

# THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKER

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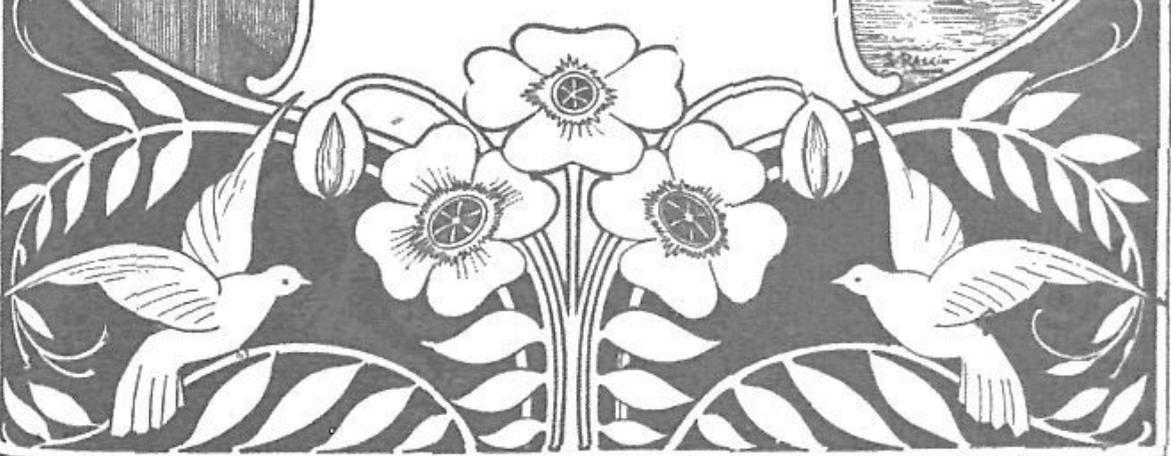
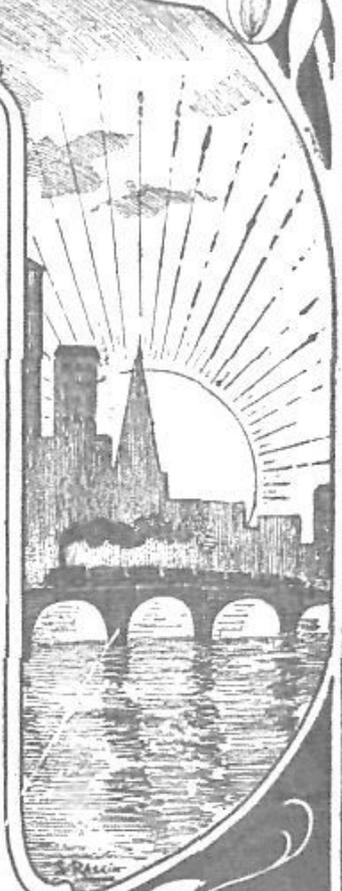
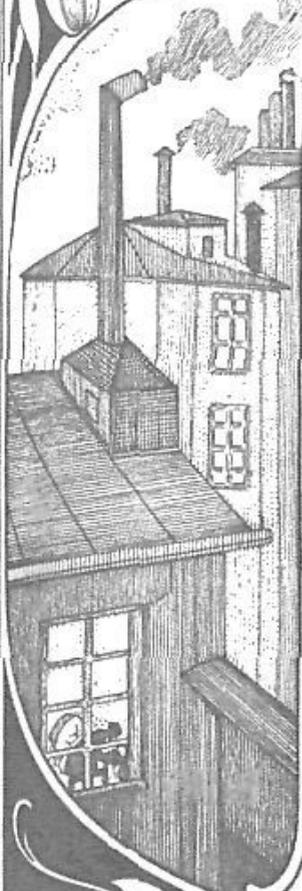
Our Free Forum—Letters and Expressions  
of Opinion.

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY**

By the

**International Ladies' Garment  
Workers, Union**

31 Union Square, New York



# Directory of Local Unions

LOCAL UNION	OFFICE ADDRESS
1. New York	Cloak Operators.....857 Broadway, New York City
2. Philadelphia	Cloakmakers.....244 S. 8th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
3. New York	Piece Tailors.....9 W. 21st St., New York City
4. Baltimore	Cloakmakers.....1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
5. New Jersey	Embroiderers.....141 Bergenline Ave., Union Hill, N. J.
6. New York	Embroiderers.....133 2nd Ave., New York City
7. Boston	Coat Makers.....38 Causeway St., Boston, Mass.
8. San Francisco	Ladies' Garment Workers.....352-19th Ave.
9. New York	Cloak and Suit Tailors.....228 Second Ave., New York City
10. New York	Galvanized Ladies' Garment Cutters.....7 W. 21st St., New York City
11. Brooklyn	N. Y., Cloakmakers.....1701 Pitkin Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
12. Boston	Pressers.....241 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.
13. Montreal	Canada, Cloakmakers.....37 Prince Arthur, E. Montreal, Canada
14. Toronto	Canada, Cloakmakers.....194 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Canada
15. Philadelphia	Waistmakers.....40 N. 9th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
16. St. Louis	Skirt Cutters.....Fraternal Building, St. Louis, Mo.
17. New York	Refineries.....117 Second Ave., New York City
18. Chicago	and Suit Pressers.....1815 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill.
19. Montreal	Canada, Cloak Cutters.....1178 Cadieux, Montreal, Canada
20. New York	Waterproof Garment Workers.....20 E. 13th St., New York City
21. Newark	N. J., Cloak and Suitmakers.....103 Montgomery St., Newark, N. J.
22. New Haven	Conn., Ladies' Garment Workers.....83 Hollock St., New Haven, Conn.
23. New York	Skirtmakers.....231 E. 14th St., New York City
24. Boston	Skirt and Dressmakers' Union.....241 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.
25. New York	Skirt and Dressmakers.....16 W. 21st St., New York City
26. Cleveland	Ladies' Garment Workers.....314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
27. Cleveland	Skirt Makers.....314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
28. Seattle	Wash., Ladies' Garment Workers.....153-15th Ave., Seattle, Wash.
29. Cleveland	Skirt Finishers' Union.....314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
32. Winnipeg	Man., Ladies' Garment Workers.....Labor Temple, Winnipeg, Man.
33. Bridgeport	Conn., Skirt Workers.....414 Warner Building, Bridgeport, Conn.
34. Bridgeport	Conn., Skirt Cutters.....414 Warner Building, Bridgeport, Conn.
35. New York	Pressers.....228 Second Ave., New York City
36. Boston	Skirt Tailors.....241 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.
37. Cleveland	Skirt Pressers' Union.....314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
39. New Haven	Conn., Skirt Cutters.....12 Parmelee Ave., New Haven, Conn.

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER)



**Do not**

**Named shoes are frequently made in Non-Union factories**

**DO NOT BUY ANY SHOE**

**no matter what its name, unless it bears a plain and readable impression of this UNION STAMP**

**All shoes without the UNION STAMP are always Non-Union**

**Do not accept any excuse for absence of the UNION STAMP**

**BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS' UNION**

**246 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.**

**JOHN F. BAIN, Pres.**

**CHAS. L. BAINE, Sec'y-Treas.**

# THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Vol. VIII

AUGUST, 1917

No. 8

Editorials by Benj. SCHLESINGER

## CONSERVATISM AND RADICALISM

What is conservatism and what is radicalism?

Conservatism holds on to the old because it is old. In its view, the age of a thing or idea constitutes its virtue.

The Russian conservative claimed that since the autocratic power of the past Czar came from ancient times, therefore it was sacred and inviolable.

The conservative is like an orthodox in religion. He does not question, but rather believes what he is told. His mind seems to adhere to that which he hears. He cannot think otherwise.

The radical, on the contrary, takes nothing for granted. He has the courage to doubt and question. When told that a thing is good because it is old he pauses to consider it on its merits. His mind is not sluggish; but moves with speed. He subjects everything to the light of his own reason. He is not afraid to ask whether the existing order deserves respect. When he sees that the existing order causes suffering to millions of people, bringing them to the verge of despair, he has no hesitancy in declaring that the existing order must be abolished, and he does not mind being called a socialist.

Some unions, however energetic and brave their economic struggle with the employers, hold the present capitalist order as sacred. Owing to that position they commit many errors; it makes them unduly restrained. It is this that leads them to entrust the interest of labor in the state and federal legislatures to capitalist politicians—Republicans or Democrats—who dash their hopes to the ground. We, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, do not restrict the extent of our struggles, and will entrust our fortunes only to such representatives as are pledged to exclusively working class interest. We support the socialists, and do not care or feel shame if, on this account, we are denounced as radicals.

Conservatism drags us backwards, but Radicalism impels us forward.

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All our people will admit that Radicalism is higher, finer and nobler than conservatism, but there is a kind of radicalism which stands on the same plane as conservatism.

Just as conservatism holds on to the old because it is old, so so-called radicalism seizes upon the new because it is new. Neither is capable of

directing a penetrating glance within. To the one the old is the thing, to the other, the new. To neither is the kernel of importance but rather the label outside of the thing. Both are blind bigots, slaves to the dead letter. To both, reason and calm deliberation is superfluous.

True radicalism is active, constantly in motion, impelling its adherents forward. False radicalism is also in motion, but only to leap unreasonably from one thing to another, forward and backward, and it leaps, so as not to linger long at any thing. It rejects good things, not because such things have served their purpose, but because its principle is to leap forward. When it is in reform the reform is useless to the radical of this frame of mind. He will even return to the thing which only yesterday he rejected. That is, he will even leap backward.

When a boy acts thus in playing with his toys we deem it a natural thing, but when grown up men, leaders of a union, do this with plans, issues, policies, each time causing a revolution, each time exciting and stirring up tens of thousands of members, and upon succeeding in causing a row, immediately seek new troubles for new trouble—then it is boyish recklessness, irresponsible disorder.

We have in the Cloakmakers' Union of New York a group of young men, whose ailment is the wrong sort of radicalism, the radicalism of the irresponsible sort. In the seven years that have elapsed since the first general strike not a year has passed without their stirring up a new issue. Each time it was a wild cry. "Beware, the union is in danger, save the union." That was enough to cause an uproar among the members and bring them on to the verge of a catastrophe.

A cry of "fire" in a thick throng of people will alarm the calmest and stoutest heart and there follows a stampede, a wild scramble and a jumping over head to the exits. The issues referred to have always been raised in the loudest, most radical tone, with revolutionary fury against the conservatives. This has impressed those of our union men who had sworn to be radical, not knowing that being radical means being free and untrammelled in thought, employing reason and concentrating upon the essential in every question. One high-sounding radical phrase is enough to intoxicate and lead the people astray.

It was not radicalism but irresponsibility that has driven the said group of "radicals" to invent issues; not radicalism but boyish antics. They have proved it by the fact that after spending their force in noisy clamor for a particular issue, they would immediately forget it, as if it had never existed, and start preparing for a new performance.

We have secured an agreement at the hands of the Council of Conciliation to which Dr. Hourwich, who undoubtedly understands what a union agreement should be, said, by word and pen, that it meant a very great improvement on the protocol. Then it should have been satisfactory. But seven months later these "radicals" started making stoppages, with the result that in seven months time the employers abrogated the agreement and made a lockout of 1916 in which 40,000 cloakmakers and their wives and children suffered starvation for fourteen weeks.

Since it was a good agreement, it behooved them to make good use of it. But no. They are "revolutionists" and must show that they are "radicals"; so they made stoppages and gave the employers a pretext for abrogating the agreement.

These "radical" young men for a long time had favored a plan for establishing a general price commission going from shop to shop and settling piece prices in accordance with a uniform standard, and the workers of the shops themselves should not participate in price settlement. In the agreement of last year we succeeded in embodying this provision in an improved form—that the shops should not be deprived of their right to settle prices. Only when the price committee of the shop cannot agree with the employer should the price commission be called in. Was not this a satisfactory solution? Yet the same "radical" people, who had waged a hot fight for this reform when it was still only a demand, do not insist on this reform in practice. It is already a year since we won the reform, but the price commission has not yet been established, because of the stirring up of new issues.

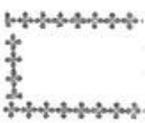
What does this show? It shows that among the spokesmen of the union there are those who merely play the role of revolutionists, and where they cannot play this role they are passive. The reform was good so long as it was an issue, when it was possible to let out a lot of hot air, stir up trouble, utter threats and abuse. As soon as the manufacturers conceded the point (and they made the concession not from kindness or benevolence but because the workers bitterly fought for it) it has been slighted and forgotten. Does not this mean toying with the very existence of the union, risking the most vital interest of tens of thousands of workers and their families? But this does not worry them.

That is not radicalism but irresponsibility. True radicalism assumes responsibility. The true radical does not bear the slavish yoke of old superstitions. He does not toy with words. What he undertakes, he carries through to a finish.

False radicalism is, in reality, not concerned with anything. To-day it regards as good that which was bad yesterday and vice versa, so long as it has shouted forth a "radical" phrase, a beautiful soap bubble. This is child's play at the expense of the union; and as these radicals are not children but men, leaders of a local union, it is sheer irresponsibility—disorder.

The result is that the membership feels the spirit of irresponsibility, grows disappointed and full of bitterness, and what is worse—becomes indifferent. That immediately affects the conditions in the shop. Work prices go down, and a change for the worse takes place in the employer's attitude to the workers. This spirit of irresponsibility is in a large measure accountable for the inability of our members to take due advantage of the golden prosperity prevailing in the country so as to improve their position.

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## HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SUB-FACTORIES



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ect has been considered many a time, and it is necessary to refer to  
wonder that the evils of the sub-factories require so much dis-  
wherever the union turns its glance, it encounters these evils. All  
e have can be ascribed to the sub-factory.

factories are a curse, but one cannot exterminate a curse by cursing  
keep on cursing these factories would not diminish the evil. They  
y. Every season they grow more numerous. We must apply other  
effective means, to cope with the evil.

no lack of plans for doing away with them. One plan is to make  
rers responsible for the material he sends out to the sub-shops; that  
to it that the bundles of garments he sends out shall be made under  
as in his inside factory—the same work prices, the same hours,  
m of work, and so forth. Brother Ab. Bisno, the chief clerk of  
is convinced that if we should talk this matter over thoroughly  
oyers it would appeal to their sense of fairness, and they would  
responsibility. Thus the sub-shops would be entirely abolished  
same work prices, hours and other standards as in their inside  
would if profit them to send their work to outside shops?

would be very good if—if it could be carried out. But it is childish  
it would appeal to the employers' sense of fairness. Only such  
as our good Brother Bisno is capable of entertaining the dream  
yers would assume such a responsibility.

plan which might be applied at this moment is the plan we have  
meetings, in the LADIES' GARMENT WORKER and New Post.  
reach the sub-factory not through the employer but through the  
e plan of *Union Control*. The union must completely control the  
urs and other standards in the sub-factories. The association shop  
e to the officer of the union for the purpose of control; but the  
ccessible to us, and we should control it as often as possible.

e sub-factories, denouncing the association manufacturers, adopt-  
of protest, breaking up meetings, inciting the membership against  
these means we shall not abolish the evils of the sub-factories.  
ed is energetic action, less noise and more practical work. This  
done through the Joint Board and its business agents, and every  
union must co-operate in the work. If the workers in the sub-  
indifferent to the matter, as they have been heretofore; if they will  
ages on the quiet, work longer hours and work by the piece where  
rk by the week—then the efforts of the business agents will be  
sub-factories will continue to multiply. The business agents at one  
rkers in the sub-factories themselves at the other must apply them-  
or to the work of uprooting this evil from which our industry  
We cannot prevent anyone from opening a shop, but we can  
he union wage and comply with the union agreement.

were to work in the sub-factories, people whose language and

customs we do not understand, whose standards of life are lower than ours, there would be some excuse for lower wages and longer hours in these factories. But, as the workers of these shops are the same people as those working in the inside shops, speaking in the same tongue, having the same standards of life, being as intelligent as the workers of the inside shops—there is no reason why they should not feel interested in their own condition, their own daily bread; no reason why, by energetic and systematic efforts, we should not get them to co-operate with the business agents to establish union standards in their shops.

## TREASURY OF LOCAL 35 A GOOD EXAMPLE

The Cloak and Skirt Pressers' Union, our Local No. 35, has accumulated a treasury of about \$40,000, half of which constitutes its relief and benefit funds and the other half its general fund.

\$40,000 is not an extraordinary big sum for a local of 8,000 members. It means \$5.00 per member. But it is more than any other local of our International has done.

The lockout and general strike of last year cost the pressers' local more than \$35,000. Thus the local has accumulated its present treasury in one year.

How have they managed to do it? Why, in a very simple way. The pressers have been paying 25 cents a week dues, 9 cents more than the operators, finishers and cutters, and when 8,000 members bring in an additional 9 cents a week the treasury must grow and increase.

Among a large section of our members the old notion is still prevalent that a big treasury is detrimental to the revolutionary spirit. They imagine that without money to back them up they are apt to fight with greater vim. They forget that when a struggle is entered upon without funds most of the energy and enthusiasm is spent on the effort to knock at the doors of other organizations and on taking the hat around for collections. Little enthusiasm is left for the actual struggle, while the cry of radicalism becomes a mere word, an empty phrase.

If it were not necessary to spend our energy on collections, and traveling around for donations, we should be able to apply ourselves with more enthusiasm to the actual fight, to the effort of encouraging the weak and wavering among us. With a large capital in our treasury and with true enthusiasm animating us our radicalism would bring us much further.

Perhaps in the past, when we had to fight mostly with individual employers, it was sufficient to display mere enthusiasm. But now, when we are confronted with associations who are not handicapped by any lack of money, and considering that even with our independent employers we must wage battles on a large scale, through general strikes,—now, a mere display of enthusiasm is simply ridiculous.

Our locals must come to see that a treasury is the back bone of a union. We advise them to follow the example of Local No. 35.

## WAGE

## INCREASE FOR NEW YORK CLOAKMAKERS

At the New York request for

So far conferences we answers to we should have the go also \$1.00 satisfied to of the wor skirt finish

Natural national U of the mat ciation on

Gentlemen:

We have Committee, acceptable.

Our requ and earnings proposition e jacket and r aging appro

It make of the indus of your empl

We are wages of se quest for a g pace, at least other necess. presser as w worker. Our would favor the barest ne wage increas

We cons under existin ready to ma safeguards in will not wo however, will based upon t workers in t

If in our association o restate it bri

iting we have as yet not reached an understanding with the k, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Association in regard to our increase of wages for the workers in the cloak industry.

we have had four conferences with them. The first three con- taken up with the employers' claims against our union and our m. At the first conference they finally informed us that if e our demand for an increase for the piece workers they will ess to advance an increase of \$1.00 a week to the cutters, and he cloak and suit pressers; in other words, that they were an increase of 4 per cent. to only about twenty-five per cent. employed in the industry. Sample makers, skirt pressers, nd button hole makers were likewise left out of account.

our committee rejected their offer, and decided that our Inter- should make a new effort to arrive at an amicable adjustment

In conformity with this decision, we addressed to the asso- ay, July 20, the following communication:

mitted to our full Conference Board the offer made by your Sub- have been instructed to inform you that the same is entirely un-

was for a general and uniform increase of 20 per cent. upon all wages ll workers employed in the different branches of the industry. Your mplates an increase of one dollar per week to cutters, skirt cutters, pressers, under pressers and piece pressers, i. e., an increase aver- ely 4 per cent.

provision whatsoever for week workers engaged in other branches and excludes altogether the piece workers who constitute the bulk s.

le to understand and still less to accept the proposal to increase the lasses of workers and to ignore the needs of other classes. The re- al increase in the wages of workers was made to enable them to keep some extent, with the corresponding increase in the cost of food and

The enhanced cost of living strikes all workers alike, the skirt as the jacket presser, and the piece worker as well as the week on could not under any circumstances consider an arrangement which all portion of its members and leave the bulk of them in want of aries of life, nor will its members be satisfied with a purely nominal

our original request of a uniform 20 per cent. increase highly proper nditions, but in the interest of mutual harmony and good will we are easonable concessions from that request, and to provide for proper application of the increase of earnings of piece-workers, so that it a undue hardship upon the employer, and under no circumstances, r union be in a position to agree to any arrangement unless it be principle of a substantial increase in the wages and earnings of all ndustry.

vious conferences we have not succeeded in impressing upon your position with reference to the requested increase, we will be glad to in this communication.

The workers in the cloak, suit and skirt industry are physically unable to get along with the wages fixed last year under the conditions prevailing to-day. They will be forced to insist upon a reasonable increase before the work of next season begins, and they will be unable to work unless such increase is granted. We fear that if the problem of the necessary adjustment of wages be left to the workers and the individual employers, without general agreement and without uniform plan or mode of action, there might be danger of unsettling the industry through constant disputes and conflicts in the shops. We are anxious to avoid such general and unprofitable disturbance and it was for that reason that we asked your association to confer with us on the subject. We hoped that you would approach the problem as reasonable business men, and that by our joint efforts we would reach an understanding which would be satisfactory to both sides and insure continuous and orderly work in the shops.

We still hope that you will see the wisdom of making a bona fide effort to reach such an arrangement upon the basic principles outlined above, and if with that understanding you are ready to resume our conference, our committee will be glad to meet yours at any time and place designated by you. In view of the urgency of the situation we would greatly appreciate the courtesy of an early reply.

On Wednesday, July 25, Mr. Lezinsky, the manager of the association informed our office that his executive board had decided to have another conference with our committee, and that he believed, that this conference would settle the wage dispute to the satisfaction of both parties. The conference was arranged for Tuesday, July 31.

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#### THE CHALLENGE.

The Toiler speaks—

"I will give my hands—my hands  
Knotted with strain and toil,  
Torn with labor of all the lands,  
But you—will you give your spoil?"

The Student speaks—

"I will give my brain and my soul,  
I will not wince at pain;  
I will pay to the full the toll,  
And you—will you give your gain?"

The Clerk speaks—

"I will give my life—nay breath,  
Oh, God, I have no more;  
I will laugh at a grisly death,  
But you—will you give your store?"

The Poet speaks—

"I will give my dream and my songs,  
I will write with the sword;  
I will challenge kings for these wrongs,  
And you—will you give your hoard?"

The Young Man speaks—

"I will give my youth—this youth,  
The glad, full flush of health;  
I will kindle the torch of truth;  
But you—will you give your wealth?"

The Mother speaks—

"I will give my sons—these sons,  
All—all that I hold;  
I will give my flesh for the guns,  
But you—will YOU give your gold?"

—Painter and Decorator.

## The Unity House of the Philadelphia Waist Makers' Union

This is a summer resort for the thousands of members, mostly women, of our Local No. 15, in which they spend a pleasant vacation in the country at a small cost. The name "Unity House" was first given to a similar summer resort started by the Waist-makers' Union, Local No. 25, last year, at Pine Hill, New York, and this year at Bear Mountains. These houses are managed on the co-operative principle and prove a source of strength to the union.—Editor.

By Ab. Baroff

The Waist, Silk-Suit and Children's Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 15, of Philadelphia, is one of our youngest locals. Not long ago its union had only a nominal existence. Now it is a strong, influential organization and in such splendid shape as to call forth the respect of enemies and pride and admiration of friends.

In the short span of its existence Local No. 15 has raised its members to a higher level. It has brought new life to the workers of the industry and quickened interests in trade union organization in other branches of the needle industry.

The Philadelphia Unity House was opened on Sunday, July 17, amid festive celebrations, to which I and myself were cordially invited. I spent several happy hours there.

Upon the evening of the opening I passed the time in company with Brother Silver, the organizer, and children. Most of the night was spent watching the clouded skies with some misgiving. Would the weather clerk bring us rain the next day and mar our festivities? We hoped and prayed that he would not play us foul.

We were reminded of similar anxious nights in the days preceding the annual picnic day of Local No. 25, of New York. Those picnics had brought the waistmakers, close together and, if successful, put money into the local treasury and helped to carry on a wider and much needed organizing campaign. But, as a rule, the skies had cleared in the morning and fulfilled the hopes and expectations of the union. We had indeed ourselves that now, too. Nature would be good to the waist-makers of Philadelphia and make the opening day one of pleasant memories.

\* \* \*

The golden rays of a bright June morning broke into my face when I awoke after a short slumber and seemed to whisper en-

couragement into my ears; seemed to promise the favor of their presence at our festivities. Yes, they would shine and dance around us and grace our proceedings. I felt sure about that. I arose and got ready for the events of the day.

For more than two hours Brother Silver and I traveled in an open car to the new Unity House. It was a delightful trip amid rich foliage and green fields. The air was charged with sweet fragrance which refreshed and intoxicated me.

From the trolley terminal it was half an hour's walk to the spot, and a wonderful panorama unfolded itself before my eyes. The undulating hills and dales, the azure sky merging with the vast expanse of green yonder in the distance, the varied hues of fields and trees with their alternating light and shade—the entire scene was enchanting, and I felt as if transported into another, a better world.

At last we came in view of the Unity House, which is surrounded by a spacious veranda and topping trees with soft velvety leaves. These trees give the appearance of tall giant watchmen keeping vigil over the house. Now and then, voices—the voices of proletarian children—were carried to us by the breeze. Here, in this beauty spot of nature, their voices ring out clearer and more pronounced in tone and impression. They are not the hollow voices of the weary, physically exhausted factory drudges but the resonant voices of jubilant, happy, proud and carefree children, such as the workers of the future, in a better and brighter world, will be.

\* \* \*

The house from which came the voices of our workers was built originally by a wealthy man. Little did he expect that this palace, which he intended as a pleasure ground for himself and his family, eventually would come to be the summer home

for people whom he had perhaps despised as the lowly and "accursed of God."

Once more I was glad to meet the group of noble young workers of the Philadelphia waist and dress shops. These most active and loyal souls had come the previous evening to prepare for the reception. There had been much spade work to do in the way of cleaning and scrubbing and they worked till early morn, putting things in order, so that there should be nothing out of joint for the opening ceremonies.

I looked at their tired sleepy faces, and felt proud of these true, devoted hearts of which any movement would be proud.

As the day wore on more members kept arriving and formed into groups. Some young men and women were playing open air games of one kind or another, while others preferred strolling about and losing themselves in the woods.

One and all discussed with enthusiasm the wonderful surroundings of the Unity House, the wealth of foliage, the rich bounties of Mother Nature and the grand achievement of Local No. 15, which this summer resort, all their own, meant for the jaded workers of the Philadelphia waist factories.

I looked at all these children whose faces were beaming with happiness and whose eyes shone with the joy of living. Like children they were keenly observing everything and brimming over with life.

Each time the jitney brought a number of newcomers they were hailed with joyous shouts of hurrahs.

At 2 p. m. guests were still arriving, the number now exceeded 250. It cost everyone 75 cents admission besides the fare. They came to participate in the opening celebration, rather than for their personal pleasure. The management scarcely expected such a big crowd. Special tables had to be laid, for the guests far exceeded the expected number. With appetites stimulated by romping about in the fresh, invigorating air, they eagerly took their seats and did full justice to an enjoyable repast. The meal had to be served in two shifts, for there was not sufficient room for all. Thus, those who had to wait for their turn waited on the guests who had first chance. Subsequently, the latter returned the compliment. Brother Silver, apparently jealous of the bustling activity of some of the

girls, put on an apron and helped at waiting.

I thought that Brother Silver, the man who helped to build this strong, influential union, felt himself in the seventh heaven of satisfaction. Though practically the host he refused to sit down. He could not rest. Here, too, his energetic nature impelled him to action.

\* \* \*

Dr. Mrs. Margolis, a popular active woman in the movement in Philadelphia, is the manager of the Unity House, and she labored hard to make the opening a success. Owing to the lack of experienced help she worked with double energy to this end, for she felt a great responsibility resting upon her shoulders.

The happiness of the day was contagious, it infected everyone present. Every course of the meal was accompanied by some popular labor song, including the special song of the Unity House of the New York waist makers' Local No. 25. Delicious strawberry tart and similar delicacies formed part of the menu.

All felt as if transported. They forgot the city, with its noisy and dust-laden streets, forgot the shop, the boss and the foreman, forgot their monotonous toil. They felt as free as the birds of the air and played about together with youthful innocence and joy.

\* \* \*

The meal over, the guests went on tours of inspection, gaining in enthusiastic appreciation of this remarkable union enterprise as they went on. In the hall a large victrola installed by the union played classical music; its tones traveling far into the outlying grounds and green fields.

Mischa Ellman and Kreisler surpassed themselves in their wonderful violin performance. The art of these notable violinists held the gathering spellbound and in a sort of heavenly ecstasy. Good singing formed part of the program, blending harmoniously with the exquisite notes of the violin and adding to the intellectual delights of the day.

\* \* \*

At 6 o'clock addresses were delivered by Brother Silver, Dr. Mrs. Margolis and the writer of these lines. All, speakers and listeners, were impressed with the common feeling that it was an honor to belong to a union which did such things for its members.

## Does it Pay To Lay off or Discharge Employees ?

Some months ago a conference of employment managers of large industrial concerns in Philadelphia and discussed problems arising from the relations of employers and workers, including the question of hire and fire. From the facts stated and statements made it was clear that the habit of laying off or discharging workers was bad policy, causing more loss to employers than to workers.

By A. Rosebury

The prevalent rule in most shops and factories has been and still is that for the least trifle the boss, manager or foreman resorts to revulsion, discrimination, and persecution, believed to be the best methods of dealing with employees. Sneering insult and abuse has served to crush the worker's spirit. This is usually done to take any wind out of his sails and prevent him from demanding an increase of wages.

Employers have always thought more of horses than of employees, and machines are tended with great care because new horses and new machines cost money, while new employees can be had free.

Gradually, however, a change is coming over the more thoughtful employers of labor. Some of the captains of industry are beginning to realize that the human machine is more important and that careless handling of men is a wasteful expense.

Several causes have brought this about. The trade unions by their agitation have enhanced the dignity and value of labor. The clamor for efficiency has indirectly brought out the fact that when the worker is fatigued, worried, anxious for the future, half-starved or suffering from insufficient sleep, he cannot work with efficiency. The employment managers alluded to seem to have come to the conclusion that it pays much better to treat the worker as a human being rather than a beast of burden.

Apparently, there are two sides to the question of efficiency. Let the boss, manager or foreman of all prove efficient in his management of the human beings under his charge, let the employer stop wasting the fruit of their toil in useless overhead expenses to satisfy his foolish caprices, then recouping himself at the cost of pain and suffering to the worker.

The scarcity of labor, owing to the war,

is another reason for the desire to change the ancient methods. With the labor supply running short the practice of discharging upon the slightest pretext is seen as never before in all its waste and folly.

Incompetence is the source of unnecessary expenses and waste in every business concern. It is mostly this which brings business houses to grief and bankruptcy, and it has been shown that frequent changing of employees is an unnecessary expense, for it involves the firm practicing it in a large needless annual expense.

People are apt to deceive themselves very often. The belief that machines cost money, and men can be had for nothing, has been utterly exploded. A number of intelligent employers and men interested in industrial concerns have conducted searching investigations into this matter and found that frequent "hiring and firing" is attended by an avoidable financial loss to their firms.

One of these employers was Magnus W. Alexander of the General Electric Company. Another was John M. Williams, Secretary of Fayette R. Plumb, Inc. In 1913 Mr. Alexander became inquisitive as to the cost entailed by the employers' unrestricted freedom to "hire and fire." He studied this problem from facts furnished him by twelve factories manufacturing machines and metal products. He was naturally interested in the cost of this to the firms rather than in the loss caused to the workers by this method. Mr. Alexander found several big items of expense involved; as for instance:

1. Loss caused by the new employees spoiling material before they get accustomed to the work.
2. Loss of profits caused by the lessened production in the first weeks of employment.
3. Loss on account of undue wear and

tear of machinery and tools by the new employees.

4. Loss of time by foremen and assistant foremen instructing the new employees.

5. Avoidable clerical work involved in hiring new help.

According to a Mr. Grieves the cost of hiring involved about \$40 for each new employee.

According to Mr. John M. Williams, the cost of hiring is about \$100 for every new employee. Thus, hiring five employees a years would cost between \$200 and \$500, and so on and so forth. These monies in the long run come from profits, which in turn, are derived from wages. Yet when a good competent worker requests a slight increase of wages the average employer is inclined to fly into a rage.

But there is yet another terrible expense which the gentlemen named have omitted—the loss sustained by the worker. It is not only the loss of the job and the consequent loss of wages, but loss of energy from anxiety and worry and suffering brought on the members of his family, and the cost to society of this needless waste of health and well being. But who cares, so long as the boss, the foreman or manager has his way of getting even with one or more employees?

From whatever angle we look at the question we must come to the inevitable conclusion that it does not pay to discharge workers for every trifle, and a number of firms, getting a new insight into the human side of the matter, have deprived their foremen of the power to discharge, and introduced a special employment department, which looks into every case, and prevents needless changing of employees, thus

saving the firm and all concerned money and trouble.

We hope to return to this interesting subject in the near future. In the meantime it is worth while asking: Can the manufacturers in our industry profit by this new method?

For years the representatives of employers and workers in New York and elsewhere have spent days arguing cases of discharge before boards of arbitration. The discharge question has caused considerable friction and bad blood. The prolonged strike of 1916 was brought on by and turned on the issue of discharge.

We have in our industry very few manufacturers of a scientific bent of mind, and it is a moot point how many of them are capable of absorbing themselves in this subject and devising a better method than the peremptory "hire and fire" method.

For it is certain that likewise in the cloak, waist, white goods and dress industries there must be an enormous waste and loss owing to the despotic discharge habit. Manufacturers and foremen lose much time in connection with new help. Much work is spoiled, and employers and workers get unduly excited. Friction arises, leading to strikes and financial loss.

Haughty, huffy, uncivil methods, petty despotism, slave-driving, vengefulness and similar means of dealing with workers are played out. They are becoming relics of a past age. Every illiterate savage is capable of employing them. We need in such large, rich industries as ours proper, scientific human methods. The industries would rather gain than lose by new and better handling of workers.

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### IRONIC

You are hungry for bread,  
 You are cold as the dead,  
 You the fireless poor.  
 Yet you  
 Who stare ahead  
 Envisaging bleak toil,  
 Hard and unsure,  
 Are crying for beauty, too.  
 Life gives you one thing, one thing only:  
 War.

Your weapons are despair  
 And hate,  
 And the irons you wore so long,  
 And famine to share.  
 You are strong with all that you bore.  
 You can strike. Strike!  
 What do you ask for more?

—(Babette Deutsch in *The Masses*)

## The American Trade Union Movement in the Present Crisis

### WAGE INCREASES AND FAVORABLE CONDITIONS GRANTED

During last year's strike, the conductors on the New York Central had started a strike, and rumors of a currency.

Then the railroad company got alarmed and raised wages. The company also raised wages the year when the strike broke out, but the company withdrew the promised increase of the high cost of living, these workers are not better off than last year. They are still being discriminated at union meetings, and to the Public.

6,000 car men of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company received an increase of wages.

The plumbers of Ogden, Utah, obtained a new agreement with their employers and an increase of 5 cents a day in wages.

Ship-yard workers of Benicia, Cal., after one day's strike, received an increase of wages and favorable conditions as to a minimum scale of wages and overtime pay for work on Sundays and

Barbers of Norfolk, Va., won an increase of \$2 a week after a strike lasting several days.

In Seattle, Wash., the workers employed at the Municipal received an increase of wages and favorable conditions as to hours and overtime pay. The ports belonging to the railroads and private owners still keep their labor on the old scale of wages.

Boilermakers of Portland, Minn., one of their locals has just won a victory after a strike of eleven weeks.

### ES AND FAVORABLE CONDITIONS GRANTED

The city employees of Denver, Colo., have been granted a 15 per cent. increase.

Laundry workers of Ellenville, Ill., got a 12½ per cent. increase.

The Teamsters of Yonkers, N. Y., obtained an increase of 10 per cent. and more pay for overtime.

The local of the Typographical Union of Louisville, Ky., reports an increase of wages amounting to \$4 a week. The printers of Toronto, Canada, likewise secured improved conditions.

Metal workers of Port Arthur, Tex., have for the first time secured an agreement with the employers giving their union official recognition, providing against discrimination and undue discharge and guaranteeing other favorable conditions. The strike preceding the settlement lasted twelve days and involved 600 workers.

Yeast makers of Baltimore secured an increase which will amount in the aggregate to \$15,000 a year.

Plumbers of Bridgeport got an increase from \$4.36 to \$5 a day. This increase dates back to March 1.

Papermakers of Marinette, Wis., were granted an increase of wages and a three year agreement.

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### STRIKES INCREASING IN NUMBER

It would be impossible to note here all the strikes that have occurred last month. Suffice it to say that strikes have increased in number and intensity in many industries throughout the land. Manufacturers feel ill at ease, and refer to this general unrest as "a strike epidemic." Yet it is the usual struggle between capital and labor, which cannot and will not stop until labor has become the predominant factor in industry.

The textile industry of Tennessee, is distracted by a general strike. In Chattanooga, where it was preceded by a lockout,

the strike has been in progress some six weeks; the main cause being the refusal of the employers to recognize the union. The local Central Labor Union which is taking charge of affairs and helping the strikers financially, has just announced that the workers will not give up the struggle until the principle of union recognition is honored by the employers.

At this writing, a strike of dock builders and pile drivers is going on near Baltimore. The strikers demand an eight hour day and 50 cents an hour instead of 32 cents.

The strike of the retail clerks in Memphis, which lasted more than two months, has been settled with honor for the International Retail Clerks' Union. The department stores of that city were hard pressed for "help." During the strike both sides appealed to President Wilson, and the Department of Labor finally brought the dispute to a settlement. In view of the difficulty of organizing the workers of department stores, the International Retail Clerks' Union deserves to be congratulated on the struggle and victory.

Two thousand cable workers struck in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, and owing to the intervention of mediators, won an increase of wages.

Italian bakers conducted strikes in four large bakeries in New York.

In Danbury the entire hat industry is said to have been paralysed. 2,000 members of the United Hatters and 1,000 of the Hat Trimmers' Union have been on strike now for ten weeks for the union wage scale.

In Bloomington, Ill., the electric Traction company recognized the union and conceded the workers' demands after a strike of several weeks. The strike threatened to develop into a sympathy strike of all the workers of the city. While the conference between representatives of the company and the union was being held, some 200 workers surrounded the city hall and jeered at the militia which came to maintain order.

A bitter struggle of handkerchief workers is proceeding in Trenton, N. J., and sweeping injunctions have been issued restrain-

ing the workers from picketing the shops.

The telephone operators of the Pacific Telephone Co. of Aberdeen, Wash., walked out in reply to the demand of the company that they should sever their connection with the union.

The bakers of Denver, having been refused an increase of wages to offset the high cost of living, opened a co-operative shop of their own. This is said to be the second shop of the kind operated with success by the union bakers of Denver.

### BARBARITY OF LAWLESS CITIZENS IN ARIZONA

The barbarity of lawless Arizona citizens has given free, democratic America and the enlightened world a great shock, owing to the inhuman treatment meted out to the striking copper miners connected with the I. W. W. It shows that the human brute remains a brute in spite of constitutions, freedom and high principles of humanity.

The disgraceful action of armed citizens of Arizona transporting I. W. W. strikers out of the state in cattle cars and leaving them to suffer and starve in deserts is one of the very frequent ugly scandals that disgrace America in the eyes of the whole world.

All that the copper miners of Arizona under the leadership of the I. W. W. did was to go out on strike for higher wages. For that they were driven like cattle across the border to New Mexico. Nor were they permitted to detain in other states they passed through.

The mine magnates and their paid agents are directly responsible for armed mobs thus taking the law into their own hands.

Governor Campbell of Arizona appealed to President Wilson for Federal troops to help restore order, and the President replied that the secretary of war had ordered an investigation and added:

Meantime, may I not respectfully urge the great danger of citizens taking the law into their own hands, as your report indicates their having done? I look upon such actions with grave apprehension. A very serious responsibility is assumed when such precedents are set.

(Signed) WOODROW WILSON.

The entire district is seething with unrest and strike agitation. This seems to be quite natural, seeing that the employing class is

capable of such cruelty. It was in Bisbee that 5,000 miners of the United Mine Workers are on strike. In Clifton-Morenci some 3,000 miners were locked out. In Jerome union organizers were deported.

Industrial unrest prevails not far away, on the Mexican border and neighboring states. In Ashfield, Ore., a lumber strike is going on. In Seattle lumbermen are on strike for higher pay and shorter hours. In Butte, Mont., unrest prevails. I. W. W. organizers are accused of causing ferment, but the fact is that all that the workers want is more pay to offset the high cost of living.

According to a statement by Ethelbert Stewart of the Labor Department, the past month was the worst for strikes ever experienced in this country.

#### PICKETING MADE LEGAL IN ILLINOIS

The labor unions in Illinois have sustained a victory in the state Supreme Court, which has just decided that peaceful picketing is legal.

Until now Illinois was an injunction-ridden state, where in time of strike injunction judges would pickets were arrested and recent waist men's strike in Chicago has left unmistakable signs of injunction rule on our records.

Some months ago there had been a strike at the Malleable Iron Company's works, and a sweeping injunction was issued against the American Federation of Labor, restraining them from sending pickets. The unions appealed and lost the case. But the matter was not allowed to rest there and the case was again appealed to the state supreme court. The case was pending in the court since March. Last month the court by a majority of five decided a decision reversing all previous decisions. The workers of Illinois will now be free to engage in peaceful picketing.

#### HOMES OF DANBURY HATTERS SECURED

The case against the Danbury Hatters has finally been settled and their homes

will not be sold. Authority was given to the officers of the union to negotiate a settlement with Loewe & Company.

Fourteen years ago the firm was involved in a strike and boycott, and subsequently sued the union under the Sherman anti-trust act for damages and was awarded \$80,000. The case finally reached the United States court when the union lost and the damages were trebled and stood at a sum of over \$250,000. As the union could not be held responsible for the damages the firm secured an attachment against the scanty property of 141 individual hatters of Danbury, who were said to have participated in the boycott.

Last month the sale of their houses by auction was to take place, when prominent citizens of Danbury intervened and arranged negotiations between the firm and representatives of the union. The firm is said to have agreed to a payment of \$100,000 on account.

#### SOME RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONVENTION OF THE WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE

Emma Steghagen, secretary of the National Women's Trade Union League, has sent us a few resolutions adopted by that organization in recent convention in Kansas City. One resolution calls on all unions to issue no labels or sign label agreements with firms where the women workers are not organized. The resolution points out that such action is detrimental to the women workers who remain working at lower wages, and leads to dangerous competition with men's labor.

A second resolution calls on the government to take over the railroads of the country and operate them in the interest of the people. A third resolution calls for old age pensions for federal employees. Other resolutions ask for humane conditions for women workers employed on war contracts.

#### GIRLS AS ELEVATORS OPERATORS

In Washington, D. C., a number of girls secured licences to run elevators. The inspector of that city's elevators in giving his approval advised that elevator girls should weigh about 150 pounds.

## A MEMORIAL FOR THE VICTIMS OF LUDLOW

The United Mine Workers of America have purchased the plot of ground where the tents of the Ludlow victims had been fired and about twenty men, women and children roasted to death, in the Colorado strike some years ago. The locals of this great union will be called upon to contribute to a fund for the erection of an appropriate

monument to the memory of the martyrs on the historic spot. Every year members and friends will meet there to commemorate the tragedy and cement the bonds of solidarity among the workers.

It was reported some time ago that a settlement of the old dispute had been reached. All of the cases against miners, except one, indicted on various charges arising from that strike, have recently been dismissed.

# The Ladies' Garment Workers of London, England

Demand Week Work and a Minimum Scale of Wages

Special Correspondence to the LADIES' GARMENT WORKER

By Alter Einigman

Free Translation from the Yiddish by A. Fosebury

On June 17, the United Ladies' Tailors (a union embracing cloakmakers, ladies' tailors, dressmakers, etc.), of London, took a step forward in a most important movement for the well being of the workers in the women's garment trade. At a meeting in the Pavillion Theatre, local and other speakers dwelt on present conditions in the factories and counselled the workers to formulate a demand for week work and a minimum wage.

For American readers it is necessary to give one or two points in the history of this trade union before stating the reasons that made these demands necessary in war time.

The United Ladies' Tailors or "Mantle Makers' Union" as it is sometimes called, has a long history behind it. It has managed to hold its own in spite of great difficulties. Even in times of depression and adversity this union has held its head above water and exercised a strong influence over its branch of trade. The cloakmakers and ladies' tailors have always earned comparatively good wages, and their union composed mostly of immigrant Jewish people, has been always in the forefront in every advance movement of the Jewish workers in England.

What is the secret of its success?

Having known the internal affairs and activities of this organization for many years I can say without fear of contradic-

tion that the secret of its success is its energetic, fighting spirit. Its policy has been always to steer clear of all side issues and bend all its efforts to the improvement of shop conditions. For years it has been the regular habit of its executive committee upon the eve of every season to consider ways and means of adding to the pay of its members during the season. The Mantle-makers' Union has availed itself of every opportunity, has spared neither money nor energy and has carried on negotiations with the manufacturers in a business-like manner. Whenever it was necessary to strike in any shop the mantle makers gave battle with courage and self-sacrifice.

Naturally its strikes have been a series of victories, excepting when the strikers were opposed in some factories by native unorganized girls who learned the trade from them and then turned around and tried to replace them at lower wages.

In 1912, when Great Britain was shaken almost to its foundation by industrial unrest, and the workers of every trade revolted against their masters the entire tailoring industry, the makers of women's dresses in particular, suspended operations. The Mantlemakers' Union came out of this struggle with the laurels of a great victory. It won not only better conditions but a numerous membership. For the first time the union received wide recognition and wrung

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say, and the "masters"  
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their heels.

s say: "If you want to  
e of a minimum wage in

slack time and week work, the warehouses  
must pay the piper."

To this the United Ladies' Tailors are  
about to reply: The warehouses will have  
to pay or we shall prepare for war.

Much depends on the workers themselves,  
for it often happens that the average work-  
er is inclined to pity the contractor and  
blame the exploiters higher up.

Will the ladies' tailors keep up the agi-  
tation and carry their point? This the near  
future will show us.

London, June 20, 1917.

### INTERESTING REPORT OF THE TRADE UNIONS IN GERMANY

In a report to the "Internationale Kor-  
respondenz," Robert Schmidt, one of the  
secretaries of the German Federation of  
trade unions, of which Karl Legien is the  
head, gives the following interesting figures  
of the main work of the German unions:

From the outbreak of the world war to  
January 1, 1917, the German labor unions,  
affiliated with the general federation of Ger-  
man Trade Unions, and embracing some  
2,500,000 organized workers, paid out about  
60,000,000 marks (\$14,280,000 at normal ex-  
change) in benefits to their unemployed  
members and to the families of union men  
who were at the front or disabled and for  
other purposes connected with the support  
of their members.

Of the 24,077,883 marks paid out in unem-  
ployment benefits the greater part was  
called for early in the war, as the subse-  
quent development of the munitions indus-  
try, with its effects upon industry in gen-  
eral, had practically done away with unem-  
ployment in the empire. The expenditures  
from Aug. 1, 1914, to Jan. 1, 1917, for the  
support of members' families totaled 22,-  
022,145 marks.

During the period from Aug. 1, 1914, to  
Jan. 1, 1917, the German unions admitted to  
their ranks 476,950 men and 150,288 women,  
while their losses during the same time were  
571,094 men and 139,041 women.

Schmidt closes his report by exhorting  
the German workers to stand by their  
unions, as they will need them more than  
ever after the war.

## Local News and Events

(In this department, which is a regular feature of this Journal every month local life and movement is being reported for the information of our members and readers.—EDITOR)

Compiled by M. D. Danish.

### THREE YEARS OF THE NEW YORK SAMPLE TAILORS, LOCAL NO. 3

Brother B. Fenster, secretary of the local, reports:

On May 25th, 1914, the International Union granted a charter, as local No. 3, to the New York piece tailors and sample tailors. The demand of the sample makers for home rule dates back to 1910, the time of the first cloak strike. They had even, at that period, organized a so-called Sample Makers' Association, with the avowed purpose of influencing the leaders of the International to grant a charter to the sample makers.

The campaign for a self-governing local was kept up by the sample makers for about four years. During these years the influence of the sample makers' society grew apace, and the leaders of the International, convinced that the sentiment for a separate local was fully ripe, granted the charter. On June 27th, 1914, the first Executive Board of the new local was elected to lead the new organization along the lines of progressive trade unionism, and the officers of the local have, since then, managed the affairs of the organization in a satisfactory manner. Most of the board delegates were old in the labor movement and some of them had spent long years in our organization. The officers were installed on July 20th, 1914, by Vice-President Lefkowitz, President Schlesinger and then Secretary Sigman.

"In spite of its youthfulness, our local has shown itself to be full of fight and ability to conduct its struggles, remaining all the time within the legitimate boundaries of trade union principles. When the cloakmakers' union was forced to take up the lockout of the employers in May, 1916, our two-year old organization threw itself into the fight with remarkable courage and our members stood at their posts day and night. They did not confine themselves to their own shops, but did all they were called upon to do. They managed to get control over the ladies' tailor shops and enrolled

them into the union. We contributed practically all our funds to the struggle, and did it without any grudge. To-day we feel happy for having been able to do our share.

We intend continuing to be a useful link in the chain of our International and our Cloakmakers' Union. Our local has proved that we are capable of team work on other occasions. During the Philadelphia Convention of 1916, at which Local No. 3 was for the first time represented by five delegates, some of them were chosen to work on important committees. One of our delegates, Brother Lefkowitz, was elected third vice-president of the International. He has been a member of the General Executive Board for many years.

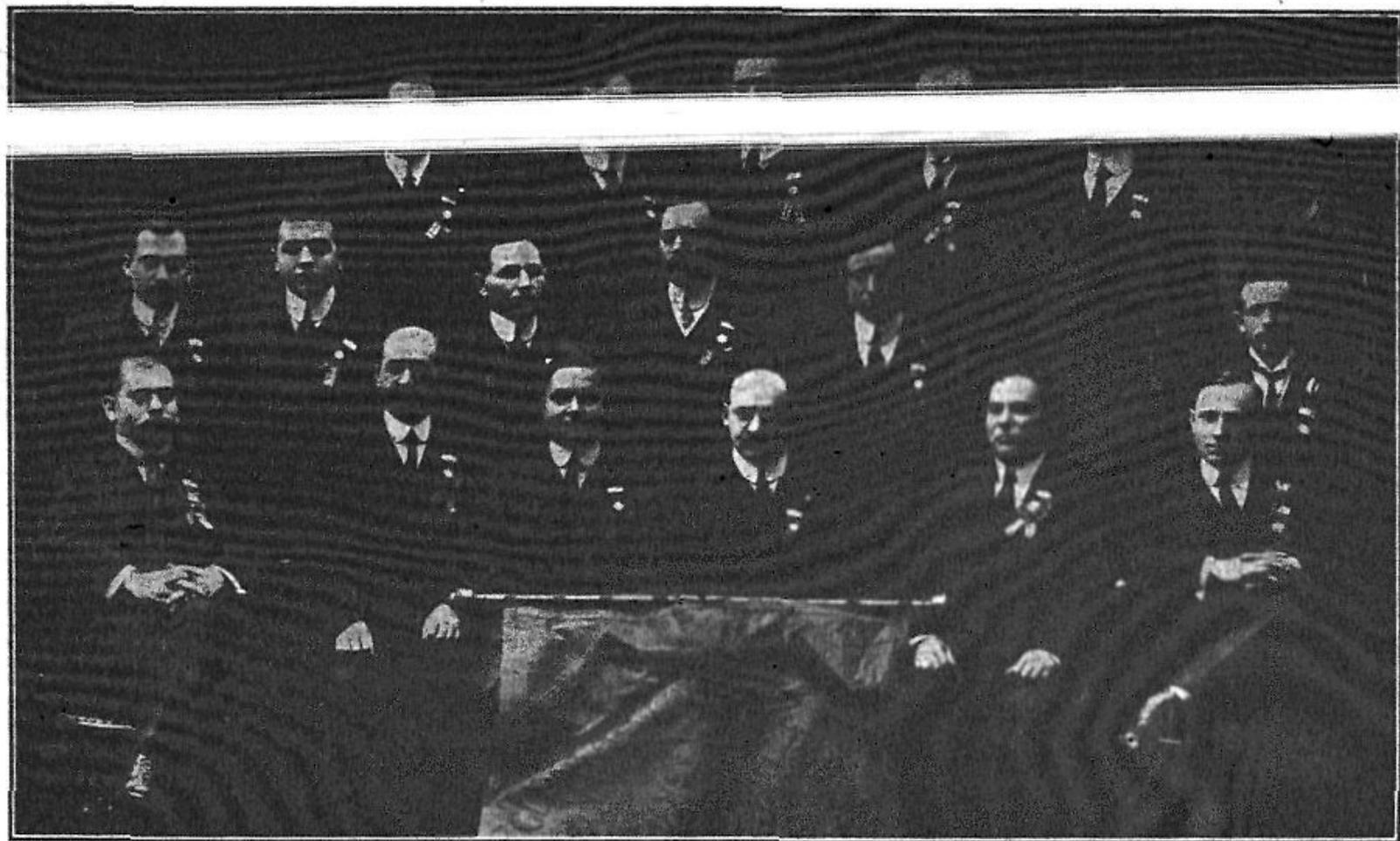
"Our local has at present a membership of 3,000. The number of readers of the LADIES' GARMENT WORKER among our members has considerably increased of late, and its articles are being intelligently discussed by them in our office."

### BROWNSVILLE CLOAKMAKERS, LOCAL NO. 11

Secretary Harry Brodsky writes:

"In my report in the June number of the Ladies' Garment Worker, I referred to the deplorable practice of our locals acting independently of each other in the raising of dues, as if they were not units of the same organization. This lack of unanimity has been responsible for the wrangling and difficulties with which the enactment of this reform was accompanied.

"Our own local No. 11 had a particularly hard fight to establish higher dues. The better and more intelligent element has by its influence brought about the change. The high cost of living was a factor in keeping us back from raising the dues. The Brownsville cloakmaker, who usually works for the small contractor, has always been a subject of more exploitation than his New York fellow worker. When, however, our members perceived that the existence of the organization was being threatened by the constant menace of financial insecurity, they



OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE NEW YORK SAMPLE CLOAK MAKERS' UNION, LOCAL NO. 3.

acted like loyal union men. A well attended meeting on Wednesday, July 12th, voted unanimously to raise the dues to 21 cents per week. We are confident that our members will never regret this step, and we know that they will reap its benefits in the future."

#### PHILADELPHIA CLOAKMAKERS, LOCALS NOS. 2, 53 and 69

Manager Feit of the Philadelphia Joint Board, writes as follows:

"After several conferences between the five representatives of our Joint Board, with President Schlesinger at the head, and a committee of the Cloak Manufacturers' Association, an agreement was finally reached that strikes and lockouts should be avoided in the future and all controversies adjusted by peaceful means by representatives of both parties and an Impartial Chairman. The agreement is subject to ratification by the members of the union and the association.

"At a special meeting of the Joint Board and the Executive Board of every branch in the trade, the agreement was read and general discussion followed. I was surprised to hear some of our officers express the opinion that they would prefer to deal with the employers individually, because they were disappointed with the last agreement, as some of the manufacturers did not live up to its principles. Others wanted sufficient protection in cases of wrongful discharges and discriminations, and feared to pledge themselves not to strike, which is, sometimes, the best means to obtain justice from unscrupulous employers.

"I hold that peaceful negotiations, and a collective agreement with an association instead of individuals, is the better and more practical way for us, and the workers will surely derive benefits by entering into such an agreement.

"This contract provides that forty-nine hours shall constitute a week's work instead of fifty-two, which is a reduction of three hours; an increase of wages for week workers, amounting to about 20 per cent.; a voluntary concession that none but union workers in good standing shall be given the preference in employment; recognition of collective bargaining through price committees and shop chairmen; equal distribution of work, observance and payment for legal holidays, etc. These are undisputable

fundamentals. Other provisions to which the association obligated itself, are: a standard minimum scale of wages for piece workers; sanitary and safety conditions in factories and shops; a provision that overtime shall not be allowed as long as there are vacant accommodations and workers can be obtained; no Saturday afternoon work, except in emergency cases in finishing and completing orders; co-operating with the union in establishing the same standards and control in outside as well as inside shops. Finally, employees who will be unjustly discharged or discriminated against shall have the right to a review of the action of the employer, and, if reinstated, shall be paid for lost time.

"All other questions not specifically stated in the agreement, are subject to investigation and decision by the adjustment committee with an impartial umpire and the Board of Arbitration with an impartial chairman. Thus the association has conceded rights and demands which will tend to improve the conditions of the workers without strikes.

"The objection that the workers are not sufficiently protected against discrimination, wrongful discharge and other abuses under the provisions in this agreement, is not well founded, because they have five different agencies to protect their interests:

(a) "The shop chairman, who has the right to intervene in behalf of the workers.

(b) "The chief clerk of the union, whose duty it is to use all his efforts in behalf of the workers.

(c) "The impartial umpire, or Clerk of Immediate Action, who will be appointed with the consent of both parties. The union will be careful in choosing a man known for his sense of justice, who will realize that in order to hold the balance of power and make the agreement a workable instrument, it is absolutely essential that he must be impartial in his decisions.

"As to the workers' representatives on the Board of Arbitration and the impartial chairman, representing the public, a sort of Court of Appeals which will render a final decision—the union will see that its interest is properly safeguarded.

"This collective agreement is the nearest approach to industrial democracy, providing it is properly applied and carried out in good faith by both parties. Of course, we must always bear in mind that it is necessary to

have a strong opinion, so that whenever our rights are menaced, we should be in a position to back up with might.

"The industry in Philadelphia is still affected by trade dullness. Several hundred members are unemployed and a large number are working in amputation shops, at army uniforms, tents and other occupations.

"We hope when the season will begin our members will be ready to defend their interests and secure prices that will enable them to make a decent livelihood under the prevailing high cost of living."

**CINCINNATI CLOAKMAKERS, LOCAL NO. 63, 30 AND 98**

Brother S. Kaufman, manager of the Cincinnati local, says in his report:

"The outlook in Cincinnati is much brighter. Cloakmakers are beginning to work and we are hopeful that in the near future the workers will realize the benefits of our union.

"Only a short time ago the cloakmakers of Cincinnati were at the mercy of the bosses, ready to sell their labor power for whatever they could get, fighting each other to receive more bundles and work longer hours. The change, since the strike of last winter has been immense. To-day they recognize that injustice done to the humblest of workers affects adversely the entire organization.

"The employers have thought of every scheme possible to counteract our efforts. Some have tried to introduce the Morris Black system of Cleveland,—a system of speed-up and bonuses, but we frustrated these attempts.

"The prices for the coming season are being settled satisfactorily in every shop. They are being raised from 25 to 50 cents more on every garment than was paid last year. The pressers and finishers are also receiving an increase that amounts to 10 and 15 per cent for their work.

"The picnic given by Local 63 was not altogether a success owing to the long slack season. The Emergency Fund proposition has been adopted by the locals almost unanimously and a committee elected to handle the fund. Men have been assessed \$3.00 and women \$2.50, to be paid up within three months. We also had elections for officers of the locals during last month, and have the confidence that the men and women who have been elected to serve

during the coming term will lead the union to permanent success."

**OUR CHICAGO LOCALS: NOS.**

44, 18, 81 and 100

Vice-President Sol. Seidman writes:

"The Chicago ladies' garment trades employ about ten thousand people, a tenth of the number of workers in the same trades in New York. New York firms produce for the Chicago market, and the bigger firms have offices and salesrooms here, through which they supply merchandise to the big department stores, such as Marshall Field, Sears-Roebuck, Siegel Cooper, etc.

"The Chicago cloak industry is quite young, and the local firms still work for the smaller retail trade. Of the ten thousand ladies' garment workers there are in Chicago about 3,000 cloakmakers who belong to Cloakmakers' Union, Local No. 44. This union has had quite a stormy history, full of strikes and contests. President Schlesinger of the International, a one time Chicagoan, was once manager of this union for some years. Until 1915 the organization maintained a precarious existence without any control over the trade. In that year, however, the cloakmakers began an energetic organizing campaign and succeeded in signing a collective agreement with the Chicago cloak manufacturers, and established a Board of Arbitration presided over by Judge Julian W. Mack. Brother Schlesinger, who was in charge of that campaign, assisted materially in the successful outcome of the agitation. The cloakmakers now control the entire local trade, with the exception of two shops.

"The first year after the signing of the agreement was a very good one in the Chicago cloak trade. There was plenty of work, and the big cloak strike in New York in 1916 brought a great many orders to the Chicago shops. The employers here are of a much smaller calibre than those of New York, and the workers do their work in a quieter and safer way, get better results and probably make a better living than the New York operators. The local union has a considerable treasury; the members pay 25 cents a week, and they have a sick benefit fund and a loan fund. It appears to me that the International has in Chicago one of its finest organizations.

"The cloak agreement of 1915 was about to be renewed last month. A number of re-

quests were presented by the union for improved earnings and wages amounting to an average of 25 per cent. After a conference it was decided to submit these demands to arbitration, with the proviso that all decisions become enforceable from July 1st. Owing to the fact that Judge Mack, the presiding arbitrator, was unusually busy last month, the sessions of the Arbitration Board could not be held as yet. But the local manufacturers know that the workers in Chicago mean business and, delay or no delay, their just demands will have to be conceded.

#### As to Local No 100

"The next local is No. 100, composed of waist, white goods, skirt, dress and kimono workers. These trades are new in Chicago, barely ten years old. Most of the employers have been in business only a few years.

"Recently the trade passed through the throes of a big strike, for the first time in its history. About 90 per cent. of the workers consisted of women, and these were divided nationally, in about 35 per cent. Jewish, 45 per cent. Polish, and 20 per cent. American girls. The Polish were largely married women and they looked with some distrust upon their Jewish co-workers. In a short time, however, we managed to gain the confidence of the workers, and the campaign ended in a strike which was one of the bitterest ever fought by our International, and became famous by the cruel and sweeping injunctions issued by judges against the strikers. After a fight of ten weeks, during which the season was lost, the strike was called off. The International has done all it could to help us, but, of course, our women and men have suffered considerably, even after the strike, on account of lack of work in the shops and discrimination from the employers. The latter fact was made even more acute by the war which has strongly affected the trades.

"In spite of all that we have here in local No. 100 a considerable membership. We are getting ready, with the advent of the season, for a new organization campaign, and our prospects of success are bright. The workers are full of courage. There will be a scarcity of workers next season, as many have left the trade or left the city during the last strike. The papers are full of help-want advertisements, and the arrogance of the bosses who a short time ago

used to inquire of the girls whether they belonged to the union, etc., has already disappeared. At any rate, the workers in the shops know full well that even though without an agreement, they are working now four hours a week less than before the strike. They know that this is due to the activities of the union, and they know how to appreciate it."

#### ST. LOUIS CLOAKMAKERS, LOCAL NO. 78

Ben Gilbert, the local organizer, writes:

"Never since the strike of 1913 have the St. Louis cloakmakers displayed so much eagerness for a union as during the last few months. The system of making garments without advance price settlements and the general abominable conditions in the shops are arousing the cloakmakers to the necessity of an organization to improve their conditions. It is no exaggeration to say that the present prices paid for work are even lower than those paid in 1913, in spite of the doubled cost of living. This year when the long slack weeks came, with no savings to fall back upon, even the most timid among our cloakmakers began to see things in their true light.

We have now decided to present demands to the employers. The sentiment at the meetings is strongly for it, and our executive board is now preparing these demands. As soon as these will be ratified, we shall forward them to the employers, and we have every reason to expect that the manufacturers will settle our grievances in a peaceful way."

#### TORONTO CLOAKMAKERS, LOCALS NOS. 14, 70, 83, 92

Vice-President Koldofsky writes:

"We have won our strike in the 'Robert Thompson Co.,' where more than one hundred women, the majority of them Gentiles, participated. We made all preparations to call out every worker in the two cloak departments of this firm; we also made terms with the local union of the 'Amalgamated' and of the Furriers Union to stop their departments at the same time our workers were ready to strike. We then sent an ultimatum to the firm stating that if the demands of skirt and dressmakers were not conceded within 48 hours a strike will be called in all the departments of their shop. While the strike was going on the new de-

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#### CLOAKMAKERS OF MONTREAL, LOCAL NOS. 13, 19 and 61

Vice-President

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last general strike. The more I analyzed  
the situation the stronger my conviction  
grew that the true spirit of unionism was  
sadly lacking among the members.

"The locals in Montreal have grown in  
membership during the last two years owing  
to unusually favorable trade conditions re-  
sulting from the war. While engaged in  
building up the union, the local leaders did  
not devote much attention to the develop-  
ing of the spirit of true fraternal relations  
between the members and the various  
branches of the trade—the spirit without  
which true unionism is impossible. They  
have thus created a body without a soul. The  
average cloakmaker here is of the same  
mental make-up as his fellow worker in  
other cities, and I am convinced that they  
could have a real union here, just as cloak-  
makers have in other cities. The work of  
reconstruction must be thoroughly done in  
the shops, at the meetings and in all the  
union's activities.

"The first task confronting us here is the  
organization of the shops, and this work is  
being undertaken now on a big scale. We  
are organizing shop after shop and are  
tightening the loose screws of the organiza-  
tion by all means available. Of course, the  
work is increasingly difficult now because  
the manufacturers are adopting new tactics  
in the treatment of their workers—not at  
all like the kind of treatment accorded to  
workers after an unsuccessful strike. This  
attitude of conciliation and tolerance has  
developed some confusion among the  
workers. The employers learned a stiff  
lesson during the strike, and they know that  
the International does not admit the idea  
of a lost strike, which is only a halt in or-  
der to prepare for a new fight. This spectre  
has been staring in their faces all these  
weeks; they are quite uneasy about it, and  
that is the reason why they are afraid to  
take advantage of the workers at present.  
This makes our work difficult, as some of  
the more backward workers have the idea  
that the union is now no more necessary,  
and we are now exerting our efforts to show  
the true meaning behind this changed atti-  
tude of the employers, the claws behind  
their velvet hand. We have already suc-  
ceeded considerably in scattering this illu-  
sion.

"We have another handicap here in con-  
nection with the French workers. There  
are about 5,000 of them, chiefly women, in

the waist, dress and white goods trades, and a small number of them are working in cloak shops, too. They are the most backward element that I have encountered, from the point of view of organization, an element which is saturated with conservative and religious prejudices against unions. It is particularly difficult to have them join the locals to which their Jewish fellow-workers belong, and I am quite certain that it will require tremendous efforts on our part to organize them. A special fund will have to be created and a staff of men and women placed in the field to take up this special organizing work. At present, however, we must wait patiently for our opportunity."

#### NEW YORK RAINCOAT MAKERS, LOCAL NO. 20

Miss Ida Mayerson, Secretary of the local, reports:

"During the month that has just ended, our local conducted a strike, involving 300 people, in the shops of E. H. Lazarus & Co., the outcome of which will have an effect upon the standards in all shops where government work is being made, and upon our general work in the future. This strike ended successfully, owing to the very loyal assistance given us by the International Union, which enlisted the offices of the Labor Department in our aid. The union carried every point in the controversy, and since then everything has been quiet.

"While there is very little work on ordinary garments in the raincoat trade, almost every manufacturer holds large contracts for government work on sleekers and punchholes, and already there is a shortage of workers in the city. The season created by the demand for this particular work will be an unusually long one, and, as far as prices are concerned, a fair one also.

"The local has better prospects for strengthening its position now than ever before in its history. Plenty of work tends to cut out the terrible waste of time and energy in bickerings over pennies and half pennies, so common in all our trades. During this season, we expect to conserve our energy for the better purpose of holding what we have gained and for organizing the trade more thoroughly.

"On Saturday, July 7th, we had a large meeting, at which Mr. Rowland B. Mahany, who was an active factor, as the represen-

tative of the Department of Labor, in the settlement of the Lazarus strike, made a most inspiring address. Nominations for paid officers and Executive Board members were made, and the meeting was a very animated one. With due respect for the men who are to come in, regret must be had that many of the outgoing Executive Board members have refused to run again, for their work was constructive, sincere and many times it was done at a personal sacrifice as far as time and money was concerned."

#### BOSTON RAINCOAT MAKERS, LOCAL NO. 7

A correspondent writes us as follows:

"A short time ago, Local No. 7 of Boston had decided to demand from the manufacturers a raise of 20 per cent., before renewing their agreement with the association in the trade, which expired on the 15th day of July. The letter containing this demand cited the rise in the cost of living which fully justified this increase, and a wish that the employers would recognize this fact and concede it.

"The conferences with the manufacturers, which were held shortly afterward, have, however, brought no results, and it looked as if the ardent desire of the union to avoid a fight would fail of realization. The manufacturers argued that they were paying even higher prices for work than the New York employers, and as they were working for the same markets they could not grant any increases. The Executive Board of the local thereupon called a meeting of shop delegates and placed the facts before them. This meeting, and the general member meeting that followed it, has endorsed the demands of the union and empowered the board to use all means to get an increase in pay and if necessary to make whatever compromises or changes in the demands in order to secure the most with the least amount of sacrifice.

When at another conference with the manufacturers which was also attended by Brother Ab. Synder, International representative in Boston, the employers declined to grant the demand, the union voted to call down all the shops on Monday, July 16th.

"We immediately notified the General Office and received telegraphic instructions to hold off the strike until Bro. Abraham

Baroff, the General Secretary, would come to Boston on Monday and attempt to see the employers before the final step was taken.

"On Monday July 16th, after a long conference with the employers, at which Secretary Baroff was present, a raise of 15 per cent. for ordinary garments and of 10 per cent. for better grades was granted, and peace is assured in the trade. In the evening an enthusiastic meeting was held at 38 Cambridge Street, at which organizer Cohen acted as the Conference Committee reported of the success of the final negotiations with the employers. The credit for the good results obtained was freely attributed to the tact displayed by Brother Baroff in his dealings with the employers. The new agreement was unanimously ratified by all the members.

"Brother A. Snyder also addressed the meeting and was warmly applauded. At the end of the meeting committees were appointed to contact the strike in the few shops which do not belong to the association. The meeting was closed with an address by General Secretary Baroff, who pointed out that they owed their victory first of all to the International and to their own local and counselled them to remain steadfast and loyal to the organization.

"On the following day all the raincoat makers in Boston came to the headquarters of the union, and after shop meetings were held with each group separately, working cards were issued to the workers employed in the associated shops. The independent shops were also heard from during the day as they were making applications for settlements. In the course of a few days the strike of Local No. 7 ended in a clean victory for the workers."

#### BRIDGEPORT CORSET WORKERS, LOCALS NOS. 33 and 34

Miss Mary C. H., Secretary, reports: "On Monday, July 9th, after a shut-down of ten days, the corset factories in Bridgeport started up and are at this writing quite busy. It is customary in our industry to shut down each year for the purpose of taking inventory.

"Many of the cutters have left the shops and new men are taking their places, and these are ushering into the union as fast as

they can make out applications, which shows that Local 34 is also keeping up its share of interest and activity. Other trades are fast organizing their women workers in Bridgeport, and in every instance our Local 33 is referred to and we are doing our part in assisting them. The retail clerks and machinists are organizing here at present, and our local is always ready to come forth and tell what organized labor has done for us.

"At our meeting, June 29th, we elected the following officers:

- "Carrie Hamberg, President.
- "Sarah Bright, Vice-President.
- "Mary Gould, Secretary-Treasurer.
- "Anna Meyer, Guide.
- "Emma Nagle, Sergeant-at-arms.
- "Rose Robbins
- "Catherine Brennan
- "Irene Esmonde

} Trustees

"These officers were installed July 2nd by Jasper McLery, a prominent state officer of the Connecticut Federation of Labor. A social party followed the installation. We expect a large number of the girls to walk in the state parade on Labor Day at Danbury, Conn."

#### NEW HAVEN CORSET WORKERS, LOCALS NO. 39-40

Miss Marie C. Jennings, Secretary, writes us:

"We are going through a critical period and hope that the International will come to our aid and put us again back into the position we were in two years ago.

"From the time our local was organized, in September, 1915, up to the middle of 1919, we had in our organization practically every operator in the factory, including the cutters, and even the majority of the office force, all of them in good standing. Vice-President Pierce was visiting our local frequently and we appreciated his assistance. During the last convention, the delegates of the Bridgeport and New Haven corset locals understood that the International would grant us the services of an organizer. This, however, was not done and our locals here were left without assistance. We have lost a lot of members, and it now depends on the group of active workers who are doing their best to keep our locals going.

"We need attention just now, more than

at any other time. The firm for which we are working has secured large government contracts, and they are engaging new operators every day, consisting mostly of Italians, and we have the greatest difficulty to cope with them."

(Vice-President Elmer Rosenberg visited the meeting of the New Haven corset workers on Thursday, July 12th, at Eagle's Hall, and took up with them the question of organizing the Italian workers. Plans are now being made to assist this local.—Editor.)

### LADIES' TAILORS AND ALTERATION WORKERS, LOCAL NO. 80

H. Hilfman, Secretary of the local, writes:

"Only a few years ago, the immigrant ladies' tailor, having learned how to work in the American shop, hired a number of helpers to assist him, and by exploiting them to the limit, managed to make fair wages for himself. This system, by which the bulk of the workers were kept in a condition of total dependence, could not, however, last long. Labor unions in the ladies' tailoring trade began to form about 1905, and in 1909 the tailors were a part of the International, as Local No. 38. The first important strike took place in that year in the shop of Stein and Blaine. This strike was the result of a lockout by the firm, and it was won after a stirring fight of nine months. Soon after this the workers began to flock into the organization. The tailors at that time were working for pitifully low wages. \$19 per week for sixty hours work was considered high pay in the trade, and the piece workers, who were made to compete and race with each other, brought home even smaller pay at the end of the week. Home work, after the long hours in the shop or store, was not an infrequent practice in those years.

"The cloakmakers' strike of 1910 brought the long-awaited chance for the ladies' tailors too. The rush for organization became so strong that in 1911 the tailors had almost three thousand men in the local. A general strike in September of that year resulted in a quick victory which gave the workers a fifty hour work-week; a week work system; a minimum of \$24 per week; abolition of home work and a few other concessions. Another general strike in September, 1913, which was also won after a struggle of short duration, brought further gains for the tailors, among these a 48-hour work-

week, a minimum of \$27 per week and an addition of 60 per cent. for overtime.

"Unfortunately, after this strike a reaction set in among the workers. Having won better trade conditions, they began to neglect their union. Conditions became so bad that in two years it became necessary to call another general strike in order to make safe the conditions gained in 1913 and to again enroll the workers into the organization. This strike was a failure, and put the ladies' tailors local backward for a considerable time.

"The effects of the lost strike in 1915 are still felt in the ladies' tailoring trade in New York to-day. The employers are oppressing the workers with a strong hand, and the old evils of Saturday and Sunday work, of work without regular schedules and system are rampant in the trade. To-day the workers are beginning to realize the fatal mistake they made in neglecting their union, and the most indifferent among them are calling for the organization of their shops. The state of affairs in the Brooklyn shops is similar to those in New York. They, too, have lost all the gains they had made in 1913, owing to apathy and indifference.

"After the Philadelphia convention of 1916, the old locals, No. 38, 65, and the Alteration Tailors, No. 30, once a part of Local No. 9, were amalgamated into one local, the present Local No. 80. This union was given control over the entire ladies' tailoring and alteration industry in Greater New York which employs from nine to ten thousand people, and the International placed Brother S. Lefkowitz in charge of this local.

"At present the local is going through an important trial period of organization. The best elements have rallied to the local and earnest efforts are being made to organize the trade. The desperate conditions of the workers in the shops present fertile ground for a general movement to improve them. The next few months will determine whether or not the ladies' tailors of New York will control their trade and improve their conditions."

### HOUSE DRESS MAKERS, LOCAL NO. 41.

Manager H. Zucker states as follows:

"The slow season is still on, though a number of our people are employed on military work. In these shops the wages

are very low. In fact, our girls have not received a raise in seven months, and everybody knows the earnings in these shops have always been very low. We have therefore made demands for an increase in pay, and we expect to get it, too, by all means.

"Some of our firms have informed our people that they do not want them to be members of a union, now that they are working on heavy work. We sent notice that if they do not stop this intimidation we would take the matter with the Government, and they might have their contracts cancelled. This brought an immediate change of heart, and these employers have notified us that they are willing to continue the negotiations with the organization which existed before they began making military

the same eagerness to attend them as they have displayed in the past."

#### CHILDREN'S DRESSMAKERS' UNION LOCAL NO. 50

A correspondent writes:

Our local has started its own local organ in English, Italian and Yiddish.

The first number issued at the end of June was only the size of a bulletin in four pages. This has since been doubled in size. It is for the present being issued once in two weeks and our members, composed mostly of women workers, have received the publication with enthusiasm. In his congratulation, published in the first number, Brother Baroff, Secretary-Treasurer of the International, says:

#### Light Through the Written Word

The Children's Dressmaker's Union, Local No. 50 has followed the example of other locals and decided to publish its own paper. **Our Aim**, every two weeks.

The aim to spread more light and knowledge deserves praise.

When the members will have better knowledge of our aims the union will rest on a firmer footing. It will imbue them with more sympathy and closer unity.

It is our aim to knit the members in a bond of mutual relations, and one of the means to bring this about is the press.

The officers and active members of Local No. 50 desire to enlighten their members on all local and trade questions by means of their own local organ.

Although it would afford me greater satisfaction to see unity and co-operation, to see a united press for a united International, instead of separate organs, still, this is a matter that we cannot prevent at present, and I send you sisters and brothers hearty greetings, wishing that your organ may fulfill your hopes.

I trust that **Our Aim** will knit together the thousands of your members and bring all the workers of your industry under the banner of your union.

Ab. Baroff,

General Secretary-Treasurer International  
Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

#### NEW YORK PRIVATE DRESS- MAKERS' LOCAL NO. 90

Manager J. J. Jenson of this local writes us:

"The last season in the private dressmaking trade was altogether satisfactory. Our members were low because there was not enough work in the shops and stores. The month of July has brought along with it an unusual number of lay-offs and "vacations." In spite of this our members did not forget their union, and during the few busy weeks about 90 per cent. of our workers paid up all their arrears with the organization, which enabled the office to get on with the work unhindered and to exercise firm control over the shops for the coming season.

"During last month we had elections for a new executive board, and an unusually large number of members took part in the voting. On July 1st Brother Abraham Baroff, Secretary-Treasurer of the International, installed a new board at a very enthusiastic meeting. The board is headed by Miss Bella Jenson, president; Miss Molly Mollow, vice-president; Miss Sarah Keller, recording secretary; and Miss Rose Kaplan, financial secretary.

"Our regular meetings will be kept up uninterruptedly during the summer months, and we expect our members will show



OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD OF WHITE GOODS WORKERS' UNION LOCAL NO 62

## Our Free Forum

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umn is for letters and short articles of members and readers on current and labor topics. Avail yourself of this free forum and express your views. The editor reserves the right to publish or withhold communications at his discretion and is not responsible for opinions expressed. He advises correspondents to avoid all personal attacks which may be mistaken for fair criticism and will be glad to answer queries.—Editor.

### A WORD FROM

Editor, "Ladies' Garment Worker":

I have had many opportunities at our London Society of Tailors and Tailoresses, 16 Hedden St., W., of per- cently arranged and clearly written office publication.

Recently, I have taken the liberty to make use of certain matter contained in one of your issues. I am, as a writer on the staff of the "Ladies' Garment Worker," for which I have often been on the point of writing to thank you for the good work persistently carried on by the various unions, connected with the clothing industry of America, cannot fail to be of beneficial results. Good luck to your efforts.

Speaking generally of the labor movement in this country, one is somewhat at a loss to know where we actually stand at the moment—many of the links in the magic chain of associations have been wrenched asunder the hastily and harshly outlined program of labor policy brought about by the so bewildering and unsettling, that one wonders whether or not those newly imposed conditions will be maintained by mutual consent after the war, or whether another journey in the wilderness of strife and travail must be endured by the working people before they shall enjoy the freedom and ennobling of labor that has been secured to be so well within the grasp of the organized labor movement prior to the commencement of this terrible world conflict?

The desire to see a closer union between the various societies of garment workers is still animating us. God grant, that after this war is ended, we may

### PRAISE AND THANKS CROSS THE SEA

London, May 28, 1917.

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I have had many opportunities at our London Society of Tailors and Tailoresses, 16 Hedden St., W., of per- cently arranged and clearly written office publication.

Recently, I have taken the liberty to make use of certain matter contained in one of your issues. I am, as a writer on the staff of the "Ladies' Garment Worker," for which I have often been on the point of writing to thank you for the good work persistently carried on by the various unions, connected with the clothing industry of America, cannot fail to be of beneficial results. Good luck to your efforts.

Speaking generally of the labor movement in this country, one is somewhat at a loss to know where we actually stand at the moment—many of the links in the magic chain of associations have been wrenched asunder the hastily and harshly outlined program of labor policy brought about by the so bewildering and unsettling, that one wonders whether or not those newly imposed conditions will be maintained by mutual consent after the war, or whether another journey in the wilderness of strife and travail must be endured by the working people before they shall enjoy the freedom and ennobling of labor that has been secured to be so well within the grasp of the organized labor movement prior to the commencement of this terrible world conflict?

The desire to see a closer union between the various societies of garment workers is still animating us. God grant, that after this war is ended, we may

see a general uplift of all sections of clothing workers.

Fraternal greetings to you and all your members, I am yours faithfully,

W. RINES, J. P.

### A REQUEST FOR GENERAL TOPICS

Editor, "Ladies' Garment Worker":—I have been getting the "Ladies' Garment Worker" since the last few months, and I see that you never comment on subjects outside of our trade.

For instance, there is woman's labor, which is now getting to be the general talk among women workers. How are women likely to cut up after this terrible war? There are so many opinions. Some say that women are now in it for good; that in future they will do everything the same as men. Others think that when the millions of men will come back from the war they will again crowd the fields and factories, and that we shall have to go back to the home and kitchen and lose our hold on industry.

Then there is the war itself, which is of so much interest to men and women. Of course we are reading the news in the papers. But have not the trade unions their opinion on the war? Then why should not our trade magazine sometimes give us an idea or two on the matter, just to make us think?

If I am wrong, Mr. Editor, please put me right.

IDA SCHURMAN

Answer:—Our union is so large, our trade needs so many and our space so limited that first of all we must cover trade matters, and if no space is left then we must do without general comment.

The questions that Sister Schurman asks so intelligently are, indeed, interesting, but it would be in the nature of prophesying to say what is going to happen after the war. What people say will happen may not happen at all.

As to the war, opinions differ very much and vague discussion leads nowhere. Perhaps the most correct and proper opinion is that it is the duty of the people everywhere to get their governments to end it as quickly as possible. We shall, however, be glad to answer distinct queries, provided they have some connection with trade unionism and labor.—Editor.

#### OUR UNION AND THE UNION LABEL

Editor "Ladies' Garment Worker":

As a member of Local No. 33 for nearly two years, I notice in our constitution book "Rules governing the Union Label." I am told that the International Union has a label. I guess this label could be put on corsets, for example, and on all women's garments. I understand that at least half the women's garments in America are made by union women and men. Would it not be easy to put the union label through for use by manufacturers who sign for union shops and employ union help? To me this is some mystery. I cannot get over the fact that our union has a label and does not make use of it. Won't you explain this, Mr. Editor?

F. D. G.

Answer:—There are many reasons why the union label of our International is not on the market like labels of other unions. One of these, and by far the strongest reason, is that working men's wives and daughters are not patronizing the label, are not asking for it as they should. The style seems to be more important to them.

In past years our International Union spent large sums of money on label agitation in many parts of the country, but only few firms here and there adopted the label.

It is hard to tell whether a new agitation would meet with better success. First of all we have to overcome the feverish desire of women folk to prefer style to union made garments. Manufacturers are aware of this, and being, as a rule, opposed to unions, they have a way of suppressing the labelled garments and offering the stylish woman the style she is after. Of course, it is not wrong for women to desire to dress stylishly, but it would promote the cause of the union label and union labor if they could somehow develop the habit of asking for the union label with the style. This would be a great work for active unions of women workers.

At our last convention it was decided to start a label agitation, but our International has recently had many strikes and other troubles, and now there is the war difficulty. Hence the delay.—Editor.

#### THE UNION DENTAL CLINIC

Editor "Ladies' Garment Worker":

I was very much interested in the article on the Union Dental Clinic, opened by the Joint Board of Sanitary Control for the benefit of the workers in our trade. It is certainly a great idea.

I have had some work done for me by private dentists who were recommended by friends, but not until I attended the Union Dental Clinic did I realize how much better service I am getting for less money.

More than anything else I feel that it is a great thing for the workers to have a reliable place to go to when anything is wrong with their teeth. It seems to me that every girl should consider it a misfortune to have her teeth damaged or ruined by bad dentists, and no member of the union, man or woman, need neglect attending to his teeth, now that we have a place like this that we can almost call our own. I am telling all my acquaintances of the Union Dental Clinic and hope those who will read this will do the same.

B. S.

#### RAND SCHOOL ITEMS

Dear Editor:

Kindly print the attached story in the next issue of your publication:

##### A Map Wanted

The Rand School, 140 East 10th Street, needs a map of Europe. What is wanted is a white map with no lettering, and showing only physical features such as coast lines, rivers, mountains, etc. It is intended that the students mark on the cities, the languages and race groups, and the old political boundaries, and those that obtain after the war. They will also do the lettering, make a key index, etc.

The map should be at least three feet from top to bottom, take in all Europe unbroken, and should be mounted on canvas and provided with a frame and glass. It will be finished by the students working with the instructors in history and art.

After Europe is finished, and the new boundaries settled, the other continents will be taken up in succession. What friend of the School will contribute this map?

##### Shall We Have a Gymnasium?

On the top floor of the people's house at 7 East 15th Street, (the new building ac-

quired by the suitable for use are several small that may be used as smoking rooms. What use those upon the demand.

If there is a demand for these rooms, they will be arranged accordingly. If boys and girls are to use the gym at the same time, large lockers will have to be provided for lockers is also going

School) is a large room a gymnasium and there are several rooms on the same floor for shower baths, lockers, for other purposes. Just what use those rooms will be put to depends upon the demand of the comrades.

If there is a demand for a gym, all the rooms will be arranged accordingly. If boys and girls are to use the gym at the same time, large lockers will have to be provided for lockers is also going

the other rooms on that floor for social purposes, the space will be arranged differently.

Lessons in first aid will be given and some clinical work done in those rooms. A notice will soon be published asking students and workers to enroll for the first aid classes. Meanwhile, if you are interested in the gym or the first aid classes, write to Herman Kobbe, care of Rand School, 140 East 19th Street, for full particulars.

HERMAN KOBBE

## The Grandmother of the Russian Revolution

Catherine Breshkovskaya, Surnamed "Babushka"

Specialized for the Ladies' Garment Worker from "Die Gleichheit"

By A. Rosebury

This remarkable old, and fifty years in Siberian prisons, in Siberia preaching the free Russia.

white, her figure of the old friend. But her spirit is still full of love in the power of

Upon her return whither she had years ago, the first her a triumphant the noble life's

Breshkovskaya's career while yet then surrounded who taught her scandalized her a little peasant girl and that made her ing and unpardon

That was sixty then she has come sympathy and love for Wherever she peo wherever men at ship and injustice, to defend, teach tears of wounded

While yet in her been animated by

oman is now 73 years se years she spent in and at hard labor, for of revolution and a pair is already snow nken, her eyes devoid grandmother indeed. g. Her noble soul is humanity, and her faith human will, unshaken.

return from Siberia. banished anew some sian people accorded come, in gratitude for s lived for the revolu

signs of her future years old. She was several governesses sign languages, and by presenting to a velvet cloak. Serfdom had yet been abolished particularly shock to her parents.

years ago. Since to shower her sympathy and love for lowly and oppressed. ed pain and agony, men suffered hardship was Breshkovskaya ghten and dry the marting sufferers.

she seems to have desire to succor the

poor and oppressed. What a noble self-sacrifice hers must have been to give up luxury and the surroundings of the idle rich and go and live among the untutored peasantry in order to infuse rays of light and hope into their dark, penurious lives.

For Breshkovskaya was the offspring of the Russian nobility. Her parents were land owners, and land owners at that time owned their laborers, or serfs, body and soul. Serfdom had been abolished everywhere in Europe but still lingered in Russia, and the serfs were slaves in every sense except that they got their bare living out of the soil while tilling it for their idle owners. The muffled voices of those who were flogged, tortured and cruelly treated penetrated thick castle walls and reached her ears. These had their meaning and message for her: they called her to serve the people and help in the struggle for democracy and popular rights. Like so many others of her class who were fired by the noble ideal of freedom, she turned her back on a life of luxury and idleness and joined the revolutionists.

At twenty-six she was already a political suspect, watched by the police. She went about in the out of the way villages spreading the light of the new ideas and trying to comfort the people, telling them of better times to come.

To do this was by no means easy. For the peasants feared and distrusted anyone who in manner or speech betrayed his con-

nection with the nobles, and her aristocratic manners were rather pronounced. So she tried her utmost to adapt herself to her altered surroundings and live the life of the poor in every detail. Breshkovskaya did not recoil or feel hurt by the narrow, squalid life of the poor peasants; on the contrary, she felt a peculiar satisfaction in descending to their level in order to spread the new ideas among them.

She was twenty-six when she started on her active life of a revolutionist. Since then she has spent thirty of her best years of life as an exile in Siberia, several years in the prisons, some years in the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul, some years at hard labor in the Kara mines and elsewhere. Several times she was subjected to the humiliating ordeal of bodily punishment.

Thus the Grandmother of the revolution for forty-seven years of her life has been undergoing various terms of imprisonment and exile. During her last exile to Kirensk, Siberia, a few years ago, she was already half blind, yet the police treated her with unusual severity, her bedroom being frequently raided by the gendarmes in the middle of the night. She tried to escape, but she was caught and made to suffer more cruelly. She bore her agonies of body and mind with courage and fortitude and has never complained of her terrible lot. She rather tried to comfort herself with the fact that she was not the only sufferer. She used to say: "Am I the only one? Many dear sons and daughters of my people are suffering the same anguish of soul; am I then better than they? Why should I be pitied more than they?"

When some of her friends in America wrote to her suggesting that in her old age she needed rest, she replied. "A life such as you want me to live would be very hard for me. Imagine a mother leaving her children in the hands of the enemy and herself going to live in pleasant company where love, friendship and honor is showered upon her—what would you think of such a mother?"

And "Babushka" waited until her "children" would be delivered from the enemy's grasp, free from the despotic rule of czars and rid of the accursed autocracy. The dream that took possession of her sixty-eight years ago has been realized. She has

lived to see, though half blind, a free Russia, a renewed Russia. Kerensky, then minister of justice of the Provisional Government, immediately upon the fall of the old regime, called her to return to Petrograd, and Petrograd in the name of the entire Russian people received the Grand Old Woman of the Russian Revolution with shouts of jubilation, thanking her for her life of self-sacrifice.

Breshkovskaya has rendered herself immortal, a perennial memorial of Russian freedom and a noble example to future generations.

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### TO CATHERINE BRESHKOVSKAYA

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By Rosalind Travers Hyndman, in London  
Justice.

With heavy heart and empty hand,  
The mother stops beside her door,  
Looking across the young green land,  
Where son and child shall work no more.

Unknown, amidst unreckoned dead  
She sees them, on the bloody snow;  
But had she for her country bred  
A hundred sons, they all should go!

Gray-haired and strong she guides the  
plough,  
Alone, when—— O! what voices call?  
Can these be ghosts that greet her now?  
Has God released the dead men all?

But no—her straining arms enfold  
Her own—each dear and living boy!  
Until her heart must break to hold  
This burning miracle of joy

Even so, to Catherine, nobly named  
"Mother of Revolutions," led  
In exile, old but still untamed,  
Come back the sons she mourned as dead

Her children, all who gave their breath  
For Russia's freedom, prisoned, dumb,  
Now victors over Hell and Death,  
Bring her in age and glory home.

O, who laments the fallen brave?  
And who will o'er the dead complain?  
Since, from her foul and rotting grave,  
Young Russia leaps, to live again!

# Make the Rich Pay

It is reported that the government is considering the conscription of all incomes above \$100,000, together with the levying of big increases in the tax on incomes under this figure.

The proposal has not developed beyond the talk stage, but the idea is one that will find hearty favor with every one except those whose incomes will feel the "pinch." Naturally, the big men in Wall Street, to whom \$100,000 seems disdainfully inadequate allowance for their "pin money," may be expected to object when hit with such a "Socialistic" bill.

However, if the government is really in earnest in its task of conscripting incomes, it needn't stop at the \$100,000 mark. Why not go the limit and conscript all incomes down to \$5,000 a year? A thousand a year will enable a man to support a small family, whose tastes are not too extravagant, to live fairly well. Thousands of workingmen with large families get along on less. It is true that they don't live so well, but they manage to exist, and get on with big incomes, if they are half as patriotic as they pretend to be, could manage on \$5,000, and ought to be willing to do so if the country's needs should demand such a sacrifice.

When one considers what would be the lot of thousands of workingmen, mere ordinary citizens of the country, who would endure the hardships and brave the hazards of war for a contribution of a monthly

wage in time of war, the suggestion to limit incomes to \$5,000 a year seems altogether reasonable. Indeed, it would seem a positive crime to allow any one to stay safely at home and enjoy any greater income than this while the soldiers were serving miserably in the trenches for practically nothing, not to speak of the condition of their families left at home without protection or support.

One hundred thousand dollars a year in profits for the man who expects to continue business at the same old stand while his less fortunate fellow citizens march off to war, to certain suffering and possible slaughter! Doesn't this strike you as terribly unjust? If the government is going to let the captains of industry and finance escape with \$100,000 in loot, in profits made from war, it will but make a ridiculous farce of the whole affair. It will not succeed in altering the situation of profits made by one class at the expense of hardships and hazards endured by another class of citizens, which is the outstanding and shameful feature that degrades the business of war and makes patriotism a hollow and largely meaningless term.

Conscript all incomes above \$5,000! Make the capitalists pay the cost of war—the financial cost, at least—down to the last dollar of their unholy profits!—Appeal to Reason.

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## THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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# Directory of Local Unions (Continued)

LOCAL UNION	OFFICE ADDRESS
10. New Haven Corset Workers	12 Parmelee Ave., New Haven, Conn.
11. New York Wrapper and Kimono Makers	22 W. 17th St., New York City
12. Cleveland Cloak and Suit Cutters' Union	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
13. Worcester White Goods and Waist Workers	126 Green St., Worcester, Mass.
14. Chicago, Ill., Cloakmakers	1815 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill.
15. Syracuse, N. Y., Dressmakers	913 Almond St., Syracuse, N. Y.
16. Petticoat Workers' Union	22 W. 17th St., New York City
17. Denver, Colo., Ladies' Tailors	211 Champe St., Denver, Colo.
18. Italian Cloak, Suit and Skirt Makers' Union	231 E. 11th St., New York City
19. Boston Waistmakers	721 Washington St., Boston, Mass.
20. New York Children's Dressmakers	22 W. 17th St., New York City
21. Montreal, Canada, Custom Ladies' Tailors	387 City Hall Ave., Montreal, Canada
22. Los Angeles Ladies' Garment Workers	218 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.
23. Philadelphia, Pa., Cloak Cutters	241 S. 8th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
24. Chicago Raincoat Makers	109 S. Halstead St., Chicago, Ill.
25. Springfield Corset Workers	64 1/2 Main St., Springfield, Mass.
26. Boston Cloakmakers	241 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.
27. Cleveland Waist and Dressmakers	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
28. New York Waist Buttonhole Makers	80 E. 10th St., New York City
29. Montreal, Canada, Cloak and Skirt Pressers	37 Prince Arthur E., Montreal, Canada
30. New York White Goods Workers	55 Second St., New York City
31. Cincinnati Cloakmakers	5th St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
32. New York Buttonhole Makers	57 W. 21st St., New York City
33. St. Louis Skirt, Waist & Dressmakers' Union	Fraternal Building, St. Louis, Mo.
34. New York Bonnaz Embroiderers	103 E. 11th St., New York City
35. Toledo Cloakmakers	120 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio
36. Hartford Ladies' Garment Workers' Union	99 Canton St., Hartford, Conn.
37. Philadelphia Cloak Finishers	211 S. 8th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
38. Toronto Skirt and Dressmakers	191 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Canada
39. Chicago Ladies' Tailors	2726 Crystal St., Chicago, Ill.
40. Baltimore Dress and White Goods Workers	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
41. Boston Amalgamated Cutters	8 Lovering St., Boston, Mass.
42. Vineland Cloakmakers' Union	H. Miller, 601 Landis Avenue
43. Worcester, Mass., Cloakmakers	25 Columbia St., Worcester, Mass.
44. Philadelphia Ladies' Tailors	177 S. 9th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
45. Waterbury Ladies' Garment Workers	54 Burton St., Waterbury, Conn.
46. St. Louis Cloak Operators	Fraternal Bldg., 11th and Franklin Aves.
47. Ladies' Tailors, Alteration and Special Order Union	725 Lexington Ave., N. Y. City
48. Chicago Cloak and Suit Cutters	909 N. Homan Ave., Chicago, Ill.
49. N. Y. Cloak Examiners, Squarers & Bushelers' Union	228 Second Ave., N. Y. City
50. Toronto, Canada, Cutters	251 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada
51. Toledo Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union	125 Parker Ave., Toledo, Ohio
52. Cincinnati Skirtmakers	5th St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
53. St. John Ladies' Garment Workers' Union	St. John, N. B., Canada
54. Custom Dressmakers' Union	Forward Bldg., 175 E. B'way, N. Y. City
55. Toronto, Canada, Cloak Pressers	251 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada
56. Cincinnati Skirt Pressers' Union	5th St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
57. Pittsburgh Ladies' Tailors	192 Worcester St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
58. Chicago Waist, Dress and White Goods Workers	1579 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill.
59. Baltimore Ladies' Tailors	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
60. Montreal, Canada, Raincoat Makers	1193 Clark St., Montreal, Canada
61. St. Louis Ladies' Tailors	Fraternal Bldg., 11th and Franklin Aves.
62. Ladies' Neckwear Cutters	6 E. 17th St., New York City
63. Baltimore Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
64. Cleveland Raincoat Makers	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
65. Montreal, Canada, Ladies' Waist Makers	147 Colonial Ave., Montreal, Canada
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