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# THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKER

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**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.....	144 Bergenline Ave., Union Hill, N. J.
6. New York Embroiderers.....	133 2nd Ave., New York City
7. Boston Raincoat 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 Organized Ladies' Garment Cutters.....	7 W. 21st St., New York City
11. Brownsville, N. Y., Cloakmakers.....	1701 Pitkin Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
12. Boston Cloak 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 Cloak Cutters.....	Fraternal Building, St. Louis, Mo.
17. New York Reefermakers.....	117 Second Ave., New York City
18. Chicago-Cloak 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 Hatmakers.....	231 E. 14th St., New York City
24. Boston Skirt and Dressmakers' Union.....	241 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.
25. New York Waist 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 Corset Finishers' Union.....	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
30. Cincinnati Ladies' Garment Cutters.....	411 Elm St., Cincinnati, Ohio
32. Winnipeg Ladies' Garment Workers.....	Labor Temple, Winnipeg, Man.
33. Bridgeport Corset Workers.....	414 Warner Building, Bridgeport, Conn.
34. Bridgeport Corset Cutters.....	414 Warner Building, Bridgeport, Conn.
35. New York Pressers.....	228 Second Ave., New York City
36. Boston Ladies' Tailors.....	241 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.
37. Cleveland Corset Pressers' Union.....	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
39. New Haven Corset Cutters.....	12 Parmelee Ave., New Haven, Conn.

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER)

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

# THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Vol. VIII

DECEMBER, 1917

No. 12

## PREPARING FOR THE NEXT SEASON

In the last few years the spring seasons have been better than the fall seasons, and according to reports from our locals the coming spring season also is expected to be better than the last fall season.

Many cloak shops have already started making duplicates, and samples are being made everywhere. Manufacturers speak optimistically of business prospects in the near future and are preparing for a good season. Our people—cloakmakers as well as waistmakers, white goods workers and children's dressmakers—must similarly start preparing to turn the season to their advantage in order to meet the present abnormal high cost of living.

All our active members—organizers, business agents, shop chairmen, price committees—should think of the fact that we are living in unusual times. The organized workers throughout the country have been advanced to a higher altitude. They now enjoy greater prestige than at any previous time. First because their labor is much in demand. Secondly because ORGANIZATION has become the rallying cry all over the world.

People are now everywhere perceiving that only by effective organization can we get proper results and attain the aim in view. The government of the country, all its commissions, councils and advisers see this very clearly. They have grasped the fact that in the present sad state of the world it is urgently necessary for the nation, especially that part of the population which is doing the nation's work, to be well organized. Every trade union has therefore become very important for society because of holding the workers of its trade in an organized condition.

Consequently, trade unions having insight and availing themselves of the opportunities presented by this favorable time are in a better position than the unions lacking this insight and effective organization. The well-organized workers always enjoy more privileges than the unorganized who rely on the good will of their employers, particularly in the present time.

The bricklayers are not very busy because of the slackness in building operations. Yet reports in the official labor organs tell us that the organized bricklayers are everywhere demanding a minimum wage of seven dollars a day, and, because they are well organized, they do not hesitate to present this demand. Similar reports reach us from other trades controlled by American unions. Only last month the printing pressmen of New York won an in-

crease of \$1.00 a week in their wages after a short strike, although their agreement with the employers had not expired. The present time is opportune and the workers must not neglect the opportunity; and the stronger their organization, the easier and more successful their efforts to improve conditions.

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In our industry the Waistmakers' Union, Local No. 25, the Whitegoods Workers, Local No. 62 and the Children's Dressmakers, Local No. 50, have submitted demands for an increase of wages. Their agreements with the employers have not yet expired, but owing to the high cost of living their members cannot manage with the wages and earnings determined last year. Local No. 25 requests for the workers in all branches of trade, cutters and buttonhole makers included, an increase of 25 per cent. in wages and a forty-eight hour working week, instead of forty-nine hours. Locals Nos. 50 and 62 request for all the workers in their trade, cutters and buttonhole makers included, an increase of 20 per cent. In these trades conferences with the manufacturers are now being held, and it is almost certain that an amicable understanding will be reached.

\* \* \*

As to the cloakmakers of New York, they cannot submit general demands because they received an increase only a few months ago. But it is essential that they should, at least, get what is coming to them under the agreement.

The week workers can easily control their scale of wages. It is within the reach of all the union men and women in the shops to insist on the strict enforcement of the stipulated weekly wage scale. The only trouble is in regard to the piece workers—the operators and finishers—and in their case the shop chairman, the price committees and the rest of the active workers in the shop must jealously watch the process of price settlement and see to it that the prices determined upon shall enable them to meet the high cost of living.

We hope that it will not be long before the words "settling prices" will become a mere memory of a past age.

The conviction that week work will solve certain problems in the union and abolish shop evils has already taken hold of the minds and hearts of the workers. The operators and finishers must, therefore, bend every effort to the end that in the near future week work shall replace piece work. A report of the Cloak Finishers Local No. 9, states that last season the finishers worked by the week in a number of shops and were quite satisfied with the new system. Thus it is certain that also those piece workers who are as yet opposed to the idea of week work will be satisfied with the change as soon as they will start working week work. They will find that their preference for piece work was a mere habit, a prejudice rather than a definite conviction that under piece work they are better off materially than they would be under a system of week work.

Season after season the piece workers have been complaining of insufficient earnings to afford them a livelihood; that the employers have got the better of them at price adjustments; that they have not received the stipulated amounts of 80 cents and 60 cents per hour. One must therefore come to the conclusion that a definite minimum scale under a system of week work will be better for them than the troublesome haggling and quarreling over prices, the unnatural hurry while at work and, after all that, leaving the factory on Saturday with a painful feeling that in spite of the wearying toil the earnings were small. The week worker saves all this trouble and aggravation. He definitely knows at the beginning of the week how much his earnings will be. His weekly wage and his overtime are determined in advance and he need not worry while at the machine as to the amount he will find in his pay envelope.

The piece worker in the cloak trade might be likened to a gambler who stakes his all in a game of chance. Just as the gambler is dependent on chance, or, as he calls it, "luck," so the piece worker has to depend on unforeseen circumstances, and he must constantly keep his eyes fixed on them that they do no turn to his disadvantage. The piece worker has to look to a loyal, sensible and courageous price committee. The price committee must make no mistake while estimating the price of a given garment. Then there is a chain of circumstances, over which the piece worker has no control. For example: the employer might not be amenable to reason; he might be ill at ease just at the time when prices are being settled, and right behind the door a sub-manufacturer might be waiting ready to underbid them on the very same garment.

All these untoward circumstances are so many "unlucky cards" in the game of bargaining over prices. But under a system of week work and a minimum scale of wages it is not necessary to take any chances. All the unlucky cards disappear. The weekly wage is not at stake. For this reason alone the piece workers ought to strive with their heart and soul for the introduction of week work which would give them an easier mind, engender real brotherly feeling in the ranks, assure a better and more efficient control in the shops and longer seasons, make toward a stronger union and a brighter future.

We hope that it will not take long before we attain to this condition in our industries all over the country. In the meantime, where owing to various difficulties, week work cannot yet be introduced, the piece workers must exercise the strictest possible control at price settlement. It is up to them to have the prices settled so as to afford every worker a wage sufficient to cope with the high cost of necessaries. To attain this aim the workers of every shop must hang together and act as an organized unit. They should make no move in the shop without taking counsel in the unions—with the manager, the business agent of the Joint Board or any accredited officer. Only thus can they benefit by a good season before we succeed in introducing week work in the entire industry.

## OPENING OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

The goal to which we have been aspiring for years, namely, to give our members systematic education in trade union subjects, has finally been realized, and the first of this month will see the opening of the Educational Institute for our International and all its locals. For a number of years the active element of our union has been, in various ways, striving to afford our members the necessary education with a view to their becoming good union men and women and class-conscious workers. It is approximately ten years since the ladies' garment workers began to stream into our union in large numbers. During that time our locals have grown numerically to the strength of thousands. We have the large masses around our banner. We have the form of a good organization. At times we even have the necessary enthusiasm, yet in many respects we stand in one place.

Every season and every year the same obstacles block our progress. Considerable indifference is still rampant in the rank and file in regard to the union's urgent problems, as well as the problems connected with the labor movement in general. In the last ten years we have grown in numbers and in power, we have improved our shop conditions, reduced the hours of labor and raised the sweated and exploited ladies' garment workers to a higher level, but we are still comparatively poor in elements of high intelligence and capable leadership. Very few people rise from our ranks with the readiness and spontaneous impulse to come to the forefront in the active life of our union, because they feel that they do not possess the qualifications that fit men and women for leadership.

At our Cleveland convention in 1914 the question of education first came to the front. After a wave of discontent and dissention had rocked our union ship, threatening its very existence, our leading spirits opened their eyes to the lack of knowledge and trained intelligence prevalent in our locals, and the General Executive Board was instructed to devise ways and means of providing our members with the requisite information and trade union education.

Upon deeper study of the question it became evident that it was necessary to go further than arranging courses of lectures and resorting to the ordinary means of publicity. Such means had been regarded as all-sufficient when our organization consisted of a few thousand members all over the country. To-day we cannot reach the mass of our members through lectures, however good lectures on indiscriminate subjects may be. To-day, when our movement has many ramifications; when in Greater New York alone we have between 70,000 and 80,000 members and tens of thousands of members in other cities, all of whom intensely long for education and enlightenment—to-day we must employ different methods and agencies.

We are living in an age of labor and industry. We send our children to school to acquire knowledge not for its own sake; but with the definite purpose in view that the knowledge and training acquired shall be of advantage

to them when they grow up into men and women and have to fight their way in life. Our educational work must have a similar aim in view.

Furthermore, our educational work should be of a nature to produce an immediate effect, inasmuch as our members are not children but men and women. The true aim of our educational endeavors, therefore, is not the aim of turning out educated men and women in the ordinary sense, but to touch the hearts and minds of our members and mould them into intelligent, conscious and true union men and women. Our aim is to permeate them with the feeling that the union is **their own** organization, for **their own** benefit, and that the more zest and activity they will put into the work of rendering it numerically and financially strong, extending its influence over the entire industry, the better for them in every respect and the easier and more substantial will be their earnings in return for their labor.

Proceeding from this viewpoint the present administration of our International has gradually developed the idea that our educational efforts must take the form of classes and courses along lines and methods used in colleges and universities, so that any instruction imparted to our members shall be of real benefit to them, and of advantage to the union as a result of their enlightenment.

In the *Ladies' Garment Worker* for August, 1914, we were the first to give an outline of the subject matters for instruction. We then took into consideration the fact, first that the instruction must appeal to grown up people; secondly that it must be instruction in labor matters of a specific kind; such as can be had only within our organization or under the direct influence of our organization; namely, Trade Unionism and the Labor Movement, their history, struggles, the various methods employed, and especially the practical side of trade unions, their relations with the employers, the art of public speaking, the essential requirements of organizers, business agents, and so forth.

At the Philadelphia convention in 1916 this plan was further elaborated, an Educational Committee was appointed to look into the details and the convention decided to advance the necessary finances. In the last few months the Educational Committee has plunged into the work and perfected the plan. The committee found that to assure the success of the educational work, all the locals of the International must become interested therein and every local must have its local educational committee, which shall be in close touch and consultation with the Educational Committee of the International.

The Educational Committee has added to this program three very important and far-reaching points calculated to bring the educational work and its real aim close to the hearts of all the members of the International. These points are: First, that a large part of the educational work shall consist of lessons in the history and struggles of every local, taught to the members of the local; and lessons in the history and struggles of the International, taught to all the locals and all the members in general. Secondly, that a part of this educational work shall consist of social intercourse and useful, pleasant pastime—gatherings for fellowship, interesting conversation, concerts, instructive moving pictures, if possible, and like amusements. Thirdly, that the local educational work shall be conducted in conjunction with the shop meetings in the various shop districts.

These three points are essential, for the reason that it is not easy to interest everybody in certain studies unless such studies carry with them a personal appeal and mental pleasure. Lessons in local history will appeal to every member of that local personally, while the proposed social intercourse and other good things will invest the entire educational plan with attraction and accomplish valuable results.

The Educational Committee has succeeded in securing the permission of the Board of Education to use public school rooms in various districts for this important educational work. The committee will have its headquarters in the Washington Irving High School, Irving Place and Sixteenth Street, New York, two short blocks away from the General Office. In this school the International courses and higher classes will be given for New York where are located the biggest locals and the majority of the membership of the International.

The plan cannot be inaugurated at the same time in all cities having locals of the International, owing to many and various difficulties easily understood. But the Educational Committee will be pleased to communicate with every local out of New York, and give every information as to how the local educational committees should start and proceed with their local educational work. The Educational Committee will likewise, as far as possible, transmit to other cities, in the form of correspondence courses, the lectures and lessons delivered in New York, and, as soon as possible and practicable, the same work will be also inaugurated in the locals out of New York.

Thus a good, practical beginning has been made. From the foregoing facts it can be seen how advantageous our new Educational Institute will be for our locals in general and every member in particular. The resolution adopted at the Philadelphia convention is being effectually carried out. All beginnings are hard, and it has taken us more than a year to make this beginning, because the plan was beset with many difficulties. But now that a good and solid foundation has been laid, we may be sure that henceforth our course will run smoother and that the work will be perfected more and more and bear good fruit.

The officers of the Educational Committee, consisting of Juliet Stuart Poyntz, director; Elias Lieberman, chairman and Fannia M. Cohn, organizing secretary, feel that they have made a strong endeavor to carry out their task to the best of their power and ability. The Educational Committee and the officers of the International see with satisfaction in the practical beginning of this work the unfolding of a branch of union activity destined to prove a source of intellectual and moral development and bring the International and its locals to a high level of organized efficiency and power.

Let us, however, bear in mind one essential thing, that without the earnest and abiding interest, enthusiasm and co-operation of the locals, their officers, executive boards and members, this plan cannot succeed.

Let the local educational committees carry out the work devolved upon them with diligence and earnestness. Let the active members of every local co-operate with their local educational committees and with the general Educational Committee and thus enable them to accomplish the work mapped out. With their active co-operation it will not take long before the desired results of this good work will make themselves felt in the spirit of unity, harmony and discipline pervading all the members of the International.

## THE GARMENT TRADES AT THE CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

The garment trades of the country comprise more than half a million wage workers. If the opportunity were afforded to organize them all and bring the existing organizations into closer unity these trades would form a consolidated power that would react with mighty good effect on the entire labor movement of the United States and Canada.

Those who are organized, number over 200,000, and their organization is due to the enthusiasm and spirit of enterprise of the Jewish workers. Approximately 160,000, mostly Jewish workers, are affiliated with and pay per capita to the American Federation of Labor. Thoughtful people everywhere know and recognize the fact that thanks to the fighting spirit and sacrifice of the Jewish workers the sweating system in the garment trades was abolished. Their ceaseless agitation in the last quarter of a century and the powerful unions they have built up have finally forced the employers to act more humanely towards their employees.

Thus the unions in the garment trades merit recognition and encouragement at the conventions of the American Federation of Labor, at least to the extent of being accorded moral aid to continue their organizing efforts, their noble work of bringing in line and elevating the thousands of workers still outside of the ranks. Yet upon coming to the annual convention with plans and proposals for strengthening their positions and reaching the unorganized masses these proposals do not receive sufficiently serious consideration.

At the convention in Buffalo the delegates of our International called for a matter of apparently little import, but of great and far-reaching significance to the garment trades of the country. They introduced a resolution instructing the Executive Council of the Federation to form a Needle Trades Department on the same lines as the other trade departments in the American Federation of Labor. The present condition of the garment trades render such a department essential to them. Good results would follow from a central organization of this kind. It would stimulate the representatives of the various unions to plunge into the work of expansion with all the energy and enterprise of which they are capable.

In the terms of the resolution (see page 11) the needle trades are in many respects similar to one another, and owing to their seasonal character the workers of one trade in the slack season are driven by dire necessity to seek employment in a similar trade. And as the organizations have no mutual understanding for regulating these incursions, friction and troubles arise in the shops. Naturally, the resolution concludes, a measure of unity among the organizations in these trades would strengthen them and protect the workers.

A department such as the resolution calls for would cement the relations between the existing unions and gradually bring about closer unity or possibly complete amalgamation of the various international unions. The desire

for this consummation has often been expressed at the conventions of the Federation, and no one will deny that the realization of this ideal is very desirable.

But instead of receiving the sympathy and support of the convention and of the officers of the American Federation of Labor the delegation of our International Union experienced much unpleasantness. The delegate of the New York State Federation of Labor and the delegate of the New York Central Federation Union, to whom the political game is of more concern than the urgent interests of the garment trades, confused the entire issue with a resolution against the United Hebrew Trades, and their backers, the delegates of the United Garment Workers' viewed the matter as though a cloud and opposed the idea of a Needle Trades Department.

Ostrich like, the opponents of the resolution could not see the menace to all the garment unions looming in the distance. In the trade organs of the manufacturers the idea of combining all the garment manufacturers' associations is frequently advocated. A Needle Trades Department would provide the best opportunity to prepare for and obviate this menace which will be here sooner or later.

The resolution was not carried. Instead of this the report of the Committee on Organization was adopted to refer the entire matter for investigation to the Executive Council of the Federation, and if the Council sees fit it will form the proposed department.

We hope that the investigation will be conducted in the right spirit. President Gompers is well acquainted with the garment trades' situation and understands the peculiar psychology of the employers in these trades. President Gompers realizes that the militant spirit of the Jewish and Italian workers and their innate tendency to act quickly is the result of the employers' warlike attitude. This explains why the organizations in the needle trades sometimes act not quite in accord with the cold stereotyped methods adapted to cooler temperaments. President Gompers knows, however, the earnestness and the best intentions of our people.

The mere fact that a Garment Trades Department could bring about unity and harmony among the existing organizations is the best reason why it should be established as speedily as possible.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VISITORS

November 6, 1917, will linger long in the memory of our active members. It was the first Election Day in America that afforded some compensation to our Socialist friends for the fruitless efforts of many years.

The victory has exceeded all our expectations. Morris Hillquit, the close friend of our union, who was the Socialist candidate for mayor, polled nearly 150,000 votes four times the number of votes received by the Socialist candidate for mayor in 1913.

In addition to the two Assemblymen from Brooklyn, nine were elected from district in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Bronx. Among the new Assemblymen is Elmer Rosenberg, first vice-president of our International.

A very important victory was that of our well-known friend Jacob Panken, who was elected judge in the second municipal district. For the first time in the history of our movement the workers of New York secure entrance into the palace of justice. Panken was elected by a large majority, which shows how highly his many years of service in the Socialist and trade union movements is esteemed in our labor circles. And once the working class has realized the meaning and effect of a Socialist judge its voters will increase the number of these judges at the coming elections.

And for the first time in the history of New York seven Socialist aldermen elected by the people will represent the people's interests in the municipal government of this city.

We congratulate Assemblymen-elect Ab. Shiplacoff and Joseph Whitehorn on their re-election, and their new colleagues, Feigenbaum and Wile, from Brooklyn; Orr, Gitlow and Garfinkel from Bronx, and Karlin, Claessens, Rosenberg and Waldman from Manhattan. They are the first solid group of Socialists in the New York legislature.

We congratulate Judge Jacob Panken and the Socialist alderman Algeron Lee, Dr. Calman, B. Vladek, A. Braunstein, Adolf Held, B. Woolf and A. Beckerman, and we congratulate the Socialist Party on these victories.

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Our heartiest felicitations to the women of New York, especially our tens of thousands of members in our local unions, the heroic fighters in many strikes. Their victory on November 6, 1917, gladdens the heart of every progressive and right-thinking person.

Those of our sisters who as yet are not citizens should try to get their naturalization papers without delay. We feel confident that also in the political struggle they will range themselves on the side of Socialism and trade unionism and help the working class come to itself—become the dominant power in the industry and politics of the land.

## HAND OF LABOR

Hand of labor, hand of might,  
Be thou strong in things of right.  
Master thou of crafts untold,  
Driving them in heat and cold;  
Working high and working low,  
That the world may brighter grow,  
Press, the loom, and traffic great,  
Know the drive behind thy weight,

Hand of labor, rude and fine,  
Things of earth are mostly thine.  
Mines of gold and fields of wheat,  
Harbors deep where pennants greet;  
Ships of war, canals and locks,  
Roads of steel and bridges, docks,  
Strain thy sinews day and night,  
Be thou strong in things of right.

Mills and shops in clang and roar,  
Foundry fires and molten ore;  
Sullen mines and heaving seas,  
Lands of rock and timber trees;  
Cotton fields as white as snow,  
Forges black 'mid flames aglow,  
Strain thy sinews day and night,  
Be thou strong in things of right.

Hand of labor, great thou art;  
Be thou fair, and bear thy part  
Like big souls, sincere, intense;  
Stoop not low to base offense,  
Nor, in heat, forget that men,  
Large and small, all kind and ken,  
Have their place and must remain  
'Neath the sway of guiding brain.  
—Lilburn H. Townsend.

# The American Labor Movement in the Present Crisis

By A. Rosebury

## CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

The annual convention of the American Federation of Labor began its sessions under more auspicious circumstances than any previous convention. For the first time in its history it had the honor of the President of the United States addressing the delegates.

As President Wilson is world renowned and his utterances are of great consequence, the mere circumstance of his visit to a labor convention indicated that labor is the main factor in the world's progress. The President said that he esteemed it a great privilege and a real honor to be thus admitted to the labor public councils. This cannot be otherwise interpreted than that organized labor has received the official recognition of the United States Government.

It was, indeed, a great surprise both for labor and its foes. Working people were surprised at the President's visit and his address because it practically amounts to a revolution in thought, regarding labor. Some delegates, when told the previous day that President Wilson would practically open the convention, regarded it as incredible. For it is not so very long since unions have been publicly denounced and union men placed beyond the pale of law in time of strikes.

The manufacturing interests and big business, on the other hand, were visibly piqued at government compliments being thus officially paid to labor. In their opinion *the President has gone too far*. When a city mayor extends a welcome to a labor convention it is mostly for the good and welfare of the city's business. The compliments paid to labor by such personages on such occasions are mere formal utterances and express, at most, private opinions. But the compliments of the President of the United States carry great weight.

The fact has given no pleasure to manufacturers in general and the foes of labor in particular. It is the death-knell to their antiquated ideas of open shop and keeping labor down.

The captains of industry are not easily amenable to conviction that the organized workers are playing one of the most important parts in the world war. Has not Premier Lloyd George of Great Britain said that many a victory in this war is won in the workshops?

President Wilson sees the same thing. All the acts of his administration in regard to labor have one aim in view: the government must live in peace with the workers because it needs their co-operation. The government must indorse the eight-hour day, time and one-half for over time and the most important thing—give the unions official recognition; in other words, consent to the workers, as far as possible, joining the respective unions of their trades, so that they may be dealt with through their organizations. The British government has done the same thing; it had no choice.

But, say the pessimists, after the war all these privileges will be curtailed.

It is very possible that the hostile employers will strain their utmost efforts in that direction. But will the powerful labor organizations, then also politically organized, permit them to go far in their attempt?

## POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF LABOR ASSURED

In this connection it is interesting to note that the convention has amended the constitution of the American Federation of Labor, changing the date of the annual conventions from November to June. James Duncan and John B. Lennon, vice-presidents of the Federation, have made no secret as to the reason for the change. Duncan said:

By meeting in June we can know what is happening in Congress and in some of the legislatures, and our committees in the convention can lay down their plans for not only organizing campaigns during the month of the year when organizing can best be done, but they can also lay out plans whereby we can more concertedly help to support our friends and defeat our enemies on the political field.

We will have the summer and fall to know that we will not be drawn away just before election and denied opportunity of casting our vote on Election Day.

John B. Lennon was very precise in his advocacy of the change. He said:

Next year we are to elect a Congress, and if we are to have the weight and the influence upon the selection of Congressmen that we should have we ought to have the expression as to what we want from that Congress prior to election. By making the change we bring ourselves into proper relation to that question and the object in view.

That need not be interpreted that the Socialist Party stands to lose by this arrangement, but rather that it will gain by the quickened interest of the workers in political matters and by Socialist exertion to enlighten them on political issues.

#### A NEEDLE TRADES DEPARTMENT

The delegates of our International Union—President Schlesinger, Sara Shapiro, J. Heller, Morris Deitch, M. Gorenstein and Ab. Rosenberg—introduced a resolution of interest to all the unions in the needle industry. The resolution called for a Needle Trades Department in the American Federation of Labor, which would afford these trades an opportunity to get together from time to time and formulate plans of common action in regard to questions touching common interest. The resolution was as follows:

WHEREAS, The various trades in the needle industry of this country are substantially identical in their important productive features; and

WHEREAS, All these trades are subject to seasonal periods of work and idleness which frequently force the workers of one trade to look for occupation, during the idle seasons, in the shops of other needle trades; and

WHEREAS, These temporary influxes are and have been a source of dissatisfaction and irritation to the workers in these trades, in the absence of any reciprocal understanding and regulations between the various national and local labor organizations in the needle industries; and

WHEREAS, The general interests of the hundreds of thousands of needle workers in the country would be better protected and their organizations strengthened and enlarged if there were an organized and defined system of mutual help and co-operation among them; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to take steps to organize and establish a Needle Trades Department within the American Federation of Labor along the lines and principles of the other trade departments at present in existence and operation in the Federation.

The committee on Organization referred

the matter to the Executive Council for investigation. That practically meant non-concurrence with the resolution.

Delegate Gorenstein of our International and Delegate Sillinsky of the Journeymen Tailors' Union, urged the adoption of the resolution, pointing out the difficulties endured by the workers in the garment industry, being required to carry several cards of membership. They offered a motion that the Executive Council be instructed to call a conference of the three organizations—the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, the United Garment Workers and the Journeymen Tailors' Union—within sixty days after the convention, with instructions to form a department in the needle industry.

Delegate Duffy, chairman of the committee, said, that if a new department is to be formed it should be a success and all the workers in the needle trades should take part in it. The committee did not know whether the garment workers, the cap makers and the hatters want to take part in it. Therefore they referred the matter to the Executive Council, and if, after investigation, such a department is found necessary the council will go ahead and form it.

President Gompers ruled the amendment out of order because the resolution upon which the committee had reported similarly provides instructions to the Executive Council.

Delegate Lennon offered a substitute motion for the report of the committee, that the president of the Federation be authorized to call into conference the representatives of the three organizations named to consider questions of import to them.

Delegate Schlesinger opposed the recommendation of the committee on the ground that it was indefinite; and said in part: It may be that the Executive Council would have to call in some other organizations that have not been mentioned here by Brother Lennon. As a matter of fact not all the tailoring industries are represented in this convention. I am perfectly satisfied with the amendment offered by Brother Lennon if it takes in all the representatives of the needle industry organized in this country.

Delegate Rickert (United Garment Workers) opposed even the report of the committee, fearing that thereby the Amalgamated Clothing Workers would be given

recognition. In his opinion the resolution had been introduced with that object in view.

Delegate Sweeny (Journeyman Tailors) correcting Rickert, expressed the hope that the workers of the garment trades might be united at some date in the near future.

Delegate Voigt (Oakland Central Labor Council) expressed the hope that there might be solidarity, not only among the garment workers, but in the American labor movement as a whole.

Delegate Schlesinger spoke along the same lines and in referring to the Amalgamated said they had sixty or seventy thousand members and had during the past three years been able to accomplish much for the workers involved. He told of his repeated efforts in past conventions to bring about the unification of the forces in the clothing industry and said he thought this would be brought about if the convention would give to the Executive Council the power to exercise its authority. Responding to the criticism which had been made in reference to the formation of a needle trades department he said it was the intent of the resolution that a garment trades department be established rather than a needle trades department.

Delegate Larger voiced Rickert's sentiments, deprecating the influence and encouragement given the Amalgamated by our International.

Delegate Holland of New York, attacked the Forward as the "official organ of the United Hebrew Trades," which controls the garment working industry in New York City.

The voting on Lennon's amendment resulted in 84 voting in favor and 167 opposed, and the report of the committee was adopted by 151 in favor and 31 against.

### EXTENSIVE STRIKE IN THE OIL FIELDS

A strike has occurred among the workers of the Texas and Louisiana oil fields, involving some 8,000 people at the pumping operations. They demand better working conditions, but the employers declined to receive a committee of the union to discuss grievances.

Public opinion of the locality throws the onus of blame entirely on the shoulders of the well owners who heretofore have treated the workers with scornful indifference.

The organized workers at the oil refineries threaten to strike in sympathy with the pumpers, should the employers engage strike breakers. They will not refine the oil pumped by scabs.

The federal mediator is expected to intervene and settle the strike and the workers feel sure of victory.

### PLUCKY TELEPHONE GIRLS RAISE WAGES

Plucky telephone girls of Sapulpa, Okla., tied up the system of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and forced that corporation to establish a minimum wage of \$40 a month instead of the former average rates of \$5.10 to \$6 a week.

At a public meeting in the court house trade unionists and other citizens gave pledges that would guarantee the girls a weekly strike benefit and it was declared that no homes should be opened to strike-breakers. For a week Sapulpa was without telephone service and citizens drove five miles to secure long distance service.

Fort Smith, Ark.—Telephone girls on strike announce that they will furnish enough operators so that any telephone patron may get a connection with the fire department in case of fire without cost to the city or the telephone company.

The girls are asking for higher wages and have offered to return to work if the company agrees to arbitrate, but this offer has not been accepted.

San Francisco—To settle the Pacific coast telephone strike, Federal Mediator Reed submitted this plan to the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company: Recognition of the Telephone Girls' union on the Pacific coast and arbitration of wage increase for electrical workers.

### SPEND MILLION A MONTH RATHER THAN GIVE MEN \$750,000 A YEAR RAISE

San Francisco—The United Railroads spent a million dollars a month the past summer to break a strike of its motormen and conductors.

When the workers asked for wage increases the company raised the "poverty" cry. This statement was investigated by

the state railroad commission at the request of the board of supervisors.

The commission reported that the first two weeks of the strike cost the company \$410,617, and the first six weeks \$1,231,853.

The strike is still on.

The wage increases would have amounted to three-quarters of a million dollars a year

### POLICE HELP WEINBERG, WHO IS ACQUITTED BY THE JURY

San Francisco—Attorneys for Israel Weinberg, defendant in the so-called bomb conspiracy cases, dealt the prosecution a hard blow when they forced Lieutenant of Police Bunner to testify that he did not see a jitney bus at Steuart and Market streets, the scene of the explosion, after 1 p. m. The prosecution held that Weinberg drove a jitney with Thomas J. Mooney, Mrs. Rena Mooney and Warren K. Billings, to his corner at about 1:30 of the day of the tragedy, July 22nd, last. The police officer said he turned all traffic off Market street and the Embarcadero, four blocks from the scene of the explosion, on orders of the chief of police. The jury, after twenty minutes consultation, acquitted Weinberg, who had been sixteen months in jail on this frame-up charge.

### UNION INFLICTS FINES

East Liverpool, Ohio—The iron hand of discipline is felt by a few members of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters who urged secession during the recent wage adjustment which included a short strike. Every move made was first submitted to the referendum by the officers of the brotherhood, but even this did not satisfy these "leaders" who now, find themselves without an army and are compelled to pay stiff fines.

### COLORADO UNIONS PLAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

The Colorado State Federation of Labor's plan to assure sons and daughters of labor a college education is being given enthusiastic support by officials of the Colorado state university, and at a meeting in Boulder, attended by unionists and educators, it was decided to incorporate the Colorado Labor Education Association. Contributions will be asked to finance a 1918 class of at least

100 young men and women. The recipients will be expected to pay back at some future time the money loaned them by Colorado's organized workers. The plan has been indorsed by the four railroad brotherhoods.

### HOW TO STOP STRIKES.

Open, intelligent discussion of any points of differences between employer and employes will banish the strike, many of which in the past year have been by unorganized men. But, of necessity, this means that the workers must be protected in their rights to openly express their grievances. And that can only be through the power to resist repression; the power that can only be gained through organization.

Employes will continue to look with distrust upon any employer who pretends to favor the policy of collective bargaining and at the same time seeks to prevent his employes from effecting an organization, only through which they could adequately express themselves.

A conference between employer and employes, with all the economic power of a complete organization, a thoroughly outlined policy, on the one side, and complete isolation, no means of outlining any policy, no means of organized resistance, on the other side, is a sham and a fraud, and no one knows this any better than those who advocate such one-sided "conferences."

The right to organize must be insisted upon, at all hazards, by the workers, and we hold that those, who for greed or gain, of in the hope of wielding undivided power, seek to obstruct the organization of the workers, are digging a pit into which they themselves may fall; are endangering the stability of the government of this country and engendering strikes that could be avoided by withholding opposition to organization and dealing with the workers collectively.—Oklahoma Federationist.

The main object of all the struggles of organized labor is the establishment of fairness in the dealings of men with each other. Surely this is a movement which deserves the support of every true American whether he is a union man or not.

## General Executive Board In Session

The quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board was held beginning October 29, 1917, at Windsor Hotel, Montreal, Canada.

President Schlesinger presided and there were present Vice-Presidents J. Halperin, S. Metz, S. Lefkowitz, Fannia M. Cohn, H. Wander, S. Ninfel, H. Schoofman, S. Koldovsky, M. Amdur, S. Seidman and Secretary Baroff. Apologies were received from Vice-President John H. Pierce, located in Cincinnati; Vice-President M. Pearlstein of Cleveland, and it was intimated that First Vice-President Elmer Rosenberg was busy with his campaign in New York City and could not attend the meeting.

Reports of officers and organizers were read by Secretary Baroff.

In response to a communication from Local 62, White Goods Workers' Union of New York, the General office was empowered to assist the local in securing a reasonable increase in wages early in the coming year. The agreement signed with the Cotton Garment Manufacturers' Association calls for 50 cents a week. The agreement had been signed before the cost of living attained its present high level and the whitegoods workers could not in reason accept a small increase that would bring them no relief.

A communication from the Embroidery Workers' Union Local No. 6, read that their agreement with the employers would expire February, 1918. A clause in the agreement calls for a conference with the manufacturers prior to its expiration, for the purpose of taking up any propositions made by either side. They had sent a letter to the association asking for a conference and received an answer from Attorney Gordon, stating that there was no necessity for a conference. The communication referred to the fact that they had taken up this matter with President Schlesinger. They now ask the General Executive Board to aid them as much as possible at the time of the general strike, when they established union conditions and a permanent organization. They state that whether the manufacturers agree to confer with them or not, the workers will surely not be satisfied with present conditions, as the great rise in the cost of living forces them to ask for higher wages,

which they are ready to get through a conference, or, if necessary, by a strike.

After President Schlesinger had explained the situation, it was decided to empower the General Office to use every effort to help the embroiderers to achieve their aim.

Agreed that President Schlesinger be empowered to make such arrangements as he may deem necessary with any person he will find capable of managing the business end of our official publication, the LADIES' GARMENT WORKER.

It was decided to request President Schlesinger to do all he can to help Local No. 25 in its present situation.

The action of Secretary Baroff, in donating \$10.00 weekly to our Local No. 43, Waist and White Goods Workers' Union of Worcester, was approved.

A committee, consisting of Brothers Schubert, LaBensohn, Feldman, Mitchel and Miss Gladstone, appeared in behalf of the Joint Board of Montreal. Brother Schubert who spoke for the committee, stated that the situation requires the urgent attention of the General Executive Board; among other things it was most important that the International send someone to take up the organizing and conducting of the Montreal Joint Board.

Brother Lebensohn appealed to the General Executive Board to have this matter in mind as this was the opportune time for strengthening the Union. If someone should be sent from New York to take the affairs of the organization in hand, they would by next season be able to exact recognition from the manufacturers without a strike. It was decided to grant the request of the Montreal Joint Board.

A committee, consisting of Miss Silverman and Miss Merson, appeared before the Board in behalf of the Waistmakers' Union of Montreal. They stated that there were only a few hundred Jewish girls in the trade, while there were over 4,000 French girls. They needed a French organizer and appealed to the General Executive Board to take into consideration the fact that about 5,000 girls working in the industry were earning from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per week working long hours. If the French girls were moved, they would make great prog-

ress and organize the entire industry.

President Schlesinger answered for the Board, saying that the International has their appeal at heart and that as soon as the Montreal cloakmakers' Union is placed on a proper footing, the International will see what can be done in the way of organizing the workers in the waist and dress industry in Montreal.

The request of the Ladies' and Alteration Tailors' Union Local 80 that the International should not deprive them of the services of Brother Lefkovits, at least, not before the coming Spring season, was granted.

### DECISION IN THE APPEAL OF B. PRAGER

In regard to the appeal of B. Prager, formerly an officer and member of the former Ladies' Tailors' Union Local 38, to the Philadelphia convention for a reopening of his case, (he having been expelled from the union upon charges brought against him in connection with the strike of ladies' tailors in 1915)—the Appeal and Grievance Committee of the convention recommended that a sub-committee of three of its members, in conjunction with a committee of the General Executive Board, should look

into new evidence to be submitted to it and should be empowered to decide whether his appeal should be granted or rejected.

The sub-committee consisted of Vice-President Amdur, Manager Zucker of Local 41 and Brother Ryan of Local No. 10. As Brother Amdur could not attend the meetings Secretary Baroff appointed Brother Kushner of Local 9 in his place.

After holding three long sessions and examining all the facts of the case in the light of new evidence the sub-committee came to the conclusion that Prager was not guilty of the offence charged against him and should be reinstated as a member of the union. But as he acted indiscreetly in keeping company during the strike with persons unworthy of respect he should not be permitted to hold a responsible office in any local union.

The General Executive Board amended the sub-committee's recommendation to read as follows:

"That Prager be reinstated as a member of the union with the understanding that he is not to attend meetings of the organization for one year from the date of his reinstatement, and that he is to pay up all his arrears."

### THE JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTE BETWEEN LOCALS NOS. 1 AND 17

Report and Recommendations of the Committee of Three Appointed by the General Executive Board at its Boston Sessions in August, 1917.

At the last session of the General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, held in August, in the City of Boston, a committee of three, consisting of President Benjamin Schlesinger and Vice-Presidents S. Koldovsky and H. Schoolman, was appointed to make a thorough investigation of all the disputes and claims among the cloak and reefer makers' locals affiliated with the Joint Board of the Cloak, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Unions of New York City, and to bring in a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Executive Board. The committee subsequently engaged Dr. Frank F. Rosenblatt, the economist and statistician, to assist in the investigation.

In order that all the members of your committee and Dr. Rosenblatt may have a thorough understanding of the problems involved in this investigation and in order to have all the grievances and claims of the locals against each other brought out in detail, the locals concerned and the Joint Board were invited to send representatives to a hearing which was held at the office of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, New York City, on the 16th of October.

Local No. 1 was represented by Brothers P. Kottler, Alexander Student, M. J. Ash-

pi, William Bloom, Abraham Rosenberg and J. Rubin; Local No. 9 by Brothers S. Shuster, J. Kestin, S. Rabinowitz, Isidor Kohn and J. Halperin; Local No. 11 by Brother H. Brodsky; Local No. 17 by Brothers J. Heller, M. Jacobinsky, L. Mann, D. Nisnewitz and Abraham Goldin; while the Joint Board was represented by Brothers J. Kimbarofsky, L. Pinkowsky M. Sigman, L. Langer and S. Russanoff.

The salient claims of Local No. 1 may be reduced to three points, viz:

1. The question of jurisdiction; 2. The question of transfers; 3. The question of competition.

#### I. The Question of Jurisdiction.

The arguments of the representatives of Local No. 1 with reference to the jurisdiction question were based chiefly on Article XI, Section 4, of our constitution, which provides that "no more than one charter shall be granted to any branch of the trade in any city or locality without the consent of the existing local union." The representatives of Local No. 1 contended that, besides Local No. 11 in Brownsville, there are in the city of New York two locals controlling the same branch of the cloak trade, namely, Locals No. 1 and No. 17. Originally Local No. 1 was created for the purpose of organizing and controlling all

the cloak operators in the city of New York, while the charter granted to Local No. 17 was confined exclusively to such shops where infants' and children's garments were produced. Local No. 17, however, is alleged to have spread its activities and control over shops where ladies' coats, or cloaks, are wholly or partly produced. Moreover, it is claimed, that there are shops in which 80 per cent. of the operators are members of Local No. 1, and yet the prices are fixed by members of Local No. 17 according to the standards of that local. Local No. 17 is systematically usurping the control over shops in which cloaks are made. This is an anomaly and a violation of the Constitution of the International, since the control over cloak shops must by right belong to Local No. 1, which was duly chartered for that purpose.

### II. The Question of Transfers.

The eagerness of Local No. 17 to gain control over a great number of cloak shops leads to many serious abuses. Members of other locals are either not allowed to get employment in shops controlled by Local No. 17, or, if they are fortunate enough to get employment, they are forced to get transfers from their respective Locals. Several cases were cited in proof of that contention. The shop of A. Siegel & Co., of 31 West 26th Street, was mentioned as one of the most flagrant cases of usurpation on the part of Local No. 17. Of the three thousand members of the latter Local, about one thousand were actually forced to transfer themselves from other Locals. The control over cloak shops has been constantly wrested from the Joint Board by Local No. 17. This resulted in a number of evils which undermine the very existence of the Cloakmakers' Union. The most conspicuous of those evils is to be found in the general and unhealthy competition in prices, which is carried on by the shops of Local No. 17 against those controlled by the Joint Board of Local No. 1.

### III. The Question of Competition.

The representative of Local No. 1 emphasized the fact that the question of jurisdiction and transfers would not be of such importance as to need special investigation, were it not for the fact that the alleged transgression of Local No. 17 entering the cloak industry proper creates conditions which are ruinous for the whole trade. Local No. 17 is supposed to settle prices according to a definite standard. This standard is based on the body. In reality, however, it was averred, the so-called standard tends to create competition not only between shops of Local No. 17 and Local No. 1, but also between various shops controlled by the very same Local No. 17. It was contended that the manufacturer accustomed to settle prices per body absolutely refuse to distinguish between superior and inferior qualities of garments. The same basis per body is used for garments of a higher as well as of a lower grade of work; the stand-

ard applied to cheap material is also applied to costly materials which require more care and naturally more time from the operator. It was argued that the members of Local No. 17 being ordinarily poor operators and few of them having ever worked on a higher grade of work, they lack all qualifications for the responsible task of settling prices for garments of a superior quality. Their price committees are ordinarily guided by the standards prevailing in reefer shops, and those standards naturally tend to reduce the prices for better garments to the low reefer standards of Local No. 17. The method applied by the Joint Board which always takes into consideration not only the body, not only the quality of the goods and the quality of work required, but also the earnings of the operators in the various shops, is absolutely foreign to the leaders of Local No. 17. The whole process of standardizing prices, according to this contention, has, therefore, become a factor for evil rather than for good. It has created animosity and fostered competition between the poorer operators and the better ones.

But this is not all. It was asserted that garments of similar workmanship and style are operated in Local No. 17 shops for 50 cents or 60 cents per body, while in the establishments of the Joint Board or Local No. 1, they are settled for 80 cents or 90 cents. Among the various other shops several representatives of Local No. 1 mentioned those of Weinstein Brothers, Weinstein & Klipstein, Weinstein & Brecher, etc., where the prices per body, it was claimed, vary considerably from those prevailing in the shops of the Joint Board or Local No. 1.

In the opinion of the representatives of Local No. 1, the effect of the lower standards of Local No. 17 is twofold. On the one hand, the better operators working on a better grade of garments are compelled to accept the prices settled in other shops by Local No. 17, while, on the other hand, the employers who are unable to stand the competition of Local No. 17 shops, where the manufacturing cost per garment is considerably lower, are driven to either reduce their output or to give out their work to contractors and sub-manufacturers. In either case it is the operators of Local No. 1 who are the sufferers. A great number of them work only a few weeks in the season; they are forced to idleness for long intervals, while the members of Local No. 17 are afforded all opportunities for work most of the time on either reefers or regular cloaks.

The representatives of Local No. 1 admitted that, in spite of the low standards prevailing in Local No. 17 shops, the average earnings in the latter are higher than those of the operators under their control. The higher earning capacity, however, was attributed to the fact that, because of the lower prices, the Local No. 17 members get

more work, bigger bundles and bigger lots, while the members of Local No. 1 must be content with specials, with the better grades of work, and most of the time with their attractive price lists. Cloak manufacturers are forced by their competitors, whose shops are under the control of Local No. 17, to send out their cheaper lines of work to contractors or to buy them ready-made from Weinstein Brothers and others. The low standards of Local No. 17 have become notorious to such an extent that manufacturers actually insist that their shops be put under the jurisdiction of that local in order that they may settle prices according to the standards of the latter.

The representatives of Local No. 1 dwelt at length on the chaotic conditions created by this competition which, according to their contentions, were due solely or chiefly to the division of jurisdiction in the same trade. They demanded, therefore, that the constitution of the International prohibiting the existence of two locals in the same trade in one city be enforced. They argued that the reorganization of both locals would do away with competition in prices and would solve the problems connected with unemployment and unequal earnings of the operators in the various shops. Some representatives went so far as to demand that the International dissolve either Local No. 1 or Local No. 17, ordering all the operators to join the one remaining local. Others proposed that both locals be dissolved and a new one organized for all the members of both existing locals.

#### The Case of Local No. 9

The representatives of Local No. 9 also presented their grievances against Local No. 17. According to them, the control of shops by Local No. 17 tends to displace a great number of finishers. Local No. 17 shops were the first to introduce machine lined garments on the market. The attempt on the part of the union to prevent this mode of machine-lined production from being spread in all shops has been futile. The machine has practically displaced all hand workers. In many shops the finishing of a garment has been reduced to a minimum, to button sewing and the like. The union, of course, realizes that the introduction of machinery in any line of work cannot be prevented. At the same time, it is its duty to protect the interests of the finishers. Accordingly, some time ago the price committees of the Joint Board shops were instructed to demand 25c extra for operating a machine-lined garment. The union could not accomplish anything because of the competition due to the conditions and the low standards prevailing in Local No. 17 shops. The manufacturers whose shops are under the control of the Joint Board, have learned the secret of minimizing the cost of production. They usually pick out the better coats for the inside workers, to be lined by hand, while the cheaper garments are turned over to

sub-manufacturers and contractors. This spells ruin to the whole trade and complete disorganization of the union. On the one hand, one group of finishers is instructed by the union to fight for a decent price in order to prevent, as far as possible, the universal establishment of the machine-lined garment system, while, on the other hand, finishers of Local No. 17 shops continue to work on cheap machine-lined coats at lower rates and thus replacing a great number of mechanics.

The representatives of Local No. 9 submitted price lists of twenty shops in proof of their contention that there is actual competition among the finishers. The prices for finishing certain parts of the garment in Local No. 17 establishments were alleged to be 50 per cent. lower than in those controlled by the Joint Board. The fact that finishers in Local No. 17 shops are, on the average, earning higher weekly wages was attributed to the unfair competition on the part of Local No. 17 shops, which, because of the lower rates, get all the work, while the finishers of the Joint Board are being gradually doomed to unemployment. If this state of affairs is allowed to continue, the unavoidable result will be that the standard of prices in the Joint Board shops will be forced down to Local No. 17 standards, but the lowering of prices in the former shops will in turn still more reduce the lower prices now prevailing in the latter. The mischief created and fostered by Local No. 17 will thus spread itself unchecked to the whole trade.

The representatives of Local No. 9 demanded, therefore, that either both locals shall have the same price lists for finishing, or that all the finishers under the control of Local No. 17 be transferred to Local No. 9, so that the latter may establish its own price lists.

#### The Defense of Local No. 17.

The representatives of Local No. 17 claimed the right to control their shops on the authority of the American Federation of Labor, which in October, 1913, investigated the jurisdiction claims of Locals No. 1 and No. 9, and decided that the disputed work should remain under the control of Local No. 17.

As to the question of transfers, they insisted on their constitutional right to demand transfers from any member of a different local working in shops under the control of Local No. 17. (Cf. constitution, Article XVI, Section 3, and Article XVII, Section 9.)

The argument presented by the various representatives of the other locals in reference to competition were hardly met. Emphasis was laid, however, on the fair union conditions and the reasonable standards prevailing in Local No. 17 shops.

#### Scope of the Investigation.

After a careful analysis of all the claims and arguments presented by both sides, your committee, together with Dr. Rosen-

blatt, worked out a schedule of questions framed in a way as to reveal all the facts relating to the articles manufactured, the material, the grade of work, the selling price, the number of employees, the prices per body and per garment, the average earnings, the system of work, the variation in styles, the length of seasons, the question of transfers, etc.

Assisted by Brother M. Sapin of Local No. 1, Brother J. Heller of Local No. 17 and Brother Babits of Local No. 9, two members of your committee, Brothers Koldofsky and Schoolman, and Dr. Roseblatt visited and made a thorough investigation of the following establishments.

Under the control of the Joint Board and Local No. 1: Meyer, Resell, Kanowitz & Rosen, Karl Fried, Joseph Leff, Charles Miller & Brother, Schwarzbart Brothers, Leibman & Hurwitz, Accurate Cloak Co.

Under control of Local No. 17: Weinstein Bros., Weinstein & Klipstein, Weinstein & Brecher, Weinstein & Levy, Edelson & Hand, Scharf & Wasserman, Schlansky & Cooper, A. Siegel & Co., Shapiro & Sons.

It will be noted that, with the exception of the Meyer Vesel factory, none of the establishments investigated belongs to the Cloak, Suit & Skirt Manufacturers' Protective Association. While your committee had no difficulty in getting permission of all the above concerns to enter their shops and to make the investigation as thorough as was deemed necessary, members of the manufacturers' association flatly refused to permit the investigators to enter their factories without the consent from the officers of the association. Such consent was denied to the committee which was, therefore, compelled to limit the investigation to independent shops. This circumstance, however, does not in the least vitiate the results of the investigation. The firms investigated are typical and representative shops. They were chosen by Brothers Sapin, Heller and Babits, the representatives of the three locals concerned. The conditions found in the investigated Local No. 17 establishments prevail in most of the shops under the control of that local. The independent shops of the Joint Board or Local No. 1 likewise represent the conditions and standards prevailing in most of the shops under their jurisdiction.

#### Results of the Investigation.

Your committee found that of the eight shops controlled by the Joint Board or Local No. 1, four establishments were engaged in the production of coats exclusively; two in the production of suits and coats; one in the production of coats and juniors, and one in the production of coats, juniors and reefers. The juniors and reefers handled by the last firm are, as a rule, made in outside shops, while the inside manufacture of coats is of a very low grade of workmanship and material, inferior to that found in the shop of Weinstein Brothers.

Of the nine shops controlled by Local No. 17, three are engaged in the production of reefers and juniors exclusively; three in the manufacture of reefers and juniors and a low grade of coats, while the remaining three establishments produce reefers and juniors and a medium line of cloaks. In the latter three establishments a small percentage of a better line of coats is being produced. In most of the above shops pile fabrics constitute the principal materials. In all shops the work is done mostly for jobbers and cataloguers.

The standards in the shops controlled by Local No. 17 vary from 22 cents to 65 cents per body for operating and from 4 cents to 25 cents for finishing. The prices for operating a complete garment vary from 25 cents to \$1.10. The variation in the prices is due to differences of size as well as to the different materials used and to the different grades of work. In shops where both cheap and costly materials are used the prices per body are fixed according to the quality of the material. In one shop about 10 per cent. of the garments produced are operated at rates varying from \$1.10 to \$1.75, while in another shop 20 per cent. of the total products are operated at prices varying from \$1.10 to \$3.35 per garment and finished at rates running from 30 cents to \$1.85.

The body standard finds little application in the factories controlled by the Joint Board or Local No. 1. In most shops the price is fixed per complete garment. In either case, however, the variation in the price is as great as in Local No. 17 establishments, and is due to the same reasons as given above for the latter shops. (The report proper contains a detailed table of prices in some of the shops investigated.)

In most of the shops controlled by Local No. 17 the system of work is considerably simpler than in those controlled by the Joint Board or Local No. 1. The work, too, is of a much inferior grade, requiring less skill, less care, and naturally less time on the part of the operator or finisher. The control of the union is well established in practically every shop investigated. This cannot be said of all the investigated establishments under the control of the Joint Board or Local No. 1. In two of the factories the control of the union, the standard of prices and the conditions of work are extremely bad. They are typical of the sweatshop system. In one of these the work done is of an inferior kind, somewhat poorer than in the factory of Weinstein Brothers. The prices per garment are much lower than in the latter establishments. Very few garments are operated at rates exceeding 40 cents, while some are operated for 25 cents. The work in the other establishment is of a far better line. As this establishment was claimed to be a sub-manufacturing shop doing work for one of the investigated firms your committee investigated both places and established the

fact that the prices in the former establishment are practically 50 per cent. lower than those prevailing in the latter. A garment settled for \$2.15 in the inside shop is operated for \$1.05 in the shop of sub-manufacturer referred to.

The average earnings of the operators in the Local No. 17 shops are higher than in the establishments controlled by the Joint Board or Local No. 1. Statistical tables of the actual earnings in the shops of Local No. 17 and of the Joint Board and Local No. 1 will be found in appendix 2 of the report proper.

In almost every shop investigated your committee examined members who had been transferred to Local No. 17 from other locals. In only a few instances pressure on the part of the shop chairmen seems to have been the cause. In most cases, however, the transfers were obtained voluntarily. The reason for changing the local affiliation was ascribed to the fact that the work and mutual contact in the same shop with members of Local No. 17 created common interests which they found necessary to protect together with the members of that local. In some factories the shop chairmen insisted on transfers because of the imminent danger of demoralization and disorganization among the Local No. 17 members who protested against paying 25 cents weekly dues, while members of Local No. 1, working in the same place and enjoying the same privileges, were paying only 16 cents per week. In order to check the disaffection among its members, Local No. 17 was compelled to demand transfers from members of other locals working in the shops under its control. In a number of cases the reason for transferring was attributed to the trouble in Local No. 1. Some of the members refused to buy stamps from the opposition local, and at the same time were reluctant to join the newly organized Local No. 1. They thought it, therefore, most expedient to acquire membership in Local No. 17.

Your committee is of the opinion that Local No. 17 has not confined itself strictly to the jurisdiction granted to it by the charter of the International. As stated above, the control of the local extends to shops in which part of the products consists of coats, which are of a low or medium grade of workmanship and even on a par with those manufactured in the firms under the control of the Joint Board or Local No. 1. However, since practically every one of those concerns had been originally established for the manufacture of reefers and juniors, and not of cloaks and since the former, and not the latter, still constitute the principal articles manufactured, the control of Local No. 17 was merely concomitant with the growth and development of those shops, and can in no way be regarded as wilful usurpation on the part of that local.

Furthermore, your committee is convinced that the settlement of the jurisdic-

tion issue will by no means stamp out the evil of competition, which is the real source of all the trouble in the cloak industry. The existence of competition between the various shops, whether controlled by Local No. 17 or by the Joint Board and Local No. 1, is a fact which can hardly be disputed. This competition, however, has much deeper roots and presents a far graver problem than the controversy between Local No. 1 and Local No. 17. The friction created by the dual jurisdiction is not the cause, as alleged by Local No. 1, but the result of the existing competition. This fact cannot be overemphasized. The competition between the shops springs not from the segregate control of a relatively small number of shops by Local No. 17, nor from the infringement by the latter on the authority of Local No. 1. Quite the contrary, it is this very competition of employees in the various shops controlled by either local that is affording ample nurture to the jurisdiction issue.

The competition between the cloak workers is a natural result of the competition existing between the cloak manufacturers. This latter competition cannot be checked by union regulations. It is due entirely to the lack of uniformity in the mode of production, to the use of modern methods of production, as well as to the efficiency of factory administration in one set of shops, as over against the conservative processes of production and the lack of efficiency in others. In the shop of Weinstein Brothers, for instance, the garments manufactured are of a cheap grade of work, of cheap material and of extremely simple styles. They are produced in great quantities and, because of the utilization of labor-saving devices, at great speed. It is this cheap garment that is competing with the more expensive products manufactured in other establishments. Powerful as the union may be, it cannot check this competition. It is a process going on in practically every branch of every industry, and has absolutely nothing to do with the exercise of jurisdiction by either one or another union. The authority of Local No. 25 of our International is undivided and undisputed by any other local. Yet the same conditions of competition actually exist among the various shops controlled by that local. The more efficient waist manufacturer gets the better of the less efficient one. His force is getting more work and is naturally competing with the workers in the other shops.

The automobile industry presents another illustration. The mechanics employed by the Ford Company in Detroit are getting higher wages and better labor conditions than the men employed by his competitors in the same city. The competition between automobile workers in Detroit is in no way due to any jurisdictional transgression on the part of one or another group of workers. It is the competition between the Ford Company and the Packard Company

that results in the competition between the workers. The better conditions and the higher wages prevailing at the Ford factories are direct results of the efficient management, the utilization of modern processes of production and the extensive market. The cloak shops availing themselves of the new mode of production and of labor saving devices facilitating the manufacture of garments are analogous to the Ford Company.

The transfer of the control of the cloak shops to either Local No. 17, would not in the least do away with competition between manufacturers who are taking advantage of the simpler processes of work and those who are unable to cope with the situation either because of inefficiency or because of lack of capital. The progressive, or rather aggressive, and efficient manufacturer would then, as now, be able to get the better of his less efficient competitor. The garment would then, as now, be made in his shop in a simpler and quicker way, and he would then, as now, pay a cheaper rate for a cheaper coat than would be paid in the other shops for a more elaborate and more expensive article.

The malady of competition among the workers depending entirely on the competition between the manufacturers cannot be cured by patent medicines. The whole system of wage settlement must be changed. The union, of course, cannot abolish competition between the employers; the union cannot forbid the production of cheap coats which apparently find an ever-expanding market; the union cannot penalize the efficient manufacturer for the benefit of the inefficient one. Nor can the union demand that the manufacturing price for a cheap and simple garment be equal to the price for a high-grade and expensive garment. What the union CAN do is to standardize the earnings of the workers in either line of the trade. It is not a question of price per garment. It is a question of actual earnings in the one type of shop or the other. The union must fight for the abolition of the piece system of wage payment. The wage standard must be based not on the piece but on the week. If week work cannot be established at once as a general system, the 80 cents per hour standard must be enforced in all shops.

It goes without saying that the time basis of wage payment will not do away with competition between the employers; but the union is not directly interested in the welfare of the employers. It is the welfare and the interests of its members that the union has at heart.

The introduction of the time basis of wage payment will do away with actual competition between individual shops, although it may not entirely solve the problem of seasonal unemployment in the better lines of the trade. The cloak trade, as every other branch of the clothing indus-

try, is seasonal. The union cannot compel the manufacturers to furnish employment to their workers if they have no demand for their products. After the season is over, a number of men and women in the trade are forced to idleness. The control of the shops by neither of the existing locals would affect this condition, while a change in the method of wage payment from the piece to the week basis may, to some extent, relieve the situation, either by shortening the hours of work and thus lengthening the seasons or by demanding a higher weekly rate and thus helping the workers to provide some means for the slack season.

To recapitulate, your committee is convinced that the elimination of the jurisdiction question will not solve the problem of competition, while, on the other hand, a successful remedy applied to the evils of competition will kill all the germs of friction bred by the jurisdiction issue. Abolish the harmful cause, and the vicious effects will follow suit.

The competition between the finishers of the various shops investigated deserves serious attention, for the same reasons as stated above. Yet, there is a distinct difference between the competition of the operators and the competition of the finishers, since a great part of the blame for the latter may be laid directly at the door of Local No. 17. There seems to be less consideration on the part of this union for the finishers employed in Local No. 17 shops than for the operators in the same shops. Tabulated earnings of the finishers in the various shops controlled by either Local No. 17 or the Joint Board are given in appendix 3 of the report proper.

#### DECISION OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

After a thorough study and analysis of the report of the Committee appointed to investigate the conditions in the cloak and reefer shops for the purpose of settling the controversy between the operators and reefer makers of New York City, the General Executive Board is convinced that the contentions that Local No. 17 is instrumental in lowering the earnings and undermining the standards in the cloak shops in New York, are utterly unfounded. While it is true that many of the shops controlled by Local No. 17 have during recent years grown in size and are employing a larger number of workers in the inside shops, and that many regular cloak shops have decreased the number of workers in their inside shops, this development cannot be in the least attributed to any trade policy on the part of Local No. 17. The facts are

clearly established that the workers of Local No. 17 do not earn less than other operators do and that union conditions are no less strictly observed in their shops.

The tendency above referred to is explained by the facts that the lines of work manufactured in the shops controlled by Local No. 17 can be done under a more concentrated and efficient method of manufacturing, and that this method of manufacturing has given some firms controlled by Local No. 17 a chance to compete successfully with the manufacturers of the better or mixed lines of work. This also, in the opinion of the Board, disposes of the claim that Local No. 17 is responsible in any way for the fact that the reefer manufacturers have increased their inside shops and that the regular cloak firms are having much of their work made in outside shops.

The General Executive Board is absolutely convinced that the true and only reason why the late Local No. 1 has withdrawn from the Joint Board is because the Joint Board refused to sanction the unfair and dishonest election of last winter for executive board, and subsequently the plan for separate elections for business agents. The persons who were in control of the late local, not possessing the courage to acknowledge that it was a fight for the preservation of their positions within that local, have chosen to use the Local No. 17 issue as a cover for their designs. In this campaign to befog the minds of the workers as to the real issues, they had the assistance of a few hired penny-liners of a local Jewish daily newspaper, and of a changeable "manager" who chanced to be without a job during that particular period and who very willingly became the leading spirit of this group.

The General Executive Board in taking stock of the situation that has developed in consequence of this campaign of misrepresentation and abuse, finds that the agitation has left its poisonous mark in the minds of many of our workers and that the bogus issue advanced in order to shield personal designs and ambitions, have misled a large number of cloak operators, and created a sentiment which threatens the solidarity in our ranks.

In order to prevent a condition which might give the manufacturers a chance to take advantage of the disunion in our or-

ganization and to lower the standards and earnings of the New York cloakmakers, the General Executive Board has decided upon the following arrangement, to remain in force until the next convention of the International, June, 1918, when all jurisdictional questions and disputes will be finally decided:

1. All grievances of workers arising in shops controlled by Local No. 17 shall hereafter be taken up for adjustment directly by the Joint Board instead of the office of Local No. 17.

2. The Joint Board shall attend to all grievances of workers of such shops from one office and shall take care that such office be managed and conducted by a manager and business agents fully familiar with the various grades of work made in Local No. 17 shops as well as with the system of work prevailing in such shops.

3. Every member in good standing of any local affiliated with the Joint Board shall have the right to work in any shop controlled by the Joint Board without the formality of a transfer. The General Executive Board recommends that the membership dues of all such locals be made uniform as soon as possible.

4. All jurisdictional controversies that may occur between Local 17 and other locals of the Joint Board and any and all controversies with respect to the meaning or practical application of the above decision shall be submitted to and passed upon by the General President of the International subject only to an appeal to the convention.

The General Executive Board is fully convinced that the proposed arrangement will in no way interfere with the working conditions and excellent control of the shops of Local 17, and that it will make for greater harmony and more effective work of the workers in the entire industry. The Board expects that the above decision will be carried out in good faith and in a spirit of comradeship and solidarity by all bodies affected by the same as soon as possible.

In regard to the question of the finishers of Local 9 working in the shops of Local 17, as to whom the committee of three reported that they were not being cared for as well as the operators, the General Executive Board decided that whatever arrangement applied to the operators should

## 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.)

Compiled By M. D. Danish

### LADIES' AND MISSES' CLOAK AND SUIT OPERATORS' LOCAL NO. 1

Secretary Perez Kottler reports as follows:

"If you were to go into the headquarters of the re-organized Local No. 1 you could hardly tell that it is a new office. The machinery of the organization is in full swing now, and every inch of space is occupied by busy, active people. To give you a clear idea of the activities of the reorganized local, it would be sufficient to state that we have five men employed in the office who are constantly active; two men are engaged exclusively at registering operators into the local; nine business agents are taking care of the shop interests of the members, and all of these are on our payroll. To be exact, over 3,000 workers have already registered and they have all paid their dues. The local at present is covering all its expenses and it has begun to save money.

"A full Executive Board, consisting of twenty-five men, is taking care of the interests of the organization. Sub-committees of various kinds have been appointed by the Executive Board, a number of new administrative reforms have been introduced and the work has been systematized. We certainly intend to profit by the mistakes of the past.

"The delegation of our local to the Joint Board has been given full recognition and is represented on all important committees. We have officers in New Jersey and receive the full co-operation of organized labor there.

We are also represented in the Central Federated Union of New York and in the United Hebrew Trades.

"The meetings of the Executive Board are full of interest and activity. Committees, and sometimes full shops, come to the Board meetings when they do not receive satisfaction at the hands of the business agents. Of course, we occasionally come in conflict with the misguided followers of the expelled local, who resort to all sorts of tactics in order to stamp out loyalty to the organization and to the International in the shops where some of these discredited people are still working, and scabbing is not an infrequent occurrence on their part.

"In the shop of Lichtenthal on Greene Street, the firm sent down two Italian girls under some pretext. Our union insisted upon their reinstatement, and meeting with a refusal, a strike took place. An agent of the rival group brought some scabs, and now our executive members are picketing this shop. A similar thing happened in the shop of Cohen Brothers in Brooklyn, where the firm attempted to reduce the prices. A strike ensued, and the adherents of the gang started scabbing in the shop.

"In New Jersey they managed to get into one shop, and when a discharged cutter sought to be reinstated we called the shop to a meeting. Some of these fellows refused to come, but with the assistance of the Hudson Central Labor Union we unionized the shop, and now they have all registered.

also apply to the finishers. Pending the disposal of the jurisdictional questions in the cloak and skirt-trade by the next regular convention the Joint Board shall attend to the grievances of the finishers working in Local 17 shops as well as of the operators, and President Schlesinger was

empowered to call a conference of the locals concerned with a view of arriving at a satisfactory arrangement for taking care of the interests of these finishers.

General Executive Board,  
International Ladies' Garment Workers  
Union.

"In another shop in Jersey City a delegate of this gang promised the boss protection if he would discriminate against the members of the union. The shop was called on strike and, as a result, the gang closed their office in Jersey City and have sold out their furniture. The same thing happened in Brownsville, where their office was sold, and it is a matter of only a few days when their Brooklyn office will shut down."

#### CLOAK TAILORS' UNION, LOCAL NO. 9

Vice-President Halpern, manager of this local, writes as follows:

"On the whole, the past fall season was not bad, and wherever there was work our men and women earned a living. It is due, more than anything else, to a general feeling and determination among our members, to demand prices which will insure to them a living wage, and, as the old saying goes, where there is a will there is a way.

"On November 3rd we had a big performance at which no less than 400 shops were represented by delegates at Labor Temple, Second Avenue and 14th Street. It was the most representative gathering of cloak tailors and finishers held for some time. There were reports and discussion of the general situation in the trade and a review of the passing season. The paramount question was the introduction of week work in all cloak shops.

"It was reported that in sixty-eight shops the tailors and finishers worked this season by the week, and the general opinion is that the change was received with full satisfaction among our members. Aside from that, the campaign for week work has produced excellent results even in those shops which have not adopted this system, and brought about an increase of about 25% in all other shops. The increase however, has only served to make the sentiment for week work even stronger among our people, and the conference instructed the Executive Committee of our organization to continue the campaign for week work, and to use every effort meanwhile, wherever such a change is not yet possible, to demand an increase on piece work, in order to be able to combat the constantly rising cost of living.

"We have arranged a series of big meetings to introduce to our membership the newly elected members of the Socialist

Party for the State legislature and the Board of Aldermen. This was undertaken in connection with a program of educational work which we have mapped out for our members for the coming winter. The meetings already held and to be held are as follows:

"Saturday, Nov. 17—Clermont Hall 62 E. 160th St. Addresses by August Claesens and Elmer Rosenberg.

"Saturday, Nov. 24—Forward Hall, 175 East Broadway. Addresses by B. Schesinger, A. Held and B. Vladeck.

"Saturday, Dec. 1—Labor Lyceum, Brownsville. Addresses by S. Wiener, A. Shiplakoff and B. Wolf.

"Saturday, Dec. 8—People's House, 7 E. 15th St. Meeting of Women's Branch. Address by Algernon Lee.

"Saturday, Dec. 8—Bronx Casino. Addresses by Samuel Orr, B. Garfinkel and B. Gitlow.

"These meetings are also organization meetings, and we expect far-reaching results from them.

"Duplicates of spring samples are being made in many shops and we expect an early season. Our members generally are taking more interest in the work of the union than for a long time past. The sick benefit fund and the sanatorium undertaking are attracting attention, and now with the adoption of woman suffrage our members are becoming interested in the movement to naturalize women. The branch meetings are also very well attended."

#### SKIRT MAKERS' UNION, LOCAL NO. 23

Vice-President Wander reports as follows:

"Our fall season is never any too long, for, as a rule, women do not wear separate skirts in winter, but this passing fall was unusually short and poor. Our people were only making skirts in the suit shops for the suits, and, of course, that was not enough to keep them busy.

"There are still a great number of non-union dress shops in New York City, shops which neither Local 23 nor Local No. 25 have been successful in organizing. In these shops both cloth and silk dresses are being made. A number of our people went to work in these unorganized shops. Some ventured to go into men's clothing shops to work on military garments, but they were

not, as a rule, welcomed by the men's garment workers and very few remained.

"Naturally, the prospects for the next spring season are much brighter. The spring season is our big season, as skirts are worn separately to a great extent during spring and summer. Samples are being made in all shops now, and from all signs we are going to have an early season, too.

"The tumult created by the group of disrupters of the expelled local No. 1 did not have the slightest effect upon our members. We have a loyal and sane organization and the demagoguery of the job hunters does not in the least appeal to them.

"In speaking of the big number of unorganized dress shops in New York, I wish to say that during the last several months we have had conferences with the Waist Makers' Local No. 25 to interest them in an organizing campaign in this field and for cooperative effort. We thought it advisable to work together, as, from past experiences, we know that there exists an impression among the employers that if they sign agreements with Local No. 25 they would get better terms and conditions. So, it appears to us that there is no better way to remove this impression than by the cooperative work of these two locals. The transfer troubles which used to exist in the shops of these two locals have also been eliminated lately by mutual consent.

"Our Tuberculosis Fund is in good shape, and our members are sustaining it with a will. If the next season will turn out as expected, we will very likely proceed with our plans to establish a sick benefit fund, as well."

#### CLOAK PRESSERS' UNION, LOCAL NO. 35

Brother A. E. Kazan, secretary of the local, writes:

"After having gained the raise of wages for our members in August, our local at once began to consider further constructive work within the organization. Whenever something definite and tangible has been accomplished by the organization for our workers—an improvement of conditions or a raise in wages—our task to introduce new reforms within the local and strengthen the organization is much easier and presents fewer obstacles.

"The first question which drew the attention of our local was the introduction of

"Out-of-Work" benefits for the members. This question is not altogether new and has been talked of and discussed several times. However, it is a very big undertaking. Our membership being large, our seasons unsteady and the earnings of our workers uncertain, the introduction of out-of-work benefit presents almost insurmountable difficulties. The main problem would be the financing of the fund. It is difficult, without concrete statistical information, to say definitely how much money would be required for such a benefit fund. It may be superficially estimated that we would require anywhere from \$35,000 to \$50,000 a year for this purpose. In order to raise this sum it has been proposed that each member of the local should contribute one day's wages, pressers and under-pressers alike, and that this money be paid in two parts—half a day's wages each season.

"In connection with this 'Out-of-Work' Fund, it is planned to establish a labor bureau in the union in order to abolish the so-called "street labor markets" and to exercise a stricter control over our members when they go to work in new shops. Owing to the unexpected poor conditions in our trade during the last few months, this question was not submitted to a vote of our membership. Sooner or later, however, at the first favorable opportunity, this question will again be raised and we expect our members' approval.

"Two other important questions have been taken up with our local during the last few months. One was in regard to free medical aid to our members, and the other regarding life insurance for the members of our local who are not older than sixty-five years and who are willing to take it up. The first question was settled without any particular difficulty. The medical division of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control, where our members are being examined, has been enlarged, and, instead of a mere examination, our men get medical prescriptions and advice. In case of minor operations the medical clinic usually takes care of it at once. In this way our members are being saved the expense of private physicians, and their health is safeguarded. When the work of the medical clinic will become enlarged in the course of time, it is planned to engage experts in each branch of medical science who will render assistance and services to our members in case

of necessity. Speaking of the medical clinic, we wish to say in passing that even though this clinic is being supported by a *number of locals, the biggest portion of the expense is contributed by our local.* Our local Relief Committee pays to the medical clinic about \$70.00 a month for this work alone.

"The insurance question is a new proposition among the Jewish unions, and we expect criticism that we are departing from the strictly union basis of our organization. Many of our members, however, think that we have a perfect right to make use of the fact that the principle of unionism will not be weakened in any degree through the various methods of assistance that we offer our members through the local. Group insurance, or insurance of a great number of people at one time, is not a new thing, and many big companies and institutions have practiced it for years. Until now this method has been used to a great extent by big firms employing great numbers of people, and to bind the worker to his job they insured him, so that in case of his death his family would be provided with a few hundred dollars. Quite naturally, the firms that insured their workers did not lose any money on this proposition, as the workers themselves were called upon to pay their premiums either in full or in part.

"For the membership of our local, consisting of men of whom 80 per cent. are married, and with an average of three children to a family, insurance is an important question. In order to provide their families through regular insurance, they would have to pay between \$30 and \$40 per year for each thousand. If, however, our local should undertake to insure its entire membership, or, at least one thousand men at one time, the cost of this insurance would amount to anywhere between \$11 and \$15 a year. Of course, it is very difficult to make it obligatory upon each member to carry insurance. We therefore expect to begin by getting first a thousand volunteers, and we are sure that the others will join later. The Relief Committee which has this problem on hand is taking care that the insurance company which will take up our risks is one of the safest in the country. It is also being arranged that when a member resigns from the union he may keep up his policy after he leaves the trade."

### PHILADELPHIA CLOAKMAKERS' UNION, LOCAL NO. 2

Vice-President Max Amdur, Manager of the Union, writes:

"It is only a few weeks since I returned to Philadelphia and found that the season had come to an end. The agreement worked out by President Schlesinger has not yet been signed. I did not insist on the association signing the agreement, as their membership consists at present of only twenty and the association has no machinery for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the organization. If we have a good season, I shall be able to attend to the interests of the organization without the agreement; or, if the adoption of the agreement should be necessary it can be easily accomplished.

"At present 75 per cent of our members are working in shops where military garments are being made. However, they pay their dues regularly. We have just started a campaign to organize these shops.

"I saw the Ladies' Tailors in Philadelphia, and found that during the few weeks that Brother La Porta has been here he has succeeded in creating some sentiment among the Italian workers. In my opinion, Brother La Porta should be given a chance to accomplish something substantial in Philadelphia.

"The Joint Board of Philadelphia is planning to buy a house for the organization. At present we have about \$8,000 for that purpose and we need more. It is needless to say that this will be of great benefit to the organization."

### TOLEDO CLOAKMAKERS, LOCAL NO. 67

B. Caplan, Secretary of the Local, writes: "We have some news in our town. The firm of Cohen, Friedlander and Martin, the biggest cloak shop in Toledo, called our men together and informed them that they have a big order on military coats and want us to settle prices on these garments. They, however, offered us a price which was impossible of acceptance. They wanted us to make the coats at 80c apiece, which would take at least three hours to make. In fact, it took the operators who made the test, five hours to make one garment. We asked \$2.25 for the garment and met with a refusal from the employers. As it seems, at

this writing, we shall not come to any agreement on this matter at all.

"The same firm is offering us now a new system of work, the "bonus" system. It is a sort of week work with additional bonuses for the amount of work produced. We have not accepted this proposition."

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

Brother Ben. Gilbert, organizer, writes:

"The season ended a little sooner than most cloakmakers expected, yet, on the whole, it was quite satisfactory. In some shops the earnings were very good and our men had little to complain of. But when the slack period came, some employers began to annoy the price committees and some of the more active members, and in some instances attempts were made to get rid of them. These employers figured that the workers would be glad to have fewer men in the shops now that there was little work, but they soon saw their mistake. The workers in all the shops decided to do whatever work there was on a co-operative basis, share and share alike, and divide the earnings among themselves. So the employers gave up their designs pretty soon and left our people alone.

"One firm, however, Lyd & Seltzer, locked out their workers soon after the season ended. The foreman announced to the men that they would be called back by letters whenever they would be wanted, but, at the same time he attempted to persuade a few operators to come back to work, with promises that they would be well taken care of. Seeing that the men were not willing to consent to these plans, he sent for a committee and announced that he was willing to employ all his operators except those who had in the past "kicked" against the firm, namely, the shop chairman and the price committee. We promptly let him know that no one would return to work unless all came up together, even if we had to stay out until the next season. That settled the controversy and the men all went back to the shop to work on the co-operative basis.

"We expect Brother Seidman from Chicago here on November 22nd to address a general meeting of our members."

### NEW YORK WAIST AND DRESS-MAKERS' UNION, LOCAL NO. 25

A correspondent writes:

"On Monday, November 26th, the Waist-makers' Union, Local No. 25, was to meet in conference with representatives of the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association, to consider new demands of wages and hours for all the workers in the industry—waistmakers, cutters and buttonhole makers,

"The waistmakers are in the same position as the rest of the workers throughout the country whose wage schedules have remained stationary, while the cost of living has been steadily soaring upwards. Early in 1916 the waistmakers secured slightly improved conditions, but those conditions were supposed to cover normal developments of that time, as the workers never enjoy such big wages as to enable them to earn a decent livelihood from the short seasons that hardly ever exceed six or seven months in the year.

"Since that time abnormal conditions have arisen. The cost of living is almost prohibitive to wage-earners, and in many industries employers have increased wages regardless of agreements and fixed schedules. The agreement of the waistmakers is in force until January 1, 1919, but unusual circumstances call for a revision of the wage provisions, and the waistmakers request an increase of 25 per cent. in wages and a forty-eight hour week instead of forty-nine hours.

"The protocol agreement, as amended in February, 1917, by the Board of Arbitration, expressly provides:

"That the agreement when completed shall remain in full force and effect for a term of two years from and after the 1st day of January, 1917, and thereafter for successive periods of two years, unless written notice of the termination shall be given by one party to the other as hereinafter provided. During such period of two years no change in the terms thereof shall be made without the consent of both parties, except only:—First. In case of some great emergency affecting either the specific industry or business conditions generally in the country; the Board of Arbitration shall be the sole judges of the existence or non-existence of such great emergency; and

"Second: Even in the absence of such great emergency, wages, base rates and hours of labor shall be subject to revision upward or downward by the Board of Arbitration, provided notice of application therefor shall be given by one party to the other

not later than the first day of November in any year.

"The union also claims that the association 'has failed to send lists of workers employed by its members as provided in the protocol' and 'requests that the union be given the right to send its representatives into the shops'; and further, that the 'association, in the majority of cases, has utterly failed to register with the union the factories of its members as provided in the protocol, and the cases in which such factories have been registered have proved that the registration provision is inadequate to meet the situation.'

"The union notified the association that it is intended to bring these matters before the Board of Arbitration and requests that such further provisions be made in respect to the subject of contractors, sub-contractors and subsidiary shops as the board may deem best.

"Another request to come before the conference was:

"(a) The adoption of a definite method which should, as much as possible, obviate the necessity on the part of the workers to report for work and to remain in attendance in their shop at such time during the slow seasons in which there shall be no work for them in the shop.

"(b) A final adjustment between the union and the association in re; the Board of Protocol Standards.

"Failing agreement in conference all these questions would be submitted to the Board of Arbitration, consisting of Julian W. Mack of Chicago, Chairman; Judge Henry Marcus of Buffalo, representing the employers and Robert W. Bruere representing the Union.

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"For the second winter season Local No. 25 has a Unity Center under the supervision of Miss Juliet Stewart Poyntz, in the Public School No. 40, East 29th Street, where an excellent educational program is being carried out for its members."

#### BOSTON WAIST, DRESS AND PETTICOAT WORKERS, LOCAL NO. 49

Brother Samuel Jacobson, manager, writes as follows:

"Our local labor movement is at a high pitch of enthusiasm over the fight and victory of the petticoat makers, who are organized in their trade under the banner of the I. L. G. W. U.

"In the latter part of September, as al-

ready reported by Miss Fannia Cohn in the November issue—Ed.), fifty men and women employed in one of the largest petticoat factories in Boston, who had never belonged to a union, walked out on strike, as a protest against the conditions under which they had to work. They had heard of the Waist and Dressmakers' Union, so they came to our office and asked us to help them conduct the fight against their employer. They worked fifty-four hours a week, got very small pay, and, while the cost of living was continually rising, their employer kept continually cutting their earnings. The workers had no redress against these conditions, for if any one had been bold enough to complain he would be either grossly insulted or discharged. They all finally decided to walk down and stay out until the employer would recognize their collective strength.

"When a representative of Local No. 49 went to see the firm in regard to the walk-out, the firm said that they would concede hours and wages, but under no circumstances would they deal with the workers collectively. This was reported to the strikers, but they refused absolutely to go back to work unless the employer would recognize their union, for they now understood that their conditions could not be improved permanently unless the force of the union was behind them. A picket line was thrown around the shop, and the strike lasted for nearly five weeks. We notified the International Office and Brother Baroff came the following Thursday.

"In the meantime the strikers, with the aid of the members of our local, not only picketed their own shop but sent committees to the other large shops and agitated among the workers to come and hear the message of Brother Baroff. This first meeting of the petticoat workers was a striking success, as all the large shops were represented. Secretary Baroff told them that the International would support their fight and would do all in its power to help organize the petticoat workers. This assurance was the signal for much enthusiasm; the idea of unionism spread quickly through the entire trade, breaking down all opposition that the employers could put forward to stop the movement.

"Miss Fannia Cohn, Vice-President of the

International, was sent here from New York, and during the week and a half that she remained in Boston she did very useful and effective work for us. The local manufacturers of petticoats got together and contributed large sums of money to the struck firm in the hope of crushing the strike and extinguishing the spirit of unionism among the workers. But this did not help the employers. Their workers kept flocking to the union. The State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation took up the matter, but after a lengthy conference with both sides they could not affect a settlement. The strike was then in its third week.

"At the end of the fourth week Local No. 49 sent a committee to New York, requesting Brother Schlesinger to come to Boston and try to settle the strike. President Schlesinger arrived in Boston on the fifth week of the strike. He conferred with the firm and also with the two other large firms whose shops were nearly seventy-five per cent. organized, and succeeded in reaching an agreement with these three firms upon the following basis: forty-eight hours a week, a fifteen per cent. increase for all workers, preferential union shop and arbitration proceedings for the settlement of all disputes. The smaller shops are now being organized. Upon the request of the petticoat workers Local 49 has received them as members and organized them as a branch of the Local, with a membership of 300 or 350.

"The Central Labor Union and the Women's Trade Union League of Boston, did wonderful work toward bringing the strike to a successful issue. It was Brother Baroff's presence at the beginning of the strike which gave the workers the courage and the nerve to carry on the fight for nearly five weeks, and it was Brother Schlesinger's arrival in the fifth week of the strike which finally determined the issue.

"A great deal of the success of this movement is due to the Waist and Dressmakers' Union, which not only put its treasury at their disposal, but also appointed committees to help carry on the work and picket the shop. Many of its members were arrested.

"Boston is now the first city to organize the petticoat workers, and a point of interest in this situation is that the workers are agitating for the union label of the I. L. G. W. U."

### WORCESTER WAIST AND WHITE GOODS WORKERS, LOCAL NO. 43

Sarah Hurwitz, visiting organizer from Boston, writes as follows:

"In regard to the situation in Worcester, I can only say that the workers have very poor conditions. They work fifty-two hours a week and get very low wages; the highest a girl gets is \$12 a week, and the majority of them get from \$5 to \$6 weekly.

"During the week of my stay in Worcester I have attended several shop meetings, and my information comes straight from the people who have attended the meetings. Two years ago they had a strike and gained a ten per cent increase. At that time some were working for \$4 and \$5 a week, and many are still earning this amount. Other conditions are the same as in non-union shops, and they have no one to attend to their complaints, as they have a small local and can not afford to pay anyone to work for them. Their employers do not recognize any of the workers who want to deal with them collectively.

"At the shop meetings that I attended chairladies and price committees were elected and they have started to settle prices on new styles. Of course, the employers, not being accustomed to such things, refused to deal with them, and that caused a lot of trouble. In some shops they stopped work for two and three days. They simply sat around and did nothing, as is usually done in these shops when the workers are dissatisfied with the prices. This encouraged me a great deal, as it showed that the workers knew their business and that it would not be hard to better their conditions if the International would help them."

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

By a Correspondent

"In 1916 the Children's Dressmakers Union, after a prolonged strike, entered into an agreement with the Children's Dress Manufacturers' Association, which granted union conditions of wages and hours, guaranteed preference to members of the union and other improvements. The agreement was to be in force for three years, and it was agreed that beginning with January, 1917 and 1918, all week workers should receive an increase of \$1.00 a week.

"This year, in view of abnormal conditions, the union, acting for all the workers, including the cutters and button hole makers, has presented a request for a 20 per cent. increase of wages for the workers in all branches and a forty-eight hour week.

"Conferences with the employers were held during last month, at which President Schlesinger and Secretary Baroff were present, but at the time of this writing no definite report was at hand. In the meantime Local No. 50 is arranging shop meetings of the workers in the independent shops whose agreements expire in December. All the conditions agreed upon with the association will also be enforced in the non-association shops."

### LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS OF WINNIPEG, CAN., LOCAL NO. 32

Brother William Baum, Secretary of the local, writes:

"The workers of our trade in Winnipeg have won a victory. To our operators this victory is important, largely because they have now, once for all time, abolished the system of machine lining, the main point against which we fought all this time.

"Until the last strike the operators in all shops had to turn out the coat almost completely ready: the lining and other parts had to be made on the machine. This injured our finishers and affected our organization. The finishers always complained that the operators took their work away from them. The matter was a frequent subject of complaint in our local, and at our meetings loud expression of discontent was heard on account of this system. The finishers also had another grievance directly due to this method of work. It gave the employer the opportunity to fire the girl finisher for the least offense on the excuse that he had not enough work for her, even though the real cause was that she was just trying to live up to the rules of our union.

"So when we finally struck, we presented the demand for the abolition of this system in the first line. It struck our employers like a bolt from the clear sky; they discovered in it a dreadful conspiracy and vowed not to concede it under any circumstances, feeling safe that we could not stand a prolonged strike and that our endurance would soon be broken. As is always the case, they stopped at nothing to shatter the

solidarity within our ranks. They plotted to poison the minds of one member against another and to bring about disruption amongst us. But all this proved of little avail and they had to concede to our demands.

"The concession will bring a lasting benefit to our local here. We still have a number of problems to solve, such as the scale of wages, piece work and other matters. The future will take care of all these things, but at present we feel content with our local achievements, and hope for better things.

"We express our thanks to all the locals of our International who have helped us financially during this strike."

### Want Cheap Food.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Thousands of government workers have begun a campaign through the Federal Employees' union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, urging that a petition be forwarded to Congress and the secretaries of war and navy, asking that government clerks be given the right to buy goods and foodstuffs at the army and navy commissaries.

Should the employees succeed in their desire, it would mean that they could take advantage of the low prices quoted on commodities purchased by the government. The head of the family, if prudently buying from army and navy commissaries, could place his family on army rations at 40 cents a day for each person. The matter was referred to the advisory committee for a report and recommendation at the next meeting.

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Union  
Published Monthly

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#### SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:

5 Cents per Copy      50 Cents per Year

Entered as second-class matter at the  
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## COMPLETE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

By Fannia M. Cohn.

At last the women of New York State have become full citizens.

More than half a million men of this State, particularly working men, have realized that it is in their interest that working women should have equal political rights.

Every thinking workman should help to do away with the restrictions on the rights of working women and aid their struggle for a freer, better and longer life. This really means, aiding the mighty movement for the complete emancipation of the working class of which woman is an important part.

It is to the interest of every thinking working man to encourage the woman in her struggle for complete emancipation. He should let her benefit by his experience gained in his ages-long conflict with the rulers over his industrial and spiritual life. This conflict is rich in events and incidents which for working women is a source of inspiration.

The working man does not benefit from the exploitation by the employers of the women workers in industry. On the contrary, the employers use them as a means of defeating the men in their efforts to improve conditions.

This competition between men and women must be abolished once and for all, not because it is immoral, yes, inhuman, but because it is impractical, it does not pay.

Working men must become alive to the fact that in a world where an unnatural difference is made between the sexes, even if this difference is in favor of one sex or the other, men and women cannot be really happy.

It is easier and pleasanter to live in a house every member of which bears an equal responsibility for its management.

Rights bring duties with them. No man or woman has a right to enjoy the benefit of organization, be it a trade or political organization, unless he or she participates in its management.

The victory of the women in New York State must brace them to continue the educational work in the struggle for the extension of their rights. Woman's desire

for political equality only touches the fringe of the entire woman question, or, as it is sometimes called, "Feminism."

All right-thinking women must strive toward bringing about a revolution in the thought of society in regard to woman. They must influence society to free itself completely from the unnatural and artificially created prejudices against woman.

One of the unjust laws is that pertaining to the citizenship of women. Thus, for instance, every unmarried woman can become a citizen after five years sojourn in this country. She also becomes a citizen by virtue of the citizenship of her father, brother or husband. If through any crime or misdemeanor the law deprives them of citizenship their women dependents—similarly lose this right even though they had no part in the crime.

Such laws are unjust and unreasonable. Men would not tolerate a law making them dependent for their civic rights on their wives or sisters.

Neither should women tolerate this law, which places them on the level of the serf in the middle ages. This law must be speedily abolished.

There is a list of prospective labor legislation which the organized workers aim to bring into effect in the legislatures of the country, such as old age pensions, workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, etc. But all such legislation is demanded only for men. The interests of working women in this regard are left unprotected.

Now, however, that the women have won suffrage in this city they are in a position to force the elected legislators to see to it that these laws or projects of law shall also apply to them.

Laws may sometimes be abolished by political power, but customs or foolish prejudices will only disappear upon a change taking place in the minds and thoughts of society. The change in regard to their status in society must be brought about by the women themselves. They must become more active in the public life. They should take part in the administration of their trade union. In order that her opinions should

## THE INFERNO

After Olive Schreiner.

Either in the spirit or the flesh, I beheld a verdant island surrounded by a boundless sea. The outlines of shores and hills and vales, all dim and blurred at first, became gradually distinct, as if coming into the focus of a powerful telescope. There were vine-clad slopes leading up to lofty mountain chains, down whose ravines plunged streams of water clear and cool, while tropic valleys, laden with every grain and fruit and flower that mortal hand has ever won from fertile soil, smiled benignly in the soft light of the rising sun; and on the shore sat a strange being, like an apparition, serenely listening to the thunder of the sea.

"Pray, who art thou?" I asked in timid reverence; nor was I surprised to hear him answer promptly:

"I am Pluto, doomed to rule this realm and suffer ennui for ten thousand years."

"And where is this?"

"This is the Inferno," answered Pluto wearily, "the abode of all lost souls from whatever worlds."

"But how is that?" I ventured; "it looks to me like the most beautiful island that I ever saw."

"And so it is," admitted the aged god; "no land was ever more fair, nor a better abode for men or gods, but it is hell nevertheless. The populace here are in hell primarily because of the condition of their minds. They are as if enchanted."

I couldn't understand and so asked meekly:

"Is hell imaginary, then? Are they in hell only because they think so?"

Pluto was silent for a moment and then resumed:

"I see you don't understand. Their hell is real enough—not imaginary; for they

don't even know that they are in hell. Follow me and I shall try to explain."

I followed. Soon we came to a place where many men were fishing. I noticed that they all looked haggard and hungry. They were also ragged and dirty, but they were catching plenty of fish.

"These men are what we call citizens," explained Pluto. "Do you notice misery depicted in their faces? They are hungry and thirsty and ragged, and are worrying because their wives and children have nothing to eat or wear."

"But why don't they eat their fish?" I interrupted in surprise.

"Ah, that's the point," said Pluto; "if they should eat their fish or could eat them or even thought they could eat them, this place wouldn't be hell."

"Oh, I see now," I broke in "the fish are poisonous."

"No; the fish are not poisonous," replied the god impatiently; "if the fish were poisonous, this wouldn't be hell. The fish are edible, but each man, instead of eating his fish, eats barely enough to give him strength to catch more fish, while he fishes *on without pleasure or leisure through calm and storm.*"

I revolved this statement in my mind a few minutes and then asked:

"What becomes of their fish?"

"At short intervals men come with carts," said Pluto, "and haul the fish away to the guardian of wealth who lives in a gold palace enclosed by fences of pearl."

At this juncture there was a great commotion among the fishermen and one was seized by his fellows and thrown violently into the water.

"What does that mean?" I exclaimed in alarm.

count, woman must not be content to assume an innocent mien or remain a passive member. She must stand at the forefront of affairs and not merely as an onlooker.

Only when working women will assume responsible positions, join in the study of trade and union problems and help to solve them, only then will they receive recognition. Responsibility is the best character builder.

Working women must utilize the opportunities afforded them in the labor movement to become better organized on the industrial field. They must become citizens even in those States where they are still deprived of political rights, while where they have these rights they must use them in favor of the working class.

"That is a frequent occurrence," replied Pluto. "It means that one of the fishermen kept back a fish. Instead of putting them all in the cart, he slipped one into his pocket. He has been detected by his hungry fellows, who are drowning him for violation of one of the laws of hell. If our laws were not strictly enforced, our free institutions would perish—"

Here Pluto was interrupted by another hub-bub among the fishermen, which he explained after a short pause:

"This second man they have just drowned is one who attempted to fish without the consent of the guardian of wealth. When a man tries that his time is short here."

Leaving the fishermen, we wandered inland. Soon I noticed in a valley a pile of iron chains a mile high and very rusty.

"What means that?" I asked.

"That is the mountain of shackles cut from the limbs of serfs. Our fishermen and all other citizens were once slaves instead of free men as they are now. This place was not quite hell as long as they wore chains, because they were then driven to labor by the lash and there was always danger of rebellion, whereas at the present time they labor gladly and indeed beg for the opportunity, each producing for the guardian of wealth ten times as much as ever before."

"What wrought the change?" I asked.

"To tell the truth, I was the liberator," admitted Pluto. "I cut the chains from their limbs and shackled their minds. Our scheme might be called a psychological system. By the trick of witchery, I enchanted them, so as to make them believe that the island and all the waters that touch it, together with the air thereon, belong to the guardian of wealth, the same being conceded by them in consideration for their freedom. Naturally, everything else followed."

I was a little angry and retorted:

"Yes; I see it now. This is hell, all right; but suppose some magician should disenchant these beasts of burden that you call citizens—"

"Just as I said," interrupted Pluto, "this would not be hell; but we are wasting time. Hurry on; the slaughter season is about due, and that is one of our greatest institutions."

"The slaughter season?"

"Yes; you surely know that man is the most ferocious of all animals. The tiger

or the hyena sheds blood in anger or in hunger and then he never kills his own species, except in isolated cases. But man without anger and for no purpose slaughters his species, not occasionally, as other animals do, but en masse. The slaughter season, then, is the time during which men have permission to kill each other."

And as he spoke a heavy mist rolled from the hillside and the stench of carrion smote my nostrils. Then, looking, I beheld ten thousand carcasses putrid in death. The slaughter had, indeed, set in. I stood aghast and inquired:

"To what purpose, O Pluto, is this diabolical madness and misery? These malicious maggots of the mire that destroy each other—to what purpose—?"

"For aught I know," interrupted the god, "they constitute a link in the chain of cause and effect reaching back into the dust of the dim past beyond the reach of mortal imagination, and forward beyond the wreck of matter and the crash of worlds."

This was said in a manner as if it settled all controversy and answered all questions, but I failed to grasp the thought clearly, if there was one to grasp, and so I ventured:

"Suppose, O god of lost worlds—suppose that one—just one—of these blind vermine that you call citizens should lapse into momentary sanity—should sunder his mantle of idiocy—should cast off his illusion and say to his fellows: 'Let us stop the work of slaughter; let us eat our own fish and banish starvation; let us throw no more of our fellows into the sea! Then would he still be in hell, or what would happen?'"

Pluto smiled as he answered:

"He would be in hell more completely, for he could see heaven within easy reach, but not accessible to him alone—in easy reach if all were disenchanting, but in that case there could be no hell. As before stated, our institutions would fall. Further, his fellows would probably drown him. They would probably regard him as a freak and persecute or torture him. He would simply suffer the misery of hell while looking into heaven."

This was a new thought to me. However, I began to grasp the Plutonic system of government. I said no more, and we traveled on, resting soon in a beautiful park. I felt myself growing drowsy, and Pluto said:

"Sleep if you like. There is much to see tomorrow."—The Public.

# Directory of Local Unions (Continued)

LOCAL UNION	OFFICE ADDRESS
40. New Haven Corset Workers.....	12 Parmelee Ave., New Haven, Conn.
41. New York Wrapper and Kimono Makers.....	22 W. 17th St., New York City
42. Cleveland Cloak and Suit Cutters' Union.....	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
43. Worcester White Goods and Waist Workers.....	126 Green St., Worcester, Mass.
44. Chicago, Ill., Cloakmakers.....	1815 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill.
45. Syracuse, N. Y., Dressmakers.....	913 Almond St., Syracuse, N. Y.
46. Petticoat Workers' Union.....	22 W. 17th St., New York City
47. Denver, Colo., Ladies' Tailors.....	244 Champe St., Denver, Colo.
48. Italian Cloak, Suit and Skirt Makers' Union.....	231 E. 14th St., New York City
49. Boston Waistmakers.....	724 Washington St., Boston, Mass.
50. New York Children's Dressmakers.....	22 W. 17th St., New York City
51. Montreal, Canada, Custom Ladies' Tailors.....	387 City Hall Ave., Montreal, Canada
52. Los Angeles Ladies' Garment Workers.....	218 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.
53. Philadelphia, Pa., Cloak Cutters.....	244 S. 8th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
54. Chicago Raincoat Makers.....	409 S. Halstead St., Chicago, Ill.
55. Springfield Corset Workers.....	643½ Main St., Springfield, Mass.
56. Boston Cloakmakers.....	241 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.
57. Cleveland Waist and Dressmakers.....	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
58. New York Waist Buttonhole Makers.....	80 E. 10th St., New York City
61. Montreal, Canada, Cloak and Skirt Pressers.....	37 Prince Arthur E., Montreal, Canada
62. New York White Goods Workers.....	35 Second St., New York City
63. Cincinnati Cloakmakers.....	5th St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
64. New York Buttonhole Makers.....	57 W. 21st St., New York City
65. St. Louis Skirt, Waist & Dressmakers' Union.....	Fraternal Building, St. Louis Mo.
66. New York Bonnaz Embroiderers.....	103 E. 11th St., New York City
67. Toledo Cloakmakers.....	120 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio
68. Hartford Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.....	99 Canton St., Hartford, Conn.
69. Philadelphia, Cloak Finishers.....	244 S. 8th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
70. Toronto Skirt and Dressmakers.....	194 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Canada
71. Chicago Ladies' Tailors.....	2726 Crystal St., Chicago, Ill.
72. Baltimore Dress and White Goods Workers.....	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
73. Boston Amalgamated Cutters.....	8 Lovering St., Boston, Mass.
74. Vineland Cloakmakers' Union.....	H. Miller, 601 Landis Avenue
75. Worcester, Mass., Cloakmakers.....	25 Columbia St., Worcester, Mass.
76. Philadelphia Ladies' Tailors.....	1737 S. 9th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
77. Waterbury Ladies' Garment Workers.....	54 Burton St., Waterbury, Conn.
78. St. Louis Cloak Operators.....	Fraternal Bldg., 11th and Franklin Aves.
80. Ladies' Tailors, Alteration and Special Order Union.....	725 Lexington Ave., N. Y. City
81. Chicago Cloak and Suit Cutters.....	909 N. Homan Ave., Chicago, Ill.
82. N. Y. Cloak Examiners, Squarers & Bushelers' Union.....	228 Second Ave., N. Y. City
83. Toronto, Canada, Cutters.....	251 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada
84. Toledo Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union.....	425 Parker Ave., Toledo, Ohio
85. Cincinnati Skirtmakers.....	5th St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
86. St. John Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.....	St. John, N. B., Canada
90. Custom Dressmakers' Union.....	Forward B'ldg., 175 E. B'way, N. Y. City
92. Toronto, Canada, Cloak Pressers.....	251 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada
98. Cincinnati Skirt Pressers' Union.....	5th St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
99. Pittsburgh Ladies' Tailors.....	132 Worcester St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
100. Chicago Waist, Dress and White Goods Workers.....	1579 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Ill.
101. Baltimore Ladies' Tailors.....	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
102. Montreal, Canada, Raincoat Makers.....	1193 Clark St., Montreal, Canada
105. St. Louis Ladies' Tailors.....	Fraternal Bldg., 11th and Franklin Aves.
108. Ladies' Neckwear Cutters.....	6 E. 17th St., New York City
110. Baltimore Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union.....	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
111. Cleveland Raincoat Makers.....	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
112. Montreal, Canada, Ladies' Waist Makers.....	147 Colonial Ave., Montreal, Canada
113. Newark Waist and White Goods Workers.....	103 Montgomery St., Newark, N. J.

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