

9TH CONV.

JUNE 1-5, 1908

REPORT  
AND  
PROCEEDINGS

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Ninth Annual Convention

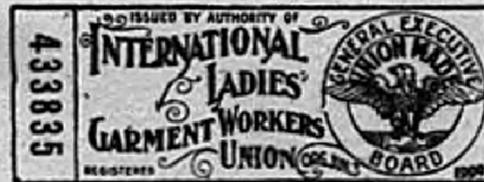
OF THE



INTERNATIONAL

Ladies' Garment Workers

UNION



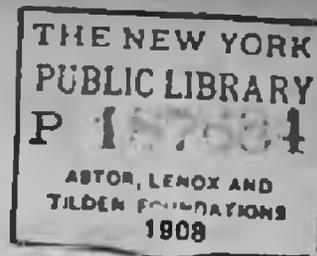
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

JUNE FIRST TO FIFTH

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHT

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION.  
COVENANT HALL, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

FIRST DAY, MORNING SESSION, MONDAY JUNE 1, 1908.

The General Secretary-Treasurer announces that he is in receipt of a communication from President Julian which reads as follows:

New York, May 29th, 1908.

To the General Executive Board of the I. L. G. W. U.

Greetings:—

Dear Sirs and Brothers:—

I herewith most respectfully tender you my resignation, "to take effect at once" as a member of your honorable board, and as President of the I. L. G. W. U.

With sincerest regards believe me,

*Fraternally yours*

MORTIMER JULIAN, General President.

In accordance with Section 2, Article V. of the constitution, he calls upon Vice-President Charles Jacobson to open the convention.

Convention called to order by Vice-President Charles Jacobson at 10 A. M.

W. C. Hahn, Organizer of A. F. of L. was the first speaker introduced. On behalf of organized labor of the city of Philadelphia, he welcomes the delegates. The organized forces of the employers, continues the speaker, have done their utmost to disrupt the labor movement of this country, but all they could effect was to make our work somewhat more difficult. But it is not only the difficulties from the employers that they have to encounter. Their greatest stumbling block is the indifference of their own members. Too many of them are inclined to leave all the work to the officers, paid or unpaid. This great labor movement is not the work of one man or a number of men, it is the result of the struggle of the great mass of the working people for a higher standard of life. It is therefore the duty of every one of them to do their proper share of the work they undertook to accomplish, otherwise the movement will never be what it could and what it should be.

He expresses his hopes that the deliberation of this convention will result in larger membership and a larger delegation to their next convention.

H. Weinberg, Organizer of the Cloak and Skirt Makers' Union of Philadelphia was the next speaker introduced, who spoke in part as follows:

He is trying to organize the locals in Philadelphia on the system on which the American unions are organized. He is trying to introduce a system of high dues and high benefits. Not only strike benefits, but all kinds of other friendly benefits, such as lodges and fraternal orders are providing so that the members will look to the union for help in times of need and will bind themselves to the

organization. Still he is aware that funds alone will not build up a strong organization. Labor is too poor to provide funds enough to fight capital. In order to have effective organizations they need something more precious than funds and that is devotion to principles. They must above all be true to the idea of "one for all and all for one," otherwise they will labor in vain. Their members must possess funds as well as right principles.

Brother S. London, Organizer of the United Hebrew Trades of Philadelphia, welcomes the delegates on behalf of his organization.

The following were appointed on the Credential Committee: Abraham Rosenberg, Albert Kolb and Abraham Sirota. Session adjourned to reconvene at 2 P.M.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Minutes of previous session adopted as read.

Delegate Kolb, on behalf of the Credential Committee recommends the seating of the following delegates, their credentials having been presented and found in order:

Local 1—Julius Wolf, Ab. Rosenberg, N. Leventhall.

Local 11—Ab. Sirota.

Local 19—S. Morgan.

Local 23—John A. Dyche, Chas. Jacobson.

Local 32—Miss Josephine Smaltz, Mrs. Casey.

Local 41—H. Klein.

Local 49—Albert Kolb, J. Rosenthal.

Local 53—N. Y., Is. Aspis, A. Baker.

Local 54—Elias Reisman, D. Garadetsky.

J. E. B. N. Y.—H. Kleinman.

Delegate S. Martin moves the adoption of the report of the Credential Committee with the exception to the part referring to the seating of the delegates from local 53 whose seating shall be held in obedience until the standing of both local 10 and 53 shall be decided by the convention.

Motion seconded by Delegate Block.

Delegate Ryan presents the decision of arbitrator Ford which reads as follows:

"1. That the General Executive Board reinstate the Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Association of Greater New York, formerly Local No. 10 of the International Union, to full membership and benefits as existed previous to the revocation of charter.

2. That every effort be made by the General Executive Board to have laws adopted at the next convention, which will clearly and specifically define the duties of the District Councils and local unions.

3. That Local No. 10 furnish the General Executive Board of office, with the duplicate green sheets of the Financial Secretary's day book, provided by the General Office, and also send in a quarterly financial report ending March, June, September and December, and that Local No. 10 pay up all arrears of assessment and one half the per capita.

4. Shop meetings to be called for all branches of the trade working in one particular shop, the Business Agents of the Tailors and Cutters to be present at such meetings whenever possible.

5. That the question of the status of Local No. 53, or its membership, be decided as follows: To resume former relationship with No. 10."

He claims that the G. E. B. should have immediately upon the receipt of this decision called a meeting and decided the status of both locals. Delegate Dyche—There was no need for the G. E. B. to decide the status of Local 10 since the local was reinstated immediately upon receipt of the decision, but the reinstatement of Local 10 does not mean the dissolution of Local 53, the wording of the arbitrations award in regards to this local being too vague. It is left to the convention to act upon the standing of Local 53. This will come up during the proceedings later on.

The closure moved by Delegate Meltzer and carried by 17 against 7 votes.

Motion carried to seat all locals in good standing, carried by 15 votes against 6.

Delegate Kolb proceeds with the report of the Credential Committee.

Local 9—M. Meltzer, S. Policoff. Members paid assessments, but money was used by Joint Board to cover costs of strikes. Committee recommends the extension of time to that local to pay assessments until October 1st. Upon motion vote taken by the roll call, only seated delegates to vote. All in favor of recommendation of committee.

Delegate Rosenberg moves to extend 60 days time to all locals to pay up assessment. Motion seconded.

Delegate Meltzer moves each local to be voted separately. Delegate Plotkin seconds. Motion of Delegate Meltzer lost by 16 against 6 votes.

Report of Credential Committee continued.

Local 17—Delegates Ab. Cohen, W. Pinchasic, M. Yacobinsky. Members have been out of work all winter and were not in a position to pay. Delegates from that local assures that assessment will be paid by August 1st.

Local 20—Miss Rosie Liebman, Miss Dora Woxman. Delegates assured the committee that non-payment is due to negligence of secretary to notify the local of this assessment, otherwise it would have been paid.

Local 25—B. Frishwasser. Delegates assures assessment will be paid by September.

Local 35—H. Lubinsky. Delegate claims that it is entirely the negligence of the secretary who never called the attention of the delegates to the assessment. Local will pay in 60 days.

Local 16—John C. Ryan, M. Bloch, S. Martin. Local is willing to pay all obligations providing justice will be done to them by the convention.

Local 36—H. Plotkin, W. Gitlin, Joseph Wolf. Local sent three delegates while their per capita entitles them only to two delegates. The local owes assessment and per capita. Committee recommends that two delegates be seated with a vote and one without a vote; to remit arrears of per capita, and assessment to paid within 60 days. (13)

Delegate Plotkin claims that local has 400 members in good standing, but they paid only for 200 members, due to strikes. Local 36 paid strikers full weekly salary and had to assess their members.

Upon motion agreed to accept the report of Credential Committee.

Motion to seat all delegates, and all locals to pay up their arrears of assessments within 60 days, carried.

Delegate Kolb for the Credential Committee reports that he received credentials from Ab. Feinstein and Miss Carp, delegates from Local 15, Waistmakers, Philadelphia. Local paid no per capita but have not been officially suspended. Committee decided to make no recommendation, but leave the case to the convention.

After some discussion in which Delegates Policoff, Meltzer spoke against the seating of the delegates from local, and Delegates Baker and Martin in favor of seating with a vote, motion prevailed to seat delegates from Local 15 with a vote.

The following delegates answered the roll call:

- Local 1—New York, Julius Wolf, A. Rosenberg, Nathan Leventhal
- Local 9—New York, Max Meltzer, Solomon Polakoff.
- Local 10—New York, Alexander Bloch, John C. Ryan, S. Martin.
- Local 11—Brownsville, N. Y., Abraham Sirota.
- Local 15—Philadelphia, Pa., Miss Carp, A. Feinstein.
- Local 17—New York, Abraham Cohen, William Pinchasic, M. Jacobinsky.
- Local 19—Philadelphia, Pa., Samuel Morgan,
- Local 20—Philadelphia, Pa., Miss Rosie Sidman, Miss Dora Waxman.
- Local 23—New York, Chas. Jacobson, John A. Dyche.
- Local 24—Philadelphia, Pa., Ike Stolowitz, Max Emedor, Harry Brownstein.
- Local 25—New York, Barnet Frishwasser.
- Local 32—Peekskill, N. Y., Miss Josephine Smaltz, Mrs. Casey.
- Local 35—New York, H. Lubinsky.
- Local 36—Boston, Mass., Harry Plotkin, William Gitlin, Joseph Wolf, Joseph N. Bramberg.
- Local 41—Brownsville, N. Y., Harry Klein.
- Local 49—Philadelphia, Pa., A. Kolb, Joseph Rosenthal.
- Local 53—New York, Isidor Ashpis, Abraham Becker.
- Local 54—Philadelphia, Pa., Elias Reisman, David Garadetzky.
- J. E. B., New York, Harry Kleinman.
- H. Rabinovich, Secretary Local 24, elected Sergeant-at-Arms.
- Delegate A. Rosenberg was elected Vice-President.

Upon motion agreed that seating of the convention shall be from 9 A. M. until 12.30 P. M. and from 2 P. M. until 5 P. M.

General Secretary began reading his report. Upon motion agreed to postpone the reading of the G. S. T.'s report until Tuesday morning session.

The following committees appointed by the Chairman.

- Press—Bloch, Amdur and Morgan.
- Finance—Ryan, Meltzer, Reisman, Plotkin, J. Smalz.
- Resolution—Martin, Ashpis, Kleinman, Rosenberg, Mrs. Casey.
- Law Committee—Rosenberg, Policoff, Yacobinsky, Bloch, Baker.
- Report of Officers—Morgan, Rosenthal, Amdur, Leventhal, Kleinman.
- Appeals and Grievances—Frishwasser, Wolf, Sirota, Kolb.
- Organizing and Miscellaneous—Bloch, Martin, Pinchasic, Gitlin, Brownstein.

## SECOND DAY, MORNING SESSION.

Tuesday, June 2, 1908.

Roll call. Absentees—Julius Wolf, Ab. Cohen, W. Pinchasic, Waxman, Amdur, Plotkin, Gitlin, Rosenthal, Garadetzky, Kleinman, Feinstein.

Minutes of previous session read and adopted after two omissions have been added. The following telegrams read and ordered placed on file.

New York, June 1st, 1908.

Convention International Ladies' Garment Workers, Covenant Hall, Phila., Pa. :—

Organize our trade for the cause of labor, build the movement for the emancipation of the working class.

Skirt Makers' Union, Local 23.

New York, June 1st, 1908.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Covenant Hall:—

We wish you success in your work and hope for a speedy realization of your prospects. (Signed) B. Romanowsky, Sec. Children's Cloak and Reefer Makers' Union, Local 17.

New York, June 1st, 1908.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Covenant Hall:—

We wish you success. Unite and build movement for the emancipation of labor.

Goldberg and Weinstein.

Boston, Mass., June 1st, 1908.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Covenant Hall:—

Greetings to the officers and delegates assembled at the Ninth Annual Convention. Best wishes and success to our International Union.

J. Bramberg, Secretary, Local 36.

Upon motion agreed that G. S. T. to start reading his report from beginning.

## GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT.

TO THE OFFICERS AND DELEGATES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL  
CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT  
WORKERS' UNION.

## GREETINGS:

Fellow Delegates:—The financial crisis which affected the Cloak and Skirt trade perhaps more than any other branch of industry in this country has put a sudden stop to the rapid growth of our International Union, the differences in our income between the first and the second half of the fiscal year will show, being, \$2,152.35 and \$1,253.93, respectively.

Many employers have taken full advantage of the slackness in the trade, broke their agreement with our locals, and either materially reduced the prices or replaced our members by non-union men.

We hear no more from them just now of "the sacredness of agreements" between employers and employes."

Here I want particularly to call your attention to the fact that in almost all well organized trades where the treasuries of the unions were provided with ample funds, the working people have been able to maintain all the advantages which their organization gained for them during the years of prosperity and

some of them, such as for instance the I. T. U. have been able to make advances right along and their march forward for higher standard of life has not in the least been interfered by the present crisis.

I do not doubt for a moment that if our members had in time of work saved a few more cents per week or month and invested it with the funds of their local union, that they would have found it just now the most profitable investment they could make; for owing to the poverty of the funds of their locals, our members were unable to offer effective resistance to the wholesale reduction of wages. In some instances they were compelled to submit to reductions amounting to more than a half of their usual earnings. I would therefore like to call your attention to the low rates of dues which our members are paying to their locals. With the single exception of Local 8, Cloak Makers of San Francisco, Cal., where the local dues are one dollar per month, our locals pay from 65c. per month downward, and out of this amount a liberal system of sick and other benefits are paid to the members, and yet all competent authorities on the subject are of the opinion that nothing less than \$1.00 per month or 25c. per week can furnish labor organization with the means to provide the necessary protection, which the members expect from their organizations. Some effort will have to be made by this Convention to remedy this evil and find ways and means how to induce our locals to raise their local dues. I am of the opinion that this will be impossible unless we introduce a uniform weekly instead of monthly system of payment of dues. A system of weekly dues would also secure a better attendance to the meetings of the locals and more regular payments.

#### THE GENERAL STRIKE OF THE BOSTON CLOAK & SKIRT MAKERS.

At the last convention the delegates were carried off their feet and their sound judgment by the glowing account of the Boston delegates and donated nearly the whole of the G. D. F. to the Boston strikers and thereby approved the action of the Boston locals who called a general strike without the sanction of the G. E. B. and over my emphatic protests.

At the convention I have been roundly denounced by the Boston delegates for having dared to do my duty and expressing my conviction that the strike was useless and uncalled for and can result only in nothing but ruin to the locals.

Now I want particularly to call your attention to the fact that while the Boston delegates did not in the least exaggerate the heroism displayed by the strikers and victory which they gained over the combined forces of the employers, 39 of whom were compelled to sign an agreement with the union and deposit \$500 notes as security for faithful carrying out of the agreements. Yet in spite of all this glowing achievement there is not a trace now left of Local 13, with its 2,000 members and Local 26 to whom all the cloak and skirt cutters of the city belonged. Of Local 12, Pressers, only a shadow is left of its former self.

This should teach our locals the much needed lesson that a useless and an avoidable strike, even if won under the best conditions must end in ruin and demoralization of the people involved and nothing justifies the calling of a strike to adjust real or imaginary grievances, which can be adjusted peacefully. Another much needed lesson which this strike should teach us is the danger which every organization is exposed from a too rapid growth of its membership. The leaders

of the Boston locals, the same as elsewhere, were so eager and impatient for what they call "organizing the trade" that they reduced their initiation fee to 50c. This brought a sudden influx of raw recruits eager for results. As soon as this new element became aware that "trade is organized" they began to clamor for a strike, for war against their "natural enemies"—the employers.

Their heated imagination was kept red hot by the fiery oratory of a few gifted "class conscious" and "kampfslustige" speakers who saw in every word uttered by their employers, in every motion made by them a conspiracy to break up their organization. All my attempts to reason and argue with the Executive Board members proved fruitless. To my contention that the G. E. B. will never sanction such a strike, I was told that this will not hinder them from calling the strike.

Here I want to call your attention to the defect in our Constitution which forbids the calling of general strikes by the locals without the sanction of the G. E. B., yet provides no penalty for its violation. The result has been that this most important provision in our constitution remains a dead letter and our locals in Chicago and Cleveland as well as Boston have gone out of existence as a result of such strikes and the G. E. B. could not interfere. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that if I had been in a position to warn the Joint Executive Board, that should they declare a strike that their charter will be revoked and the strike will be declared off by the International Union, that it would have had the desired effect and would have kept them back from calling that strike, which resulted in the annihilation of the locals and in untold misery and suffering as well as demoralization among the working people in the cloak and skirt trade. Our constitution must be so amended as to make it imperative on the part of the G. E. B. to expel such a local from the International Union, revoke its charter and declare the strike off. Such a law will have a salutary effect upon the local leaders.

#### THE EXPULSION OF LOCAL No. 10.

In my report to the N. Y. Convention of 1905 I made use of the following remarks:—Mutual distrust and suspicion between the workers of one branch of the trade and the other have been the greatest foe of organized labor. Whenever the leaders stand above the rank and file and exert their influence rightly these tendencies are kept in check. The leaders in our locals, unfortunately, to the great injury of our organization share the common prejudices. The ill will between the cutters and tailors in our trade is accentuated by the differences of language, race and religion, with the result that in spite of all resolutions of the various conventions calling for the formation of District Councils and Joint Executive Boards, these two branches still keep aloof from one another, and yet their members work side by side under one roof and under one employer. Here is an evil which unlike the contract system in the pressing trade, is entirely the fault of the leaders and which could be eliminated by a free and candid discussion. Mere resolutions will not alter matters. An earnest desire on the part of the leaders to solidify our organization by bringing about a better understanding between the two branches in the cloak trade is all that is necessary. If this convention achieves this result, it will mark an epoch in the history of our International."

The Convention, to meet this emergency, amended our constitution by adding Sec. 6 to Art. 12, which reads as follows:

Sec. 6. Where there are two or more local unions in one locality, affiliated with the International, engaged in the same trade, they must form a Joint Executive Board for the transaction of their joint business and that it shall be obligatory upon all locals to become affiliated with such Joint Executive Boards.

The cutters took no action in this matter, claiming that they are unwilling or unable to meet the expenditures involved in joining such an Executive Board, and as the other locals did not force the matter, this provision remained a dead letter.

Later on at the request of Local 10, a District Council of all affiliated locals of the city of N. Y. and vicinity had been formed, which according to Sec. 3 of Art. 1 of its constitution, the right of calling strikes was taken away from the locals and invested in the D. C. For a while things worked well until Local 10 called a strike in August, 1906, at the firm of Goldstein & Koerner, without either the knowledge or sanction of the D. C. The delegates to the D. C. of the tailors locals were so eager to help the cutters that a few days later legalized a strike. This strike, after a few weeks duration, after all efforts to pull out the tailors, operators, pressers, employed by that firm proved fruitless, had to be given up.

Later on the dissatisfaction among the other locals with the action of the D. C. in sanctioning the strike began to be felt when they were called upon to pay their share of the cost of this strike. This dissatisfaction together with the indifference of the delegates of the locals to attend the meeting of the D. C. resulted into its dissolution; Local 10 enraged at the failure of the attendance of the delegates of the other locals withdrew their delegates in about the month of November 1906.

In April 1907 the D. C. was reorganized and again things went on apparently well until July last, when the D. C. sanctioned a strike at the firm of Katz & Co., and Local 10 refused to cooperate in this strike. Still, when the employer notified the union that he is willing to sign an agreement, the business agent of Local 10 insisted that the cutting department shall also be unionized. To this the firm naturally objected, for hitherto they have been paying their cutters \$14 to \$15 per week, while the union rate of Local 10 calls for \$24 per week. After the strike had been kept up a few more days, the firm conceded to sign an agreement which included the cutters also.

Local 23, whose members were involved in the strike of Katz & Co., brought charges to the G. E. B. against Local 10 for refusing to carry out the decision of the D. C. and cooperate in the strike. President Julian referred the case back to the D. C. where the delegates of the Local 10 first claimed that the sanction of a strike by the D. C. carries no obligation on the part of the other locals to cooperate in the strike. After the G. E. B. ruled against this contention, the delegates of Local 10 put in a claim that the Sec. 3 of Art. 1 of the constitution of the D. C., which invest the right of calling strikes with the D. C. is in conflict with Sec. 5 of Art. 1 of the general constitution of the I. L. G. W. U., and is therefore illegal. Our president who acted on the Board more in the capacity of a delegate from Local 10, than a General President of our International Union, upheld the contention of the delegates of Local 10 and ruled the section in question to be unconstitutional.

Since this ruling the tailors' locals lost all interest in the D. C. and came to the conclusion that this body is run in the interest of Local 10 and of Local 10 only. The J. E. B. then began to call strikes, and so the members of Local 10 claim, without their knowledge or sanction. They contend that even in the firm where they have been a party to the agreement with the employer, strikes have been called without consulting their organization. This is partly conceded by the officers of the Joint Executive Board. They claim however, that in the case of the firm of Rubinstein & Goldsmith, where such a strike had been called, the members were ordered back to work at the demand of President Julian.

Another, and it seems to me, more important reason which intensified the animosity of the cutters against the locals of the J. E. B. has been the action of that body in sending the members of the sub-local, now Local 53, to work in houses where agreements had been signed with the J. E. B. The members of Local 10 claiming that by selecting the cutters of that organization, who will work for \$10 and \$12 a week instead of \$24, the union rate of Local 10, the J. E. B. were injuring the members of Local 10 who have to walk the streets and at the same time the standard rate of wages in the cutting trade in the city is thereby becoming lower.

Hitherto the action of the J. E. B. in calling strikes without informing Local 10 has had the effect in arousing the ill will of cutters against the tailors' locals. Since the Baltimore convention their anger suddenly turned against myself and later on against the G. E. B. and our International Union.

On August 24 and 25, the G. E. B. held a special session for the purpose of hearing a series of charges brought against me by Local 10 through its officers. This is all the more remarkably taking into consideration the well known partiality hitherto exhibited by Local 10 to my person. I have not the slightest doubt that this business has been skillfully engineered and the ill will of Local 10 turned against myself by Messrs. S. Martin and A. Block, the President and business agent of that local, who became aspirants for the office of G. S. T. In these charges all the failure and difficulties in organizing the Ladies' Garment Workers of the U. S. were layed at my doors. After these charges were dismissed by the Board, they induced our President to frame a resolution and send it to the A. F. of L. Convention at Norfolk, Va. (No. 173), calling for an investigation of the affairs of our general office and asking for its reorganization.

This resolution came quite unexpectedly and none of the members of the G. E. B. knew anything about it. Had this resolution not been directed principally against myself, I would have insisted that the G. E. B. ignore it entirely, for I contend this resolution to be illegal. Under the constitution of the A. F. of L. all International Unions enjoy full local autonomy and the A. F. of L. Convention had no more right to pass resolutions calling for the reorganization of our International Union than our convention has the right to pass resolutions calling for the reorganization of the A. F. of L. The only body which could reorganize our International Union is the delegates of our affiliated locals in convention assembled. The fact is that our conventions are practically called for reorganizing our International Union. I am positive that such a resolution would have never been passed, had this been directed against a larger International Union. If our President had reason to find fault with the working of the general office, it was his business and duty to call the attention of the G. E. B. to it and if he could

get no satisfaction from the body he could appeal to the locals, stating all he knows about the general office and officers. As it is, he used his office as president of the International Union to serve the supposed interest of his local and to make our International Union look very small in the eyes of trade unionists of this country.

As soon as the members of Local 10 became aware that their resolution had been referred to the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. they began to treat the G. E. B. of our International Union as if it had not been in existence.

During the sitting of the A. F. of L. Convention the firm of Katz & Co. locked out the members of Local 23 and 35, and after the G. E. B. sanctioned a strike at that firm as well as at the firm of Pellman and repeatedly called upon Local 10 to withdraw their members from the above firms, to which the local paid no attention, the Board had no alternative but to carry out its declaration and revoke the charter of the local.

The singular behavior of Local 10 in ignoring the repeated warning of the International Executive and not even favoring them with an acknowledgement of their notices, can only be explained by the opinion often expressed by some of their influential members that after the resolution No. 174 of the Norfolk Convention of the A. F. of L. they can afford to ignore the action of the G. E. B. and the A. F. of L. will have all the say in this matter.

A few days after the revocation of their charter I received a letter from Secretary Morrison of the A. F. of L., inquiring the reasons for this expulsion, and Secretary Morrison seemed to have been satisfied with my explanation as is seen from his letter to the Secretary of Local 10, a copy of which is in our possession, which reads as follows:

December 19, 1907.

Mr. Jacob Zimmerman, Secretary,  
Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters' Association, Local 10,  
639 East 138th Street, Bronx, N. Y.

Dear Sir and Brother:—On receipt of your communication appealing from the action of the Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union revoking the charter of your local, I wrote to Secretary Dyche, as I advised you, asking for their version of the case, and am in receipt of his reply in which he writes in part as follows:

"In reply to your favor of the 14 th inst. I beg to say that in my letter of the 2d inst. I enclosed copies of the minutes of the meeting of our G. E. B. which I think will explain fully the reason which compelled us to revoke the charter from one of our strongest local unions.

In short I will say that on the 19th ultimo after hearing committees from Locals 1, 9, 23 and 35, we sanctioned the strikes of the above locals at the firms Pellman & Co. and S. Katz & Co., and I had instructions from the Board to write to Local 10 and request them to withdraw their members from the above firm, otherwise we will withdraw their charter. On the 27th ultimo the Board met again, having received no reply from Local 10 to our communication, the Board decided that I should write again to that local informing them that unless we will receive a satisfactory reply to our communication of the 20th by Saturday morning, Nov. 30th, that their charter will be revoked. On Saturday the 30th, at 12 noon, having received no reply to our communication, I mailed them a letter

announcing the revocation of their charter.

For fully ten days the local had notice of our intention or decision to withdraw their charter unless they withdraw their members from the firms on strike, and they did not feel any duty to reply to their National Executive, and we thought that we have no other way than to carry out our warning and withdraw their charter. They had ten days time to file a protest to their National Executive."

I beg to advise that it is not within the province of the officers of the American Federation of Labor to interfere in the management of the internal affairs of an organization and only where action may involve a violation of trade union ethics would interference on the part of the American Federation of Labor be justified. In view of the fact that the International officers of your organization believe the circumstances justify the discipline of your local, the matter of adjustment will have to rest between your local and your International organization.

Fraternally yours,

SECRETARY, American Federation of Labor.

After such a letter one would have thought that the incident is closed, but a few days later I received a letter from Secretary Morrison, stating that the case of former Local 10 will be referred to a sub-committee of the A. F. of L. This sub-committee again referred the matter to arbitration and by the time I am writing these lines (Thursday May 28th), no decision has yet been rendered. The case then drags along six and a half months. The whole case is now in your hands and whatever you will decide so will it remain. As long as the constitution of the A. F. of L. will not be changed so as to have the internal affairs of the various International Unions directed from the headquarters of the A. F. of L. at Washington, this International Union, as other International organizations claims the right to be governed by its members, through its delegates in convention assembled and after its adjournment by its elected General Officer. Our constitution provides for all emergencies, any local or member who is dissatisfied with the ruling or decision of the G. E. have the right to appeal to the convention in accordance with Sec. 11 of Art 8, which reads as follows: "Any L. U. or any member of the I. L. G. W. U. feeling aggrieved at the decision of the G. E. B. shall have the right to appeal to the next convention."

It is the business of the G. E. B. to enforce the laws and the locals to carry them out. We cannot allow our locals to disregard the laws of the International Union and keep running to the A. F. of L. The whole controversy as it now stands is turned on Sec. 6 of Art. 12, which calls for locals engaged in one trade to have a joint Executive Board to transact their business in common, while former Local 10 claimed immunity from that law and demanded the formation of a Joint Board of walking delegates and each local to have full local autonomy in matters of strikes.

It is now left to you to decide of whether the contention of the G. E. B. in demanding the compliance with the provisions of our constitution for all locals and will stand for no privileges, is right, or you will justify the claims of the Cutters who demand to have a Board of Walking Delegates, of which our constitution makes no mention. Has the G. E. B. the right to discipline a local which will allow its members to remain at work where the others have been locked out? What course could the G. E. B. pursue after it has declared a strike at the firms

of L. Pellman and Katz & Co., than to demand from Local to the withdrawal of its members from these firms under pain of suspension? Could the G. E. B. afford to leave the Local to alone and let them break up these shops and take no notice of the legitimate claims of Locals 1, 9, 23 and 35?

We await your verdict with confidence.

### THE SITUATION IN PHILADELPHIA.

In Philadelphia the situation is not very encouraging. Here the ladies' garment trades are so situated, as to make the work of organizing the working people in these trades a comparative easy matter. The number of firms as well as the number of working people in the trade is much smaller than in New York, and hence our people there have not before them the constant mass of "floaters," that great surging mass of immigrants who are constantly on the move, picking up employment for a few weeks here and there. Still our Philadelphia locals have not been able to make use of their advantageous positions and create substantial organizations.

Here we have a repetition of the same trouble as in Boston and other smaller places. As soon as they "organized the trade," a series of strikes, disputes, and lock-outs begin until the people begin to get tired of the union and lose confidence in the organization.

Local 15, Ladies' Waist Makers, could not revive after the loss of their strikes at the firms of Max Clair and Kaufman & Harris. Their membership is now reduced to about a dozen or so who made up their minds to keep up some sort of an organization until the mass will turn to the union again. As it will be seen from the report, they are paying no per capita to this office. All they can do just now is to cover the cost of hall rent.

In August some of the more active members of Local 24, Skirt Makers, succeeded in organizing or reorganizing Local 20, Cloak Finishers, who are employed, not by the firm, as the case is in this city, but by the cloak tailors. This local, for lack of able persons to carry on the routine work of the organization, is officered by members of Local 24. The opposition of many of the members of the unaffiliated union of cloakmakers has also contributed to the weakness of that local.

In September, Local 50, Wrapper Makers, have been organized. As soon, however, as the charter was issued and the local formally installed, trouble began to arise between the local and the firm of Biberman Bros., where the members of that local have been employed. The friction between the working people and the firm went on for a few weeks until Monday, Oct. 11th, when the girls rose in a body and left the factory. In the evening they appeared before the U. H. T. who took up the case of the girls, and declared a strike against the firm. On Wednesday the 13th, when I came to Philadelphia, I found the strike in full swing with the organizer of the U. H. T. leading it, who, by that time, succeeded in arousing the sentiment of the unions of the U. H. T. of Philadelphia against that firm.

Under the circumstances, the G. E. B. was compelled to acquiesce to the action of the U. H. T. and support the strike. This unwarranted action on the part of the U. H. T. of Philadelphia in taking up strikes of working people who never consulted their own organization or their national officers, is in harmony with the action of similar bodies in other cities, who, whenever it suits their particular

purpose, will not hesitate to go so far as to encourage insubordination and even rebellion of locals against their national unions.

The strike is now lost with the usual results.

During last summer the Cloak Cutters Local 49, have been reorganized, and in July a charter has been issued to them. All my attempts to induce them to amalgamate with Local 19, Waist Cutters proved fruitless. The Cloak Cutters strongly objected to an amalgamation. I am still of the opinion that this amalgamation would be of great benefit to both parties.

Local 49 has lately lost ground through the loss of a strike at the firm of Sax & Co., where thirteen of their most active union cutters have been employed and who have been replaced by non-union cutters.

Among the many strikes which the Joint Board of the Philadelphia Cloak and Skirt Makers' Union have this year been engaged in, I cannot leave unnoticed, one strike in particular, at the firm of H. Cohen & Co. The fight here was not for shorter hours, higher pay or any of the usual demands made by a labor organization, but for the right of cloak tailors to themselves employ the finishers while the firm demanded to take the finishing away from the operators and employ the finishers directly. The most curious feature about this strike is that the leaders of this reactionary and unjust demands are leading members of anarchistic and other "advanced" organizations.

So far there are in Philadelphia two organizations of Ladies' Garment Workers, who are not yet affiliated. The cloak makers and ladies' tailors. The cloak and skirt pressers have joined us lately.

#### OUR OFFICIAL JOURNAL

Although our locals have this year suffered materially through the present financial panic and the consequent unemployment of our members, the enthusiasm, the moral tone and the interest displayed by the locals in our International Union has risen greatly. The best proof of this is that despite of the poverty of the locals we will have about twice the number of delegates to this convention than we had last year.

One of the main causes, if not the only cause for this welcomed change, is undoubtedly the appearance of our Official Journal "Der Wecker."

Hitherto we had little or no opportunity of reaching the great mass of our members. Much less had we the opportunity of teaching and educating them in the principles of unionism, while they had no opportunity at all to become acquainted with the great trade union movement of this continent. The only information they could get on that subject appeared in the radical and revolutionary press, of which there is such an abundance in the Jewish language. But the information our movement contained in this class of journals is of such character as to drive their readers away from the trade union movement and to lose confidence in it. All the faults and short comings of the trade unionism (and what movement is there which can always remain faultless?) are dwelt upon and exaggerated while all its good side and beneficial features are either ignored or denied. In their constant denunciation of corruption of the trade union leaders their writings can be little distinguished from that of the "American Industries" the official organ of the National Manufacturers Association, the organ of the Pary-Post-Van-Cleave organization. "Extremes meet," is an old saying.

While the idea of issuing an official journal is not a new one in our International Union, and has been discussed at several conventions, hitherto the G. E. B. hesitated to take the matter up as it is connected with a considerable expense and a good deal of work and trouble, but the general situation of our movement in New York on the East Side has become very grave, owing to the action of the United Hebrew Trades in encouraging dissensions, insubordination, rebellion and strife between the locals represented at that body and their International Unions.

Since most of our locals are represented at the U. H. T., its action had a demoralizing effect on our members.

The action of the U. H. T. of N. Y. in organizing and leading a strike of the clothing tailors in spite of the protests of the G. E. B. of the United Garment Workers of America and later on, entering into a conspiracy with Henry White and the Daily Trade Record, the organ of the clothing manufacturers Association to carry on a war of extermination against the U. G. W. for their fearless action in suspending the striking locals from their body, aroused the apprehension of our G. E. B. who felt that by their action the General Officers of the United Garment Workers were rendering invaluable service to the cause of unionism, that it decided to take some action to counteract the pernicious activity of this disintegrating work of the U. H. T. This feeling of our G. E. B. was brought to a climax by the action of the U. H. T. who sent a delegate to the union of White Goods Workers who advised them not to join our International Union.

With the appearance of the first number of "The Wecker," the change in the tactics of the U. H. T. became noticeable. A few months of onslaught of "The Wecker" coupled with the fight of the delegates of our locals on the floor of that body has had the desired effect.

The work of the committee of the C. F. U. of N. Y. and of the U. H. T. established for the purpose of bringing the independent unions into the folds of their respective International bodies, is going on smoothly and another few months and we will hear no more of these constant fights and vilification of the National Officers from that quarter.

"Der Wecker" is undoubtedly a decided success, except, perhaps financially. Still the loss is not so great as to be too heavy a burden on the finances of the General Office. We pay next to nothing for writing, all of which is done by our members. If the locals outside of N. Y. should contribute their share of financial support, the General Office would have to stand no loss in connection with its publication.

#### THE GENERAL DEFENSE FUND.

So far only about one fourth of this assessment has been paid. I hope this convention will take all the necessary steps to see that it shall be paid in the near future.

The following locals were organized during the year: 47, L. G. W. U., Massillon, O.; 48, Cloak Makers, Toronto, Canada; 49, Cloak Cutters and Trimmers, Phila., Pa.; 50, Wrapper Makers, Phila., Pa.; 51, Corset Cutters, N. Y.; 52, L. G. Cutters, Detroit, Mich.; 53, Ladies' Garment Cutters, N. Y.; 54, Cloak and Skirt Pressers, Phila., Pa.

The following locals were reorganized during this year: 6, St. Louis Cloak

Makers; 27, Worcester Cloak Makers; 28, Skirtmakers, Chicago, Ill.; 46, Cloak Makers and Ladies' Tailors of Pittsburg, Pa.

The following locals dissolved: Locals 43, L. G. W. U. of Fremont, O.; 44, Cloak Makers, Los Angeles, Cal.; 45, Cincinnati, Cloak Pressers; 50, Wrapper Makers, Phila., Pa.; 51, Corset Cutters, N. Y.

Local 29, San Francisco, Ladies' Tailors, withdrew, the local objecting to the affiliation with our International Union, which is a part of the A. F. of L.

*Payment by Locals from May first, 1907 to May first, 1908.*

Local 1. Cloak Operators' Union of New York.

Due Stamps .....	\$260.00	
Assessments .....	86.75	
Donations .....	10.00	
Supplies .....	28.80	
		\$385.55

Local 4. Cloak Makers' Union of Baltimore, Md.

Due Stamps .....	\$80.00	
Donations .....	5.00	
Supplies .....	2.70	
		\$87.70

Local 6. Cloak Makers' Union of St. Louis, Mo.

Due Stamps .....	\$10.00	
Charter Fee .....	10.00	
Supplies .....	1.70	
		\$21.70

Local 8. Cloak Makers' Union of San Francisco, Cal.

Due Stamps .....	\$30.00	
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Local 9. Cloak and Suit Tailors Union of New York.

Due Stamps .....	\$155.00	
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Local 10. Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters of Greater N. Y.

Due Stamps .....	\$190.00	
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Local 11. Cloak and Skirtmakers' Union of Brownsville, N. Y.

Due Stamps .....	\$75.00	
Supplies .....	5.30	
		\$80.30

Local 12.	Skirt and Cloak Pressers' Union of Boston, Mass.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$30.00	
	Supplies .....	1.35	
			<u>\$31.35</u>
Local 15.	Ladies' Waist Makers and Pressers' Union of Phila., Pa.		
	Supplies .....		\$1.20
Local 16.	Cloak Cutters Union of St. Louis, Mo.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$20.00	
	Assessments .....	3.75	
	Donations .....	5.00	
	Supplies .....	1.00	
			<u>\$29.75</u>
Local 17.	Children Cloak and Reefer Makers' Union of N. Y.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$700.00	
	Supplies .....	10.00	
			<u>\$710.00</u>
Local 19.	Quaker City Association of Cutters, Phila., Pa.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$25.00	
	Assessments .....	3.50	
	Supplies .....	4.05	
			<u>\$32.55</u>
Local 20.	Skirt and Cloak Finishers' Union of Phila., Pa.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$65.00	
	Charter Fee .....	10.00	
	Supplies .....	3.30	
			<u>\$78.00</u>
Local 23.	Skirtmakers' Union of New York.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$180.00	
	Assessments .....	75.00	
	Supplies .....	20.20	
			<u>\$275.20</u>
Local 24.	Skirtmakers' Union of Phila., Pa.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$241.77	
	Supplies .....	19.00	
			<u>\$260.77</u>

Local 25.	Ladies' Waist Makers' Union of New York.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$45.00	
	Supplies .....	6.20	
		<hr/>	\$51.20
Local 26.	Cloak and Suit Cutters' Union of Boston, Mass.		
	Due Stamps .....		\$5.00
Local 27.	Skirt and Cloak Makers' Union of Worcester, Mass.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$10.00	
	Assessments .....	5.00	
	Charter Fee .....	10.00	
	Supplies .....	1.81	
		<hr/>	\$26.81
Local 28.	Skirtmakers' Union of Chicago, Ill.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$5.00	
	Assessments .....	8.50	
	Charter Fee .....	10.00	
	Supplies .....	1.47	
		<hr/>	\$24.97
Local 29.	Ladies' Tailors Union of San Francisco, Cal.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$10.00	
	Supplies .....	1.52	
		<hr/>	\$11.52
Local 31.*	Ladies' Garment Workers Union of Seattle, Wash.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$10.00	
	Assessments .....	6.50	
	Supplies .....	.50	
	Labels .....	6.25	
		<hr/>	\$23.25
Local 32.	Underwear Workers' Union of Peekskill, N. Y.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$30.00	
	Assessments .....	25.00	
	Supplies .....	11.80	
		<hr/>	\$66.80
Local 34.	Custom Ladies' Tailors' Union of Baltimore, Md.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$25.00	
	Supplies .....	1.15	
		<hr/>	\$26.15

Local 35.	Cloak Pressers' Union of New York.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$150.00	
	Supplies .....	7.00	
			\$157.00
Local 36.	Ladies' Tailors and Dressmakers' Union of Boston, Mass.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$130.00	
	Supplies .....	4.20	
			\$134.20
Local 40.	Skirtmakers' Union of Kalamazoo, Mich.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$30.00	
	Assessments .....	11.25	
	Supplies .....	1.65	
			\$42.90
Local 41.	Wrapper and Komono Makers' of Brownsville, N. Y.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$20.00	
	Supplies .....	.60	
			\$20.60
Local 42.	Ladies' Underwear Workers' Union of Sandusky, O.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$66.00	
	Assessments .....	24.25	
	Donations .....	5.00	
	Supplies .....	1.85	
			\$97.10
Local 43.	Ladies' Garment Workers' Union of Fremont, O.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$20.80	
Local 45.	Cloak Pressers' Union of Cincinnati, O.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$5.00	
Local 46.	Ladies' Tailors and Cloakmakers' Union of Pittsburg, Pa.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$13.00	
	Charter Fees .....	10.00	
	Supplies .....	1.80	
			\$24.80

Local 47.	Ladies' Garment Workers' Union of Massillon, O.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$10.00	
	Assessments .....	18.75	
	Charter Fee .....	10.00	
	Labels.....	1.25	
	Supplies .....	5.00	
			\$45.00
Local 48.	Cloak Makers' Union of Toronto, Can.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$25.00	
	Assessments .....	10.00	
	Charter Fee .....	10.00	
	Supplies .....	17.75	
			\$62.75
Local 49.	United Cloak and Suit Cutters and Trimmers of Phila., Pa.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$25.00	
	Assessments .....	10.00	
	Charter Fee .....	10.00	
	Supplies .....	.90	
			\$45.90
Local 50.	Ladies' Wrapper Makers Union of Phila., Pa.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$15.00	
	Charter Fee .....	10.00	
	Supplies .....	1.20	
			\$26.20
Local 51.	United Corset Cutters' Association of N. Y. and Vicinity.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$1.00	
	Charter Fee .....	10.00	
			\$11.00
Local 52.	Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union of Detroit, Mich.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$5.00	
	Charter Fee .....	10.00	
	Supplies .....	.60	
			\$15.60
Local 53.	Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union of Greater N. Y.		
	Due Stamps .....	\$5.00	
	Charter Fee .....	10.00	
	Supplies .....	.45	
			\$15.45

## EXPENDITURES

1907	Postage Telephone Telegrams Express	Stationery Office Supplies	Rent Light Cleaning	Printing	Organizing	Per Capita Tax . A. F. of L.	Donations	Salaries	Miscellan.	Totals
May	13.70	91.00	8.00	.. ..	10.00	32.53	.. ..	83.33	12.85	281.41
June	2.81	7.90	38.00	28.50	.. ..	.. ..	200.00	113.33	86.67	477.21
July	24.30	44.80	18.50	120.25	24.00	20.24	25.00	132.33	23.95	433.37
August	24.52	28.80	19.50	51.00	16.40	.. ..	.. ..	133.33	42.46	314.01
September	6.40	73.10	20.26	54.30	175.30	43.31	.. ..	123.33	17.97	513.96
October	10.70	17.00	19.00	42.85	96.00	10.13	.. ..	113.33	4.25	313.28
November	13.72	1.80	19.00	51.50	70.00	.. ..	.. ..	133.33	80.00	369.35
December	19.69	.. ..	20.50	1.00	10.00	.. ..	135.00	101.33	78.25	363.77
1908										
January	18.58	8.00	21.20	.. ..	19.00	.. ..	.. ..	83.33	12.80	162.61
February	29.40	40.00	19.00	29.50	5.50	.. ..	.. ..	83.33	8.55	218.28
March	18.48	6.34	26.15	.. ..	24.00	.. ..	75.00	95.33	3.85	249.16
April	9.19	.70	11.00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	107.33	96.44	224.66
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>191.50</b>	<b>317.44</b>	<b>240.10</b>	<b>378.90</b>	<b>450.20</b>	<b>106.21</b>	<b>435.00</b>	<b>1,302.96</b>	<b>465.74</b>	<b>3,888.05</b>

## RECEIPTS

1907	Per Capita Tax	Charter Fee	Supplies	Labels	Amos.	Donations	Miscellan.	Totals
May	195.90	30.00	3.60	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	229.50
June	209.20	.. ..	7.80	6.25	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	223.25
July	421.30	40.00	6.15	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	467.45
August	445.00	10.00	30.56	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	486.56
September	202.70	10.00	24.09	.. ..	8.50	.. ..	.. ..	245.29
October	481.40	20.00	14.90	1.25	43.75	.. ..	.. ..	541.30
November	219.00	.. ..	7.25	.. ..	114.25	15.00	29.00	384.50
December	60.00	.. ..	2.95	.. ..	30.00	95.00	.. ..	207.95
1908								
January	126.77	10.00	22.85	.. ..	26.75	.. ..	.. ..	186.37
February	150.00	.. ..	24.00	.. ..	20.00	.. ..	.. ..	194.00
March	156.05	.. ..	18.00	.. ..	45.00	.. ..	6.51	225.51
April	55.00	.. ..	.60	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	55.60
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>2,722.27</b>	<b>120.00</b>	<b>162.75</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>288.25</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>35.51</b>	<b>3,446.28</b>

Balance on hand May 1st, 1907.

General Fund .....	\$327.01
General Defense Fund .....	219.80
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$546.81</b>

Receipts for the year 1907-1908.

General Fund .....	\$3,158.03
General Defense Fund .....	288.25
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>3,446.28</b>
	<b>\$3,993.09</b>

Expenditures for the year 1907-1908.

General Fund .....	\$3,613.05
General Defense Fund .....	275.00
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>3,888.05</b>
Balance on hand May 1st, 1908,	\$105.04

Recapitulation:

### General Fund.

Balance from last year .....	\$327.01
Receipts during 1907-1908 .....	3,158.03
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$3,485.04</b>
Expenditures during 1907-1908 .....	\$3,613.05
Drawn from Gen. Def. Fund .....	128.01
<b>Balance</b> .....	<b>\$3,485.04</b>

### General Defense Fund.

Balance from last year .....	\$219.80
Receipts during 1907-1908 .....	288.25
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$508.05</b>
Expenditures during 1907-1908 .....	275.00
Balance to G. D. F. ....	233.05
Drawn for Gen. Expenditures .....	128.01
<b>Balance on hand</b> .....	<b>\$105.04</b>

Upon motion, the report of the G. S. T. referred to Committee on Report of Officers.

The following telegram read and ordered placed on file.

Worcester Mass., June 2, 1908.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Covenant Hall

Brothers:—Hoping your deliberations will strengthen our union and forward the cause of the workers.

Yours fraternally,

A. Rosenberg, Secretary, Local 27.

A. Rosenberg in chair.

Vice-President Jacobson states that owing to the unexpected resignation of President Julian, he did not prepare a written report. Will make a verbal report.

Delegate Bloch objects to a verbal report as it cannot be referred to the Committee on Report of Officers. Chair sustains objection.

Upon motion the reading of the report of the last convention was dispensed with.

The minutes of the G. E. B. meetings were then read.

Delegate Bloch—On what clause of the constitution did the G. E. B. take the right to accept President Julian as a member at large?

A. Rosenberg—The G. E. B. is guided by the rules of common sense in all cases, not covered by the constitution.

Upon motion the minutes of the G. E. B. meetings adopted as read.

Charles Jacobson resumes the chair.

S. Elstein, former organizer of the I. L. G. W. U. for Philadelphia invited to address the convention, and spoke in part as follows:

The trade union movement is a movement for a higher civilization. The amount of wages received by the workman determines the quality of his food, clothing, the amount of room he and his family shall occupy as their dwelling place, the education his children shall receive. The ideal of unionism should be to free the workman from the domination of capital. In order to be free they themselves must own the means of production. Trade unionism accomplished a good deal and will no doubt accomplish a good deal more in the future, but our work has hitherto been confined in bargaining with our employers, and this bargaining must cease as soon as labor will own the means of production. They must try to achieve industrial as well as political freedom. At present the owners of capital are not the directors of capital. All the management and the directing part of it is done by hired men.

After years of industrial prosperity they find just now millions of people starving in this country. The constitution of the I. L. G. W. U. prohibits the discussion of political questions, but for his life he cannot see how we can separate economic and industrial from political questions.

They must try to achieve industrial as well as political democracy.

The Chairman thanks the speaker on behalf of the delegates.

The following telegram read and ordered placed on file.

Toronto, O., June 2, 1908.

Covenant Hall:—

Many greetings to delegates of our International Convention. We wish you success in your undertaking concerning organized labor.

Respectfully, Cloak Makers' Union of Toronto, Local 48.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Roll call. All present.

The following telegram read and ordered placed on file.

Baltimore, Md., June 2, 1908.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Covenant Hall:—

Greetings to the delegates, wishing best success in your work.

Lazarus, Secretary, Local 4, Baltimore.

Philadelphia, June 2, 1908.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Covenant Hall:—

Wish you hearty success in your undertaking. With best wishes,

The Joint Exec. Board of Phila., Pa., J. Perlowitz, Sec.

## REPORT FROM LOCALS.

Local 1, N. Y.—Delegate Wolf. All the work of the local is done by the Joint Executive Board. His local lately suffered considerably through the crisis. They would like to have an organizer from the International Union. The G. S. T. visits occasionally the local, but this is not enough.

Delegate Rosenberg for same local. Since September last they had to drop about 400 members. Several manufacturers failed and their members lost employment. Six months ago they had about \$1,300 in their treasury, now it is empty. They paid out during this year \$395 in sick benefits to members. They are not discouraged. As soon as work will begin their local will revive its activity.

Delegate Leventhal for same local. His organization contains the better element among the cloak makers. These members expect no personal benefits from the organization.

The Wecker has done good work in spreading the principles of unionism among the members and educating them along trade union lines. Would like to see the propaganda of unionism through the press carried on by the leaders so as to reach the great mass outside. He is sure that his local before long will be the banner bearer among the locals in the International.

Local 9, N. Y.—Delegate Policoff. Six years ago at Cleveland, his local had 1,500 members. Now they have 200 male and 50 female members.

They paid \$180 in sick benefits to their members. They also paid out-of-work benefits of which he can give no figures.

Since Local 10 had become affiliated with the International, his local was never supported by the cutters, except in the strike of J. M. Brady. Their members are working for uptown, Fifth avenue houses and whenever they were out on strike, the members of Local 10 kept on cutting work for scab tailors. This causes demoralization in their ranks for the members keep pointing out to them the cutters who are also members of the same International organization, helping the employers to defeat them. He is instructed by his organization to call the attention of the convention to this state of affairs and to see that in future whenever one branch of the cloak trade presents a demand at a particular firm, that it should be backed up by all other branches working there.

Upon motion agreed that reports of delegates be limited to five minutes.

Delegate Meltzer for same local. He is instructed by his organization to request the convention that all finishers working in reefer and skirt shops, and who are at present members of Locals 17 and 23, be transferred to their local.

**Local 10, N. Y.—Delegate Bloch.** This year his organization had difficulties with the International Union, the G. E. B. having illegally revoked their charter. The decision of the A. F. of L. proves the illegality of the action of the G. E. B., who had no right to demand from them to pull out their men from S. Katz & Co. and L. Pellman.

For weeks negotiations had been carried on by the officers of the Joint Board with the firm and his local which had been a party to the agreement with the firm, knew nothing about it. He contends that in all cases where they are a party to the agreement with the firm, they must be notified of any trouble or negotiations. The firm did not discriminate against the cutters. At Pellman their local was notified after the strike had already been called by the Joint Board.

**Delegate Ryan for same local.** Refutes statements made by Delegate Policoff. His local is always ready to help tailors, provided the latter acted constitutionally. At J. M. Brady they spent \$1,700 to help tailors who never cared for cutters and kept signing agreements with firms ignoring the cutters entirely.

**Delegate Martin for the same local.** The G. E. B. helped to violate the constitution in the interest of the locals of the Joint Executive Board, but was always very strict with Local 10.

Last June a conference was called by the G. E. B. of all New York locals, and out of nine locals only eleven delegates attended, five of whom were from Local 10, while the other eight locals were represented by six delegates. At that conference many abuses and illegalities committed by the locals were discussed. The General Office knew about it all and took no action in the matter. They will not help the other locals as long as these locals will do business in violation of the constitution.

**Local 11—A. Sirota.** The crisis affected their organization more than the New York locals. They had no work the whole winter season. They had to pay their assessment out of the funds of the union. Most of the Brownsville cloak and skirt makers are working in New York and are members of the New York locals. They would be a strong organization if the New York locals would transfer such members to their organization.

**Local 15—A. Feinstein.** In 1906 they had strikes at the firms of Kaufman & Harris and at Max Clair. Both strikes were lost. Since then their organization has gone down. With the resignation of their Organizer, S. Elstein, things have become worse than ever. Now their membership is reduced to a handful who are determined to keep up the organization and wait for better times. With the help of other locals in Philadelphia and the International they will be able to reorganize their trade. He would like to see The Wecker have an English page, since many people in their trade read English only.

**Miss Carp for same local.** Last year they had one union firm, but this firm, in order to get rid of the union members, introduced a silk department and began to play off the silk workers against the lawn workers, and by this method squeezed out all the union members from their firm.

The old members left them but they have some new members who are willing to do their share to reorganize their trade.

**Local 17—A. Cohen.** Last June they successfully terminated a strike which resulted in the abolition of one of the worst abuses in the trade, namely, the custom which compelled the operators to provide their own sewing machines.

They unionized 52 firms and these firms were kept under the strict control of the union until May 1st, when all these agreements expired.

As a result of the strike many firms went bankrupt and after 13 weeks on strike, their members had to face unemployment again. The crisis made matters worse, yet in spite of all these difficulties they paid this year \$700 per capita to the International. They have trouble with the firm of Weinstein Bros., who opened what he claims to be an "infant department," for which the firm provided 60 machines and refuses to unionize this department. He took up 150 hands who gave the firm security. Request the moral support of the International to fight this firm.

Delegate Pinchasic for same local. As a result of last year's strike, 80 per cent of the trade had been unionized. Through the crisis and bankruptcy only 30 per cent of their members could find employment during the season. Instead of 52 shops they have now only 14 shops unionized. He expects convention to do something for them.

Delegate Yacobinsky for same local. The most important firm in their trade is that of Weinstein Bros. It stands in the way of unionizing the rest of the firms in the trade. It demoralizes even those members who are working in union shops who claim that the union does not possess the power they believed it had. He would like to see an organizer from the International. A new face with new energy to bring life in the organization.

Local 19—S. Morgan. His local controls no shops and carries some sort of existence. They have just a quorum to open a meeting. Since the International issued a charter to Local 49, things are worse than ever. The ill will between the waist and cloak cutters is greater than ever.

Local 20—Miss D. Waxman. Her local has been in existence since last August. They had 300 members. They lost this season several strikes and as a result their membership began to diminish. The finishers in Philadelphia are employed not directly by the firm, but by the cloak tailors, so that in each shop instead of having one boss, each finisher is working for a separate boss. Their local is now in bad shape. They have about 25 members in good standing.

Local 23—Delegate Dyche. Last year they succeeded in unionizing the firm of S. Katz & Co., the members working at the firm proved themselves to be an exceptionally intelligent set of men. They were not satisfied with being members themselves, but began to organize other shops. Each noon time they would go to a particular shop and talk to the people until they succeeded in getting them into the union.

Things went on smoothly until they succeeded in organizing the firm of Max Solomon, the largest of its kind in the country. When the firm became aware that the working people joined the union, they called a committee of the shop and told them that they have no objection to them being members of the union, but will not sign an agreement with the union, neither will they allow a business agent to visit the shop, otherwise they are willing to raise the prices for making the garments, reduce the charge for power from 50c. per week to 25c. and make other concessions. The officers of the union advised them to accept these concessions and not press the firm for the "closed shop" proposition. In the meantime the pressers of that firm who also organized, joined a dual organization whose leaders were members of the I. W. W., and declared a strike at the firm for the reinstatement

of a presser whom the firm discharged for misbehavior. Our members began to clamor for a sympathy strike with the pressers. To this the union objected and a struggle arose between the 300 and odd members working at the firm of M. Solomon and the officers of the union, who made up their minds not to sacrifice their organization, in order to protect a presser who is a member of an opposition union. The result was that the people working for M. Solomon left the organization.

Delegate Jacobson for same local. The crisis affected his local the same as the rest. His organization is looking more for the quality of membership than the quantity. They are determined to have members who will be guided by the rules and regulations of the organization and will stand no illegalities. They will not take in whole shops but will insist upon taking in members individually.

Local 24—Ike Stolovitch. Last year at this time they had 120 members in good standing. The cloak makers were unorganized and the pressers had a small organization. The United Hebrew Trades of Philadelphia put on an organizer who succeeded in creating a boom and soon members began to rush into the organization; who, as soon as they paid in 50 cents, began to clamor for a strike. At the firm of Martin Klein the people went on strike as soon as it had been organized. They tried to get the cloak makers into the International, but, through the personal interest of some of the leading members, they kept away. They had a strike at the firm of Perlberg and Lichtenstein, but thanks to the intervention of the International Union, who sent Brother Grossman to Philadelphia, the strike had been settled in favor of the union, although this settlement did not please some kickers in the shop.

Max Amdur for same local. His local existed more on paper until July, 1907, when the cloak makers began to organize. The local did its best to get the cloak makers to join the International but failed, owing to the opposition of some who had personal reasons to keep the cloak makers unaffiliated. His local, however, found that they cannot work by themselves, as most of their members are working in suit shops where they are in the minority.

The Joint Board, who had no higher authority over them, began to call a series of illegal and avoidable strikes with the result that their treasuries are empty.

The Joint Board keeps up an office for the locals and business agents. They are trying to introduce a system of weekly dues of 25c. to enable the locals to pay the members strike benefits, something which the members never received, for they never had in their treasuries sufficient money to meet such payments. They are also trying to introduce other benefits in their organization.

Local 25—B. Frishwasser. Last year they succeeded in organizing the firm of Viezen & Goldstein and the local was in a good position. This firm soon discharged thirty of their members and as a result they declared a strike at that firm, which was lost. Their local is now weak in membership and in finances. There are over 15,000 people engaged in the waist trade in New York City, 75 per cent of whom are girls who look upon their trade as temporary occupation.

The Wecker has done a good deal to educate the members in the principles of unionism, but would like to see the journal leave out personal attacks. Would like the International to help them to keep up the local until the Fall season, when the local is sure to gain in membership.

Local 32 Miss Josephine Smaltz. Her local consists of 275 members. They succeeded so far in renewing their agreement with their employer and prevent the cutting of prices. Their great difficulty is the indifference of the members. They organized several socials with good financial results.

Mrs. Casey for same local. Her union was organized in 1902. They managed to keep it up all this time without strikes. They pay sick and death benefits. The firm had on several occasions tried to cut prices, but the local resisted all these attempts successfully. They have a few devoted members who made their mind up to stick and keep up the organization, and do not get discouraged through the indifference of the bulk of the members.

Local 35—Lubinsky. At the beginning of last season they had a rush in local due to the success of the reefer makers' strike of Local 17. All cloak pressers were looking for jobs in reefer shops. These cloak pressers were a hinderance to their organization. They suffered considerably from the sudden rush of membership. They also had to encounter the opposition from a dual organization of pressers which styled itself the International Cloak and Skirt Pressers' Union. Their local is never visited by the officers of the union. The G. S. T. never once visited their local.

Local 36—H. Plotkin. His local was organized without any outside help. They had a strike at Rosen Bros., which lasted 19 weeks and on which over \$1,000 were spent. They unionized 24 other shops without strikes. They are not in need of help from the International. All they ask for is that the International should organize the cloak makers.

The attempts made last year by the Brothers Dyche and Wernon to organize the Boston cloak makers failed because it was too premature. Just now it could be accomplished and Local 34 will do its share in this work.

Delegate Gitlin for same local. Many organizers tried to build up an organization in his trade but failed until their employer themselves took a hand in it and through bad treatment and low pay succeeded in driving the Ladies' Tailors of Boston into an organization. They paid their strikers full weeks' wages by assessing their members. One employer was compelled to pay the union \$125 towards the cost of the strike.

Delegate Wolf for the same local. Just now the conditions in the skirt and cloak trade in the city of Boston is so bad that the people are trying to get into the ladies' tailoring shops to the great injury of their members. If the International could organize the cloak and skirt trade, conditions of work in that trade would thereby become better. This would put a stop to this constant rush of the cloak makers into their shops.

Local 41—Delegate H. Klein. In spite of the crisis they succeeded in organizing two more shops this season. During their strike at Shindlers they had no help from the International. The General Officers seldom pay them a visit.

Local 49—Delegate Kolb. His local is in poor condition due to the failure of the strike at Sax & Co. Local decided to call no strikes this season, but the first week they joined the Joint Board they were compelled to withdraw their men at the firm of Sax & Co. at the request of the J. E. B. He begged them to leave out the cutters, but they insisted and stated that they are sure to win, and the cutters will be reinstated. The cloak makers could help them to reorganize if they

would insist that at the firms which they are controlling, the cutters should join the Local 49.

Delegate Rosenthal for the same local. The cutters in Philadelphia consisted of a young element and could be organized with the assistance of the International.

He would like to see a delegation from New York cloak cutters to come to Philadelphia and help them to organize the trade.

THIRD DAY, MORNING SESSION.

Wednesday, June 3, 1908.

Roll call Absentees—J. Wolf, Rosie Lidman, Max Amdur, A. Kolb, Joseph Rosenthal, E. Reisman, D. Garadetzky.

Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed.

Credential Committee report the receipt of credentials of Delegate Julius Berger of Local 19 and recommend his seating. Report of committee concurred in.

Delegate Aships, Local 53, N. Y. At the last convention at Baltimore, a committee of an organization of Cloak, Skirt and Reefer Cutters appeared with a request to grant them a charter. The argument used by the committee was to the effect that the object of their organization is to organize that part of the ladies' garment cutting trade which hitherto remained unorganized, and so far no attempt has yet been made to organize. The existence of such a great mass of cutters who work long hours for low wages is a menace to the standard rate of wages of the existing organization. The cutters which they are trying to organize understand no English and cannot therefore be reached by the members of Local 10. The members of the organization which their committee represent cannot join the Local 10, owing to their inability to comply with qualifications which Local 10 required of the candidates for admission to their body. The convention after a long discussion passed a resolution, instructing Local 10 to issue to their organization a charter as a sub local. After waiting some time for a charter they sent a committee to Local 10 and after several excuses, they were finally told that they can only grant them a charter if their members will agree to work for the same scale of wages as Local 10. They then appealed to the G. E. B. of the International Union and they were told by that board that they are powerless in the matter, and must wait until the next convention. He does not remember the time when he received a handbill issued by the G. E. B. of the International Union, calling a mass meeting for the purpose of organizing a local union of cutters in the city of N. Y. Himself and a number of others attended the meeting where a local union was formed and a charter issued under the title "The Ladies' Garment Cutters Union of Greater N. Y., Local 53." Soon all members of former organizations joined that local. Since they received the charter they have done their best to organize the N. Y. Cutters. They called Mass Meetings, issued leaflets, but he cannot say that they accomplished much. The crisis hindered them a good deal in their work. Many of their members have had no more than two weeks work during the whole of the Fall season. Under such circumstances they had to drop a good many of their members who were unable to pay their dues. Another difficulty which they found is the lack of experienced leaders. The General Office does little for them. He hopes the convention will adjust their differences with Local 10 amicably and to the satisfaction of both parties.

Local 54—E. Reisman. His local is 13 days in the International, but was one of the founders of the International and were known until 1904 as Local 3. The loss of the strike at Strawbridge & Clothier in 1903, greatly weakened his organization along with the rest of the locals in Philadelphia. In 1906 he corresponded with the G. S. T. and as a result a big mass meeting was arranged with a speaker from New York, but the money spent on this attempt by the International and his local proved useless. In June 1907, The United Hebrew Trades, with the help of his local, succeeded in reorganizing the locals in Philadelphia. The local then began to collect each week \$60 and \$70 in dues. In a few months they had in their treasury over \$900. A series of strikes soon began and within three months they spent on these strikes over \$1,200.

He would like to see that the International should have an organizer who shall spend with them at least one week out of four.

Delegate Garadetzky has nothing to add to the report of his co-delegate.

Joint Executive Board, New York. H. Kleinman reads his report as follows:

TO THE OFFICERS AND DELEGATES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

GREETINGS:—

The New York J. E. B. is composed of delegates from Local 1, 9, 17, 23, 35, in compliance of Sec. 6, Art. 12, of the Constitution of the I. L. G. W. U. Each local being represented by five delegates. The object of the J. B. is to agitate the principle of Trade Unionism among the working people engaged in the Cloak and Skirt Trades and to transact their business in common, and to call, conduct and settle strikes and disputes.

To carry out the above they keep up an office and several business agents or organizers.

This year we had to contend with extraordinary difficulties. The general financial crisis began to be felt in our trade as early as the month of August. Many firms, and among them several who have signed agreements with the Union, have gone out of business. Several hundreds of our members have lost their jobs and their pay. This of course had a demoralizing effect on the rest of the members of our locals. Besides this we have been injured severely by the opposition of the Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters' Association, former Local 10. This year we have insisted upon unionizing also the cutting department, and this has been done in most of the houses which signed agreements with the union. When, however, we called upon the cutters to help the members of the other locals working in such firms, they flatly refused. They went even further and they have done their very utmost to injure them. Particularly in the case of the firm of Rubinstein and Goldsmith, where the cutters insisted that the strike at this firm called by the J. B. was illegal and our people went back to work with the result that the shop became non-union.

At the firm of Katz & Co. and at Pellman Bros., where the legality of the strikes was admitted by the cutters, they refused to take down their members from the effected firms. At the firm of Katz & Co., where the people were locked out, the business agent of the Cutters' Union went so far as to justify the action of the employer. All these strikes and lockouts were lost. The effect

of these lost strikes had a specially demoralizing effect on our members, who justly attributed the loss of these strikes directly to the opposition of the cutters. The bitter feeling engendered among our members against the cutters will long be remembered. Both the action of the cutters and the effect of the crisis have greatly weakened the financial and the moral standing of the locals of the J. E. B.

During the year the J. E. B. conducted 30 strikes of which 17 had been won and 13 lost. On these strikes the J. E. B. spent \$6,323.85 strike benefits, lawyer fees, and court expenses \$1,109.70. About 150 strikers were arrested, 40 of which have been held under bail for special sessions. All those trials resulted with fines with the exception of one striker who was sent to jail for one month. Some of the cases are still pending. The J. E. B. also engages an attorney whom the board pays an annual salary to attend to the court cases; but at times were compelled to use extra legal services. The expenditure of the J. E. B. is covered by the five locals by a tax of 30c. per month out of the actual dues paid by the members.

The Board last year employed a Secretary, four business agents, and a janitor. Lately it employes only one secretary and one business agent. The rest of the work is done by the members voluntarily.

In spite of the crisis which left three fourths of our members unemployed and the other difficulties above mentioned, the J. E. B. succeeded in keeping their locals in good trim, and the delegates may rest assured that as soon as the crisis will be over and our members will find employment, that the Board will continue its work in organizing trade and securing for its members better conditions.

HARRY KLEINMAN, Joint Executive Board, New York, N. Y.

Delegate Kleinman adds to his report. The contention of Delegate Bloch has always been that the dispute at Katz & Co. was a strike not a lock-out, because the employer stated so. The committee from the C. F. U. who investigated the case admitted that it was a lock-out and not a strike.

Delegate Bloch: Will Delegate Kleinman make an affidavit to the effect that he, Delegate Bloch at the C. F. U. stated that the dispute at Katz & Co. was a strike not a lock-out, because the employer stated so. Delegate Kleinman explaining: He did not say that the case was a strike because the employers stated so. Delegate Bloch: Is it not a fact that at the C. F. U. he, Bloch, stated that he received a letter from the G. S. T. in which it is stated that G. E. B. declared a strike at the firm of S. Katz & Co.? Delegate Kleinman: Yes.

Upon motion, report from locals were received and concurred in.

The Chair announces that report of committees are now in order.

Delegate Bloch for the Press Committee reports progress. Delegate Ryan: The Finance Committee is not yet ready with its report.

Communication from ex-President Grossman read and placed on file.

New York, June 2, 1908.

John A. Dyche, G. S. T., I. L. G. W. U., Covenant Hall, Phila., Pa. :-

As this is the first convention which I could not attend, kindly extend my hearty greetings to all the delegates. I hope that this convention will bring harmony and prosperity at all our locals, will leave out all personalities and will give everybody a square deal. As I write this letter, I put on the badge

from the convention, so I imagine that I am in Philadelphia. I hope and trust that the convention will deliberate and will pass resolutions for the benefit of all the locals and for the emancipation of labor. Three cheers for the I. L. G. W. U.

With best regards to all the delegates and with hopes that they will enjoy themselves and return with good results, I remain,

Fraternally yours, H. Grossman.

Upon motion agreed that the G. S. T. send to Brother Grossman a delegate badge and to return him the thanks of the convention.

Upon motion Vice-President Jacobson was excused for failure to send in a written report to the convention.

None of the committees being ready to report, a motion carried to adjourn and reconvene at 2 P. M.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Roll call. Absentee—Miss Carp Minutes adopted with some corrections. Delegate Ryan for the Finance Committee. They looked over the books and accounts of the General Office and found them correct. The account stands as follows:

Balance on hand May 1st, 1907.	
General Fund.....	\$ 327.01
General Defense Fund .....	219.80
Total .....	<u>\$546.81</u>
Receipts for the year 1907-1908.	
General Fund .....	\$3,158.03
General Defense Fund .....	288.25
Total .....	<u>\$3,446.28</u>
	<u>\$3,993.09</u>
Expenditures for the year 1907-1908.	
General Fund .....	\$3,613.05
General Defense Fund .....	275.00
Total .....	<u>3,888.05</u>
Balance on hand May 1st, 1908.....	<u>\$105.04</u>

#### REPORT OF RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Delegate Martin, Resolution No. 1.

WHEREAS, The Ninth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. in session at Philadelphia June 1, 1908, after the consideration of the decisions rendered by the U. S. Supreme Courts and

WHEREAS, they have placed the standing of labor unions in the same category as the trusts that are using their powers to squeeze the workingman contrary to the Sherman Anti-Trust Laws and

WHEREAS, the action of the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. was in accord with the principle that we stand for, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we heartily endorse the action pursued by the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. Signed Alex Bloch, Local 10.

Committee reports favorably. Report of committee concurred in.

Resolution No. 2.

WHEREAS, The Ninth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. in session at Philadelphia June 1, 1908, believing in the principles of Trade Unionism as prescribed by the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. and

WHEREAS, at the Convention of the A. F. of L. at Norfolk Va., Nov. 11, 1907, a resolution was adopted bearing on affiliation in central bodies with un-affiliated unions, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that all unions affiliated with the I. L. G. W. U. are prohibited from affiliating with any central body wherein non-affiliated locals are seated, and that no union shall affiliate with any central body wherein non-affiliated locals are seated, the penalty for non-compliance of this resolution, shall be expulsion. This act to take effect 60 days after adjournment. Signed, Alex Bloch, Local 10. Committee recommends six months instead of sixty days. Moved and seconded, recommendation of committee not to be concurred in. Delegate Rosenberg offers amendment to exempt from resolution such unions who are desirous to join their International organization, but are refused admission. Substitute motion offered by Delegate Dyche to table the resolution until the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. will take action in the matter, carried. Delegate Bloch wishes to go on record as having voted against substitute.

Resolution No. 3.

WHEREAS, the delegates to the Ninth Annual Convention in session in Philadelphia June 1, 1908, believe that something which may prove beneficial to the garment trades and

WHEREAS, the general belief is that by amalgamating the different garment working industries, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we elect a committee of five delegates to confer with the United Garment Workers of America and request them to appoint a like committee for the purpose of bringing about an amalgamation between the U. G. W. of A. and I. L. G. W. U.

Signed Alex Bloch, Local 10. Committee recommends the adoption of this resolution, but recommends that three members instead of five should be appointed on the committee and that the International Furriers' Union should also be conferred with. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

Resolution No. 4.

WHEREAS, the daily press have been friendly and have devoted ample space to the reports of the proceedings of this convention, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the delegates assembled at the Ninth Annual Convention are desirous of expressing our appreciation and tender them our heartiest thanks. Signed N. Leventhal, Local 1.

Committee recommends the adoption of this resolution. Upon motion of Delegate Rosenberg, resolution tabled until the last session of this convention.

Resolution No. 5.

**WHEREAS**, the problem of immigration has become one of the most serious questions demanding immediate solution and

**WHEREAS**, the restriction of immigration is opposed to the most sacred principle of the working class, namely, "the solidarity of labor," be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates assembled at the Ninth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. at the city of Philadelphia go on record as being opposed to any form of restriction of immigration, except that of contract labor. Signed, A. Becker, Local 53.

Committee reports not favorable. President rules this resolution out of order as being against the constitution of the I. L. G. W. U.

Resolution No. 6.

**WHEREAS**, the decisions of the Supreme Court has jeopardised the position of the trade union movement, and

**WHEREAS**, all the attempts of S. Gompers, President of the A. F. of L. to influence legislation in favor of labor, have been fruitless, and

**WHEREAS** labor can only achieve favorable legislation when the legislators shall themselves be men of labor, be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that we the delegates to the Ninth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. assembled at the city of Philadelphia, Pa., pledge ourselves to vote only for candidates of the labor party, and that this party is no other than the Socialist Party. Signed, H. Brownstein, Local 24 and A. Becker, Local 53.

Committee recommends the non-concurrence of this resolution. The chair rules this resolution unconstitutional.

Resolution No. 7.

**WHEREAS**, the constitution of the I. L. G. W. U. has seldom been obeyed by the members of the affiliated locals, and

**WHEREAS**, in most cases such disobedience is due to the members' ignorance of the laws of said constitution, be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that it shall be obligatory upon all affiliated locals to provide all of their members with a copy of said constitution, which shall also contain a due book, and that all the dues paid by the members shall be recorded in such constitution books. Signed Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Harry Kleinman, J. E. B., N. Y.; A. Dyche, Local 23.

Committee recommends adoption with addition after last sentence of the words "represented by stamps." Recommendation of committee concurred in.

Resolution No. 8.

**WHEREAS**, from the report of all locals, it appears that the need of a permanent organizer is keenly felt among all affiliated locals, and

**WHEREAS**, the present per capita which the locals are paying to the General Office is too small to cover the cost of a permanent organizer, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the per capita be raised to 14c. per month. Signed, Max Amdur, Local 24, and H. Lubinsky, Local 35.

Committee recommends to submit this question to a referendum vote. Delegate Dyche, according to our constitution the raising of per capita cannot be decided by the convention, but must be submitted to a referendum vote. You can pass this resolution as it stands. This will mean that the incoming G. E. B. will have

to submit the question to a referendum vote. Upon motion resolution was rejected.

Resolution No. 9.

WHEREAS, the union label has been and is still an important factor in strengthening the trade union movement, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we pledge ourselves to use only such products which bear the union label, and especially the label of the International Tobacco Workers' Union. Signed, B. Frishwasser, Local 24

Committee reports favorable but objects to that part of the resolution which points out the label of one particular union.

Recommendation of committee concurred in.

Resolution No. 10.

RESOLVED, that no strike shall settled with any firm unless such firm signs an agreement with the union and gives \$500 bonds security, for the faithful performance of such agreements. Signed, H. Klein.

Committee report not favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

Resolution No. 11.

WHEREAS, the system of payment of dues by the members to the affiliated locals are, both weekly and monthly, and the rates of such dues are various in the different locals, and

WHEREAS, such variety in the paying of dues is impracticable and in the long run injurious to the internal workings of such locals, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that a uniform weekly system for the payment of dues be adopted for all locals, and that the dues shall be not less than 15c per week, except in such locals which consist of female members only, then the dues shall not be less than 10c per week, and be it further

RESOLVED, that such a system when adopted shall be binding upon all affiliated locals. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23, Harry Kleinman, J. E. B., N. Y., John A. Dyche, Local 23.

Committee reports favorable except the part of the resolution dealing with the amount of weekly dues. Report of committee concurred in.

Resolution No. 12.

WHEREAS, the issuing of our official journal has almost doubled the work of the G. S. T., and

WHEREAS, the present salary of the G. S. T. amounting to nineteen (\$19) a week is ridiculously small for such a responsible office as Secretary and Treasurer of an International Union, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the G. S. T. shall henceforth receive an additional salary of twenty-five (\$25) dollars per month for his work in connection with The Wecker. Signed, B. Frishwasser, Local 25; Harry Kleinman, J. E. B., N. Y.; A. Rosenberg, Local 1.

Committee recommends that the incoming G. E. B. be instructed to pay this increase when funds allow and the treasury will increase. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

Resolution No. 13.

WHEREAS, The Wecker, the official journal of the I. L. G. W. U. has proved to be a necessity and a great help to our organization as a means of

carrying on systematically trade union propaganda among the organized as well as the unorganized workmen and women of our trade, and

WHEREAS, the I. L. G. W. U. has no special fund for the publication of said journal, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the delegates assembled at the Ninth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. at Philadelphia, Pa., discuss the advisability of raising a special fund by a levy of two cents per member, per month, in addition to the regular per capita, for the period of one year, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the said special fund shall be used for the purpose of publishing The Wecker regularly, and all such other trade union literature and in such languages as the G. E. B. may deem necessary. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; John A. Dyche, Local 23.

Committee recommends or submit resolution to referendum vote.

Recommendation of committee concurred in.

#### REPORT OF LAW COMMITTEE

Delegate Rosenberg.

Amendment 1.

Title of Article 1, be changed to read as follows:

"Name, Powers and Government." Signed Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 2.

Sec. 1, Art. 1, be amended and subdivided as follows:

Sec. 1. This body shall be known as the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Sec. 1a. The powers of this union shall be Executive, Legislative and Judicial.

Sec. 1b. This body alone shall have the power to establish subordinate local unions of the craft, but a local union has the right to subdivide its membership by forming subordinate locals composed of workers in any one particular branch of the trade as a subordinate local of tailors, pressers, etc., or a subordinate local composed of persons of some particular nationality or sex. Such local shall be part of the main local union, unless the local in writing waives that right.

Sec. 1c. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union reserves the right to finally determine and adjust all matters of general importance to the welfare of the local unions or any members thereof, while to local and subordinate local unions is conceded the right of making all necessary laws for local self-government which do not conflict with the laws of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 3.

Add the word "a" after the word "by" on the last line of Section 3 of Art. 1, also the words "of its membership" after the word "vote" on the same line of the same Section. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 4.

Sec. 4 of Art. 1, be abolished from this Article and added to Sec. 1, Art. 3. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

## Amendment 5.

The following abbreviations should be added in added in Sec. 3 of Art. 2:

J. B.—Joint Board.

D. C.—District Council.

A. F. of L.—American Federation of Labor. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

## Amendment 6.

Sec. 1, Art. 3, should be amended as follows:

Sec. 1. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union shall meet biennially in general convention on the first Monday in June at 9 A. M. The place of holding such convention shall be proposed by the G. E. B. at their semi-annual meeting held prior to the holding of the regular convention. At least two cities shall be proposed, and submitted to a vote of the general membership of the I. L. G. W. U., a majority deciding.

Sec. 12. Upon the written request of five local unions in good standing (no three unions to be in one city), a special convention may be called in the same manner as the regular convention. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

## Amendment 7.

Add the word "first" before the word "Vice-President" on the second line of Sec. 11 of Art. 3, also abolish the word "and" after the word "President" on the same line of the same Section. Signed Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

## Amendment 8.

Sec. 1, Art. 4, to read as follows:

Sec. 1. The General Officers of the I. L. G. W. U. shall consist of a President, nine Vice-Presidents and a General Secretary-Treasurer, all of whom shall form the General Executive Board. Seven members of the Board shall be residents of New York City and vicinity. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

## Amendment 9.

Add the word "first" before the word "Vice-President" in Sec. 7 of Art. 4 on the first line. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

## Amendment 10.

Add the following sentence at the end of Sec. 7, Art. 5: "The quarterly reports to end in June, September, December and March." Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

## Amendment 11.

Add a new section to Art. 5, same to be known as Sec. 11, and shall read as follows:

"The G. E. B. shall have the right to suspend or expell any L. U. or S. L. U. which will deliberately or willfully violate any law or laws of this constitution, after a reasonable notice has been given to such a L. or S. L. U. by the G. S. T. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Delegate Dycbe suggests to strike out the words "Subordinate Local

Union." Committee accepts suggestion of delegate. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 12.

Change the word "monthly" to "weekly" in Sec. 1 of Art. 6 on the second line, before the word per capita. Signed Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 13.

Amend Section 13 of Art. 8 to read as follows:

Sec. 13. An appeal from the decision of a L. U. to the G. E. B. must be submitted to the G. S. T. in writing within thirty days after the occurrence complained of. Due notice thereof must be given by the G. S. T. to the power appealed from. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 14.

Change the words "fourteen days" to "thirty days," in Sec. 14 of Art. 8, on the third line of said Section, after the words "at least." Signed Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 15.

Add the following paragraph at the end of Sec. 15, Art. 8. "The decision of such committee shall be binding upon all parties concerned, unless appealed and reversed by a higher tribunal." Signed Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Delegate Ryan suggests a new paragraph to be added to this section, which shall read as follows: "No local shall prefer charges to the G. E. B. against a general officer, unless due notice shall be given to the officer of the pending charges and an opportunity given him to defend himself." Committee accepts suggestion. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 16.

Sections 1 and 2 of Art. 10, to read as follows:

Sec. 1. When any difficulty arises between the members of any L. U. and their employers, the members shall lay the case before the L. U. or the Local Executive Board of which they are members, and if approved by the L. U. or L. E. B., a committee or any other representative shall be sent to investigate the case, and wait on the employer with whom the trouble exists and try to settle the matter.

Sec. 2. If the committee or the representative are unable to settle the case, they shall have a right to call a special meeting of the L. U. within forty-eight hours thereafter, at which they shall submit their report. The case shall then be submitted immediately to a secret vote of the L. U. as to whether the members of said firm shall be called out on strike and supported or not, and if a two-thirds majority of the votes were cast for a strike, then such strike shall be ordered. If, however, the L. U. shall desire the moral or financial support of the G. E. B., then the Recording Secretary of the L. U. shall at once transmit to the G. S. T. a full statement of the case. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

## Amendment 17.

Add to the Sec. 4 of Art. 10, the sections 4a, 4b, 4c, and shall read as follows:

Sec. 4a. No strike shall be supported by the G. E. B. unless said Board has been notified officially of the existing disputes, between the members of such shop and their employers, prior to the calling of such strike.

Sec. 4b. No strike or lockout shall be supported, financially or morally, by the G. E. B. unless such strike or lockout has been in progress for four (4) consecutive weeks. When in the opinion of the G. E. B., a strike or lockout is lost, they shall have the right to declare such strike or lockout off, as far as their financial support is concerned.

Sec. 4c. When any branch of the trade is involved in a strike or lockout, the G. E. B. shall have the power to order a strike in such other branches as they may deem necessary, if in their opinion such action would help in winning such strike or lockout. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee reports the adoption of this amendment as it reads, with the exception of the words "or morally" of sub-section b. S. Martin proposes sub-section c to end with the following words: "subject to the approval of the local to be involved, by a two-thirds majority of its membership." Delegate Block seconds amendment of Delegate Martin. Upon motion the recommendation of the committee adopted by 19 votes against 4.

## Amendment 18.

Amend Sec. 3 of Art. 12, as follows:

Sec. 3. Where there are two or more L. U.'s in any one city or locality of the I. L. G. W. U., they must form either a Joint Board or District Council or both.

Sec. 3a. The Joint Board shall consist of an equal number of delegates from all L. U.'s engaged in any one particular trade and to which its jurisdiction shall be confined. (It being understood that all branches engaged in the manufacture of cloaks, suits, reefers and skirts to be considered one trade.)

Sec. 3b. The primary object of the Joint Board shall be to call, conduct and settle strikes and lockouts of the L. U.'s composing the same Joint Board shall be engaged in. The decision of such board in all such disputes shall be binding upon all locals.

Sec. 3c. The J. B. shall meet not less than twice a month.

Sec. 3d. The District Council shall consist of an equal number of delegates of all L. U.'s of the I. L. G. W. U. of any one city or locality, and shall transact the business pertaining to the welfare of the same. It shall also endeavor to preserve harmony among the locals, to decide all controversies arising within the affiliated unions with the right to censure or expell (subject to the approval of the G. E. B.) any L. U. or Unions for the neglect or refusal to act or conduct their business in accordance with the laws of this International Union. It shall also be the duty of the D. C. to organize all the various branches of ladies' garment trade of that locality, agitate for the label, and adjust, if possible, all local differences before the same is referred to the G. E. B. It shall meet not less than once a month.

Sec. 3e. The J. B. and D. C. shall have the right to send one delegate to the regular or special conventions of the I. L. G. W. U.

Sec. 3f. A special meeting of the J. B. or D. C. can be called at the request

of the President, Secretary or Business Agent of any L. U. composing the said J. B. or D. C. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee report favorable. Report of committee concurred in.

The following telegram read and ordered to be placed on file:

New York, June 3, 1908

Convention International Ladies' Garment Workers, Covenant Hall:—

Heartiest greetings and best wishes to delegates. Sorry can't be with you. My trial is on to-morrow, have to prepare for. Max Pine.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Roll call, all present.

Amendment 19.

Section 5 of Art. 10 to read as follows:

Sec. 5. No strike shall be declared by any L. U. at any shop or against any firm with which a settlement has been made through the help of the General Office, without the sanction of the G. E. B. A Local Union of the I. L. G. W. U. shall have the right to order a strike involving only members of such local, but wherever there are more than one local involved the case shall be referred to the Joint Board for their approval in accordance with Art. 12, Sec. 3, of this constitution. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee reports favorably. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 20.

Section 4 of Art. 11, to read as follows:

Sec. 4. No more than one charter shall be granted to any branch of the trade in any city or locality without the consent of the existing L. U. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee reports to adopt this amendment with the addition of the following words "except in cases where there are different languages." Upon motion the recommendation of committee rejected. Upon further motion, amendment adopted as read.

Amendment 21.

Sec. 4 of Art. 12, to read as follows:

"The proper officers of the L. U. must properly and promptly fill out all report blanks furnished by the G. S. T. The L. U. shall be liable to a fine of not more than \$5 for violating the same. The quarterly reports shall end in June, September, December and March. Said officers shall also produce the books of the L. U. when demanded by the G. E. B. or any General Officer. A local failing to do so within thirty days shall be suspended for insubordination. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee reports the adoption of the amendment with the addition of the following sentence after the words general officer, "authorized by the G. E. B." Delegate Martin suggested the following sentence to be added after words G. S. T., "a copy of the report to be sent to each local union." Committee accepts this addition. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 22.

Sec. 5 of Art. 12, to read as follows:

"Locals shall pay promptly in full for each and every good standing member, all dues and assessments. The G. E. B. shall be empowered to suspend any L. U. which fails to pay such amount within thirty days after a demand for payment has been made by the G. S. T. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg,

Local 1. Committee reports favorably. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 23.

Repeal Sec. 6 of Art. 12, as same is a repetition of Sec. 3 of same article, and add a new section, which will be known hereafter as Sec. 6, and will read as follows:

Sec. 6. Only due stamps of the I. L. G. W. U. shall be used by the locals as receipt for dues; all other forms of receipts in payment of dues to be illegal. Any local violating this rule willfully may be suspended or expelled from the I. L. G. W. U., by the G. E. B. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee reports favorably. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 24.

Amend Sec. 5 of Art. 14, as follows:

"Persons working in the trade in towns where they are not enough to form a L. U., or where a L. U. has lapsed, shall be allowed to join the nearest L. U. of the same branch of the trade. If, however, there is no L. U. of the I. L. G. W. U. in that locality, such persons shall be allowed to join the I. L. G. W. U. and be members at large. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee reports favorably. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 25.

Amend Sec. 8 of Art. 17, as follows:

"Any member with a clearance card working in a non-union city, shall remain a member at large of the I. L. G. W. U., by paying his per capita to the G. S. T., in accordance with Art. 14, Sec. 5. Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee reports favorably. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 26.

Add the words "in writing" to Art. 3, Sec. 13, order 8. Signed, A. Bloch, Local 10. Committee recommends its adoption. Delegate Dyche calls attention to Sec. 14 of same article which reads as follows:

Sec. 14. Secretaries of L. U.'s shall prepare a written statement of the condition of their respective L. U.'s and record of progress made during the year. Such report shall be handed to the G. S. T. at the opening of the convention, who shall read them in their turn as the number of the L. U. is called. Seal of respective L. U. must be attached to all such written reports. He therefore thinks this amendment to be superfluous. Delegate Bloch would be willing to drop his amendment providing Sec. 14 to be amended to read: "14 days prior to the opening of the convention" instead of "at the opening of the convention." Committee accepts change of amendment as offered by Delegate Bloch. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

Amendment 27.

Add to Sec. 9, Art. 5, and to initiate legislation. It shall also be their duty to issue an official journal in as many languages as they will deem necessary. Signed, John A. Dyche, Local 23; Chas. Jacobson, Local 23; Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1. Committee reports favorably. Report of committee concurred in.

Amendment 28.

Sec. 7, Art. 5, add "He shall also edit the official journal of the I. L. G. W. U." Signed, Chas. Jacobson, Local 23. Committee recommends to change the wording of this amendment, to read as follows:

"He shall also have the supervision of the Editorial Department of the official journal of the I. L. G. W. U." Recommendation of committee concurred in.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS' REPORT.

Upon motion agreed that the report of the G. S. T. be discussed in section.  
Delegate A. Bloch in chair.

Delegate Morgan reads the first part of report ending with the sentence "a system of weekly dues would also secure a better attendance to the meetings of the locals and more regular payments." Committee recommends its adoption. Report of committee concurred in. Delegate Morgan reads second part of report ending with the sentence, "such a law will have a salutary effect upon the local leaders." Committee recommends its adoption. After some discussion in which Delegates Jacobson, Policoff, Dyche and Amdur participated, a motion to concur with the report of the committee was carried.

The section dealing with the expulsion of Local 10 being read, the committee recommends to adopt the report except that part which relates to the occurrences prior to the last convention. The chair rules this recommendation to be unconstitutional. The committee cannot alter or amend any part of an officers' report. It can recommend either to accept or reject it in its entirety.

Delegates Martin and Ryan move the rejection of this part of the report. A long debate followed this motion.

Time to adjourn having arrived, motion prevailed that the convention reconvenes at 7 P. M. and will continue in session until the business of the convention shall be completed.

The G. S. T. announces that the convention will continue its session at 36 N. 9th st.

#### EVENING SESSION.

Acting President Jacobson in chair.

Roll call Absentees—J. Woolf, J. C. Ryan, J. Berger, Miss Lidman, J. Rosenthal, I. Aships, E. Reisman, D. Garadetzky, Miss Carp, A. Feinstein.

Debate on report of officers continues. Motion being put to vote, 17 votes for adoption of the report and 6 against.

Delegate Morgan reads part of report dealing with the situation in Philadelphia, and reports the recommendation of committee to accept the report except the part which refers to anarchist and progressive organization. The chair rules this recommendation to be unconstitutional. The whole part of the report will have to be accepted or rejected. Motion to reject the part of the report finally prevailed. Delegate Morgan finishes reading the report and declares the recommendation of the committee to accept it. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

The delegates of Local 10 wish to go on record as being opposed to the part of the report dealing with the expulsion of Local 10.

Delegate Rosenberg for the Law Committee.

Amendment 30.

Add to Sec. 1, Art. 4, the following paragraph.

No member of the Joint Board shall be eligible as a member of the G. E. B.

Signed, A. Bloch, Local 10.

Majority of 4 against the amendment and minority of 1 for amendment.

Upon motion, majority accepted with 19 votes for and 7 votes for minority report.

**Amendment 31.**

Add to Art. 4 Sec. 1, "and a committee of five be elected to be known as the Constitution Committee." Signed, Alex. Block, Local 10.

Committee recommends rejection of amendment. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

**Amendment 32.**

Art. 5, Sec. 10, to read as follows:

The duties of the Constitution Committee shall be to meet at least twice a year, receive and accept all amendments to the constitution, tabulate same and make a final report of all amendments submitted to the next convention. Signed, Alex. Block, Local 10.

Committee recommends its rejection. Report of committee concurred in.

**Amendment 33.**

Amend Sec. 9 of Art. 19, as follows:

Social and political questions affecting the trade union movement should find free platform in our organizations. Signed A. Rosenberg, Local 1.

Majority of 4 in favor of amendment and 1 against. Upon motion recommendation of majority concurred in. Delegate Policoff wishes to go on record as having voted against this amendment.

**Amendment 34.**

Sec. 9, Art. 19, to read as follows:

No subject of a religious nature shall at any time be discussed at any meeting of this body or its affiliated locals. Subjects of political nature, however, may be discussed at the meetings of this body or its affiliated locals at any time. Signed, Chas Jacobson, Local 23.

4 of committee in favor and 1 against this amendment. Upon motion amendment rejected by 19 votes against 10. The opinion of majority being that such a resolution if accepted, would serve the interest of party politicians to use the meetings of the locals for campaign purposes.

**Amendment 35.**

Add to Art. 4 Sec. 1, "to be known as 1a, and shall read as follows:

"Any L. U. not having their per capita assessments paid shall be allowed to representation to the G. E. B. or to any delegation to the convention. Signed, S. Morgan, Local 19.

Committee opposed to amendment as unconstitutional. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

**APPEAL AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

Delegate Martin: Committee has two resolutions, Nos. 14 and 15 bearing on the same subject. They read as follows:

**Resolution No. 14.**

WHEREAS, the constitution of the I. L. G. W. U. provides in Sec. 4 of Art. 11, that "Wherever a charter has been granted to any union of a branch of trade, all members working at the said trade in any locality must join the union," which means that no more than one charter, shall be granted to any branch of the trade in any city or locality, and

WHEREAS, a new local of cutters has been organized in Philadelphia, Pa., known as Local 49, although Local 19, also a local of cutters is still in existence, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Ninth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. in session at Philadelphia, Pa., order an amalgamation of the two said locals, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall go in effect within 30 days after the adjournment of this convention. Signed, Samuel Morgan, Local 19; Ab. Feimstein, Local 15; E. Reisman, Local 54; Max Amdur, Local 24.

Resolution No. 15.

WHEREAS, at present there are two small local unions of Cutters' Locals 19 and 49 in the city of Philadelphia, both of whom are powerless to do any effective work in organizing their respective trades and

WHEREAS, the keeping of the waists and cloak cutters in two separate organizations, helps to bring about a feeling of antagonism between the members of the two locals to the injury of both locals, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that it should be mandatory on the members of Local 19 and 49 to amalgamate into one organization. Signed, S. Morgan, J. Berger, Local 19.

Both parties having agreed to accept the above resolution, the committee recommends to adopt Nos. 14 and 15. Report of committee concurred in.

Resolution No. 16.

WHEREAS, we have been contending that Local 53 received a charter from the Executive Board, of the I. L. G. W. U. illegally and

WHEREAS, a decision handed down by the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. placing Local 10 in the same position as before the revocation of charter, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we the delegates assembled in Philadelphia, at the Ninth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. do herewith recall the charter of Local 53, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the decision of the A. F. of L. be accepted and Local 10 restored to its position prior to the revocation of their charter. Signed, Alex Block, Local 10; S. Martin, Local 10.

The Committee finds that the issuing of a charter to Local 53 by the G. E. B. was legal but in view of the fact that the G. E. B. submitted this case to the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. for arbitration, and since that arbitration decided to reinstate Local 10, we therefore recommend that the charter of Local 53 shall be revoked, on the condition that Local 10 shall make them a sub-local in accordance with the decision of the Baltimore Convention, and further recommend that until a charter as sub-local will be given to Local 53 by Local 10, the present charter of Local 53 shall hold good.

Chairman rules the resolution out of order on the ground that the convention having accepted the report of the G. S. T. and thereby having approved of the action of the G. E. B. in revoking charter from Local 10, cannot entertain a resolution which states that the G. E. B. acted illegally in revoking charter of Local 10. Delegate Block appeals against the decision of chair. Delegate Rosenberg in chair. Ruling of chair sustained by 12 votes against 10. Delegate Block wishes to go on record as having voted against sustaining the chair.

Delegate Block for the Organizing Committee, reads communication from Local 34 asking for an organizer. Committee recommends to refer to incoming G. E. B.

Delegate Dyche calls the attention of the chair to the fact that the convention under the present order of business, can only transact such business which is presented in the shape of a resolution, but cannot entertain communications, except when they come under the heading of New Business. Chair rules that the point of order is not well taken.

Communication read from Local 12, protesting against the action of the General Office in regard to that local. Committee recommends to refer the communication to the G. E. B. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

Resolution No. 17.

WHEREAS, the city of Boston offers the best field for organizing the Ladies' Garment Workers, and

WHEREAS, the unorganized condition of the tailors, pressers and cutters in the cloak and skirt trade is a menace to the existence of Local 36, whose members are injured by the constant influx into their shops of the unorganized cloak and skirt makers, be it therefore

RESOLVED, the incoming G. E. B. shall at once appoint an organizer, who shall take up the work of organizing the Cloak and Skirt Makers, of the City of Boston. Signed, H. Plotkin, J. Wolf, W. Gitlin, Local 36; Chas. Jacobson, Local 23. Committee recommends that the incoming G. E. B. shall send an organizer to Boston as soon as the finances will permit.

Delegate Martin in chair.

Resolution No. 18.

WHEREAS, The Cloak and Suit Tailors' Union, Local 9, of New York, has the jurisdiction of all hand workers and also those who make up the whole garment, and

WHEREAS, a good number of such workers are now members of Local 17 and 23, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that all such members of Local 17 and 23, be transferred to Local 9. Signed, S. Policoff, M. Meltzer, Local 9; Chas. Jacobson, Local 23. Committee recommends to let the finishers stay in their respective locals during the ensuing year and the Joint Board of New York shall adjust any dispute which may arise between the two locals. Should the J. B. be unable to adjust this controversy between these three locals the matter shall be left to the next convention.

Delegate Policoff raises a point of order. He contends that committee has no right to send the case to a lower body. The case must be decided by convention. Chair decides point of order is not in order. Delegate Policoff appeals against the decision of chair. The chair is sustained by 13 votes against 6. Chair rules that the convention having sustained the ruling of the chair, the case must be referred to the J. B. of N. Y. and cannot therefore be again discussed at this convention.

Delegate A. Rosenberg in chair. A. Kolb for the Grievance Committee.

Resolution No. 19.

WHEREAS, the employing of militia and State and city police in strikes has lately been quite frequently used against the workers, and

WHEREAS, the making of illegal arrests and the use of the injunction has been adopted by our employers as a regular means to hindering and preventing our attempts to gain better condition of labor, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we strongly recommend to our locals and to the editor of our official journal, that its platform and pages be opened for the discussion of political and social questions effecting labor, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we deem it important that our members shall use their citizenship rights for such party which stands exclusively for the right of labor. Signed, Ab. Rosenberg, Local 1; H. Kleinman, J. E. B., N. Y.

Committee recommends the adoption of this resolution. Delegate Policoff strongly objects to the part of the resolution referring to the official journal, and contends that the space in The Wecker is too small for discussing all the pros and contras of party politics, it will cease to be a Trade Union Journal. Upon motion recommendation of committee concurred in, except part relating to official journal. It being however, understood that the columns be open for the support or opposition to any particular candidate of any party who has taken a definite position in regard to matters effecting labor.

Resolution 20.

WHEREAS, there are in the city of New York just at present two local unions in the cutting trade, and

WHEREAS, the existence of these two locals is against the constitution of the I. L. G. W. U., be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the incoming G. E. B. be instructed to withdraw the charter from Local 53 as soon as Local 10 will make proper provisions for accepting the members of Local 53 into their organization.

Signed, John A. Dyche, Local 23. Committee reports favorable.

Upon motion resolution rejected by 10 against 8 votes. Chair declares that with the rejection of Resolution 19 the delegates of Local 53 have lost their standing at this convention, since the I. L. G. W. U. can have no two locals of one trade in one city.

Resolution 21.

WHEREAS, the prime object of the I. L. G. W. U. is to organize all the ladies' garment trades throughout the United States and Canada, and

WHEREAS, The I. L. G. W. U. has expended occasionally enormous amounts of money for organizing purposes, without any satisfactory results, and

WHEREAS, the main reason why such organizing work has not been successful, is because New York and vicinity, where nearly 75 per cent of the workmen and women of the ladies' garment trades are located, has been thought of very little and practically ignored at every convention, leaving the organizing work of that locality to the respective locals themselves, and

WHEREAS, as long as New York will not be thoroughly organized, it will be a centre for supplying strike-breakers for the entire country, which will always be a disadvantage to all locals affiliated with the I. L. G. W. U., be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Ninth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. at Philadelphia, Pa., shall appoint a competent organizer who shall have charge of all the organizing work which is to be done in the City of New York and vicinity, in order to organize thoroughly the ladies' garment workers of that city.

Signed, S. Policoff, Local 9; H. Kleinman, J. E. B., N. Y.; M. Meltzer, Local 9; W. Pinchasik, Local 17. Committee recommends to refer to incoming G. E. B. to make provision for it. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

Resolution 22.

WHEREAS, it is impossible for each local separately to engage an organizer for their locality, and

WHEREAS, very often when locals are in trouble and apply to the I. L. G. W. U., the General Office is often unable to procure a proper person to attend to the call of the locals, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the delegates assembled at the Ninth Annual Convention in the City of Philadelphia, elect a permanent travelling organizer to be on hand whenever called upon. Signed, I. Stolovich, Local 24. Committee in favor to carry this resolution into effect as soon as funds of General Office permits. Committee refers resolution to the incoming G. E. B. Report of committee concurred in.

Resolution 23.

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the organization of the reefer trade, it is absolutely necessary to have the cloak and suit trade organized in the city of N. Y., therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the I. L. G. W. U., finds a suitable person to act as organizer for the city of N. Y. and vicinity.

Signed W. Pinchasik, M. Jacobinsky. Committee refers resolution for action to the incoming G. E. B. Report of committee concurred in.

Resolution 24.

WHEREAS, Local 25, N. Y., Waist Makers is now in a precarious condition owing to loss of strikes and general crisis, and

WHEREAS, it finds it very difficult just now to keep up the organization until next Fall, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that local be financed until such time as it will be able to pay its way. Signed, B. Frishwasser, Local 25.

Committee refers resolution to the incoming G. E. B. Report of committee concurred in.

Delegate Policoff asks unanimous consent to reconsider decision to reject Resolution No. 20, on the ground that he as one of the majority, which voted against this resolution did not understand the meaning of it, and so is the case with several others. Consent to reconsider granted. Upon motion Resolution No. 20 adopted unanimously. A. Rosenberg, delegate to the A. F. of L. Convention at Norfolk, Va., read his report, as follows:

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE I. L. G. W. U.

GREETINGS:—

Having had the honor to represent our International Union at the 27th Annual Convention of the A. F. of L. held at Norfolk, Va., from November 11 to 23, 1907, I herewith have the pleasure to submit my report to you.

I must say here that this being my first opportunity to be present at this gathering of the best men and women of the Labor Movement of America, I felt

that I have learned more of the Trade Union Movement during the two weeks of my stay at Norfolk, Va., than during the whole 25 years I spent in the Labor Movement.

The only instructions I received from the G. E. B. is the Resolution No. 30, I introduced to the Convention, which calls for appointing by the Federation of a Yiddish speaking organization and also the Federation to issue Trade Union Literature in the Jewish language. This resolution has been accepted by the Convention and referred to the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. for action.

I have also participated in the discussion of resolution which Bro. H. Robinson introduced about the United Hebrew Trades of New York. I recommended to the Convention that the whole question be submitted to a special committee. My suggestion had been accepted and of the result of the work of the committee, you are well aware. Several independent unions represented at the United Hebrew Trades have already joined either their National Bodies or the A. F. of L. The rest of them are negotiating for the same purpose.

Resolution No. 174 has been introduced by our President. Brother Julian, calling for the reorganizations of our International Union. This Resolution also contains several discretable allusions to our International Union. The business agent of the Cutters' Organization, Mr. Block, went especially to Norfolk to influence the members of the organizing committee to whom this resolution has been referred. The resolution however has been amended and was referred to a special committee which are now trying to adjust the trouble.

Respectfully submitted, ABRAHAM ROSENBERG.

Upon motion report accepted and ordered placed on file.

Nominations and election of officers next proceeded with.

Delegates Kolb and Jacobson appointed tellers.

For the office of President, Ab. Rosenberg nominated. Nomination closed on Delegate A. Rosenberg. There being only one nominee for the office of President, the G. S. T. was instructed to cast one ballot for the convention for Delegate A. Rosenberg. The G. S. T. complied with the instruction and declared Delegate Rosenberg elected as President for the ensuing term.

Nomination of G. S. T. proceeded with. The following were nominated: John A. Dyche, Chas. Jacobson, J. Rosenthal. Rosenthal and Jacobson declined. Delegates Jacobson and Policoff move that election proceed by ballot instead of acclamation. Motion carried. Teller declared result of ballot as follows: 23 for Delegate Dyche, 7 against. President declares Delegate Dyche elected G. S. T. for the ensuing term.

Nomination of the office for 1st Vice-President proceeded with. The following were nominated for the office of 1st Vice-President: Jacobson, Sirota, Policoff, Leventhal, Frishwasser, Kolb, Rosenthal, Amdur. All declined except Delegate Amdur. The President instructs the G. S. T. to cast one ballot for the convention for Delegate Amdur. The G. S. T. complies with instruction and the President declares Delegate Amdur elected First Vice-President for the ensuing term.

Nomination for five Vice-Presidents from the city of N. Y. proceeded with. The following were nominated: Jacobson, Frishwasser, Kleinman, Yacobinsky, Policoff, Ashpis, Klein, Meltzer, Wolf. Jacobson, Policoff declined. The tellers declares the result of ballot as follows: Frishwasser 14, Kleinman 23, Yacobinsky 12, Ashpis 15, H. Klein 10, Meltzer 16, Wolf 19. President declares that Delegates

Friedman, Elman, Adkin, Mathur and Wall as Vice-Presidents for the city of N. Y. Motion carried that with the exception of the First Vice-President, the rest of the officers of Vice-Presidents shall not be numbered.

Agreed that two more Vice-Presidents be elected from the city of Philadelphia, one from Boston. The following were nominated for the office of Vice-Presidents: for the city of Philadelphia, Delegate Kola. Rabinovich, Berger, Stalovich, Rosenthal. All declined except Rabinovich and Rosenthal. President declares that Delegates Rosenthal and Rabinovich elected by acclamation. There being one candidate for the office of Vice-President, for the city of Boston, the President declared Delegate H. Plotkin unanimously elected.

The following nominated for office of Delegates to the A. F. of L. Convention Rosenberg, Dyche, Jacobson. Dyche declines. Tellers declare the result of ballot as follows: 16 votes for Jacobson, 13 votes for Rosenberg.

Acting President Chas. Jacobson then installed and administered the oath to the newly elected officers.

President A. Rosenberg addresses the delegates and call their attention to the fact that upon them rests the responsibility of seeing that all resolutions, passed at this convention, shall be faithfully carried into effect by the International Union. still he believes that this shortcoming will not be felt, if the delegates and locals will give him their loyal support. Thanks the delegates for the honor bestowed upon him and assured the delegates that he on his part will do his best to deserve the confidence placed in him.

Under the heading of "New Business" the G. S. T. reads communication from headquarters of the A. F. of L. as follows:

#### AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

Washington, D. C. May 1, 1908

To Organized Labor and Friends in the United States:

Dear Sirs and Brothers:—You have all been apprized of the great labor conference held in this city, in which executive officers and representatives of nearly all the International Unions and Farmers Organizations of America assembled and presented the Protest to Congress and the Address to the Wage-Workers and Farmers of America. The conference, the protest and the address are the result of the decisions of the courts of our country on the one hand, and the failure of Congress to deal effectively with the subject-matters in which the interests of the toilers of our country are so deeply affected.

Throughout the country, mass meetings were held April 19 and 20, demonstrating how greatly the workers of the United States are aroused to the situation. Resolutions clear and emphatic have been adopted, unions night after night are adopting the resolutions, reiterating the determination of Labor that justice must be accorded to the workers.

Again we strongly urge that every Union and every Central Body emphasize their position and adopt resolutions and send these to their two United States Senators of their State and the Congressmen of their respective districts, and also that every union man, every working man, and every friend of labor and of justice, write a personal letter or a postal card to both the United States Senators of their State and their respective representative in Congress. Let the Congressmen and Senators understand how loudly we all feel the injustice done us.

and the neglect which the interests of the toilers of our country are receiving at the hands of Congress.

The toilers are tired of being guaranteed:

The "right" to be discharged for belonging to a union

- The "right" to work as many hours as employers please, under any conditions which they may impose.

Labor demands the rights which are justly ours, the enactment of laws that shall safe guard our true rights and our true interests. And labor demands these rights be accorded not at some future time, but at this session of the present Congress, NOW.

The enactment of the laws which labor demands, are as follows:

Amendment to the Sherman Anti-Trust Law Wilson Bill, H. R. 20584.

Pearre Bill, H. R. 94 to Limit and Regulate the Issuance of Injunctions.

An adequate, just and clearly defined General Employers' Liability Law.

Extension of the present Eight-Hour law to all Government employes and to all employes engaged upon work done for the federal government, whether by contractors or sub-contractors.

Should Congress fail to respond favorably at this session and accord to the toilers the relief to which they are justly entitled, we call upon the workers and the friends of our common country to

**STAND FAITHFULLY BY OUR FRIENDS AND ELECT THEM  
OPPOSE OUR ENEMIES AND DEFEAT THEM, WHETHER THEY  
BE CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT, FOR CONGRESS, OR OTHER  
OFFICES, WHETHER EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE OR JUDICIAL.**

We urge that each candidate be questioned and pledged by the workers and their friends in their own respective states and districts as to his attitude upon all subjects of importance to the toilers, whether in factory, farm, field, shop or mine.

Such a campaign, conducted by the American Federation of Labor, must necessarily involve heavy expenditures, and it can readily be understood that we cannot appeal for financial assistance to others than you. You are aware that the revenues of the American Federation of Labor are exceedingly small, being but one-half cent from each member per month; in other words, six cents per year for each member. With that small revenue, all the great work of the A. F. of L. is performed.

The toiling masses of our country are confronted by a grave situation, and we must be up and doing if we expect either Congressional relief now or to hold parties and representatives responsible for their failure to perform their duty. It must not be forgotten, to defeat our enemies and to stand by our friends is not our only purpose, but to see to it that these purposes are unquestionably accomplished, that there shall be elected to Congress and to the other offices of importance, true and tried men, men of labor, holding clear paid-up union cards.

You, as organized bodies, are urged to act promptly upon the plan of campaign outlined both in the Protest to Congress and in the Address to the Workers.

This appeal for financial contributions is to organized labor generally; to Central Bodies and Local Unions as well as to every individual member. Unions

which may be in a position to make large contributions should make them, but this should be no barrier to any union making a contribution, if it be but \$5.00, or, if it be but \$1.00. If unions have no funds, or cannot make appropriations from their funds for this, labor's most important campaign for right and justice, the unions should appoint committees to secure contributions and through their secretaries forward the same here.

Every one may rest assured they every dollar received will be applied to accomplish to the fullest degree to secure the rights of the workers to which they are entitled, and to make the full power of labor's position felt now and for all time to come.

Every union is urged to earnestly and promptly co-operate with the A. F. of L. in making this campaign for justice and right successful. Let all appropriations and contributions be as generous as possible, and forward them here promptly. Let us work earnestly and zealously, to not only defeat our enemies but also to elect a number of Congressmen in addition to the four labor Congressmen of to-day; men who are intelligent, honest, earnest, with clear unblemished union cards in their possession; men who in all circumstances may be relied upon to faithfully perform their duty in the interests of right and justice, true to the interest of our people.

Send all contributions to FRANK MORRISON, Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, 423-425 G Street, Washington D. C.

(Signed) SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.

Upon motion agreed that delegates should call particular attention of locals to this communication and locals to find ways and means of raising funds for the political campaign of the A. F. of L.

Delegate Policoff raises the question of subject matter of Resolution No. 18. Chair rules that question is closed and cannot be raised again.

Delegate Yacobinsky asks convention to take some action with the firm of Weinstein Bros. Upon motion, agreed to refer the case to the G. E. B.

Convention adjourned on Friday morning at 3.30 A. M.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. DYCHE, General Secretary-Treasurer.