

33
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The LADIES' GARMENT WORKER



Contents

Editorial: Successful Strike of the Ladies' Tailors—Cleveland Cloakmakers Await Favorable Decision—Wage Increase for Boston Waistmakers—Achievement of Cloak Pressers' Union, Local 35—Subscribe Liberally to Fourth Liberty Loan!

Prospects of British Labor Party at Next Elections—A. Rosebury.

Past and Present of U. S. Department of Labor—T. E.

American Labor Movement in Present Crisis—A. R.

Unity Summer Homes of Philadelphia and Boston Waistmakers—Fannia M. Cohn.

Successful Cooperative Enterprise of Cloak Pressers' Union—L. F.

New Activities in Waistmakers' Union—

"One of Them," Book Review.

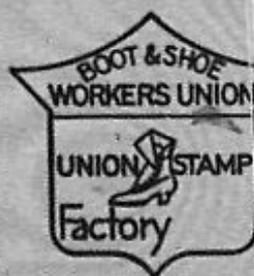
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Directory of Local Unions

LOCAL UNION	OFFICE ADDRESS
1. New York Cloak Operators.....	238 Fourth Ave., New York City
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3. New York Piec Tailors.....	9 W. 21st St., New York City
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6. New York Embroiderers.....	519 Bergen Ave., New York City
7. Boston Raincoat Makers.....	38 Causeway St., Boston, Mass.
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9. New York Cloak and Suit Tailors.....	228 Second Ave., New York City
10. New York Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters.....	7 W. 21st St., New York City
11. Brownsville, N. Y., Cloakmakers.....	219 Sackman St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
12. Boston Cloak Pressers.....	751 Washington St., Boston, Mass.
13. Montreal, Canada, Cloakmakers.....	37 Prince Arthur, E. Montreal, Canada
14. Toronto, Canada, Cloakmakers.....	208 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Canada
15. Philadelphia Westmakers.....	40 N. 9th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
16. St. Louis Cloak Cutters.....	Fraternal Building, St. Louis, Mo.
17. New York Reemakers.....	117 Second Ave., New York City
18. Chicago Cloak and Suit Pressers.....	1815 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill.
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20. New York Waterproof Garment Workers.....	22 W. 17th St., New York City
21. Newark, N. J., Cloak and Suitmakers.....	103 Montgomery St., Newark, N. J.
23. New York Skirtmakers.....	231 E. 14th St., New York City
24. Boston Skirt and Dressmakers' Union.....	751 Washington 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 Cloak Finishers' Union.....	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
30. Cincinnati Ladies' Garment Cutters.....	311 Odd Fellows Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio
31. Ladies' Garment Workers.....	721 N. Market St., Louisville, Ky.
32. Winnipeg Ladies' Garment Workers.....	Labor Temple, Winnipeg, Man.
33. Bridgeport Corset Workers.....	409 Warner Building, Bridgeport, Conn.
34. Bridgeport Corset Cutters.....	409 Warner Building, Bridgeport, Conn.
35. New York Pressers.....	228 Second Ave., New York City
36. Boston Ladies' Tailors.....	751 Washington St., Boston, Mass.
37. Cleveland Cloak Pressers' Union.....	314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
39. New Haven Corset Cutters.....	173 Edgewood Ave., New Haven, Conn.

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER)



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SUCCESSFUL STRIKE OF THE LADIES' TAILORS

While we are writing these lines the victory of the ladies' tailors Local No. 80 is assured. No sooner was the strike declared than many employers besieged the settlement committee of the union, eager to come to terms and willing to concede the workers' demands for a 20 per cent. increase in wages.

There is no doubt that Local No. 80 will emerge from this strike stronger than ever. Already the strike of last year had the effect of placing the Ladies' and Alteration Tailors' Union on a solid foundation. But there is no regularity of employment in this trade, which has only one short season, and when employment falls off the employers begin to take liberties with the workers. They even take the liberty of going back upon their pledged word which they seal and sign in their agreement with the union.

This condition of affairs has prevailed in the ladies' tailoring trade for a number of years. Ever since the great strike of 1911 the union has felt called upon to renew the struggle every year about this time, when the season begins. This is probably due to the fact that until last year the local had not managed to attain a sufficiently responsible management to ensure its strength and stability. The manufacturers, therefore, did not fear it. Disunity and lack of sound order within destroyed the manufacturers' respect for the union and provided them with a pretext and opportunity to harass the workers in the dull season, at a time when the union is least able to wage a victorious fight with them.

The strike could have been avoided had the manufacturers clearly perceived that in the present state of industrial affairs it is necessary to adapt one's self to prevailing conditions. Pre-war ideas in regard to capital and labor and industrial management have changed in the last year or so. Not only is there a noticeable growth of Labor's power and influence; not only do we see a marked increase in the influence of progressive men and women who sympathize with Labor's aims and ideals, but we also see the advent of quite a new factor in the economic life of society—a factor which was almost unexpected; and many employers have hardly had time to realize the fact.

It is not quite a year since the Government assumed control over the railroads and transport industry of the country; and in the brief period of

nine months a great change has taken place in the policy of dealing with labor. Almost every month in the year 1918 has witnessed an ever-widening breach in the fortified wall which capitalist manufacturers had erected around themselves. This consisted of such phrases as "nothing to arbitrate," "no recognition of the right to organize," "no collective agreements" and absolute domination over the workers. Each time a union presented demands or conducted a strike it aimed a blow at this iron wall. And it frequently happened that after the union had succeeded in breaking it down the capitalist manufacturers set to work re-erecting it, and thus bringing about the development of a fresh struggle.

But under pressure of the war a chain of circumstances arose, requiring a different policy, a more human policy. First, labor has been in great demand and the labor forces have diminished precisely in the industries essential to the war. Second, the cost of living has mounted more than sixty per cent. Third, it really did not appear proper that while our country entered the war for democracy in other countries, autocracy and despotism in the shops and industries should be permitted to exist right here. These facts were so glaring, so palpable that the Government soon recognized many of Labor's claims and initiated changes in the system of dealing with the workers in the shops and factories producing for the war.

Thus in the course of nine months wages have been raised. The eight hour day, time and one-half for overtime, double time for Sundays and holidays, the principle of collective bargaining and machinery for settling disputes have been recognized and in places actually introduced. The Government itself has put its seal on these industrial reforms in the war industries.

This policy has naturally had a strong effect on public opinion. The fact that such representatives of capital as Charles M. Schwab and Samuel Untermyer have come to the conclusion that the war will initiate an era of social justice is evidence of the spirit of the time. It shows, at all events, that when the struggle for reconstruction will set in, many former opponents of advanced ideas and the labor movement will join the progressive forces.

* * *

We have for a moment diverted attention from our main topic to show that the average manufacturer is rather backward and does not realize the necessity of adapting himself to circumstances. Had the ladies' tailoring employers kept their eyes open to events transpiring in industrial centers the strike would easily have been avoided. Our International Union invited the employers to a conference. But ostrich-like they hid their heads in the sands of chance and refused to see that the union was quite serious in its strike talk, and that the ladies' tailors were no longer the submissive and meek workers of past years.

Vice President Lefkowitz, who had led the strike in 1917 and had been manager of Local No. 80 for a long time, was expressly summoned from Montreal to take charge of the strike. This year he had a much easier task with the smaller employers, while President Schlesinger negotiated with the large firms.

Satisfaction and enthusiasm prevail in union circles. It is to be hoped that this enthusiasm and satisfaction will not stop at every worker individually, but that it will percolate through the union and the shops toward that unity and solidarity which renders every labor organization an impregnable fortress. Let this be our congratulation to the ladies' tailors. They must bring the union to the condition which should inspire respect among the employers.

* * *

The Ladies' Tailors' Union would be considerably strengthened if the thousands of women dressmakers, working practically in the same trade and many of them in the same establishments, could be properly organized. A large number of these women and girls are organized in our Custom Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 90, but they are mostly those working in the smaller shops and stores. The dressmakers employed in the large factories have always been inaccessible. It is hard to deliver them from their prejudices against the union. They let themselves be persuaded that they are in a better position without the protection of the union, and they will not see that by falling into this error they only play into their employers' hands, producing profits for them, while remaining subject to the employers' will and separated from their organized sisters.

Each time the ladies' tailors, the men, have won recognition and a higher wage by united effort through the union, the dressmakers, the girls, were left out in the cold because of their indifference to the union and their acting in the shop each one for herself. Now that the ladies' tailors' strike has proved a success and the manufacturers have bowed to the will of the union, it should be easier to enroll the dressmakers in Local No. 90 and improve their condition. The officers of the Custom Dressmakers' Union are working diligently toward that end. Brother Elner, the manager of Local No. 90, is well familiar with the situation, as yet from the time when the dressmakers were under the jurisdiction of Local No. 25 as Private Dressmakers' Branch. Brother Elner is untiring in his efforts to reach the unorganized dressmakers.

A vigorous campaign is now in progress for organizing these dressmakers and to obtain for them recognition and an increase of 20 per cent. in wages.

**CLEVELAND CLOAKMAKERS AWAIT
A FAVORABLE DECISION**

The referees of the War Department who have been investigating conditions in the Cleveland cloak and skirt shops have not as yet announced their decision. In the general office of the International Union it is expected that the decision will be announced one of these days, and there can be no doubt that the decision will be favorable to the workers.

This is the second investigation. Before the matter was submitted to the referees of the War Department an investigation had been made by the Department of Labor at the request of the manufacturers. The result of that investigation was published in the Monthly Review of the Labor Department for August. Mr. Emmet's report is scrupulously impartial describing in measured terms the system hitherto prevailing in the shops of the Cleveland cloak and skirt manufacturers. Emphasis is laid in the report upon the manner in which a few of the employers regularized employment. When work was scanty in the better line of merchandise the workers were kept in partial employment on inferior garments, wash skirts, and so forth. But in spite of all this the wages were much below the rate paid for similar work in other centers of industry.

The manufacturers have put this forward as evidence of their solicitude for the workers, as showing that they are better than other people, inasmuch as they had carried on operations in conformity with a system. However, the so-called superior way of dealing with the employees could not prevent the workers from revolting against the scientific ice-cold system.

We published in the last issue the very clear terms upon which the present investigation was to be directed. In point of wages and a machinery for dealing with grievances the decision of the referees must bring a radical improvement in the condition of the Cleveland cloakmakers. The manufacturers did all in their power to justify their cold system and the small wage they have been paying. On the other hand, President Schlesinger of our International Union furnished the committee of referees with all data regarding wages paid in the cloak and skirt shops of New York and other cities, as well as facts relating to prevailing systems for adjusting disputes. The increase to be decided upon is to date back to August 1, 1918.

The greatest gain for the workers is that the manufacturers must no longer prevent them from being organized. This gives them an opportunity to build up a powerful organization and prepare for the future.

A "RAISE" FOR THE CHILDREN'S DRESS CUTTERS

The International Union is negotiating with the employers for an increase of wages for the cutters in the children's dress industry. The agreement which the Children's Dressmakers, Local No. 50, and the Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters, Local No. 10, have with the Children's Dress Manufacturers' Association will expire in December, 1918. The fact that the employers are offering an increase of \$3 before the expiration of the agreement is fresh evidence that they are reckoning with the power and influence of the union.

The union is asking for a minimum of \$31 a week for all cutters receiving above \$26. This amounts to an increase of about \$4.00 a week.

In March of this year all the week workers in the industry, including the cutters, received an extra increase; for on January 1, 1918, they came

in for an increase of wages as provided in the agreement. This will therefore be the third increase for the cutters in one year. The previous increases were very inadequate.

As to the children's dressmakers, Local No. 50 is preparing for the coming conferences with the representatives of the manufacturers' association. The present agreement is defective, and were not the industry in good condition the union would have experienced difficulties with the employers. It is for the representatives of the union to negotiate a new agreement which shall be a more perfect instrument, particularly in the provision relating to preference for members of the union. In the association houses the preference provision was for a time neglected to the disadvantage of the union people. Needless to say that an increase of wages must be secured for the workers to enable them to meet the high cost of necessities.

WAGE INCREASE FOR BOSTON WAISTMAKERS

Upon his visit to Boston last month Brother Baroff, General Secretary-Treasurer of the International, conferred with the representatives of the Waist and Dress Manufacturers' Association and succeeded in securing an increase of wages for the workers in the trade. The cutters were granted an increase of \$4.00 a week; others from \$2.50 to \$3.00.

Local No. 49, Waist, Dress and Petticoat Makers' Union, of Boston is in good condition. In the last two years the union idea has taken deep root in the minds of its members. The manufacturers realize this and respect this organization which consists mostly of women workers. The union is well managed and has bright future prospects.

Local No. 49 this summer fell in line with the Unity House movement for vacations and had its Unity camp in a select summer resort district, as the readers will see from Fannia M. Cohn's vivid impressions in another column. This shows that the local has active and energetic members and is permeated by unity and solidarity. These are qualities which bring success to every union in all its undertakings.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CLOAK PRESSERS' UNION LOCAL No. 35

In the history of the International Union the Cloak Pressers' Local No. 35 of New York will figure as a veritable pioneer. At one time pressers had been the most backward workers in the needle industry. But under the influence of the Cloakmakers' Union the pressers have become active union men and have developed a remarkably enterprising spirit. Local

No. 35 was first in the field in introducing a statistical department. While in other union circles the idea of a statistical department was frequently discussed, Local No. 35 reduced talk to action. The idea was given effect as yet in 1912 or 1913.

Brother Morris Sigman was then the local manager. As soon as he stepped into that office he began to feel the urgency of improving the condition of the pressers in various ways. As yet five years ago Sigman was one of the few practical minds among us to perceive the truth that a union can win the hearts of its members by taking a whole-hearted interest in all matters affecting their lives.

It so happened that Sigman then had as his book-keeper and assistant Brother A. Kazan, a quiet but earnest and devoted young man. Kazan has been from the beginning the right man in the right place. They were both weaving plans but they did not stop at that; they also carried them out.

When the Board of Arbitration in 1913 accorded the cloak pressers an increase of wages, recognizing their case as more urgent than that of the cutters, it was mainly due to the fact that the pressers' union submitted figures proving their low earnings.

Subsequently Local No. 35 carried into effect Sigman's plan of a benefit fund for consumptive members. The membership agreed to pay a dollar a year per capita for that purpose, and since then hundreds of members have had their health restored as a result.

Step by step the local proceeded in the effort of internal improvements for the benefit of its membership. The consumption benefit fund developed into a general sick fund, and a relief fund was introduced for members in distress. A connection was formed with the Joint Board of Sanitary Control for a physical and health examination of its members. All this has been done with deliberation and by the aid of exact figures. Thereafter Local No. 9, Cloak Finishers, and Local No. 23, Skirt Makers, followed the example of Local No. 35 and introduced tuberculosis benefit and relief funds.

Local No. 35 was the first to agitate for a sanitarium financed and maintained by the entire organization. Now that this ideal has been realized, the fact should not be forgotten.

Not long ago Local No. 35 branched out in a new direction. The growing prices of the cost of food suggested the idea that there would be no harm in providing the membership with certain foodstuffs at cheaper rates than in the retail stores, and immediately thought was translated into action. The local started in a small way, like a tiny seed planted in the soil. Presently the tiny seed grew into a healthy normal plant bringing forth good fruit. A union cooperative store has been slowly built up and its capital is already estimated at \$7,000 to \$8,000. Not only pressers but also cloakmakers and members of other unions may procure good quality foodstuffs in this union store at cheaper rates. For the local is seeking no profits. Its aim is to benefit its membership and it can afford to sell at cost plus a small reserve.

The young enterprise is growing and is destined to blossom out into a tremendous undertaking with gainful results to thousands of members and their families. Local No. 35 has just acquired a large attractive house where the union will be able to extend its various activities. The union cooperative store will sell to its members not only foodstuffs but other necessary articles as well and effect a saving to them of dollars and cents.

In another column this interesting enterprise is described with greater detail. Here we shall conclude by saying that great credit is due to Local No. 35 and its officers for this genuine initiative. Its officers did not proceed from the theoretic viewpoint that cooperative enterprise promotes the interest of the labor movement and can be profitable if properly managed. They sought to alleviate distress among the pressers who were pinched by slackness on one side and by the high cost of living on the other; and possessing the spirit of enterprise they have developed a union cooperative concern which has large possibilities.

In passing, it might be helpful to us to take a glance into the near future. When peace will again rule the world many of the old and present trade union methods will fall into disuse. In the struggle with their historic foe—capitalism—it will devolve upon the workers to resort to new methods and weapons, and cooperative production and distribution of the product will then play a greater part in the struggle with the capitalist-profiters. There is no better way to develop the enterprising spirit of the organized workers and their ability to manage their organization affairs than such a cooperative undertaking as is now growing up in the Cloak Pressers' Union, Local No. 35.

* * *

A word about another kind of cooperative undertaking which has been started by a group of energetic girls of the Waistmakers' Union, Local No. 25. We refer to the house that forty waistmakers of the Unity Circle have rented for residential purposes and for spending their leisure time there in useful and edifying pursuits. The house is to be conducted on the cooperative principle.

There is no doubt that under proper management the undertaking will be a success. Meantime it is a new venture, an experiment, and the energetic girls deserve congratulation and encouragement.

WHY WE MUST SUBSCRIBE LIBERALLY TO FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN

All workers engaged in war industries have benefited by the changes incident to the war. Though the country's need has been great, their rights and privileges have not been invaded. President Wilson early announced it as his desire that no legislation limiting the hours of work or establishing high standards of working conditions and factory sanitation should be broken down.

Not only has this course been followed, but a great governmental machinery for furthering the interests of the laboring class has been built up to regulate labor conditions—hours, wages, housing and the like. What the workers might have failed to gain after years of agitation they have obtained because of the intervention of government agents to settle disputes with employers.

Labor has been duly appreciative of this enlightened policy of the Administration. Its splendid efforts have been one of the outstanding features of the country's war-making. Lacking them, America's war programme must have come to a standstill. Whatever was necessary to carry it on, whether harder work or longer hours, was given loyally by labor. In addition, there has been a splendid response from the workers of the country to the government's appeal for funds. Labor has bought Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps with a will.

That particular part of labor's task during the war is a continuing one. The government is calling for more money to finance its ever-growing participation in the war. The Fourth Liberty Loan campaign has begun. Big as this new loan is, America can absorb it if the workers do their share as they have with previous loans. It is their war—a war to make the world safe for democracy, to assure to every human being a right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." President Wilson's latest pronouncement proves it. By generous purchases of Liberty Bonds they can give the government power to push the Boche clear back to Berlin. We therefore call on our members to subscribe to the Fourth Liberty Loan as much as possible.

Heirs to Time

By THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON

From street and square, from hill and glen,
Of this vast world beyond my door,
I hear the tread of marching men,
The patient armies of the poor.

Not ermine-clad or clothed in state,
Their title-deeds not yet made plain,
But waking early, toiling late,
The heirs of all the earth remain.

The peasant brain shall yet be wise,
The untamed pulse grow calm and still;
The blind shall see, the lowly rise,
And work in peace Time's wondrous will.

Some day, without a trumpet's call
This news will o'er the world be blown:
"The heritage comes back to all;
The myriad monarchs take their own."

Prospects of the British Labor Party at the Next Elections

In Great Britain an interesting political struggle is going on in which the organized workers play a great part. This article describes the situation, showing how the labor party compares well with the old political parties.

By A. ROSEBURY

In course of the last nine months the British Labor Party has aroused the interest of the whole world and especially that of America. Those who have read the very thoughtful reconstruction program of this now widely known party will find here further information in regard to its work, its methods and its prospects. This article is a good beginning for those of our readers who long to have a clear conception of this party and its success.

In the May issue of the "Ladies' Garment Worker" I already indicated that the Labor party had decided to run 400 candidates at the next general elections. At that time it was not quite clear when the elections would take place. Now the situation is more definite and the following points are quite certain:

First, that the elections will take place next November or December.

Second, that instead of 16,000,000 voters there will be 20,000,000.

Third, that the danger of a split in the Labor party has almost passed.

Fourth, that the popularity of the Labor party is growing among the entire British people, despite the malicious and slanderous agitation of the capitalist parties against it.

Fifth, although the British Labor party cannot at the next elections elect a majority of members of Parliament and thus become the ruling power, it has an opportunity to elect a large number of members and so secure considerable power over the government. Let us look into these points more closely.

People Want to Be Consulted

1. The present Parliament was elected in 1910 for seven years. Then in the next year it enacted a law that its life should not be prolonged beyond five years. This Parliament has thus

long passed its constitutional term. Owing to the war no general elections were held in 1916, and twice already it has been necessary to extend its existence by special resolutions. For eight years the British people have not expressed their will through elections and they think it is high time to consult them.

2. In the present Parliament an act was passed extending the suffrage to women. The election law was also improved in other respects. So that the number of votes will be almost double. In view of the war situation and the fact that all adult men and women have their eyes open to all that is transpiring on the battlefield and in the country, there is no doubt that every voter will record his vote for this or that party. How will the millions of new voters act? Which party will they accord the majority? This question is uppermost in all minds and the public is impatiently awaiting the passing of the next few months to see the result.

Party Firmly Established

3. The recent conference of the Labor party held a few months ago and the Trade Union Congress of last month have made it certain that the party is safe so far as a split is concerned, for it is very firmly established. It is worth while considering a few points in connection with the so-called movement for a new party and its chances.

As yet last winter the attempt to form a new party was set in motion. In every organization there are disgruntled elements, who think that they ought to be at the head of the organization. There are a small number of such people in the British Labor party, officials of big unions, indeed, but well-known conservatives. For the last twenty years or so these people have held on to the threadbare view of pure

and simple trade unionism. They have always been opposed to Socialist ideas. Naturally they are ill-disposed to the party's adoption of a pronounced Socialist tone. J. Havelock Wilson of the Sailors and Firemen's Union is one of these old leaders, and he with a few other old-timers are engineering the formation of a new political labor party. The partisans of Premier Lloyd George naturally support this move for the reason that a split in the Labor party would play into their hands in the next election. Precisely this support harms the chances of the old rebellious elements and operates in favor of the Labor party. The masses are permeated with the practical, progressive tone of the Labor party and realize that a large majority for the present government would spell a strong setback to the cause of Labor.

Party Not Pacifist

Havelock Wilson and his few followers, who have remained rigid and backward, despite the fact that the war has caused a revolution in thought, oppose the Labor party on three particular grounds: They are disgrined at the Socialist attitude of the party and at its being led by J. Ramsey Macdonald, Sidney Webb and other prominent Socialists. They contend that the party is pacifist. It will be remembered that the British Labor party and its leader, Arthur Henderson, agitated for an international conference to discuss peace conditions and admitting to its deliberations delegates from the Socialist parties of Germany and Austria as well. That, however, does not mean that Henderson or the party is pacifist. The precise attitude of the party is evident from a resolution adopted last year that the projected international conference in Stockholm should be merely "consultative and not mandatory." Only last month at the British Trade Union Congress, Henderson admitted that he had been in error as to the attitude of the German Socialists and organized workers.

The Labor party is not alone in its striving for peace by negotiation. There are currents among the most conservative elements of the British

people striving towards the same end. Even Lord Lansdowne, a representative of the wealthy landed proprietors and an ex-minister for foreign affairs, embraces this view, probably with the intention of saving his class. But notwithstanding this attitude of the Labor party it stands for carrying on the war if an honorable peace cannot otherwise be attained.

The Sailors and Firemen's Union and a section of other British workers are extreme patriots. In their opinion no relations should be maintained with the German and Austrian labor representatives until the Central powers are completely vanquished. They are not satisfied with the policy of the Labor party in opening its doors wide to brain workers of the professions and the lower middle class—poor doctors, lawyers, journalists, clerks and even small storekeepers. All these, says the Labor party, should be protected politically against the gigantic companies and millionaires who seek to turn the war into a source for acquiring riches at the cost of the poorer section of the population. The conservative labor elements are against this policy; they hold on to the old rigid standpoint that the labor movement should be exclusively confined to shop and factory workers; in other words, that it should be a pure trade union movement.

For a time the rumors of a split in the British Labor party alarmed all progressive people in America. We are 3,000 miles away from that country, and the news that filters through the press is too meager and superficial to afford us an exact estimate of the inner psychology of the British labor movement. We are apt to look at it through the spectacles of our own local affairs, while the circumstances there are altogether different.

It should be borne in mind that the British Labor party is much stronger and more firmly rooted than the Socialist movement in America. Until recently many here were in error as to the tactics, methods and large possibilities of that party. Since the party did not make much revolutionary noise it was thought conservative, too moderate and hardly Socialistic. But this

low estimate was by no means correct. It is true that the Labor party before the war was opportunist. It sought to avail itself of favorable opportunities in Parliament rather than indulge in revolutionary phrases that would be of small service. Rightly speaking, opportunism is deeply rooted in the British character. The public there ridicules mere theories until they come to be recognized as "within the region of practical politics," and have a chance to be carried out.

New Idea in Labor Movement

Before the war the Syndicalist-Industrialist movement reached the highest point of its agitation. But while the extreme Syndicalists like Tom Mann agitated exclusively for strikes and mass movements, opposed state control and parliamentary methods, more practical people sought to merge the best in Syndicalism with political action. That was quite a new idea in the labor movement. Syndicalism, like Industrialism, stands for industrial control by the workers of every industry. Political Trade Unionism and Socialism stand for state control of industry. Came practical Englishmen and said: "Why, both these things are good and necessary. Let industry be owned by the state, but let the workers have a direct voice in the management. Precisely this spirit is reflected in the reconstruction program of the British Labor party. The cool-minded British workers have worked out a practical Syndicalism that imparted strength to the unions and thus advanced the Labor party, since the Labor party represents mostly the trade unions.

Without noise and regardless of its critics the Labor party gradually fortified its position. In the British Parliament nothing can be won by jarring notes and factless methods, especially of a small party like the Labor party, consisting of forty members (now only thirty-five members) against 630 members of other parties. Such methods do not appeal to the kind of Englishmen of whom Parliament is composed, and they would play into the hands of labor's enemies rather than help Labor. Therefore the Labor party trusted to

moderate counsel and waited for suitable opportunities.

Socialists Were Its Teachers

We should also remember another fact. That though the body of the Labor party has always consisted of the trade unions, its spirit is that of the Independent Labor party and the Fabian Society. The Independent Labor party, or I. L. P., of which the well-known James Keir Hardie was the founder and leader, is the mother of the Labor party. It was the I. L. P. that has trained it in practical political methods and tactics, while the Fabian Society, which is in reality a national Socialist educational agency, was its teacher in economic and political doctrine and theory. Many of its Parliamentary members always have been members of the I. L. P. The trade unions have always supplied the material resources of the Labor party, while the I. L. P. and Fabian Society provided the leaders and the ideas. In course of years there has been created a solid, harmonious accord between the various elements—trade unions and Socialist groups—composing the Labor party. Hence it is absurd to talk of a split or fear the insignificant so-called new party.

Compared with the Labor party Havelock Wilson and his colleagues are like a fly compared with a lion. The mission sent abroad last spring by the American Federation of Labor unfortunately inclined toward the side of Havelock Wilson because it had no time to become thoroughly conversant with the circumstances and peculiar psychology of British labor. It has been said that President Gompers had gone to Europe to help the new party. If so, he is destined to gain knowledge that he did not possess. To the credit of President Gompers be it said, however, that he is not the kind of man to help bringing about splits and secessions, particularly in another country, and his mission has no such purpose.

Supported by Lower Middle Class

4. The Labor party is immensely popular among large sections of the population, and the government with the proprietary classes of profiteers

fear its growing power. The ultimate success of the great French Revolution was due to the fact that the middle classes and a section of the sympathetic elements of the aristocracy had joined it. The success of the Labor party is likewise due to the fact that the lower middle class inclines on its side and sympathizes with its aims. For years there has been carried on an extensive agitation and systematic educational campaign unequalled in any country and this agitation has finally borne fruit. Before the war no access could be gained to the large masses of the people. Drunkenness, indifference, ignorance and prejudice benumbed the minds, and the people could not see how they were being hoodwinked by politicians at election times. The war has been an eye-opener to them and they have come to see that they had been asleep. It is this that gave the Labor party its new prestige and power.

Whole Groups Joining Its Ranks

At the recent party conference Mr. Henderson reported that more than 300 Parliamentary candidates had been already chosen. The popularity of the party is evident from the fact that many adherents of the Liberal and Conservative parties have joined the Labor party and have requested to be accepted as its candidates. There are among these, well-known lawyers and *people of high station*. *Whole districts* have been converted to its program. In some localities the political organization of the Liberal party with its entire staff has gone over to the Labor party. The party is running candidates even in the far famed universities of London, Oxford and Cambridge. The universities in England have a separate representation and the Labor party has many adherents among the undergraduates

The London Nation writes:

The Labor party is attracting men of all classes who want to see a sincere and drastic reform of society, who are profoundly dissatisfied with the spirit that accepted all the injustices of life as inevitable and irremediable, who are tired to death of all formulas of the party system. The politics

of the old world have been plunged into confusion by the war, and any new attempts to focus clear-thinking and generous ideas are to be welcomed. Whether or not the Labor party will succeed in giving power and expression to its ideas remains to be seen. But men and women of all schools wish it well in attempting that task.

5. We now come to the last question: What are the prospects?

Having regard to the enormous number of votes and the awakening among the people it is possible that a majority of the Labor party candidates should be elected. This, however, is not quite certain.

Will Hold the Balance of Power

The adherents of Premier Lloyd George are conducting a slanderous campaign against the Labor party, and the Premier has, at all events, a strong influence in the country. But the old parties have no social program. As to *the question of war and peace*, all parties, the Labor party included, stand for the aims formulated by President Wilson. Therefore the Labor party may not secure a majority large enough to form a government. But even of the party should only elect 100 members to Parliament it will thereby obtain a tremendous power, enabling it to compel the government to carry through many items of its program. For whatever government will be in power its majority will be too small to *carry the day without the aid of the Labor party*; and frequently the Irish party in Parliament, which is usually in opposition and has nearly 100 members, will combine with the Labor party to carry out certain reforms. Each of these parties, can, under certain circumstances, hold the balance of power and turn the scales against the government.

And even if the Labor party will not at present secure the reigns of government, its prospects for the near future are very bright. Judging from the assiduity with which its earnest and sincere ideas are now brought home to the masses all over the country the day is not far distant when the British people will make a determined effort to throw off the yoke of wage slavery.

Past and Present of U. S. Department of Labor

Owing to the War, the Department of Labor Has Become One of the Most Important Sub-divisions of the Government. The Following Article Traces the Department's Development and Mentions the Various Bureaus of Which it Consists and Their Functions

By T. E.

During this year many changes have occurred in the industrial life of the country, and new changes are constantly taking place in the relations between employees and employers. Such words as "open shop," "closed shop," "scab agencies," "unemployment," have almost disappeared from the largest industries. An entirely new condition of affairs has arisen, and it devolves upon every progressive worker to be informed as to what distinguishes the present time from the pre-war period.

Formerly our country allowed its entire industry to shift for itself. Crying scandals and murderous deeds were sometimes investigated, but nothing was done to remedy the evils. Under pressure of public opinion, if the public and the press ranged themselves on the workers' side the latter from time to time won a strike and improved their conditions.

But in order that our country should be enabled to carry on the war with success and be assured of victory the Government could not stand aside and look on at Capital and Labor picking out each other's eyes, and in the meantime the energy and wealth of the nation running to waste. Such indifferent attitude would have been disastrous to our country in the present war. To equip and maintain one soldier in the war it is necessary that more than one at home should perform the necessary labor in the different factories; otherwise the war cannot be carried on to victory.

Thus our government had to take over important industries and organize a system of control over the war industries left in private hands. Naturally this control must be over production. The first requirement is that production shall not be delayed through the workers' discontent with their la-

bor conditions and shall not be stopped on account of strikes. Hence nine-tenths of government control is concentrated upon the task to regulate wages and hours and afford the worker satisfaction and protection in order to increase his output as far as possible.

In introducing this control the Government needed the assistance of the organized workers much more than that of the manufacturers; and the labor organizations have, with the utmost good will, agreed to see to it that there should be no delay so far as they were concerned, provided the workers would not suffer as a result of the grasping greed of the profiteers.

For a number of years our Government has had a Ministry of Labor devoted to affairs between Capital and Labor; namely the United States Department of Labor. But until recently the Department was limited in its scope. Manufacturers took little cognizance of its efforts. The Department could investigate strikes and labor unrest, but could go no further than present a report to the President. Today, however, the Department of Labor has become one of the most important branches of the Government. All labor matters are under its control, and William B. Wilson, the Secretary of the Department, is also the Labor Administrator.

The history and development of the Department of Labor is briefly reviewed in the following notes communicated by the Information and Education Service of the Department:

The great war emergency labor program has tremendously increased the scope of the Department's work and has added eight new bureaus to the Department's organization.

The great importance of labor in winning the war has been responsible for the rapid growth of this part of the

Government's activities. The present organization of the Department of Labor, with its great employment service covering all the territory of the United States, with its many other bureaus, requiring seven buildings in Washington for their housing, far surpasses the dreams of the few labor leaders who more than 60 years ago first suggested such a branch of the United States Government.

Probably the first mention of such a department came in a bill introduced in Congress in 1861 by Godlove S. Orth, Member of Congress from an Indiana district, for the creation of a Department of Industry. The bill was not adopted, however, and no great amount of discussion even was created by it in the midst of the Civil War.

In the following year 15 labor leaders met at Louisville, Ky., and drew up resolutions urging the establishment of a Department of Labor in the United States Government. This was the germ of the idea which has now had its fruition in the present great organization, for the labor organizations of the day took up the plan enthusiastically and featured it at their conventions. More than 100 bills and resolutions were introduced in Congress up to 1902 suggesting the organization of a Department of Labor. When William McKinley was in Congress he introduced a bill for a bureau of labor statistics.

This and other bills led to the formation of a bureau in the Department of the Interior by the name of the "Bureau of Labor." The date of its foundation was June 7, 1884. Four years later it was made a department, but with a commissioner at its head—an officer not of Cabinet rank. In 1903 it became again the "Bureau of Labor," under the Department of Commerce and Labor. It still survives in the present Department of Labor as the Bureau of Statistics.

The department as an institution of Cabinet rank dates from March 4, 1913, when it was definitely separated from the Department of Commerce, with W. B. Wilson, the present Secretary, as its head.

The labor men of 1861 called for a "department conducted by men of and

for labor." Their desires are well reflected by the act which called the department into being. This act declares as the purpose of the department "to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners of the United States, to improve their working conditions, and to advance their opportunities for profitable employment."

The Bureaus of Labor Statistics, Naturalization, and Immigration have existed with the department from the beginning, as has the Children's Bureau, and a mediation service was an important part of the department's work. From the beginning the aim of the department has been to lessen industrial disputes and to diminish their severity. Secretary Wilson held in his first report that much industrial trouble is due to the refusal of employers to grant their workmen the right of organization, though the employers themselves were organized as a matter of course. The right of organization by both parties has been recognized in the war-labor program. "In most instances in which employers grant to workmen practical recognition of the right of collective bargaining, which they themselves exercise, fair relations are maintained," the Secretary wrote in his first report. It was also the aim of the department from the first to remedy industrial conditions that cause distressing controversies.

The department had a normal growth and steadily became a more important factor in the Nation's life until the outbreak of the war with Germany. The vital importance of an adequate labor supply was perceived at once and the department revised its organization in order to handle the new problems brought about by war conditions.

An Adjustment Service, with H. L. Kerwin as chief, is an extremely important feature of the war organization. To this service has been due in many instances the preservation of industrial peace and the smooth operation of war work. The War Labor Board and the War Labor Policies

Board are both operating under the department in the labor problems of the day.

Perhaps one of the most spectacular new lines of work taken up by the department is that represented by the United States Employment Service. This great organization is now distributing the unskilled labor supply of the Nation, and is diverting labor from non-essential work to vitally important war jobs. There is also the Training and Dilution Service, the aim of which is to fill the places of skilled men with those less experienced, yet in such a manner that there will be no shock to industry.

The Information and Education Service is making known to the Na-

tion the importance of applying effectively every ounce of labor power, and the Investigation and Inspection Service is handling the field work of some of the numerous other organizations in the department. The Conditions of Labor Service and the Women in Industry Service are undertaking important work in special fields, and the Housing Bureau is busying itself with the problems of war workers in industrial centers.

Such is the present organization of the department. The Employment Service alone now has about 25,000 names on its lists of paid or voluntary helpers. The growth of the department is in keeping with the increased importance of labor itself.

Government Interested in Various Educational Plans

By A. R.

Not only is the Government interested in the workers keeping up production in the war industries, but also in the causes for delay in production. The Government has found that the methods of employers of labor are very faulty. We know that production is oft-times delayed for the reason that employers of labor, their foremen and managers, act like despots. Not alone do they prevent the workers from organizing in a union, but in many of the biggest industries they simply do not permit them to breathe freely. Consequently, when the workers possess only a sense of self-respect, they look for other places of employment. This is also often a cause for their being discharged, as employers are more satisfied with submissive workers.

Sundry investigations have demonstrated that in all such factories the process of replacing old employees by new arrivals is carried too far, and not only does this involve a costly process of advertising, clerical work, and so forth, but production is thereby much retarded. For before the new workers have adapted themselves to their task, both time and money have been incurred, and when they have gained the necessary experience they

might have to leave their places for one reason or another.

The Government has long since taken cognizance of this fact. There is a saying: "Necessity breaks through iron walls." Labor has become such a necessity that the various Government departments are seeking by every means to save the tremendous waste and loss occasioned by idleness while labor is in great demand. At present no private firm having the least connection with war work may advertise for help unless it has special Government permission. The Department of Labor, through its employment bureaus, controls the entire supply of labor for the various war industries.

It is an old criticism against the present system of society that manpower is lost also in another way. We know very well that young people with bright minds are often forced to become common laborers because their parents are too poor to give them an education, while children of sluggish minds are crammed with knowledge they cannot assimilate because their parents made money on the Stock Exchange or by profiteering. Thus things get twisted and society loses the advantages it would derive from

its best children if industry were arranged on a better system.

The fact that the Government seeks to correct such evils in the war industries is a sign of the times. It shows the advent of a new era in the industrial life of the country. And although all the innovations are only for the duration of the war, one may be sure that after the war society will not permit such industrial chaos as has been prevailing heretofore.

All Government departments, and especially those occupied with industrial questions and matters pertaining to the relations between capital and labor, feel the great need of spreading knowledge and information. One of the most interesting departments for education is that which is training employment managers—teaching men to become proficient in hiring help and dealing with the labor force in all matters relating to their life and labor in the factory. There is such a division in the War Industries Board, of which B. M. Baruch is chairman. In connection with this matter Prof. Edward Jones, of Michigan University, writes as follows:

UNCLE SAM TO TRAIN EMPLOYMENT MANAGERS.

The Government has found it necessary to enter the field of education on a large scale. War Emergency Courses in Employment Management, conducted by the Employment Management Division of the War Industries Board, under the auspices of five Governmental Departments, have been arranged for in nine universities to date. The outline of the courses of study was made by Captain Boyd Fisher, who has general supervision of the work.

These courses in employment management are designed to train men or women, who already have a basic experience of at least three years in industrial life and factory methods, and who have come in actual contact with shop problems. Employers of labor, particularly those having war contracts, are urged to suggest men or women from their own organizations as candidates for these courses. With

the increasing tightening of the labor situation, it is absolutely essential that large plants have an efficient central employment department. If the Government is to take upon itself the task of furnishing labor when called upon it is necessary that that labor be employed in the proper manner. In other words, each man should be hired to do the thing he is best fitted to do. In these days every man must count and there must be no square pegs in round holes. Therefore it is up to the employer to place his house in order and make the best use of the men with which he is supplied.

The introduction of the employment manager into industry, and the standardization of the services of an employment department is acknowledged to be one of the greatest movements now taking place in the manufacturing industry of this country.

Courses have been arranged for at a number of universities all over the country and already there have been 172 graduates from the classes conducted thus far. Most of these have returned to their own plants and placed in operation a department of employment. In each case where a central employment department is in vogue, there is never a thought of returning to the old-fashioned hit-or-miss method of hiring men.

The courses of instruction in the various schools run from six weeks to two months, and the classes are conducted by the foremost authorities in the country.

The course of study deals chiefly with the problems of employment management. Brief consideration is given, however, to statistics, labor economics, and business organization and management. The materials presented on the subject of employment management covers the organization and equipment of an employment department, the employing of the workers, the training of the workers, the payment of the workers, the control of working conditions, efforts to keep the work up to standard, and the government of the shop. There are no charges for the course, except the outlay for living expenses and books.

Labor's Part in The Fourth Liberty Loan

Organized Labor in New York has made extraordinary preparations for the promotion of the Fourth Liberty Loan. Spokesmen for the many local and international unions in New York City are convinced that the rights labor has won in this country would be sacrificed utterly if Germany should triumph over the democratic nations.

Far in advance of the actual drive for the Fourth Loan, notices were sent to each of the 200,000 members of the Central Federated Union in this city, urging them to buy bonds and give all possible aid to the floating of the huge Loan. The last of these notices was sent out in the first week of September.

In the meantime, the General Executive Committee of the Central Federated Union, of fourteen members, had resolved itself into a special bond committee to aid the Fourth Liberty Loan.

"Nothing in the movement of organized labor is so important at the present time," declared Ernest Bohm, Secretary of the Central Federated Union. "There is not a local union in New York, no matter how small, that will not subscribe to Liberty Bonds of the Fourth Loan. Besides that, thousands of our members will buy bonds as individuals.

"Organized labor believes in democracy. Only under a democratic form of government could labor win the privileges of organization and collective bargaining that have been obtained in this country. We are ready to sacrifice to the uttermost to defend American rights against the Prussian menace. Thousands of our members are 'Over There.' Other thousands are engaged in Government work in support of the war. The rest of us will give everything we have to increase the power of our country in the fight for world democracy."

Mr. Bohm stated that the unions affiliated with the Central Federated

Union took more than \$500,000 of bonds in the first three loans, for the unions, and that Liberty Bond purchases by individual members amounted to more than \$1,000,000. He expressed the belief that all former records in the sales of Liberty Bonds to unions and union men will be beaten in the Fourth Liberty Loan Drive.

"This," he went on, "in spite of the fact that the cost of living has been rising, and organized labor, in supporting the war programme of the Government frequently has waived the right to press even the most reasonable demands.

"Any privations we may suffer now, in the war period, are nothing in comparison to the loss which organized labor, with all other free institutions of the democratic countries, would lose by the triumph of Germany.

"The unions and individual members will buy bonds of the Fourth Liberty Loan to a greater degree than before, in spite of increasing difficulties. Our members know that this will mean not only the safety of our organization in the future, but also increased comforts in place of those we must forgo at the present time.

"The temporary sacrifice that must be made to buy Liberty Bonds is nothing in comparison to the misery that we should suffer from the bonds that a victorious Prussia would fasten on us.

"We will do our utmost to support anything and everything that will tend to preserve democracy."

In the Bronx, a special Liberty Bond Committee, representing thirty unions, has been organized. It is headed by Albert Abrahams, and has practically the personnel of the committee that disposed of \$250,000 of the Third Loan bonds in two weeks.

"That's nothing to what we're going to do for the Fourth Loan," declared

Mr. Abrahams. "The drive for democracy is well begun. Now is the time to finish it."

Aside from the general committees of the federated bodies of organized labor, all the larger local and international unions have special bond committees. The United Hebrew Trades, Cloakmakers' Union, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Hat Workers and other unions have formed committees and are working diligently for the Fourth Liberty Loan.

While the people of the United States are raising the Fourth Liberty Loan, the people of Germany will be engaged in raising their ninth War Loan. It is not known in this country what the amount of the German loan is, but the interest rate is five per cent.

Americans don't have to be offered five per cent, to induce them to take bonds of their Government. They would take them if the bonds paid no interest at all! Yet what a coincidence that the two campaigns should come at the same moment! We who do not fight, who can only take Bonds, are now face to face with the German people as our troops are face to face with their troops. American dollars are competing with German marks.

We know what our troops can do—what they have done. Let the German people see what the American people can do! An over-subscription of the Fourth Loan would, under any circumstances, be a blow between the eyes for the Germans coming at a time when they cannot by any possibility over-subscribe their own war loan—if they even meet the subscription.

You can add power to that blow by subscribing to bonds of the Fourth Liberty Loan.

AMERICA WILL AID IMMIGRANTS Bureaus of Information Will Be Established in Cities Having Large Foreign Quarters to Protect Aliens.

Uncle Sam is now going to furnish information bureaus for his nephews and nieces.

Primarily, these bureaus will be for nephews and nieces by adoption, for they are intended as a part of the great scheme of

Americanization now being worked out for the aliens living in America, to provide first aid for immigrants in any of the thousand and one crises of life in a strange land.

It is unfortunately true that a feeling has prevailed among certain classes in the past that immigrants exist solely to be exploited and deceived. The ignorance of American customs so general among those in foreign quarters, their tendency to trust strangers, and the readiness of sharpers to prey upon them, all combine to make their lot anything but pleasant until they have learned through long and costly experience.

Some of the immigrants have relatives in America and probably most of them have friends here; large numbers are aided by such organizations as the Hebrew Sheltering Aid Association and others with the same aims. But, with all that friends and charity can do, the immigrant at times has a hard time in America, and to save him some of the more painful and expensive experiences the United States Government is establishing bureaus throughout the country where the worst of his troubles can be settled.

In many stores of shady reputation it is the regular practice to overcharge the immigrant. Lawyers of the shyster class charge him exorbitant fees for little or no service, and "runners" exploit him wherever possible. Fly-by-night "bankers" open establishments in foreign quarters, where they offer to send remittances home to the families of men working here. Some of them never send anything back at all; large numbers charge from twice to ten times what the service would cost if the immigrant knew where to go.

Even in the event of sickness and death the immigrant is exploited, if he is so unfortunate as to find an unscrupulous physician or undertaker. It is too often the rule that native-born citizens pay little attention to the desires and needs of the immigrant, and the consequence is that he frequently becomes much disappointed with his career in America.

To remedy this whole situation is the aim of the Commissioner of Naturalization, whose bureau is a part of the Department of Labor. To show Americans their responsibility to the foreign born, and to show immigrants how they can become not only Americans in legal form but thoroughly imbued with the spirit of Americanism, is the aim of the information service planned for the various cities.

Posters, moving pictures, the press, in fact every avenue through which the immigrant can be approached, will be utilized to reach him. He will be taught, in his own language and in English alike, that the United States wants to help him; that he has only to make his wants known to be assured of aid.

The information officers will help immigrants in bringing their families to America, in recovering money of which they are robbed through fraud, and in other ways

The American Labor Movement in the Present Crisis

By A. R.

ACTIVITY OF THE WAR LABOR BOARD

It would be impossible to report all that the National War Labor Board has done last month, as hundreds of cases are always awaiting its action. We shall, however, mention a few occurrences which have attracted considerable attention all over the country.

Those who read in the last issue of the Ladies' Garment Worker the article on the National War Labor Board saw that the Board is actually a court for passing on industrial disputes. But this court does not evolve outworn notions in regard to capital and labor as the regular courts do. The principles of the War Labor Board are definitely and clearly set forth. President Wilson himself has set his seal on these principles in a proclamation. One of them is collective bargaining, or as it is called in our circles, "a machinery for settling disputes." A second principle is that the workers have the right to organize and employers must not prevent it. Naturally, when the War Labor Board renders a decision the parties at variance must accept it.

Last month a case happened in Springfield, Mass., where employers refused to accept the Board's decision. A second case occurred in Bridgeport, Conn., where the workers refused to comply with the Board's decision.

Penalty for Flaunting Labor Board

In Springfield it was the Smith and Wesson Co., which manufactures guns. Until recently the firm conducted an open shop and entered into individual contracts with the workers, and the Board ruled that individual contracts must be abrogated for the time of the war. Thereupon the firm wrote a letter to the War Department protesting that it conducted a non-union shop and would not accept the ruling of the War Labor Board, as it was contrary to the opinion of the United States Supreme Court which had sanctioned the individual contract last winter in injunction proceedings against the miners.

As a penalty for the non-compliance of the company the Government commandeered the entire plant and immediately placed a supervisor of the War Department in charge.

President Wilson Warns Workers

In Bridgeport the members of the Machinists' Union were the recalcitrant party. The incident occurred after a series of disputes in regard to wages and other demands, when finally the War Labor Board stepped in. As the Board could not agree the matter was referred to one of its umpires, Otto M. Eidlitz. The workers were not satisfied with his award and suspended operations.

It should be borne in mind that they suspended work contrary to the will of the union officials. President Johnston ordered them to return to work and request the War Labor Board to re-open the case; the union officials being likewise dissatisfied with the award because it was not based on correct knowledge of actual conditions. But instead of complying with the order of their international president they went on strike and appealed to President Wilson against the award.

Trade unionists with a proper conception of trade union practice can see at a glance the awkward position in which the workers placed themselves. In the President's letter to the workers the following passage occurs:

It is of the highest importance to secure compliance with reasonable rules and procedure for the settlement of industrial disputes. Having exercised a drastic remedy with recalcitrant employers, it is my duty to use means equally well adapted to the end with lawless and faithless employees.

The President warned them that unless they returned to work they would be "barred from employment in any war industry in the community in which the strike occurs for a period of one year. During that time the United States Employment Service will decline to obtain employment for you in any war industry else-

where in the United States, as well as under the War and Navy Departments, the Shipping Board, the Railroad Administration and all other government agencies, and the draft boards will be instructed to reject any claim of exemption."

Workers Heeding the President

The President's letter had the desired effect. The strikers forthwith called off the strike and sent the President the following reply:

We loyally accept your command that we return to the working conditions which we left, and we shall proceed, as you advise us, to reappear our case to the established governmental tribunals, leaving the event in your hands as chief magistrate of our mighty nation.

The employers then took the liberty of refusing to reinstate a large number of strikers, and the local union again appealed to President Wilson. The President notified the employers that all workers must be reinstated.

Subsequently the War Labor Board modified the Eidlitz award rendering it acceptable to the workers. This was done through the resident examiner who had been invested with full power by Frank P. Walsh and William H. Taft, and no public hearing was held. The men's principal grievance arose from the persistent practice of discrimination by the employers and their espionage system interfering with the workers' industrial convention. Charges are pending against the employers that they resort to subterfuge to prevent the reinstatement of the workers and refuse to release them, thus preventing their getting employment elsewhere. These grievances will be speedily rectified now that the officials of the War Labor Board have matters well in hand.

There are sixty-six plants in Bridgeport engaged in war industries and they employ an aggregate of 60,000 workers. According to the award of the umpire the convention alluded to above was supposed to consist of delegates elected by the workers of every shop. The convention was to name candidates for members of the local Appeal Board composed of three workers, three employers and a chairman appointed by the Secretary of War, which Appeal Board is to settle disputes between the shop committees and the shop management; and the

candidates were to be elected by a referendum of all the workers. The convention, however, was packed with emissaries of the employers, detectives and anti-union elements and this constituted a grievance on the part of the union men.

Another objection to the award was that it failed to give the workers the four wage classifications which they deemed fair and just. Those getting 75 to 77 cents an hour were to get 78 cents; those getting 41 cents were to receive 47 cents and those getting 40 cents were to be increased to 46 cents.

Among those who complained to Mr. Walsh were women corset workers of a certain factory in Bridgeport, claiming that they had been refused releases by their employers, although they had no work to do at corsets and wished employment at munitions.

Board Procures Schoolrooms for Meetings

In Bridgeport it was impossible for the citizens to procure halls for meetings without the permission of the president of the Police Board who is also the president of one of the large munitions factories. The workers complained to the officials of the Board of this restriction.

Recently the Board has arranged with the Board of Education to open six schoolrooms for meetings. Upon five citizens or declarants for citizenship signing an application for the use of a schoolroom the request will be granted.

REGARDING THE 8-HOUR DAY AND OVERTIME

The eight-hour day was recognized in principle for most war industries, but in practice the short work-day is not everywhere in operation. During last month one of the Board's umpires, Justice Walter Clark of North Carolina, rendered a decision upholding the eight-hour day and time and a half for overtime. The decision will now become a precedent for the War Labor Board in similar disputes.

The matter in dispute occurred in Wheeling, West Virginia, in the iron molding industry, and the decision is interesting for the reason that it introduces a democratic principle in the question of overtime. In the words of the decision no overtime shall be permitted except in cases of emergency; namely:

1. Overtime work shall be paid for at the rate of time and one-half for all hours worked in excess of eight hours, with double time for Sundays and holidays.

1. The question whether or not an emergency exists, together with the length of time over which such emergency may extend, and the number of extra hours per day, shall be determined by agreement between the management and the working moulders in the shop.

3. For the purpose of effectuating the agreement mentioned in Paragraph 1, a permanent committee of four persons is hereby created, two of whom shall be designated by the management of the plant and two by the working moulders in the shop, the assent of at least three of whom shall be necessary for permission to work more than eight hours in any day of twenty-four hours.

In his decision the umpire referred to the principles of the War Labor Board which read: "In all cases in which the existing law does not require the basic eight-hour day, the question of hours of labor shall be settled with due regard to governmental necessities and the welfare health, and proper comfort of the workers." This reasonable judge realized that the workers' health would suffer by a long workday. Judge Clark is, moreover, by no means an ordinary judge. In his opinion labor occupies an important position in society; it is the basis of civilization. Without labor the world would come to a standstill, said this enlightened judge in effect.

HEARING AS TO THE BROOKLYN RAPID TRANSIT

At the end of last month Frank P. Walsh and William H. Taft, joint chairmen of the War Labor Board, held a hearing in City Hall, New York, upon the complaints of a number of the company's employes, who charge that they had been dismissed because they had joined the local Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. The hearing would involve questions of wages, hours, the spy system, and so forth.

Not only was the War Labor Board requested by the employes of the B. R. T., but also by the Public Service Commission to make investigation. The latter desires the investigation to be more general. In

the last few months the Interborough Company has cut down the train service on the subways; the management claiming that they cannot procure men to operate trains. The Public Service Commission desires that it be ascertained whether the company cannot procure men because it does not pay sufficient wages, and what the wages and labor conditions should be to attract men and thus enable the company to fulfill its obligations. A public hearing on these questions would be interesting.

At the first session Mr. Williams, the president of the B. R. T., questioned the right of the War Labor Board to conduct this hearing. But Mr. Taft retorted that the Board had ample power and that it would be exercised.

DOLLAR POWER SHRINKS

Washington.—Figures published by the Department of Labor show that the purchasing power of \$1 in July, 1918, as compared with July, 1913, five years previous, has shrunk to 54 cents in Washington and Baltimore, 57 cents in Philadelphia, 59 cents in Chicago and 63 cents in San Francisco.

Stating this in another way, the increase in the cost of food during the five-year period was 85 per cent in Washington, 84 per cent in Baltimore, 77 per cent in Philadelphia, 68 per cent in New York, 69 per cent in Chicago and 58 per cent in San Francisco.

In the one-year period from July, 1917, to July, 1918, food advanced 12 per cent in San Francisco, 21 per cent in Washington and Philadelphia, 20 per cent in Baltimore, 17 per cent in New York and 11 per cent in Chicago.

TEN-YEAR SENTENCE ON EUGENE V. DEBS

Last month Eugene V. Debs was sentenced in a Federal court to ten years in the penitentiary for a reference to the war in a tone of criticism, and thereby transgressing the Espionage law. Debs is well known as the erstwhile leader in a historic strike of railroad workers, as a forceful speaker and writer and several times the presidential candidate for the Socialist party.

All sincere people admire the courage of Eugene V. Debs in these excitable times.

He declined to call witnesses to refute the charges against him and clearly admitted having delivered the objectionable address, but he claimed to have uttered the truth.

Debs denied that he was pro-German. On the contrary, he declared himself as an implacable foe of Kaiserism. He characterized the Kaiser as "a beast incarnate and the embodiment of the spirit of tyranny and oppression."

LABOR CONGRESS ON MEXICAN BORDER

On November 13, an important International Labor Conference will be held in Laredo, Texas, on the Mexican border, and will be attended by representatives of the trade union movement of both the United States and Mexico. President Wilson and President Carranza, as well as the governors of the border States, have been invited to attend as guests. According to the official opinion of its promoters, one of the aims of the conference is to cement a bond of friendly relations among the masses of both nations. President Gompers has thus expressed the feeling permeating this movement:

A meeting of the minds and wills of the masses of two countries represents a new conception of international diplomacy and a new era in international relations and organizations.

Ignacia Bonillas, Ambassador from Mexico, has stated on his part that "it remains with the organized labor movements of our countries to bring about a fraternal understanding that even diplomacy might not be able to accomplish."

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor will meet at Laredo at the time of the conference.

A new labor organ, devoted to the interests of the workers in all South American republics, made its appearance in the middle of August. It is called the Pan-American Labor Press and is published every Wednesday in English and Spanish by the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy.

REQUEST FOR WOMEN ON WAR LABOR BOARD

The Executive Board of the National Women's Trade Union League has decided to request the appointment of two women on the National War Labor Board. The

following telegram has been sent to President Wilson:

The Executive Board of the National Women's Trade Union League, in meeting assembled, recognizing the increasing responsibilities resting upon the women workers at this war crisis, urges upon you the appointment of two women to the National War Labor Board, one of whom shall be a trade unionist.

The request is due to the fact that practically every case that comes before the National War Labor Board involves large numbers of women workers, and as this condition will become the more marked as the draft proceeds, it becomes both a matter of justice to have women's viewpoint represented in the War Labor Board.

LABOR WOMEN TO DISCUSS RECONSTRUCTION

The words "reconstruction after the war" are now frequently heard. Everywhere reconstruction programs are being talked about. The British Labor Party was the first in the field with its many-sided reconstruction program. Gradually this historical labor document has re-echoed in the hearts and minds of all conscious workers in every land and especially here in America. Many of the ideas and propositions of this program shine forth in every Socialist and labor program. The Executive Board of the Women's Trade Union League is convening a meeting to discuss reconstruction, and Vice-President Fannia M. Cohen of our International Union has been invited to attend the meeting.

CALLING WOMAN LABOR CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON

On October 4 and 5, a woman labor conference will be held in Washington, D. C. All international unions have been invited to be represented thereat. Miss Fannia M. Cohen has been appointed to represent our International Union. The conference has been called by Miss Mary Van Cleek, director, and Miss Mary Anderson, assistant director, of the Women-in-Industry Division of the Department of Labor.

Weighty matters are to be brought before this conference in view of the call of the Government to the women of the country to enter into industry and thereby release the men who are to be drafted into military service.

Unity Summer Houses of the Philadelphia and Boston Waistmakers

By FANNIA M. COHN

A GLIMPSE AT THE UNITY HOUSE OF LOCAL NO. 15

While the quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board was held in Philadelphia at the end of August we availed ourselves of the invitation of the Philadelphia Waistmakers' Union, Local No. 15, to visit their Unity House in Orville, Pa., on Saturday evening August 24.

When we arrived there we found at the entrance a huge sign in big letters, "Welcome G. E. B. of the I. L. G. W. U. to the Unity House of Local No. 15." Besides this we were greeted by about a hundred and fifty young women and young men singing specially composed "Unity Songs."

After enjoying a very tasteful supper in company of so many good friends and comrades, we were pleasantly surprised with a vocal and instrumental concert. The audience assembled on the grounds, relaxing in convenient rocking chairs, facing the porch that was used as a stage for the young attractive soprano, and the gifted 'celloist and violinist. When the artists had sung and played the last pieces, we were ordered to turn our rocking chairs in an opposite direction. There were unveiled before us tableaux of human statues, symbolizing different events and ideas. The closing act of the evening was performed by the members of Local No. 15 singing folk songs and telling anecdotes. It was a real "jollification."

Sunday morning after enjoying a real country breakfast, the General Executive Board went into session in the library, in an artistically arranged cottage, where we noticed the bookcase filled with books and the walls adorned with beautiful paintings contributed by the workers of different shops and by individual members. We also found there sundry sculptures. Two comfortable armchairs were part of the furniture.

The impression that we carried away from this working women's and working men's house, run on a co-operative basis—a summer house that costs already thirty thousand (\$30,000) dollars—was very pleasant indeed. We felt much encouraged.

It again demonstrated my contention that great things can be accomplished in our local unions under devoted, able and enterprising leadership. What is needed as a basis to build upon is the creation of a proper atmosphere and awakened intelligent interest among the rank and file.

UNITY HOUSE OF BOSTON WAISTMAKERS

A middle-aged lady, the wife of a wealthy northwestern shoe manufacturer, and a young woman met in a car of a train going to Falmouth, Mass.

While exchanging remarks on the beautiful landscape that unveiled before them, they became gradually engaged in a lively conversation.

Among other things, the wife of the wealthy shoe manufacturer told the young lady that she was spending the summer on the north shore of Cape Cod, Mass., where her new acquaintance was also going to spend her vacation.

A big, expensive automobile was waiting at the station for the middle-aged lady. Sitting comfortably in the machine she asked the young lady whether her machine was also waiting, and if not she offered to take her to her cottage if she would be kind enough and give her address to the chauffeur.

Everything was nice and polite—until the young lady gave her address as "Camp Unity." Whereupon the wife of the shoe manufacturer, in amazement cried, "What, Camp Unity?" and indignantly turning away from her new acquaintance, said to the chauffeur,

four: "Go ahead, John," and momentarily the machine disappeared in the woods, leaving the young woman smilingly behind her.

No wonder that the mere mention of "Camp Unity" shocked the wife of the wealthy Western shoe manufacturer. Because this meant that her new acquaintance, the attractive and refined young lady whom she accepted as one of the cherished daughters, probably, of a manufacturer, was simply a Boston dressmaker, a member of Local No. 49, who was rejoicing in the pleasant expectation of spending a two weeks' vacation in her own Unity House, in company of fellow workers, members of her union.

From this the readers will understand that the Boston Waist and Dressmakers, too, have their own summer Unity House, run for and by the members of their union. This is the newest Unity House within our International.

Funds to cover the excess expenses of the house were raised through an exhibition of dresses contributed by the workers of every shop collectively.

Camp Unity is situated on the shore of majestic Cape Cod, surrounded by trees and flowers and adjoining artistically constructed cottages, occupied by very wealthy families.

Upon my visit to the place I was met by happy, joyful young women singing labor songs of hope and inspiration for a better future. Nature there is so beautiful and poetical that under its influence one cannot feel otherwise but happy and hopeful.

In the dining room around the tables forty occupants of the camp were having their meals, prepared on a co-operative basis. A stranger seeing their happy faces and beaming eyes, and hearing the sound of joyful voices could hardly understand wherefrom this vitality comes to working women, who for years carry the brunt of modern capitalism. When life comes in touch with nature there is no room for worry or pessimism, but for joy and hope.

In the afternoon on Labor Day, after rowing for some time, we landed

on an island, most of which is occupied by a widow. Her husband lies buried there in a very costly granite cave.

It is considered one of the most beautiful islands. Nature has lavishly endowed it with its own beauty. High curved rock, numerous trees and flower gardens with grand arches are conspicuous throughout. Human labor contributed its touch, building a magnificent castle designed and beautified by the artistic skill of the architect.

Despite all this, one is chilled by a dead atmosphere. The sad expression of the old widow, sitting lifelessly in a rocking chair adds to the gloom. She shivered and looked scared to death when the jolly voices of my escorts reached her.

It came to my mind what could be accomplished, and how much real joy of life could be derived if this charming island were the property of the Waistmakers' Union, Local No. 49.

On our way back we anchored our boat and tried our good luck with fishing. There was a great desire among my company to bring a few "fish" to the camp. But the wise fishy creatures consumed all our "food" and avoided our bait. We were so absorbed that no problems existed for us at that time. It is very pleasant to forget all the troubles and enjoy beautiful Mother Nature.

Fully appreciating the value of a summer Unity House in the country, which enabled some of the members to spend there a pleasant two weeks' vacation, the members of Local No. 49 by no means undervalue the necessity of convenient headquarters in the city where they can initiate educational and social activities. Since it is almost impossible for them to get such a building rented, they decided to carry on a campaign among their members for a fund to build such a house as soon as their plan will be completed. We all wish them success in their enterprise.

It was indeed a great pleasure to me to see how interested the young women members of Local 49 are in the affairs of their union, how proud they are of the accomplishments of their

three-years-old union and how they appreciate their management.

In conclusion I consider it a privilege to inform my readers that with a view to assisting our members to acquire a better understanding of the needs of the community they live in and the practical means and ways to be employed in satisfying them, Prof. Chas. A. Beard has promised to write

a series of articles for the *Ladies' Garment Worker*, on the necessity of a Municipal Market Terminal. Dr. Warbasse will write on co-operation and Dr. Frankel on health. These distinguished men are experts on these subjects, and the editor assures me that the articles will be read with great interest and will be of benefit to our readers.

Successful Cooperative Enterprise of the Cloak Pressers' Union, Local 35

Gradual Development of a Union Store which is of Much Benefit to the Membership and of Great Future Promise

By L. F.

The initiative within our union of combatting the high cost of living belongs to the Cloak Pressers' Union, Local No. 35 of New York. For a number of years this local has been one of the best-organized and firmly-established unions affiliated with the International Union. It is by no means the biggest union in point of membership, for the local has only slightly more than 6,000 members in good standing, yet it has managed to strengthen its position in a manner that sets a good example to other, larger local unions.

Local No. 35 was the first of our locals in New York to introduce sick and consumptive benefits and a relief fund. These funds won the hearts of the members for their local union and placed it on a solid foundation.

During the recent bad seasons the cloak pressers suffered equally with all the other branches of trade. The present unexpected dulness in the cloak industry is similarly affecting them. But the hard times only tended to knit the pressers more closely together and they decided to ease the distress arising from the high cost of living by supplying certain foodstuffs to their members on the co-operative principle.

In the ranks of the New York cloak-makers the co-operative grocery store conducted by Local No. 35 is the talk of the day. For not only does this

enterprise benefit the members of this local but all other members of the International Union who care to make purchases in the union store. Upon presenting their union card they are supplied with foodstuffs, the best in the market, cheaper than inferior qualities supplied in retail stores.

BEGAN IN A SMALL WAY

Originally the idea had been planned by the local officers and active members. The store was, however, not opened under the direct auspices of the local but by a few active members who had organized a society and raised a small fund for that purpose. Subsequently the fund proved too small and it was not deemed proper that the enterprise should be isolated and in a few hands, so the local assumed control over it. There can be no longer any doubt of its great success, and the members of Local No. 35 are elated at their local having brought into existence an institution so beneficial to the New York membership of the International Union and so creditable to their local.

There has been, however, one drawback which has rendered the promoters of this co-operative enterprise anxious and dissatisfied, namely the insufficient accommodation in the local headquarters for the development of the concern. The Cloak Pressers' Union has been located at Second Ave-

nue and Fourteenth street since several years, and the store has been gradually extended until it has come to occupy two entire floors, which are crowded with boxes and sacks of produce, and the union offices are rather cramped for space.

In view of the present state of the market and the needs of the membership the present supplies are not sufficient; besides, the membership cannot really gain any advantage unless things are purchased on a large scale at reduced prices. Brother Kazan, the energetic and devoted local secretary has been giving this matter much anxious thought.

The Local has invested from \$7,000 to \$8,000 in the business and is prepared to invest a larger capital. There is now in the union treasury, including the Relief Fund, over \$60,000. The investment in this enterprise is considered as safe as any bank deposit. Furthermore, a larger investment would help to buy goods at cheaper rates and effect a saving for the consuming membership. Thus the present scanty accommodation has been a bitter drop in the cup of glory.

NEED FOR EXTENSION

Like all resourceful men, Secretary Kazan is farsighted as to the possibilities of the enterprise. He believes that the store might advantageously invest in a stock of shoes, which could be retailed to the members at \$1.00 and \$1.50 and in some cases probably \$2.00 less per pair than the retail price in the shoe stores. That would be an appreciable saving for every purchaser and especially for the families buying several pairs of shoes at a time. Thus, all that is needed for extension is larger premises.

This anxiety has now been relieved. Local No. 35 has just bought a house for \$65,000 large enough to extend its co-operative enterprise. The house occupies one of the most attractive corners in the busy thoroughfare of Second avenue and Fifteenth street and has six floors including basement. It will not only provide office room for the union and ample storage room for the co-operative business; there will be some rooms to spare for housing

other local unions very comfortably.

Incidentally it is interesting to note the historical connections of the house, which formerly belonged to the estate of Peter Stuyvesant, the first governor of New York. This is calculated to add honor and prestige to our International Union no less than to Local No. 35.

Of course, extensive alterations have to be made and operations have been already started. It is intended to take the first floor and basement for the store and stock rooms, while the upper stories will be utilized for offices and meeting rooms. The house will be ready for occupation about the end of November, and it is expected that the event will be duly celebrated.

Under the present arrangement the store is somewhere on the sixth floor. In the new house the members' wives will be enabled to make personal purchases and will not have to burden their husbands to bring the packages on their way home from work. The management is also planning to organize a delivery system for sending orders home to members twice a week.

There is much scope and promise for this co-operative enterprise in the near future, and all the members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union will accord their enterprising and energetic sister Local No. 35 their heartiest wishes of success upon the day when the extension of its co-operative branch will be inaugurated in its own house.

UNION ACTIVITY NOT RELAXED

It should be mentioned in conclusion that on account of upbuilding the co-operative concern the local union has not relaxed its vigilance and activity in the trade union field. There has been no neglect of union affairs, which have been attended with as much energy and zeal as ever. The local office is a regular beehive of buzzing activity, and the officers and local executive board are even now planning the introduction of a system of life and health insurance and disability benefit for members rendered unable to pursue their employment.

New Activities in Waistmakers' Union, Local 25

The Waist and Dressmakers' Union Local No. 25 is the biggest single local in the International Union. The local has at present about 20,000 members in good standing. This means that its membership is considerably larger and that the local extends its influence over 30,000 workers in the trade. In a local union with such a numerous membership many activities are naturally going on, yielding good material for the student of contemporary union events.

Problems Due to Marriages

As our readers are aware the local membership consists mostly of young women workers, and naturally there is a large annual turnover, so to say—members leaving and new members flowing in. This is due in the main to marriages and other causes. It should be remembered that men, even when they marry, come to work the very next day, as if nothing happened. Very rarely a working man can afford to go on a honeymoon trip unless he marries in the slack season. For girls, however, particularly Jewish girls, the marriage license is an automatic withdrawal from the union. In plain words, when a girl marries she replaces shop work by housework and ceases to be a member of the union. It has been computed that some 5,000 girls leave the waist and dress industry every year to get married.

In one way it might be deemed advantageous to the union to get an accretion of new blood every year. On the other hand, the union loses the experienced workers, the conscious members, and must start organizing and educational work anew every once in a while, while other unions with a stable membership are hardly confronted by any such problems as face the administration of Local No. 25.

Two Wage Increases This Year

In course of this year Local No. 25 has twice succeeded in gaining an increase of wages for its members. In January, 1918, the employers were forced to grant an advance of 8½ per cent.

Recently, in July, 1918, due to the ever increasing cost of living, the employers were prevailed upon to grant a further increase of 10 per cent. These two increases have not yet brought the workers' earnings up to the level commensurate with present hard times; but it adds to the union's prestige that it has been able to keep firm control over wage conditions and convince the employers before the Board of Arbitration of the necessity to improve them. Of course, the membership is proud of the union's successful efforts.

In January, 1919, the present agreement with the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association has to be further revised. This is provided for in the agreement itself. A special committee of the union is busy preparing new demands to be presented at the coming conferences between both parties, which are expected to begin toward the end of November. Unusual activity prevails in union circles, and all active members are looking forward with keen anticipation to further improvement in the position of Local No. 25. They hope to render its position more impregnable than ever.

Raising a Defence Fund

All the active spirits are unanimous in desiring to attain further necessary improvements amicably. But they do not attempt to forestall the mind and temper of the employers. From experience they know the possibility of the employers trying to stiffen their backs and refusing to budge. This makes preparedness necessary. The union must be provided with ample funds to conduct a strike, should a strike become unavoidable.

By a decision of the local Executive Board a defence fund for this purpose is now being raised by special assessment on the membership. It is desired to bring this defence fund up to at least \$50,000. This together with the existing strike fund, derived from an appropriation of 2 cents per member weekly, will provide the sinews of

war, should the employers by their attitude force industrial warfare upon the union. The special assessment decided upon is the individual wage increase of every member for one week won last July. Both, week-workers and piece-workers, are subject to this assessment. This will make an average of between two and four dollars per member. When the payment of these sums is completed a large round sum will be realized. The last week in August was the week for which the assessment was to be paid. Special lists have been distributed among the workers in the shops upon which the assessment is being collected and large sums are steadily flowing in.

Movement for a Sick Benefit Fund

At the same time a movement is in progress for a sick benefit fund. So far, it is optional for members to join the circle which is trying to establish the fund; they may enroll by agreeing to pay \$3 a year, and in case of sickness they are to be entitled to \$5 a week for a period of eight weeks.

In the opinion of Brother Seidman, the chief clerk for the association department, this is an initial effort. As soon as an appreciable number of members will respond to the call of the inner circle, it will be an indication of the growing sentiment in favor of the sick benefit fund, and the union will then step in, assume general control and run the fund for the benefit of all the members.

Unity Co-operative House

We now come to a new enterprise in connection with Local No. 25, which was already noted in the Ladies' Garment Worker for September by Miss Fannia M. Cohn. This is what is called a Unity Co-operative House for residential purposes.

Since the last three years Local No. 25 has been running a Unity House out of town to afford summer vacations to its members at moderate cost. The movement has since spread to Philadelphia and Boston, as the reader will notice in another column. So successful has been this co-operative enterprise and so inspiring and strength-

ening to the union that it has set active members thinking of a similar enterprise in the city for such girls as have no home of their own and are obliged to board out.

In addition to ideal country surroundings, pure mountain air and good food, they had in the summer Unity House pleasant associations, organized entertainment and social pleasure which, to young people like our waist and dressmakers, are as important as bodily nourishment. Lectures on interesting topics, literature and drama; discussions on labor and social questions; good music, singing and dancing—all these in their combined effect have evoked great enthusiasm among the waist and dress makers. A similar program can be carried out in the Unity Co-operative House in the city.

Miss Rose Harriet, who is the soul of this new activity, has grouped a number of girls around her. A Unity Circle was formed, of which Miss Harriet is the secretary. A small fund was got together and a suitable house was found on the corner of Lexington avenue and Twenty-ninth street. The Executive Board granted the circle \$2,000 for household furniture and utensils and for rendering the house fit and ready for comfortable occupation. It is practically a four-story apartment building and will house forty inhabitants. A lease has been secured for three years and by October 1 forty rooming girls will live together in an abode of peace and happiness on the co-operative principle.

There are large and small rooms, all light and airy, a commodious dining room and a kitchen. On the ground floor there will be also a spacious reception room, a reading room and library. A piano has been provided for the reception room and a Victrola with the best classical records.

One of the active spirits of the Unity Circle is Mollie Friedman, whose brief address at the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor, referring to the educational system of our International Union, so impressed the delegates. Miss Friedman feels sure that the house will be run on a

self-supporting basis. The plan is that all the expenses incurred should be divided among the forty occupants. The management will provide two meals a day, breakfast and supper, and the housekeeping will be done by the girls themselves.

On my visit to the place, September 21, the house was not yet inhabited; the painters and the paperhangers were still working. Yet it was already full of life. In the large room where the library is going to be, the Unity Circle was in session, the members' faces beaming with inward joy and enthusiasm characteristic of idealists whose dream of years is finally brought to fruition. I reflected that this enthusiasm, quiet and unassuming, is bound to bring success to this newest enterprise emanating from the active and intelligent membership of the Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 25.

General Welfare the Paramount Issue

On October 7 new elections are to be held in the local for manager of the independent department. Owing to irregularity in the last election the General Executive Board at its recent sessions ordered a new election. The cause of the irregularity is due to trivial misunderstandings which now and then occur in all large organizations. This, however, has not affected any of the local activities which are gliding along smoothly. It is the general feeling that individuals must surrender their personal wishes to the general welfare, and this alone insures a great future for the biggest local of our International Union.

CLOAK OPERATORS, LOCAL NO. 1

One cannot refer to this local union without being reminded of the crisis which the local passed through only last year. As our readers know, the Cloak Operators' Union has been radically reorganized in such a short time and with such great success as to surprise even its best friends. Owing to this reorganization Local No. 1 again

ranks as one of the foremost locals in the International Union.

The local now rests on a solid foundation, has about 9,600 members in good standing and a substantial treasury. Its meetings are well attended and conducted in a proper union spirit.

With the clearing out of the disrupters there has come an end to bickering and obstruction, and the former exciting scenes of jarring discord have disappeared from the council chambers. Calm deliberation and orderly and interesting discussion of trade problems are marked features at every gathering.

A Distracting Dull Season

Unfortunately the cloak and skirt trade is passing through a distracting fall season. Usually the trade is busy at this time of year and work keeps up until Thanksgiving day. This year, however, owing to a scarcity of materials, high prices and other causes, cloak making has fallen off in volume and many cloak operators are idle, though this is supposed to be the height of the season. The workers complain bitterly, but they know that they cannot find fault with the union, as the officers of the International have been trying to obtain work for such of the factories as have the facilities for producing military garments, and good results are expected from their efforts.

At the end of the previous season the officials of Local No. 1 had reached an understanding with the Raincoat Makers' Union, Local No. 20, by which the cloak operators got employment in the raincoat shops. But owing to the graft scandals, in which a number of the raincoat factories are involved, work has been practically suspended. Brother Cutler, the manager of Local No. 1, refers in a tone of appreciation to the mutual relations of Local No. 1 and Local No. 20. When work was plentiful in the raincoat factories the officials of Local No. 20 welcomed the cloak operators in their shops and treated them with brotherly regards.

Local No. 1 has, however, much to complain of in the attitude of the officials of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. Brother Cutler is loud

in his complaints that the members of the Amalgamated Union have failed in brotherly consideration to the cloak operators seeking employment in their busy factories engaged in producing military garments. Brother Cutler charges that cloak operators employed in the factories under the control of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers are looked upon with disfavor by the members of that union and in most cases are refused access to the shops which are making military garments; even though the manufacturers are in need of additional labor force and willing to employ them.

Cloak operators come with numerous complaints to their local office. The officials of the Amalgamated Union, however, seem quite unconcerned about these complaints and make no attempt to change their attitude, being too eager to keep all the work for their own members.

Naturally, this unfriendly attitude of the Amalgamated Union has called forth much indignation and resentment among the Local No. 1 membership, and the resentment is bound to grow unless the Amalgamated Union will experience a change of heart and establish more amicable relations with the Cloakmakers' Union.

Regarding Membership Meetings

Recently the question how to arrange the membership meetings has come to the front in Local No. 1.

Originally the local had been divided into sections for the purpose of holding membership meetings, which had taken place in various parts of the greater city. But these meetings had been poorly attended, and the local began to call general member meetings. It is, however, impossible to gather together the greater part of the 9,000 members in general meeting, and the question is, whether or not the local should revert to the section form of meeting.

Perfect agreement is impossible where experience shows that either proposition is more or less unsatisfactory, and so far the local has not come to any definite conclusion. Recently a number of general meetings have been held with fair results. These meetings were well attended and the discussions were stimulating, the members taking a keen and intelligent interest in the questions dealt with.

From whatever angle—the present position of this local union is viewed the conviction grows that the operation performed by the International Union in making a clean sweep and reorganizing the local forces was absolutely essential to its healthy, normal life and has added strength and prestige to the entire organization.

"One of Them"

By Elizabeth Hasano-vitz, Just Published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Price \$2.00

This book is described by the publishers as "The pilgrimage of a Russian girl to the Land of Freedom and her life in the garment factories of New York; an unforgettable picture of an unconquerable soul." But to us who live, move and have our being in the very union referred to in its pages the book is not only the individual experience of one unconquerable soul. It typifies thousands of souls who united in soul and effort to conquer sweat-shop conditions and modern shop slavery and finally succeeded in effecting a great industrial change.

We have not hitherto made it a practice of reviewing books in this publication. But "One of Them" is one of the members of our Ladies' Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 25—a local union so big and enterprising that it has provided rich material for the economist, sociologist and student of human nature. Moreover, the book deals with union experience and shop life that rarely gets into print. It is a revelation not only of one soul's struggles but of the collective struggles of a numerous class of young women who rarely find self-expression in the form that Elizabeth Hasano-vitz

has chosen to make her own. It is because she has dared to bare her soul to the general public and thus call attention to the great work of the union in remedying the abominable shop conditions which had reigned supreme only a few years ago that the book merits more than a passing notice in our officially printed records.

Heretofore such experiences found expression mostly in "shop meetings." Any disclosure of the way the human being, regarded as a mere labor commodity, was dealt with in the garment factories—anything of the kind appearing in print was usually elaborated by one skilled in the art of wielding the pen. Thus it was difficult to disarm suspicion or rebutt the charge that strong color had been lent to the picture. This accounts for the fact that that section of the public which never has its fingers soiled by anything savoring of the shop has been so slow in arriving at the conviction that shop life for women workers is one long process of pain and suffering. Elizabeth Hasanovitz has not gone through experiences of the time prior to the strike of 1913 or 1909. The process in the garment making factories of only a decade back was even far more aggravated than her own experience. Shop practices of that time might be described as a shocking inhumanity meted out to men and women. They might be characterized as **THE NEEDLES OF THE OPERATING MACHINES OFTEN ENTERING THE VERY HEARTS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN OPERATORS AND THE HOT PRESSING IRONS SEARING THE SOULS OF THOSE WIELDING THEM.** What is more, captains of industry and their hired assistants often found delight in making this process as wounding and lacerating to the young hearts as they possibly could. The experiences of Elizabeth Hasanovitz were not so shocking, although bad enough, showing what the women workers are up against under boss rule even where improved conditions prevail.

Perhaps, on the theory that pain and suffering refines and brings out the best human qualities, that process was necessary. For it intensified righteous indignation. It generated tremendous energy and will-power and enthusiasm in the tens of thousands of "hands." Eventually the hands turned into minds and intellects, planned and car-

ried out unprecedented revolts, veritable industrial revolutions and overthrew the sweatshop and most of its oppressive features.

"One of Them" describes lingering remnants of the old sweat-shop in the everyday shop vernacular. It is to be hoped that it will find its way to that still disbelieving section of the public and open the eyes of its prejudiced mind. For in its pages there is no extraneous color, no superficial pen flourishes to create effect; nothing to lend significance to the charge that facts have been stretched by fancy to give them a semblance of truth. Here is the truth itself, the plain, unvarnished truth, portrayed in the simple, chatty shop manner. Hence penetrating and unforgettable.

"One of Them" when read reflectively and mentally associated with such remarkable events of our time as the National War Labor Board will help us to understand the nature of the industrial changes that the war is fast bringing about both here and in Europe.

We are all thankful to Elizabeth Hasanovitz for placing on record a vivid picture of shop experiences which could not easily be reconstructed from the official records. For there is a tendency on the part of the historian to pass over personal experiences as being too subjective for general application. Yet the outstanding feature of these experiences is that they have been very common and general. Hence "One of Them" must be commended for reading and reflection.

A. R.

A 100 PER CENT WOMEN'S UNION

Here is one instance where working women are 100 per cent organized and have much improved their condition.

Secretary Will R. Boyer of the International Broom Makers' Union reports that during last year their Local No. 29 succeeded in securing an agreement with the employers. The agreement provides a minimum wage of \$12 per week, effective September 1, 1918. Women receiving from \$12 to \$18 will get an increase of 20 per cent. Women doing the same work as men will receive the same pay.

Formerly, as non-union workers, women broom makers were earning from \$7 to \$9 a week. Now they are earning \$28 and \$30 per week in union shops.

THE WAGE SYSTEM

The only answer that the spokesmen of the existing social order can make to the complaints of the organized workers is: "What do you want, you grumblers? Don't you see that your condition has been considerably improved? Wages have been increased enormously, chances to work have greatly improved, and you are protected against want and misery. What more do you want?" With these arguments, and with others of a similar nature, the capitalists and exploiters can no longer make an impression—not on the people in general, and least of all on the workers. The higher wages are paid only in response to the commanding force of organization. The capitalists do not give anything voluntarily, but when they are compelled by the force of organization to pay higher wages they understand very well how to recover their losses and not reduce their profits. They simply unite among themselves, abolish competition and raise the price of their goods, and the deficiency caused by paying higher wages is made good. Today, when the price of everything is exorbitantly high, the workers, with their higher wages, are worse off than they were formerly, when wages were lower, but when the necessities of life were at least once again as cheap. The workers are no more protected against the cares of subsistence, want and misery now than they were at any time before.

It is out of the question that the cares of subsistence, want and misery can be completely relieved under the present totally perverse and damnable social system; but it must be admitted that even under this inequitable world order many things can be changed and much can be improved, as has been amply proved by the activity of the labor organizations, which has brought many advantages for the workers. In the first place may be mentioned the reduction of the working hours, which has been of immense value to the workers. Then there has been effected a better treatment of the workers on the part of their superiors, better sanitary arrangements in the workshops, better safety devices and other improvements. All these achievements must be credited to the labor organizations, and for that reason we advocate that all wage workers should, and, in fact, must, organize for the purpose of, first, improving,

even if only temporarily, their condition through the force of organization, and, secondly, to learn in the school of organization how it is possible to improve the condition of the workers permanently. In this school they will learn that this is possible, but that it is possible only then when the present social system has been replaced by a better and more humane social order.—Switchmen's Journal.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, etc., of the LADIES' GARMENT WORKER, published monthly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1918, State of New York, County of New York.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Max Danish, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the business manager of the Ladies' Garment Worker and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 31 Union Square, New York City; Editor, Bent Schlesinger, 31 Union Square, New York City; Managing Editor, A. Rosebury, 31 Union Square, New York City; Business Manager, Max Danish, 31 Union Square.

2. That the owners are: International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 31 Union Square, New York, N. Y. Membership over 100,000. Benj. Schlesinger, President; Abraham Baroff, Secretary-Treasurer.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent. or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

MAX DANISH, Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of September, 1918.

(Seal.)

M. A. FOWLER.

(My commission expires March 30, 1920.)

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Directory of Local Unions

(Continued)

LOCAL UNION	OFFICE ADDRESS
40. New Haven Corset Workers.....	173 Edgewood 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.....	49 Harrison St., Worcester, Mass.
44. Chicago, Ill., Cloakmakers.....	1815 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill.
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, Can.
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.....	1145 Blue Island Ave., Chicago, Ill.
56. Boston Cloakmakers.....	751 Washington 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
59. New Rochelle Ladies' Tailors.....	106 Union Ave., New Rochelle, N. Y.
60. Phila. Embroidery Workers.....	2126 N. 7th St., Phila., Pa.
61. Montreal, Canada, Cloak and Skirt Pressers.....	37 Prince Arthur E., Montreal, Can.
62. New York White Goods Workers.....	35 Second St., New York City
63. Cincinnati Cloakmakers.....	311 Odd Fellows Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio
64. New York Buttonhole Makers.....	112 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.....	813 George St., Toledo, Ohio
68. Hartford Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.....	16 Loomis St., Hartford, Conn.
69. Philadelphia Cloak Finishers.....	244 S. 8th St., Philadelphia, Pa.
70. Toronto Skirt and Dressmakers.....	208 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Canada
71. Chicago Ladies' Tailors.....	951 N. Hoyne Ave., Chicago, Ill.
72. Baltimore Dress and White Goods Workers.....	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
73. Boston Amalgamated Cutters.....	751 Washington St., Boston, Mass.
74. Vineland Cloakmakers' Union.....	H. Miller, 601 Landis Avenue
75. Worcester, Mass., Cloakmakers.....	26 Columbia St., Worcester, Mass.
76. Philadelphia Ladies' Tailors.....	505 Reed St., Philadelphia, Pa.
77. Waterbury Ladies' Garment Workers.....	270 N. Main St., Waterbury, Conn.
78. St. Louis Cloak Operators.....	Fraternal Bldg., 11th and Franklin Aves.
80. Ladies' Tailors, Alteration and Special Order Workers.....	725 Lexington av., N. Y. C.
81. Chicago Cloak and Suit Cutters.....	909 N. Homan Ave., Chicago, Ill.
82. N. Y. Cloak Examiners, Squares & Bushelers' Union.....	78 E. 10th St., N. Y. C.
83. Toronto, Canada, Cutters.....	110 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada
84. Toledo Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union.....	425 Parker Ave., Toledo, Ohio
85. Cincinnati Skirtmakers.....	411 Elm St., Cincinnati, Ohio
86. St. John Ladies' Gar. Workers' Union.....	92 St. James St., St. John, N. B., Can.
90. Custom Dressmakers' Union.....	Forward B'ldg., 175 E. B'way, N. Y. City
92. Toronto, Canada, Cloak Pressers.....	110 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada
98. Cincinnati Skirt Pressers' Union.....	311 Odd Fellows Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio
100. Chicago Waist, Dress and White Goods Workers.....	1815 W. Division St., Chi., Ill.
101. Baltimore Ladies' Tailors.....	1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
102. Montreal, Canada, Raincoat Makers.....	1138 Clarke St., Montreal, Canada
105. St. Louis Ladies' Tailors.....	Fraternal Bldg., 11th and Franklin Aves.
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.....	1271 Clarke St., Montreal, Canada

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