

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

—Job 27.6

# JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. IV, No. 13

New York, Friday, March 24, 1922

Price, 2 Cents

## Cloak Joint Board Installs Officers for New Term

Eight after the Cloak Shop Chairmen's meeting at Cooper Union, last Saturday afternoon, the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union of New York held an installation meeting for its re-elected officers for the coming term. The meeting was very well attended. There were present delegates from the old Joint Board who had still some unfinished business to attend to and, of course, all the newly-elected delegates. In addition, there were a number of visitors and members of the Executive Committee of the locals.

Brother Louis Pinkofsky, the Chairman of the Joint Board, addressed the delegates first, thanking them in the name of the Joint Board for the confidence expressed in him and his fellow-officers. Thereupon he turned over the chair to General Secretary Baroff. Secretary Baroff delivered a very warm and appropriate talk, sketching in brief the general strike that has just ended in the cloak industry and making an appeal for unity in the ranks of the workers.

The new delegates to the Joint Board were then very solemnly installed and nominations for officers took place. In short order Chairman Pinkofsky, General Manager Feinberg, Secretary Langer and Treasurer Kaplowitz were nominated and unanimously elected without opposition. The result of the election was greeted by stormy applause.

The election of officers was followed by a number of speeches. Editor Yanofsky congratulated the delegates and the officers of the Joint Board upon the confidence vested in them by the great membership of the Union, and implored them to hold high the banner and the prestige of the organization. He was followed by Morris Hillquit, who expressed the hope that the new Joint Board might do, at least, as well as the old one. He dwelt on the remarkable impression he gained from personal contact with the officers and the members of our Union, and pointed to the fact that the situation in the cloak indus-

try is not yet entirely clear and free from dangers. If the employers should insist upon a strike next June, the workers will have to wage an even greater and more stubborn conflict than what they had waged this Winter.

Morris Hillquit was followed by General Manager Feinberg, Treasurer Kaplowitz, Secretary Langer and Brother Harry Lang, the labor editor of the "Forward." They delivered appropriate and very well-received speeches, after which President Schlesinger addressed the delegates and the visitors. Brother Schlesinger dwelt upon the recent events in the cloak industry, the impending great dangers that underlie them, and turned his attention to the enemies and detractors of the Union, from within and without. He cited as an example the recent gangster charges which have been made by irresponsible vilifiers of our organization with the intention of creating dissension, splits and division within the ranks of the cloakmakers.

## Cloak Shop-Chairmen Meeting Spurs Defense Fund Drive

The shop-chairmen meeting in the great hall of Cooper Union, last Saturday afternoon, was a huge success. At one o'clock the assembly hall was crowded with thousands of shop chairmen from cloak shops in every section of Greater New York who came to listen to the latest phase in the development of the present situation in the cloak industry.

In speaking of the conditions in the trade, it was quite natural that the question of the Million Dollar Reserve Fund, which must be raised within the next few weeks, was one of the central topics of the discussion. The speakers pointed out that should the Protective Association continue its present attitude, a strike in the trade is inevitable in the near future. The fighting spirit of the Cloakmakers was particularly evident when one speaker after another pointed out that the "trenches" might again be filled with cloakmakers in the defense of their rights next summer. A stormy applause from one end of the great hall to the other greeted these remarks.

The principal speaker of the meeting was President Schlesinger who made a powerful appeal for the Million Dollar drive and called upon the shop-chairmen to begin actively to collect the assessment for the Reserve Fund. He then stated in brief the exact status of the proposed investigation in the cloak industry of New York by the Federal Departments of Commerce and Labor. He made clear to the workers that the union could participate in this investigation only on the terms outlined in our correspondence with the Washington authorities. It seems, however, that a certain change of attitude had taken

place in Washington with regard to this matter, as evidenced from the letter received by President Schlesinger from Secretaries Hoover and Davis on March 16. He thereupon read this letter and the reply sent to it by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, dated March 10, 1922.

Mr. Benjamin Schlesinger, President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 31 Union Square, New York City.

Dear Sir:—  
The letter of January 11th which we sent to you and to the Manufacturers' Association was intended as a basis for the appointment of a commission to examine into the economic functioning of the New York Garment Industry and to make constructive suggestions. Instead of a reply to our letter in the spirit in which it was written, there has resulted a tortuous correspondence limiting the scope of the investigation and its personnel.

In response to the invitation to submit promptly five or six names the Union has delayed, evaded, and made conditions to such an extent that it submitted no names until forty-nine days after the original request was made by us, and then submitted three instead of five or six.

The Manufacturers' Association although present in submitting its names has in recent correspondence made conditions which are entirely unjust.

Our intervention was inspired with a belief that a commission such as we proposed might lay a foundation for better relations, and thus might serve the public, the workers and the employers. This offer, made in good faith, must either be accepted or rejected. The alternative to the appointment of such a commission is that of letting matters drift until the stern grinding of economic laws brings solution. Those who are in control of the industry will not escape responsibility if they permit things to continue, just as they must assume definite responsibility for co-operating with us if a commission is now to be appointed and order is to come. If both parties are willing to accept the original proposals without any reser-

vation and are willing to co-operate along the lines of these proposals in every way, they should at once say so.

Very truly yours,  
(Signed) HERBERT HOOVER,  
Secretary of Commerce,  
Washington, D. C.

(Signed) JAMES J. DAVIS,  
Secretary of Labor,  
Washington, D. C.

New York, March 14, 1922.  
Hon. Herbert Hoover,  
Secretary of Commerce,  
Hon. James J. Davis,  
Secretary of Labor,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:—  
Permit me to express my surprise at the tone of your joint letter of the 10th

(Continued on Page 7)

## Swiss Embroidery Workers Renew Agreement with Employers

The Embroidery Workers' Union, Local No. 6, scored last week a quiet, though a complete victory.

The agreement of the Embroidery Workers' Union with the "Allied Lace and Embroidery Manufacturers" expired on March 17. Prior to its expiration, President Schlesinger forwarded a letter to Mr. Milton D. Einstein, the president of the Association, suggesting that negotiations looking to a renewal of the agreement in the industry be begun at once.

The Association replied affirmatively and a conference was immediately arranged for at which the Embroidery Union was represented through Brother M. Weiss its manager, and a committee from the local.

## Get-Together of Students and Teachers on Saturday, April 1

Next Saturday evening, April 1, at 7 o'clock, the long expected Get-together of the students and teachers of the Workers' University and Unity Centers, and their friends, will take place. Educational committees of the local unions will also be present.

A large number of members have already made reservations and a jolly and happy evening will undoubtedly be spent by them. A committee of students is busy making arrangements; purchasing refreshments, decorating the dining room, and attending to other details. The results will be seen next Saturday, when their efficiency will bear fruit and produce a pleasurable evening. It is hoped that no one will miss the evening.

Mr. Albert Mansbridge of England, who is one of the founders of the Workers' Education Association and now visiting this country, will be one of the speakers at this affair. He will speak on labor education in England. President Schlesinger and Secretary Baroff will also speak, as will Leasing and Stanton. As there will be many malady about the evening and all will mingle in a spirit of comradeship and good fellowship, the evening will be a memorable one in this year's activities of our educational department.

The entire affair will be spontaneous. The main features will be group singing by our members. There will also be a musical program by a well known artist, whose names will be announced next week. The evening will end with social dancing.

Admission will be 25 cents, just enough to defray the necessary expenses. As food is perishable, it will be necessary for those members who received tickets to account for them not later than Wednesday, March 29th. They can do this either at the office of the educational Department, 3 W. 16th St., or on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning at the Workers' University, Washington Irvington High School, Room 602, or they can send reservations and money by mail.

As is the fashion these days, the Association at first presented a set of demands to the union. It asked for longer work-hours, and for the abolition of the legal holidays. The union put forth a set of counter-demands and after several hours of negotiations a satisfactory agreement was reached and signed for the next two years. The workers have won every point, retaining the same work-hours and the same number of legal holidays, in addition to a few minor improvements in the agreement.

Brother Weiss, the Executive Board of Local No. 6, and the membership of the local have every reason to congratulate themselves upon this settlement.

## TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

## WHAT THE LEGISLATURE HAS ACCOMPLISHED

LAST Saturday, March 18, the 145th annual-session of the New York Legislature came to a close. The 780 bills jammed through during the last ten days of the session attest to the fact that our lawmakers at Albany are doing their level best to supply us with plenty of laws. It is quite another matter when the quality and substance of these laws are examined into. They are found to be made up of the shabbiest material, and are animated by motives which are directly traceable to Wall street. In this respect the 1922 Legislature is a perfect copy of its predecessors, and would occasion no surprise or hardly even a comment, had it not been for the way in which it manipulated the housing program.

Samuel Untermyer, counsel to the Lockwood Committee, is in a pretty good position to appraise the work of the Legislature. He said:

"The result is a crushing defeat for all save a few of the many important features of the committee's program. It has been torn to shreds. Our entire body of anti-trust legislation and every part of the legal and administrative machinery that is required to make it effective and that was embodied in the State Trade Commission bill, have been smashed to smithereens, and the people of the State are left as never before at the mercy of the profiteers and of the most powerful and corrupt insurance combination conceivable, and one that is and has been for many years literally robbing the public, backed by a vast lobby that stops at nothing. Nothing is to be gained by humbugging ourselves or the people who do not understand the intricate problems. They are well as well that they have been betrayed and the identity of the men who have done the dirtiest night's work ever put over on them."

The legislators, or, at least those who manipulate the legislators, must have been amused by the searching investigation and elaborate programs of the Lockwood Committee. To them these were a house of cards from the start. This case offers another illustration of the truth that liberals, no matter how intelligent or far-sighted, who believe that our present legislative machinery could be made to function constructively, are bound to come to grief. Little political sagacity was necessary to see that Mr. Untermyer will be disappointed.

Mr. Untermyer soon regained courage and followed up his charge of betrayal by a letter to Governor Miller, urgently requesting him to reconvene the Legislature without delay to consider the defeated proposals and to strengthen the bill for the supervision of all trade combines and insurance companies.

Again a disappointment. As expected, Governor Miller refused point blank to call an extra session. He rebuked Mr. Untermyer for "making reckless charges" against the Legislature, and for alleging "jokers" were inserted by the lobby. The Governor is perfectly satisfied, and the plans for housing reform will for the time being remain unrealized.

Among the numerous other bills that confronted the Legislature the Duell-Miller anti-strike bill, providing for judicial settlement of labor disputes, evoked the strenuous opposition of labor. This bill was finally killed. The labor bills giving the State Insurance Fund exclusive right to write workmen's compensation insurance, the 8-hour day, and minimum wage commission for women and children in industry were also killed.

If the Legislature could be credited with anything it is with what it has not done rather than with what it did.

## MINERS CALLED ON STRIKE

WHAT is regarded as the greatest coal strike in the history of this country is scheduled to begin on April 1. Having failed in their efforts to negotiate a new agreement with the coal operators, the international officers of the United Mine Workers issued an official call for a general strike of 600,000 hard and soft coal miners. For the first time have the anthracite and bituminous miners merged their economic powers in the common struggle against the coal barons.

There is now very little hope that the strike will be averted. The government still professes to follow the "hands off" policy, and while the anthracite coal operators are feebly trying to meet the miners in conference to reach a new agreement, the bituminous operators are openly preparing for war. George H. Conning, of the National Wholesale Coal Association, appealed to the public "to keep its hands off" and let the strike be a fight to a finish.

The conference between the anthracite miners and the operators which began in New York last week still continues its sessions, but even the most sanguine do not believe it will lead to a settlement. However, the matter is now in the hands of a sub-committee. Some of the demands before this committee are as follows:

A 20 per cent increase in the contract wage scale; a \$1 a day increase to all labor paid by the day and the restoration of differentials existing between different classes of employees prior to the 1920 award. An eight-hour day for all employees, those working underground to count their hours from the time they enter the mine until they leave it.

Readjustment of the wage rates is recognized by both operators and miners as fundamental to an agreement. The wages of the miners failed to keep pace with the cost of living. Since 1916 the contract miners have only received an increase of 65 per cent, whereas the living costs have doubled. A wage increase is therefore essential. The coal operators, on the other hand, insist that the very condition for further negotiation is reduction or "deflation" in wages. Out of their solicitude for the welfare of the public the coal barons want to reduce the price of coal by reducing the cost of production, which in turn they propose to do by deflating the wages of the miners. The miners are prepared to prove that there are other ways for a reduction to the consuming public without necessitating a cut in wages. But these will hardly be acceptable to the operators. It is this point of contention that is bound to break up this conference.

The issue in the soft coal industry is more simple and direct. There is

no semblance of any conference or negotiation. The operators are repeatedly declaring that a strike is inevitable, and they appear to be preparing for it. The management and waste with its accompanying evils, the loss of working time and wages, which the miners have to bear are more pronounced in the soft coal industry. According to an investigation made by the United States Geological Survey, the miners have lost 138 days or 4 1/4 months in 1921. They have been losing on the average 3 months a year for the last 30 years. What this short working year means to the miners is obvious. The operators know this to be the case. They know their case has not the faintest excuse outside of their mad rush for ever greater profits. Hence their refusal to meet the miners in conference.

What the rest of the labor movement will do in case of a general strike remains to be seen. Will labor be satisfied by issuing general pronouncements of sympathy? There is a potential capacity of non-unionized bituminous areas of about three and a half million tons a week. There is no doubt that the operators will try to work them. Will the railroad brotherhoods permit the transportation of such coal? And last, but not least, what will the government do to bring "order" in the coal industry? There is no doubt that the "hands off" policy will be replaced by another policy as soon as the strike comes into effect. What will that policy be?

## AN ANGLO-AMERICAN "UNDERSTANDING"

A FEW days ago Senator Borah rudely awakened his fellow-Senators from the usual state of relaxation into which they were drifting. And not only the Senators, but the State Department, and the President himself, followed by our entire press, have entered into a very lively discussion which may lead to the appointment of a special committee, which will hold hearings, make inquiries, and finally try to hush up matters.

What has happened? Senator Borah read a statement made by Paul D. Cravath, a prominent lawyer, to the effect that a "sympathetic understanding" exists between the United States and Great Britain. To ordinary people this would seem a very laudable thing, but not to diplomats. In language of diplomacy this means naval control over the Pacific, a mutual regard for Far East questions, "that in all future emergencies they can both count on having the very closest co-operation." It is true that the Four-Power Treaty provides for an "understanding" between America, England, France and Japan, but it is the tradition of diplomacy to supplement or counteract every treaty by other secret treaties. The charge is that the United States has first signed a peace contract with Japan, and then entered into a secret agreement with Great Britain. Mr. Cravath, who has initiated associations with "persons in authority," learned this bit of interesting information from conversations with "every member of the American delegation to the Armament Conference."

Our government, of course, vigorously denies having any secret agreements with England. The President, Secretary Hughes, the Administration Senators have published long statements to this effect. Mr. Cravath, in true diplomatic fashion, attempts to retract and modify the statement that he had made a month ago by saying that the stenographic report of his address does not properly convey his real thoughts on the subject. That's the best he could do to correct his mistake of sharing his information with the public.

But one wonders how much truth there is in the public denials of diplomats. It is part of the diplomatic technique to deny secret treaties. It is extremely doubtful whether the proposed committee to investigate the charge of a special treaty with England will bring any light. Secret treaties are generally discovered to be true when it is too late to correct their disastrous effects.

## A GENOA LABOR CONFERENCE

EUROPEAN labor is determined to take part in the Genoa Conference which is scheduled to begin April 10. This action was decided upon by the Bureau of the International Federation of Trade Unions at a conference held in Amsterdam on February 3-4.

The labor delegates are, of course, not going to the Genoa Conference proper. They propose to hold a conference of their own coincidentally with the "big show," and keep in touch with every move by the diplomats that may affect the interests of the working masses. They will also make known their own plans and programs for the reconstruction of Europe. They will seek to influence the diplomats to take more radical action in meeting economic and political problems.

Whether the labor conference will in any way affect the diplomats is another question. At the time of the Peace Conference a few years ago the position of labor was impregnable. It looked as if the millennium was here. Diplomats were anxious to consult labor. Labor delegates were on every important committee. Labor was respected and feared. Still the diplomats were able to put over the "peace" that we now have. At the present day the labor movement is in a much weaker position. It has gone through a period of distress, of internal strife, of defeats, out of which it has not as yet recovered. The chances then of its having any effect on the Genoa Conference are practically nil.

But not only will the labor conference be helpless to do anything, the official, governmental conference is doomed to failure. America will not even have "unofficial observers" at the conference. Premier Poincaré is going to stay in Paris, while he will send some second-rate diplomats to sabotage the affair. Lloyd George still professes confidence in the effectiveness of the Genoa plan, but he is a very agile statesman, and it will not take long for him to look upon this plan from the point of view of the American and French governments.

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## The Trade Unions in Hungary Today

By L. S.

Much has been written on the new turn in Hungarian political affairs. In the official newspapers reports have appeared that the Hungarian Government has at last taken steps to adopt a conciliatory attitude to labor. The gist of the matter is that the Hungarian premier, Graf Bethlen, has invited the representatives of the social democratic party and the trade unions to open negotiations.

The reason for this "moderation" has been perfectly obvious to everyone who is acquainted with Hungarian conditions. Attempts have been made for the past two and a half years to suppress the independent labor movement with all and every means. But all in vain. The organized workers have remained loyal to their trade unions. It has now been realized that normal economic conditions cannot be restored without the co-operation of the workers. The trade unions are still a factor which the Hungarian Government has to consider.

The measures made by the workers are as follows:

1.—That the Right of Combination and Assembly be guaranteed to all parties without distinction.

2.—That trade union activity and the right to form trade union branches shall be guaranteed.

3.—That dissolved trade union organizations be allowed to resume activities.

4.—That the confiscated properties and assets of trade union organizations be restored (Furniture, books, houses, meeting places).

5.—That the Workers' Insurance Society shall have its original rights restored.

6.—A General Amnesty for political offenders and fugitives.

7.—Abolition of the Internment System and the repeal of all decrees relating to this form of imprisonment.

8.—Abolition of Police Supervision and the Temporary System of Registration.

9.—Abolition of the Special Courts of Summary Jurisdiction.

10.—Repeal of the (State of War) Emergency Laws.

11.—Withdrawal of the Military Supervision of mines. The miners shall be guaranteed the right to change their shade or occupation.

12.—That the Dictatorship over Wages be withdrawn.

13.—Repeal of the High Cost of Living Law.

14.—The inauguration of a Commercial and Industrial Policy which will render possible the reconstruction of economic life.

The Right of Combination and Assembly have never been recognized by law in Hungary. Even before the outbreak of the World War, the formation and activities of trade unions always depended upon the disposition of the authorities. Any collection of the workers who wished to organize, had first of all to submit their draft rules to the Minister of the Interior. Sometimes the official approval was refused, or else the amendments demanded by the Minister had first of all to be incorporated in the rules. In any case it took a very long time—often a year or even longer—before the decision of the Minister reached the interested parties.

After the collapse of Communism the conditions in Hungary went from bad to worse. The trials of the Budapest workers conducted by the Special Courts of Summary Jurisdiction (almost like courts martial) the formation of which were decided upon by the Friedrich Government in August, 1919. For this purpose special courts were set up. Meanwhile the National Assembly had passed a law relating to the more effective protection of state and social institutions. This law conferred powers which were formerly confined to emergency laws.

The rights of assembly and combination were strictly curtailed and political meetings were absolutely prohibited. Even the trade unions could only hold their conferences and meetings under police supervision.

In these conferences only matters of a strict trade union character could be discussed. The Christian Social and Nationalist Unions, however, were able to hold political meetings and conferences. On the other hand the autonomy of the Workers' Insurance Society was abolished and the General Co-operative Society was

also subjected to severe persecution, because the Christian Social and the so-called "Awakened Hungarians" wanted to get possession of the Society for themselves. This, however, the organized workers managed to prevent.

We will now see what the results of the official negotiations have been.

The labor delegates, of course, pressed the demands of the trade unions as far as possible. But very little has been accomplished. The following promises were given on behalf of the Government.

1.—With regard to the Right of Assembly and Combination: All parties are to be allowed to hold political meetings without distinction. The prohibitions issued by the Government have been already withdrawn. Political meetings in Hungary up to the time of the revolution were subject to the approval of the authorities. The Social Democratic Party may hold meetings in Budapest and district without an official approval; they have the right to hold the police of the place of meeting as these have the right to have a representative in attendance.

2.—The trade unions are required to give notice of their usual meetings as hitherto, but these do not require an official approval any longer. These meetings may be held without the attendance of a police officer.

3.—National trade unions can form local branches, the form of which must be notified to the authorities; if no answer is sent to the application within thirty days the branch can commence its activities.

4.—The Electric Trainwaymen shall retain possession of their organization, money, and meeting place.

5.—The Railways may issue a journal and organizing a trade union as was the case up to the revolution in October, 1918.

6.—The Factory and Workshop Conferences are not subject to an official approval, but may be held like the local meetings of the party organizations; if notice has been given to the authorities who have the right to be represented at such conferences.

7.—The Priests' Trade Union is to have its autonomy restored and the proceedings against the union are to be stopped.

8.—The meeting places, which have been taken away from the trade unions are to be restored; the furniture and money shall be returned to the trade unions so far as can be ascertained in whose hands these are at present. If the original meeting places cannot be returned, other meeting places will be allocated to the unions.

9.—The military supervision of the miners shall be withdrawn and their freedom to accept engagement with

also in favor of the open shop, and do not forget that the open shop of the capitalist means the closed mouth of labor and the dead union of the working class!

To each and every local union, and to every organized body of workers I appeal most earnestly for the adoption of the resolution herewith attached, demanding of your Senators and Representatives in Congress, that they give their support to the Borah resolution and insist upon its immediate passage. I beg of you to take this action, as I would in your behalf if you were in prison and your family without food, clothing and shoes in mid-winter, because you had loyally stood up for your class.

I entreat you to take this action at once, as a matter of duty to yourselves and to vindicate your own self-respect. It is a part and a very vital

part of the struggle now being waged by the Wall street special interests, the trusts and combines of capital, to crush labor and destroy the labor movement.

Have your Secretary send a certified copy of the resolutions to your Senators and Representatives at Washington and insist upon an answer to your demand. They will soon be reading your votes and telling you that they are your servants. Put them to the test at once, and if they are not deceiving you, they will comply with your demand and the Borah resolution will pass and the conspiracy to keep innocent men in prison upon the pretense that they are criminals will be uncovered and exposed, and the capitalist "black-holes" will be compelled to give up their victims.

10.—Courts of Summary Jurisdiction are to be abolished. (The decree to this effect has already appeared.) Legal proceedings now pending are to be concluded by these courts. New trials are already being conducted in accordance with the ordinary criminal code.

11.—Emergency Decrees are to be revised and gradually abolished.

12.—The Amnesty for persons sentenced up to 6 years imprisonment is to be general in application. Persons sentenced from 5 to 10 years imprisonment can be included in the amnesty after the merits of the individual cases have been duly considered.

This decree applies to fugitives as well as to incarcerated persons, convicted persons, or those persons against whom judicial proceedings are pending, and to persons who are to be released but the institutions are only to be abolished gradually. Persons who are acting as hostages for any organization or party are to be set at liberty.

13.—The abolition of police supervision and compulsory registration shall also be gradually accomplished.

14.—Pending adjustments of wages, the Government will endeavor to act as mediators with the object of concluding collective agreements. If such action is not successful the Government will promote courts of arbitration by legislation in accordance with the precedents established in other countries.

15.—The Government will extend the present restrictions against the sale of intoxicating liquors.

16.—The Government will take the necessary steps to combat the advance in the cost of living.

Such are the promises by the Hungarian Government to the workers.

Certainly they do not amount to much, but considering the previous condition of affairs, they can be regarded as slight progress. The workers of Hungary are not yet strong enough to effect better results. It is a fact that during the past few weeks the trade unions have enjoyed some what greater liberty of action; and it is also a fact that up to the time of writing, 1,104 of our comrades have been released from prison.

The workers, on the other hand, have not pledged themselves to anything whatever. They declare that upon the extension of public liberty will depend the sympathy of foreign countries with Hungary. Hungarian trade unions regard the promises now made as a step towards freedom. They feel, however, that it will be a severe struggle before the trade unions succeed in gaining the unrestricted right to organize.

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## An Appeal by Debs for the Political Prisoners

Terre Haute, Ind., March 4, 1922.  
To All Labor Unions and Organized Workers:

Dear Brothers and Comrades: I am making this appeal to you in behalf of the political prisoners. These men are held simply because of their activities in the labor movement, and for no other reason. Any other pretense is simply a lie. All other countries have long since released their political prisoners. The United States government, to its lasting shame, is the one exception that keeps men caged as felons for the expression of their opinions. These men, brothers of ours, committed no overt act, no crime of any kind. The court records will prove this. The infamous Espionage law under which these men were convicted has long since been repealed, and there is not the slightest excuse to longer hold them in prison.

The simple facts is that the treason for which these men were convicted was their loyalty to the working class. They were imprisoned in a time of war, when the workers are turned into butchers and set to slaughtering one another for the profit and power and glory of their masters, is always treason in the eyes of such masters.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, be it said

to his credit, introduced a resolution in the United States Senate on January 25, directing the Attorney-General to submit to the Senate all available information relative to the cases of persons convicted under the notorious Espionage Act. This resolution is most timely, and the organized workers of the nation must bring all possible power to bear to force its passage.

Think of these innocent union men, these working-class brethren of ours being suffered to remain buried alive in the steel walls of American prison halls, and then talk about this being "The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave!" The very thought brings the deep blush of shame to the cheek of every decent American.

These men must be gotten out of prison to the last one of them. As long as one remains we are all in disgrace, and our country stands impugned before the civilized world.

Let it be borne in mind that every solitary prisoner, and every politician and every stool pigeon of the profiteer, whose loot and swag are wrung from high prices and low wages, every solitary one hundred per cent specimen who wants to keep the political prisoners where they are, is

also in favor of the open shop, and do not forget that the open shop of the capitalist means the closed mouth of labor and the dead union of the working class!

To each and every local union, and to every organized body of workers I appeal most earnestly for the adoption of the resolution herewith attached, demanding of your Senators and Representatives in Congress, that they give their support to the Borah resolution and insist upon its immediate passage. I beg of you to take this action, as I would in your behalf if you were in prison and your family without food, clothing and shoes in mid-winter, because you had loyally stood up for your class.

I entreat you to take this action at once, as a matter of duty to yourselves and to vindicate your own self-respect. It is a part and a very vital

part of the struggle now being waged by the Wall street special interests, the trusts and combines of capital, to crush labor and destroy the labor movement.

Have your Secretary send a certified copy of the resolutions to your Senators and Representatives at Washington and insist upon an answer to your demand. They will soon be reading your votes and telling you that they are your servants. Put them to the test at once, and if they are not deceiving you, they will comply with your demand and the Borah resolution will pass and the conspiracy to keep innocent men in prison upon the pretense that they are criminals will be uncovered and exposed, and the capitalist "black-holes" will be compelled to give up their victims.

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Vol. IV, No. 13

1922

Friday, March 24, 1922

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1906, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1102, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1920.

# Mobilizing the Coal Miners' Army

By J. CHARLES LAUE

In a certain room on the eighth floor of the Hotel Continental, this week, John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers of America, put his name to an order that will call out 600,000 hard and soft coal miners on April 1. New York will again be the center of a great strike, for the miners' headquarters, temporarily, at least, will be located here instead of Indianapolis. The strike will involve the largest body of men that has ever been called out on strike in the history of this country. The nearest approach to a similar mass action was the steel strike of 1919, when by a gigantic effort of twenty-four co-operating international unions of the American Federation of Labor, some 300,000 steel and iron workers were called in another basic industry, only to be crushed by the superior force of the Steel Trust and its allies.

How this test of strength will end depends upon a number of factors, none of which can be weighed with certainty in advance. In addition to the strategy of the miners' leaders, and the unquestioned militancy and fighting spirit of this largest labor union in America, the attitude of the Federal Government, the possibility of restrictive local action, the power both political and military of various

state governments that may be thrown into the conflict, the co-operation of other labor unions, and finally the force of public opinion, must be considered before the outcome can be gauged. Up to the present writing public sentiment has been with the miners, but the power of the employers' press is great. The devices are many for throwing dust into the eyes of the consumers of coal.

The miners will have their easiest task in the hard coal fields of Eastern Pennsylvania, where the 200,000 men falling in this classification of the industry are concentrated within 480 square miles, and have control of the situation. Twenty years ago, in Theodore Roosevelt's days, the anthracite fields were tied up by a strike that left little to be desired in the way of class consciousness or solidarity. The local communities are solidly with them, and the various town, city and even state administrations are inclined to be neutral, for since 1902 the union has gained immeasurably in strength.

There is a strong possibility also that before many days are lost in the general suspension of work the anthracite miners will have come to some agreement with the operators whereby work will be resumed after a shutdown of possibly two months. It is in the agency of 405,000 in the soft coal or lignite fields that will be

called upon to withstand the pressure of hunger, injunctions, violence and internal dissension to win out in the great struggle which for them means the retaining of a living wage, while they daily with death in order to dig the fuel which keeps mills, factories and railroads running.

In Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, as well as in Colorado, Tennessee and Alabama, over one-sixth of the total area of the United States, this momentous battle will be fought with machine guns, tanks and bayonets, deadly implements of the great war which the mine owners will use to beat down the rugged miners. For this is a battle to the death with the operators, led by the Steel Trust interests determined to crush the union.

But, while the contest between the union and the coal operators concerns these direct participants most vitally, it is the public in its largest sense and the ability of the government to protect its citizens and the welfare of future generations that must eventually interfere, despite the obvious reluctance of the Harding administration to check the "open shop" interests while the time is ripe for their onslaught upon organized labor in the most essential American industry. It must interfere on behalf of the Union, for the United Mine Workers of America is the only stabilizing and constructive force in the industry. Prior to the first interstate agreement in 1898 conditions in the industry were chaotic. Belatedly competition in the face of an excess supply of coal had eliminated profits and reduced

wages to a starvation level. Now wages are on a decent level, but the great waste of the nation's mineral wealth goes on.

In the last thirty years the mines have actually worked on the average of 215 days a year, and have lost 35 days, or 50 per cent of the potential time in enforced idleness. That is why the daily average wage of the miners totals only about \$5,000 to \$15,000 for the year.

The consumer of coal pays for the whole expensive business. He pays both labor and capital for the 93 idle days as well as the 215 working days, a waste, considering the folly of opening too many mines, duplicating machinery and lost motion of at least \$500,000,000 a year. The power lost is calculated by experts to be as great as to mobilize the entire military and naval forces of the country from April 6, 1917, to November 15, 1919, the day of the Armistice.

It is for this reason that the miners adopted the so-called "un-American" and Socialist demands of a 5-hour day and 6-day week at the Cleveland Convention, and have reiterated now, for the weekly reports of the coal operators show that the average working time is about 30 hours a week.

Either this reform must go through or else the federal power must intervene and close some mines permanently and operate the others at full speed to stop the great waste. In any case it is the Union that is demanding the reform and the workers who, with bayonets at their breast, must attempt to accomplish it in the gigantic struggle which impends.

# The International Federation of Trade Unions Appeals for Russia

Comrades, the reports coming from the famine area of Russia in the past few weeks surpass all previous accounts of the misery prevailing there. For the first time the extent of the catastrophe can be stated in detail; its devastating effect is extending and cannot be held in check. The relief movements instituted and now being extended by European and American organizations in the famine-stricken area do not embrace even one-half of the population who are now on the brink of death through starvation.

Ten million adults and children will be beyond rescue and left exposed to the horrors of starvation and certain death as a result of the tormenting privation of the past six months, unless all European states immediately agree to give every possible help before the coming of spring renders the highways of Russia impassable.

Grotesque reports have come to hand from Busuluk in Samara. Men and women have devoured cats, dogs, and other food not fit for human consumption. Even human corpses have been stolen in the dead of night from the mortuaries in order that the pangs of hunger might be appeased. Civilization must not allow despair to delude the suffering, and to turn whole provinces into a desert waste.

Comrades, the first consignment of 1,200 tons of food and clothing, purchased with your money for the destitute of Russia, has arrived in Moscow, and is now being forwarded to the Chuvash district for distribution.

In this district a wide scattered population, consisting chiefly of peasants, is being put an existence. Only small towns are in this district. which

are mostly situated on the Moscow-Casan Railway. The work of relief will be organized from the places on this line.

The supply of food and the public health conditions in the Chuvash district are simply fearful. The rye harvest last year only yielded one-seventh of the normal quantity. The stock of cattle is now only one-third of the usual total, and even for this scanty number there is a dearth of fodder.

With the exception of the Soviet Government, which has undertaken the care of 9,000 children, no relief work has been carried out in this district up to the present.

Mortality is far in excess of the birth rate, for the simple reason that the population has had no nutritive food for many months. The physical condition of all, almost without exception, particularly of the children, makes a horrible impression. The population is living on bread made largely from clay, roots and acorns; and there is even a scarcity of these wretched substitutes in some places.

Once this bread is consumed there is nothing more for the people to live on other than the straw from the roofs and the bark from the trees. Death is of daily occurrence in the villages. Men, women and children are dying of hunger and general physical weakness.

The hospitals are without the necessary equipment and supplies. Bed linen and bandage materials are no longer available, the latter have been partly unobtainable since 1914. The supply of medicines and disinfectants is in the same precarious state. A great typhus epidemic is expected this spring. Many women and children are suffering from incurable gastric diseases caused by the repulsive food substitutes. This disease has alone

claimed a death toll of 2,000 persons in the Chuvash district since the beginning of the famine. Besides, a very infectious disease of the eye is now raging, which is said to have already affected 60 per cent of the population. At one hospital in Chuvash, the largest town in the Chuvash district, 90 per cent of the newly-born babies have already met their doom. Statistics comparable in the report of Chief Commissioner O'Grady, who has personally traveled through the district.

It goes without saying that hunger is particularly rampant among the children. No less than 108,000 children are exposed to absolute privation. The International Federation of Trade Unions can only help 40,000 at present. But this is not enough. The other 70,000 children are helplessly exposed to the further horrors of famine. Their sufferings are indescribable. It has happened that mothers have strangled their children sooner than passively stand by whilst their young ones starve. In great must be the distress if these unfortunate people are driven to such acts of desperation!

The limitation of the relief movement to a given area and the restriction of the number of persons, however, will be a bitter necessity so long as the workers of Europe fail to place still greater sums of money at the disposal of the International Federation of Trade Unions. Even these limited relief measures can only pro-

duce a real alleviation of the distress in Russia if the spirit of sacrifice and proletarian solidarity shown by the European working class in the past few months are thrust into the shade by additional proofs of loyalty to the cause of brotherhood.

At the very time when the food distributing centers of the International Federation of Trade Unions are being opened at Chikran; at the very time when food depots, kitchens and mess rooms have been opened in the other towns of this territory, it is incumbent upon the International Proletariat to make sure that their brothers in distress obtain regular and adequate supplies in order that their suffering children may be cared for and restored to health.

Comrades, who may think this despairing population look to, unless it is to you? They are exclusively dependent on your help. Return the confidence shown in you by the people who are menaced by the most terrible misery! One hundred and eight thousand children are entrusted to your care! Help them with every available mite! Support the Relief Movement of the International Federation of Trade Unions! Save the Russian children!

On behalf of the International Federation of Trade Unions.

J. H. THOMAS, Acting Pres.  
L. JOUHAUX, First Vice-P.  
C. MERTENS, Second V.-P.  
E. FIMMEN, Secretary.  
J. OUDEGEEST, Secretary.

## Wisdom of the Poor Fish

By ART YOUNG

The Poor Fish says he deploras striking because it is out of keeping with the dignity of labor.



# Labor at Albany on March 1

By LOUIS LANGER

It was a cold and slippery morning when the representatives of labor marched up to the capitol in Albany to protest against the anti-labor bills prohibiting strikes and slaming at compulsory arbitration.

James J. Holland, the President of the State Federation of Labor; William F. Keboe, the Secretary of the New York Central Trades and Labor Council; and Thomas J. Curtis, Vice-President of the State Federation of Labor, were in the front ranks of the great mass of delegates. Every one of the delegates in the line of march seemed to have grasped fully the importance and significance of this pilgrimage to the legislative hall. Ironical remarks would occasionally be heard among the marchers in the direction of the Albany legislators who had had the temerity to present these labor-baiting bills at the request of the bosses.

At 10 o'clock in the morning the addresses of labor representatives were opened by President Holland. Contrary to what one may have expected, the atmosphere in the hall was far from depressed. Quite the opposite; the delegates felt in a sort of festive mood. They came to the meeting strong in the consciousness of their right and the invincibility of their cause, and did not feel at all downcast.

The speech of President Holland has surprised me, indeed. It was certainly a sign of the times, and to have heard Brother Holland pronounce in unswerving terms the legislators of Al-

bany and saying that he "does not agree any longer with the policy of the American Federation of Labor," and believes that "Union men should have their own party and use their political power for their own purposes," was a pleasant revelation.

President Gompers did not take part in the demonstration, as he was busy preparing his arguments against the bills. After lunch the hearing took place in the crowded Assembly chamber, which was packed to the doors not only with delegates, but with a great number of guests from all ends of the State, who came to listen to what the "old chief" of the American labor movement had to say upon such a historic occasion.

Gompers surpassed himself in his talk on that afternoon. It was a very instructive and revolutionary speech which he delivered to the members of the Assembly and the delegates and visitors present. Among other things he said: "United organized labor will not obey this law, just as the American people do not obey a certain federal law, and this reference to the eighteenth amendment provoked an outburst of laughter. On the whole, President Gompers' speech had made a deep impression upon every one present in the Assembly Chamber. In a trenchant voice he reminded the committee of certain pages in American history! "Every bit of progress made by mankind," he said, "was not achieved without bloodshed. America was not freed from the rule of the British without

bloodshed. The negroes were not liberated from slavery until the American people had shed their blood for them." These remarks provoked an outburst of applause. The Assemblymen and the Senators who were sitting with the committee, obviously did not feel any too happy, and displayed nervousness every time the visitors and the delegates would burst into applause at the remarks of the old President of the Federation. Some of these legislators come from districts thickly populated by workers and they know that they will have to give an accounting to their voters next fall. Indeed, they were so excited in a measure. Here they sat between two fires; on the one hand the servitors of the Board of Trade and Transportation, consisting of big employers, and, on the other hand, Samuel Gompers, the President of the American Federation of Labor, with almost a thousand delegates surrounding him.

Beside President Gompers, Mr. Fitzsimmons, the legal advisor of the four Railroad Brotherhoods in New York State, spoke also. He delivered a very strong speech, warning the servitors of the Board of Trade and Transportation, consisting of big employers, and, on the other hand, Samuel Gompers, the President of the American Federation of Labor, with almost a thousand delegates surrounding him.

The other side also had its say. The representatives of the Board of Trade and Transportation brought with them bagfuls of statistics to show what losses the public had had from such "industrial upheavals" as

the last milk strike, and stigmatized strikes in general as a "public danger." None of them, however, would give an answer to the question: What can a worker do when he demands better terms of employment and his employer refuses to concede these?

Our International was strongly represented at this conference. Almost all of our New York locals were there, and they were very much satisfied for having gone to Albany and having met the organized labor movement of this State face to face so strongly and vigorously represented.

By the way, it would be the right thing for our locals to join the State Federation of Labor. We mentioned this on more than one occasion. It is in place to state that a heavy, healthy wind is blowing now within the precincts of the State organization. The Federation is now thinking of a workers' political party and of other true progressive and radical measures. It is high time that we join the State Federation and help them make headway.

The news that the Committee on Industries of the Legislature had killed the anti-labor bills is, of course, very gladdening. This does not, however, mean that the labor movement of the State of New York can now go back to sleep. The Assembly killed these bills because there is an election for Governor this coming fall. We fear, however, that these bills will again come to life; they are part and parcel of the "open shop" movement, and are advocated by those inveterate opponents of labor who are behind that movement. The leaders of the State Federation of Labor understand this game thoroughly, and are watching it very keenly.

# How the Philadelphia Waist Makers Ended Their Strike

By H. BERNSTEIN

On February 27 the Strike Committee held a special meeting at the Hotel Continental with Brothers Schlesinger and Baroff present. Manager Reisberg, of our local, acted as Chairman.

We gathered to consider the history of the strike stage by stage, and our plans for the future. Brother Reisberg talked at length about the wonderful work performed by each of the sub-committees and the efforts of the Strike Committee as a whole to make things as comfortable for the strikers as was possible under the circumstances. It required herculean efforts on the part of the committee to carry through its huge task, particularly when one remembers that this was the first general strike the waist and dressmakers of Philadelphia had had in many years.

But above all, the strikers themselves deserve the admiration of the world. Think of it! Twenty-six weeks of fighting, twenty-six weeks of suffering without being able to obtain the first necessities of comfort and living, and yet clinging to the Union to the very last! Consider further that this strike took place after a long period of slackness, and that for 90 per cent of the workers this was the first strike that they had ever experienced. There were moments in that strike so beautiful and so stirring that made us forget our suffering and tribulations. One of these moments was during the week of the drive for the war sufferers of Europe when the strikers had given up part of their small strike benefits for the less fortunate famine sufferers of Russia. The manufacturers, on the other hand, stopped at nothing to break our ranks and to create dissension among the workers.

All their efforts, however, were in vain. We had no deserters.

Nevertheless, we were compelled to recall the strike. Brother Schlesinger and Brother Baroff declared at the meeting that they were fully acquainted with the self-sacrificing spirit of the strikers and the wonderful fight which they had conducted. The strike has cost the International over a quarter of a million dollars, and yet the International is ready to help the local financially and morally until the Philadelphia waist and dressmakers will gain their right to live like human beings and to be treated like organized workers.

The Strike Committee expressed to Brothers Schlesinger and Baroff, and through them, to all the members of the General Executive Board, their feeling of appreciation and gratitude for all that had been done for them by the International. They pledged to conduct the fight for the maintenance of the Union in the same unyielding spirit which they had displayed until now. It was decided to call a mass meeting on February 28 at the

Philadelphia Labor Lyceum, where the strike would be officially brought to an end.

## THE HISTORIC MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28

Our organization was always considered as one of the best units in the International. Nevertheless, our Union has never experienced any earnest fight with the employers. Its remarkable courage during this half-year fight, with its hundreds of arrests and innumerable cases of persecution and oppression, is, therefore, even more to be admired.

Many of our strikers have spent their "vacations" in hospitals beaten up by the hired gangster's blackjack, and, not infrequently, the policeman's club. The injunction plague, too, prevented picketing, except at the rate of three persons at each building, and, notwithstanding all this, our strikers have held out for fully twenty-six weeks. And when the time came to retreat they went back in perfect order as becomes an organized army which is fully aware of its purpose and aim.

On February 28 the strikers in the waist and dress industry in Philadelphia got together at a final meeting. Brother Reisberg, our leader and manager, had a message, far from pleasing, to deliver to the workers. He acted, nevertheless, like a brave

General who sees that no other way save retreat is possible under the circumstances, and the strikers again displayed a remarkable spirit at that meeting. "We shall go back to work," they said, "but we have not lost the fight yet. We have a Union and as soon as we get a breathing spell we shall take up the battle again and win our just demands. No matter how hard they tried, our employers could not break our ranks, and they are not able to break our Union!" Such was the sentiment and the decision of that unforgettable meeting. The same spirit prevailed at a meeting of Shop Chairmen shortly thereafter, and the meeting of the Cutters' branch on Saturday, March 4.

As you see, we have only decided for a truce, to get together our forces for a new conflict, and we shall not rest until we have gained our objective.

On Friday, March 3, the first regular meeting of the Executive Committee of our Union took place, with Sister Elizabeth Rudolph in the chair.

The Strike Committee officially turned over its authority to the Executive Committee of the local. A vote of thanks was given by the Executive Committee to Sister Ida Rosenfeld, the Chairlady of the Entertainment Committee during the strike.

UN ORGANIZED STRIKE ORGANIZED  
BRAIN WORKER MANUAL WORKER



Manual Worker to Brain Worker: "Bo, you may have more brains than I've got, but you don't know how to use them."

Drawn by ART YOUNG

# JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Office, 3 New York Street, New York 10, N. Y. Tel.: Chelsea 2140.

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Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year

Vol. IV, No. 13

Friday, March 24, 1932

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1928, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1911.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1919.

## EDITORIALS

### ARE HOOVER AND DAVIS FOR THE PUBLIC OR FOR THE CLOAK MANUFACTURERS?

The above question, we are sure, will cause displeasure in Washington. The Secretaries of Commerce and Labor are presumed to be beyond suspicion. Isn't it their sacred and paramount duty to care for the interests of the public whom they primarily represent? Isn't it their obligation to be perfectly impartial in a controversy between capital and labor? And haven't they themselves attested this impartiality in their last communication to President Schlesinger, stating that—

"Our intervention was inspired with a belief that a commission such as we proposed might lay a foundation for better relations, and thus might serve the public, the workers and the employers."

Nevertheless, we cannot help putting this question. Frankly, the facts, the hard realities with which we are confronted, make us doubt in the candor of the Secretaries' motives. The Washington gentlemen, in their last letter to the Union, are casting suspicion upon the good motives of our organization. Our International and its President are being reproached for provoking a "tormentous" correspondence, for "delaying the settlement in the list of the Commissioners," and for "limiting the scope of the investigation." In brief, the letter of Secretaries Hoover and Davis hints that it is the Union that attempts to evade the disputes.

This is flatly contradictory to the true situation. We need only recite the facts pertaining to this investigation to be able to prove conclusively that this suspicion which the Secretaries would cast upon our International and its President is totally unfounded.

Let us, first of all, again remind the readers that as far back as two years ago, our International had adopted a resolution, at its Chicago Convention, calling upon the Government in Washington to make an investigation of the cloak industry to disclose before the whole world the true profiteers in the garment industry and the causes responsible for the high cost of cloaks. The Government has totally ignored this request of our convention. It is true that the present Washington Administration was not in the saddle at that time; Messrs. Hoover and Davis had at that time, perhaps, not even dreamed of becoming Cabinet officers, and we do not, of course, intend to reproach them for the omissions of their predecessors. We are only registering this fact in order to make it known that our International had demanded a thoroughgoing investigation of the ladies' garment industry as long as two years ago. In the light of this fact it would be quite superfluous on our part to offer any additional evidence that we are not guilty of any desire to sidetrack this investigation or that we have no fear of it.

The purity of our motives is further accentuated by the fact that President Schlesinger, on behalf of our International, has not hesitated for one moment to give his consent to the proposed investigation, even though he had the right to do so had he wanted. The truth is that our International has treated this proposal for an investigation with a great amount of earnestness. Had our Union regarded the proposed inquiry lightly, as a mere subterfuge to offer the public, perhaps, spared itself all this "tormentous" correspondence with the Secretaries. Instead, it would have sent in a list containing a half dozen names picked at random—as our employers have done—and the investigation would have started on its way—to accomplish as much and meet the same fate as other investigations of a similar nature have met in the past.

Our International, however, did not desire this kind of an investigation. It took the proposal very, very earnestly, and it would not pick its Commissioners in haphazard fashion. It felt its duty to look for the best-fitted and ablest men for the task. This took time; or does not Secretary Davis really think that it is just as easy to get men who could make an exhaustive investigation of a great industry as it is, for instance, to fill a political berth?

This charge of a "tormentous" correspondence, instead of being a reproach, is, to our way of thinking, rather a credit to our President. Had the Secretaries made definite the character of the investigation in their first letter the voluninous correspondence of President Schlesinger would not have been necessary. They, however, were vague and indefinite, and it devolved upon President Schlesinger to get a clear and unmistakable definition of the proposed plan and its scope. Did the Secretaries, indeed, expect him to accept blindly their first ambiguous proposal?

The weirdest charge of all, however, is the one referring to the "limitation of the scope of the industry." As is generally

well known by this time, our Union had insisted on a most thorough and all-embracing investigation of the entire cloak industry, from the manufacturer of raw materials to the retailers of cloaks. President Schlesinger has worked hard for such an investigation, and it seems preposterous that he should be charged with "limiting the scope of the investigation." This charge would, of course, be just if applied to our employers, who never wanted an investigation, and who have constantly looked for a subterfuge to avoid it, but it is absolutely irrelevant with regard to our International.

Secretaries Hoover and Davis would have hit the nail on the head, indeed, had they directed their charges at the address of our employers. When they, however, direct them at the Union, thinking persons are justified in asking the question: Are the Secretaries of Commerce and of Labor on the side of the public, or are they for the cloak employers?

### THE MEETING OF THE CLOAK SHOP CHAIRMEN

The meeting of the cloak shop chairmen of last Saturday afternoon was a remarkable and imposing gathering. The great hall was crowded to capacity with thousands of chairmen and the spirit of the meeting was excellent. As one watched the undivided attention which the audience gave to every word of the speakers who had stated to them in clear language the possibilities of another conflict next June; as one listened to the fiery response of the chairmen when this emergency was under discussion—one could not but feel the conviction that if our cloak employers have really decided to come back in June with their Atlantic City demands, they have in store for themselves a fight in comparison with which all the previous conflicts in the cloak industry will appear like child's play.

There was danger that our workers, who have just recently emerged victors from a contest with their employers, might regard the possibility of another conflict in the near future as remote and doubtful. Last Saturday's meeting in Cooper Union completely dispelling this menace. This was the principal object of the meeting.

That such a danger actually existed is evidenced by the fact that the new Million Dollar Reserve Fund is still far from complete, which in itself is an index of the state of mind of some of our members. It is further supported by the swing and play of petty politics in the various cloak locals and the disproportionate amount of time, room and attention given to these factional wranglings and disputes. The feeling that the bosses will not dare tackle the Union for a long time to come has been, we are sure, to a great extent responsible for this tardiness to come forth with the tax for the Reserve Fund and for the tendency to play politics to the limit within the cloak locals.

The meeting, however, proved that there is no justification for this feeling of over-confidence and security. It pointed with undeniable facts to the reality of the existing danger, and, it appears to us, that by this time there is not a thinking person within the ranks of the Cloakmakers of New York who does not believe that there is hardly a chance in a hundred for peace in the cloak industry after June first.

The meeting also made clear to all assembled chairmen that there is hardly any likelihood of anything coming out of the planned Federal investigation of the cloak industry. Such an investigation if started would, perhaps, be able to avert, for a time at least, the fight between the Union and the manufacturers. After it had completed its labors, its findings might have served as a basis for negotiations between the Union and the Manufacturers' Association. The present hopeless status of the proposed investigation—for which the employers alone are responsible—practically removes every prospect for peace in the industry.

It is similarly clear that if the bosses did not intend to try luck again in another conflict with the workers, they would have thought of negotiations with the Union now, while there is still time and, perhaps, the possibility of coming to an understanding upon various questions. Their failure in this direction is ample proof that they are pursuing warlike plans. Under such circumstances it would be unthinkable for any reasoning cloakmaker to hulk himself into a dream of a possible peaceful set-together between the Union and the Manufacturers' Association.

This was the aim of the great shop-chairmen meeting and this it had fully carried out. We are sure that within the next few weeks the Million Dollar Reserve Fund will be an accomplished fact. The shop chairmen now understand the full menace of the situation. They will make it clear to their fellow workers in the shops, and once this is done, there will be no longer any necessity for extraordinary efforts for the raising of the Fund. The cloakmakers will give up their last penny to make certain the outcome of the coming fight.

The gravity of the hour will also have its effect on the puerile playings of petty politics within the Union. The cloakmakers will not permit anyone, no matter under what cloak it is done, to weaken the fighting power of their organization at present. They will guard with even greater jealousy the honor and the fair name of their Union and will treat as an enemy to the organization and a friend of the bosses anyone who attempts to besmirch the Union and impair its great moral strength.

Every cloakmaker is fully aware of the fact that the strength of our Union lies not only in its material force but in its moral and spiritual force as well. And whoever casts aspersions and vilifies its good name—whether for petty party interests or for personal gain—is an enemy and a detractor of our organization.

We hope that the shop-chairmen's meeting at Cooper Union has accomplished this purpose. And once this is done, then come what may: The Union will be ready, and as always, will come out victor of every encounter.

## Miscellanies from Chicago

By H. SCHOOLMAN

I should have written to you quite an elaborate report upon all that transpired at that would-be important "Conference for United Political Action" of all the labor, radical and progressive organizations of the country which took place in Chicago last month. But as you only too well know I am not a journalist, and, were I one, I should have had very little to write about. With the exception of a few very nice and interesting speeches, there was really nothing done at that conference. Speeches were made by speakers of every hue, shade and color: farmers, labor leaders, ministers, and just progressives. At some moments it did appear as if all the delegates were united upon a certain point, but when the time came for action they had respectfully put it off until next December, when another similar conference is to be called. And here it ended.

While we were in Chicago we succeeded in a splendid way to repel every attack made upon us by the employers, we have not as yet made even the slightest progress with the so-called "co-operation" shops. We

must admit, with deep regret, that this pestilence has spread and taken root on a great scale. While we were busy with our strike, these "workers" have opened up little nests in every distant nook and corner of the town, and have manufactured cloaks under most shameful conditions. Unfortunately, we have had little work in Chicago during the past four or five seasons, and many cloakmakers have been forced to seek employment in these pest-holes. Of course, our Union could not remain indifferent to this situation. We have discussed this question for a long time, at Executive Board meetings and at the Joint Board. Some plans have already been adopted, and are being applied without success. We are, however, very much desirous to act in this matter, and our membership with this special situation, as we feel that we cannot carry out our program successfully unless we obtain the fullest co-operation of every man and woman in our cloak industry.

The slack conditions in the cloak and dress trade in Chicago are getting from bad to worse. One season is worse than the other, and only

heaven knows what all this may lead to. The Chicago cloak and dress-makers have already forgotten what a good season looks like. It is hard to state wherein the root of this evil lies. Some attribute it to the general conditions in the country, others believe that it is the fault of the "co-operation" shops, which have been multiplying at an alarming rate of late. Whatever the true cause of this awful depression, the fact remains that scores of our workers are suffering from want. It devolves, therefore, upon us to see to it that our unemployed members are relieved. Our cloak locals are at present discussing a plan to help them, and we expect to maintain tangible results from this discussion.

When everybody worked forty-four hours a week and they worked forty-eight they kept silent; while, when no one even thought of reducing wages, they were reduced 10 per cent, they did not say a word; they had even swallowed down the fact that their firm never officially recognized the Union. But when it reached the point that the Superintendent assaulted with his fists the representative of the Union who had come to him to complain of this just grievance, the workers could not stand it any longer. Like one person the men and women employed in the plant of the Chicago Rubber Company, located

in Racine, the second biggest city in Wisconsin, walked out on strike. Brother Frank Fodor is the business agent and the soul of Local 112, of Racine, Wis. After he was beaten up by the Superintendent, he brought an action against the latter for assault, but a jury of his peers declared the Superintendent not guilty. However, about one hundred persons have been on strike for months now, and have no intentions of going back to work until they win. Vice-President Sigman and myself were there a few weeks ago and our conclusion is that the strike will not last very long. The workers are too firm and determined, and the company cannot hope to hold out much longer.

We wanted to give ourselves a chance to find out whether our judgment concerning what is right and what is wrong is correct, so we asked the General Executive Board to "donate" to us Vice-President Sigman for a short time. We wanted him as an experienced leader who might help us to go on with our work at this difficult period. We are already in a position to say that the presence of Vice-President Sigman has been a great help to us in every way and manner.

We only regret that the convention is approaching and he will not be able to stay with us as long as we wanted him to.

## Shop-Chairmen Meeting Spurs Defense Fund Drive

(Continued from Page 1.)

instant which, in my opinion, is entirely unswayed.

Ever since the plan for the creation of a commission to investigate the cloak industry of New York was received, the attitude of our Union to the proposed Commission has been frank, honest and consistent. If the proposal emanating from the two Departments of the Government represented by you "has resulted in a tortuous correspondence," and if the nominations of the Union have been delayed, it was due partly to the attitude of the Manufacturers' Association and partly to your own failure to formulate clearly the scope and object of the inquiry and the composition and functions of the proposed Commission.

We welcomed the investigation primarily because we saw in it an effort to reduce the cost of garments and to increase production and employment. We recognized that a proper investigation of the industry must be complete and unbiased, but we insisted that it is infinitely more important to investigate the startling profits of the mills than the cost of the garments. We admit a net profit excess of \$9,000,000 for the last business year, then the labor cost, which represents only a small part of, the retail price of the garment. This position we have stated with unmistakable clarity in all of our preceding letters.

As to the employers, we had good reason to suspect that they were not altogether frank about the true object of the investigation, but we insisted on investigation. We believed and still believe that the Manufacturers' Association is but little concerned about the basic economic problem of the industry worked in the seasonal character of the work, the part played by numerous middlemen, the element of profiteering, as well as other important factors which go to make up the high cost of garments. To the Manufacturers' Association the proposed Federal investigation seemed to have for its main object to

force the workers by indirection to surrender the most essential standards of work and life as they practically admit in their last letter to you. In the fact of this attitude, we have always made it clear that the cloak workers of New York would, under no circumstances become a party to any proceeding which would compromise a return to work in any guise or a revival of the practice of arbitrary discharges, because they are convinced that these features would eventually bring back the "swat-shop" with all of its horrors.

You, gentlemen, seemed to have accepted our position, assuring us, as late as January 25th, that the proposed investigation would be "thorough and sweeping to include the whole industry from the production of the raw material to the sale of the finished product at retail, with every intervening manufacturing process."

Of how many members will the Commission be composed?

2. Is the Union given the absolute right to select its own representatives on the Committee, or are we merely asked to submit a list of names for your consideration, upon the understanding that our nominees may be approved or rejected?

To these questions we never received a direct answer, but Mr. Secretary Davis in a personal interview with me stated in substance that we may submit any number of names proposed by our members, who are connected with the industry, and, under date of January 27th, 1922, he wrote to me: "If you choose to prefer the names and want them in the order of your preference, Secretary Hoover and I will, of course, be guided by that order of preference in our choice."

Under these circumstances, the General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was, it seems to me, fully justified to act as it did, i. e., make nominations in the order of our preference and upon a reiteration of our understanding as to the scope and limitations of the proposed inquiry.

I beg to remind you that the participation of our Union in the proposed investigation is entirely voluntary and that we have not only the right but the duty to condition it upon such safeguards as are, in our opinion, absolutely essential for the preservation of the vital interests of 50,000 workers in the industry.

Yours very truly,  
BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER,  
President International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The applause which greeted the reading of the reply of the International made it clear that the assumption was entirely well founded in accord with the Union's stand on the subject of the proposed investigation.

## A Strikebreakers' Organization in Belgium

At the meeting of the Belgian Federation of Trade Unions, held in December last, severe criticism was passed on the action of the so-called "Union Civique," which called upon its members to act as strikebreakers during the recent tramway strike at Brussels.

This "Union" is a well-organized organization, which has become a formidable instrument in the hands of the employers in their attempts to hamper working class progress.

Article 2 of the rules of the "Union" stipulates that the object of the Belgian Union Civique is to assist in maintaining public services which are indispensable to public life, namely, food supply, transport, tramways, railways, post, telegraph, and telephone services, the fire brigade, water supply, electricity and gas supply, sanitary services, hospitals, etc.

The Union enlists its members to work with those who can perform practical work in the above utility services. The members can also make use of automobiles and every kind of vehicle which are to be placed at their disposal.

This "Union Civique" has its

branches in various centers in Belgium. Its active members are primarily university students, and the union is supported by the prominent Belgian banks and commercial and industrial organizations.

It has certainly taken good care to announce that its activities are not directed against any "group of workers" or against any political party, and that "where disputes occur between employers and employed the union will maintain the strictest neutrality."

The Belgian Federation of Trade Unions has issued a statement to the Belgian working class, drawing attention to the real object of the "Union Civique."

The Executive Committee of the Belgian Trade Union Center decided "to conduct a most energetic campaign, the means to be decided upon according to circumstances either by the Bureau or by the National Executive Committee. This executive further recommends to form special sections inside the trade union organizations which shall collaborate with the National Federation and the Bureau for the purpose of carrying out this campaign."

## WORLD TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP

The "Monthly Labor Review" for January compares the available figures for trade union membership in thirteen countries for the years 1913, 1919 and 1920. Considering only the first and second named years, we find Great Britain's membership has increased from 4,173,000 to 8,024,000, and that of France from 1,027,000 to 2,060,000. Figures for 1919 and 1920 only are cited for Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia, as follows: Russia, 3,639,000 in 1919 and 5,179,

000 in 1920; Poland, 350,000 (estimated), in 1919 and 1,037,000 (estimated), 1920; Czechoslovakia, 1,301,000 in 1919, and 2,600,000 (estimated), in 1920. Germany, 4,513,000 in 1913 to 13,000,000 (estimated) in 1920; Italy, 972,000 in 1913 to 3,627,000 in 1920; and the United States, 2,722,000 in 1913 to 5,179,000 in 1920. The total membership, omitting nine countries for which figures are not available, is put down as 13,446,000 in 1913; 41,805,000 in 1919, and 48,037,000 in 1920.

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## Labor and Education

By DAVID P. BERENBERG

### EARLY EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

One of the most illuminating episodes in our literature is the scene of Adam Bede trying to learn how to write. For Adam Bede read the working class as it was in the early days of the nineteenth century. For his endless toil in making queer-shaped pothooks look like the models set for him by his amateur teacher substitute the similar toil of thousands of groping workers laboring under the bright delusion that with "knowledge" comes power.

The first reaction of the newly-born working class to the intolerable conditions that capitalism immediately created was violence. The violence wore itself out in vain explosions that failed even to shake the capitalist structure. Then followed despair.

Then slowly there took form the first deliberate and conscious efforts of the workers to win for themselves a place in their new world that would not recognize old standards and traditions. New standards, made by the new masters, left no room for the development of the workers. The newly-born political power of the owning group—won only with the help of the masses—was used further to limit the life and scope of those left behind in the scramble for wealth.

The new movement of the workers was weak. It lacked proper direction. It lacked a plan. It lacked even a consciousness that it was a movement. All this came much later; all this had to be learned by actual experience and much hardship.

But one thing this new movement did. It taught the leaders at least that they had no hold on their followers unless these had at least the framework of an education.

Literacy in England in the eighteenth and in the early parts of the nineteenth centuries, was limited to the middle and upper classes. The children of the masses were taught the catechism and a few prayers. Here and there a few religious dissenters preached the necessity of reading the Bible, and in groups like this reading was taught, so that Bible reading might not cease to be the guide of life. But the efforts of isolated groups (and by no means all the members of dissenting groups could avail themselves of even this limited education) could not greatly affect the population at large. When the industrial revolution descended upon England only a scattered few of the workers could read.

When in the days that followed the factories swallowed children of six and seven, and worked them fifteen hours a day, even this vague ghost of education threatened to disappear.

All this tended to make the task of uniting the workers for common action doubly difficult. It was not possible to reach them all through the propaganda of the spoken word. And the written word was available to a vanishing few.

The inevitable happened. Men like Owen, Lovett, and Hetherington—men whose names do not receive the honor that is due them—felt increasingly the need for a following that could understand the great problem of their class. Little by little their conviction grew until it developed into one of the recurrent pitfalls into

which Labor's movements seem always to fall.

There is an old conundrum that asks whether the chicken or the egg came first. It is as easy to answer that question as to say whether education will free the workers, or whether any education is possible until the workers are free. To Lovett and Hetherington and others of the chartists it seemed that without education the workers could never hope to rise. They, therefore, began to preach the gospel of education even to the neglect of work which in this instance seems more important.

The fruit of their labor is to be seen on every hand. The immediate result was the opening of the so-called Mechanics' Institutes. These were schools established by the unions and other associations of workmen. The subjects taught in these schools show their weakness, and show how far the labor movement had yet to travel. Of course, reading and writing were taught. That was necessary in view of the educational limitations of the period. But much of the time in these institutes was devoted to technical training—mechanics, mechanical drawing and the like—intended to help the individual worker toward an individual and personal advancement. We have a survival of such a mechanics' institute here in New York, in Cooper Union.

It is, of course, easy to criticize the mechanics' institutes in the light of more than three-quarters of a century of experience. It was not so easy for the men who founded them and who supported them at great cost to themselves to see them in perspective.

The mechanics' institutes did help a great many earnest young workers to advance in life. It is doubtful if they helped the working class as such to advance forward.

If today education is a national enterprise; if today governments make a special point of teaching everybody at least the elements of knowledge, this is due largely to the pioneer work of the workers in this field. Whatever political influence and power they achieved, directly or indirectly, they exercised alike to accomplish this as a matter of primary importance.



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## THE STAGE

Estelle Winwood will head the cast of "The Idiot" when it is acted at the Republic Theater on Friday afternoon, April 7, in aid of the Babies' Welfare Association.

The last week of Eugene O'Neill's "The First Man," at the Neighborhood Playhouse, began Monday. After next Saturday it will be moved uptown.

The play which Zoe Akins is adapting from the Hungarian for production by Gilbert Miller is by Biro, one of the authors of "The Castrina," and not, as was reported, by Molnar.

"The Hairy Ape" will be continued at the Provincetown Theater, and the sixth and last bill at that playhouse has been postponed until late in April. It will be a long play by Susan Glaspell.

Several of next week's openings have been postponed, and the revised list is as follows: "Voltaire" at the Plymouth; Walker Whiteide in "The Blind" at the Comedy; "Just Because" at the Earl Carroll, and "Candida" at the Greenwich Village.

There will be a performance at the Astor Theater on Sunday night in aid of the Hospital for Infanticidal Paralysis.

"Lady Egg," a farce by Frances Nordstrom, will be produced soon by Philip Klein, with John Cumberland in the leading role.

Pauline Lord, in "Anne Christie," will continue another week at the Vanderbilt, instead of bringing her engagement to a close on Saturday, as had been originally planned.

### NEXT WEEK'S METROPOLITAN OPERAS

Besides Mozart's "Cof fan Tuiz," already announced, to be sung Friday of next week from a miniature stage within the Metropolitan proscenium, the opera season's nineteenth week will include on Monday afternoon scenes from "Trovatore," "Faust," "Boheme," and "Aida," for the House Emergency Fund; Monday evening, "Mefistofele," billed for the "last time"; Wednesday, "Faust," with Farrar; Thursday, "Lohengrin," with Jertiza; Friday, benefit matinee, "Madame Butterfly," with Farrar, for the Henry Street Settlement; Saturday matinee, "Don Carlos," with Peralta, and Saturday night both "L'Oracolo" and "L'Amore del Tre Re." There will be one more month of opera after that. Misha Piatro appears at next Sunday's concert with May Peterson, Peralta, Sembach and Madonnes.

Nina Koshetz, Russian soprano, re-

cently heard with the Chicago Opera Company, will give her only New York recital at Town Hall on Sunday, April 2, at 8 o'clock in the afternoon. Her program will include songs of Moussorgsky, Prokofiev, Shuman and others as well as some of her own compositions. This promises to be a real treat to all music lovers.

### THE RAND SCHOOL FOLLIES

Last year, on April 1, Miss Folly found her way into the Rand School, and she had such a good time that she is coming back again this year. She is coming on April 1 again, and, with the concert of past experience, will appear on April 2 as well.

Each department will contribute a feature—the faculty, the Students' League, the gym, the office, the full time class, the orchestra, the English department, and the camp. Every one is trying to keep his own special stamp on a concert, so "Folly's" are fair telling," but those who saw the Follies last year, and think they know the possibilities of the dignified faculty, do not know half of it. Just wait until they see Scott Nearing and Bertha Mally and Algernon Lee in —, but we must not give away the secret!

Mengelberg will give the "Patriotic" symphony again at the Philharmonic concert at the Metropolitan Opera House on Tuesday evening, March 28, and the Bach suite for orchestra in B-minor. Cornelius Van Vliet, first cellist in the orchestra, will be the assisting artist on this occasion, playing d'Albert's concerto for cello and orchestra.

Mengelberg's Philharmonic program for the pair of concerts on Thursday evening, March 29, and Friday afternoon, March 31, offers three orchestra novelties, Doppe's "Gothic Chaconne," the overture to "The Birds" of Aristophanes, by Diepenbrock, and Van Godevener's suite for violoncello and orchestra, in which the solo for the cello will be performed by the composer. All three of these compositions will receive their first American performance on Thursday evening. Harold Bauer, assisting artist, will play Franck's symphonic variations for piano and orchestra, and the program will conclude with Strauss' tone poem, "Don Juan."

Members can still secure season cards for the Yiddish Art Theatre, Madison Avenue and 27th Street, at the office of the Educational Department, 31 Union Square, Room 1003.

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# LABOR THE WORLD OVER

## DOMESTIC ITEMS

### WOOLLEN TRUST'S PROFITS REACH ABNORMAL POINT

With wages going down and millions of wage-earners idle in the greatest depression this country has ever experienced, the American Woolen Company cooly announces that its profits last year were \$9,192,621.73. In 1920, another year of depression, the profits totaled \$6,855,359.14.

These staggering profits, at a time when hunger and want are abroad in the land, have been continuous since the beginning of the world war. In 1918 the trust increased its clear profits 216 per cent over 1916. The net increase in common stock earnings was 531 per cent.

Last year's profits of more than nine million dollars come near equalling the trust's record year of 1919, when clear profits were \$10,779,504. In 1918 the earnings per share on common stock was \$13.56, a total of \$5,572,527.

### ANTI-FREE SPEECH LAW KILLED IN KENTUCKY

Organized labor's agitation against the vicious "syndicalism and sedition" law has resulted in the Legislature repealing those sections which denied American guarantees. The law, now provides for punishment of those who advocate open rebellion against the government.

As originally passed, any town constable could disperse a trade union meeting if some mill owner told him that it was against section 6 of the law which prohibited any person "by speech, writing or otherwise, to arouse, incite or fix or attempt to arouse, incite or fix enmity, discord or strife or ill-feeling between classes or persons."

By amending the act the Legislature indicates an end to the "100 per cent American" frenzy that was used a short time ago to stifle every form of protest.

### PRINTERS ESTABLISH 44-HOUR WEEK

"The 44-hour week has been definitely established," declared John McFarland, President of the International Typographical Union, in reviewing the shorter work week movement of that organization, in a speech in Tacoma.

"Strike benefits," he said, "are now being paid to only 7,000 men out of the 40,000 normally employed in the commercial plants of the United States and Canada. These members are receiving approximately \$27 a month, the highest strike benefits ever paid by any union. There is now \$1,000,000 in the general strike fund of the International Typographical Union. In ten months the fund has received \$7,802,491 and paid out \$6,564,784. Strike assessments were cut some time ago from 10 per cent to 7 per cent, and are now down to 5 per cent."

### FOOD PRICES STAND

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the retail cost of food remained practically stationary between January 15 and February 15.

Seven cities reported decreases, but on investigation it is found that the decrease averaged less than 1 per cent. Kansas City led with a 4 per cent decrease. Little Rock, Pittsburg, Providence and Charleston all reported a 1 per cent decrease, and Louisville and Jacksonville less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

Of the cities reporting increases Minneapolis and St. Paul lead, with 2 per cent. In Baltimore, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and St. Louis there was an increase of 1 per cent; in Detroit the increase was five-tenths of 1 per cent.

### DEFEAT COSSACK BILL

The Rules Committee of the House of Representatives has killed a bill which would establish the cossack system in Kentucky. The bill was urged by the Mine Operators' Association and other anti-union organizations.

These forces developed a new angle in the fight for cossacks by inducing women's organizations to support the measure on the ground that it would result in "the protection of women in isolated districts."

### JUDGE STOPS COSSACKS

Circuit Judge Caldwell, of Newport, Kentucky, temporarily enjoined Colonel Denhardt and other officers of the state's troops stationed in that town on strike duty from interfering with the meetings of the strikers at their headquarters. The soldiers are also enjoined from intimidating and threatening, and from removing any property from the headquarters of the union.

### ERIE SHOPMEN STRIKE

The expected strike of the Erie shopmen at Dunmore, Pennsylvania, took place when the Erie Railroad Company refused to cancel the contract with the Mesiville Machinery Company. The men demanded that the Erie abandon the contract system at Dunmore. Federal investigation of the Erie Railroad's action in leading its shops and contracting all the shop work to the Mesiville Machinery Company, was ordered by the United States Railroad Labor Board.

### SHIP WORKERS' STRIKE CERTAIN

Negotiations between the ship workers and their employers collapsed and the strike seems certain. Already British industry is being gradually paralyzed by the lockout of engineering employees.

### LABOR OPPOSES SHIP SUBSIDY

Organized labor's attack on the proposed ship subsidy bill was renewed when the joint legislative conference of the American Federation of Labor issued a severe condemnation of the immigration and naval reserve sections of the Jones bill.

### RAILROADS WON'T REDUCE COSTS

Railroads constitute the only great industry in the country which have not been "compelled by the laws of commerce and industry to reduce costs," according to a brief filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission by Clifford Thorne, spokesman for shippers, enclosing the general investigation into transportation rates.

## FOREIGN ITEMS

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### MINE STRIKE OFF

The strike of the miners which has held South Africa in its grip for more than two months, has been called off on March 17. The decision was taken by the South African Industrial Federation.

### GERMANY

#### LABOR GROWS STRONGER

The trade union movement has made great strides under the German Republic. Before the war trade union members were mainly workmen. Now salaried employees and minor officials have discovered the benefits of organization. Unions have gained strength and have to an ever-increasing extent been recognized as the authorized representatives of labor.

#### CURTAL RIGHTS OF CIVIC SERVANTS

The right of government officials to strike will be limited legally by a government bill to be introduced in the Reichstag next month. Employees in the civil service can be discharged for failing to render complete or partial service, and after discharged cannot be re-employed for five years, under that bill.

### MEXICO

#### FEDERAL TROOPS VS. STRIKERS

Federal troops are guarding the power plants and street railway bars against strikers who threaten to cut off power and light, owing to the refusal of the company to pay for time lost by the employees at the last strike.

### FRANCE

#### ELEVEN UNIONS DISSOLVED

The Paris Criminal Court today dissolved eleven trade union organizations of government employees, which the government bill previously had prohibited, but which ignored the legislation and ignored court action against them.

### AUSTRALIA

#### LABOR PARTY'S DEMANDS

Socialization of industry, maintenance of a "White Australia," and the abolition of the stage legislative councils are included among the objectives of the Australian Labor party, as set forth in the revised platform and constitution of the party.

### ENGLAND

#### BRITAIN FACES CRISIS

With the lockout today of 400,000 members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, Great Britain at a critical period of unemployment, is faced with the prospect of losing much of the ground gained in her bid for industrial recovery since the Armistice.

#### SUCCESS OF BUILDING GUILDS

Contracts for work to the total of 2,250,000,000 pounds are being carried out by the 135 local or regional building guild organizations united in the National Building Guild, which came into existence less than two years ago.

Most of the work has been undertaken for local authorities on government housing schemes, but the guilds are also doing a considerable amount of general building and decorating work.

As the guilds do not work for profits, the whole saving has been to the advantage of the purchaser, who pays only the actual cost of the job, whatever the saving effected.

#### HOUSING SCANDAL

The National Housing and Town Planning Council is to make strenuous efforts between now and the general election to keep the public fully informed of the seriousness of the housing problem.

At Norwich, the Council states, there are at least 200 names on the waiting list for houses. In this town one ex-service man, his wife and three children are living in one room. Another ex-service man with six children has so little accommodation that he has to sleep on a couch.

In one case a man lives in one room by himself, and his wife and children are in apartments elsewhere.

There is a waiting list of 976 at South Shields, and of upwards of 300 at Exeter.

#### MINERS REORGANIZING

Active steps are being taken by the miners' leaders in South Wales to rebuild the Federation organization, which has been seriously weakened since the thirteen weeks stoppage last year.

To regain lost members and to strengthen the Federation finances, meetings have been held throughout the coalfield with encouraging results, and the wave of despondency is receding.

#### WAGES STILL SINKING

The weekly wage bill was reduced by nearly 570,000 pounds in January, according to official figures, published in "The Labour Gazette" for February. Over 26,000,000 affected 3,650,000 work people. During 1921 wages fell by the wage-cut after a week for seven million work people, and the January figures show that the decline has not been arrested.

Official returns for January give the total number of unemployed on the "live register" of the employment exchanges as 1,206,000 at the end of the month, 28,000 more than at the end of December. In addition, 288,000 were registered as working systematic short time.

#### ACTORS TO VOTE FOR CLOSED SHOP

Hard driven by increasing unemployment in their professions, the British Actors' Association is being called upon to vote as to whether there shall be the closed shop on the British stage for real professional actors only.



# With the Waist and Dress Joint Board

By M. K. MACKOFF, Secretary

Minutes Meeting March 17, 1922.  
The report of the Board of Directors' meeting of March 13th was read, and upon motion same was taken up serially, the following recommendations being approved:

First: That we purchase ten tickets amounting to \$2.50 for a bazaar to be given by the National Defense Committee.

Second: That Brother Halpern should attend an informal dinner to be given by the Friends of Freedom for India.

Third: That the General Secretary of the Joint Board should secure a few stamped books from the New York Call, and distribute same to the local secretaries, as well as to officers of the Joint Board, inducing them to sell same, thereby helping the New York Call. Furthermore, the local composing our Joint Board should be advised to purchase special bundles of Calls, which can be obtained at \$1.25 per hundred; and that the locals should send volunteers to distribute same to the public at large.

Fourth: Acting upon the instructions given to the Board of Directors by the Joint Board to arrange a mass meeting for the purpose of protesting to the Massachusetts authorities, in regard to the Sacco-Vanzetti case, Brothers Antinial, Halpern and Mackoff were appointed to make the necessary arrangements for this meeting, which will be held within the next three weeks.

In a communication dated March

17 Local No. 25 informed the Joint Board that at a meeting of their executive board held on March 15th, the previous decision in connection with the approval of the minutes of the Joint Board of March 1st was re-considered and after due deliberation they were approved, with the exception of the parts pertaining to the resignation of Sister Miriam Levine as business agent and Brother Julius Halpern as general manager. In conclusion, Local No. 25 states that they have succeeded in persuading Sister Miriam Levine to accept the re-appointment of business agent, and that their executive board has elected Sister Ida Shapiro to replace Sister Levine on the Unity House committee.

Brother Abraham Baroff, General Secretary of the International, advised the Joint Board by letter, that the next convention of the International will be held on May 1, 1922, at Cleveland, Ohio, therefore requesting us to elect a delegate, according to the constitution of the International.

Upon motion, nominations were made, resulting with Brother Julius Halpern, general manager, being unanimously elected.

Sister Margaret DiMaggio, who was appointed by our Joint Board to attend a conference at Washington, D. C., in regard to the blanket amendment, reported by the National Women's Party, supported that at that conference, she, Sister DiMaggio, was elected on a committee to work out a resolution, which was adopted at that conference.

Upon motion, the report of Sister DiMaggio was approved.

The Finance Committee reported that a committee from the Sixth Assembly District S. P. requested that we purchase tickets for a ball which will be given by them on March 25th. The Finance Committee therefore recommends that we purchase tickets for \$10. The recommendation of the Finance Committee was concurred in.

Due to the resignation of Sister Miriam Levine as a Joint Board delegate from Local No. 25, the following delegates from Local No. 25 were appointed: Sister Lena Goodman on the Board of Directors, Brother Louis Rosenstein on the Appeal Committee.

## Mooney Case Up Again

The internationally famous Mooney-Billings case has crowded into the pages of California again. The judicial outrage against the two militant labor leaders refuses to die a respectable death and to leave its perpetrators in peace. The Chamber of Commerce frameup is now before the District Court of Appeals on an appeal from the decision of a lower court denying a writ of audite quere.

In a printed brief of 178 pages packed with brilliant argument and a fiery exposure of the gigantic conspiracy, the victims of which have served six years of their life sentence, Byron C. Parker, attorney for Tom Mooney, demands either a retrial on the original indictment, a new trial on the other indictment still pending, or, dramatically, "such other equivalent relief (by whatever name it may be called) as will afford a judicial remedy to the appellant, adequate to redress the wrong shown to have been inflicted upon him."

### SEES NO PARDON

Parker insists in language quite unaccustomed to the serenity of an American tribunal that a pardon by the Governor of the State of California is not an adequate remedy; that

a praying for executive clemency is an admission of guilt. But—

"Consider Mooney's attitude," the impassionate utterance rises out of the printed page. "He comes, not as a criminal begging forgiveness, but as an innocent man demanding his rights. He has been charged with murder and deprived of his liberty by a judgment which was obtained by fraud. He shows, by a great mass of convincing evidence, which is neither disputed, contradicted, denied or even questioned, how this fraud was concocted and consummated; and he asks the Court, which was defrauded, too, to hear his complaint, and thus put him in the way of being acquitted of the charge, and of regaining his liberty."

### REMEDY FOR WRONG

In the appeal from the decision Parker contends that for every wrong there is a remedy, and that the remedy in this instance is in the common law. The application for the audita quere writ, although an ancient practice, is the proper method of procedure, unless there be granted a motion for equivalent relief. Parker digs deep into the opinions of legal authorities for the last three centuries to disprove Leuderbach's contention that the writ may not be invoked in a criminal proceeding.

## Tribute To Mayer Scharp

The Cloakmakers' Union has lost a dear friend, and an honest and sincere worker by the death of Mayer Scharp. He has left a great void in the sphere where his genial smile and perpetual-good cheer turned even the saddest moments into bright-

est sunshine. Hosts of friends mourn the loss of Mayer Scharp, and the memory of him will ever remain one of the pleasantest in the lives of those who were fortunate enough to have been his friends.

HAZEL A. BERKOWITZ.

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Outlines of Labor Legislation  
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Tuesday, April 4, 8:30 p.m.

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Monday, April 10, 8:30 p.m.

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# The Weeks News in Cutters Union Local 10

By JOSEPH FISH

## GENERAL

It is hardly necessary to call the attention of the members to the fact that at the next general meeting nominations will be made for candidates for delegates to the International Convention. For wherever cutters congregate there is bound to be heard discussion as to who the aspirants are. Talk is also ripe as to the problems confronting the International.

In accordance with the decision of the Executive Board, concurred in by the members, nominations will be made Monday night at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place. Those who desire to run should bear in mind that the same rules governing the regular annual nominations also apply in this instance. Any candidate who will be found to have been in arrears for more than twelve weeks, on the night of nomination, will be ineligible, and his name will not be placed on the ballot.

Local 10's number of representatives to the convention, which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, this time, is eight, one less than the representation of two years ago. On the whole, the local feels quite satisfied with the number allowed it by the International Census Bureau. And the reason need not be looked for very far. The past two seasons in the ladies' garment trades have been such as to make it a wonder that the local membership standing should allow for eight representatives. In spite of the dullness in the trade during this time, the members have not neglected their financial obligations to the Union.

The general meeting, aside from the interest that is afforded the members because of the nominations, will also afford those of the members who have not attended a meeting during the past three months an opportunity to have to their credit the attendance of one meeting. It should be borne in mind that according to the recently amended constitution, members failing to attend at least one meeting every quarter are subject to a fine.

According to the records of attendances during the past quarter, there will be a very small number of men who will be fined for violating this clause of the constitution. Every meeting saw exceptionally large gatherings. And what with the important business at the coming meeting, which in itself insures a large gathering, the number of delinquents will be still smaller; it will almost be negligible.

## CLOAK AND SUIT

During the past few weeks Manager Dubinsky was greatly taken up with calling shop meetings of both independent and association. These meetings are taking on now a very important aspect. The recent victory of the Cloakmakers' Union has not yet fully, it seems, brought home to the employers in this industry the determination of the Union to hold on to the hard-earned and very much-needed labor standards. The Manager is, therefore, calling these meetings with a view to emphasizing the importance of watchful waiting.

It appears that the employers who were so much in favor of a federal investigation a few weeks ago of the cloak industry are now trying to dodge it. The bosses are setting up a hue and cry, charging International President Schlesinger with attempting "to dictate to the government." Speaking editorially on this matter, JUSTICE has the following to say in part in its last week's issue:

It looks almost certain now, therefore, that we shall have the investigation in the cloak industry, which makes the situation rather grave, indeed. There is only a short space of months left to June 2, the date of the expiration of the

agreement in the industry, and since no investigation that might form a basis for future negotiations with the employers seems likely at present, the Cloakmakers' Union must be prepared for all eventualities. To leave matters to chance would be an unpardonable error. Our employers, beaten in the last contest, are seething with revenge, and it is more than likely that they will again risk a fight and try out again the ill-fated demands formulated at Atlantic City last October.

It is for this reason that Dubinsky is killing the meetings. And the situation that he is taking up with the men, in addition to this, he strongly emphasizes the importance of the payment of the assessment towards the completion of the Million Dollar fund.

The many defeats visited upon the cloak manufacturers by the Union has not yet taught the employers that the workers do not mean to be toyed with. However, each fight brings home to the workers the need of keeping the Union tight. And each struggle has just done this. Every shop meeting so far held has resulted in an understanding by the cutters of the situation. Every man leaves the office of Local 10 with a thorough understanding of the condition, and with a pledge to do more watching than waiting.

The problem that confronts Local 10 with regards to the shops which do not have a cutter and the employers of which do their own cutting, is not a new one. It is a persistent evil, and one that takes up a great deal of the Union's time. No doubt the evil would be greatly lessened if the trade were busier. However, the Union succeeds in securing employment for some men whenever a control of the shops is made.

Manager Dubinsky has placed a number of men to work as a result of his persistent driving after such shops. A certain amount of co-operation is needed from the men thus placed to work in order to properly keep a check on these houses.

The Manager has found that whenever he places cutters to work following a complaint of this nature, the men fail to report to the office the length of time they were employed. A man may be sent up on a job and may be kept anywhere from a half a day to two days and still have work enough. But the employer lays him off when the business agent visits the shop the next day, the employer tells him that he had a cutter a day or two or three days ago. In the meantime the boss may have been cutting up work until 10 o'clock the previous night.

If the cutter were to report to the office immediately upon being laid off the Manager would be afforded the opportunity to have the shop revisited in time to prevent a further violation of the agreement. Hence cutters should bear in mind to report being laid off at once, particularly if they were given one or two days' work. While this may seem to the men little in the way of co-operation, it nevertheless means a great deal to the Manager in keeping tab of such houses as described here.

## MISCELLANEOUS

During the past few weeks the office was taken up with making a control of the shops in the three branches of this division. Local 10's representative has personally accompanied Brother Zieta, business agent of Local 62, in the signing of agreements. So far some fifty agreements have been signed up. The Joint Board in the children's dress and wrapper and kimono trades is also signing up agreements, thirty of which have already been completed.

The number of cutters employed in the underwear manufacturing shops

is about half of the number signed up. This is due to the great dullness that is prevailing in this trade. The average shop employs less than a quarter of the workers employed in ordinary times. The same is true of the conditions of the shops under control of the Joint Board.

There have been quite a number of complaints filed by the members of this division lately. The majority of these were signed up in favor of the complainant, three against and about five are pending.

Arrangements have been made with the Manager of the Miscellaneous Joint Board for the control of the shops as regards the conditions of the cutters. Manager Dubinsky was prepared to make a lengthy report at the last meeting, but due to

the lack of a quorum the meeting was not called.

The attention of the members of this division must be called to the penalty governing the non-attendance of meetings. Every member who does not attend at least one meeting will be, as was remarked above, fined. Of course, there may be some whose private affairs prevented them from attending a session. But this can hardly be the case with the majority of the men. Hence the Executive Board will be very strict in the enforcement of this provision.

It is hoped that when the importance of attending meetings will be brought home by this means, to a few men, then the members of this division will comply with this obligation.

## IN MEMORIAM

The officers and members deeply mourn the loss of Brother

## MEYER SCHARP

who died Wednesday, March 15, 1922, and who, since August, 1910, has served ably and faithfully as member and officer of the

AMALGAMATED LADIES' GARMENT CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10, I. L. G. W. U.

## English Classes Continued in Unity Centers

Miss Margaret Daniels will continue her discussion of the "History of the Labor Movement" on Tuesday evenings, in the Harlem Unity Center, P. S. 171. She will also continue her course in "Applied Psychology" in the Brownsville Unity Center, P. S. 84, on Friday evenings. These two courses will continue for several weeks. The other courses in "Trade Union Movement and Eco-

nomics" have been completed for the season.

The classes in English for beginners, intermediate, and advanced, will be continued in some of the Unity Centers till May and in others till June. We hope that our members will appreciate the value of acquiring the language of the country in which they live and work, and will continue to attend these classes.

The Physical Training classes will also be continued.

## CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10 ATTENTION!

### NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

General Special ..... Monday, March 27th

### SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Nomination of Delegates to I. L. G. W. U. Convention.

Cloak and Suit ..... Monday, April 3rd

Waist and Dress ..... Monday, April 10th

Miscellaneous ..... Monday, April 17th

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.  
AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

As per decision of the last Special Cloak and Suit Meeting, an assessment of \$20 has been levied upon all members working in shops controlled by the Cloak and Suit Joint Board. This assessment is payable in four installments of \$5 each, beginning February 27th.