

"My righteous-ness I hold fast, and will not let it go."
—Job 27.6

Vol. V, No. 9.

JUSTICE

AN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

New York, Friday, February 23, 1923.

Price 2 Cents

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

MORRIS SIGMAN UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF I.L.G.W.U.

The Special Convention of our International opened on Thursday morning last, February 15, 1923, at the Emerson Hotel, Baltimore and came to an end on Friday afternoon, the following day, after having accomplished the task for which it was called together.

It was one of the most impressive and harmonious gatherings in the history of our organization. From the moment Acting President Ninfso's gavel fell to the closing minutes of the convention, there wasn't an untoward event that would mar the spirit of unanimity and friendliness that prevailed at the meeting.

The first session of the convention was taken up entirely by speeches of welcome made by a num-

ber of local dignitaries, among them Mayor Broening of Baltimore, the president of the Baltimore Federation of Labor, and the manager of the Joint Board of the Amalgamated. The convention was also addressed by Dr. Weinstein on behalf of the local branch of the Socialist Party and by Miss Anna Nearing, organizer of the American Federation of Labor. The Mayor of Baltimore assured the delegates, in his speech, that he is a friend of the workers and that he will help our workers in their fight for collective bargaining in Baltimore.

In his opening speech, Chairman Ninfso, among other things, stated that in all the twenty years of his belonging to the Union, he never

thought that it would ever fall to his lot to occupy such a high position in the organization, even though for a brief space of time. "Our International," he said, "is a true international body in the real sense of the word and the best proof of it lies in the fact that I, an Italian, was given the privilege of acting as president of an organization, the majority of whose members consists of Jews."

The first session of the convention

was also greeted by Brother Abraham Brightstein, business agent of the Baltimore Cloakmakers' Union. Two telegrams that made a particular impression on the delegates were—one from Julius Hochman, on behalf of the tens of thousands of waist and dress-makers of New York, and the other— from the children's dress and kimono workers of New York, signed by H. Greenberg. The senders of these messages stated their regret at being unable to attend the convention and greeted the delegates in the name of the strikers.

Vice-President Israel Feinberg, thereupon moved that the convention endorse the strikers in New York, and immediately thereafter the Convention adopted a resolution containing a promise of full financial and moral support to the New York strikers. Secretary Baroff forthwith telegraphed the resolution to the general strike committees of these local unions in New York.

AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT OF THE G. E. B.

An interesting moment at the convention was supplied by the reading of a statement on behalf of the General Executive Board, in which the entire situation leading up to the call-

ing of the convention and the motives that prompted the General Executive Board to such an act were given in detail. The document reads:

TO THE DELEGATES OF THE SPECIAL CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

A special convention is not an ordinary thing in the life of our International Union. In its entire history, of more than twenty-three years, it has had but two special conventions, one called in 1911 to consider the emergency situation which arose at that time in connection with the great cloak strike, in Cleveland, and the second in 1913, to discuss the advisability of a nationwide campaign for the union label, which, at that time, was considered of great moment.

Conventions in general are costly affairs and should not be undertaken unless the situation fully warrants their calling. They impose burdens upon our locals and interrupt their regular activities, calling away from their tasks those active men and women in our organizations whose presence at their posts can hardly be spared.

The General Executive Board, in having decided to summon the delegates of the Cleveland Convention to assemble in a special convention, has fully weighed these difficulties. It has considered the sacrifices that our

(Continued on page 2.)

Chicago Dressmakers Settle with Association

A brief telegram has been received at the General Office from A. Kenesky, the secretary-treasurer of the Chicago Joint Board, to the effect that the campaign among the large number of unorganized dress, waist and skirt makers of Chicago, conducted under the supervision of the Joint Board and supported by the International, has scored a notable victory.

According to the telegram, the Union has confronted the local dress

and waist manufacturers with individual agreements. Shortly thereafter a number of these firms got together and formed an association which settled collectively with the Union. Twenty-eight firms also signed individual agreements with the organization.

Details of the agreement and a report on the further success of the organizing drive in Chicago, will be given in these columns next week.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE G. E. B.

On Saturday afternoon, February 17, right after the Special Convention came to a close, the General Executive Board held a special meeting at Baltimore under the chairmanship of the newly-elected President Morris Sigman.

Two highly important questions occupied the attention of the members of the Board at this meeting,—the situation in Boston and in Philadelphia. Vice-President Meyer Perlstein, who, together with Vice-President Monoson, is conducting the organization campaign in Boston, declared that a general strike was imminent in that city. The General Executive Board decided to endorse the more for the strike and as these lines are being written, this strike has already been declared.

The second question was concerning the advisability of a waist and dress strike in Philadelphia. Vice-President Reiberg described to the members of the Board the state of affairs in Philadelphia, stating that the workers in the trade are eager to be organized and that they can be organized only by the means of a general strike.

After a thorough appraisal of the Philadelphia situation, it was decided

New York Dressmakers Win 40-Hour Week General Strike Comes to an End

A FIVE-DAY WORK-WEEK TO BE ESTABLISHED—PIECE WORKERS RECEIVE TEN PER CENT INCREASE—DOUBLE PAY FOR OVERTIME

STRIKERS APPROVE SETTLEMENT BY VOTE OF 10,475 FOR AND 1,962 AGAINST

The big general strike in the dress and waist industry in New York has ended with a victory for the Union and for the workers in the trade. The Union won a forty-hour week, a 10 per cent increase in wages, and double time for overtime. The work-week in the dress and waist industry will henceforth be only five days long. On Saturday and Sunday all the shops will be closed. What concerns the week-workers, they will continue to work under the same system, except that they will receive the same wages for forty hours as they have been receiving before for forty-four hours.

The settlement was finally arranged on Tuesday afternoon between the conference committee of the Union and the committee of the Contractors' Association. These terms were later submitted by Brother Julius Hochman, the general manager of the Dress and Waistmakers' Joint Board, to the general strike committee, and after a long discussion, the strike committee accepted this settlement, deciding to refer it to a referendum vote of the strikers.

On the following day, Wednesday, February 21, a vote was conducted in all the strike halls and after the canvass was completed late at night, it was learned that the strikers ratified the settlement terms by a vote of 10,475 to 1,962; altogether 12,437 people took part in the referendum, 58 ballots were void.

Thus came to a close a stirring chapter in the history of the workers in the dress and waist industries of New York. It need hardly be emphasized that the winning of a reduction of four hours per week is a remarkable advance. Small wonder that the strikers accepted the settle-

ment by such an overwhelming majority. The strike has also gained for the dress and waist makers of New York a large number of new members, and the Union will now be in a position to fight more effectively and with greater prospects of success for future work improvements and trade reforms.

THE NEW PRESIDENT AT WORK ALREADY

On Monday morning, February 19, President Morris Sigman was already at his desk in the headquarters of the International. A holiday spirit prevailed all day long in the office, friends and leaders of the organization coming to visit and to wish the new president luck in the wide field of activity before him.

During the day a number of telegrams were received from various locals and also several wreaths of flowers from workers in the shops.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By N. S.

WHO SHALL CONTROL THE TRADE UNIONS?

THIS is a brand new question. Until quite recently this question would sound queer and academic. For it was universally admitted that trade unions are to be managed and controlled by the organized workers themselves. But since the all-embracing program of reform was launched by the Lockwood Committee, as a result of its investigations into the housing shortage of New York, the situation seems to have undergone a change. Mr. Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the Committee, found evils in certain trade unions as well as in the financial, industrial and insurance companies. Hence he zealously proceeded to propound a drastic system of governmental control and supervision of these organizations.

At the hearings of this program before a joint committee of the Albany Legislature last week Mr. Untermyer pleaded "that unions should be required to live within the law as others do." By this he means that the labor movement should be treated as if it were a business corporation, a stock exchange, or an insurance company. Mr. Untermyer sees no difference between the practices and policies of trade unions and those of big business trusts and corporations. He holds that the "wisdom" and "impartiality" of our laws would mete out equal justice to both groups of interests.

But the workers think otherwise. Committees of organized labor in New York State appeared at the hearings and registered their protest against this measure to strangle the trade unions. Morris Hillquit, who spoke for the needle trades unions at the hearings, declared that "this bill would be almost a death blow to labor. Every feature of it should mark it for overwhelming defeat."

THE DEBT SETTLEMENT AND AFTER

By a vote of 70 to 13, the Senate last Friday ratified the British Debt Refunding bill. The President will wait long in signing it, and, as the newspapers assure us, an epoch-making agreement will have been achieved.

But will this settlement really settle anything in Europe? Will it result in a decrease of unemployment in England? Will it lighten the reparations burden? Will it stabilize conditions and reopen factories and mines? Even Secretary Hughes would admit that the settlement has nothing to do with these questions. But it will doubtless fill the pockets of the ship subsidy and bonus people. For England this is considered a wise political investment. Realizing that she is alone and forsaken by Europe Great Britain stretched out her hand, holding a substantial bag of gold, to America. And a new Anglo-American friendship is the result.

Just when the Congressional mind was fresh with the debt question a political event took place which is bound to have important consequences. It is the French loan of 400 million francs to the Polish government to be used for military purposes. Now, the argument runs, if France has money enough to replenish the armies of her ally, why doesn't she see her way to observe the "sanctity of contract" and pay her bills to this country. And the traditional sympathy for France dropped a few more points.

EXCURSIONS INTO ANCIENT EGYPT

TUT-ANKH-AMEN has during the last few days risen to world-wide fame. While such meteoric rise is not unusual these days the way Tut-ankh-amen has managed it is unique. As every child now knows this gentleman had been silently resting for some 3500 years in an Egyptian tomb amidst the staggering treasures and splendors of the ancient orient. He had no intention now of abandoning his resting place to feature in the world press.

But a commission of historians, archeologists, Egyptologists, headed by Lord Carnarvon has been searching for the last three months amidst the ancient pyramids of Egypt for the remnants of a civilization long since passed. Tombs were opened, tablets found and deciphered, and a few days ago the grave-diggers, or excavators, made the greatest discovery ever made in this field.

Columns upon columns are daily devoted to a description of what this commission found. Innumerable photographs are reproduced. It is all about Tut-ankh-amen and his tomb; his furniture and his rugs; his priceless jewelry and gold; his paintings and inscriptions; his vessel and jars studded with precious gems, and so forth and so on. As one correspondent put it, "the undreamed of wealth in the inner chambers of the tomb of Tut-ankh-amen takes the breath away. There are no figures that can estimate it. There are few minds that can conceive it."

The significance of the resurrection of Pharaoh Tut-ankh-amen is not as yet clear. It is doubtless a great contribution to art. It will throw light on ancient history. But there are some practical Americans who are not satisfied with vague aesthetic and historical contributions. There are the style designers, coiffure "creators," beauty specialists, cosmetic manufacturers, jewelers, cabinetmakers, etc., who are energetically planning to introduce Egyptian fashions here. It will doubtless be a great blow to Paris.

BRITISH LABOR APPEALS TO PRESIDENT HARDING

SEVERAL weeks ago the organized workers of Germany appealed to the American Congress to save Europe from inevitable disaster. Last week 88 Labor members of the British Parliament sent a similar plea to President Harding. It read:

"America with Britain unwittingly made France's present destructive action possible. We appeal for American cooperation today as the one hope of saving Europe."

No one of course expects this appeal to have any more effect than the German appeal on the American policy. But what has perhaps aroused disappointment is the fact that the British Laborites could not move Premier Bonar Law to do anything in this crisis. The British government has declared its policy to be that of "neutrality" in the Ruhr conflict, that is, it is neither here nor there. Only in one case have the French forced the British to take a definite stand. It was when the French requested the right-of-way transit over all the main railways in the Cologne area, occupied by the British. The French wanted to use these railways for moving the coal they could mine out of the Ruhr. The British refused to grant the French demand. Although this means effective sabotage, it cannot be regarded as a constructive policy.

A Statement by the G. E. B.

(Continued from Page 1)

organizations would be called upon to make, in sending their delegates over only nine months after the regular convention had adjourned, but they have deemed their sacrifices worth while. The General Executive Board was confronted, at the end of its meeting in Montreal, with such an extraordinary emergency that it believed the calling of a special convention fully justified.

On January 13, 1923, at one of the final sessions of the Montreal meeting of the General Executive Board, President Schlesinger placed the following resignation before its members:

"I herewith tender my resignation as president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and I sincerely trust that you will make it effective at once.

"I am prompted to make this step on account of my poor health. Lately my health has been so poor that it became absolutely impossible for me to perform the duties in connection with my office.

"Needless to say, that I entertain the highest admiration and deep respect for each and every one of you, and that I shall, at all times, be ready to help along the movement in general and our beloved International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in particular, by deed, advice or in any shape or manner.

"With genuine brotherly and personal regards to yourselves, the chosen leaders of the organized women's garment workers of America, as well as to each and every one of your constituents, I am

Fraternally yours,

BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER."

The situation, by no means, was an easy one. We need not tell you how closely associated with the life and activity of our International Union the person of Benjamin Schlesinger was; we need not tell you how valuable his leadership has been and what a tremendous asset our International has possessed in him as its peerless and indefatigable leader. Nevertheless, faced with this irrevocable decision, the General Executive Board, after long debating, was in the end compelled to accept, though very reluctantly, President Schlesinger's resignation. Immediately the problem arose what to do. Under the constitution, the General Executive Board has a right to elect at once a president for the remainder of the unexpired term; yet we felt that we should much prefer to have our great membership itself, the rank and file of the organization speaking through the voice of its delegates, elect a new president for our International Union. It was not a mere democratic gesture, a mere desire to flatter the opinion and the judgment of the masses of our workers, either. During the last nine years, the office of president of our International Union has become so big and commanding, has become to mean so much to our workers and to the labor movement in general, that we felt it incumbent upon us that the new president receive not merely the technical authority to act in such a capacity from the hands of the General Executive Board but that he obtain the sanction, the undivided approval and the mandate from the hands of the representatives of our Union as a whole.

Thus the General Executive Board unanimously decided upon the calling of this Special Convention. It is very remarkable, indeed, that the run of events has brought us together here in Baltimore on a day when conflicts between the workers and the employers in our industries are raging, or are on the even of breaking out, in a number of cities.

We have met today in a period of strife and stress, of renewed fighting for the preservation of humane conditions and of union standards in our trades, which is so symbolic of the unceasing struggles of our Union, of the inexhaustible readiness of our workers to defend themselves against the aggressions of their employers and to keep up a steady pace of advance to win a brighter world for themselves.

This Special Convention is charged with only one sole task, one sole duty,—to elect a new chief executive officer for our International Union. Let us proceed to this task imbued with a determined will not to fritter our efforts away in petty politics or the gratification of small ambitions. Let us choose the very best, the ablest, the most trusted and experienced we have in our midst and let us wholeheartedly give him all our support, loyalty and devotion that will strengthen his hand, steady his leadership at the helm of our great organization.

ABRAHAM BAROFF,
General Secretary-Treasurer
FANNIA M. COHN
MEYER PERLSTEIN
HYMAN SCHOOLMAN
ELIAS REISBERG
SOL SEIDMAN
JACOB HALPERIN
JACOB HELLER

SALVATORE NINFO,
Acting President
ISRAEL FEINBERG
SAMUEL LEFKOWITZ
JOSEPH BRESLAW
MAX GORENSTEIN
HARRY WANDER
FRED MONOSSON
DAVID DUBINSKY

And so far the British workers have not succeeded in making their government change its course.

DOES CRAIG REALLY MEAN WAR?

POLITICAL circles in New York are deeply perturbed over the feud between Comptroller Craig and Mayor Hylan. Tammany Hall was at first inclined to regard the break between the two city officials as of temporary and transient nature. It was generally expected that the Murphy machine would soon "iron" matters out, and Hylan and Craig would continue their reign in peace and harmony. But there is no sign of the Comptroller abating in his attacks on the Mayor, which is interpreted to mean by wise politicians that he has "aspirations for the Mayoralty."

While the Comptroller does the fighting on the spot the Mayor does it by proxy. Lieutenants and substitutes represent the Mayor on the various committees and when called upon the Tammany machine exerts its pressure in his favor. But thus far the Mayor's cause, fared badly. The other day Craig put one over on Hylan. The Albany legislators discovered a joker in the Hylan City Transit Bill which considerably reduces Hylan's powers. He has apparently determined to keep up the role of "watchdog of the city treasury," and systematically block the Mayor's plans. It looks, however, that the Mayor is not the least frightened by Craig's attacks for he is still enjoying the lullay air of Palm Beach.

The Danger Point in The New Immigration Bill

By B. MAIMAN

(Special Washington Correspondence to "Justice")

The Committee on Immigration of the House has already brought in a favorable report on the new immigration bill and the chairman of the Committee, Congressman Johnson, issued a statement to the effect that he would try to obtain a special ruling to put the bill through before March 4th. There is a good deal in this report that should interest workers, particularly such workers who themselves were immigrants some time ago. It would be worthwhile to analyze some sections of both the majority and minority reports of the Committee on Immigration on this momentous bill.

The 3 per cent quota which went into power in 1921 permitted the entrance into the United States of about 335,000 immigrants. During the first year under this law—only July 1st, 1921 to June 30, 1922—only 309,556 entered our ports, which means that over 45,000 immigrants who were eligible for admission did not come. In that same year there have left America 198,712 emigrants. These figures become even more striking when examined from the point of view of the number of actual productive workers who entered and left America during the last immigration year. Included in the above given total of arrivals, there were 95,964 unmarried females and 13,980 males, below the age of 16, which means that more than half of the entire immigration was of a non-productive character. Mr. Wickson of the Bureau of Immigration has stated at a hearing before the House Committee on Appropriations the following:

"What astonished me more than anything else when compiling sta-

tistics for the last fiscal year, July 1, 1921,—June 30, 1922, was the fact that our entire increase of population for the year amounted to 104,328 females and only 6,518 males under the age of 16. These figures represent the difference between the number of those who have come to America and those who left it during the same period. You will easily infer therefrom that we have not gained during this period a single male over sixteen years of age. The fact is that more grownup men have left this country than have arrived here. We must not forget also that many of the males who come to America are over 55 years of age, such as parents and other elderly dependents."

One can see from this that the American labor market has not been cluttered by a too heavy influx of immigrants during the last year. If anything, last year's immigration may have improved the general condition of American labor. A large number of persons came who have to be fed, clothed, shod and housed—while the number of active workers has not been increased but even decreased. The necessity for now diminishing the immigration quota from 3 per cent to 2 per cent and to base the calculations of these quotas on the census of 1890 instead of the census of 1910 is, therefore, to say the least, not a real one and not founded on fact.

But if the new immigration bill is senseless from an economic point of view, it is still more indefensible from a humanitarian aspect. The figures show for instance that instead of the 21,615 immigrants that could have

come in from Russia under the present 3 per cent quota, only 1,992 would be permitted to land on the basis of a 2 per cent quota and of the census of 1890,—except for the extra 400 that are being, for some mysterious reason, thrown in for good measure for each nationality. In other words, if the new bill becomes law, Russia will only be allowed 1.7 of its present quota—while from Poland only 1.5 will be allowed to enter, namely 5,556, instead of the present 21,976. From Austria only 1,500 persons will be allowed to enter, while from Rumania only 65 arrivals will be admitted. From countries where the populations suffer most, the least number of immigrants will be permitted to land.

I have mentioned in my last letter about the appendix attached to this new immigration bill,—the "certificate of immigration." I said then that this "certificate" is very likely to tend to push along the planned system of registration of aliens, or as it can best be termed, a passport system for foreigners. It seems that my guess was right. The report of the Immigration Committee declares, without ceremony that this is truly the object of the "certificate" of immigration. They state plainly that the plan was prepared with the purpose of carrying out the President's proposal for registering and guarding all aliens lest they leave the path of righteousness while sojourning in America. Here is a quotation from the majority report (Page 16):

"The arrival of aliens in the future, under the Committee's amendment, will be supervised and carefully registered. This, in itself, will lead in time to a system of reg-

istration of aliens, possibly as part of the process of naturalization."

This, in my opinion, is the real danger point of the entire bill. It looks rather innocent on its face and is somewhat difficult of attack. This point, nevertheless, lays the foundation for future laws that might become very dangerous for new arrivals to this country. I showed above that the new bill would make a decided inroad into the number of immigrants to this country. Instead of the 355,000 allowed to land at present, the new law would permit only about one half, to be accurate, 186,457. Nevertheless, this alone would not be so bad as the bill permits near relatives to come in without limit, and that would probably make up for this difference. But it is the requirement of an immigration certificate that presents to us the most pernicious aspect of this bill.

Conferences to protest the new immigration bill have already begun to be formed. It is possible that open protests will be made and committees will be sent to Washington to the public hearings that will be held on this bill. I would suggest, therefore, that the organizations that protest against the new immigration bill, direct their force against the immigration certificate, against the planned registration of immigrants and not so much against the diminished quota. Of course, any protest against further limitation of immigration cannot overlook entirely the injustice of cutting down the quota from 3 per cent to 2 per cent, and that on the basis of the census of 1910 to boot.

But if we cannot avoid quotas based on percentages, we would rather have the quotas of the new bill than the old, as it is more likely that under the new bill more immigrants will be allowed to land than under the old arrangement. So whatever protest there is to be directed against the bill, let it come in the form of an attack on the certificate of immigration and let the fight be centered on that point.

The Baltimore Convention

(Continued from page 2)

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE

On Friday, the second day of the convention, several more speeches of welcome were listened to by the delegates and a number of telegrams were read. After that, the Credentials Committee, of which, Vice-President Joseph Breslaw is the chairman and Vice-President David Dubinsky, secretary, rendered its report.

According to the report of the com-

SIGMAN AND SCHLESINGER

Brother Morris Sigman came into the convention hall on Friday morning and his appearance served as a signal for a great outburst of applause. A little later, ex-President Schlesinger came into the hall escorted by a committee and received a warm greeting. Later, when Sigman

CONVENTION ENDS WITH EXCELLENT BANQUET; PRESIDENT COMPERS A GUEST

To be correct, the convention came to an end on Friday evening, at a fine banquet arranged by the Baltimore locals of the International in honor of the convention delegates.

A prominent guest at this banquet was Samuel Compers, the president of the American Federation of Labor, who came from the meeting of the Executive Council in Washington to attend the closing hours of the Special Convention. President Compers delivered a very interesting talk,

the convention was attended by 179 delegates, the overwhelming majority of them being the delegates that attended the Cleveland Convention in May, 1922. A group of new delegates, largely young women from newly organized locals in Long Island and New Jersey towns have also made an appearance at the Special Convention. The Credentials Committee also recommended that Morris Sigman be appointed by the convention as honorary delegate.

RECEIVE HEARTY OVATIONS

was nominated and elected as President of the International, Acting President Nifno turned the chair over to ex-President Schlesinger, in an atmosphere of stirring solemnity, to install the incoming chief executive of the International Union, after which the convention came to a close.

pledging the aid of the Federation to the new president of the International in the same manner as it has always supported its former president, Brother Schlesinger. Aside from President Compers, a number of other guests responded to the toastmaster's invitation, among them Secretary Baroff, Harry Lang, S. Yanofsky, ex-President Schlesinger and President Morris Sigman.

First Vice-President Nifno acted as toast master.

Drive in Canadian Cities Proceeds Fast Apace

On his way from the Special Convention in Baltimore, Vice-President Sol Siedman who is in charge of the activities of our International in Canada, brought in cheerful news concerning the progress which our Canadian workers are making in their effort to put their local organizations in good fighting trim so that they might wrest from their employers the some 900 such workers in Toronto garment-making centers.

AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING LOCAL IN TORONTO

In Toronto there was recently formed an English-speaking local of ladies' garment workers. There are some 900 such workers in Toronto and from all appearances a strong organization will be very soon formed among them.

The strike in Montreal in the shop of the Empire Garment Company

continues with unabated vigor, despite all the persecution and hounding of the strikers. The firm has obtained a temporary injunction against the Union and very soon a hearing will be held. The Union will, quite naturally, do everything in its power to have the injunction rescinded. But win or fail, in this direction, the Union will not give up the strike against this firm until it comes to terms with the organization.

A NEW BUSINESS AGENT IN MONTREAL

At the recommendation of Brother Sigman, the Cloakmakers' Union of Montreal has elected a new business agent, Brother Ransbach. This new officer is a very energetic man and there is little doubt that with the aid of the more active members of the Union, the result of his enterprise and work will soon be felt in the local organization.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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Schloss Tinz—A Workers' School

By THERESA WOLFSON

Once upon a time there was an old German Fuert or nobleman who built himself a beautiful castle with a winding moat around it to protect himself from possible intruders. This Fuert had large stretches of land in the township of Gera, in the central part of Germany. He had as his slaves many hundreds of peasants, men and women who lived on his land, worked in the fields and depended upon him for their livelihood. This was many years ago and the castle was handed down from father to son for many generations.

Then came the great World War and the Prince of Tinz who owned the castle at the time decided to be patriotic, so he turned over the castle to the wounded soldiers of Germany. For two years this wonderful old castle that had seen many great pageants and balls, that had housed many intrigues and plots, was the scene of keen suffering and death; for, the soldiers who fought for the Vaterland came back to the castle either to recover or die. It is true they were grateful to the Prince for what he did for them, and in token of their gratitude they presented him with a bronze tablet expressing their great gratitude. The Prince felt that his duty was done with reference to these men who fought and bled for his Vaterland, and prized the tablet highly.

Suddenly something happened. There came the German Revolution! The descendants of the old feudal peasantry of the village of Tinz were now the workers who rebelled against the lord. They had worked on the land for years and their fathers before them, and they decided that

there was no reason why they should not be able to free themselves from the patronage of the Prince.

With the Revolution came the realization to all the German nobility that the world was going topsy-turvy. The owner of the Tinz Castle decided to give up his right to the castle and the land about it, and he handed it over to the Workers' Council in Gera, a nearby industrial town, with a provision that the bronze tablet which had been presented to him by the soldiers, was never to be removed from the old hall. The workers decided that the best thing that they could do with this old home of nobility was to convert it into a school for workers. This was the origin of the Workers' School at Schloss Tinz!

The German trade unions selected a Board of Directors for the School, made up of representatives from various Trade Unions, regardless of what political party they might belong to. The students were selected by this Board from different Trade Unions, chosen largely because of their ability and their activity in the Labor Movement. During the period that the student lives at the school he receives a salary almost commensurate with that which he would get if he were working at his own trade. This enables the student to study without worry of finances. The tuition fee is a minimum one.

For the most part the funds for running the school come from the developed land which belonged to the castle. The students themselves, spent part of their time either directing the farm work or working in the fields themselves.

As one approaches the castle, which is now the workers' school, one sees

that the old moat has long since been dried up, and the white building is alive with the activities of the students. About 35 students can be accommodated at one time.

The old ballroom of the castle has been converted into a large lecture room, and at the time the writer visited the school there was being conducted in that room a course in the Appreciation of Art. The instructor was a keen, eager artist himself, a man who provoked varying emotions on the part of his students by the beauty of the old master piece which he explained. These were projected on the screen, for the school owned an excellent lantern machine and projectoscope. Even a fine appreciation for the niceties of color were discussed by this instructor. The class which at that time happened to be a group of women trade-unionists were as interested in the study of the old masters as any group could possibly be.

Another large room is used for the course in Economic Geography and here a veritable museum of natural history can be found. Economic Geography is one of the most important courses given at the school, and the workers are thereby enabled to understand the resources not only of their own country but of every country of industrial import. The collection which had been made, was the pride of the instructor who felt that the workers were more intimately acquainted with the resources and the industrial problems of their own country by virtue of the land-trips and the collections which the workers themselves made.

There are other rooms devoted to other subjects. The library which had probably been the dining-room of the castle, contained books and magazines on every subject, with students eagerly poring over them under the competent direction of the librarian. The entire attitude of the teachers

was shaped to enable the students to solve their own problems; that they might the better take up their Trade Union activities and have a keener appreciation of economic problems after having completed a five month course at Schloss Tinz.

The instructors too, were an interesting group. They were men trained in their specific subjects, all of them acquainted with the Trade Union problems of the country, and all of them eager to add their bit in the way of turning out men and women who might cope with these problems as a result of their period of study at the school.

There is an idealism and enthusiasm prevailing that one feels the minute one enters the school. And when one sits down at the long tables during the noon hour and eats of the simple repast and hears the eager discussions of the subjects of the day, one realizes how important this sort of education is to the spirit of the worker.

It is a simple story, this story of the development of the Workers' School, and as one walks through the village of Tinz talking to some of the old peasants one hears from the old shoemaker this remark, "And just think, that was once a Prince's castle and now it is a school for workers." It seems as though it were necessary to have the soldiers die and suffer in that old castle and thus purify it through their suffering, before it could be ready for the workers of Germany.

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The Women's Clothing Industry in New York State

By ABRAHAM TUVIM

(Record Department of the I. L. C. W. U.)

WAGES AND PRODUCT

The 14th census of manufacturers in the United States contains a wealth of material which, upon analysis, divulges numerous facts about the women's wear industry which have not been apparent heretofore. In its tabulations of the industries of New York State the Department of Commerce not only shows the ladies' garment industry to be the chief industry of the state but also permits analysis of value of product, wage totals and averages, the relation of wages to product, the relation of pro-

fit to product and that of profit to capital invested.

In the following series of charts and explanations, is an analysis of the foregoing elements in the industry. The charts are specifically divided under the headings of "Wages and Product," "Product and Profit" and "The Division of the Dollar in the Garment Industry." These in turn are subdivided under headings denoting the various divisions of the industry for regular factories and for contract shops. The first chart is that of wages and product in the manufacture of suits, skirts and cloaks.

Chart No. 1—Regular Factories

WAGES AND PRODUCTS Suits, Skirts and Cloaks

Number of Shops	Average Number Employed	Value of Product	Average Product	Total Wage	Average Wage	Relation of Wage to Product
1,143	25,817	\$373,210,721	\$4,456,011	\$47,127,089	\$1,825.43	12.6

This chart on the face of it shows an average of \$1,825.43 for the year of 1919, which is covered by the census. It should be taken into consideration however that the actual wage of the cloakmakers was much less than that. The average number of employees considered was 25,817. This is faulty in that it does not take into consideration division of labor which exists in the industry. In that year there were over 42,000 cloakmakers in the manufacture of suits, skirts and cloaks who divided the labor season. Actually the w-

age which was received by the cloakmaker was approximately \$1,100.00.

Chart No. 2 which follows concerns the waist and dress industry and shows an average wage of \$1,242.39 for the period. In this industry also the division of labor would materially reduce the average wage deduced from the mass of statistics issued by the government. It is interesting to note that the value of the product of 31,000 waist makers considered in the report was about \$100,000 less than the value produced by only 25,517 cloakmakers.

Chart No. 2—Regular Factories

WAGES AND PRODUCTS Waists and Dresses

Number of Shops	Average Number Employed	Value of Product	Average Product	Total Wage	Average Wage	Relation of Wage to Product
1,255	31,842	\$282,235,251	\$8,863,611	\$39,560,322	\$1,242.39	14.0

Chart No. 3—Regular Factories

WAGES AND PRODUCTS Undergarments, Petticoats, Wrappers, House Dresses and Others

Number of Shops	Average Number Employed	Value of Product	Average Product	Total Wage	Average Wage	Relation of Wage to Product
1,977	24,279	\$177,306,255	\$7,302,82	\$23,268,616	\$958.58	13.1

Chart No. 3 concerns the manufacture of undergarments, petticoats, wrappers, house-dresses and other women's apparel which is not listed specifically. The average wage in this industry for 24,279 employees was \$958.58. This, like the wage of the previous two divisions of the indus-

try would be materially reduced if all of the workers in the industry were concerned with in the report.

The above charts were for regular factories only. The census permits a division between regular factories and contract shops. Below is a chart. No. 4, for the contract shops in the various divisions of the industry.

Chart No. 4—Contract Shops

WAGES AND PRODUCTS Suits, Skirts and Cloaks

Number of Shops	Average Number Employed	Value of Product	Average Product	Total Wage	Average Wage	Relation of Wage to Product
800	7,333	\$24,286,524	\$3,011.95	\$11,923,656	\$1,626.03	49.1

Waists and Dresses

Number of Shops	Average Number Employed	Value of Product	Average Product	Total Wage	Average Wage	Relation of Wage to Product
770	10,968	\$4,909,561	\$2,474.13	\$12,331,643	\$1,224.84	49.5

Undergarments, Petticoats, Wrappers, House Dresses and Others

Number of Shops	Average Number Employed	Value of Product	Average Product	Total Wage	Average Wage	Relation of Wage to Product
843	2,313	\$5,036,187	\$1,529.12	\$3,461,675	\$1,044.88	68.7

In an analysis of this chart it should be noted that when considering the relation of wages to product a correct view cannot be obtained unless consideration is given to the fact that the value of the product produced in the contract shop does not include the original cost of the materials necessary to make the garment. These are supplied by the manufacturer or

jobber to the contractor. It should be also considered that in the contract shops the question of division of work enters in the same proportion as the regular factories. The government figures concern an average of approximately 20,000 workers in the contract shops in the entire industry. The real figure would include many additional thousands who found

COOPERATORS PROTEST RUHR INVASION

The seizure of the Ruhr Basin, the heart of Germany's industrial system, is protested against in a dispatch received from the Central Union of German Consumers' Cooperative Societies and the German Cooperative Wholesale Society. It will be remembered that the German Central Union is the most powerful educational federation on the Continent, embracing 3,000,000 members enrolled in 1,800 local societies. Its affiliated societies in 1921 did a business in excess of five billion marks. As the cooperators comprise almost one-third the population of Germany, their protest is representative of the point of view of the German people. The dispatch is as follows: "To the Cooperators of All Lands: "The Peace Treaty of Versailles, which makes a mockery of the self-determining right of the people, has led to repeated reparations demands far exceeding the resources of the German people, and in their ravages upon Germany have affected the entire civilized world. "In the meantime, the rational nations long ago arrived at the conclusion that this policy of senseless hatred and blind revenge not only threatens further bloody wars, but permanently disturbs the domestic life of all peoples and hinders their development. In all countries millions of starving, stunted and despairing groups of unemployed attest the unreasonableness of this inhuman desire for reprisal, which does not cease that barbarism directed against the German people will degenerate into barbarism against all humanity. "Unheard of sacrifices have long been made by the German people, already exhausted by many years of war and robbed through the Peace Treaty of many of their most valuable resources. With a recklessness known only during the worst days of embittered warfare, unbearable burdens are laid during times of peace by the methods of militarism, upon a population entirely defenceless and incapable of resistance, and full of longing for peace. The impossibility of fulfillment of these exaggerated and boundless demands has resulted in threats of force. "In the face of the solemn principles proclaimed by the Allies, millions of Germans through the Peace Treaty have been compelled to become a part of other nations, against their wishes, and without their being given an opportunity to make known their desires. Today we are again threatened—because Germany cannot accomplish the impossible—with further punishment, by the seizure of large provinces with purely German populations, and their annexation to France. "The Rhine, the Saar Valley, and now the Ruhr Basin, are to fall to

the same insatiable imperialism which, during the days of the first Napoleon, once forced all Europe to arms against France. Toward the industries of Germany and the Ruhr provinces this imperialism is stretching its greedy hands!

"A cry of indignation is heard from the German people. These states are truly German in language, traditions and national feeling, and they desire to remain German. Their populations refuse with deep indignation to be separated from a nation to which they are bound by the strongest bonds that humanity recognizes—those of blood ties; they refuse to be forced, like a submissive herd of cattle, to become part of a nation whose language they do not speak, whose customs are foreign to them, and whose nationality they do not desire, no matter how much they may want to associate with them in a peaceful and neighborly fashion.

"Together with the population of these threatened provinces, all German Cooperative Associations lift their voices in loud protest. The brutal economic servitude under which the German people are suffering, the constant attempts to ruin Germany's stability as a nation, are an insurmountable hindrance to the solution of the difficult economic relations earnestly being striven for by Cooperative Societies of all lands, and a continued, grave danger to the cooperative ideal of World Peace.

"In the name of the German people, we demand that Reason and Humanity dictate the present day methods, and that all lovers of peace comprehend the end of the ruinous and deadening greed for land. We appeal to the Cooperators of all lands, in the interest of the Cooperative International, to join us in our protest and appeal."

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little more than part time work during the season, and would reduce the average wage to a much lower level.

Chart No. 5 concerns the grand totals and average of wages and products in the industry. The average wage under this consideration is \$1,341.16. The average product of workers was \$8,248.63. This average, for the entire industry, is less than the average of the chief division of the industry—that of suits, cloaks and skirts, which was \$1,456,011. This latter average was however re-

duced in the final averages by the addition of the average product in the contract shops in which no consideration is given to the value of cloth originally supplied. A more approximate idea of the value produced by the average worker in the entire industry would be obtained by adding the values of the regular factories and those of the contract factories and dividing them by the number of divisions concerned in the industry. This would give an average of \$12,642.96 in value produced.

Chart No. 5

Grand Totals of all Division of Industry

Number of Shops	Average Number Employed	Value of Product	Average Product	Total Wage	Average Wage	Relation of Wage to Product
5,238	102,652	\$865,963,509	\$8,248.63	\$8,540,608	\$1,341.16	15.5

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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EDITORIALS

PRESIDENT MORRIS SIGMAN

Morris Sigman, the newly-elected President of the International, is not a newcomer in our Union to require an introduction to our readers. Quite to the contrary, it was the general esteem, love and popularity in which he has been held among our workers in all the years of service he had rendered to our movement that was one of the principal motives which made everyone think of Sigman as a possible candidate for the presidency as soon as this post became vacant.

It is curious, indeed, that today hardly anyone could claim that he or she was the first to bring forward the name of Morris Sigman. Sigman, it appears now, was the first choice of practically all the members of the General Executive Board, as well as of all our friends on the outside. It is true, other names, from among the more popularly known members of the Board, had been mentioned for the post, but these were mentioned only in the event Morris Sigman declined to accept the presidency.

Not the least interesting feature about the selection of Morris Sigman lies in the fact that for the past nine months Sigman has lived far away from New York, and away from all union activities. One may have thought from that that the labor movement of New York had entirely forgotten him, as is frequently the case with this hustling, rushing, whirlpool of ours called New York. In the case of Morris Sigman, it seemed, however, to be otherwise—and when the necessity for finding a leader for our International arose, his name immediately came to the minds of all interested.

And there was reason enough for it, indeed. Real, valuable work cannot be forgotten. Years of suffering and toiling in such a great and enduring movement like our labor movement is, cannot and is not so easily relegated to oblivion. A person who has distinguished himself with such earnest, unflinching adhesion to the cause of labor, as Sigman has, of necessity becomes endeared in the hearts of thousands upon thousands of men and women; and when the proper moment comes, this loyalty and devotion cannot fail to be appreciated at its full value and to be adequately rewarded.

The New York cloakmakers could not forget Morris Sigman, the sponsor of week-work in the cloak industry, so energetically and persistently carried through under his direction. The cloakmakers of New York could not forget the manager of their Joint Board—which has become such an influential and powerful organization under his leadership. It would have been preposterous, indeed, to think that a few months of absence from the organization should have made the workers in our industry forget one of their best, most trusted and indefatigable friends and leaders.

Fortunately, our workers remember well their friends, as well as their enemies. This explains the enthusiasm which the name of Sigman as candidate for the presidency has aroused among our workers and the jubilation with which his election has been generally acclaimed. It is universally conceded that no better choice for this post could have been made by the Special Convention.

Two weeks ago, in these columns, we endeavored to sketch, in a few words, the requisites of a chief executive officer of our International. We said:

"The executive leader of our organization must be a person of unquestioned ability, one who has, through many years of service for the Union, demonstrated his loyalty to the cause of our workers, and one who can lead our masses and influence them in a big way. We must have a level-headed executive, one who is conscious of the general aims of the labor movement and of the best road to achieve them; he must know what can be gained immediately and what can be best postponed for a later day—if the present hour is not quite appropriate for it. We must also have a president who is ready and able to work and work hard—for the presidency in our organization is by far not a sinecure. We must have, in short, a person strong in mind and body—one that could honorably and usefully discharge the big duties of the office bestowed upon him.

"We expect our president, nevertheless, to sympathize with and understand every honest and well-meaning current of thought in the labor movement. He should be tolerant of the opinions of others, even if they run counter to his own. He may, and very likely will, be opposed on matters of principle by many—but he must act in a manner that even his opponents will respect him."

It seems to us that President Sigman, better than anyone else in the ranks of our International Union, comes up to these standards. The great membership of our Union has received the

news of the election of Morris Sigman for the presidency with enthusiasm and joy. We congratulate President Sigman from the depth of our heart upon his elevation to this new and important place in the labor movement.

True, we know, how difficult is the work and how thorny at times is the path of the president of our International. But we know too that this arduous task will be a work of love for President Sigman. We congratulate our entire International for its choice, for no better one could have been made. We congratulate the New York labor movement—which is so closely interwoven with our own International. And last but not least, we congratulate the delegates to the Special Convention who have done so well in having elected the best man in our ranks for president in such a harmonious and inspiring manner.

THE DRESSMAKERS' STRIKE COMING TO AN END

As we are penning these lines, the tens of thousands of the striking workers in the dress and waist industry of New York are voting in the halls on the terms reached between the conference committee of the Union and the Associated Dress Manufacturers, which include the 40-hour week, double pay for overtime, and several other minor concessions.

These are very substantial and important gains, and from surface indications it would seem that the strikers would accept these concessions, and that peace will again be restored in the industry. The conferences between the employers and the strikers were attended by President Sigman, his first baptismal fire since he returned to Baltimore last Saturday as the new President of our International.

President Sigman is fully acquainted with the situation in the dress and waist industry, as only not long ago he was general manager of the Dress and Waistmakers' Joint Board. He knows what the contractors can and what they cannot concede and he has brought into these conferences the full prestige and fighting zeal of our International.

We hope that we shall be able, in our next issue, to congratulate the brave strikers in the waist and dress industry of New York and their leaders upon the winning of a big, epoch-making victory.

THE STRIKE OF THE CHILDREN'S DRESSMAKERS

The sum-total achieved thus far by the strike of the children's dressmakers, has been the returning of about a thousand strikers back to work under full union conditions.

This is already a considerable gain, when one considers the plight of the New York children's dressmakers during the last few years. This strike has already made work-conditions in a number of shops less oppressive and less subject to the whims and caprices of the employers.

The Union, however, will not rest contented with this initial achievement. There are still a great number of children's dressmakers out on strike and these do not propose to return to the shops unless recognized by the employers as union men and women. From the report of the strike committee, it would seem that the goal of these workers will soon be achieved. A large number of shops will be permanently unionized, and Local 50 will be put into better fighting trim to accomplish the complete and thorough unionization of the rest of the industry.

NEW STRIKES ON OUR HORIZON

The two strikes in the dress industry of New York are not yet at an end as two others, of quite a large calibre, are making their appearance on our industrial horizon. The first of these is the approaching conflict in the dress and waist trade in Philadelphia. Our readers will doubtless recall the brave twenty-six-week fight waged by the workers in this industry last year, which, we regret to say, has ended in defeat. After the fight was over, the Philadelphia waist and dress employers obviously have come to regard the workers' union in their trade as a matter of the past and have subjected their workers to abhorrent and heartless treatment.

The Union, however, has fooled them in this respect, as it has fooled many another group of obstinate and reactionary employers in the past. The Philadelphia Waist and Dressmakers' Union is alive and is out again on the fighting line. Several days ago, the Union has addressed a letter to the manufacturers asking them to negotiate a collective agreement in the industry for the elimination of a number of abuses in the shops. The manufacturers decided not to respond to this letter—leaving the Union no other alternative but that of a strike.

This coming strike will, we hope, prove to the Philadelphia dress and waist employers that they have erred in their calculations. This fight will establish, once for all, the truth that a local union belonging to our International, even if once defeated in a battle, cannot be destroyed. Today it would seem that the strike in the dress and waist industry in Philadelphia is almost a certainty, unless the employers change front at the eleventh hour and enter into peaceful negotiations with the Union.

The second strike on the order of the day is the strike of the dressmakers and cloakmakers of Boston, which is already in full progress at the time of this writing.

According to the report of Vice-President Perlestein in charge of the Boston campaign, the averting of the local conflict became almost impossible after the employers had made up their minds that they could ignore the union and could lord it over the workers with complete impunity. It became obvious that these employers must be taught a lesson and that this lesson could be nothing else but a strike that would paralyze their shops and bring them to their senses.

High Lights at the Baltimore Convention

By S. Y.

The Special Convention of the International, held last week in Baltimore, was by no means any less impressive than any of the regular conventions held biennially by our Union.

To begin with, the convention was attended by almost as many delegates as had attended the Cleveland Convention in May, 1922. The only delegates that were missing were those from Locals Nos. 22 and 25, which are right now engaged in a bitter conflict with their employers, and a few others who have become ineligible since 1922. Otherwise, the representation of the Cleveland convention was practically duplicated at Baltimore—whence they were summoned for the sole purpose of electing a new executive chief for the International in the place of Benjamin Schlesinger.

Again, the procedure at Baltimore was about the same that prevails at any of our regular conventions. The committee on Credentials had to render a report—of this report could not be made ready for the first day. It occurred that during the past nine months—since the last Cleveland convention—two of the delegates from Local No. 1, bosom friends erstwhile, have become mortal enemies, and have now come forward with tales and charges concerning each other that should have sufficed in their judgment, to make either of them ineligible as a convention delegate. Charges were also preferred against a delegate from another local. Willy-nilly, the Credentials Committee was compelled to listen to these charges and take time in examining them and rendering a fair decision. Thus it came about that the Committee was not ready with its report until the second morning of the Convention, Friday, February 17th.

The first day, Thursday, February 15, was devoted to welcome speeches delivered by the representatives of the Baltimore Central Labor Union, Mayor Broening of the City of Baltimore, the general organizer of the Amalgamated in Baltimore, and several other speakers. These speeches, while not strikingly impressive, have nevertheless helped to create a real convention atmosphere. At the end of long rows of tables at which sat our delegates in the big banquet hall of the Emerson, decorated with flowery presented by the members of the local cloakmakers' organization, No. 4.

We liked very much the replying remarks of Vice-President Ninfo to the speech of welcome of Mayor Broening—we liked them far better, indeed, than the Mayor's speech itself. Acting President Ninfo's handling of the convention was quite admirable, as generally admitted on all sides. In his reply to the Mayor, Brother Ninfo delicately hinted that beautiful as the Baltimore boulevards may be and be celebrated as its port is—as long as the Baltimore workers remain unorganized, and as long as the city administration would not help the workers in their struggle for a better living, the Mayor of Baltimore has little indeed to boast about. These remarks of Brother Ninfo must have found their aim—at any rate they have made our delegates feel

real good and have made them real proud of their chairman.

So the convention actually began on Friday, February 15. The Credentials Committee read its report; Secretary Baroff called the roll-call, and the convention was officially declared open. And here let us pause at an occurrence which we regard as the first stirring moment of this convention. The Credentials' Committee, in concluding its report, has recommended in its view of the fact that Brother Morris Sigman had been invited by the General Executive Board as our guest to the convention, that the convention appoint him as honorary delegate.

No sooner did these words leave the chairman's mouth than a storm broke out in the hall—an oration that tended to indicate unmistakably that its recipient was certain to receive the highest gift in the possession of the International—its presidency. There was nothing artificial, nor any order had in this oration; it was a spontaneous outburst of genuine love and respect for one who had for years fought with the rank and file the battles of the ladies' garment workers. From that moment it became clear that the next president of the International would be no one else but Morris Sigman.

What followed later came along as a matter of course, as something that could not be otherwise. And when Joseph Breslaw, manager of Local No. 35, rose to nominate Morris Sigman, a member of that local, for the presidency of the International, and was seconded successively in this nomination by Vice-President Israel Feinberg of the New York Cloakmakers' Joint Board, by Bernard Schane, the secretary-manager of Local No. 1, and by Jacob Heller, secretary of Local No. 17, the election of Sigman appeared like a foregone conclusion. His name was received with the greatest elation and enthusiasm by all the delegates. In vain did he plead with the delegates to allow him to say a few words before a vote is taken. Acting President of the delegates fully expressed the desire of the delegates that a vote be taken at once—if it were not for some conditions that would interfere with the carrying out of the unified will of the convention. As a result, Morris Sigman was immediately thereafter elected by acclamation.

It was one of the most touching scenes the writer of these lines has ever witnessed. The nervous tension of the delegates so evident during the nomination, was indeed too high to allow going on with the installation immediately and so it was postponed until the afternoon session. And here we come to a very dramatic incident of the Baltimore gathering. Benjamin Schlesinger had been invited by the General Executive Board to come to the Special Convention to install his old friend and now successor Morris Sigman in the office of the presidency. Acting President Ninfo, with the consent of the delegates, had appointed a committee to wait on ex-President Schlesinger,

who was stopping at the Emerson, and to escort him to the convention hall. When Schlesinger entered the hall the entire convention rose like one person and tendered the former chief executive of our International an ovation which, we are sure, will never be forgotten by the man who had given the best nine years of his life to the service of this Union and who must have surely felt at that moment that his labors and achievements will forever be green in the minds and hearts of our workers.

In connection with this I wish to mention that when later someone of the delegates had made a motion that the convention express its feelings towards ex-President Schlesinger in the form of some token of appreciation, the convention adopted it with enthusiasm—save for a few scattering votes of a few perfunctory malcontents who still cannot forgive Schlesinger his firm and courageous stand against all their disruptive antics and tactics. Their few votes marked the only discordant note at the convention and it seemed, indeed, as if these delegates were entirely out of place at this gathering where harmony and unanimity otherwise prevailed.

The final hours of the convention were given over to two banquets—one arranged by the Cloakmakers' Union of Baltimore, Local No. 4, where, in addition to splendid viands, a number of excellent speeches were held—lauding the outgoing as well as the incoming President of the International—and a second one, a much smaller one, tendered by the delegation of Local No. 35 to Brothers Sigman and Schlesinger the next afternoon. Some two hours later all the delegates left the city of Baltimore.

It is a matter of sincere pleasure for us to underscore here the hospitality displayed by the Baltimore workers towards the delegates—particularly the care and concern exhibited by General Organizer Sol Goldberg for the welfare and comfort of the delegates.

We also desire to mention here that the Baltimore local had arranged a mass meeting for Thursday, February 15, which was addressed by Abraham Baroff, Israel Feinberg, Sol Goldberg, Arturo Giovannitti, Jacob Heller, S. Yanovsky, and a few other local speakers. These speeches were listened to with great attention, and the speech of Brother Giovannitti received very generous applause. Let us hope that this meeting will help materially in the organization campaign which is now being conducted by the International in Baltimore.

Union Health Center News

Special Course in Corrective Exercises.

The Union Health Center of the I. L. G. W. has been able to arrange a series of four lectures and practical demonstrations on Special Corrective Exercises for Workers of the garment industry. This course will be given every Tuesday evening beginning March 13th, and will be under the instruction of Dr. Ward Crampton, formerly Physical Director of the Schools of New York City.

Dr. Crampton has made a study of the bad postures resulting from the manner in which workers sit at machines and tables, and has arranged a series of special exercises which can be performed by each worker once he has a diagnosis of what is actually the matter with his posture. This course of lectures promises to be one of the most popular and certainly the most unique feature of the educational work of the Union Health Center.

After giving a series of lectures on health matters and personal hygiene the Health Center is attempting to arrange some constructive work for the members of the I. L. G. W. U. The exercises will be given with special attention to the elimination of such chronic sources of trouble to the worker as constipation, round shoulders, pain in the back, pain in the arms, etc.

A special registration fee of \$1.00 will be required for the entire course. It is necessary to charge this minimum amount in order to defray some of the expenses incurred in gymnastic work. It is hoped that every worker interested in his posture and particularly in the question of exercises for the worker, will register for this course. Registration may be made in the office of Miss Theresa Wolfson, at the Union Health Center, 131 East 17th Street.

Dr. Haven Emerson, formerly Commissioner of Health of New York City and now Director of the School of Public Health of Columbia University, will lecture on Friday evening, February 23rd, at 8:15 P.M., at the Union Health Center, on Figures in Public Health Work.

Dr. Emerson is one of the leading physicians in the United States. His Movement in the Public Health. His

interest in Public Health work among workers' organizations has been universally accepted. Dr. Emerson will discuss Public Health Work of Today, its significance and the part which workers' and workers' organizations play in the bigger movement to bring health to everyone and prevent disease.

Members of the I. L. G. W. U. are cordially invited to attend this lecture. On Tuesday evening, February 27th, Dr. William A. Rogers will give the fourth of his series of lectures on First Aid. This lecture will consider what to do in case of Poisoning, Burns, Hernia and Accidents from Electricity.

This series of lectures has been most successful and the workers have realized how important it is for them to know the elements of First Aid.

Alvin Johnson, Editor of the "New Republic" will Lecture on March 1st

The next Thursday evening discussion, arranged by the Educational Department, will be held on March 1st, in the auditorium of our building, 3 West 16th Street.

Mr. Johnson, editor of the New Republic, will speak on the Occupation of the Ruhr Valley by the French. All of our members are urged to reserve that evening and attend this discussion.

Mr. Johnson is well-known as an authority on international matters and his articles and editorials in the New Republic attract national attention. Our members will undoubtedly find his lecture very valuable, particularly since the present situation in Europe depends so largely on the outcome of the seizure of the Ruhr Valley by the French.

Those who have studied the situation, know that the entire matter is a result of an industrial struggle between French and German capitalists who are concerned in the production of iron and steel. The people of both countries are embroiled in this struggle and if war results, as it may, there is no telling what the consequences will be for Europe and perhaps for our civilization.

The lecture will begin at 8:00 p. m.

These conflicts will tax in full the energies of President Sigman and of the members of the General Executive Board, as well as the financial and moral resources of the International Union. Well, our Union will not shrink before this task; it is our duty for that purpose. But the International can only help those who would help themselves. The Philadelphia and the Boston workers must have in mind that if they are not themselves ready to fight to the last atom of their strength, the International can help them but little. The International will, of course, stand by them and aid them along in the fight, but the workers themselves will have to strike, picket and be ready to endure all manner of privations—if they are to win a substantial and lasting victory through these strikes.

IN THE REALM OF BOOKS

The Drama and The Stage

By LUDWIG LEWISOHN

(Harcourt, Brace & Co., Inc., New York, 1922.)

A REVIEW

There is something rare and deep in Ludwig Lewisoohn. Through the music of his words one moves to understanding and inspiration. So sure a faith in the arts for which he speaks, so firm a conviction of their place and function in the complex of living cannot but impart to them an increased dignity and a new persuasiveness. In spite of the quiet tone in which his certainty speaks, Ludwig Lewisoohn is an exciting critic. For he is a seeker who is completely absorbed in his quest.

Unlike so many modern seekers, Mr. Lewisoohn knows just what he wants. Mere adventures among masterpieces are not for his soul. He has tests, and he has enough belief in them to apply them. And well he may. For he has fashioned those tests in terms of the one human activity to which art is to yield its obedience. To him life alone is more important than art. Therefore true art has in him both a prophet and an agent. For the artist who is most fully to realize himself need admit no more. He can admit no less.

Everything Mr. Lewisoohn touches reflects the tenacity of this inner conviction: "Policies crumble and opinions and moralities fade. Life, whose meaning must somehow be sought within itself, goes on. The tongue of the propagandist must to dust, but the voice of nature remains. Merely to capture and project some bit of reality is, therefore, to practice not only the best art but the most philosophical. Such art seems quiet enough amid the noisy contentions of the day. But its quietude is that of a true amid rockets. The rockets glitter and go out; the earth rooted tree will shelter generations."

The reality for which Mr. Lewisoohn speaks is no narrow, circumscribed thing. The mere details of external environment have their place, but they are the merest frame of the picture. Reality is as wide as man's experience, as fathomless as man's soul, as timeless as man's cravings. Reality lies at the core of life. Here art finds its basic materials.

The splendid unity of Mr. Lewisoohn's work proceeds from this sureness of purpose. Only a philosophy as coherent and thought-through as his could make each smallest study so definite a part of a larger whole. The criticisms on the drama published weekly in the NATION and brought together in this book under the title "The Drama and the Stage," are just one more illustration of this firmness of grip.

Nothing could reveal more strikingly the extent and intensity of Mr. Lewisoohn's belief in the test of life, for art than what he has to say on the drama. For drama is a communal art which calls for both group effort and group enjoyment. The novelist writes in his study for individual readers. The dramatist writes in his study what the scenic artist, costumer, director, actor, stage mechanics must set on the platform for audiences. Mr. Lewisoohn's basic test reaches into every branch of this cooperative art. Dramatists, actor and all the rest can be judged by their faithfulness to life.

His very title echoes his fundamental challenge to all who would serve art. Such a title is especially in place at present. For it helps us in this day of the new stagecraft of

"revolving stages, subtle lights, elaborate scenes," to get back to fundamentals. Our joy in these things is making us forget their subsidiary character. The stage with all its beauties is only a means. The drama alone is the end. Too many of us today are in danger of confusing means with end. We need to be told again that the stage is not primarily a platform upon which mechanism may work its triumphs, but "the platform of the eternal poet struggling with the mysteries of the earth."

But even if the theatre of today should be saved—from the theatre—we still cannot be sure it will realize its true role. Whether it does or not depends, first and foremost, upon the drama. If the dramatist knows how to draw from life its deepest significance, if he can withstand the temptation of last year's effluvia which come from flattering men's prejudices and leaving them undisturbed, if he can resist the easy interest in manipulated situation and external excitement, he can serve the permanent theatre. If he cannot, however create his immediate popularity, he belongs only to the passing day.

To watch Mr. Lewisoohn passing in review the steady procession of Broadway's "first nights," the creations of French, German and English contemporaries is to catch the secker in action. He is eager, but also patient; he is saddened by disappointments but not disheartened; he is thirsty, but strong enough not to be fooled by mirages. Neither the glamour of established names nor the emotional trappings of true art take him in. Thus Belasco, Mansfield, Augustus Thomas, the "French Theatre," Barrie, Archer are rejected because in their own ways they barter with the stage for the body of life. But even when he does find, one of the kind he is seeking he can see weakness as well as strength (as for instance in Susan Glaspell). This is the very essence of artistic integrity.

All else that serves the drama must serve under the same standard. The actor must interpret the dramatist's meaning and create the dramatist's character by complete and self-effacing submission to it. John Barrymore has fallen short of the actor's art time and again by using his roles to play "variations upon the theme of himself." In spite of the great gifts that are his he breaks the illusion of life.

Dramatic dialogue should be equally conscious of its final purpose. It, too, must strengthen the impact of vicarious living. The dramatist may gain his end by lending his character a heightened medium for expressing "all they would say if they could," or by selecting from their own speech. But he must know just which he is using and be certain of its veracity.

So, finally, direction and stage setting must minister to the same ends. David Belasco with all his fidelity to external detail, with all his tireless activity in capturing the shell of reality has failed to make any lasting contribution to the theatre. To him the presentation has been more important than the thing presented. For exactly opposite reasons Max Reinhardt in less than twenty years revolutionized the theatre of his country. He saw something new in drama, a symbolic representation of the "play's soul," of its inner rhythm and color.

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But he always saw the play.

But are we not attributing too much importance to Mr. Lewisoohn's robust faith in that art which expresses life? Has not this job of holding up the mirror to nature become a respectable artistic creed, parroted by college freshmen and sterile literary craftsmen? If there were no more to his creed than this, such a criticism would undoubtedly be just. But Mr. Lewisoohn's faith in the art that expresses life transcends that of the others because of the way in which he sees life.

The life described in newspapers and court trials holds no fascination for him. Not because of its own intrinsic unimportance, but because of the way in which it is transmitted to us. He is not concerned with judgments. The "terrible blacks and glaring whites" of the traditional moral pattern have no meaning for him. Consequently even the note of classical tragedy sounds false to his ears. The mistakes and self-imposed compulsions of men, and the blind tyranny of tribal conventions write modern human tragedy.

But Mr. Lewisoohn does not see the whole life as a bleak waste of despair and frustration. He has a place for the normal, joyful joys in which men forget the cosmic joke which the Gods have played upon them. He welcomes "love and art, food and wine, and even . . . a little warmth, when after darkness, the goody sun returns." But, on the other hand, he has no patience with the cowardice which sees only these things, which seeks refuge from the harsher notes by idealizing the goody, and denying the bitter in life. Clouds do not exist for him merely to have a silver lining.

Such a concept of the field of art in itself offers much of significance. But Mr. Lewisoohn has still another contribution to make. He recognizes that art exists not for cults but for humanity. He sees, therefore, that the chief enemy of true art lies in these economic conditions that make the bourgeoisie and middle class the bulwark of the modern theatre. Defenders of things as they are, depositors of present tribal taboos, no true art can rise from them. Small groups today are important to carry on the true artistic currents, but great art finally must rise from the whole people.

One cannot leave Mr. Lewisoohn without paying tribute to the mastery of his craft. He weaves the pattern of his thought into a glorious web of color and shimmer. A keen flavor of personality pervades his work and thought and beauty becomes one. Seldom have words wrought rarer magic.

I have heard certain of my friends criticize what they called "Mr. Lewisoohn's lack of humor." They feel that the Welschmeyer so crushed Mr. Lewisoohn that his attitude towards life became twisted with pain. No one could read him carefully and still carry away such an impression. Granted he has no hearty Rabelaisian streak. He never roars. But he does smile. It is always a sad and crooked smile, but still a smile. He is too profound and compassionate to be a Menckien, he is too lonely and sensitive and defeated by isolation to be a Dickens. But because his smile is rare and unfamiliar, we should not fail to see it.

I wonder if that "Certain Playwright" of whom Mr. Lewisoohn wrote, could have ended by "passing from one loud success to the other while he guarded the undying ache in his own soul," if he had sat at Mr. Lewisoohn's feet. I, for one, think he could not. He would have carried away the deep a conviction of the truer, finer purpose of art.

SYLVIA KOPALD.

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DOMESTIC ITEMS

WAITING TO MURDER.

At the trial of the five men in connection with the Herrin mob the defense read a letter from Sherman Holmes, one of the mine guards, who said: "We get \$12 a day and are under contract for 90 days. We sit here on an eight-hour shift watching for some one to stick his head over the mountain or out of the woods so as to give us a little practice in shooting."

The guard further said they had 10 guns that each shoot 600 shots a minute. There are 100 guards, he said, with rifles that shoot three miles.

THE ONLY SOLUTION.

U. S. Senator Cuzens, of Michigan, told the Philadelphia Real Estate Board that although he had an open mind on the railroad problem it appeared to him that government ownership of the roads furnished the only solution.

A PUBLIC SERVICE.

Warren S. Stone, Chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers believes that in launching that organization in high finance he and his associates are performing a double public service. The movement will benefit both the wage earning and wage paying classes.

A GRAND CHIEF LEAVES.

Wm. G. Lee, President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Trainmen announced that he had accepted the presidency of the Steigelmyer Manufacturing Co., of Seymour, Ind., and probably will resign as head of the trainmen.

THE FOUR BLOCs.

U. S. Senator Brookhart, of Iowa, predicted before the Council of Foreign Relations that control of both Houses of Congress would be obtained by a combination "of the farm bloc, labor bloc, soldier bloc, and the mothers' bloc."

THE MERGER WILL GO ON.

The complaint of the Federal Trade Commission against the Bethlehem-Lackawanna-Midvale steel merger did not come as a surprise to officials of the three companies according to E. G. Grace, President of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, who declared in effect that the Commission's action would not interfere with present plans for completing absorption of the Midvale properties.

ANOTHER "PEACE" MOVIE.

Secretary of Labor Davis, in his annual report to Congress suggests an appropriation of \$1,000,000 a year to provide a federal organization that could by peace making efforts avert disastrous suspension of work in industry.

EIGHT PRODUCERS BOSS THE ANTHRACITE FIELD.

The Federal Coal Commission on January 15th presented its first report to the President and Congress. It reports that there is \$430,000,000 invested in the anthracite regions. There are only 174 producers of anthracite and eight of these control over 70 per cent of the annual output.

THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY PAYS.

The inauguration of the eight-hour day by the Standard Oil Company of California has proven an economic benefit. K. R. Kingsbury, President of the company asserted at the Senate oil inquiry. The Standard Oil Company of California since 1911 has paid cash dividends of \$103,000,000, or at an average of 11 per cent of its capital stock. Three stock dividends totalling 143 per cent also have been paid during the same period.

HIS RELIABLE INFORMANT.

R. M. Whitney, Director of the American Defense Society who recently wrote a series of articles entitled "The Reds in America" testified that much of the information contained in the articles had been given to him by Wm. J. Burns, Head of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice.

TO LOOK INTO PORTO RICO LABOR CONDITIONS.

President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor has requested Secretary of War Weeks to send a commission to Porto Rico to look into labor conditions there. Secretary Weeks has the request under advisement.

HERRIN PROSECUTIONS MAY BE DROPPED.

A quiet underground movement is under way in Williamson County, Illinois, to drop further prosecutions in the Herrin massacre trial presumably because of the heavy costs to the county and the evident improbability to obtain conviction.

COTTON AND CHILD LABOR IN NEW ENGLAND.

"The cities having the greatest percentage of child labor are also the cities having the greatest amount of cotton manufacturers and they are all located in Massachusetts and Rhode Island." Albert Brownell of New York a member of the National Child Labor Committee declared in an address before the concluding session of the conference of republican women of England and other eastern states, held in Boston.

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FOREIGN ITEMS

ENGLAND

UNEMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION.

In view of the increasing unemployment, which affects juvenile labor, the Education Committee of the London County Council and other authorities have adopted the proposal that girls and boys between the ages of 14 and 18 shall attend special school centres during their out-of-work periods in order to qualify for the unemployment pay. Many educationists are agitating for the raising of the school age instead, with maintenance.

PRISON AS A HOTEL.

The Tottenham magistrates recently committed a gardener, who was charged with "loitering," to 14 days imprisonment, because, they said, it was the kindest thing they could do for a man without any prospect of work. The police admitted there was nothing against his character.

PARIS COST OF LIVING RISES 2% PER CENT.

The cost of living in Paris in 1922 was 2% per cent higher than in 1914 according to a statistics published yesterday by the Prefecture of Police.

ITALY.

FASCISTI THROW OUT 30,000 WORKERS.

Premier Mussolini has just inaugurated railroad economy reform which will cut the ranks of the railroad employes 39,000.

SWEDEN.

LOCKOUT OF 30,000 WORKERS.

A lockout in the paper and steel mills in Sweden began on Monday affecting about 30,000 workers in the former industry and many additional thousands in the latter according to information received by O. L. Lamm, Swedish Consul General of New York City. The strike in both cases is against a wage reduction.

GERMANY.

THE TRYING HOUR.

The Socialist Party and the Federation of Trade Unions have unanimously resolved that it is the duty of Labor to do everything possible to support the resistance offered to the Franco-Belgian invasion. But they add that the fight against reaction and against the Jingoes who are exploiting the situation in order to inflame nationalist feelings will be energetically continued. Undoubtedly there is a danger that some of the German labor leaders will succumb to the pressure which the Nationalists are exerting on them for their own ends, unless Labor in Allied and neutral lands gives them all moral support to prevent their being used as pawns in the game of two industrial oligarchies.

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February 16th, 8:40 P. M. . . . SCOTT NEARING

"Labor Economics"

February 20th, 8:40 P. M. . . . HERMAN EPSTEIN

"Meaning of Music"

East 15th St. Saturday, Feb. 24th, 3:30 P. M. "Is Europe Coming or Going?" Charles Zucklin

Educational Comment and Notes

Trade Agreements

By Dr. PAUL F. BRISSENDEN

(Description of a talk given at the Workers' University of the I. L. G. W. U., February 17th, 1925.)

Trade Agreements are contracts about working conditions between employers and groups of their employees. The trade agreement, or collective bargain, is one of the important results of the development of trade unions. Without the unions, the trade agreement would have been impossible—or at least would have been something entirely different from what it is today. With the growth of the unions has come the growth of agreements. These agreements are as numerous and as different, one from another, as are the unions themselves. Some are very simple; others extremely complicated.

How Agreements are made: The process varies with each union but it is always a matter of bargaining, of

give and take—a matter of following the balance of power. It is a little like horse-trading.

What Agreements contain: Most of them contain a set of rules (or laws) which employer and employees agree shall be observed on both sides—rules about various things: nearly always starting off with wages (or methods of paying wages) and hours—and possibly dealing with many other things. Many agreements contain provisions arranging about interpretation of the rules—deciding what the rules mean. Many also explain what is to be done about settling any quarrel about the agreement. Many agreements explain just how the rules are to be enforced—whether in fines or by some other method.

The importance of the trade agreement is the development and progress of unionism.

A Symposium on The Womens' Blanket Bills

Last Thursday evening, February 19th, an interesting discussion on the bills proposed by the National Woman's Party was held in the auditorium of the I. L. G. W. U. Building.

Mrs. Betsy Graves Reyneau of the National Woman's Party and Mrs. Maud Swartz of the Woman's Trade Union League, discussed these measures from two points of view.

Mrs. Reyneau explained the attitude of the National Woman's Party. This party has introduced twenty-five bills in the New York State Legislature. These aim to eliminate the legal discrimination which exists today against women. If these bills are enacted, women will have the same rights as men in such matters as holding of public office, owning of property, inheritance, making of wills, the control of earnings and the guardianship of children. These bills will also put women and men in the same position in the matter of responsibility for illegitimate children and prostitution. Mrs. Reyneau gave numerous examples where, under existing laws, women suffer great injustice because of legal discriminations.

In the industrial field, the National Woman's Party favors the elimination of laws protecting the interests of women in industry, such as laws abolishing night-work for women, establishing an eight-hour day and a minimum wage. Mrs. Reyneau stated that this is demanded because the existing protective industrial measures cause a great many women to lose their position and deprive them of occupation, because men are employed in their stead. The National Woman's Party does not object to trade union action which would protect all workers and will procure for all of them a shorter working day and higher wages, but they object to having laws passed for women as women. They wish these

laws to protect all persons regardless of sex.

Mrs. Maud Swartz answered Mrs. Betsy Graves Reyneau of the National Woman's Party as follows:

"I have no quarrel with the bills which the National Woman's Party presents here tonight, but I take great exception to their attitude towards labor legislation for women. Identical laws do not necessarily equalize men and women. Progress for the workers is more important than uniformity of methods of progress, and progress of one group of workers means progress for all.

"Women are physiologically different than men and the best medical experts agree that therefore they need special safeguards.

"The Supreme Court of the United States in sustaining the Oregon Eight Hour Law said, 'Women's physical structure and her maternal functions justify special legislation.' Dr. Alice Hamilton of Harvard Medical School, with a national reputation on effects of industry on women workers states that women have a lower resistance than men to strains and hazards of industry."

"United States Government Report on Conditions of Women in Industry: 'Women have a lower death rate from all causes than men, but our investigation in the Fall River, Massachusetts mills shows us that women employed there have a higher death rate than men employed.'

"New York State Labor Department shows in a recent study that to 191 cases of sickness of men employed, there are 154 cases of women."

"The great growth of women in industry is a potent reason for labor legislation for them. Forty-two per cent of women working in New York State are under 25—Eighty per cent are of child-bearing age. There has been a decided increase in number of married women employed, between the census of 1910 and 1920. These women are doing two jobs—factory worker and home worker. They are relegated generally to poorer jobs, older, less desirable often and with their minds in their home—their absenteeism is even greater than that of single women due to sickness and accidents to children and other causes. These women need to be protected from undue exploitation.

"You may say 'Why don't they get

WEEKLY CALENDAR

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY Washington Irving High School Irving Place and 16th St. Room 603

Saturday, February 24th

- 1:30 p. m. Social Forces in Literature.
Dr. E. Lieberman—Poetry and Life.
2:30 p. m. Robert W. Bruere—The Coal Industry.

Sunday, February 25th

- 10:30 a. m. Alexander Fichandler—Psychology of Current Events—Conservation and Radicalism.
11:30 a. m. Dr. H. J. Carman—Political and Social History of the United States.

UNITY CENTERS

Monday, February 26th

- Lower Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 43
Brown Place and 15th St., Room 305
8:30 p. m. Dr. Margaret Daniels—Industrial Unionism.
Brownsville Unity Center—P. S. 84
Stone and Glenmore Aves., Room 310.
8:30 p. m. Sylvia Koppal—Banking Control of Modern Industry.

Tuesday, February 27th

- Harlem Unity Center—P. S. 171
163rd Street, Near Fifth Avenue, Room 406.
8:45 p. m. Theresa Wolfson—Modern Tendencies in American Unionism.
Wailmakers' Unity Center—P. S. 49
320 East 20th Street, Room 305.
8:00 p. m. Solon De Leon—Industrial Crises.

Wednesday, February 28th

- East Side Unity Center—P. S. 63
4th St. Near 1st Ave., Room 404
8:30 p. m. Theresa Wolfson—Modern Tendencies in American Unionism.
Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 61
Crotona Park East and Charlotte St., Room 551
8:45 p. m. A. L. Wilbert—The Market As An Economic Institution.
Wailmakers' Unity Center—P. S. 49
320 East 20th Street.
6:00 p. m. Loretta Ritter—Physical Training.

These courses will be continued throughout the season at the same place, day and hour.
Second Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 42
Washington Ave. and Claremont Parkway
Williamsburg Unity Center—P. S. 147
Brook Ave. and McKibben St., Room 61
Classes in Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced English—IN ALL CENTERS on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings.

EXTENSION DIVISION

YIDDISH

Saturday, February 24th

- Local No. 17—142 Second Avenue.
1:00 p. m. J. Heller—A. F. of L. and the Amsterdam Trade Union Conference.
Local No. 1—1581 Washington Ave., Bronx.
8:00 p. m. S. Alamasov—Art and Life.

Sunday, February 25th

- Harlem Educational Center—62 East 106th Street
10:30 a. m. Max Levin—Economic Structure of Our Present System.
Local No. 1—1581 Washington Ave., Bronx.
10:30 a. m. L. Lehrer—Sociology.

ENGLISH

Thursday, March 1st

- I. L. G. W. U. Building.
8:00 p. m. Alvin Johnson, Editor of the "New Republic"—French Policy Toward Germany—The Ruhr Invasion, and Its Effect upon Europe.

Friday, February 23rd

Dr. Haven Emerson, formerly commissioner of Health, will lecture at the Union Health Center, 121 East 17th Street.

protection through organization!

Only one-eighth of the women workers in this state are members of unions. Think of the years men have been organized and how little has been accomplished. Women have the terrible added handicap that very few of them expect to remain in industry—it is for them the step between the school and the home.

"By all means, let us organize as fast as we can, but let us all other means to better conditions. Do not forget the greatest menace to the organized women is the vast mass of unorganized. Every effort we make to bring her a little nearer our wages and conditions, we help ourselves.

"They tell us labor legislation lessens the demand for women in industry and restricts their opportunities—we know better. Women are more numerous in industry today than they have ever been and in more trades.

"Let us rather help to enlarge the opportunities of unorganized girls for

more time, more recreation, more education, so that we may have an opportunity to tell them the story of our movement.

"The Women's Party is introducing a bill for an Eight Hour Day for men and women. They have not consulted the men workers on this, which is very undemocratic. It is not possible at present to get hour and wage laws for men in this state, but is that a reason why women should not have them if they want them?

"The arguments put forth by the National Women's Party against labor legislation for women are thoroughly fallacious. They are fostered by women who know nothing of industry, who have never felt its cruel joys and through mistaken but honest devoting desire for a mythical equality want to rob working women of the little protection they are able to wrest from a reluctant legislature."

A number of questions were asked and a very spirited discussion followed.

THURSDAY LECTURE IN THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING

Thursday evening, March 1st, Alvin Johnson, editor of the New Republic, will speak on the Occupation of the Ruhr Valley by the French. This lecture will be given in the I. L. G. W. U. Building. All of our members are urged to reserve that evening and attend this discussion.

The Garment Workers in Great Britain To-Day

By W. RINES

Member Executive Bureau International Clothing Workers' Federation

The year 1922, has been a black year for every section of industrial workers in Great Britain. The great slump deepened, following upon a gradual decline of business activity, dating almost from the moment the Armistice was signed, has led to a period of unemployment and under-employment such as this part of the World has not experienced in the whole of its industrial history.

Including the registered and unregistered, the army of unemployed has been kept at approximately two millions for a prolonged period, poor law relief has been paid to large bodies of workers suffering destitution after drawing the maximum state and trade union benefits.

Since the Armistice was signed and up to May 19th, 1922, unemployment benefits were paid by the State as follows:

Unemployment Relief £183,512,600
Special Schemes for
Relief of Trade and
Unemployment 74,766,850

TOTAL £258,280,450

During the period between April 1, 1919 and July 15, 1922, £48,200,000 was raised by contributions for the relief of unemployment levied on industry under the State Insurance Acts. Of this amount £22,100,000 was paid by the workers and £26,100,000 by the employers. The trade unions also paid out during the same period from their own funds, supplementary benefits amounting to not less than £12,000,000.

The number of workers who have received out-door relief during the year from the "Guardians of the Poor" has been kept steadily at the level of approximately 1,500,000.

General Wage Reductions

During the year, wages have been reduced to an enormous extent, and up to the end of 1922, the total reductions taking effect will certainly not be less than £125,000,000 per week approximately £206,000,000 a year. The approximate number of clothing workers affected by these general wage reductions are 615,000 and the net amount of weekly wage reductions are approximately £138,000.

The fall in the general cost of living in Great Britain, though it has been considerable does not justify the great reductions in wage rates and the accompanying extension of the hours of labor that has been forced by employers' federations in all directions. The workers feel a profound sense of injustice, they feel that the amount of reductions made have been too large and too sudden, that reductions should have been spread over longer periods and more in keeping with the cost of living.

At the end of the year the cost of living according to Government figures, which labor has always held to be far from giving the true position, and weighted against the worker, stood at approximately 80 per cent above the 1914 level. The highest point reached in the cost of living figure was 174 per cent in November 1920, on the 1st of December, 1921, it stood at 99 per cent.

The Effect Upon Trade Union Membership

The dislocation of industry and continued unemployment has had a detrimental effect on the stability of trade organization, the falling away of members has been most appalling in every direction, the women members especially have left the unions in very large numbers. One explanation of this in the clothing trades, at any rate, is that, during the year thousands of females were brought into clothing factories who had never before been in the trade

while contract work was at its maximum point, drifted out of the factories as soon as the slump occurred, and will never return there again, so far as ordinary garment making is concerned. But, notwithstanding that reason for the falling off in membership of the unions catering for clothing workers, there is undoubtedly a serious and disturbing reduction in membership, which if not soon repaired must inevitably weaken the trade union activity, and the unions' influence with the employers' federations when they seek to act as negotiators in new agreements, or as enforcers of old ones. In the London trade boards associated with the clothing industry. Speaking in a general sense, the clothing workers have fared as well as most industries in the matter of maintaining an advance upon pre-war conditions of labor and wage rates. They have suffered reductions of course, but these have never been so sweeping nor so frequent as in many of the larger industries. In the more extensive sections of the clothing industry, viz: Wholesale Mantle and Costume, Ready-Made and Wholesale Knocks, and the London Division or Jewish Section, the position of the workers has been well protected by the Tailors' and Garment Workers' Union. This fact is largely due to the operation of National agreements between the union and the Employers' Federations.

The point in these agreements about which some measure of difference and controversy has prevailed during the present year, is the principle of a sliding scale, which sets forth that any "serious increase in the cost of living, or any serious decrease in the cost of living, shall mean an increase or decrease to the extent of not less than 12½ points upon the figure representing the increase in the cost of living appearing in the "Labour Gazette." The 12½ points rise or fall carries with it a difference in the hourly wage rate of ¼d. for females and 1d. for male workers of adult age.

When the agreement came into operation the cost of living above pre-war level was 167½ points. A wage rate to cover the position at that time was agreed upon, and from then forward the sliding scale began to operate. We believe, however, that in operation the scale has been worked on 25 points instead of the 12½, and that what changes have taken place in the downward direction has been 1d. per hour females and 2d. per hour for men.

Just recently an application for reduction was made in the Trade Board under the agreement, which we understand will come into force early in the new year, first full pay day in February. When that reduction becomes operative it will mean that measure cutters in factories will have had their wages reduced by 29 per cent; other male workers by 32 per cent; women piece-workers minimum will also have been reduced 32 per cent since November, 1920.

While we are by no means an advocate of the cost-of-living theory in relation to wage rates, we do think that, as far as the existing national agreements are concerned, unreasonable reductions have been avoided during an unparalleled period of slump. The following table will perhaps assist in making clear the position of the wholesale trade:

Trade Board Rate in 1914

Men's 6d. per hour
Female (adult) .. 3½d. per hour

Trade Board Rate in 1921

Men's .. 1/10d. and 2/ per hour
Women's 11d. per hour

Trade Board Rate in 1922

Men's 1/5 and 1/7 per hour
Women's 8½d. per hour

In the subdivision section reductions of wage rates have also taken place, but are still well within the fall of prices of commodities. So far as time-workers are concerned in the subdivision branch of the retail trade they are still above the rates now payable to the journeyman tailor in the handicraft section. Tailor-esses, too, 18 years of age and over, with three years' experience, are receiving 1/1 per clock hour, which is ¼d. more than the highly skilled tailors received at the hands of the Retail Bespoke Trade Board last year, when a definition was found for her and a wage rate fixed.

Since then, however, the definition and the rate have been wiped out, and she had to fall back, first to 10½d. and later to 9½d. per hour.

Time rates for tailors in the subdivision are now as follows: Male persons, 18 years of age and over, who are engaged on the making of trousers, canvassing, making button cuffs and lining sleeves, 1/6 per hour.

Male persons, 20 years of age and over, who are engaged as basters-out, and to do work as above 1/9 per hour.

Male persons, 20 years of age and over, engaged as basters-under fitters, also to do work as above 2/3 per hour.

Under Presser and Second Machinist

To lining makers and under-press-

ers 18 years of age and over 1/3 per hour. To second-pressers and second-machinists 18 years of age and over 1/4 per hour.

It will be seen from this that this section of workers is far and away better paid than the ordinary journeyman tailor and tailoress in the retail bespoke trade.

The Journeyman Tailor

Very serious complaints have been made by those representing the journeyman tailor section, that reductions of minimum rates passed by the Trade Board, affecting time-workers, have been taken advantage of by employers to enforce even larger reductions on log rates, which has had the effect of bringing down the log worker by quite half as much again as the time-worker.

Here again, the matter is difficult of absolute proof, because the department takes up the position that log rates and yields are impossible of enforcement, and that the inspectorate is so limited in numbers that investigation is almost equally impossible.

Scotland is a great sufferer in this matter of delay in investigation and enforcement of minimum rates based upon log yields. For well nigh two years, Scottish tailors have been waiting for something to be done to test the matter; at last the Tailors' and Garment Workers' Union instituted proceedings on their own behalf, but such is the slow progress of the law, even in Scottish Courts, that many months have passed since their first took action, and it is doubtful if the cases in Edinburgh and Glasgow will be reached until February.

(Continued Next Week)

ITALY: THE LAND OF COOPERATIVE DIVERSITY

Early in 1922 Malcolm Darling reported at some length in the "Bombay Cooperative Quarterly" on the conditions of cooperation in Italy. It is one of the best surveys that has been made of the movement in that country, now so sorely beset by the European Ku Klux Klan. This study was made, of course, before Mussolini let loose his hounds of reaction.

The most powerful organizations in Italy are those of the cooperative farmers and those of the laborers. Neither of these are consumers' societies, of course, but they are known as "cooperatives" in Italy, and they do have characteristics which distinguish them sharply from the agricultural cooperative marketing association of the United States or the self-governing workshops familiar to some of us.

The 2,500 labor societies include groups of masons, bricklayers, cement-workers, dockers, carpenters, day laborers, carters, and many other manual workers. They take contracts to build roads, hospitals, and factories, town halls, even railways. In some towns the profit-making contractor of the old type is entirely extinct. Certain areas devastated by the war are being rebuilt by these groups. Even the railroad stations in many of the cities of Northern and Central Italy are manned by cooperative societies of porters who contract directly with the railroad companies. In the operation of industry itself the success is less marked, although a few intricate industries are manned by these groups.

The cooperative farm has developed in two directions. The farmers, by buying or leasing large areas of land, succeed in eliminating the rent collector and in stabilizing employment. But the Catholics organize the individualist type of community, in which each farmer cultivates his own plot, paying rent to the society;

while the Socialists organize collectively, working the land in common and pooling their crops to be sold all together by the society. The members of the first type of cooperative farm sell their crops individually; there is little social responsibility or economic solidarity. The Socialist farms, on the other hand, are similar in their social significance to the syndicalist cooperatives in the cities. In two of these villages theatres are being built from the profits of the farms, and one of these is equipped with reading and recreation rooms as well. Without doubt, both these kinds of farmers' cooperatives profited heavily during the war; but that has been done by such groups in other countries as well. Their contribution to the agrarian movement is the effectiveness of their efforts to get rid of petty landlords and much of the outrageous exploitation by the middlemen. There are about 500 of these farms.

Italy also has about 2,750 village banks, 800 urban people's banks, 1,500 creameries, 1,000 supply societies, 6,000 stores.

The movement is not as sound here, though, as in other European countries. It is divided by political and religious prejudices. Each group is animated by great fervor; there is much idealism, and the exhilaration of battle lends to the societies a picturesque quality which is interesting locally; but these people have yet to learn that there is no room for profit between true cooperators—at least until some of the fangs of the profit system have been drawn. Unfortunately, almost every Italian seems to be a politician or deeply interested in politics. This results in widespread division within the cooperative ranks, and renders impossible any effective central organization for the entire movement. This is in very sharp contrast with the movement in Germany, where politics and political discussion is positively forbidden.

The Week in Local 10

By JOSEPH FISH

GENERAL

As was reported in last week's issue of JUSTICE, a special convention was called by the General Executive Board of the International, to be held in Baltimore on February 15th. The purpose of this convention was the election of a President for the International, to succeed Brother Benjamin Schlesinger, who has resigned.

When the General Executive Board accepted the resignation of Brother Schlesinger, in which he stated he could not serve in that capacity due to his health, there were quite a number of names mentioned as possible candidates for the vacant office. At that time our local definitely went on record as favoring the candidacy of Morris Sigman as President of the International.

Although not having received a reply of acceptance from Brother Sigman, we felt sure, from his answer, that he would be a candidate for the Presidency. When all the delegates assembled in Baltimore and the first session was opened on Thursday morning, it was definitely known that Brother Sigman would accept nomination, and when finally nominations were opened, Vice-President Brawley, Manager of the Pressers' Union, Local No. 35, of which local Brother Sigman is a member, made the nomination speech, and Vice-President Feinberg, Manager of the Joint Board of Cloakmakers, seconded the nomination, as did also Brother Shane, Manager of Local No. 1, and Vice-President Heller, Manager of Local No. 17.

After nominations were closed, there being no opposition candidate to Brother Sigman, a motion was made that the secretary be instructed to cast one ballot for Brother Sigman, thereby declaring him unanimously elected as President of the International.

At the afternoon session of the same day the honor of installing the newly-elected President was given over to ex-President Benjamin Schlesinger, who was present at the convention. It is not necessary for us to eulogize the qualities of Brother Sigman, as he is known to the vast majority of our membership, and judging from the spirit with which he was received by the delegates at the convention, there is no doubt but that he is the right man in the right place, and will lead the International to greater achievements and victories.

WAIST AND DRESS

The election of Brother Sigman as President of the International has already brought good results, as the General Strike in the Waist and Dress Industry is settled and by the beginning of next week will be a thing of the past. On Monday Brother Sigman assumed his new duties and took the situation in hand, whereby he was instrumental in bringing the situation to a settlement.

The main demands on account of which relations with the Association were broken off were the questions of week-work and the demand that union representatives be permitted to enter the shops of the Association without being accompanied by clerks of the Association. The conferees of the Manufacturers' Association had promised our representatives that they would try to persuade the members of the Association to accede to the demand relating to the union representatives in the shops, with some modifications. But on the question of week-work they proposed to substitute the forty-hour week, with the first four hours of overtime to be paid at the single rate of pay. And when this proposition was placed before the

membership of the Association, they were flatly turned down, following which a General Strike in the industry was called.

Contractors who were members of the Association were erroneously under the impression that they would be in a position to dictate terms to the union, or at least get the better of the organization. However, when the General Strike was called and a new Association of contractors, composed of about 175 members of the same calibre as the old Association, sprang up and when the old Association found out that the union was negotiating with the former for a settlement, they realized their error, but it was a bit too late. And with the entry of Brother Sigman a conference between the old Association and the Union was arranged for Monday evening. After meeting until about 4 a. m., we are glad to announce that a settlement was effected.

The union waived its demand for week-work, but instead the manufacturers granted the substitute of a forty-hour week with double time for overtime, and a maximum of four hours overtime per week. The forty-hour week proposition, which actually means a five-day week with Saturday a holiday, is a big gain for our industry, as well as setting an example for the American Labor Movement as a whole. The principle of a forty-hour week, aside from giving the workers the eight-hour day for five days, will also be valuable from the point of view of giving employment to a larger number of people in the industry.

As to the question of union representatives being permitted to enter the shops of the Association without being accompanied by Association clerks, the union waived this demand, since, for the past four years, the Association had the privilege of having a union clerk accompany each of their clerks when there was business to be transacted between the union and the members of the Association. However, the Association agreed to supply as many clerks as will be requested by the union in order to control their shops. Should they fail to live up to this the union will not tolerate it and will enter the shops of the Association without being accompanied by any of their representatives.

Aside from these demands it also has been agreed that when a boss will be found doing his own cutting or work belonging to any other of the crafts, and without employing a worker of such craft, a fine amounting to one week's wages will be imposed upon him. Should he, however, employ a worker of such craft and yet commit the above violation due to the absence of the worker on account of sickness or any other reason, he will have to pay said worker for lost time.

The Association also further agreed that a twenty-five per cent increase in wages be granted to those workers in the industry who do not receive a full week's work from their employers. This demand was presented to the manufacturers upon the request of the cutters, as the latter are more frequently confronted with this state of affairs than the workers of the other crafts. There have been many cases where manufacturers have requested that a cutter be sent up to them and when this has been complied with, the cutter would find himself working a day or two, whereupon the manufacturer would generally tell him his services are no longer required, and he would then pay him at the rate of \$44 per week, the minimum, regardless as to whether the worker might be worth, \$50, \$25 or even \$60 per week, thereby greatly

taking advantage of the situation. When confronted with anything of this sort in the future, the cutters will at least be protected to the extent of receiving twenty-five per cent more.

The manufacturers have also acceded to the demand that instead of there being a two weeks' trial period, as has existed heretofore, there shall be only a week's trial period in the industry, which means that any man who goes up for a job, after working for more than a week, is entitled to the position, unless the manufacturer can show sufficient and reasonable cause why the man should not be further employed by him.

As far as the settlement is concerned, we believe that the cutters, as well as the members of the other crafts, have achieved a big victory, which will serve as a lesson to the manufacturers for the future,—that the organization is always ready to back its demands to the extent of even calling a general strike for the purpose.

It is expected that by the beginning of next week all the workers will be back at work. This settlement will also apply to those shops which were settled earlier in the week, of which there are quite a number.

Although the General Strike is virtually settled, nevertheless the organization will continue in order to completely organize the industry. We wish to commend Brothers Shenker, Frubling, Turon, Hansel, and Levine (the soldier), in addition to whom there are a few others who were on the picket line every morning, for the work done by them, by means of which good results were accomplished. We are glad that the strike has been settled, but had it lasted longer we are sure that besides the above named brothers there would have been many others of others who would have participated and evinced the same spirit as they did.

MISCELLANEOUS

As the glad news appears that the General Strike in the Waist and Dress Industry has been settled, a good word of cheer may also be extended to the cutters of the Miscellaneous Division, as the majority of the shops controlled by Local Nos. 41 and 50, which were called out on strike, have settled. All of the union shops have been returned to work under improved union conditions.

At the present time there are only about nine or ten shops in New York City which are still out on strike and some shops in Brooklyn and Brownsville. These latter, however, are contractors, and a settlement with these people is expected in the very near future, which will terminate completely the strike in the Children's Dress, Bathrobe and House Dress Workers' trades.

These nine or ten shops do not warrant our retaining Arlington Hall

as official strike headquarters, so in the future all business connected with the strike will be transacted at the office of Towles Nos. 50 and 41, which is located at 7 East 15th Street.

As a result of the strike the Union was able to utilize quite a number of large shops. There is no doubt but that the trades in the Miscellaneous Division have been greatly improved, as quite a few new members have joined this organization and the office will see to it that they are kept in our ranks and it is hoped that with a bigger membership, it will develop greatly in the future.

Brother Alovis, who has been appointed as an organizer by the Cutters' Union in connection with the strike, as well as Brother Oretzky, who has been in charge of the Picket Committee placed there by the International, have done commendable work.

The strike in this industry was actually a necessity since the last strike was called some three years ago. The manufacturers had almost forgotten that there is such a thing as a Union existing in these trades. Of late they had become quite arrogant, and this strike has proven to them that the Union is not asleep but is ready at all times to give them battle should occasion arise.



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CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

Notice of Regular Meetings

- GENERAL.....Monday, February 26th
- CLOAK AND SUIT.....Monday, March 5th
- WAIST AND DRESS }.....Monday, March 12th
- MISCELLANEOUS }

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