

"My righteous-  
ness I hold fast,  
and will not let  
it go."  
—Job 27:6

# JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT

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

Vol. VI, No. 23.

New York, Friday, June 6, 1924.

Price 2 Cents

## New York Cloakmakers Taking Strike Referendum

Negotiations With Jobbers' Association Are Still Going On

General Strike Committee Elected — Steering Committee of Nine to be at the Helm in Case of Strike — Referendum to Last from Wednesday Morning to Friday Evening — Vote to be Announced on Saturday, June 7

The situation in the cloak industry of New York continues as tense as during the past few weeks. The Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union, in conjunction with the leaders of the International, is going ahead with the preparations for a general strike. True, not all prospects of peace have been abandoned, particularly as far as the jobbers in the industry are concerned. Nevertheless, the Union, proceeding on the theory that preparedness is as good an asset while negotiations are still in progress as it is after discussions at the conference table are off, is mobilizing all resources at its disposal and is putting the cloakmaker's

organization in fighting trim. During the past week, a number of district meetings were held and most of the locals affiliated with the Joint Board had special member meetings to discuss preparatory measures for the prospective struggle. On Monday evening, all the executive boards of the twelve locals affiliated with the Joint Board, summoned by President Sigman, met at the auditorium of the International Building, and organized themselves into a General Strike Committee.

This general committee, which consists of several hundred persons, has been subdivided into smaller units, each assigned a special task for the

duration of the strike. President Morris Sigman was elected chairman of the General Strike Committee. The ten committees of the General Strike Committee elected the following chairmen: Settlement Committee — Israel Feinberg; Organization Committee — Jacob Heller; Hall Committee — Joseph Bruck; Picket Committee — David Dubinsky and Harry Wander; Law Committee — Louis Langer; Speakers' Committee — M. J. Ashbes; Out-of-Town Committee — Jacob Halperin; Entertainment Committee — Louis Hyman; Relief Committee — Louis Levy; Finance Committee — Abraham Baroff and Joseph Fish.

All publicity matters and dealing with the press were turned over to President Sigman.

First Vice-president Salvatore Ninno was elected as vice-chairman of the General Strike Committee.

**Referendum Vote on Strike**  
To crystallize the opinion of the New York cloakmakers on the pending controversy between the Union and the organized employers in the cloak industry, and in full accord with the time-honored and accepted practices prevailing in our organization, the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union last Monday ordered a referendum vote to be conducted (Continued on page 2.)

## Executive Boards of Ten Miscellaneous Locals to Meet in Conference Next Monday, June 9

Plans for Drive in Miscellaneous Trades and for Joint Executive Council to be Adopted

An expected general union in the movement of JUSTICE, the Joint Executive Council of Miscellaneous Trades in New York City, has been formed some months ago for the purpose of coordinating the activities of the locals not affiliated with the New York Joint Board, and to stimulate organizing activity among the unorganized workers in the trade over which they have jurisdiction. Our readers probably recall that until now only four of the ten miscellaneous locals have joined this council, while the rest, for some reason or other, kept aloof.

The Boston convention, however, went definitely in favor of making it mandatory upon all these locals to join the Joint Executive Council. This

step was made doubly urgent through the fact that the convention also adopted the recommendation of the General Executive Board to begin an organizing drive among the tens of thousands of workers in New York City who belong to these trades, this drive to be conducted by all the locals jointly with the aid of the International. So, in order to carry out this mandate of the convention, President Sigman last week issued a call to all the New York miscellaneous locals, Nos. 6, 86, 90, 91, 93, 41, 131, 132, and 62, to come to a conference on Monday, June 9, at the auditorium of the International Building to consider these problems and to take practical steps to solve them.

A separate letter was forwarded to

local 19, the Cutlers' Union of New York, to have a committee of their executive board present at this conference to help in the work of the formation of the Council, as well as the preparatory measures for the organizing drive in these industries.

The letter forwarded by President Sigman to the miscellaneous locals reads as follows:

June 2, 1924.

To the Executive Board of all the Miscellaneous Trades Locals in New York.

Greeting:

## Sigman and Halperin Attend Mitchell Monument Unveiling

The International Union, upon the invitation of the United Workers of America, designated President Morris Sigman and Vice-President Jacob Halperin, to attend last Friday, May 30th, the dedication of the John Mitchell Memorial at Scranton, Pa.

Upon his return, President Sigman reported that he had seldom witnessed a more stirring and impressive gathering of workers come to honor a deceased leader than he saw in the mining town of Scranton on Decoration Day. The monument itself was erected by the anthracite miners of Pennsylvania and consists of a life-size statue of John Mitchell mounted on a great marble pedestal.

John Mitchell was the first builder of the great mine workers' organization in America, and for over fifteen years had been its president, leader and adviser. When John Mitchell first entered the mining fields in Pennsylvania and Illinois, in the early nineties of the last century, a union was hardly in evidence in the mining industry. When he retired from active leadership in the mine

workers' organization, he turned over to his successors an organization several hundred thousand strong and working under incomparably better labor standards.

No wonder the miners of America love and revere the memory of John Mitchell. When, on May 30, the dedication of the Mitchell Memorial took place at Scranton, the tens of thousands of miners who had contributed towards this monument came along parading in solid, endless columns through the streets of Scranton, and, after the parade was over, listened to the speeches extolling the virtues of their dead leader, the man who had made the United Mine Workers of today possible.

While at Scranton, President Sigman met President John Lewis of the Miners' Union, who availed himself of the opportunity of assuring President Sigman of the friendship and close interest with which the miners are watching our affairs in New York City, and assured the support of the United Mine Workers to our International whenever the need for it might arise.

## G. E. B. Meeting Adjourns; Next Meeting in September

The first quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board adjourned after four days of continuous session last Thursday.

During this comparatively short space of time, the Board transacted an immense volume of business. The convention had left a number of questions for the General Executive Board to decide, such as the campaigns in the various cities, the details of new organizing activities and many appeals that could not receive consideration by the convention owing to the shortage of the time during its last few days.

The first meeting of the G. E. B. also had to consider the placing of the general organizers in the various districts for the coming two years. A number of changes had to be made and several vice-presidents were shifted from one territory to another. The enlargement of the activities of the Eastern Organization Department to include the New England States and

also the increase of the scope of work of the Middle-Western Department under the management of Vice-President Perlestein, had to be considered.

Among the other subjects which were considered at this meeting was the beginning of a new campaign in Montreal and the placing of a general organizer in Boston to adjust a number of local differences. A detailed account of how the G. E. B. handled these and many other subjects that came up for its consideration, the readers will find elsewhere in this issue. Suffice it to say that the General Executive Board gave each of these problems its full attention.

The next quarterly meeting of the G. E. B. will be held early in September in the city of Chicago. The three months between now and that meeting will be devoted to carrying out the numerous tasks assigned by the G. E. B. to its members so that by the end of the summer, some tangible results might be accomplished.

# New York Cloakmakers Taking Strike Referendum

(Continued from page 1)

among all the members of the cloak locals in Greater New York on the question whether a strike shall or shall not be declared in the industry in case the employers continue in their refusal to grant the demands of the workers. Elaborate preparations for the referendum were immediately put through and voting from every local office in the city and from the branch offices of the Joint Board began on Wednesday morning, June 4. The voting will continue through Friday, after which the board of directors of the Joint Board will count the vote and announce the results on Saturday.

**Negotiations with Jobbers Continue**  
As mentioned above, the Union is still continuing to negotiate on the terms of the new agreement and on the demands presented by the Union, with the Merchants Ladies' Garmet Association.

On Tuesday afternoon, June 3, another conference with this Association was held at the Hotel McAlpin, lasting several hours. But while nothing definite was accomplished at

this meeting and the Union and the employers' association are still widely apart on the principal demands presented by the organization of the workers in the cloak industry of New York, it must be admitted that the feeling which prevailed at the conference was rather conciliatory and some progress was made in the discussion of the main issues. Towards the close of the conference, it was decided that it would be advisable to meet again on Friday, June 6, and to continue the negotiations.

## Draft of New Agreement to Employers

Among the measures decided upon by the General Strike Committee, was one to send, immediately after the strike vote is concluded and tabulated, a draft of a new agreement to every employer in the industry, regardless of whether they belonged to any association or were independent. The new agreement will embody all the proposals for the reorganization of the industry which the Union has advanced. Employers will be asked to communicate with the proper de-

partment of the Settlement Committee when they are prepared to sign. Entire Country Stirred Over Strike Prospect

The prospect of a general cloak strike in New York is creating considerable discussion in industrial circles in New York City and all over the country, as evidenced by the wide publicity given this subject in the press. The rupture of negotiations with the Protective group of employers in New York and the slow progress of negotiations with the other employing groups have impressed the public that, unless an eleven hour change takes place, a strike is inevitable.

The general office has prepared a booklet containing all the facts relating to the pending controversy with the employers, and is forwarding this booklet to all the editors of leading journals of public opinion in the country, and to a large number of outstanding leaders in civic and educational fields, so as to make them acquainted with the true, unvarnished issues of the coming conflict.

## Sigman, Ninfo and Feinberg to Attend Third Party Conference at Cleveland on July 4

The Boston convention decided that the I. L. G. W. U. be represented at the Conference for Progressive Political Action which takes place in Cleveland on July 4.

This conference is a permanent organization with which our Union has been affiliated in a general way ever since its formation in 1922. The Cleveland convention will be composed of a large number of trade-union national and central organiza-

tions, of progressive political groups, cooperative units, and some of the biggest farmer organizations and farmer-labor political bodies.

The prospects at present are that the Cleveland conference will be the biggest independent political gathering ever held in the United States. There is no doubt that it will make history and will lay the foundation for a permanent independent political-third-party movement in America,

whether such a party is formed at the conference or later.

At its last meeting, the General Executive Board appointed President Morris Sigman and Vice-presidents Ninfo and Feinberg to represent the International at Cleveland. Of course they go there without in-

## Union Label for Embroidery and Auxiliary Trades to be Launched Soon

That the G. E. B. is in full earnest concerning the adoption of a union label in our industry for the purpose of strengthening the International as a whole and in order to weed out the non-union shops in some of our industries, was evidenced by the decision adopted at the last meeting of the G. E. B. to establish without delay the union label in the so-called auxiliary trades of the cloak and dress industry, such as embroideries, button-making, tucking, hemstitching, etc.

The General Office will, without postponement, take up this matter with the locals in these trades, and the means of carrying out the introduction of the label in the auxiliary trades will be considered at once.

Tentatively the plan consists in the designation of a special label, the printing of it, and its distribution among label custodians, to be designated or elected in a manner to be specified by the Label Committee of the International.

The International will also help these locals to so change their agreements with the employers as to embody clauses with reference to the placing of the label on each garment or part of garment which passes through the hands of workers employed in the auxiliary trades, and similar arrangements for the enforcement of a rule that only such labeled articles be used in shops which require such garments or parts.

## New York Waistmakers Nominate Officers

Last week the waistmakers of New York, Local 25, held a nomination meeting for officers and members of the Executive Board.

The following were nominated:  
As manager, Pauline Morgenstern; as secretary, Ada Rosenfeld; for executive board members, Lena Bernstein; Celia Charnowitz; Bertha Donsowitz; Anna Friedman; Pauline Gell-

man; Sarah Gussoff; Vera Kraus; Ethel Miller; Anna Perally; Ida Plisk; Isadore Pollock; Sarah Shapiro; Rebecca Shoff; Ida Weinstat and Pearl Yanofsky.

Any one wishing to enter objections to any of the above candidates will kindly bring them to the meeting of the Election and Objection Committee on Tuesday, June 10, at 6 p. m. sharp, in the office of the Gen-

## INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

By H. SMOOLMAN

This Week Twelve Years Ago

The Joint Board reports that its income amounts to \$2,000 per week and that it controls six district offices in the various parts of the city. It pays out \$1,000 a week in salaries to business agents, clerks, stenographers, secretaries and other employees.

The eleventh convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is held in Toronto, Canada. 136 delegates and a large number of guests are present at the opening of the convention. Addresses are delivered by nationally known labor leaders. A special resolution is adopted to admit Brothers Schlesinger and Grossman as delegates, with a voice but without a vote.

The Toronto Convention decides to reinstate Local 28 and to place it under the supervision of the General Executive Board for several months. Local 68 is dissolved and its members are transferred to Local 28. The preamble of the Constitution is changed in a Socialist and industrial spirit.

The charter of Local 17 is changed and the jurisdiction over cloak shops taken away from it. The finishers and operators who belonged to Local 17 are transferred to Locals 9 and 1 respectively.

Because he had given to one worker a bundle less than to the others, Julius Frieder, shop chairman of Cheover & Co., 17 West 17th street, was stabbed to death by an Italian anarchist on June 5, 1912. 6,000 members of the Union took part in the funeral parade and all the locals sent flowers and messages of condolence.

Instructions and will be guided solely by the best interests of the workers, the practical exigencies of the day, and the policies and traditions of our own International Union.

## Second Class is Graduated from Brookwood Labor College

On Friday, May 30, a number of men and women representing the labor movement and the teaching profession assembled in Brookwood, Katonah, N. Y., to participate in the exercises of the second graduating class of the first resident labor college in the United States.

Short addresses were made by Vice-president Feinberg, who spoke for the Educational Committee of the I. L. G. W. U.; Vice-president Fannia M. Cohn for the Labor Cooperative Committee; Abraham Lefkowitz for the Central Trades and Labor Council; Dr. Henry Livville for the Teachers' Union; Toscan Bennett, executive secretary of Brookwood; and Robert Reed, a member of the graduating class, who spoke for the students.

The speakers expressed the hope

that Brookwood would serve the labor movement by giving active trade-unionists an opportunity to acquire the knowledge that will make them more effective in the labor movement, and help them to better understand its aims and problems.

Six members of the I. L. G. W. U. were among the graduates. They are William Bloom, Local 1; Sarah Fradragr, Local 50; Rebecca Holland, Local 100; Julius Hochman, Local 22; Minnie Rubinstein, Local 50; and Goldie Sharr, Local 22.

After the exercises, the students of the first and second class formed a fellowship and selected Robert Reed of the Machinists' Union as chairman and Mary Goff of our White Goods Workers' Union, Local 62, as secretary.

## Forest Park Unity House Will Open Next Friday

The great estate of the Dressmakers' Union of New York, known as the Unity House and located at Forest Park, Pika County, Pa., which serves as a summer vacation house for our members, will open for the 1924 season on Friday, June 13.

Registrations for the Unity House will begin on May 28, and those who know of the splendid attractions which this summer place offers to our members will do well to register on time. The new season will be ushered in by a splendid concert and dance.

Prices for board will remain the same as last year. The registration office will be located in the office of the Dressmakers' Union, 16 West 21st street. Out-of-town members can register by mail by including a check or money order.

## With the White Goods Workers

By ABRAHAM SNYDER

Right after our return from the convention, we found several very important problems confronting our local. When we left for Boston, the white goods trade was still quite busy and calls for help appeared regularly in the daily press. We had hoped that the white goods industry would finally come back and that we might yet have work for a few months to come. But when we came back we found a different situation. In many shops, the slack season had set in and of course the employers began using their old tactics to get work done as cheaply as possible in such shops.

Of course the Union resisted the reduction of prices and compelled the employers to divide the work in the shops equally among the workers as far as possible. As a result relations between the Union and some of the employers are quite strained. They are threatening to leave New York and move their shops out of town. This threat has become so prevalent among our employers that at times it seems that they are concerned more with it than with their regular business.

The fact, however, is that some of our biggest manufacturers have shops out of town, as we have referred to more than once in our reports. Some have more than one shop in near-by States, all of which tends to complicate our shop problems in New York and make them more and more difficult. There is no question that something must be done very soon to make it impossible for our employers to produce white goods outside of New York much more cheaply than in the city, and of course the only thing that occurs to all of us is continued organization activity in the small towns.

That was what we demanded from the convention at Boston and our present hope is that the General Executive Board will carry the convention order into practice.

And in speaking of organization

work, it might be said that we need just as much of it here in New York City. There are enough shops here making silk and muslin underwear who do not employ union help and of course work under non-union conditions. We did our best to create a sentiment favorable to unionism among these workers but we could not claim that we are satisfied with the results as yet. So far our work has been of a preparatory nature, and now we are casting our eyes toward our International in the hope that it will help us bring these unorganized masses of workers into our Union.

The financial problem is also one that gives our local a good deal of concern. Local 62 is probably the only local in the International where the weekly dues are only twenty-five cents. It stands to reason that we cannot conduct an organization at present on such meager contributions.

We were compelled in the past to practice economy and slimp in every possible way, which was not a wholesome thing for the Union. The local must be put on a better financial basis, especially if we have in mind organizing the large number of non-union workers in the trade. The members of Local 62 must be ready to raise their dues so that, when the fall season comes around, we shall be financially prepared to do the work which all of us are so eager to get started. We must have in mind that our agreements with the employers will expire in January and it would be impracticable to leave matters for the last moment.

Local 62 is now engaged in a strike against the Century Underwear Company of 870 Freeman street, Bronx. It is eight weeks old and was called out for the purpose of unionizing the shop. By the way, the owner of this factory, a certain Mr. Dinkovich, claims to be a radical. In fact, he very emphatically stated so to the

representative of the Union when he first met him. When it came to signing an agreement, however, this gentleman proved to be anything but a radical. Today, he is doing everything in his power to break the strike. His shop, however, is being picketed vigorously by the strikers and soon this would-be radical will have to make terms with the Union.

We had a very well-attended general meeting at Beethoven Hall recently where the delegates of Local 62 reported to the members on the convention proceedings. The minority of those present did not like the fact that our delegates had voted to support a resolution directed against the Soviet jailing of the Socialists and trade unionists in Russia. The majority of the members, however, vigorously applauded this resolution and fully approved the course of the delegates.

## Summer Camp for Workers' Children in Dutchess County

The New York Association for Child Development, which is an association of labor men and women, educators and parents, and is a branch of the National Association for Child Development, is busily engaged in perfecting its organization.

For this purpose a meeting has been called for Wednesday, June 11, at 8 p. m., in the I. L. G. W. U. building. At this meeting a full report will be given by the National Association for Child Development of the progress it has made in the organization of a summer camp in Dutchess County. The camp, that was a dream till

At this meeting, too, Brother Zeitz took leave of our members after having been for eleven years business agent of the local, during which time he had acquired a great many friends among the members. He was given several gifts by his friends and the local also presented him with a token of appreciation. At the former meeting of the executive board, on the recommendation of the manager, it was decided to appoint Sister Mary Goff as business agent in the place of Zeitz. Sister Goff is well-known to our members. She will attend to complaints, attend all meetings of the independent shops and do other organizing work. Let us hope that the workers in these shops will help her in her work for their own interest and for the interest of the rest of the workers in the trade.

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recently, is becoming a reality. We urge our members and their wives to attend this meeting, get acquainted with the work of the Association and then join it. In accordance with the report of the Committee on Young People's Trade Union Education submitted and adopted at our last Convention in Boston, the General Executive Board of our International was instructed to cooperate with this organization.

We hope that many of our members will be present. For further information our members can apply at the office of the Educational Department, 3 West 16th street.

## Union Wins Meisel and Rosenthal Injunction Cases

In the midst of preparations for the pending general strike, in the event the jobbers and manufacturers continue to remain obstinate, the Cloakmakers' Union of New York received yesterday morning, June 4, the good news that Supreme Court Justice Nathan Blifor has rescinded the temporary injunction which the firm of Charles Meisel Co. of 500 Seventh avenue, New York, succeeded in obtaining some time ago against the Union, and that Supreme Court Justice Philip McCook has simultaneously thrown out of court the injunction of the firm of Henry Rosenthal & Co., which has been in effect against the organization for some time.

The Cloakmakers' Union conducted a strike against these firms, and these injunctions have interfered considerably with its legitimate progress. Now both injunctions are rescinded and the cases won for the workers. Morris Hillquit appeared for the Union in the Meisel case, while Meyer London represented the cloakmakers in the Rosenthal suit.

The Meisel injunction suit has a long history behind it. The fight of the Union against this firm has attracted the attention of the entire industry. The Union had an agreement with Meisel which embodied practically all the features contained in the program of demands presented now by the Union to all other manufacturers and jobbers. The firm subsequently locked out its workers and obtained a sweeping injunction against the Un-

ion. The writ contained a plank stating that the Union had formed a "conspiracy" against the firm, and, on the hearing on the firm's pleading took place. President Sigman, General Manager Feinberg, Manager Rubin and the shop-chairman were called in to testify. Many employers were also summoned to give testimony. Finally the Union won.

Small wonder there is jubilation today in the offices of the Cloakmakers' Joint Board. No doubt the effect of these decisions will be felt throughout the trade.

### JOINT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

(Continued from page 1)  
gather a joint conference of all the executive boards of the miscellaneous locals in New York for next Friday, June 6, at 7 p. m., after working hours, in the Auditorium of the International Building, 3 West 16th street. The conference will be attended by President Sigman, General Secretary Baroff, and Vice-presidents Halperin and Lefkowitz. At this meeting practical plans for realizing this highly important organizing program will be made, and we urge you not to fail to make arrangements to have every one of the members of your executive board present.

Fraternally yours,

MORRIS SIGMAN,  
President.

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## JUSTICE

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## An Oasis in Germany

By FRIEDA S. MILLER  
(Formerly Secretary, Trade Union College of Philadelphia.)

Dreisinger is not the possession of any union or group of unions. If it were it probably could not afford to exist today—in Germany. The immediate cause for its coming into being was the interest in adult workers' education of one man—a teacher in pre-war days in the Thuringian high schools. With the success of the revolution he saw an opportunity to put his ideas to the test by getting the Socialist Government of the State to grant him a certain annual sum (for payment of salaries) and a farm home which could house and at least partially nourish his project.\* Thus, up in the pleasant Thuringian hills, about three miles walk from Meiningen, one comes upon this Spartan Volkshochschulheim. (People's resident high school.)

Here we found some thirty young men: a coal miner from the Ruhr, another from Silesia, a shipyard worker from Hamburg, a clerical worker from Dresden, in short representatives of every part of Germany and of most of her industries. Let no one think they came to Dreisinger to escape work, or even to escape unemployment, for they pay tuition, a sum, we were told, frequently amounting to some two months' earnings. Most of those whom we met had given up jobs to come and faced the grim likelihood of unemployment on leaving the school in winter. The Ruhr miner had walked the whole distance in order to come at all. When one remembers that any money these boys might have saved, though it might have been a week's or even a month's earnings at the time, would probably about equal the price of a loaf of bread by the time the school term was over, he must realize that they did not come for a vacation. Nor are living conditions at Dreisinger such as would invite one who was looking for a sinecure. We saw the lunch on the day of our visit—boiled potatoes and boiled green beans, nothing more, not even bread! We saw the rooms also. Bare floors, two, three, even four cots to a room; each room with a little iron stove for which the students gather their own wood. They keep their own rooms in fact, they keep the whole building, which looked clean and neat and was made gay with bright autumn leaves and berries. In addition the students work for two hours a day in field or garden, thus making it possible for the institution to provide most of its own food. None of this work was grudgingly done. They all avowed their love of the outdoor activities. They were proud of the cleanly order of the place, especially of its young library with the piano where they had daily "singstunde."

We wanted most to know what these young workers were getting out of it all to take back to their fellows. In the words of the director, the foremost aim of the school is to develop open-mindedness, the desire to know, and some technique which will help its students toward satisfying that desire. The method by which the instructors seek to accomplish this aim during the three months' term is perhaps one of the most interesting things about the school. At the

beginning of the term the whole group of students meets with the three permanent instructors for a general discussion of the purpose of their study. It is the instructors' object to get the students to formulate into general questions those problems in which they are already interested. These questions are then grouped by the instructors into three main courses—economics and politics, science, philosophy. Certain types of questions, quite naturally, recur again and again. But it is the experience of the school that the emphasis varies considerably from one group to another. However, it is not the purpose of the instructors to omit those subjects, or parts of subjects which have not been brought up by the students. What they do want is to get an idea of the sort of interest that already exists and to use that as the starting point for developing the course. For the philosophy of the staff is—no lectures! Instead they ask the student who has raised a question to lead the discussion for the day. The least he can do is to state the reasons for his interest. Out of this the instructor seeks to start a general discussion. Since the students come with all sorts of opinions and theories, Socialist, communist, trade union and non-trade union, the discussion is likely to wax quite hot.

In response to our questions the director agreed that their greatest pedagogical problem lay in keeping the discussion alive while at the same time preventing it from becoming a mere airing of opinion. He admitted

that this latter does occur, especially when they get students who come as ardent advocates of some theory and whose first tendency is to look upon the class room as good ground for proselytizing. He maintained, however, that in the great majority of cases the need to defend their opinions logically against the criticism of the other students proved the greatest stimulus to clear thinking and the desire to know as much as possible about the points at issue.

Undoubtedly the pedagogical problem there is easier than in any similar enterprise in the United States. All of the students speak the same mother tongue, all had the same early training in the common schools of Germany. In addition, one cannot escape the conclusion that these students are more mature mentally, have a greater fund of general information, and more active social interests and contacts than the students one finds in any American Labor school known to the writer. Perhaps the more urgent character of political and economic questions in Europe would account for this. Whatever the cause, it certainly became clear from talking with them that these young people consider themselves not as onlookers or nonentities but as

responsible actors in the terrific struggle that is all about them and that they seek to use such opportunities as Dreisinger offers better to fit themselves for participation. It may be of interest to say in this connection that every student we talked to proved to be a pacifist.

It was also interesting that in spite of all their collective and personal difficulties they were still a decidedly hopeful and friendly lot. Most of them belong to the "Wandervogel," and their love of out of doors was genuine and active. There were a number of small musical instruments, mandolins, etc., among them and there was a regular hour each day when they all gathered for songs of the young people and the workers. There is also in the curriculum one hour a day given over to a sort of general appreciation course. It is the firm faith of the director that art, especially in the form of good literature, is one of the things that makes life worth while. Goethe, he told us, will be as great poet whether the government is monarchical or communistic, and it will be good to know him in either case! Dreisinger is perhaps as hopeful a spot as one can find in Germany today.—Workers' Education News Service.

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# Health of Working Women

By **FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN**

(Consulting Statistician, Prudential Insurance Company of America.)

Occupational diseases are largely conditioned by the length of the trade life of the persons concerned. The lower frequency to such diseases in this country than in Europe is partly to be explained by the fact that our workers have not as yet had the same degree of continuous exposure to health-injurious conditions. We also have not developed, to the same extent, the so-called family trades, in which the son follows the father, generation after generation, in the same vocational pursuit. The mobility of our labor, or labor turnover, which is so often deplored as uneconomic, is in many respects a thoroughly wholesome condition, in that it prevents health-injurious consequences of vocational conditions opposed to good health and normal longevity.

### Value of Medical Supervision

In the case of women, of whom the vast majority are only of comparatively recent introduction into industry, it is only natural that as yet we have failed to observe health-injurious results, in many particular cases. What may be economically a great advantage may be opposed, at the same time, to every fundamental principle of personal hygiene. The guarding against occupational diseases, or the occupational effects of certain trades and pursuits, requires continuous supervision, both of the conditions of work and of the condition of the workers. In the case of medical supervision, it is of the very first importance that the supervision should not be superficial, but thorough-going into the ascertainment of the earliest possible indication of departures from normal standards. I have recently had occasion to make inquiry into the health of women employed in book binderies and, of sixty-five examined, only nineteen were found to be entirely free from ascertainable impairments; but upon further examination it appears that practically all the impairments were visual errors, most of which yielded easily to correction. Upon the basis of numerous investigations, I am absolutely satisfied that the amount of eye impairment in countless vocational pursuits is enormous. The relation of eye-strain to other diseases, or impairments, may be obscure, but is none the less significant. The wearing of correct glasses is, therefore, a first step towards the maintenance of good health and comfort in industry.

A second factor of considerable importance, to which as yet insufficient attention has been paid, is the effect of considerable and continuous noise, which many women suffer, in monotonous pursuits.

### Importance of Shop Conditions

Granting satisfactory shop conditions, the effects of almost any occupation are materially minimized in the cases of workers. Shop conditions should not merely be free from obvious dangers, but they should aim at cheerfulness of surroundings, to combine comfort and health. We may as yet be far from having recognized the health value of aesthetics, but that, in my judgment, is only a question of time. In this respect, the modern printing plant and the modern cotton mill are enormously superior to the dark and dismal work places of the past. In the textile industries the most serious problem is that of artificial air-conditioning. Regardless of much learned speculation on the subject, we have not as yet reached a definite standard of humidity, compatible with the highest degree of industrial efficiency and

good health. In most of the New England cotton mills artificial air-conditioning is absolutely necessary to overcome the dryness of the atmosphere, which is opposed to good spinning, and artificial means, therefore, have to be resorted to, but they should be under scientific and practical control.

With the single exception of the common neglect of the dust hazard, perhaps, the most objectionable condition in the average industrial establishment is the unscientific method of artificial illumination. The amount of eye injury that results from incompetence and indifference in this respect, is appalling. Of only secondary importance, in this connection, are the unscientific methods of seating, which in countless cases lead to wrongful posture, to spinal curvature, and to a predisposition to pulmonary tuberculosis. The average chair is not suitable for the continued occupancy of the worker, nor is its height or position scientifically adjusted to the desk or the bench upon which the work is being done. There is an enormous field here for progress, which has as yet only been touched on the fringe.

### Industrial Dust Problem

But above all other problems, the outstanding feature of our modern industrial life is the industrial dust problem, which is a direct cause, or incentive condition, to pulmonary tuberculosis, or non-tuberculous lung diseases. The progress which has been made towards the reduction of the mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis has been essentially due to higher wages, yielding better nutrition, to shorter hours, yielding more leisure time, and to better shop conditions, in response to sanitary rules and regulations.

The industrial dust problem has as yet been dealt with only at its worst, while it requires to be dealt with on a much larger scale, if satisfactory results are to follow. The industrial dust problem is everywhere, and much of it cannot be dealt with, on account of the complexity of the conditions under which the dust arises, but a vast quantity of dust can be removed, or controlled at the point of origin, and that is where the evil should be dealt with.

### Personal Hygiene

There has been an extraordinary change in the case of modern women, which has hardly attracted attention. Compared with thirty, or fifty, years ago, women today suffer enormously less from chlorosis or anemia, which, no doubt, must be attributed to better economic conditions, to better food, to better housing, to more fresh air, and more rational exercise. Yet, much remains to be done before the large majority of women can be said to have attained a sound state of physical health. The problem has shifted rather during the last generation from public hygiene to personal hygiene, and as the result a vast responsibility has been placed upon the individual, which formerly was the concern of no one in particular.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature of modern personal hygiene is the increased and widespread attention which is now being given to the preservation of the teeth and the prevention of premature dental decay. The progress which has been made in this direction is unquestionably a most gratifying one and one of the underlying reasons for the better health of women in general.

A more subtle complaint is headache, which sometimes assumes the chronic type, largely as the result of

eye-strain, imperfectly diagnosed as a mere error of refraction. The evil of astigmatism is widespread and a subtle element in undermining the health of women workers. Modern health propaganda is enlightening women, as well as men, on the question of the danger of headache powders and other methods of alleged cures, which, of course, do not go to the root of the situation, while they often do incalculable harm in other directions.

The next generation will show a more profound and practical interest in digestive disorders. It is true that much of the old type of chronic indigestion has passed away, as the result of more rational methods of nutrition, but in fact much, if not more, remains to be done to provide a sound working basis for the human machine. Most of the modern foods have been manipulated in some form, being preserved, conserved or modified, with the result that intestinal disorders are the rule rather than the exception. In the case of sedentary workers, this frequently leads to complications and in many cases to pre-cancerous conditions, which ultimately terminate in malignant disease. Cancer is the outstanding mortality fact of the present generation of women, who, to an increasing and alarming extent, suffer the results of apathy and indifference to obvious indications of diseases, when health and life could have been preserved. The annual mortality from cancer in this country now exceeds 100,000, and of this mortality possibly 50,000 are the deaths of women over thirty years of age. While cancer is only occasionally an occupational disease, its occurrence is frequently the result of abnormal conditions inseparable from many industrial pursuits.

### Cooperation Necessary

As thus conceived, industrial diseases of women are essentially conditioned by unhygienic habits and unhygienic conditions, together with needless exposure to recognized industrial risks. The prevention of such diseases is, therefore, not a single duty, but a triangular obligation, on the part of the employer, the employee, and the State. When these three work harmoniously together, under the influence of practical aims to produce satisfactory working conditions, the results cannot fail to meet all reasonable requirements. Enormous progress has been made in the health of our industrial workers, but an enormous problem remains to be solved, and one of unfortunately greater complexity, because of the clearer recognition of new factors and new possibilities, in the light of the progress of modern medicine. However reluctant we may be to increase the cost of production, I can see no escape from the conclusion that the medical supervision of all workers, in recognized dangerous trades, is the first duty incumbent upon the employer, supported by the employee who, through his labor organizations, may provide effectively for a larger measure of individual protection. Nothing could be more encouraging in the modern Labor movement than the clear recognition of the supreme importance of the health of working people, brought about, first, by insistence upon suitable working conditions; second, by supplemental efforts on the part of the employer, providing an adequate medical service; third, by a still further broadening of the function of labor organization, to include the medical inspection, supervision and advice of their own members. When all of these work in harmony, together, we shall witness a death rate in industry which would have been considered a hopeless ambition even a generation ago.

(To be continued)

## ELEVATED OR SUBWAY

OR CHOICE OF THE MODERN, PROGRESSIVE CITY



# JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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## EDITORIALS

### THE FINAL WORD RESTS WITH THE WORKERS

As we write these lines, our members are voting "Yes" or "No" on the proposal of a strike in the cloak and suit industry of New York. We don't want to forecast the outcome of this voting nor are we desirous of influencing our workers in the least as to how they shall vote. All we wish for is a big vote, a strong and unmistakable expression of the will of the men and women who are called upon to say the final word in this critical situation. We want this vote to silence the snarl of our detractors who never tire of accusing the leaders of our Union that it is they who are calling the workers out into strikes, and that without them the workers would have continued "honestly" to eke out an existence for themselves and their families.

The vote, no matter how big one way or the other, will be a sacred mandate for our leaders. The leaders of the International and of the Joint Board do not believe in strikes that are forced upon the workers and have no faith in the benefits that might accrue to anybody from such strikes. Without shedding their own responsibility, they nevertheless want the workers to state their opinion freely and un molested. Our leaders will not needlessly incite the workers to striking; they leave that to the demagogues who see in every disturbance a blessing from above and worship strikes for the sake of striking. Our leaders are primarily interested in improving the conditions of our workers, in making it possible for them to make a living all year around, in making their position stronger in the shops. To achieve this purpose peacefully, our leaders are employing every honorable means at their command, every method of which no union man need be ashamed. And only after every peaceful means is exhausted, they begin considering the efficacy of a strike to bring to terms such employers as would not yield to logic and reason. Then the only way left for us is to close the shops and keep them closed until the power of our unity, solidarity and common will might make for a settlement and an understanding.

In the present controversy, our leaders have employed until this hour every peaceful method available to renew the agreement with the cloak and suit employers of New York. For several months our representatives have negotiated with the manufacturers and the jobbers on the demands which the trend of the times and the developments in our industry have brought to the fore. So far the employers have remained deaf to our demands and too short-sighted to see beyond their own selfish interests. To the irrefutable arguments of our leaders they have replied with sophistry, with appeals to the worst prejudices of the public, and with promises that the Union would confiscate their wealth and possessions.

We do not know yet their final answer. There is still some hope that they might finally come to see that blind obstinacy will lead them nowhere. The vote of the cloakmakers this week will not fail, we believe, in serving additional notice upon them that a radical change in the structure of the local cloak industry is necessary and imminent, and that the thousands employed in this industry are entitled to a better living and to less fear and worry over the devastating ravages of the slack periods.

And in saying that, we again desire to emphasize that it is not our object to influence the workers in any given direction. More than anything else we should like to see that the cloakmakers be clear about their aims and say exactly what they want. If the cloakmakers are convinced that the demands of the Union are vital for their livelihood, they will vote for a strike. They will know that the fight which is being forced upon them is a sacred task which they cannot evade. They will take up the challenge of the employers and will not leave the conflict until the battle is won and their essential interests are properly safeguarded.

If, on the other hand, the cloakmakers consider the demands of the Union not vital enough to be defended by a strike; if they should regard them as unrealizable, they will vote against a strike. They have a right to vote in such a way and that is exactly why this referendum has been ordered. But no cloakmaker should refrain from expressing his mind one way or another on the ground that he is not individually qualified to say his word in this situation. That is essentially wrong; these demands have received full and enlightened discussion in our press and at meetings for many months past and it is hardly conceivable that union members who follow the affairs of their organization should have failed to form an opinion on these paramount issues.

The decision, as rendered by the vote, will stand. It will be the mandate for the leaders and for the entire membership to follow. If the vote favors a strike it will be the strike of the

whole Union, of those who voted for it as well as of those who did not favor it. As in all former great struggles of the New York cloakmakers, there will be no differences of opinion, no disunion in the ranks, once the verdict of the majority has been rendered. Our Union has never had strikebreakers in its midst in times of momentous struggles, and it certainly will have none now.

It is, indeed, a grave event that we are facing in the prospective conflict. We should like our members to feel about it as we do and vote in the same earnest spirit. If a fight is decided upon, it will be the greatest in the history of the cloakmakers' organization,—a fight for the most important demands ever presented by our Union. Let every member who appears at the polls to give his or her vote not fail to realize the importance of the situation and without fear or hesitation vote according to his or her best judgment.

After that is done and the collective voice of our workers is heard, we shall have no misgivings concerning the outcome. Then we know that it will represent the firm will of the whole membership, the will that is determined to make the life of the workers in the cloak industry less precarious and more suitable for self-respecting human beings to live.

### WHOM IS THE PROTECTIVE GROUP SPITTING?

The Protective Association, so it is reported in the press, has given up its labor department.

It seems to us that this announcement came a little too late. The Protective Association has been dead for the last couple of years, though it may not have known it itself. Its influence in the cloak industry has been insignificant and the number of workers employed in the shops of its members in the last few years has been so small that, to all practical purposes its labor department expired quite some time ago. The announcement that the Protective Association dissolves its department, therefore, only brought smiles in union circles. Yet now that this Association with its labor department is off the labor market in the cloak industry, we confess that we feel somewhat sorry for it. We cannot forget that a few years ago this Association played a powerful role in the cloak industry and was actually the only factor with which the Union used to reckon. Today most of the production which it controlled before is in the hands of the small contractors and sub-manufacturers, who are in the grip of the jobbers. Of the former big Protective Association there is only a skeleton left today. And when last heard from, this skeleton was rattling its bones in a sinister manner.

It is a pity indeed to compare the Protective Association of former years with what it has become now. The pity is still greater when one thinks that the Union has done its best to maintain it alive. Moreover the demands presented by the Union, if accepted by the Protective Association, would have actually helped it to come to life again. The substance of these demands is the abolition of the small shop and the bringing back of the cloak industry to its condition of former years when the members of the Protective Association used to employ hundreds of workers and were full-fledged cloak manufacturers.

The Union had a right to expect that the Protective group would eagerly adopt the program of the Union as a means of reviving their former influence in the cloak industry. Instead of making use of this great opportunity, they are inclined to crawl back into their little holes and continue as insignificant as heretofore, and divorce themselves entirely from the labor market by abolishing the labor department of their organization which was barely functioning of late. Let us remind the Protective group that they have not built their labor department of their own free volition, but as a result of the great struggle of the cloakmakers in 1910. Their giving up of the labor department is not yet the final word in this matter. What the Cloakmakers' Union was able to accomplish in 1910, it surely can accomplish in 1924. We say the Union might do it, because we are not quite sure that it will. It is quite likely that the Union will decide to leave these corpses in peace, and will devote its entire energy to dealing with those virile and living factors who have the cloak industry today in their hands—we mean the jobbers, the members of the Merchants' Ladies' Garment Association. This latter group has proved itself its own master in maintaining their organization, as they know they can achieve better and more satisfactory results all around by maintaining their organization and dealing collectively with the workers.

### TO THE OPENING OF OUR UNITY HOUSE

Among the many institutions of our International, the Unity House at Forest Park, Pa., occupies a unique and prominent place.

"Man cannot live on bread alone." Life without the leaving of some joy, occasional though it might be, life without an opportunity to regain one's waning energy and replenish one's spiritual and mental resources, is but a dreary existence.

The Unity House has been formed for the purpose of bringing this measure of joy into the lives of our workers.

It is not well for man to remain always in the same place, to see the same faces, to nurse the same thoughts, concerns and worries. New impressions, new faces, new surroundings are vital for our lives. The beautiful enticing little world which is called Unity House and which the International built for its members is not merely a luxury; it is a necessity for our men and women.

To leave the shops with all their humdrum and unending tasks for beautiful Forest Park, its charming lawns and wide beautiful lakes, for the daily contact with Nature, is a treat, a revelation and joy without end for the city worker.

Our Unity House opens next Friday and it will remain open until September. These few months thousands of our

# The First Quarterly Meeting of the Board

By S. YANOVSKY

In one sense this first getting-together of the reelected General Executive Board and its new members was a winding up of the Boston convention. The convention had left a number of questions for the General Executive Board to decide—first, because on some of them it could only adopt a general decision, such as the campaigns in the various cities since the convention obviously could not determine the details of such organizing work; secondly, a number of important questions failed of consideration by the convention owing to the shortage of time during the last few days. These the convention decided to refer to the General Executive Board. Besides these matters, the General Executive Board had to carry out without delay several convention instructions, such as the election of committees for Locals 9 and 1.

On the other hand, the first meeting concerned itself with the working out of a definite program for the future activities of the International. Much has to be done in many cities outside of New York, a great deal to be mended and shaken up. In some places the bad seasons have left an undesirable effect; in another place some tactical mistakes have been made by those at the head of the organization; in still another city the indifference of the workers has all but destroyed the local, but they are at present beginning to realize the mistake they made and the psychological moment for bringing them back into the fold has now arrived. There are other cities where, no matter how difficult the fight, it must be carried on, more perhaps for the preservation of union conditions in other centers than in the place directly involved.

Another thing. As known, the entire General Executive Board was reelected by the convention; this, however, did not imply that all our vice-presidents were to remain at the posts which they had occupied heretofore. Some have had to be changed to a wider sphere of activity; others had to be transferred to another field, which though not as wide, presented, nevertheless, a more suitable place for their operations. Changes, on the whole, are not unwholesome in an organization like ours and they often tend to put new life and vigor into the directing force of the Union.

So, while the General Executive Board remained practically the same—with the exception of the two new members, Max Amador of Philadelphia and Isidore Scheinholz—a "shake-up" of some sort was deemed the right thing through a shifting of posts and a change of territory. The International is widening out its sphere of activity at present and it is therefore intent upon utilizing its human and material resources to the fullest extent.

Such a program, with this principal purpose in view, was presented by President Sigman to the Board and adopted. And this program the International will begin to materialize

as soon as the opportunity presents itself. To be sure, a beginning in this direction has already been made. The Eastern Organization Department will now take in the New England States, a territory which has been rather neglected heretofore. A similar course has already been adopted with regard to the Middle-Western Department. Vice-president Perstein, who has been in charge of it, obviously could not handle this task single-handed. Chicago has occupied his entire attention, but there remain other cities, like Toledo, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Cleveland and many towns which must be taken care of. As soon as the Chicago strike will come to an end, Vice-president Perstein will assume the work for which he was originally appointed, leaving the local work to the local managers.

It was also decided, after a thorough canvassing of the Canadian situation, that, too, as regards the campaign be undertaken in Montreal. There are signs that this work in Montreal will now produce better results than were evident until now. The present demand for organization is coming from the workers themselves who have had a very "good" season recently in Montreal with work plenty but with very meagre earnings. They are beginning to realize that they must be united to protect them against the avarice of the employers and are calling upon the International to help them form such a strong Union.

In Boston the situation is also not at its best. The recent strike was not the success the workers desired it to be. The relations between the locals are such, too, as to require a good deal of laicful work to straighten them out. A representative of the International will have to be stationed in Boston to put matters right and to put the local unions in better working shape.

And last, but not least, is New York with an immense field for activity among the thousands of working men and women in some of our trades who still remain unorganized. In these trades the locals are comparatively too weak to be able to control the whole field. A joint executive council has been formed of these miscellaneous locals to conduct such a joint drive although so far only four locals of the ten have joined it, but the convention has now made it mandatory upon the others to join in this enterprise, and this joint council is expected to be of material aid to the International in carrying out the contemplated drive. This drive will begin as soon as circumstances permit, though right now there are material obstacles in the way, as the International and the cloakmakers' organization in New York are face to face with a formidable battle, which monopolizes for the time being every effort and resource.

Just the same, though active work in the above-mentioned directions can as yet not be contemplated in view of our grave situation in New York, it would be a mistake to assume that everything else has been completely forgotten. The General Executive Board has, for instance, decided that the plan for a union label for the auxiliary trades, the embroidery workers, the button makers, the stitchers, pleaters and tuckers be realized without delay so that the

workers in these trades begin deriving a benefit from it as soon as possible. What concerns the general label for the consuming public, the General Executive Board deemed it necessary to lay it over for a time, though preparations for it will begin at once so that all the information required will be at hand when we are ready for the big job.

In connection with the label there appeared before the General Executive Board Brother James J. Manning, the manager of the Label Department of the American Federation of Labor, with a request that we join this department. The General Executive Board decided to conform with this request as soon as we are ready. Mr. Philip Davis, a former general organizer of our Union, now in the film business, also appeared before the General Executive Board with a suggestion that he be given the right to film the entire history of our Union and trade for presentation upon the screen before theater-goers all over the country. He spoke convincingly of the propaganda value of this undertaking and that it will fully repay the expense of a few thousand dollars which it might involve. His argument at first failed to impress the members of the Board, but when he pointed out, in reply to a question by Vice-president Breslaw, that our label will also receive wide advertising through such films, his proposal was warmly received and at the following session it was decided to instruct Mr. Phillips to go ahead with the work, which it will require about six months to complete.

There were many more interesting moments at the meeting, such as the important discussion of the educational work, during which the Committee on Education was instructed to take a more active interest in the work

and not to serve merely as figure heads, leaving all the work to one or two persons who, no matter how conscientious, could not be expected to do it as well as it could be done under the direction of the entire committee.

In connection with the educational work, there also appeared before the Board a committee of the National Council on Child Development, an organization which purports to give the children of the workers a better chance to grow up as clear-thinking men and women. Its work runs along the same lines of the program outlined by the Committee on Young People's Trade Union Education at the Boston convention. The General Executive Board decided to help this organization extensively in its work and appointed a committee to investigate jointly with it a location for a camp for children where, under the guidance of competent teachers, they could spend the summer months in an atmosphere which would meet the spirit and the educational requirements of our committee and of the National Council.

It was also decided to send a committee to represent our International Union at the Cleveland Conference for Progressive Political Action. President Sigman and Vice-presidents Ninfo and Feinberg were elected on this committee.

Vice-presidents Ninfo and Heller and Secretary Baroff were elected as a committee to visit Governor Cox of Massachusetts to ask him to ease the lot of Sacco and Vanzetti, victims of a capitalist conspiracy, now in a Massachusetts jail, as far as it lay in his power.

Vice-president Perstein, in reporting on the Chicago dress strike declared that the fight in that city is being carried on with its entire vigor and enthusiasm; that some of even the most stubborn employers have already given in, and that many more are expected to follow suit in the near future. It was also decided to grant a charter for a special local of Polish dressmakers in Chicago.

## New York, Eats

By A. LEBEDIGER

If you are workless and forced to skip a meal or two a day, take notice in the fact that things aren't half as bad as they might be. True, it is tough to coax a perfectly healthy appetite into a state of stomach pacific, but rarely there must be some satisfaction even for a hungry person in feeling that one is a member of the greatest, food-devouring community on God's earth—New York.

That's exactly what it is. New York—collectively—is not going hungry. New York—in a group, communal sense,—eats plenty.

You may not have eaten your breakfast this morning—but what of that? Your city, you must bear in mind, has had a great, hearty early repeat. New York has tucked away under her metropolitan belt four million rolls this morning and, has drained six million cups of coffee, in addition to consuming three million eggs, good, bad and indifferent. That may have happened just as you were chattering about a will-o'-the-wisp of a job, newspaper in hand—that that really matters little. New York took this morning, like every other day, opened its jaw widely, and at the time of our going to press, its upper and lower jaws have not collided yet. It is still eating.

We cannot think of more soothing reading for a garment worker out of a job than some statistics of the devouring talents of our great city, our grand city, our dear little old New York. If you have any faith in statistics—here is what they say:

New York does away daily with four million loaves of bread, two million pounds of meat, six million eggs, 10,000 carloads of apples, eight million pies of all denominations, one million pounds of butter. And the end is not yet. Here is what our friend, the statistician, has dropped out.

He claims that the per capita demolition of food in this happiest of burghs for each grown-up person is a little over a loaf of bread a day, three eggs, a pie and a half, thirteen apples, two pounds of meat, one chicken, a half pound of butter, etc. In other words, New York has allotted to you the above-mentioned food in a little over a loaf of bread a day, three eggs, a pie and a half, thirteen apples, two pounds of meat, one chicken, a half pound of butter, etc. In other words, New York has allotted to you the above-mentioned food in a little over a loaf of bread a day, three eggs, a pie and a half, thirteen apples, two pounds of meat, one chicken, a half pound of butter, etc.

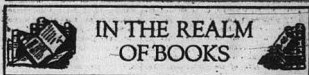
It must be that and nothing else. For, since early youth, we have laid great store by statistics, and if they publicly assert that this is yours and my share of the eats of our town, it must be so.

And if you should still persist that something is disturbing your inner vacuities, we advise reading, assiduously daily reading, of the aforementioned statistical figures—and if only you have as much as a spark of civic pride, you cannot help feeling proud of a New York.

Yes, you'll eat your morning, delectable, waiting, gay lawn, proud of its clever kid statisticians.

workers will go to Forest Park for a breath of fresh air, for a change of scenery and to gather new strength for the toil of the coming season. We hope that our members will not fail to grasp the wonderful opportunity for rest, joy and amusement that the House accords to them and that they will spend their vacations in their own Unity House.





## IN THE REALM OF BOOKS

### Weak Wine

A Cure of Souls. By May Sinclair. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1924.

By SYLVIA KOPALD

There is a curious driving fascination in May Sinclair's work that pushes the attention to the last page once the first has been turned. Her latest book, "A Cure of Souls," shares this characteristic with her others. But it has something else, too, and something that lasts longer than the fascination. It produced in me, at least, an undercurrent of irritation that would not down. I finished the story in one sitting; yet even as I moved along with Canon Chamberlain in his grudging cure of souls, my mind insisted continuously, "Well, what of it?"

A curious quality, the dualism of this book. To be aroused and interested, yet also annoyed and unconvinced. Perhaps Miss Sinclair's craftsmanship is at fault. It is undoubtedly splendid craftsmanship; yet one wonders whether it is not a bit too splendid. Life has no patterns quite so perfect; such single-

tracked unity is for mechanism alone. Or perhaps Miss Sinclair's story itself is at fault. Canon Chamberlain is a study in ruthless, yet well-voiced selfishness. There are no crude villainies in his carefully groomed soul; he is aesthete, voluptuary, and monster in one. But his life is trivial, and Miss Sinclair gives us nothing but his life. Apply her conscious art to an unimportant story and you get the dualism that is "A Cure of Souls." Weak wine in vases of marvelous turning. Yet when all is said, content remains ever more important than its holder.

I cannot help feeling, after finishing Miss Sinclair's latest novel, that craftsmanship in art must be unobtrusive before it can be really good. Undoubtedly there is a real thrill in following perfection of design, in seeing how artists work their materials. But one should have to search these things out; no sooner do

they force themselves upon you than the illusion of the work itself is broken. Miss Sinclair wished to paint Canon Chamberlain for us. She filled her canvas with him. We see him eating, contemplating meals, picking peaches, visiting, unrepentantly reading "Madame Bovary," choosing a wife, escaping work, using men and women for his own ends. And nobody exists in the story except to bring out the lights and shadows of this despicable, really uninteresting character. Poor Agnes Lambert, mistaking human passion for sanity mysticism, and being encouraged by Canon Chamberlain because she does the work he should do best when in a state of exaltation; like Billy Cartwright, with his energetic enthusiasm for "men's clubs"; like Hilda Winthel, determined to make the Canon uncomfatable; Mrs. Hancock, Sylvia Rivers, with her fleeting tale of pathetically human erring; soft Mrs. Beauchamp; all these and others move through the story only to illustrate the poor thing that is Canon Chamberlain.

There are in this all the ingredients of a certain type of good novelistic craftsmanship. Careful selection, subordination, singleness, sparseness, unity. But they are also all so terribly visible. One feels the steady edge of Miss Sinclair's knife paring away at the richness that is life; one can almost see the splurged out every semblance of confusion. But life is confused, and while art must eliminate some of its cross-currents, so

much selection gives something that is blither life now art.

Is it not canon Chamberlain only the craftsmanship. Miss Sinclair used much the same methods upon "The Life and Death of Harriet Freen." And yet what a terribly moving story emerged. But Harriet Freen's story matters; sacrifice is so human a temptation; that its selfishness should be shown up. What is the reason for almost 200 pages of Canon Chamberlain? Miss Sinclair has nothing to say of the Church as an institution—Jackson and Cartwright quite offset Canon Chamberlain. Agnes Lambert's tragedy is really incidental. Canon Chamberlain, like Nero, remains, after he has razed Rome to the ground for his own purposes. Neither his men nor his marriage, neither his life nor his living, matters is the least. He is not even Tartuffe, nor yet Bianco Poeni; so even his "showing up" does not matter. And because he does not matter, the awareness of Miss Sinclair's craftsmanship becomes more than wasted; it becomes irritating.

Weak wine in carefully turned vases. No real conclusion can be attained with that. The artist's first concern is life. Miss Sinclair must return to her real business. Luckily there is enough before Canon Chamberlain to make us look forward to important things after him. But "A Cure of Souls" must be put down as an excursion in futility. Busy workers in a busy world cannot afford to give much time to it. They had better await Miss Sinclair's next.

## In Germany—Leipzig

By PAULINE M. NEWMAN

### IV.

One is a bit disappointed in Leipzig. There is no particular beauty in or around the city. Neither the buildings nor the monuments possess those artistic qualities that make an impression upon a visitor. Probably the surroundings are to a considerable degree responsible for this impression. Leipzig lies in the midst of a flat, sandy plain that cannot impart character or setting for the city itself. Nor is there an old quarter that dominates the whole place as does the old city in Nürnberg. To be sure, there are scattered old houses with quaint architecture and interesting histories. There is also a well-preserved old city hall with a considerable collection of local antiquarian interest. But these are bits to be sought out, by no means outweighing the uninteresting parts.

The one monument foreigners usually go to see is the memorial to the soldiers who fell in the Napoleonic war of 1812. One goes to see it, as we learned later, not for its beauty, but for its massiveness. It is huge. It is imposing. One is told by the natives that most of the money to erect it came from the poor people as their memorial to the dead. After you see this monument, the university buildings, a few book stores, the public park and the museum, you feel that you have seen Leipzig. While the museum is by no means the finest we have seen in Europe, it has many of the loveliest of modern paintings—some of which we shall never forget for their mastery and realism. On the whole, however, we found Leipzig rather dull, and we were about to leave when we ran into a strike—a real honest-to-goodness strike of cabaret actors! About a dozen men of all ages were coming down the main street carrying transparencies, announcing a benefit performance given by and for the strikers. The public was invited to come and learn the reasons for the strike. We stop-

ped the leader of the "parade" and bought tickets. Of course, we wanted to know the reasons for their walk out.

In a large hall, dimly lighted, about a thousand men and women were seated around little tables. Some were drinking beer, others were evidently having their dinner, while still others had nothing in front of them. We, too, sat down at a table and ordered something which natives still called coffee. Presently, the place being pretty well filled, two elderly women came and sat with us at the table. The waiter came over but they ordered nothing. To all appearances they were working-class women. But before long the curtain rose and the chairman began to tell the assembly the why of the strike. The old story—low wages, and inability to meet the increased cost of living—due to the fall of the mark. At that time the mark was one hundred million to the dollar. The actors were getting ten million marks a day—in American money ten cents a day! Out of this they had to pay the laundry bills for the clothes they used at the performances. And it cost eleven million marks for laundering a boiled shirt! Carfare was then about seven million, and most of them lived too far away from the theater to walk. There were married men who had families to support—in short, it was impossible for them to continue at the old rate of wages. There was nothing left for them to do but strike. Their demand was for a 100 per cent increase in wages. The walk-out was complete. There were no scabs among them.

The owners of the cabaret theaters stated publicly that, while the demand of the strikers was justified, they were economically unable to meet it. In order to meet these demands, they would have had to raise the price of admission which, they felt sure, the public could not meet and which would result in forcing them to close their theaters. Thus the situation appeared to be one that offered no

possible chance for a settlement between the two sides.

During intermission we resumed our conversation with our two neighbors. One was the wife of a sheet metal worker; the other, of a brick-layer. They told us of their struggle to keep up a mere existence. There was not much work. During that week the sheet metal worker had earned one hundred and sixty million marks—in our money \$1.60! There were three children to feed and clothe. There was rent to pay, and the price of potatoes went up so high that they were unable to buy them. The price of coal, wood, and other necessities soared far above their meager income. They struggled and suffered.

We asked the women what they thought the future had in store for

them. The reply was quick and significant. "The future? Why, the workers' future was always dark; now the workers have no future at all to look forward to. Our struggle is to get enough bread for today and we are glad when we get it—never mind tomorrow!" This one remark summed up the new philosophy of the German workers. There was no longer any sense in looking forward to the next day when the next day was certain to bring no relief from the hardships of today. What use was there in trying to save a mark—even if one could—when tomorrow it would have practically no value? Why, not, they had to do what they might get something for it! A new philosophy, to be sure, for the Germans. But perhaps there is more to it than we think there is.

## "Man and Mass-Man"

(A letter to the Editor)

Sir:

Sylvia Kopald's article, "Epic" in the May 2 issue of JUSTICE certainly thrilled me. She possesses a sort of mowed-down style minus the "keep off" sign. You are cordially invited to thrust yourself into its soft eloquence and breathe a fresh wind.

On the other hand, in the conclusion she has deduced from Ernest Toller's "Mass-Mensch," the very nature of its truth gives one the chills: "Man can no longer go apart from Mass-Man," she says. What a tragedy to have the world divided into "Man" and "Mass-Man!" What evil power had brought this curse upon us? We know that this is only a recent development. Primitive nations have no such thing as Man and Mass-Man.

But Man should not complain at all. At present the masses set as they are taught. Man has instructed Mass-Man in the art of murder. Man had rooked Mass-Man into stupid contentment whenever conditions called for it. Man has drugged Mass-Man to a mental pitch of hatred when "convenience" required this. And now Man stands gawping while Mass-Man keeps on shooting, demanding,

killing, killing, killing in the name of this or that yet undigested slogan. Man is horrified at his own work.

But here Miss Kopald has touched a note that softens the situation: "He must fall in with or against." Man must fall in line with or array his guns against Mass-Man. So Mass-Man is moving? This is marvelous! We may in a measure concede his rough manners but let us let him move at last. As to his behavior, please let us stop preaching.

Yes, Mass-Man is moving. Some one is pushing him. An arbitrary barrier separates Man from Mass-Man. It is the Man in the Mass-Man that has awakened and is now scaling the ladder in his own way. And of course Mass-Man will be made into Man: "Here one knows Man will not defeat Mass-Man, but absorb him." This Miss Kopald, in man's desperate auto-suggestion: "Mass-Man may in time attain to the level of Man. But until then Mass-Man will reduce the heralded slogan to cheese and our literature to immediate demands, and you know it: 'Yet beneath the knowledge,' there sound undertones of doubt."

AARON SCHINDLERSONKY,  
Member A. C. W. of A.



# The Boston Committees and Resolutions

By AN OBSERVER

Read carefully the resolutions adopted by the Boston Convention and the comment made upon them by the committee reporters, and the leadership of the International, as well as the character of our organization will be revealed to you without any difficulty.

Let it be stated here that the personnel of these committees composed practically the entire convention, and was not made up of some chosen few, as some might imagine. The Committee on Organization consisted of twenty-three delegates with Jacob Halperin as its chairman and N. Nachlin, secretary; the Committee on Resolutions had twenty-two members, with Jacob Heller as chairman and Sam Shenker secretary; the Committee on Law consisted of twenty-one delegates with Salvatore Ninio as chairman and Joseph Weinstein as secretary; the Committee on Adjustment consisted of twenty-three persons with Sol Seidman as chairman; the Committee on Young People's Trade Union Education had twenty-one members with Fannia M. Cohn as chairman; the Committee on Union-Owned Shops, Unemployment Insurance, Cooperatives and Union Labels, with Meyer Perlstain as chairman and consisting of twenty-one members; the Committee on Appeals, with Israel Feinberg as chairman and Elias Reinberg as secretary, consisting of twenty-two delegates; and the Committee on Education consisting of twenty-one delegates with Harry Wander as chairman and Samuel Rothman as secretary.

All told there were 217 delegates participating in these ten committees, the overwhelming majority of the delegates to the convention. If all these committees would proceed to work simultaneously, there would be left in the assembly hall but a few score of delegates to transact the business of the convention. This is particularly interesting in view of the stupid and baseless parroting by those who are in the habit of slandering our Union that the conventions of the International are packed by some invisible machine.

All told, there were about 135 resolutions received by the convention which may be grouped as follows:

1. Resolutions on future industrial activity. These touch on organization campaigns in various localities or the problems of trade jurisdiction. These resolutions did not create much of a stir at the convention as they did not involve substantial differences of opinion.

2. Resolutions touching on the inner structure of the organization. Some of them were quite far-reaching, while others concerned only the outward form of the Union.

These resolutions provoked, as might have been expected, sharp and heated debating. To this group belonged, for instance, such resolutions as demanded the expulsion of members for belonging to the T. U. E. L., and others which called for the repudiation of the action of the General Executive Board in this matter. In a later instalment we shall touch in brief upon the principal arguments advanced for or against these resolutions.

3. Resolutions which concern our International only indirectly, from the point of view of the general labor movement, such as the recognition of the Soviet Government, support of various institutions here and abroad, the problem of political activity, etc.

4. Resolutions calling for the undertaking of entirely new activity,

such as union-owned shops, cooperatives, union label, etc.

As said already, the most important resolutions, those which called for more intensified activities of the various departments, such as an Union, brought out but little debate, and took up little time on the floor of the convention. In point of fact, there was little to be discussed; such demands as an organization drive here or a strike in another locality, or the appointment of organizers for a certain district, could not help being sanctioned by the convention, with the proviso that they be referred to the General Executive Board for action at the proper moment. Even the big industrial program prepared by the General Executive Board, which, when adopted, will lead to a fundamental change in our main industries, did not call forth any long debating, as most of the delegates were fully convinced by these demands and unanimous for their adoption. We can comment but little on these resolutions save for hoping that they do not remain on paper and that they be realized as quickly as possible.

We shall now touch upon the resolutions which had to do with the inner policies of the International. First come the personal demands for settling one way or another a number of jurisdictional problems. There was one resolution for uniting Locals 1, 11 and 17 into one local; another called for amalgamating Locals 25 and 22; still another called for putting Locals 3 and 38 together again into one local; another called for admitting the ladies' tailors into the Joint Board, etc. These are not new problems to readers of JUSTICE, and very little can be added to what has been said on these matters before. As a matter of fact, the General Executive Board is neither for amalgamating locals nor against it. But is for amalgamating or dividing when it serves best the interests of the workers in this craft or trade. The General Executive Board, for instance, put all the dressmakers of New York last year into one local, and combined all the pressers into one organization. On the other hand, the General Executive Board separated the ladies' tailors and the sample makers when it was clear they could not properly work together. The convention in Boston therefore did what former conventions decided in these matters. It left them in the hands of the General Executive Board to adjust as they arise from time to time, not as a question of principle but as a practical, pragmatic proposition.

Another more difficult question was raised by the resolution demanding proportionate representation for locals forming joint boards. As is known, the locals in the New York Joint Board, small or large, are all represented alike through five delegates. Some of the larger locals have argued that this was not a democratic arrangement, and that the larger locals should get a larger representation of smaller locals and leave them helpless on practically every question of importance where a conflict of interests would arise. On the other hand, under the present system, it has never been known that the majority of the smaller locals has ever wrong-

ed the larger locals or acted unfairly towards them. And, as the debate on this subject went on, it became more and more clear that, if the larger locals in the Joint Board were to be given representation on the strength of their numbers, this Joint Board would gradually become the central body for two or three of the larger locals, leaving the rest of them in obscurity and without much reason for functioning. That is why the convention rejected this proposal, though on the face of it it appeared rather attractive, because it essentially was directed against the minority in the Union.

Other resolutions touching on the internal affairs of the organization were: (a) That members of the General Executive Board may not be paid organizers or other salaried officers of the Union; (b) that locals had the right to pass by-laws fixing the tenure of office of paid officials; (c) that wages of any official in the Union were to be the standard of the larger per wage; (d) that vice-presidents be actual members of the General Executive Board and that the office of first vice-president be abol-

ished; (e) that convention delegates cast as many votes as the number of members they represent; (f) that locals have the right to elect new delegates to special conventions; (g) that the convention elect in addition to vice-presidents, also substitutes to fill their places in case of resignation or death; (h) the prohibition of leaflets and "alates" in time of election; (i) the introduction of a shop delegate system; (j) the formation of district councils to consist of two delegates from each factory who would elect organizers and district capitalists, for purely organization work; (k) a "free forum" page in JUSTICE for unrestricted discussion by the members; (l) the reinstatement of all members expelled for belonging to the T. U. E. L.—and several other resolutions of this type.

We cannot of course, within the limits of this article, discuss even in brief all these resolutions. The convention rejected some that would have alarmed. We shall touch upon the reasons for this action by the convention and give our own comment in the next issue of this journal.

## Unemployment in the Various Countries

There has been little change in the state of unemployment in the various countries within the last few months. In Germany and Great Britain there is a steady decline, and also in Czechoslovakia.

The following general survey of unemployment in the various countries has been compiled from such information as is available:

Great Britain: Unemployment is steadily declining. Of the 1,124,272 members of trade unions which were in reports, 96,450 or 8.4 per cent were unemployed at the end of February, against 100,383 or 8.9 per cent at the end of January, and 155,165 or 13.1 per cent at the end of February, 1923. Of the 11,500,000 persons insured against unemployment, 1,085,000, or 10.7 per cent were unemployed on February 25 (of whom 558,000 were men and 227,000 women) against 1,178,000 or 11.1 per cent at the end of January, and 12.2 per cent at the end of February, 1923.

Holland: Of 277,314 persons registered under the insurance system 35,452 or 12.8 per cent were wholly unemployed, and 8,111 or 2.9 per cent on short-time work on February 9. In the previous month (January 12) the respective percentages were 20.3 and 3.6, and on February 10, 1923, 12.5 and 2.9. The live registers of the Labor Exchanges of towns with over 5,000 inhabitants recorded 52,921 applicants for work on March 1, 1924, and 45,875 unskilled workers. The corresponding figures on December 29th, 1923, were 58,733 and 43,492. In respect of these figures it must be borne in mind that the persons registered as unemployed are not always actually unemployed, and that some of the unskilled workers must be reckoned in with the persons doing short-time work.

Italy: The number of wholly unemployed was at the end of December, 1923, 258,580, and that of those working short-time 62,356, against 225,095 and 65,068 in the preceding month, and 260,701 and 65,559 at the end of March, 1923.

Norway: Unemployment has remained about stationary during the last few months, but it has fallen by one-third since January, 1923. On March 10, 1924, there were 18,400 unemployed, against 19,000 in the previous month, and 23,500 in February, 1923. These figures do not include

the persons doing relief work, who are estimated at about 9,660, against 16,000 in February, 1923.

Poland: The measures adopted by the Government to stabilize the Polish currency have induced a serious economic slump. The Loda textile industry is especially hard hit. At the beginning of February, 4,227 textile workers were unemployed at Loda, and of these employed 77.3 per cent were working only 2 or 3 days a week. In the metal and chemical industries 40 per cent of the workers are unemployed. The Upper Silesian mines are working only 4 days a week.

Russia: According to a report submitted by the People's Commissary for Labor to the recent Soviet Congress at Moscow, there are at the present time about a million unemployed in Russia, against 709,000 on November 1, 1923, and 318,000 on November 1, 1922. Of the unemployed, 24 per cent are industrial, 38 per cent non-manual and 26 per cent unskilled workers.

Sweden: Of 180,065 members of those unions which send in reports on unemployment, 24,487 or 13.6 per cent were unemployed at the end of January. At the end of December the percentage was 14.1, and in January, 1923, 20.5.

Switzerland: The number of wholly unemployed persons—inclusive of the workers employed on subsidized relief work, was at the end of February 27,130, against 28,450 at the end of January, and 56,275 in January, 1923. The number of persons on short-time work was at the end of February, 1924, 11,985 against 12,661 in the preceding month.

United States: According to a report published by the Labor Department on the basis of statistics covering 7,849 concerns, employing 2,552,742 persons and belonging to 52 industries, the number of employed persons had in January declined by 0.9 per cent. 18 of the 52 industries showed an increase in the number of their workers in January. The greatest increase in employed workers is shown by the clothing industry, where the number of employed persons rose in January by 1.3 per cent.

Yugoslavia: Unemployment is increasing. Official estimates place the number of unemployed at over 100,000 workers and 1,000 salaried employees.



# EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



## Report of Committee on Education

(Adopted at the Seventeenth Convention of the I. L. C. W. U., Boston, May, 1924)

Your Committee on Education has discussed at length the report of the Educational Committee of the International Union issued to this convention, as well as the chapter on the educational work of our Union, in the report of the General Executive Board. We have studied the past work of the Educational Department of our Union, the recommendations offered by the General Executive Board with regard to this work in the future, and we desire to recommend to the convention some of our own conclusions concerning this special activity conducted by our International Union.

First of all, we desire to give unstated praise to the General Executive Board for its having loyally supported the educational work which our Union has been conducting for many years past with such singular success. We also wish to commend highly the work of the Educational Department which has left nothing undone, within its means, to spread education among our members and has conducted the work in a sincere and thorough-going manner. The special report issued by the Educational Department on its activities for the last two years recites this work in detail and a careful reading of it brings out in full clarity how wholeheartedly and devotedly it was done.

Your committee feels fully satisfied with the progress we have made in the field of Labor education and is indeed happy that we can report it with such satisfaction to this Jubilee Convention of our Union. When we think of the beginnings of our International Union twenty-five years ago, of the hopelessness and darkness in which the workers in our industry were steeped at that time and compare it with the fact that today our educational work alone, financed and conducted by our own means and efforts, is carrying enlightenment and education to thousands of our workers, we cannot help feeling that a brighter day has come in our industry and that it spells real advancement and progress.

Your committee on education desires to make to this convention the following recommendations with regard to the educational work of our Union which it hopes our delegates will act favorably upon and give their approval:

1. The committee recommends that the convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board to continue the educational work for the next term and that the same appropriation as was given to this department in the last two years be granted for its work in the future.

2. We recommend that our Educational Department pay more attention in the future to mass education, and we fully concur with the recommendation of the General Executive Board that "our Educational Department must be made the agency for spreading information on a wider scale among the mass of our workers in a manner that will serve to benefit them most and raise their intellectual level." In connection with this, however, we must admit that this is not the first time our conventions have gone on record in favor of mass education. It will be necessary for the next Committee on Education to

pay this feature of our educational activity more attention in the future and endeavor to get greater results from it.

3. We recommend that our International Union select every year a group of men and women from among its members who offer the best promise of becoming trained organizers and leaders in our organization, and who are by their experience, personal gifts and record in the union entitled to it, and send them to Union colleges where such training can be given to them. We recommend however that the selection of such members be made by the General Executive Board, with the aid of the Educational Department, in a systematic way and on a basis that will make use of the best available material in everyone of our organizations and will make it possible for our union to obtain the utmost of results from these free scholarships to our members.

Your committee also desires to state that in connection with these scholarships we have received Dr. David Sapos of the Brookwood Labor College, who placed before us a request that we send our students to this institution for training if we decide favorably upon this proposal. As your committee was not in a position to make any commitments on this matter we would recommend that this convention refer this matter to the General Executive Board to decide what in its judgment it will deem best in this connection.

4. Your committee recommends that the Educational Department be directed to pay more attention to educational activity in cities outside of New York. It is not necessary for us to emphasize that New York is not the only place where educational work is needed, though of course it is equally obvious that the bulk of our education work will have to be conducted in that city for the simple reason that the majority of our membership is located there.

We are prompted to make this recommendation as at one of our hearings your committee received some complaints from representatives of organizations outside of New York City that educational work is "not carried on in their localities as fully as they would like to have it. Delegate Bessie Gorin, Local 50, and Becky Stein of Local 69, both from Philadelphia, appeared and complained that very little educational work was done in their city. A similar complaint was registered by Delegate Frieda Reichler of Chicago, Delegate David Harris of the Connecticut District Council and Delegate Loretta De Lisle from Worcester, Mass.

5. Your committee recommends that the next standing committee on education of our Union organize circulating libraries to be located in union offices in every city where we have organizations, such libraries to contain principally books relating to the Labor and social movements, the reading of which might benefit our members and make them more intelligent union men and women. These books shall be circulated among our members free of charge and steps to be taken to encourage such reading among them.

6. Your committee recommends

## A Course in Trade Union Policies and Tactics

By DAVID J. SAPOSS  
Given at the  
**WORKERS' UNIVERSITY**  
of the  
**INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION**  
Sessions 1922-23 and 1923-24

### LESSON 5—Continued.

- IV. Historically, the intellectual has been with the Labor movement from its very inception. As early as 1827, intellectuals like Robert Owen and Francis Wright allied themselves with the economic, political and cooperative movement of the workers.
- V. The objective of the early intellectuals was to direct the workers away from their strict and narrow interests as workers as a class, and to lead them towards affiliation with other classes.
- Later the intellectuals emphasized strongest Socialist and class conscious philosophies, and confined themselves to injecting idealism in the Labor movement.
  - Few intellectuals ever became actual leaders in trade unions.
  - A good number of them have taken an important part in the educational, political and cooperative movements.
  - In Europe, intellectuals have also played an important role in the trade union movement.
- VI. Unfortunately, the conduct of an element among the intellectuals has made the Labor movement suspicious and antagonistic toward them.
- Since some of them had independent incomes, it was not necessary for them to seek a responsible position as a means of livelihood. Being unanchored, they became irresponsible and erratic,—free lances.
  - They assumed a dictatorial attitude of prophets, instead of one of individuals in an integral movement.
  - This self-centered element has contributed considerably to the discrediting of the intellectuals with the Labor movement.
- VII. In the meantime, a new group of intellectuals aligned themselves with the Labor movement:
- an economists, statisticians, accountants, engineers, health authorities, educators, etc., who, instead of considering themselves leaders, aim to supplement the leaders of the Labor movement by supplying them with technical counsel and data.
  - Fields of technical assistance, press, education, research.

### LESSON 6—Form and Structure of Unions.

- Social movements must have organization to coordinate their activities and make them effective, as well as to discipline those who participate.
- The effectiveness of unions depends to a large extent upon their form and structure. Whether workers should be organized on craft, trade or industrial lines has been the bone of contention in the Labor movement since its inception.
- This subject can be most intelligently approached by tracing historically the development of form and structure, and then analyzing the various types in existence at present.

that the next standing committee on education of our International Union direct its attention towards the work of encouraging and aiding our members in becoming citizens. Your committee believes that naturalization work should be made part of the educational activities of our union. It is becoming more and more a vital question and in view of the restrictions on immigration and the severity with which the immigrant and foreign born workers are dealt with in this country, it is becoming more and more important, that we aid our unaturalized members to become citizens.

In conclusion, your Committee on Education reaffirms its belief in the importance of our educational work and its deep significance for our workers, and expresses its hope that this work will keep increasing in width and depth in the future, making for greater intelligence among our workers and a better understanding by

them of the mission and ultimate goal of our Labor movement.

Your committee also desires to express its thanks to the Committee on Education of our International Union for the work they have done in such a loyal and devoted way and to all those who have helped to make our educational work a success, including the secretary of the Educational Committee, Fannia M. Cohn, and Director Alexander Fichandler.

Fraternally submitted,  
HARRY WANDER, Chairman.  
FRIEDA REICHER, Secretary.

S. Rothman, H. Willenberg, I. Bushkin, Sarah Shapiro, Catherine Kelly, Louis Reiff, G. Magistro, M. Maricanda, Morris Zelta, Julius Sheingold, Loretta De Lisle, F. Libert, Minnie Chaiken, Helen Matthews, Betha Kelly, Frank Parisi, Edna Berman, Louise Fostel, Dave Harris.

# РУССКО-ПОЛЬСКИЙ ОТДЕЛ

## RUSSIAN-POLISH BRANCH

(Закончание)

Очень тяжело слышать инсинуации от некоторых из наших членов на этой конвенции, что тот или другой из лидеров нашего комитета не представляет собою масс. Многие говорили здесь о «фаришах» в нашей индустрии и на этой конвенции. Я являюсь одним из этих фаришей, — не смотря на это мы мечта не об идеализме не верить в компетентность масс. Смысляясь же они на массы только для того, чтобы войти в доверие к ним, но когда приходит время спросить мнение и взгляды масс по тому или другому вопросу, они не перестают верить в массы.

Показателем этого служат их попытки около 3 — 4 лет назад привести в индустрии так называемую «Plan Delegates System». Случилось это в отсутствие президента Интернационального Юниона и как это закончилось в то время являлся ничто, что экономическая организация не может допустить диктатуры меньшинства, которое считает себя более способным вести дела Юниона. Здесь же, они смеют говорить, что тот или другой лидер не представляет собою мнение рядовых членов Юниона.

Этой одной попыткой они ясно показывают свою полную неспособность схватить истинное положение вещей; они знают также хорошо как и я знаю, что члены нашего Юниона еще не готовы принять их диктатуру и Бог знает сколько лет пройдет пока они не примут, — если примут когда либо.

Когда члены Юниона выбирают своего представителя в свой Исполнительный Комитет или когда они выбирают делегата на эту конвенцию, они выбирают его прежде всего как Юнионного рабочего и ожидают от него, что он всецело будет работать в интересах Юниона и рабочих выбравших его.

Все эти новые спасители рабочего класса, названные старым опитом «Юнион Лейбор Лавибес» избранной другой путь. Вместо организации из сервильных они решили управлять и нами и для того, чтобы успеть в своих замыслах они превратили вполне обманчивый и лукавый против всех и каждого. Все истинно, все допустимо, что делается во имя великой идеи. Бог та основа на кот. они работают, поэтому мы и слышим, что «Трайд Лаборовашионал Лигз» является чисто просветительным учреждением, тогда как в самом деле это экономическое крыло, так называемой Рабочей Партии.

Я коммунист и... всего и горжусь принадлежностью к великой рабочей семье. Когда я пришла сюда из Европы я ничего не знала о рабочей деятельности в стране и которой я пришла такового не было, и не знала о социализме или анархизме. И с тех пор я не встречала ни одного настоящего направления в рабочем движении, которое действительно вело бы к освобождению рабочего класса, фактически внедряя бы что либо хорошее в жизнь рабочего — кроме одной организации — это Юниона. Организации которая собирает вместе силы производится и затем применяет или косвенным путем заставляет трудонаемателей принимать их за людей, — людей которые несут на своих плечах главную работу на пользу общества.

Мы отдаем жизни и детей этой

стране; мы произвели одежду, делаем необходимую работу и поэтому коллективно вместе с вами уставляем трудонаемателей принимать наши за большие требования. Юнион является организацией которая не борется не останавливаясь своей борьбы во время кризиса мира между капиталом и трудом, и поэтому каждый сознательный рабочий не должен вносить в свою организацию постороннего элемента, который поведет бы к раздвоению, к розни в наших рядах.

Безотступность за свои поступки очень опасна. Это продемонстрировал один из делегатов на эту конвенцию — бросил оскорбление всем делегатам своим заявлением, что здесь есть 50 делегатов, которые голосуют по указанию кого то на этой конвенции. Возможно ли допустить подобный абсурд? Можно ли называть сказанное эти слова интеллектуальным?

Всякий из нас должен гордиться тем фактом, что на этой конвенции мы имеем делегатами природных американцев. Для того, чтобы этого достигнуть, за мою бытность президентом Интернационального Юниона, израсходовано больше 130 тысяч долларов на организационные кампании в разных штатах страны. И наш мечта, наш слух это иметь каждого рабочего нашей индустрии в семье этого великого Интернационального Юниона.

### ВНИМАНИЮ ВСЕХ ЧЛЕНОВ ЮНИОНА.

Хозяйка отказалась удовлетворить справедливые требования Юниона улучшить материальное и моральное положение рабочих в индустрии, не предлагая ничего со своей стороны.

Поэтому вопрос об объявлении генеральной забастовки передается на голосование всех членов Юниона.

Всеобщее голосование (референдум) начнется в 12 ч. дня в 24-ту, 4-го июня и будет продолжаться с 6 ч. утра до 6 ч. вечера в четверг, 5-го и в пятницу 6-го июня.

### МЕСТА ГОЛОСОВАНИЯ:

- Джойнт Борд, 130 Ист 25 ул.
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- Бруклайн офис, 105 Монроуз авеню.
- Гарлем офис, 165 Ист 121 ул.
- Бронкс офис, 219 Скван ул.
- Джерсей офис, 73 Монтомери ул.
- Ньюарк офис, 76 Монтомери ул.

И. ШЕВЧЕНКО, Секр.

### СОБРАНИЕ «ШАП ЧЕПРМАНОВ».

На состоявшемся в Кулер Юнион во вторник, 27-го мая, собрании 2500 чепрманов Нью Йорка: их мастерски. Выступил речью президент Интернационального Юниона М. Симмел и менеджер Джойнт Борда И. Файлберг с подробным изложением создавшегося положения в зависимости от категорического отказа «Протектив Ассошиэйшн» вступить с Юнионом в переговоры по поводу предъявленных требований, — единственно было принята резолюция выражающая полную доверие администрации Юниона за решение на до его времени и доводя все полномочия для принятия нужным путем для проведения намеченных реформ в жизнь.

# The Truth as a Way to Peace

By NORMAN THOMAS

There is, we have observed, a great outcry against those who, like Representative Berger and Senators Owen and Shipstead, want more light on the origins of the Great War, and the reasons for our own entry into it. To seek the truth is never unpatriotic. If brave Americans want to battle in behalf of the right as it then seemed to them, their devotion cannot be denied should the revelations of secret documents show that diplomats and financiers had not told them all the truth. The very deed of the victorious armies would cry out against that false loyalty to their memory which would deprive their countrymen, British, American, Italian or French, of the knowledge which will help preserve the peace they fought to make permanent on earth.

And a knowledge of the origins of the Great War will help to prevent new war. It will make men less credulous: it will show that the Great War came not from the wickedness of one nation or one government but the imperialistic rivalry for profit and power of them all. It will remove that "myth of the guilty nation" which now stands in the way of jus-

tice to Germany and so increases the danger of a war of revenge.

Do we speak too positively of what this study will show? If you believe that we do, you will want the investigation to show us our mistake. To us it appears plain, as Prof. Barnes pointed out in a recent issue of the New York Times's Current History, that more and more the new evidence tends to upset old beliefs about the war. If still further research restores them we shall admit that fact. It is not brave nor honest to shut out the light. Let more in. It cannot sully the bravery or patriotism of those who fought in good conscience. It may help save another generation worse agony than we have known.

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# The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

In view of the importance of the cutters as a factor in all preceding strikes, the Executive Board, seeing no easing of the strain in the cloak industry, has appointed a committee which is to work out all the necessary details for the purpose of handling the strike, if called, for the cutters' end. Manager Dubinsky stated that the strike seems to be a certainty. The referendum on whether or not it is to be called, was submitted to the members of the Joint Board locals on Wednesday, June 4.

Manager Dubinsky, in reporting the situation to the Board, said that an unofficial conference was held with the jobbers and that another one was scheduled to take place. Little was accomplished at the first conference. The result of the second meeting with these employers can be found by a perusal of the first pages of this issue, as this article was in the hands of the printer before the adjournment of the conference.

### What the Union Demands

The deadlock with the Protective Association continues. The giving up by this organization of its Labor Department cuts off negotiations. Up to the present no efforts were made to resume conferences, after its famous ultimatum of "undefeatable." The Protective, however, felt that it owed an explanation for its arbitrary stand, and issued one in which it branded the Union's demands "daggering." In a reply President Morris Sigman carefully analyzed each of the Union's points. He pointed out that "unemployment insurance is in force in some form in virtually every important industrial nation in Europe. More than twelve million workers are covered by compulsory unemployment insurance in England."

President Sigman said that a number of large manufacturing firms have instituted unemployment insurance also. This system is prevalent in Chicago in the clothing industry. In touching on the demands for a guaranteed period of employment, the President said that this system operates successfully in the cloak market in Cleveland. The Union's demand for an increase in the minimum scale is an effort to equalize wages to conform with existing conditions. And by the Union's demand for the forty-hour week, it aims at spreading out the busy season, regarding production and employment.

The employers, however, seem not to be concerned with the Union's proposal from the economic or sociologic point of view. No doubt they found the present chaotic system more profitable.

### Special Committee Appointed

Halls have been secured where the strikers are to report. As in the past, the cutters will have their separate hall, presided over by their own chairman. A committee consisting of Brothers Samuel Perlmutter, Maurice Jacobs, Harry Zaslowsky and Isidore Nagler has been appointed for the purpose of arranging final details for the handling of the striking cutters. This committee, in conjunction with Manager Dubinsky, will submit to the Executive Board its plan.

One of the important functions of this committee will be the appointment of substitute Executive Board members. The composition of Local 10's Executive Board, it must be remembered, is somewhat different from that of other locals. The local being composed of other than cloak cutters, has among the membership of the Executive Board dress and miscellaneous cutters. And owing to the fact that the Executive Boards of the various locals will constitute this General Strike Committee, Manager Dubinsky stated to the Executive Board

that substitutes must be appointed in the place of the miscellaneous and dress cutters.

There is no doubt but that the Board members will be called upon to serve on committees during the day. Dress and miscellaneous cutters who are Board members and who may be working at the trade will not be available for this purpose. It was for that reason that the manager suggested substitutes. The sub-committee is charged with the duty of recommending the men who will take the place of the unavailable men for strike duty.

The committee will also recommend a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary for the cutters' hall. Chairman and secretaries of the various committees for the handling of the strike have already been appointed by the Joint Board.

### Special Meeting of Cutters

The meeting on Monday, June 9, will be a special one. A detailed report of the entire situation with regard to the conferences thus far held and the preparations for the strike will be rendered by the manager. This will probably be the last meeting before the declaration of the strike.

Under the amended constitution separate meetings of the different divisions are no longer held. Under the old arrangements when a strike in the dress or cloak trade was called, the membership of that particular division would hold their meetings daily in the strike hall, and regular meetings were resumed upon the termination of the strike, while the other two branches met regularly.

This time membership meetings will be dispensed with altogether until after the cloak strike, because the Union meets as a whole. The officers of the local will be taken up with the strike in the daytime and at night they will attend meetings of their respective committees. It will be seen from this that to hold regular meetings during the time of a strike is impossible.

It is also possible that the Executive Board as such will not function. It will, in all likelihood, declare itself a strike committee for the local and will only act upon matters affecting the strike.

### Cloak and Suit Cutters Must Report

The decision by the Executive Board that no working cards will be issued to cloak men on dresses until after the end of the present situation in the cloak trade was reported in these columns. It is necessary to point this out once more. When Manager Dubinsky made this recommendation to the Executive Board he very clearly stated that every ounce of the union's energy must be thrown into the coming struggle, and no member should shirk his duty.

Another thing which Dubinsky touched upon was the resignations that may be tendered by members during the struggle. A week does not pass during which the Executive Board does not receive a few resignations. Most of these resignations are the result of efforts by the members of the union to better their conditions. Some resign for the purpose of going into business; others open up stores, etc. However, Dubinsky said that there may be a few who will probably resign for the purpose of going out of the trade temporarily until after the strike, thus trying to evade the payment of any possible assessment.

Should some members resign for this reason, it is well for them to know that this is not a means of shirking responsibility. If an assessment should be instituted it will be charged to every member, including those who may join as new members

and those who may desire to rejoin the union.

### Waist and Dress Activities

There seems to be an unprecedented dullness in the waist and dress trade. Of course, it is to be expected that a condition of this sort should prevail at this time of the year. However, it is unusual as generally at this time of the year there is some work.

The sudden burst of work in the waist trade subsided as suddenly as it rose. For a time it looked as if a revival of the waist industry were about to take place. However, this proved to be a false alarm. The past suit season was an extraordinary one and therefore made for the demand for waists. And as suddenly as the demand for suits ceased, so the demand for waists ceased.

For a time there was a good deal of activity in respect to organizing waist shops. However, the slump put a stop to this too. Of course, a number of waist shops were organized and a nucleus was formed for the organization of other shops when the time will seem most opportune.

The organization work in the dress trade continues in spite of the dullness. This trade too suffers from the same ill to which the cloak trade is subject,—the contracting system. New shops constantly spring up and, in order that conditions in the organized shops may be maintained, the union must constantly keep up its organization work.

### Some Interesting Cases

Among the cases which the office handled within the past few weeks is one which concerns a shop on Madison avenue, the cutters of which are deserving of commendation for the very important help which they gave the union in unearthing a serious violation.

For some time this firm, the name of which is not important, did not supply its staff of six cutters with a full week's work. The office instituted a number of investigations. The firm's contractors were followed up with a view to determining whether the work was cut by union cutters. Co-partnership papers of the sub-manufacturers were looked up also. All this was done in the hope that it might be possible to establish the fact that the firm was discriminating against the cutters.

Joel Abramowitz, the shop chairman of the cutters, insisted that there was sufficient work for the entire staff. He said that the firm must be sending its work out to non-union shops or having it made up under conditions below union standards. It was impossible to find the cause for the frequent lay-offs of the cutters. But the office knew that something was wrong. This particular firm as a rule is busy at this time of the year, being engaged in the manufacture of cotton dresses.

Finally one day, one of the cutters followed up a case of piece goods to its destination. He learned

the name of the shop to which the goods were sent and reported it to the union. On looking up the records the office found that the shop was non-union. Instructions were at once issued that the firm should be penalized and that it must either withdraw its work from the non-union shop or that that shop be unionized. This was done and a penalty was collected from the firm.

The non-union shop was declared on strike. Upon the refusal of the owner to sign up at once, the union firm complied with the request of the union and withdrew its work.

There is no doubt but that these cutters are deserving of the highest commendation. The office, of course, is expected to follow up cases and adjust them properly. There are times, however, when this is quite difficult and the help of the workers in the shop is then of utmost importance. And when the office sought the help of the cutters in the instance cited, it secured it with most gratifying results.

### Miscellaneous Activities

An important strike and the effort on the part of an Association shop in the underwear industry to discharge some of its cutters have added to the activities of the office in the Miscellaneous Branch. Local 62 together with the Cutters' Local has succeeded in taking down a large shop in the Bronx. The shop is fairly well tied up.

The Association shop, which is seeking to discharge three of its staff of six cutters, is one which is operating a number of shops out of town. The firm had decided to also do most of its cutting in the non-union shops, and sought to retain about half of its cutting staff and lay off the rest on the plea that business had fallen off and that there was not sufficient work for the six men.

The shops out of town are being investigated by the union with a view to organizing them. In the meantime, until action can be taken against the firm's open shops, the cutters have informed the employer that they will not accede to his request for the cutting of the staff. They said that since they were informed very plainly that the firm intended to discriminate against them by sending the work to the non-union shops, they would not return to work until the discrimination ceases.

To a representative of the office the firm said that the cutting of the staff is due to a falling off of business, but to the men the truth was very plainly told; hence, the action of the men.

### In Memoriam

It was with regret that the Executive Board learned of the death of Brother Aaron H. Nathan. The Board appointed a committee consisting of Brothers Citiv, Fleischer and Bender to represent the organization at the funeral. The Union extends its condolences to the bereaved family.

## CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

### NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- SPECIAL MEETING ..... Monday, June 9th  
Report on Cloak Situation.
- MISCELLANEOUS MEETING ..... Monday, June 16th
- REGULAR MEETING ..... Monday, June 30th

Meetings Begin at 7:30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Mark's Place