machine case against the Machinists' Union.

As we are going to press, the details of this hearing and the decision of the judge are not yet available. We have stated last week that the case is the outgrowth of the Cloakmakers' strike in the shop of the Cohen, Friedlander & Martin firm in Toledo. The firm maintains that it had given up its shop in Toledo and wanted to become a jobber in New York. It complains that our International has hindered it in this endeavor, demanding that its strike with the workers be settled first.

After Morris Hillquit, attorney for the union, had made a study of the facts in the case, he made public the following statement: "The complainant appears to disregard entirely the methods of production in the cloak industry. The complainant would make us forget that the jobber plays a very important role in the industry, and just as it is important for the workers that the garments made by manufacturers, subcontractors or contractors be union-made, so is it important to all workers that the garments ordered by a jobber be union garments."

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL PROTESTS INJUNCTION ATTACKS

The first big anti-injunction protest meeting held under the auspices of the Central Trades and Labor Council of New York took place on Wednesday last, May 18th at Cooper Union. It appears that the efforts of the Committee of the Council to obtain a larger meeting place for this big protest meeting were unsuccessful, as the owners and lessees of such big auditoriums as the Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall and the various armories refused to accommodate the request of organized labor for the use of their auditoriums.

Nevertheless, in spite of the fact that the meeting had to be confined to a comparatively small auditorium which holds only 2,000 people, it was one of the most rousing and enthusiastic meetings that New York has seen in years. The principal speakers were President Samuel Gompers, who came from Washington to address the meeting, Dr. Lindsey of Nashville, Tenn., Hugh Frayne, organizer of the American Federation of Labor in New York, and William F. Keboe, Secretary of

the Central Trades and Labor Council.

Owing to the absence of President Schlesinger and other members of the General Executive Board of our Union, in St. Louis, the International was represented at this meeting through Brothers Israel Feinberg and Louis Langner.

The keynote speech of the meeting was delivered by President Samuel Gompers. In unminuted terms he denounced the courts for granting indiscriminately injunctions against striking workers and made a specific attack upon Justice James C. Van Sicken of Brooklyn, declaring he should be impeached and then issued a challenge to the Justice to cite him for contempt of court for his remarks. He urged the labor organizations of the country to stand together and resist the onslaughts made by employers. Gompers said it was a crime against civilization that in a land, perhaps the most bountiful on the globe, there should be 4,000,000 persons able and willing to work, who are unable to find employment.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

COAL STRIKE CLOSES BIGGEST PLANTS IN ENGLAND

IN spite of the efforts of the press in America to minimize the seriousness of the coal strike in England, particularly after the plans to tie up all industry by the "Triple Alliance" had failed to materialize, the coal shortage caused by the strike of the miners is felt acutely all over the United Kingdom.

An indication of the seriousness of the lack of coal is furnished by the announcement that the Vickers Ship Building Company, the largest concern in England, employing 150,000 men, has been forced to close at the end of this week. The iron and the steel works of this plant are already shut down. The closing down of these shops will accentuate the unemployment situation appreciably, when considered that at the end of April there were already 3,000,000 idle men and women in England, exclusive of the 1,200,000 miners.

The number of workers idle in the ship-building trade in England is given as 300,000, and in the iron and steel trade as 200,000. It is estimated that each day of the stoppage of coal mining adds 15,000 people to the unemployed list. The idleness of the miners is the chief cause of 1,160 ships being laid up in the thirty-six principal ports of England.

The prospects entertained by the mine owners and the British authorities that they might be able to import coal from Belgium, Germany or America, were considerably frustrated last week, when the Transport Workers' Union voted that the embargo on coal must be continued. There was no difference, they asserted, between importing coal to feed the miners and importing scab labor. So they directed their branches to refuse to handle cargoes of imported coal.

On the whole it can be thus summarized that the British miners' strike is in fairly good shape. Despite the military measures taken by the Lloyd George Cabinet and its apparent determination to crush the strike by all means, the miners of England are holding out fast. Not a pound of coal is being mined anywhere in England, as well as in Wales and Scotland, and if continued for another while, the miners ought to be able to settle the strike upon favorable terms.

THE ARRIVAL OF THOMAS

THE incident at the White Star Line pier upon the occasion of the landing of J. H. Thomas, Labor Member of Parliament and leader of the English railwaymen, who came here to attend the convention of the American Federation of Labor as a fraternal delegate, is a regrettable one from every point of view. It appears that a dozen women with standards, upon which the name of the Irish-American Labor League was inscribed, came prepared to meet the distinguished visitor with a hostile greeting. One of the banners bore the inscriptions: "Thomas was driven out of England! Why?" Another inscription read: "Judah Iscariot hanged himself. Will Thomas follow suit?"

It is stated that a squad of detectives of the steamship line and the police had to be used to drive the invaders away. We do not know who is responsible for this unfriendly demonstration to the fraternal delegate of the British Trade Union Congress. It was not organized, surely, at the instigation of the Central Labor Body of New York, or of any other repre-

sentative labor body. Mr. Thomas is an outstanding figure in the labor world of the continent and of England, and a man of unfinching courage, principles and ability. The part he played in the recent events connected with the coal strike, as the head of one of the component parts of the "Triple Alliance," is open to discussion and may serve as the basis for varied opinions. We, on this side of the ocean, are not yet ready to say whether the "Triple Alliance" has acted in this case in full conformity with its principles and possibilities, or not.

The partisan outbreak on the part of those who came to revile and slander him at the pier is, however, an act which should be deprecated by all true friends of labor and Ireland. The subsequent remarks by Thomas on the "backwardness of the American labor movement" and the polemical retort by Vice-President Matthew Well, were also, perhaps, quite unnecessary at that particular time. It would have been best if Brother Thomas had left his remarks upon the comparative standing and strength of the English and American labor movement to his speech at the convention of the Federation, where his big chance was waiting for him.

THE NINE "RED" UNIONS

NINE labor unions are denounced in the report of the Joint Legislative Committee Investigating Seditious Activities, made public last week, as "revolutionary in character and organized for the ultimate purpose of seizing industries and overthrowing the government." Among the organizations enumerated in this category are the Bakers and Confectioners' Union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the Amalgamated Textile Workers, the Fur Workers' Union and our own International.

The list is followed up with a jumble of indictments. It appears that these unions are organized just for the purpose of "subverting the principles of organized government, of propagating class hatred" and similar other bogies and scarecrows. Not a word is mentioned of the tremendous strikes made by the principal organizations mentioned in the list along the lines of industrial progress, the raising of workers' standards, improvements of living conditions, etc.

The Lusk Committee, however, must have learned something in the course of its "investigations." It does not, for instance, recommend repressive measures as a remedy against the unions, but rather expressing the belief that present laws are adequate to meet any perilous manifestation of the movement. Instead, it advocates recognition and gives a dubious compliment to the A. F. of L. as opposed to labor unionism of the revolutionary order. It is quite interesting to note that our Lusk Committee is also recommending the introduction of what has become known as "industrial democracy," the renowned "shop committees" which would give the employees a share in the "management" of shops and industrial plants.

We are not sure whether in ignorance or in malice the Lusk Committee's report has lost sight of the fact that three of the principal organizations which it had put on its "red" list, namely the Bakers, the Fur Workers and our own International Union of L. for several decades and are part and parcel thereof.

THE FEDERAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

THE talk about creating a Welfare Department as a new part of the Federal administration, has received a great deal of emphasis during the last few months since the Harding administration has taken office. It appears that some interests have become of a sudden worried over the fact that the Children's Welfare Bureau and the Women's Labor Bureau are under the supervision of such a "partisan" department as the Department of Labor, and in their eagerness to take these two bureaus out of that Department, they are actively proposing the formation of a new department of Public Welfare.

The attitude of labor towards this new proposal is best characterized in a statement issued by the Executive Council of the Federation of Labor last week: "We most solemnly protest against the enactment of any measure that would weaken or take from the Department of Labor any functions given that department by the act under which it was created, and against the parsimonious policy of the present Congress towards the Department of Labor in its attempt to starve that department out of existence."

"We have been nearly 40 years trying to establish this department, but now certain interests are attempting to weaken and destroy our work. The enemies of organized labor would like to ruin the Labor Department by dismembering it under the guise of creating a Department of Welfare."

MILITARY AUTOCRACY IN HAITI

NOTHING in recent years has created such a terrible impression and served to awaken the American public to our benevolent despotism in our West Indian "colonies" as the memorial submitted by the three Haitian delegates during the last week to President Harding, the State Department and Congress.

The memorial reviews the five years of military occupation of Haiti and declares that it is "the most terrible regime of military autocracy which has ever been carried on in the name of the great American democracy." It charges a long series of atrocities committed by American marines and the native gendarmes, and demands the withdrawal of the United States military forces from that republic. The naval investigation of conditions ordered last year and conducted by a Board under Admiral Mayo is characterized as a joke and as a deliberate attempt to cover up the misdeeds of the culprits.

The recital of these charges reads like a page from the Spanish Inquisition, or the horrible Belgian Congo atrocities which have made the world shudder a decade ago. Every pretense of democracy, every guarantee of freedom and liberty were violated upon the soil of the unfortunate island and its inhabitants have become the actual slaves of the military authorities dominating in Haiti. The means by which these sacrifices, tortures and humiliations were "once stopped and that martial law and the courts' martial be immediately abolished. It demands the abrogation of the military occupation of the island and the convocation of a constituent assembly with all guarantees of electoral liberty.

Such is the picture of the untold misery inflicted upon the innocent people of Haiti by a system of military and industrial imperialism fostered by selfish and necessary interference with the free revelation of horrors averse as a remedy to this misery! Perhaps. We are, however, inclined to doubt it. Revelations of this kind, on a smaller scale, have been made before and after so-called investigations conducted by one admiral or another, the horrible scan-

dals were washed down and quieted. Congress will perhaps order a more thorough investigation this time. The sinister influences, however, which have held the Haitian population in their merciless grip for a number of years past, will not so easily relax their hold upon it.

FOR THE RELIEF OF RUSSIAN CHILDREN

The American Committee for Relief of Children in Soviet Russia has opened headquarters at 47 West 45th Street, New York City. Its purpose is to collect medical supplies and clothing to send to the children of Soviet Russia.

For the purpose of raising funds, the committee has succeeded in obtaining the permission of the author, Susan Glaspell, for performances of her remarkable play "Inheritors." This play was presented by the Provincetown Players for several successful weeks, and although their season has been definitely concluded, due to the number of demands on the part of the general public for an opportunity to see this play and the popularity of the cause which this committee represents, performances have been arranged for eleven nights commencing May 18th and running consecutively every night, with the exception of Monday, May 23rd, up to and including May 25th.

The play will be given by the Provincetown Players at their playhouse, 133 MacDougal Street. The house has been completely sold out for May 18th and the Teachers Union has subscribed for the house on the 20th and 21st. Co-operation has been promised by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and the Wait and Dressmakers Union, many of whose members are anxious to see the play, which portrays both assembly and artistically the transformation in the course of three generations in the psychology of the American people—giving the change from an attitude of liberalistic democracy to one of extreme conservatism.

Tickets will be on sale at: Provincetown Playhouse, 133 MacDougal St. The Rand School, 7 East 16th Street.

Unity House Opens June 12; Big Concert June 18

For the first time in the history of Unity House, actual registration has been begun four weeks in advance. The Unity office at 16 W. 21st Street, in Room 6, is filled with applicants during the lunch hour and after work who are inquiring as to when and how they may register. Miss Gertrude Seaman, and Miss Flora Auerbach of Local 22 have had the honor of being the first registrants. Miss Yetta Steinberg, also of Local 22, runs a close third.

The Committee has secured an excellent recreation teacher who will have charge of the swimming, hiking, games, and dancing. The Committee, however, wishes to assure those who want to come out just to rest that they will have plenty of opportunity to be alone and to enjoy a quiet vacation.

The first stock of live chickens for egg hatching has already been ordered. The Committee is now negotiating to have cows housed on the premises so that milk, too, can be gotten right from the farm.

Members must remember to bring their union books when they come to register.

THE SEAMEN'S STRIKE AND THE SHIPPING BOARD

By HENRY LANG

The strike of the seamen and port workers offers quite a striking example of the lack of intelligence displayed by the present administration in dealing with a grave industrial situation. It is quite likely that by the time these lines will appear in press, the strike will have been ended and the suspended merchant marine will again be courting the waterways of the globe. It is possible that the rift between the seamen's unions and the ship owners will be patched over and matters somehow adjusted. Should even this crisis be "modded through," it will nevertheless remain an eloquent proof that neither the Labor Department nor the Department of Commerce have the courage or the ability of entering deeply into the industrial and commercial situation of the country and solving a grave and complicated problem.

In the merchant marine strike the government is interested from two points of view. First, because it affects commerce and the industrial situation in general, and, secondly, because the government itself is an owner of ships. In the course of the war, the Government of the United States has built a great many ships. It now stands ready to sell these ships, but finds no purchasers owing to the high valuation placed on these boats. It cannot, however, very well afford to let these vessels re-

main in the harbors and gradually decay, so it is compelled to go into the ocean freighting business in competition with individual owners. In other words, the government is compelled to take a hand in this strike as a ship owner, in addition to its general interest in the transportation business of the country.

Had our governmental departments meant earnestly to prevent a fight in the merchant marine, and had they possessed the courage to solve properly the present transportation muddle, they would have come out with the proposal that the government take over the entire merchant marine of the nation and administer it for the benefit of the people. And while we are on this subject, we suppose that the high priests of the Republican Party would even for a moment earnestly contemplate it, we, nevertheless, believe that if the government had made a threat in that direction, that it would have accomplished tangible results. To begin with, it would have rid itself of the burden of maintaining the vessels it owns as well as the companies would have gladly grabbed at the opportunity to purchase the boats and remove the spectre of a government-owned merchant marine from the horizon. Secondly, such a threat would have lent the government an aspect of sincere concern with the general condition of industry and commerce in the United States.

There is another aspect in con-

nection with this strike which proves again the helplessness of our high authorities. The principal cause of the strike is the attempt to cut the wages of the seamen and port workers. Being an owner of ships, the government knows the true situation with regard to the wage question. The experience with its own vessels had taught the government that sufficiently high wages can be made even under the old scale of wages. Nevertheless, the Shipping Board does not openly come out with a statement of this sort. It begs the companies, at one time, not to "take advantage" of the hard times through which all the unions of the land are passing. At another time it admonishes the workers and asks them not to be stubborn and to make some concessions to the companies. And it is this kind of an attitude of vacillation and indecision that is being explained by some on the ground that the Shipping Board does not want to excite the opposing parties through outspoken statements. It is claimed that it is the desire not to make this struggle even keener and sharper, to remove the country still further away from conditions of "normalcy" that is prompting the authorities not to come out openly for the port and ship workers!

There is another point in connection with this controversy which deserves mention. The unions of all the workers in the merchant marine—stevedores, sailors, stokers, stewards, pilots and others—accuse, in

some voice, the English financial interests of being the chief promoters of this proposal to cut wages. This charge is not a new one. It has long been stated that England dictates the transportation service of the United States. This time, however, the unions have come out with unreserved talk. The companies, they say, are more interested in English commerce than in America's. England is interested that America's sea power is weakened, and it has manipulated this wage-cut and the return to old conditions of servitude on the boats, to drive American seamen out of the sea.

Of course, it can be said that the government cannot reply to such statements. A discussion of this kind belongs to the realm of diplomacy and general relations between England and the United States. It, nevertheless, leaves the government in a peculiar situation in its inability to reply to a very serious and apparently substantial charge. The shipping strike has, it seems, dragged into its difficulties a number of the governmental departments, the Labor Department, the Department of Commerce, the Shipping Board, and now, through this charge of a British conspiracy, also the State Department. It may, it seems, very much perplexed in Washington over the situation, and if more courage and candor existed among our high officials they would have resorted to other means of settling this great dispute, aside from demands to patch over and smother an admittedly difficult situation. Under the best of circumstances a settlement based on the industrial premises will be but a makeshift and a bad job.

Ten Years of Sanitary Self-Control

The Joint Board of Sanitary Control in the ladies' garment industry of New York, celebrates next month its tenth anniversary. On this occasion it has issued a booklet which covers the range of its activities for the entire decade, and contains a record of the gradual development and extension of its work. From the year it was organized, in 1910, after the great cloakmakers' strike, to this day.

The Joint Board was established at a conference of the representatives of the employers' and workers' organizations, held in July, 1910, under the chairmanship of Louis D. Brandeis. It is impossible, indeed, to judge sanitary conditions and industrial hygiene of ten years ago by the standards of today. The sanitary conditions in the garment shops in 1910 were beyond doubt a problem not only for the workers in our trades, but for the whole industry. The general strike of 1910, that revolution which has set up new working standards and conditions in the cloak industry, could not therefore help facing this grave problem and endeavoring to solve it definitely.

Readers of "Justice" do not, perhaps, require any particular elaboration upon the activities of the Joint Board. Our members know well enough of the inspection work, the medical examinations, the clinic work and the health educational activities of this institution. We can only summarize it in one sentence: Within ten years, the Joint Board has converted sanitary conditions in the women's wear shops of New York from an intolerable state into decent, wholesome and humane environments.

When the Board started its work, manufacturing was still largely being done in small, overcrowded, ill-lighted, badly ventilated, unsafe and unsanitary workshops located mainly on the East Side and in some of the central districts of the city. Fire dangers in the industry were extreme. There were either no fire escapes or inadequate ones, wooden stairways, storage of inflammable materials and improper exits. The crowded, unclean and proper health conditions were practically unknown to either worker or employer. It seemed such a helpless muddle that it required gigantic en-

ergy and inspiration to attempt to change it into an industry housed on a modern basis.

The feat, however, was achieved. Today, for the most part, the shops have been moved into less crowded neighborhoods and quarters. All the shops are lighted by electricity and gas or coal ironing has been supplanted by the use of electric presses. The toilet accommodations are of improved pattern and most of the shops have rest and dressing rooms. Safety and fire protection is one of the chief features of the changes produced in the ladies' garment industry through the installation of adequate and fireproof fire escapes. Besides the change in these material conditions, the Board has carried on an educational campaign among the workers, teaching them easy methods of sanitation, its beneficial effect, upon their health and their responsibility in keeping the conditions in their industry on a high plane.

At present, the only feature of the activities of the Joint Board carried on jointly by the employers and the unions is the safety, fire and sanitation protection. The other activities of the Joint Board—its medical and dental clinics, its educational work and the medical examination department—are supported exclusively by the unions. The most recent undertaking of the Joint Board is the establishment of the Union Health

Center. The money for the building and equipment, \$90,000, was provided by six locals of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The Union Health Center is owned, managed and financed by Local No. 1, the operators; Local No. 9, the tailors; Local No. 10, the cutters; Local No. 11, the Brownsville cloakmakers; Local No. 23, the skirt-makers; and Local No. 35, the pressers. The total membership of these locals ranges between 25,000 and 40,000. The services, however, are open to all the 85,000 members of the International New York City.

The locals above-mentioned purchased the building at 131 East 17th Street, and financed its reconstruction, alteration and equipment. This is the first industrial, co-operative, self-supporting health center in the country. Its functions are both preventive and curative and it has been used extensively by the members of the organization. The chairman of the Board of Directors of the Union Health Center is Harry Wander, Vice-President of the International.

On the whole, the ten years of achievement of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control is one of the bright spots in the history of New York industry. The Board and Dr. George M. French, who from the beginning has been a stimulating force in this work, are to be congratulated.

A CALL TO UNION SHOP CHAIRMEN

By JENNIE MATYAS, Organizer

"Are you working?" is the eager question put wherever our members meet.

"A little, but the wages are bad, very bad," is the general answer.

Workers in our industry never had a worse season. Unemployment is rampant, and those who are employed are forced to cut their own wages. There are constant conflicts between price committees and the employers. "I can't afford to pay that much. You're 'way off" is the

refrain the employers now sing. In most instances, the price committees have already come down a good deal; the more intelligent ones now refuse to permit their standards to be dragged lower, and as a result, the workers go idle. But garments are being made, and made cheap—cheaper than you can imagine. Where? Not so much out of town any more—that has come to be almost an unnecessary expense now. The garments that union workers refuse to

make are manufactured here in the city; in fact, most often they are even made in your very building. Unions, manufacturers are forever pointing to those shops and saying: "If they can turn out the garments at that price, why can't you?"

For that reason the International has now begun a campaign of organization. The International is conducting it, but it is the union worker himself who must organize the non-union worker. Each union shop should, through its chairman and organization committee, make itself responsible for the open shop in its own building. Either you do that or your

conditions will become even worse. The plan is simple. We meet the open shop worker and talk to her; tell her that we are here to help her by word of mouth, as far as possible that what she is doing is just as injurious to her as it is to us. Try to get acquainted with the shop; repeat giving her a leaflet next week, and eventually call the shop to a meeting.

Our members have been wanting that kind of organization plan a long time. Now it has been begun. Let us see it out fairly. The chairmen in the shops of 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th Streets are the pioneers in this

(Continued on page 8)

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

SHOP COMMITTEES—THE CURE-ALL

In the course of the last few days our workers have probably had occasion to discuss the proposal of a certain prominent cloak employer, advanced by him as the true and only answer to all the ills that afflict the cloak industry. This new remedy appears to be shop committees: "Give us shop committees to settle our shop disputes with," said he, "and we shall withdraw at once all our demands for lower wages, for longer work-hours and for the right to discharge." All grievances would adjust themselves automatically if they only deal with shop committees instead of the Union.

In justice to the Protective Association, with whom our union has conducted negotiations in a friendly manner so far, it must be stated that this proposal was not made officially at the conferences. It comes from an individual manufacturer to whom full credit for originating the shop committee panacea must be given. Obviously he acted in ignorance of the fact that we have in our Union a certain element which could justly claim a priority to the invention of this cure. And then, again, perhaps, he was aware of that fact and his proposal was intended as a "feeler"—for the purpose of ascertaining whether our committee is inclined to view favorably this method of solving the pending controversy.

Of course, the committee of the union, headed by President Schlesinger, has replied to this proposal firmly and unanimously in the negative. It is quite likely that that particular element within our union, which talks profusely of shop committees, will not like this reply of our committee. After all, these shop committees have been their goal, too. These committees were supposed to afford them the opportunity of dealing with the manufacturers "directly" and of getting rid of the union managers and business agents. In point of fact, it would actually seem as if the above-mentioned manufacturer had borrowed his strongest argument on behalf of his proposal from these very partisans of the shop committee plan in our ranks. "What does the union as a whole know," he was saying, "about the special needs and problems in our individual shops which differ so much one from another? Only the workers within the shops themselves know these needs and only they themselves can solve it directly with the employer."

The logic of this argument is, indeed, as clear as daylight. If each and every shop is a little kingdom for itself, then each and every shop may have its own rules, prices and standards. The union, as a whole, then becomes superfluous, and after it is done away with, peace and contentment will reign in the industry. We take it for granted that our followers of the shop committee plan—except those few who are really intent upon breaking up the union—have not gone so far in their reasoning. We take it that our shop committee schemers would have both the shop committee and the Union. Our manufacturers, however, have gone deeper into the matter and they have come to the conclusion that the shop committees and the unions cannot exist side by side as two equal authorities. It is either the shop committee or the union, and, of course, the employer finds it much easier and convenient to deal with a shop committee than with the Union.

There is another important point which our shop committee advocates must have lost sight of. At present, while the union is in control and has been endeavoring with all its strength to introduce more or less uniform conditions in the shops, the same wage scales, the same working hours, a general strike in the industry is a logical and appropriate method when the exigencies of the hour demand it. With the introduction of shop committees, when each shop becomes a principality for itself with special "conditions" and "needs," such a measure as a general strike is unthinkable and absurd. The desirability of such a "reform," therefore, can be easily imagined. We can picture to ourselves what the employers would give for the permanent removal of the spectre of a general strike!

We can understand our employers. We fail, however, to understand our "revolutionists," our advocates of a "One Big Union," our followers of the idea of a general strike under any and all circumstances, how they can harmonize their erstwhile pet theories and this brand new shop committee theory!

Nevertheless, the proposal of that manufacturer may have its beneficial results for our union. Willy-nilly, the handful of vociferous advocates of shop committees within our midst will have to re-examine their panacea which pleases our manufacturers so well. Of course, the possibilities for the realization of this plan are nil. It will never be materialized in the cloak and suit industry as long as the union exists.

At the last meeting of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union, President Schlesinger and Brother Feinberg, the Manager of the Joint Board, laid before the delegates this unofficial proposal and the reply of our committee. There was not one among the delegates who had a good word to say for this proposal. Without a single exception, all the delegates have seen through this

attempt to kill the union by this new-fangled shop committee invention. All told it amounts to no less than a direct insult to the intelligence of our representatives.

To be sure, we do not blame our employers for advancing this or any other idea designated to injure our organization. From their point of view they are quite right and it falls fully within their line of activity. We can only assure them that their labors are in vain in this respect. They can never rid themselves of the union. Their own self-interest and the interest of the industry lies rather in the seeking out of the best means and ways of how to go on with the work in cooperation with the union.

Such cooperation the union is wholeheartedly ready to supply. The union will aid in the upbuilding of a machinery which would make an end to whatever "soldiering on the job" there exists in the trade, if the allegations of the employers are substantial to any degree. So far, the manufacturers have not learned that this is the only way how to aid the industry. They are still wandering upon paths that lead not to the goal, but away from it. This is the reason why the conferences have had to come to a stop. We would like to hope that until the conferences will be resumed, that our manufacturers will think over and digest all the arguments advanced by our committeemen upon the various problems taken up for discussion. It may then be possible to come to a lasting understanding, mutually satisfactory to every party affected.

"MIGHT IS RIGHT"

In one of the applications for an injunction against the International, the lawyer for the firm states that our International acts in accordance with the principle of "Might is Right." A more malicious and stupid libel could not have been invented against our International. Had our International really believed that might is right, it would never have attempted to organize the workers in the industry. Our International never deluded itself. It knew well that no matter how strong it might grow, it will still remain weak in comparison with the power of capital—with the latter's resources for exploitation, in which it is protected by every agency of the existing social order.

Had our International believed that might is right, it would never have mustered the courage to undertake a struggle for the betterment of the life of the workers. One cannot go into a fight when one is convinced in advance that it is doomed to failure. The true facts, however, are just contrary to this allegation. Our International, the tens of thousands of members who form it, are of the firm opinion that right is might; that regardless of their temporary and comparative weakness, they will eventually gain power because right is on their side.

Yes, the lawyer of that firm which seeks to malign and misrepresent our International, has mixed up his cards badly. It is not a new method. This "catch a thief" cry is as old as the hills, and we are inclined to believe that he could not muster a better argument for his plea.

"SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY"

For five long years a war was waged to make democracy safe for the world. As a result of this warfare, the world lies today in ruins. In the end the enemy of democracy was beaten into dust and destroyed. The forces of democracy have won and our own country has earned the greatest share of credit for this achievement. It was America's idea to "make the world safe for democracy." America has made the propaganda for this idea her own special mission. And she supplied the money and the human material for the victory with a generous hand.

One would naturally expect that democracy would blossom out now the world over, and particularly in America. Alas, the results are just contrary. Never was there experienced such a deep mistrust towards the people as today. The basic idea of democracy, that the people, regardless of whatever errors they may commit, are always right and eventually strike the just and proper equilibrium; that the people are the true sovereigns of the land—these fundamentals are today regarded as fantastic, wild and "foreign." The masses must be chained and kept in restraint.

Therein is the source of all our "loyalty" and anti-secession laws. There are schools in the State where the deluded people might be taught "wrong" ideas. These must be closed. There are teachers whose patriotism is somewhat in doubt. These must be driven out of the educational system. There are neighborhood settlements where a free debate and a free word is frequently heard. These must be rooted out. There are colleges where socialism is being studied. A stop must be put to that. There are films from which the people might learn something which does not please our Lusk-ers, and the film business must, therefore, be strictly censored.

And so our entire little world, and more than every other country our own democratic America, has been made safe not for democracy, but safe beyond and away from democracy. Today, it seems, the people of the world, in order to regain the few meagre liberties and rights which they had enjoyed before the war, would have to wage bitter and unlimited warfare against its new stragglers and censors.

OUR INTERNATIONAL AMONG THE "REDS"

As if to spite Zinovieff and his local parrots who have been wearing sackcloth and shedding tears over the "backwardness" and "conservatism" of our International, the Lusk Committee comes now and declares our International one of the most menacing institutions of the existing order. According to the opinion of the Lusk Committee, our International has nothing else in mind but the planning of a revolution in America. Moreover, the Lusk Committee regards our International even more dangerous than every other communistic and revolutionary agency. Here is what they say:

"The committee emphasizes that the real danger to American

AN APPEAL TO REASONS

By HARRY ROGOFF

There are in our unions two extreme minorities, both equally harmful, and even menacing. One minority contains of idolaters, of "pariahs"—such who are always inspired by what the leaders say or do. To them, each officer is as great a diplomat as Bismarck, an eloquent a speaker as Lamartine, and as wise as King Solomon. They leave everything to the officers in the blind hope that these will achieve and win the battles for them. Their sole duty is to approve everything without much ado, and to applaud.

The second minority is the very opposite of the first. It is always disgruntled, always suspicious, always hypercritical. To those who belong to this minority, the officers are always "misleaders," "fakers" and persons who have sold themselves to the employers. They consider it their duty to attack, to slander without end and to cast mud incessantly. As stated, both these elements are detrimental and frequently very dangerous, as both of these groups are actuated not by convictions, but by blind sentiment. They shout hurrah because they are inspired, and they condemn because they are excited. And while inspiration and excitement are often useful and necessary, these emotions are, nevertheless, dangerous when they take the place of cold reasoning and common sense.

Times are, of course, not always the same. At one period the group of idolaters has the upper hand, while at another the group of malcontents is stronger. At this particular moment it seems that the blind group is in the saddle. The second attack group is in the front trenches. Their

voices resound in the air. They are in the pulpit and are delivering the sermon. I am not speaking of the principles involved in the program of the discontented. With some of these points I am perhaps ready to agree myself. I am not discussing here the demands advanced by the critics. I speak exclusively of the methods, of the weapons which they employ in order to realize their demands, the weapons of mud-slinging, of slander, of personal attacks. These methods do not help the aggressors and bring only injury to the entire organization.

The leaders at the head of our unions are, with few exceptions, tried and old comrades. They have devoted their entire life to the labor-movement. The able among them could have achieved more comfortable and far better paid careers had their ambitions been only personal success and aggrandizement. We know them all; we have watched them at various times under different conditions, and we know that the movement is part and parcel of their mind and soul, and that they possess the honesty, loyalty and devotion which are the first ingredients of a labor leader.

Perhaps they are too conservative; perhaps their opinions and ideas on labor matters are not sound; perhaps it is absolutely necessary to substitute younger and more radical leaders for them. This is a question for debate, for discussion. But a conservative is not a traitor; one who has fallen behind is not a "Judas." A superannuated general is usually awarded with medals for his services and is sent home for rest. A traitor, however, is being tried and his name

is put down forever in the black book of treachery.

The mud-slinging, the irresponsible attacks upon persons who are clean and honest, have in the end the following results: The dishonest, if any there be, among the smaller fry, begin to feel firmer in their positions. They think to themselves: "If the big union leaders are attacked as traitors, as men who have sold the workers, we, of course, have little to fear. The masses will not bother much with the puny ones, when the honesty of the big leaders is at stake." The genuine leaders of labor, however, lose their heart and their inspiration under these attacks. Man is, after all, human, and no matter how strong, these attacks affect one's nerves and heart eventually.

The detractors forget about another point, a strategic point. In the long run they will have to convince the masses that their charges are truthful, and this, they know themselves, they will not be able to do. These strong attacks, these hand grenades which they throw at the recognized leaders draw some attention, create a sensation and rouse the apathetic to some activity. However, once aroused and having become interested in the work, the masses will not be satisfied until these charges against the leaders will have been proven and verified beyond a doubt.

Among the dissatisfied groups who are endeavoring to bring a more radical and revolutionary spirit into the unions, there are calmer minds. They know that these tactics are false. The misfortune is that they leave to others to do this dirty work. This is not

merely a supposition. It is a fact. I have talked to many of them and they admit that this mud-slinging is disgusting. They declare, however, that they have nothing to do with it and they can't restrain the others. Let the more intelligent and those possessed of a greater share of common sense, therefore, not forget the following: Their abstention and the license which they give to the irresponsible ones to conduct the fight by all methods and means, no matter how despicable, hurts their own cause. An army of detractors and slanderers will draw its recruits from the same mass and material they are themselves made of. Such recruits will not be amenable to discipline, to obedience, which is as important a requisite for a revolutionary army as it is in a military unit.

Respect and consideration for leaders who have earned such respect and consideration! Criticize them to your heart's content, but be honest with them; recognize their services, their honest motives and their conscientious opinions. You might be able to prove that these motives are too conservative for our times; that their opinions are old and superannuated. Argue about it; bring proof; call upon the workers to leave the old party and turn away from the old leaders because these have not led them to the proper goal. This is your privilege; this is your duty, if you are convinced of it.

Do not, however, slander the old leaders. Do not besmirch the men who have given up all their spiritual forces and lives for the labor movement and who have always served the working masses with all the intelligence and earnestness they have possessed.

Respect for those who have earned respect!

The Growth of Local No. 66

By OSSIP WOLINSKY

The Bonnaz Embroiderers' Union, Local No. 66, was reborn in 1915, after a spontaneous general strike in the trade. That strike brought a number of substantial improvements in the working conditions in the shops. For the first time in the history of the trade, written agreements were concluded with employers and the union obtained control in a goodly number of shops.

This first revolution in the trade came after a period of long unemployment and following a revival of activity in the embroidery industry. The workers were famished and were very eager to get back to work, and the employers were in not a less distracted condition. So the strike was settled quickly and the foundation for our local was laid. The entire trade did not amount to much in those days. The number of shops in the shops was small and the workers earned barely enough to make ends meet.

The years of the war have made a tremendous change in the embroidery industry. The cloak, suit, waist and dress manufacturers not being able to import laces from abroad, have begun to use embroidery on garments, and things began to hum in our line. The union, keeping pace with the development of the industry, began earnestly to improve the working standards in the shops and to take advantage of the prosperity in the trade. As we look back, today over this stretch of five years, we can hardly believe our eyes in appraising the tremendous achievements of our organization on behalf of the membership of the local.

We have reduced the working hours from 54 to 44 a week. The earnings of experienced workers have been raised from \$14 and \$16 a week to \$24 and \$27, as specified in our 1920 agreement. The sanitary conditions were improved a hundredfold, and the control of the union over the

trade is practically complete. During these years of our existence we have gone through two general strikes, in 1915 and 1920, and between these strikes we have also succeeded in gaining one concession after another without strikes. As stated above, the 1915 strike lasted only a short while and served as the foundation stone for the union. The strike of 1920, however, was rather protracted and was waged against the newly organized association of employers in the industry who would not concede the minimum scales upon which the union insisted in the new agreement. Our membership, however, passed the trying test splendidly, and this general strike was crowned with complete success. The association was compelled to sign a collective agreement with the union and to deposit \$10,000 as security for the faithful observance of this agreement.

Shortly thereafter, a general economic overtook the industry of the land, and it, of course, had its adverse effect upon the needle industries too. A panicky feeling prevailed everywhere and wisecracks already

predicted that the embroidery trade was at an end, and brought forth numerous arguments to prove their contentions. The result, however, did not justify their forebodings. On the contrary, the embargo on work-ers were looser last year than ever before and the trade continues to expand and flourish without halt. The progress of the industry is reflected fully in the general condition of our local. From a membership of 300 in 1915, we have grown to over 1,500 in 1921, and the last three months have seen an addition of 400 new members in the local. These new recruits came from trade schools and non-union shops, where they got their first lessons in embroidering. This addition to our family we are endeavoring to assimilate as quickly as possible, watching that their sliding scale of wages is strictly observed and that they are not exploited by some unscrupulous employers.

The last general strike in the waist and dress trade has been a conclusion from the employers to the effect that all embroidery used in waist and dress houses shall be given to union embroidery shops only.

government and to the structure of American society and its institutions rests in the continuous activities of such organizations as here are mentioned." Follows a roster of "red" trade unions. And further: "Revolution will not be the work of armed bands of revolutionaries secretly coming together in conspirative organizations. Such a movement would hold out no promise of success."

We declare that no matter how much we dislike the Lusk Committee with its work of Prussianizing America, we cannot help agreeing with it on this point. Somehow we are quite contented with the fact that the Lusk Committee had included us among those "reds." "I would have felt rather disappointed" said President Schlesinger on this occasion, "had our International not been on that list." It is difficult to disagree with him. It is truly the best recommendation for our International. And we are just as confident that the A. F. of L. feels pretty much disgruntled with the word of approbation uttered on its behalf by the Lusk Committee.

Not that we agree with the opinion of the Lusk Committee about the Federation. The very fact that our International and a number of these "red" organizations are a part of the A. F. of L. is the best proof that the Federation is not quite as "pure" as the Lusk Committee would have everybody believe it is. No, we

are distinctly in disagreement with the Luskers with regard to their characterization of the A. F. of L. Nevertheless, the very fact that a Lusk Committee, the embodiment of the darkest reaction in our land, has a good word to say for the A. F. of L. is enough to plunge all those to whom the honor and the activities of the Federation are dear, into deep and serious thought on the matter. Obviously, there must be something decayed in the Federation if a Lusk Committee can not only tolerate it, but even lend it its approval and encouragement!

Honestly, there is something disquieting in this Lusk testimonial, something which should give the leaders of the Federation cause to look around and investigate until they have found what is there in their activities that has attracted the Luskers so much. They need not postpone it for a long time either. The masses of thinking workers feel deeply hurt by this Lusk hymn to the A. F. of L. We hope that the convention of the Federation, next June in Denver, will give some close attention to this rather sore point. The A. F. of L. bothers little, and with right, about the ebullitions of a Zinovieff. A recommendation of the Lusk Committee, however, is too nasty a pill to swallow without suffering some consequences.

Educational Comment and Notes

STUDENTS OF WORKERS' UNIVERSITY TO HAVE OUTING ON JUNE 8

Students of the Workers' University and Unity Centers are to enjoy a day's outing to Long Island on Sunday, June 8. The Students' Council is already at work arranging details for this excursion, and our members will no doubt reserve this day for jolly time in the country. Josiah Lieberman will join our members with his group.

Further details will be published in these columns.

REDUCED TICKETS FOR ALL BROADWAY SHOWS

Our members are informed that tickets at reduced prices for all Broadway shows can be obtained through the Educational Department for parties of ten or more upon three days notice. Information regarding this can be secured at the office of the Educational Department, 81 Union Square or from Joseph Mann, 22 Union Square.

Ignorance and Action

By ALEXANDER FICHANDLER

One of the saddest spectacles that confronts the student of current events, is the appalling ignorance of those who have power today. One might imagine that leaders in government, business and education are at least familiar with the history of their own country and of the world. But, their actions do not seem to show a wide acquaintance with these subjects.

Any child who has read the story of days gone-by, can tell without much difficulty what happened when those who ruled society attempted to suppress movements for social reconstruction. The pages of history tell us that although Socrates was killed, his ideas marched on; although early Christians were tortured and murdered, Christianity was not abolished; although the reformers of the Renaissance were burned at the stake, Protestantism was not extinguished; although abolitionists were persecuted, slavery disappeared. Other similar illustrations could be given in large numbers. If these who have power would but remember these facts, they would realize how utterly stupid it is to try to suppress new ideas with force. They would learn that the effect is just the opposite, and that ideas thrive on persecution.

What a tragedy it is that those who have power, do not profit by the experience of their predecessors and continue to commit the same stupid mistakes, which will without any doubt, bring about similar results.

But a still greater tragedy is before us. It is bad enough when a stupid, smug, bloated group, either cannot or does not want to read the lessons of the past. How much worse it is that the great masses of workers, who have struggled for so many years and are still struggling to obtain more happiness, are just as stupid and just as ignorant. And with workers, the results are much more serious. Those in power do not lose much by their ignorance; at least, they still have the comforts and luxuries to which they are accustomed. But it is different with workers. Their mistakes mean defeat, unemployment, hunger, unhappiness.

Today, the inability on the part of many workers to understand the lessons of history, is shown clearly in the discussion of those who of all people in the world, should be united. Instead of solidarity of Labor, we have splits and differences all over the world. Instead of a united front, we have small groups skirmishing and being badly beaten by their enemies. Instead of a common fight, for a common victory, against a common enemy, there are many groups with enough differences to prevent them from achieving their aims.

What is the cause of this? It is not easy to give a single answer. Hu-

man action is seldom the result of one particular motive. It is generally caused by a number of motives, combined in various ways.

But it is safe to assume that the fundamental cause of the tragic situation today, is the influence of the Russian Revolution. It is but natural that such a tremendous upheaval should affect many, and that they should change their attitude, their aims and methods under the influence of the events in Russia.

But another cause is undoubtedly present. That is the ignorance on the part of many, too many, workers about the historical background of present conditions. Too many of them act impulsively without weighing, measuring and considering the situation in all its details. It is perfectly true that too much thought paralyzes action, but it is equally true that insufficient thought produces futile and frequently disastrous action.

While action is essential, and while without action, there can be no progress, the student of history can see that in the long run, effective results are brought about by the kind of action which is based on the facts of life, and not on imagination and mere desire. The latter is romantic and appeals to the imagination, but does not bring permanent results.

To effect true progress there is only one method, and that is, thorough study of the experiences of the human race and of actual conditions. Before a method is tried, it must be tested by one great touchstone, will it work? In philosophy, this is called pragmatism, which is a high sounding name for a very simple idea. The idea is nothing else but this. The true, the correct plan is that which works. If it does not work, if it is not practicable, if it does not accomplish its aim, it is useless and an unnecessary drain on human energy.

The present situation in the labor world demands study on the part of workers. In America, it is essential to understand American conditions. No person has a right to advocate new methods of immediate action unless he can answer satisfactorily such questions as: Are the American people ready for this? Are the American workers ready for it? Will such methods meet with favorable reception, or with indifference, or with opposition? Will the opposition, be strong or weak? Have recent developments been such as to make their methods practicable?

In short, the worker must not be merely less ignorant than the capitalist. He must know more, understand more, and act with better appreciation of historical influences and causes. Only if he does so, can he claim to be superior to those who have managed the world for so many years.

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)

(Continued from last issue)

Control and Management

The educational work of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is entrusted to a special Educational Committee which is a sub-committee of the General Executive Board. The Educational Committee consists of five Vice-Presidents of the International.

The Educational Committee, however, it is no possible to go into all the details of the actual work connected with Labor Education. The Committee, therefore, while leaving to itself the larger and more general work of planning the educational activities, has created in the office of the International an Educational Department, which is in charge of the entire educational work. This Department is managed by a Director, who is an educator (Mr. Alexander Fichandler is the present director), and by the Secretary of the Educational Committee, Fannia M. Cohn.

This dual management is very vital to the work of labor education. For this work requires not only a knowledge of education but also a firsthand knowledge of labor and its problems, and particularly a knowledge of the workers among whom the work is to be done. The management of the Educational Department by an expert educator and an active union worker insures methods suited to the needs of our members, and an education beneficial to our organization and to the Labor Movement.

Methods of Organization

We realize that no plan for organizing educational activities can be successful, unless it is expressed in something more than the establishment of institutions like the Unity Centers and Workers' University. The plan must produce a mental attitude, which in turn would create a movement for Labor Education within the Trade Union Movement. The question has come up in our work how to accomplish this. We resolved that the only way to make a success of our activities is by directing all our energies and attention to the rank and file. We believe that if they will be impressed with the necessity for Labor Education, and if they will become imbued with the ideal and conviction that "Knowledge is Power," and that with the "Accumulation of knowledge the world is theirs," then, and only then, will we be on the road to success.

One page of our weekly papers, published in English, Yiddish and Italian, is devoted to the work of our Educational Department. These papers are sent to the home of every member. Notices of our activities also appear in the daily English, Yiddish and Italian press which is read by our members.

We find that we reach our membership most effectively by coming into personal touch with them. We try to stimulate in them a desire for education, and then we try to satisfy that desire. We speak at shop meetings, which are held almost every night, describing our plan of education. We address business meetings of the unions. We arrange gatherings from time to time, at which assemble large numbers of members, whom we try to interest in our work. Leaflets and other literature are mailed to their homes.

Through all of these means we try to impress upon our members the necessity of organizing Labor Education as an integral part of the Trade Union Movement. We try to impress upon them the conviction that while organization gives them power, education will give them the ability to

use this power properly and effectively.

The most difficult thing with which we have to reckon in connection with the development of educational activities within the Trade Unions, is my opinion, is the organization of the work. It is almost impossible for me to draw a line of demarcation between organizing the educational activities and supervising them. The organizing work and the executive work are so interwoven that they cannot be separated. In fact, they must be done by the same people.

To make a success of Labor Education within the Trade Union Movement is not an easy matter at all. We realize that its success depends upon the supervision of the work. This requires constant effort on the part of those in charge. It requires a knowledge of the psychology not only of human nature, but also of a particular group, an understanding of their needs and aspirations. The work must be planned carefully. This requires on the part of the persons in charge unlimited devotion, idealism, inspiration, and a belief in the aims of the Labor Movement, as well as a conception of what education can contribute to its achievement. This requires great energy. It compels us to be in constant touch with the membership in order to inspire them with a desire to make education within the Trade Union Movement a success. The persons in charge must possess character and a strong determination to overcome obstacles and rise above discouragement.

To a high degree the success of this work rests also with the teacher. He must be imbued with a like spirit. He must be armed with more than academic knowledge and theoretical thought. He must have a thorough knowledge of the Labor Movement—an understanding that this movement deals not only with theories but also with facts and conditions.

How Financed

We believe that education for workers within the Trade Union Movement should be financed, controlled and managed by the workers themselves through their properly constituted organizations. On this ground, the Philadelphia Convention of our International in 1916, voted \$5,000 a year from the treasury of the Union to support its educational activities. The biennial convention held in Boston in 1918, voted \$10,000 a year for the next two years, and at the last Convention, held in Chicago in 1920, \$15,000 a year was voted for the two following years.

Our members are admitted without fees to all of our activities. Members of other Trade Unions are admitted at the request of their organization.

I may add here that we have so far spent more than the allotted sum. Before the next Convention shall convene in 1922, the International will have spent on its educational experiment the large sum of \$70,000.

Democracy in Our Education

The system of education we have developed in our International did not come from above, and was not forced on our membership by decree. Our entire educational work is based on the needs of the workers. The growth of our activities was not due to the good intentions of the leaders only, but also to the needs of the members and to their interest in education. True, the Educational Committee is in charge of the work, but as in all other activities of our International, it is the workers who have the final say.

(To be continued)

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT DEPARTMENT OF THE WAIST AND DRESS JOINT BOARD

By JULIUS HOCHMAN, Manager

I hereby beg to submit to you a brief report of the activities of the Independent Department for the period starting October 11th, 1920, and ending April 30th, 1921.

COMPLAINTS

During this period 1718 complaints were attended to and were adjusted in the following manner: 1,081 in favor of the Union; 312 were adjusted by mutual consent; 7 were withdrawn; 294 were dropped; 11 were referred to the lawyer and 19 were Grievance Board cases.

We also attended to 17 complaints against Independent jobbers, out of which 14 were adjusted in favor of the Union and 3 were dropped.

Up to the strike we adjusted 95 cases of the old Waist & Dress Association shops, out of which 49 were adjusted in favor of the Union; 27 by mutual consent; 17 were dropped and 2 were referred to the lawyer.

Since the strike 84 cases against the new waist association were adjusted, of which 50 were in favor of the Union; 12 were adjusted by mutual consent and 22 were dropped.

VISITS

The number of visits made during this period was 4483. Of these 89 were cases of the Embroidery Union, Local 66. During the strike we obtained information of embroidery shops which were employed by the different firms, which information was sent to Local 66 for checking up as to Union and non-Union shops. Complaints were then filed against all firms who were dealing with non-Union shops and were referred to the business agents. At present, due to the conditions prevailing in the trade, strong action could not be brought to bear against these agents, but we hope to do so as soon as conditions will warrant same.

SHOP MEETINGS

The number of shop meetings reported for this period was 567.

OUTLYING DISTRICTS

Down Town Office

The Down Town Office reports 216 adjusted complaints, 606 visits and 108 shop meetings for the period beginning October 11th, 1920, and ending April 30th, 1921.

Brooklyn Office

The Brooklyn Office reports 37 adjusted complaints, 65 visits and 18 shop meetings for the period beginning February the 20th and ending April the 30th, 1921.

Bronx Office

The Bronx Office reports 33 adjusted complaints and 36 visits for the period beginning January the 18th and ending April the 30th, 1921.

LIQUIDATED DAMAGES AND FINES

During the period of this report a number of manufacturers of the Independent Department have in one way or another attempted to violate the agreement. They have either reduced wages, did their own cutting, employed non-Union help or have tried to assume an improper attitude by using abusive language to the chairman, the price committee or any of the other workers of the shop and sometimes to our Union representatives. In all such instances we were not merely satisfied with an ordinary settlement of the matter, but have liquidated the whole or part of the security deposited by these manufacturers for the faithful performance of the agreement. Below are given a list of such instances:

III Treatment

1. The firm of Rosenthal & Match of 15 West 21st Street, insulted the business agent about six weeks ago while visiting the shop. This case was finally settled by applying the sum of \$25.00 as liquidated damages.

2. The chairman of the shop of Samuel Dorf of 13 East 30th Street, and as compensation of this violation we collected the sum of \$25.00 as liquidated damages.

3. We collected the sum of \$50.00 from the firm of S. Buchwald & Co., of 5 East 16th Street, for having insulted its chairlady.

Cutting Done by Employers

4. H. Schneeweis of 125 West 21st Street, was found violating the agreement by doing his own cutting. The case was adjusted by applying the sum of \$50.00 as liquidated damages.

5. The security of the firm of the R. E. R. Dress of 2 West 15th Street, was applied as liquidated damages to the sum of \$45.00 because they were found doing their own cutting.

6. The firm of Albin & Kats of 28 West 15th Street did not employ a Union cutter, but was found doing all the cutting himself. We collected the sum of \$50.00 as liquidated damages.

7. The firm of N. Elefant of 11 West 17th Street also violated the agreement by doing its own cutting. Collected liquidated damages for the sum of \$15.00.

8. The firm of the Leonard Dress of 11 West 29th Street was found doing its own cutting. Security was liquidated to the sum of \$75.00.

9. The employer of the Quaker Dress Co., of 109 East 17th Street, did his own cutting and his security was applied as damages to the amount of \$15.00.

10. \$25.00 of the security of the firm of W. & Z. Dress of 138 West 17th Street, was applied as damages because the firm was discovered doing its own cutting.

11. The Harriet-Claire Dress of 124 East 13th Street also did its own cutting. Collected as damages the sum of \$25.00.

Reduction of Wages

12. The employer of the Debland Costume of 150 West 27th Street violated the agreement by reducing the wages of its employees. The matter was finally disposed of by collecting the sum of \$20.00 as damages.

13. A reduction of wages was attempted by the firm of the Comco Dress Co., of 112 Fourth Ave. We collected \$25.00 as damages.

14. Another reduction of wages was attempted by the firm of the Lion Dress Co., of 450 Sixth Ave. The sum of \$100.00 was liquidated.

Running Corporation Shop

15. The firm of the See More otherwise known as the Stylish of 101 Fifth Avenue was found to have been running a corporation shop. The case was settled and we collected the sum of \$200.00 damages.

Paying Work for Overtime

16. The workers of the firm of Tyor & Greenberg of 114 West 27th

Street, were paid single instead of double for overtime. \$200.00 was collected as damages.

Sending Work to Non-Union Shops

17. The Franco-American of 114 West 26th Street was found to have committed a violation of the agreement by sending work to non-Union contractors. We applied liquidated damages for the sum of \$150.00.

Sending Work Out While Inside Workers Are Not Fully Supplied

18. The firm of B. Geist & Co., of 28 West 25th Street violated the agreement by sending a lot of work out while the inside help were not fully supplied. Collected damages amounting to \$25.00.

19. The Bon Marche Costume of 22 East 21st Street refused to show its books to our investigator. We collected \$50.00 damages.

20. Our investigator was refused access to the books of Geller & Frank of 150 Spring Street. We settled this case and applied \$25.00 liquidated damages.

21. The firm of G. Lober of 19 West 21st Street refused our investigator access to its books, and we collected \$25.00 as liquidated damages.

Running a Non-Union Shop

22. The firm of the Fits Roy Dress Co., of 409-7th Avenue, closed its place at 46 West 26th Street, and was afterwards found to have been running a non-Union shop at its present address. Firm refused to employ its old set of workers. A

strike was called and it was settled to the effect that the firm is to re-employ its old set of workers and is to pay liquidated damages to the sum of \$100.00.

Locking Out Workers

23. The firm of Weisberg & Tiloff of 107 West 25th Street, violated the agreement in the following manner: Firm locked its workers out and claimed to be in the jobbing line. Finally the shop was found and re-organized and the firm paid as liquidated damages the sum of \$100.00.

Employing Non-Union Help

24. The Cr vent Novelty of 69 West 23d Street violated the agreement by employing non-Union help. Applied security as damages for the sum of \$25.00.

Miscellaneous Violations

25. Brucker Bros., 240 West 23d Street paid the sum of \$25.00.

26. Cooper-Sklar of 43 East Broadway paid the sum of \$25.00.

27. The sum of \$40.00 was collected from the firm of Gold & Wechsler of 256 West 23d Street.

28. H. Ribner of 39 East 6th Street paid the sum of \$50.00.

29. Brovinsky & Lubin of 144 West 21st Street paid \$75.00.

30. The firm of the L. & F. Dress of 16 West 31st Street, paid the sum of \$25.00 as liquidated damages.

The total sum collected as liquidated damages for this period was \$2,321.00.

(To be continued)

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A GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING of Local No. 3 will be held on

Tuesday, May 24th
at 5.30 P. M. sharp

at Bryant Hall, 725 Sixth Ave.

Very important questions, including the office reports, will be taken up.

Friends, this meeting is a very important one, and we would ask you to be sure and come on time.

EXECUTIVE BOARD LOCAL No. 3,
B. Chatsberg, Sec'y

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**WHITE LILY TEA
COLUMBIA TEA
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Exclusively

The Weeks' News in Cutters Union Local 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN

Conferences between the Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Protective Association and the union, initiated at the request of the former, are temporarily discontinued. The chairman of the sub-committee of the Association declared that since the union refuses to accede to the demands of the Association for longer hours, a cut in wages, and the right to discharge any of the workers, that they would have to take up the entire matter with their own membership.

A conference may soon be had again subject to the call of either of the chairmen of the two sub-committees. Whether or not another conference will take place, the union will not recede from its declared position and will not agree to any of the demands of the Association.

First, the present wages paid by the manufacturers to the workers in the industry are by far not sufficient to provide a decent livelihood for them and their families; especially when we take into consideration the seasonal character of the cloak and suit trade. Second, there can be no lengthening of the hours, for the kind of work performed by our workers and the intensity with which it is performed affect them, and, if anything, the weekly hours of work should have been shortened. Third, on the question of discharge, the union and its representatives are not willing to permit the manufacturers to act as the sole judges, for the active union men would then be discriminated against wholesale.

The stand taken by the sub-committee of the union is unanimously supported by the entire membership of the Cloak Makers' Union.

At the annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers, held at the Waldorf-Astoria on Monday, May 16th, the labor unions in the United States were attacked unmercifully for their stand against the open-shop movement, and with it, the reduction of wages. The labor leaders were charged with being determined to rule the industry of the United States, although, according to the Manufacturers' Association, the workers in this country constitute only a minority. The unions are also charged with being responsible for the high cost of living, thereby entirely abolishing the profiteering manufacturers and retailers.

This kind of humbug is being sent broadcast through the press, with a view of poisoning public opinion against labor. If we are to believe the statements of the Manufacturers' Association, the millions of workers and their families constitute only a minority, and should, therefore, have no say in the management of industry, even when it affects their own welfare.

The same view is held by Judge Gary, head of the Steel Trust, and one of the pillars of the National Association of Manufacturers, who, on April 18th of this year, declared that "labor unions may have been justified in the past, when workers may not always have been treated justly, but at present there is no necessity for them." Two weeks later the same Judge Gary announced that the wages of the hundreds of thousands of steel workers would be cut 20 per cent., beginning May 16th, and also that the twelve-hour day for the steel industry would be retained.

We wonder whether Mr. Gary and the Board of Directors of the Steel Trust constitute a minority or a majority in the Steel industry.

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

William Schlossberg, No. 8560, appeared on summons, charged with failing to take out a working card for the Flower Dress Co., 133 West 19th Street, for three weeks. When he appeared at the office of the union on April 18th, three weeks after he began working at the above house, Brother Shenker asked him whether he had a working card, to which he replied in the affirmative. The following day, however, he admitted not having a working card. On motion a fine was imposed upon Brother Schlossberg.

Harry Beinstock, No. 8209, appeared on summons, charged with failing to secure a working card for the firm of Rosenberg & Schneider, Poughkeepsie, New York. Brother Bienstock states that Miss Maud Foley, International Organizer for Poughkeepsie, permitted him to go to work for the above shop. Brother Bienstock was instructed that in the future he is to communicate with the office, should he find a job out of town, and case was dismissed.

Harry Weinberger, No. 6013, appeared on summons, charged with failing to report the employment of a non-union boy at the Eagle Dress Co., 152 West 25th Street. This brother also allowed a non-union helper at the table for a number of months. Brother Weinberger states that he thought the shop chairman was to attend to the matter. On motion he was fined.

Morris Perlman, No. 2611, appeared on summons, charged by Miss Oriana, Business Agent of the Joint Board, and by Miss Pauline Zilverman, Shop Chairlady of the Sefer Dress Co., 119 W. 23d Street, with working during lunch hour and also staying in after hours. Brother Perlman states that as he does not come in an time in the morning, he therefore makes up for lost time during lunch hour. On motion Brother Perlman was instructed in the future to keep regular hours, and the case was dismissed.

Nathan Solars, No. 5480A, appeared on summons, charged with working six weeks' overtime for the firm of Hyman Levine, 15 West 18th Street, without receiving pay for same. Brother Solars is also charged by the office with having agreed to work without pay for overtime, or order to work steady. Four weeks after he was discharged, he appeared at the office complaining that he had not received compensation for overtime. On motion a fine was imposed upon Brother Solars.

Jacob Foznansky, No. 15259, appeared on summons, charged with having received time and a half for overtime at the firm of Charles Malsel, 134 West 57th Street. A collection of \$26.59 was made in this case. Brother Foznansky, who is on a transfer from Cleveland, states that the rate for overtime in Cleveland is time and a half, and that when he was offered time and a half for overtime at the firm of Chas. Malsel, he was under the impression that he was receiving the proper rate. On motion a fine of \$5 was imposed.

Appeal to Shop Chairmen

(Continued from page 3)

campaign. About 209 open shops have already been spoken to with the first leaflet, called "Don't Let Them Cut Your Wages," and the second leaflet, "Did You Ever Think of It?" Some of the chairmen have already gotten acquainted with the workers and are following them up enthusiastically. I have seen middle-aged men and married women, as well as young girls on the line early in the morning, in rainy weather, giving out these leaflets to the worker who underlies them. These chairmen are devoting themselves with determination to the work. There is every reason to hope that they will be successful. There is a kind of contest go-

ing on between the chairmen to see which street will be the first to be 100 per cent. unionized.

Another meeting of all the chairmen in these streets will be held this coming Tuesday, right after work, at the Italian Waitresses' Union, 8 West 21st St. If you want the work to go on, be sure to come. Do not rely on the other chairmen, and do not wait for others to set the example for you. You suffer through the open-shop evil; it is up to you, and you first, to get on the job to eradicate it and to establish full union control over the industry upon which you depend for your living.



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CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10 ATTENTION!

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

GENERAL:	Monday, May 23d
CLOAK AND SUIT:	Monday, June 6th
WAIST AND DRESS:	Monday, June 13th
MISCELLANEOUS:	Monday, June 20th.

Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place
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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.