

Cutters' News and Events

By Samuel Perlmutter
Manager of Local 10

The meeting at which the members of Local 10 will nominate candidates for officers for 1934, will take place on November 27.

A large attendance is expected in view of the fact that this is the first meeting of its kind since we have succeeded in organizing thousands of new men into our organization.

The Constitution Committee of the Local is still working on amendments to the constitution to provide greater representation for each branch on the Executive Board, and also for the increase of 15th staff to insure more efficient handling of the routine work of the organization and to meet the needs of our enlarged membership.

Fighting Obsolete Employers

Despite the sweeping success scored by the I.L.O.U.W.I. in its campaign in the underwear and children's dress trades, a few obsolete firms still refuse to settle with the Union. Among these may be mentioned, the Nealfarm Co., Franco Curset Co., J. E. Cohen & Co., and the Tailored Slim Underwear.

The last named firm, always a non-union shop, had its cutters organized a few years ago by Local 10. The firm then took up an attitude against the International. Right now, Local 10, jointly with Local 62, is mounting a strenuous strike. The cutters are doing fine work on the picket line though our men are being occasionally harassed by the police. We hope that this firm will soon accept the Union's terms if it really intends to remain in business.

A similar fight is being waged against some non-union children's dress shops. Local 10 and Local 91 are working jointly against them and will not retreat until the conditions secured through the collective agreement for the cutters' trade are granted by these firms to their workers.

Union Wins First Dress Cutter Case

The first case, since the strike, submitted by Local 10 to Impartial Chairman Feldblum involved the discharge of Cutter Sam Wasserman, dismissed by the Robert Lahn Dress, 224 West 35th Street, for alleged insubordination. The firm claimed that the cutter, who has been in their employ for about two years, had been discharged several times but was taken back each time upon the understanding that he would improve his conduct.

The Union disputed the allegation of insubordination on the part of

OFFICE OF LOCAL NO. 10

will be located at
60 West 35th Street
9th Floor

Beginning Monday,
October 30, 1933

Wasserman and claimed that the discharge was caused by his attitude on the question of Saturday work which came up on the very day he was dismissed. The union further proved that in this case the firm attempted, by discharging Wasserman, to break down the morale of the other four cutters in the shop with regard to observance of union work conditions.

The Impartial Chairman ruled that the firm had no justifiable cause for discharging Wasserman and ordered his reinstatement.

Another case, involving a dismissal of a cutter in an alleged charge of gross negligence or incompetence, came up before Chairman Feldblum on October 24. The firm, Selibet & Headliner Dress, member of the National Dress Ass'n, claimed that the cutter, Fred Pergola, cut a number of dresses according to the marker supplied to him but not in accordance with the cutting ticket and sample dress given him. Pergola testified that he noted the difference and called the attention of the person responsible for giving markers to the cutters but was directed to go ahead with the cutting. Later he was discharged but the man who gave him the wrong marker was not even disciplined.

Chairman Feldblum ruled that the employer should overlook Pergola's error and give him an opportunity to make good on the job.

Slow Time in Industry

October, normally the busiest month of the Fall season, has been a disappointing one both in the cloak and the dress trades. Two important reasons account for this situation.

First, the big mail-order and chain store houses, such as J. C. Penney, Montgomery & Ward, Sears Roebuck Co., Chicago Mail Order Co., etc. have bought an unprecedented volume of garments during June, July and August, before the agreements were signed in the cloak industry. That large volume of merchandise, in view of the then almost uncontrollable conditions out of Iowa, was produced under all sorts of work terms.

Secondly, the unseasonable weather during the late September week and part of October has affected badly coat and suit production. Right

now, however, with cold weather already setting in, there is optimism in the cloak market that the demand will rise and our people will get another opportunity for some work before the advent of the flying season.

In the dress industry, the anticipation of extra activity on account of the reduced hours, has not materialized and the industry is as normally slow now as in previous post-season periods. A factor responsible for this to an extent has been the strike of the silk workers in N.J., Pennsylvania and New England which curbed tremendously the supply of materials for the New York dress market.

Hour-Control Committees How Splendid Work

The various control committees of Local 10, organized to enforce strict adherence to the 15-hour, five-day work-week and the prohibition of Saturday and Sunday work, is carrying on energetic activity. It has been responsible for the uncovering of a number of violations and the subsequent punishment of the offenders.

Local 10 realizes that a shop must be put to such grave infractions as they tend to undermine union work conditions in the shops generally. That's why heavy punishment is being meted out to all offenders.

Among those brought before the Executive Board last month were the cases of Joe Lelner, head cutter of Lenkowski Bros., 520-7th Avenue, and Henry Goldberg, employed by Sam Burt, 44 West 35th Street. Lelner was warned against going up to the shop on Saturdays, but disobeying continued this practice. At the Executive Board he stated, in defense, that he does not do any cutting but only grades and makes patterns. The Board fined him \$50 plus an added security of \$50, and instructed him to live up to all union provisions if he wants to maintain his union card and be permitted to stay in the shop as cutter.

Henry Goldberg was discovered working after regular hours and defended himself by saying that he only stayed around to "help in the care of the shop" in the absence of one of the firm's patterners. He was also fined \$50 and was ordered to deposit another \$50 as security for future good conduct.

We Have Moved to Larger Quarters

All this writing final arrangements are being made for the removal of the office to our new headquarters at 60 West 35th Street, 9th Floor. The new place is much more spacious and offers a lot of comfort and conveniences to our members.

ALL CUTTERS ADS
APPEAR ON PAGE 23

JUSTICE

Official Organ of The International
Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

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Battling The Wolves

Editorial Notes

ANOTHER FEW WEEKS, and the Spring season should start.

Our entire membership, as usual, is on edge, waiting, speculating, hoping for the approaching Spring work-year, which is becoming more and more the most important season of the year even in the cloak industry. This time, however, there is in this anticipation of a new work season more than the usual tension, more than the ordinary eagerness to start earning a dollar after a protracted stretch of enforced idleness.

In the past half year a near-revolution has occurred in industry in America. For, whatever opinion one may entertain with regard to the permanence of the NRA or the future of the recovery program, there can be no doubt concerning its immediate practical effect upon our trades and workers. The short-term work-week, the general drop in earnings, despite the fact that the peak of the past work-season was disappointingly short, the recognition of collective bargaining in all our industries—these are but a few features of the "new deal" in thousands of our shops in New York and in other production markets. And to tens of thousands of women garment workers who had never before belonged to a union and who for years had been accustomed to work long hours at giggardly wages, the last season, their first under union and NRA conditions, has been nothing short of a revelation. It has given them a taste of the benefits which organized workers are capable of deriving from belonging to a union. It is an elementary lesson in workers' solidarity which they are not likely to soon to forget.

It is but natural, therefore, that on the eve of the new season, other disturbing questions, besides the perennial anxiety and doubts whether this coming season will be a poor, medium, or a good one, should invade the minds of our not unambitious workers and of the leadership of our Union.

The reactionary forces of America, who are at the same time the bitterest enemies of organized labor, are assembling their strength for an attack on the "New Deal." There are heavy clouds gathering over the NRA, while, on the other hand, more than ten million people are still unemployed. The organized employers, besides, are persistently endeavoring and succeeding in many industries in shutting off labor representation from the code authorities on which labor is supposed to be an equal partner.

Will the NRA, as a whole, survive this concerted attack being made upon it, and if it does not, what else will take its place? How will this general barage affect our own industries and how will our codes stand up under it? Has our Union, during this short period of relative recovery and intensive campaigning, gathered and solidified sufficient strength to withstand an attack upon its own posi-

tions,—in the event of an attempt to weaken or to break down the network of control of labor conditions and the measure of industrial stability it has succeeded in establishing in most of the markets of our industry?

Of course, these are questions to which no direct answer could be given at this moment. They are, naturally, not exclusively our own problems—they concern as much all other labor organizations in the United States and they are,—besides, inseparably bound up with the general economic picture in America.

We can do no more than wait, watch and be ready—ready for every emergency that may arise, for every change that may confront us as part of the entire labor movement, upon the swiftly moving American economic scene at this historic hour.

THE CLOAK AND SUIT SEASON this Fall was a poor one, one of the shortest on record. October, in particular, was a bad month, and in hundreds of shops there was a "Cloak Jobbers' Lament" to be had on the better or even medium lines of garments.

This sudden slump of the season after a rather brisk start, naturally, has hurt every factor and group in the industry. And the workers, who had anticipated at least ten or twelve full work weeks during this past Fall, were the most disappointed ones. They were the worst sufferers from this unexpected early slump.

A number of reasons had been advanced in the market for this abnormally early arrival of "black" in the cloak trade. The most plausible cause, and the one which the leadership of the Union has supported, was that the inordinately high marking up of coat and suit prices in the retail stores had created a sales resistance to the country over which killed off the bright hopes for a lively season earlier in the Fall. In fact, the wiser heads, both in the productive and merchandising ends of the coat and suit business, had openly expressed such forebodings early in September that unless manufacturers, jobbers and retailers alike curbed their appetites for a few extra weeks, the season was bound to founder. The setback on production, they pointed out, would stand for a buyable increase in the cost of women's garments; they would, however, show resistance to any abnormal rise in prices.

Not so, however, the cloak jobbers. They, or at least their spokesmen and attorneys, in search of a culprit, had unearthed a rather original cause for the season's irritable brevity. That culprit was the Union. The Union insisted that garments of the same price level made by different contractors for the same jobber should be settled on the jobber's premises for the entire group; the Union proposed that the contractor limitation clause be lived up to in the contract. The Union demanded that stabilizer and equal standards—two principles to which

the jobbers had been paying such eloquent lip service before the code and the collective agreements were contemplated—should be made applicable to every group in the industry, not merely to the other fellows. The Union, in fact, proposed that the agreed-to and code regulations be adhered to in full—could a stronger case be found for indicting it?

And so the infuriated jobbers proceeded to attack the Union from all flanks and to demand modifications, concessions and "changes" of every variety. The Union's representatives replied to this that they propose to defend the agreements and the code at all cost, and that all complaints, real or fanciful, that may be advanced with regard to price settlements, should be left for the Labor Bureau to straighten out. They further pointed out that this Labor Bureau, now about to begin functioning, had been largely suggested by the jobbers as an intra-industry agency for equalizing labor costs and for settling price disputes before and during work seasons.

The jobbers, however, would listen to no such argument. They added with their charges to Washington disregarding the existing Code Authority; they broke into the trade press with accusations bordering on abuse against the leadership of the Union, sneering at the Labor Bureau even before it had a chance to prove its worth, scattering threats in all directions and stooping even to level insinuations of partiality against the impartial body in the cloak and suit industry.

We are inclined to believe that the rumormongering by the jobbers, however unpleasant and disturbing, will soon die out of its own sheer futility.

It is probably not so easy for a great many cloak jobbers, who only until recently had been free lances, to get accustomed to the part of responsible union bankers with irrefutable obligations for labor costs and work conditions. No doubt many of them still hanker after the erstwhile "good old days," when each of them could play one bunch of contractors against the other and dictate prices by the "take it or leave it" method.

Those days, however, are gone, and let's hope, gone for good. The jobbers will have to abide by their agreement and by the code. No one demands more of them. And the jobbers, too, might as well get accustomed to the thought that false alarms and indiscriminate abuse will not strengthen their case in the judgment of those who know a thing or two about the cloak and suit industry either.

THE PROVERBIAL INK has hardly dried up on the Dress Industry Code before an attack had been launched upon it from two directions.

The first assault came from a group of manufacturers in two important dress markets, Los Angeles and St. Louis. These employers suddenly advanced a demand that labor costs in their factories be practically exempt from the Code minimums through the grant of a differential amounting to 40 per cent

of the minimum fixed for the Eastern Area, or 25 per cent lower than the minimums fixed for the Western Area. It is not difficult to imagine what a destructive competitive effect such a difference in labor costs would have had not only on the Eastern markets but on the other Western markets, such as Cleveland and Chicago, as well. The excuse for this demand offered by the Los Angeles and St. Louis manufacturers was that their workers were mostly sub-skilled or "sub-normal" workers who could not put on the same level with Eastern or Chicago and Cleveland dressmakers.

At the hearings in Washington, President Dubinsky and other spokesmen for the International parolized this argument by proving that the dress workers in Los Angeles and St. Louis are as capable and as skilled mechanics as those in the East and that they are making as few garments in their shops as are being produced in any Eastern or mid-Western market. If there are in these cities in the dress trade reserve armies of casual workers, it is the direct result of unscrupulous tactics employed by local manufacturers to keep on hiring workers with perfect recklessness and firing them with as much carelessness, not being obliged to these workers for a living and keeping most of them perpetually unemployed.

The second attack upon the Dress Code came from the cotton garment manufacturers' association, a motley group of employers engaged in the manufacture of some fourteen lines of apparel who applied for a stay of application of the Dress Code on cotton dresses. Their demand, in brief, was that cotton dresses be placed under the cotton garment code, which implies, of course, a 40-hour week and a 30-cent per hour minimum, less than half of the minimum fixed in the regular Dress Code. The argument presented by these employers rested on an assumption that cotton dresses are what is to be understood, in the parlance of the trade, as wash or utility dresses and that such dresses require but little skill for their production.

In challenging this assertion, the Union, which opposed this demand jointly with the spokesmen for the Dress Code Authority, fully denied that cotton dresses are synonymous with wash houses or wash dresses. Expensive and exquisitely finished dresses are being manufactured today from materials other than silk, and operation of cotton dresses under the cotton garment hours and pay would result in the most unfair competition to manufacturers coming under the provision of the regular Dress Code. Above all, the Union objected to a divided code authority over dresses on the basis of the materials from which they are made. There must be one code for all dresses, subject only to the general concessions granted to this or that area on the basis of competitive factors.

At this writing, no decision on either of these basically unfair demands has been rendered yet. It is the hope, however, of all constructively-minded elements in the dress industry that they will be de-

sied. Exemptions of this kind strike at the very root of fair competition, which is the groundwork of all code legislation. Surely, such exemptions, if granted, would demoralize the work conditions and earnings of tens of thousands of workers in every dress market in the United States.

THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE, the largest Labor fraternal order in the United States, has deservedly earned the name of the "Red Cross" of the labor movement. Over a period of more than 25 years, it has bound up its destiny with the future of the working masses and has played a part in every important struggle for a happier and fuller life the workers have fought.

The Circle was founded by workers, it is administered by workers, and it belongs to the workers.

One Thousand Attend Westchester Charter Grant

One of the biggest outpourings of union people seen in many years in Westchester County, took place on Friday evening, November 24, in the Westchester Women's Auditorium, Mount Vernon.

The occasion of the meeting, which was attended by more than 1,000 I. O. U. W. members in Westchester County, N. Y., was the presentation of a charter to Local No. 149, which comprises the shops located in Mount Vernon, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, White Plains, Yonkers and other Westchester towns.

Wander, Antonio
Spak

Louis Bell, manager of Local 149, presided at the meeting, and introduced Harry Wander, manager of

BROOKWOOD FELLOWSHIP BAZAAR

The graduates of Brookwood Labor College are arranging a Bazaar for the benefit of Brookwood and Workers' Education at the Yorkville Casino, 213 East 15th Street, New York City, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 5, 6, 7, 1933. Do your Christmas shopping there. Entertainment and dancing will be provided. Members of the Union are cordially invited. Donations will be welcome. Please notify Frances Vengas, 144 East 17th Street, or call 9799-2221.

the Out-of-Town Department of the I. O. U. W. U. and G. August Gerber, who were followed by Vice-President Luigi Antonini, the main speaker of the evening. Antonini, in his speech, dwelt on the past efforts of the Union to establish humane conditions in the Westchester County dress and cloak shops and recognized their due response to the call of a general strike last August. He spoke of the necessity of remaining loyal to the organization to ward whatever attacks the employers might launch in the future upon our work standards and to the Union. He then presented the charter to Local 149, and installed the provisional executive board of the local which consists of the following: Tony Ricciard, chairman; Pauline Paladino, secretary; Romeo Longobacco, Angela Mascaro, Laura V. Guglielmo, Flno Franco, Lena De Prella, Evelyn Vigiotti, Ake Rosenberg, Hyman Rosenberg, Sam Guido, Michael Goerra, Joe Mannarino, Molly Molitello, Emil Winkler and Nedie Biala.

Music, Flowers

Grace Evening

Testaments of congratulations were received from President Libinsky, who was unable to attend having been detained on union business in Washington, and from Vice-President Stein, who was in Boston. Abraham Blum and Isidore Horowitz of the Out-of-Town Department were also present, as well as Francis M. Cohn,

as. As a fraternal order it provides, at the smallest cost to its members, adequate insurance against illness, misfortune and disease; furnishes medical care and tuberculosis treatment, burial provision, summer camps for young and old, and many other spiritual and material benefits.

No person, and certainly no worker, is absolutely immune from illness, accident, misfortune, disease. Protection against these is a prime requisite of decent existence. It is, therefore, when a worker finds himself in more favorable circumstances that he should think of the morrow.

And insuring oneself properly means joining the Workmen's Circle. There are branches of the Circle in every city and town where members of our International work and live—from the Atlantic seaboard across toward the Pacific Coast. It is a simple, easy matter to join the Workmen's Circle; it is not difficult to keep up membership in it; it is the clear duty, of every laboring man and woman to belong to it.

of the Educational Department of the I.L.G.W.U. A concert program by singers from New York was warmly applauded. After the speaking and the concert were over, dancing began and lasted until 3 o'clock in the morning.

Flowers for the occasion were sent by the following shops: Bellas, South, Buxy, Caruso & Passer, Corlino, E. B. H. Gerowitz, Gramstein, Kowarsky, Kay, Leonard, Loshak, Melman, M. Y. V., Mt. Vernon Outfitters & Dress, Norman, Pommy, Regart, Roy, Sannes, S. & G., Sherman, Waldman and Melvin.

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From The Los Angeles Fighting Line

By Israel Feinberg
V. P., International Organizer

Union Has Come to Stay

From my last newsletter you know already that the issues involved in our strike here in Los Angeles were submitted to a board of arbitration. You also know the difficulties we had to overcome until we were able to get the dress employers of this city to submit to arbitration.



Israel Feinberg

It is no exaggeration to state that were it not for the valiant spirit displayed by the dressmakers from the first days of the strike, the dress manufacturers, importers, exporters, by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and by other inveterate opponents of trade unionism in this city, would have never appeared before the arbitrator. An extraordinary insight in connection with this matter is that most of these dress employers have hardly any investments of any consequence in their shops. Nevertheless, they had as much as an arrogant attitude that considers not feasible, with local conditions, might have thought that they really were important "captains of industry."

Union Bitter Pill to Swallow

The preliminary decision rendered by the arbitrator, which included recognition of the Union, has, nevertheless, been a bitter pill which many of them have not yet been able to swallow. Unfortunately, this decision was handed down in the driest period of the season and the employers were in a position to apply various underhand and underhanded tactics to discourage the strikers who were to return to work to their shops immediately after the award was granted. In this award there was also provision which stipulated that all work available in the shops should be divided equally among all the workers. The employers, however, have done everything they could under the excuse that there is no work available, not to carry out that provision.

Fight to Enforce Award

It is, nevertheless, far since carried on a violent fight to force the employers to live up to the decision made by the arbitrator. We have lodged a number of complaints with the Board charging non-compliance with the provisions of the award and we are awaiting their ruling on these complaints. It is, indeed, unfortunate that the industry is dull at present, which places great hardships upon our former strikers, especially as we consider the low wages and the long hours they had worked prior to the strike. You may remember distinctly that they had no reserve funds to carry them through. However, we expect the season to start in a few weeks from now, and by that time, our workers, we hope, will begin to realize some of the tangible improvements they have gained from the struggle.

I also want to say at this point that the local Communists have been trying their utmost to divide the workers both prior to and during the strike. While the strike was on, the employers were making constant declarations of "friendship" to the workers, offering them not to tie up with the Union, and the Communists were distributing handbills in the local market in which they were setting the same position as the employers against whom we were striking. In addition to this they continued their old abuse and slander against our International at every step and turn, but I am satisfied to state that their poisonous activities has only served to make the overwhelming majority of our strikers turn away from them to disgust. I am furthermore positive that when work starts in the shops even such of the dressmakers as have not yet joined the Union will, before long, become members of our International together with the other loyal masses of workers who already are on our Union rolls.

On the whole, I may say that the dressmakers' strike in Los Angeles was a glorious battle, particularly if one considers that it was really their first attempt to form a real union. For it must be remembered that the job is not yet finished. We do not at present know what is going to be the final award of the Arbitration Board, and it is precisely for that reason that all active workers here in Los Angeles must double their efforts to bring instant aid to the point that they have already made and to enroll every dressmaker into the Union. I am positive that the matter will be the decision of the arbitrator's ruling will be the dressmakers' union. In this city it is here to stay for good. The fact is that our strike has blazed the way for workers in many other industries in this city to start organizing campaigns, and you must not forget that Los Angeles is the Mecca of "open shops" in the United States.

We are now making arrangements to get a large business office for the dressmakers' union and to select a staff of representatives who have a real desire and ambition to build up a powerful Union here, to become the leaders of these workers.

AMALGAMATED IS NOW IN A P. OF L. FOLD

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers formally received a charter from the A. P. of L. when the admission of the Amalgamated was announced during the L. F. of L. convention in Washington, in October, but the charter was not actually turned over until two weeks ago.

The preliminary work plan in the constitution of the A. P. of L. including that of Amalgamated, was approved and official of the Federation.

In presenting the charter to Amalgamated Sidney Hillman of the Amalgamated, President William Green of the A. P. of L. expressed gratification that all Amalgamated which had presented previous affiliation had been overruled.

Karosen-Rice Victory in Kansas City

The significance of the victory in the Karosen cloak factory in Kansas City must not be minimized. Those who were present at the Central Labor Council meeting when Jerry Kaplan, Alia Wevmark, and Verena Cost, the shop chairmen, reported on the settlement, must have realized that it was a victory not only for the women employed in that shop but an event of prime importance to the entire labor movement in Kansas City where strikes have become known as "manhandle" but usually last causes. It has put new life into the labor movement in this city—and we take pride in it that we put it over.

Struck Against Our Will

The strike itself was forced on us. We were a new organization and our members dreaded the word strike. The strike itself has never been in our hands. The women were scared—and with the propaganda flying fast and loose that we would never again be permitted to work in the cloak shops in this city, not a few of us became scared and shaky. Moreover, we had been carrying such pitifully low wages that even the loss of one week's work during the season was to many of us a real tragedy. It is, therefore, all the more remarkable that when the challenge was cast at our feet, we accepted it and answered it in the only way we knew how.

The strike, at first, was forced on us. An employer who was as brutal as he was excitable, whose one stock-in-trade was that he could beat wages "lower than anyone else in town, dismissed twenty-four workers, among them the chairman, the secretary, and three members of the executive committee of our new-born local. In the face of this, the alternative was either fight or dropping all organization efforts. If these dismissals had been permitted to remain unchallenged, the union in this city would have died stillborn.

On August 11 we accepted the challenge. The strike itself was not finally settled until the 19th of November. It is to the everlasting cre-

By Ray Owens
Member Local 117

dit of the women who struck that only one of them returned to work, and this particular worker after the strike was settled, was not permitted to remain in the shop. But solidarity was not enough. Within three weeks after we struck, the firm, backed by the association, took our opinion, and only instigated the fight but financed at least part of it as well, appeared before Judge Holland of the Circuit Court, and through the attorney of the association, obtained an injunction that at first prohibited us from picketing. We succeeded later in having this part of the injunction modified, and through the settlement had later voided the injunction altogether,—but when the injunction was served and it became a problem how to continue with our picketing, not one of the girls failed us,—although it was felt that arrests were a certainty.

Paying Unfair Game

That the association was behind the fight became obvious from the first. Within two weeks after the strike broke out, several members of the firm and the Union were in conference, and during the thirteen weeks of the strike they hardly passed a week that the Karosens were not in conference with the firm. But each time when it appeared as if a settlement was likely, Mr. Rice would veto it. And since he had but a small interest in the business, it was only too obvious that he was playing the association's game.

After the settlement was made on November 7 and the workers started to obtain their permits so as to return to their machines, Mr. Rice announced that agreement or no agreement he would run his shop as he pleased. The workers who were sent in were returned and those who had been scabbing were sent to the Union with demands for working permits. This, of course, was in-

tolerable. Bro. Plotkin, our representative, promptly served notice on the firm that unless they lived up to the conditions of the agreement they would face an injunction as well as a revival of the picket lines. By this time, the Karosens were sick of the fight and called in Mr. Rice and paid him out his share of the business. Since then all of our members have been reemployed and, fortunately, there are still several weeks of work ahead for us.

We Beat the Association

The results of the Karosen strike, therefore, amount to this: We won our fight in the shop, but more important we beat the association, and at the same time we set a precedent that will stand for a long time. Before the manufacturers get into another fight with us they will see in front of their eyes the thirteen weeks' strike of women, whom they had until then regarded as anything but union material, and will hesitate before treading a similar dose of medicine.

One word more should be added. The International, through our President David Dubinsky, has given us such splendid support that it made our victory doubly certain. Without the aid of the International our women would have been forced back into the shop through sheer hunger. We will never forget what the International and our President have done for us.

824 CHARTERS ISSUED BY A. F. OF L. SINCE JULY 1

Washington, Nov. 23.—The American Federation of Labor has granted eight hundred and twenty-four charters in national and international unions, federal labor unions, and local unions since July 1, Frank Morrison, secretary of the Federation, announced.

The new unions are located in every part of the United States and Canada and include all classes of working men and women. "Now for ten million members!" is the slogan of the A. F. of L. with good prospects for the realization of this goal.

The "Inside" Cloak Shop

Reflections on Current Topics

By Jacob J. Heller

Several important factors contributed to the present greatly improved economic conditions of the cloakmakers of New York City. Briefly, they can be listed as follows:

- 1—The establishment of piece work.
- 2—The 25-hour work-week.
- 3—Limitation of contractors.
- 4—The NRA Code.



Jacob J. Heller

The above enumerated changes, while not listed in the order of their importance, are the four solid pillars upon which the revamped economic life of the cloakmakers rests today. Reminisce once again of these pillars, and the resultant weakness in the quadruple protective armor will immediately become reflected in the earnings, the independence and the general well-being of the cloakmakers.

Changes Organic and Protective

Upon a careful analysis of these four major innovations in the daily productive routine of the cloak and suit industry of New York, we find that they can be grouped into two major classes in accordance with the functions which they perform:

- 1—Organic or actual changes in conditions of employment and
- 2—Protective additions for the enforcement of such changes.

In group 1 can be included the change from week to piece work, and the 25-hour work to piece work, and the limitation of contractors and the NRA Code, which you will observe that group 2 consists of factors which are either of a temporary nature, like the NRA Code, which can be modified, amended or abolished at any time either by the President of the United States or by Congress, or of factors which depend a great deal upon cooperation from some of the employer organizations, chiefly from the contractors' group, the American Chamber and Suit Manufacturers' Association, for, while the

provision for limitation of contractors is clearly incorporated in all of our collective agreements and it, according to my opinion, enforceable as far as it is asserted, nevertheless, that this point may be eroded thru adroit maneuvering in a manner that its violation will be hard, if at all possible, to prove.

Great Chance At Hand

It is, therefore, evident that the Union cannot and should not rely upon temporary devices for the permanent protection of its members; that it cannot entrust to luck, or to the good will of the other factors on the track, the great and valuable gain which it had obtained in August, 1932. It is equally apparent that it must at once begin a preparatory campaign against any eventual attack, and should not miss any opportunity for the creation of a most favorable strategic position for it will be in case of conflict.

The Union has the greatest opportunity now knocking at its door. We hold in our hand right now the greatest chance to be secured (as far as workers can be secured) with decent employment terms and we should not overlook it. This opportunity is represented by the current marked tendency in the cloak industry for the reestablishment of the meter shop if we fail to make use of the present most ideal moment in our his-

tory, we may later be faced with the direct consequences of such a failure—WPA displacement, discord, misery, poverty, and even the eventual destruction of our organization.

The Jobbers' "Progressive" Theory

The legalization of piece work in the New York cloak industry has come after long and arduous efforts, delays and setbacks. There was one very important point which during these long discussions on which there existed a total disagreement. One section of our membership and of its leadership had as-

serted and believed that there was a possibility for the return of the "inside" shop under changed conditions, while another section had given up all hope for such a possibility at any time in the future. All, however, agreed that any price would be worth while paying for a change to "inside" manufacturing.

In discussing this matter, on some past occasions with our employers, we need to be faced with the following conditions: The jobbers had learned to exploit a "progressive" theory or evolution of the subject of sub-manufacturing. Their spokesmen would advance this theory in approximately the following language: "The jobbing sub-manufacturing system is the result of a modern tendency, by the division of functions in industry. The final employee in this case the jobber, cannot be burdened with all the multiple functions of a cloak business; his personal mental resources must be preserved and kept fit for the solution of the most intricate financial, managerial, advertising and other scientific problems of his business, while the production of his merchandise must be left to skilled, highly-trained technicians,—the sub-manufacturers. Now a word was wasted by this modernistic theory on the 'cheap' side of outside production, the longer, degradation and the eventual loss of the workers and the eventual conditions on which such a system could only rest and flourish."

The "Ideal" System Collapses

Times are different now. The cloakmakers had received all sorts of silly wind enough to see the day when the jobber actually would be compelled to assume responsibility for labor costs. And, when this finally did happen, the artificial theory of the efficiency and the unavailability of sub-manufacturing system, by which labor has gone to waste. Under the present improved system of complete union control, the sub-manufacturing system, from the "ideal" arrangement it used to be, has become the most cumbersome, most expensive, and most inefficient system to operate. As a result, we hear no more of shifting responsibilities upon the "inside" at the end of each season. On the contrary, the end of the season has now become

Local 22 Draws New Groups Into Activity

The policies and activities of the Executive Board were widely approved at every one of the digital large section meetings held by Dressmakers Union, Local No. 22, I.L.G.W.U., on Thursday evening, November 23, 1933.

Although the dual-unionist "Left Group" had made intensive preparations for attack on the progressive administration of the local, leading provocative letters and publishing slanderous attacks in their press, it proved completely unable to raise one single issue against the administration's conduct of the Union. Indeed, at the Bronx section meeting, the "Left Group" members tried to get the Executive Board minutes approved without even a discussion; it was the supporters of the progressive administration who insisted on a thorough consideration by the members of the many serious questions facing the Union.

The section meetings were very well attended, reflecting the rising interest of the members in the work and problems of the organization. Especially noteworthy were the splendid meetings of the Lower and Upper Harlem sections; here the attendance was several times greater than ever before. The workers of these sections, Latin Americans and Negroes, have joined the Union largely during and after the recent general strike. The administration of Local No. 22 is making strenuous efforts to draw these newer elements into union activity and to broaden and intensify their union consciousness as a result. It realizes fully their growing importance in the trade and the necessity of assimilating them into the general union movement.

The vote at the section meetings was overwhelmingly in favor of the supporters of the progressive administration. The total figure stood at 1,350 to 170 in favor of the progressive. Progressive chairmen were elected at six of the eight meetings; the other two being members of the "Left Group." The work and policies of the Executive were approved everywhere.

By Charles S. Zimmerman
Secretary-Manager

Union Warns Dressmakers Against "Dualist" Propaganda

Warning all members of Local 22 against a renewed flood of treacherous propaganda which has become especially virulent during the past weeks, the Executive Board has made public a statement warning these attacks upon the dress workers' organization as seditious and sabotage and calling upon them to give the proper answer to these calumnies by solidifying their ranks in the defense of the Union against all enemies and all attacks. The statement, in full, follows:

"For the last few weeks, the so-called Industrial Union, or whatever is left of it, has been flooding the market with all sorts of leaflets and poisonous lies and slanders against our Union. The worst enemies of the dress workers, the wage slaves of the employer, could not resort to more vicious methods in attempting to divide a labor union.

Dual Union Wiped Out by Strike

"With the strike, the Industrial Union was radically wiped out as a union. Before the strike, it did everything possible to prevent an effective mobilization of the dressmakers for the strike. During the strike, it did everything possible to undermine the effectiveness of the strike. It did not hesitate to discourage the workers from fighting by telling them that the strike would bring no results, immediately after the strike, with the cooperation of the settlement agent which no one could and no one did object, it appealed to the workers not to return to the shops, hoping thereby to lure the dressmakers into its treacherous orbit. But all this was of no avail. The dressmakers recognized the disruptive character of the so-called Industrial Union and its work, and laid no attention to its propaganda, putting up a splendid

fight in spite of all sabotage. Even those shops which in the beginning had gone over to the Industrial Union, came flocking back into the fold of the International.

Anti-Union Campaign Renewed

"The outwits of the General Strike has made the Industrial Union lead a likewise wretched. For a while they were silent, stunned by events. Then, with the coming of the slack period, which brought with it an attack of the bosses on the standards of the workers, the Industrial Union woke up again, and again began to carry on its anti-union campaign. At a time when the Union is doing everything possible to mobilize the workers for effective resistance against wage cuts, these people of the Industrial Union are busy spreading propaganda and playing right into the hands of the bosses. With a shameless disregard of the truth, they keep on repeating that the workers in our shops are giving up the fight for minimum scales and that our Union allows it and even encourages it.

"Who can be the effect of such seditious propaganda? What will many workers think when they are told that the Union is permitting workers in other shops to give up the minimum scales? Will it not serve to undermine in their own right to their 'standards'? Does not 'his play right into the hands of the bosses' could hire agents of the employers do a better job for them?

Dualist Wields 35-Hour Week

"Dressmakers! The Executive Board of our local calls upon you to have here this propaganda into the mouth of these slanderers! Keep up the fight for the standards and conditions you have won through hard struggle! Insist on your minimum

scales! Our local will carry the fight for the enforcement of standards to the limit. The irresponsible mouth-throats of the Industrial Union have the audacity to come out and accuse our Union of permitting overtime in the season. They know perfectly well that our agreement clearly forbids overtime and that the Union does not permit its practice. They know perfectly well that a special Committee of Union Defenders has been established to patrol the shops and to prevent overtime and that Building Committees have been set up for the same purpose, and are of great difficulty that these committees meet in their work to prevent the few Industrial Union shops from violating the 35-hour provision by working overtime. Our Union has carried out and enforces the agreement, and the businessmen of the Industrial Union are concerned only with enforcing the code.

"The full hypocrisy of these tricksters is shown by the fact that the same Industrial Union, in the agreement signed by it in the fur trade, allows the workers to work overtime during the season. By their shameless standers against the Union, they are merely trying to cover up their own crimes and to throw sand in the eyes of the furriers.

Beat Back the Double Attack!

"Dressmakers! The Executive Board of our local calls upon you to pay no attention to this demoralizing propaganda! Enforce strictly the 35-hour work!

"Dressmakers! The Executive Board of our local calls upon you to give the proper answer to all slander and sabotage by solidifying the ranks in the defense of our Union against all enemies and all attacks. We are now facing an attack on two fronts—an offensive on the part of the bosses in the form of standards and a campaign by the Industrial Union to demoralize our ranks and to undermine our fighting power. Beat back both of these attacks! Only by maintaining the unity of the workers in the shops, only by standing solidly behind the Union, can we double offensive of the bosses and the Industrial Union be defeated and our hard-won gains be preserved!"

Local 22 Opens Educational Office

What is probably one of the most extensive programs of labor educational work undertaken by a trade union, was sanctioned on November 22 by the Executive Board of Local 22 upon the report submitted by its newly formed educational department, headed by Will Herzog, formerly associated with the New Workers' School.

The educational program, which Local 22 is already beginning to put into effect, includes the establishment of a central educational institution, the Dressmakers' Educational Center, with branches in seven residential districts of the city. At three centers classes in trade union labor questions and forums and lectures series of a general cultural nature are to be held. It is hoped to make these institutions real centers of inspiration and enlightenment for thousands of dressmakers.

Union Publication To Be Strengthened

At the same time the Union is undertaking on a program of publication and publicity which will have as their aim to explain the purpose, role, functions and problems of the organization. The most important of this material will be issued in three languages: English, Jewish and Spanish.

A third phase of the educational program is social, recreational and allied activities. The chief purpose of all this work, as explained in the report of the educational department, is to bring a consciousness and an understanding of unionism to the members and to broaden their social and cultural outlook generally. The strength of a labor union, it is felt, lies primarily in the solidarity, consciousness and militancy of the membership.

Two Groups to Receive Special Attention

Two sections of the dressmakers are to receive special emphasis in the program of the educational department. It is declared—the colored and the Spanish-speaking workers. Thousands of both of these groups streamed into the Union during and after the recent general strike, mostly without any trade

union background or labor tradition. The dressmakers' Union is well satisfied in receiving them passively; it is leading all efforts to assimilate them into the Union body, to draw them into active participation in union work and leadership on an equal basis with established members. In this educational program, it is expected to help.

The headquarters of the Educational Department of the Dressmakers' Union, Local 22, are at 131 West 23rd Street, with all inquiries are to be directed.

I. L. G. W. U. AIDS TERZANI'S DEFENSE

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has indicated its support of the Terzani Defense Committee, which is defending Alvin Terzani, now anti-Fascist accused of killing his comrade Anthony Pierre at a meeting of the Packer Knit Shirts & Socks. President David DeBorja has sent \$100 from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and the Terzani Board has printed 100,000 copies of a statement of the trial has materially increased the committee's expenditures, and it is badly in need of money. It is expected that other parts of the I. L. G. W. U. will come to its rescue.

A District Attorney Charles Goiden of Quebec County got a two-year sentence for Terzani because his witnesses, Commander Art Smith of the Knit Shirts Union, who served with a ship on in Baltimore, refused to come out to testify. Norman Thomas, head of the defense committee, assisted Goiden and declared that defense attorneys had induced other prospective witnesses, who served earlier with Goiden, had been told the trial would be postponed.

"This is Goiden's office is partner to a fit re-appeal," said Thomas, "it is in their jingoism of the rights of an innocent man if only it was seen in its own face and have an indictment against some one, no matter on whose testimony he is based."

Terzani's defenders named Pierre was slain by a Knit Shirts member while following a friend who was being seized from Columbus Hall. A large party of nine, representing organizations including the I. L. G. W. U., will attend the trial and render the own verdict.

Knitgoods Workers Form Big Union

About 13 years ago, the knit goods industry, until then engaged nearly exclusively in the manufacture of sweaters, mufflers and ties, had added to its lines of production the making of women's suits, dresses, sportswear and other novelties. That brought into the knit goods mills a number of workers from cloak and dress shops.

Until our recent drive, it may be truthfully recorded that all previous efforts to organize the knitgoods workers had met with failure. Way back in 1907 an attempt was made to form an independent labor union among these workers, but that effort failed. Similar attempts were made in 1913 and in 1918, with the same results. A move to form a knitgoods workers union in 1923 linked up with the United Textile Workers, managed to hold out until 1928, when a general strike called in the knitgoods mills in the New York district was lost. It was after that that President Thomas MacMahon of the United Textile Workers came to the General Executive Board of the I.L.G.W.U. and offered to them that they take over full jurisdiction over the knitgoods trade and organize the mills.

The I. L. G. W. U.
Shedders Big Task

The I.L.G.W.U. then chartered the knitgoods workers as Local 35 and, for several seasons, carried on an active and costly organization drive among them until 1923, when an internal struggle in the International had made it impossible for the work to continue any longer. It is years that followed, the work conditions which prevailed in the knitgoods shops began to deteriorate. People had to work 14 to 16 and 18 hours a day for wages as low as 5 and a dollar, etc., even the garment makers in those mills worked under not much better terms.

The first step of change, or desire for a change, began to manifest itself in the knitgoods shops about a half year ago, thanks to the general strike created in all industry by the recovery legislation on the one hand, and by the great drives conducted by the I.L.G.W.U. in the

cloak and dress industry all over the land. A number of knitgoods workers, many of them former members of the old Local 35, began coming to the offices of the International to seek advice on ways and means how to organize and to branch President Dubinsky in particular to help them start the ball-rolling.

Finally, on August, when the dressmakers went out on strike and some of the knitgoods mills became involved in that struggle, President Dubinsky, called on Bro. J. L. Goldberg, an active member of Local 1 and formerly a Union organizer in the cloak situation. Within a couple of weeks, Bro. Goldberg had formed contacts in the most important mills in the industry and a provisional organizing committee of 21, representing the largest mills, was at once put in work to prepare the workers for a general walk out.

Gains Made; Obstacles Overcome

On September 13, 1932, the G.E.H. of the International issued to the knitgoods workers a charter, as Local 155, and the work of organizing the knitgoods mills then began in earnest. And as the local pro-ceeded with its work, it found itself involved in a jurisdictional dispute with the United Textile Workers. There existed in Brooklyn a U. T. W. local of spring-needle workers which acted as a strike in some shops at that time. Finding themselves unable to settle that strike, the leaders of the spring-needle local diverted their attention to the knitgoods workers. And owing to the fact that they were able to offer the employers more agreeable terms, namely, the conditions of the textile code which included a 40-hour week and bargain wage scales, they succeeded in signing up a number of employers who were rather eager to get from them a union agreement before the I. L. G. W. U. tackled their shops.

Stoppage Results in Agreement

Undaunted by this obstacle, the knitgoods workers, under the banner of the International, proceeded with the campaign. They after shop by shop solicited and before long, Local 155 found itself actually in the midst of a struggle which assumed the proportions of a general strike. The result was that we were able to conclude a collective agreement with the Metropolitan Division of the Kaffed Overseas Manufacturers' Association. The agreement, in addition to granting a union shop, fixed the work-week at 37½ hours and granted wage increases from 10 to 50 per cent in most all shops. These gains were so great and important that a number of shops which were at that time on strike under the leadership of the so-called "industrial union," came over to us and we settled their shops on the same basis and under the same union conditions.

Temporarily, the controversy with the U. T. W. regarding jurisdiction over the knitgoods industry was halted by referring this acute matter for final arbitration to the American Federation of Labor, while the organization and control of work conditions in the shops was handled by mutual agreement, in the name of the International organizer, Bro. J. L. Goldberg. Yet, we still have a great deal of trouble in a number of shops, both from the officials of the U. T. W. and from the employers, who, as a matter of course, appear to prefer doing business with the U. T. W. than with us.

Great Cooper Union Meeting

We had the just opportunity to become convinced ourselves and to convince our friends in the Labor movement that the knitgoods workers have finally formed a strong union in their industry, on Thursday, November 9. At our first membership meeting in Cooper Union. The occasion was the installation of temporary local officers.

It was an event that no knitgoods worker who had the good luck of witnessing it will ever forget. The

great hall was crowded to capacity and the huge platform was literally buried under a mass of flowers. Bro. J. L. Goldberg, manager of Local 155, was the first to address the big gathering, delivering a report on the first few months of the local's work. And as he called the roll of the shops, 81 of them, and they responded one after another, volleys of enthusiastic applause rolled through the hall for a full hour filling the hearts of the audience with a thankfulness and a feeling of true appreciation they had never in their lives experienced before.

President Dubinsky delivered an enthusiastic speech and installed the officers. Among the others who spoke were Vice-President Antonini, who addressed the meeting in Italian; Benben Zuckerman, chairman of Local 1, who came as a representative of the cloakmakers; and Bro. Louis Nelson of Local 21, who spoke on behalf of the dressmakers.

Looking Forward

This great meeting gave us an opportunity to size up for ourselves our membership and their active and militant spirit. The enthusiasm displayed in Cooper Union is a clear promise to us all that the knitgoods workers will continue the work of winning the entire trade regardless of obstacles and difficulties.

Several resolutions were passed at the Cooper Union, one of them relating to the jurisdictional dispute with the U. T. W. and addressed to the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. and one expressing gratitude to the General Executive Board of the International, with particular emphasis on the part played by President Dubinsky for the marvelous co-operation and aid they have rendered us from the first day we launched the young strike, had a holy time. They decorated the hall and made a real holiday of the occasion. Among those who came to the affairs were Vice-President George Rubin and several members of the Philadelphia Joint Board.

The Coat and Suit NRA Label



In I. L. G. W. U. South Jersey Locals

By Bennett Karp International Organizer

21 Members in Trade Union Class

At the regular meeting of the Camden in a communication was read to set motion to starting a class in "Trade Union Problems and Parliamentary Procedure" up to date. 21 members from our local joined the class and you expect many more to join in the near future. The classes are held every Thursday evening at 8:00 o'clock, 521 E. 14th Ave., Camden.

In Mt. Holly the local officials were claiming that there was no room there for labor organizations, but they became convinced otherwise when the typewriter workers, of the American Federation of Labor Workers, and our International jointly opened its office at 4 White Street. Workers there invited to several meetings and they came in considerable numbers. By new public sentiment, we changed the attitude of the officials and they are now convinced that the labor union are there to stay.

The Vineland and Millsville organization have opened up an office at 149 Landon Avenue, Vineland, N. J. The executive board of the local has now decided to launch an organization drive in all cotton dress manufacturing plants in this locality and every effort will be made to organize each shop making women's apparel.

The Vineland office is taking care of Hammonston and Egg Harbor. Vice-President was elected secretary of both locals. And the workers in Hammonston and Egg Harbor are planning to make a clean sweep of every shop and every worker in their district as well.

Class Shops Are Idle

The cloak shops have not been working now for several weeks. It seems that South Jersey, at one time regarded as a strong competitor to the big city workers in the cloak line, stands itself now in the same predicament as the big market. It appears that other parts of the country are able to produce merchandise at a much cheaper rate. Of course, this may only be an excuse, and we hope that the situation will look much better by the time the season comes around.

Our Camden Local 155, had a celebration on November 11, Armistice Day, in the form of a dance arranged by the Union. We had a full attendance and every one, especially the young folks, had a holy time. They decorated the hall and made a real holiday of the occasion. Among those who came to the affairs were Vice-President George Rubin and several members of the Philadelphia Joint Board.

Our Camden Local 155, had a celebration on November 11, Armistice Day, in the form of a dance arranged by the Union. We had a full attendance and every one, especially the young folks, had a holy time. They decorated the hall and made a real holiday of the occasion. Among those who came to the affairs were Vice-President George Rubin and several members of the Philadelphia Joint Board.

I had a conference with two of the most important persons and organizers in the district in that city, one of them a "big shot" on the Cotton Garment Code, and I think probably had because of that he could get away with anything. We, however, have made him to understand our activities.

Dubinsky in Cleveland on Cloak Pact

Embroiders' Strike Is Over!

After seven weeks of striking, the 200 embroiderers workers came out victorious in their fight for better conditions if their industry.

Prior to the strike their wages averaged between \$15 and \$15 a week for practically unlimited hours per week. Wages have now been more than doubled by the agreement. The contract further calls for:

1. A closed Union shop;
2. Abolition of home work by June 1, 1934. Between now and June 1 no work shall be sent home until all inside workers are fully employed;
3. Up to June 1 all home workers must be registered with the Union by the employers;
4. A 35-hour week;
5. Abolition of the contract system inside the shops;
6. Equal distribution of work during slack seasons;
7. The appointment of an impartial chairman;
8. No apprentices as long as skilled workers are available, and

the Knights of Columbus Auditorium on Friday night, November 17, but a gala meeting to celebrate the permanent arrival of our Union in Bayonne. Over fifteen hundred workers came to this gathering together with scores of outsiders who just wanted to see what was going on inside.

Brother Harry Wauder acted as chairman of the meeting. He recalled the various attitudes of the Union to give recognition to the Bayonne shops and urged the members to continue making their Union ever more powerful and stronger. Sister Anna Kula, who was in charge of the dressmakers during the strike, received a big ovation, and after having concluded her speech, was presented with a big bouquet of flowers

By Abraham W. Kefauver
Manager Cleveland Joint Board

8. No worker can be discharged unless complaint against him has been placed before the Union and investigated and then only upon agreement by the Union and the employer by order of the impartial Chairman.

To prevent the minimum wage from becoming the maximum, plans are to be made whereby workers will be compensated for greater productivity. This agreement is to expire at the same time that the proposed dress agreement expires, so that the two branches of the industry can go hand in hand.

The strike was unnecessarily prolonged by the action of the employers who insisted on adopting the agreement reached in Chicago between the manufacturers and the Communist-controlled "Industrial Union." The Chicago agreement left everything to the Code Authority and permitted home work to remain. They didn't even mention some of the important issues for which the Cleveland workers went on strike. The wage scale decided on in Chicago was even lower than the scale in the contemplated code. The Cleveland workers demanded that all power remain in the hands of the In-

ternational and insisted upon the abolition of home work.

The Communists are continually accusing our International of "class-collaboration" and of readiness to compromise. By this action they have shown that the situation is just the opposite; that they are class-collaborators and compromisers. The Cleveland embroiderers stood by their principles. They fought their battles on the picket line and in open conference. The whole labor movement should emulate them.

Last Monday a special meeting of Local 52, the embroiderers, was held for the purpose of electing officers. The following were elected: Chairman, Joe Weisman; Vice Chairman, Isaac Berlin; Recording Secretary, Julius Moskowitz; Sergeant-at-Arms, Louis Kaufman.

They also elected an executive committee of 15 members and delegates to the Joint Board.

President Dubinsky Visits Cleveland

President Dubinsky spent two days in Cleveland, upon our invitation, to help in the negotiation for an agreement in the cloak industry. These negotiations are becoming more aggravated from day to day. The issues in controversy are clear and distinct. The Union demands:

1. A 100 per cent union shop;
2. All shops making work for

slowness and militancy established by their fellow-countrymen of our Union in New York City and other cities.

Telegram was received from President Dubinsky and Vice-president Lofg Alonson, regretting their inability to be present at the meeting.

The round of happy celebrations is not yet over in New Jersey. Watch for December 5 in Union City, for December 15 in Plainfield, and for later dates in other centers. "Bigger and better!"—such is the motto of the officers in charge of all these locals; the bigger the crowds at these gatherings the larger the interest in the organization and its activity.

Cleveland manufacturer should come under jurisdiction of the agreement;

2. Assurance that manufacturers will not farm out work to out-of-town shops not under jurisdiction of the agreement but would give preference to Cleveland shops;
3. Minimum wages for cutlers and all other weak workers shall not become the maximum;
4. To effectuate some plan for the settlement of prices for workers in out-of-town shops in order to eliminate competition between outside and inside workers;
5. The manufacturer is to assume full obligations in the event of complaints of underpayment by any contractor producing garments for him, and
6. Changing from one contracting shop to another be allowed only after every worker in the old contracting shop is provided with a job.

These issues are most important to our industry. Despite the excellent efforts of President Dubinsky, nothing definite has been accomplished as yet. It is expected that he will return here early in December to continue further negotiations.

While in Cleveland Brother Dubinsky addressed a meeting of the Joint Board, Executive Board, Price Com-

mittee and Shop Chairmen. He was received enthusiastically in every where. In his speech he contrasted the depressed and demoralized organization which he found in Cleveland last December and the fine, high spirit he found on his present visit. He expressed approval of the success of the compromise between the two general strikes, in the dress and the embroidery trades, and of the effective organization campaign.

A group of 150 active members arranged a get-together for Brother Dubinsky in a fine Italian restaurant. There he was entertained at luncheon by Louis Fried, chairman of the Joint Board, president. President Dubinsky was greeted by the chairman of all our locals: Harry Bahst, of Local 27; Mrs. Carrie Gallagher, of Local 29; Sam Turk, of Local 37; Meyer Berkman, of Local 42; Nick Kohnson, of Local 45; Oscar P. Feld, of Local 51; Nathan Solomon, secretary of the Joint Board, also present.

M. J. Cohen, president of Toledo Local 57, expressed to President Du-

binisky his appreciation for assigning the writer to help the Toledo local file reported that the membership of Local 57 was increased from 26 to 283. Congratulations were also offered to Brother Dubinsky and the International. Meyer Wintzpath, Cleveland manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, who declared that he was sure that the International could keep its greatly increased membership suited in face of the opposition of the bosses, and offered for further action with all other Jewish organizations for the establishment of a workers' world in the very near future.

The writer expressed the thought that the Cleveland locals have the time presented Bro. Dubinsky with a rare gift, more valuable than any other token of appreciation—a wonderfully transformed organization in Cleveland with branches in Toledo, Ashabula and a new embroiderers' Local No. 52. Brother Dubinsky replied that he was very happy to see such splendid progress and that he appreciated the work of the Cleveland members and officers. He hoped that the Union would not slacken its drive until all the garment workers in and around Cleveland are enrolled under the banner of the I.L.G.W.U.

Cloak Industry Picking Up

Cloak shops are beginning to work on duplicates and the workers expect a busy season. Prices will be settled soon, if peace can be established. If not—preparations will have to be made for a general strike in the cloak industry.

The manufacturers are advancing steps to discourage the workers. One of the issues is that there will be a great demand for cheap merchandise—the \$15.00 garment—and that they will not be able to compete on such a market with the New York market. This is an old story.

But our members have confidence in the workers in New York and other markets that they will safeguard the members of our industry, preserve proper working conditions, and eliminate out-throat competition.

Dressmakers' Council Set Back

The dressmakers are now busy pating the code into effect. According to the temporary agreement reached

at the end of the general strike, the wages specified in the code were to be retroactive from September 1. The Union in meeting with a number of hardjags in collecting the back pay. After this matter is settled the question of the agreement will come up.

Ashabula Local Thrives

As previously mentioned in "Justice" our local in Ashabula—56 miles out of Cleveland—is displaying a fine organizational spirit.

After the announcement of the code, the agents of the local firm had tried to get workers to sign a petition for a company union. They tried to intimidate and coerce the workmen against signing this petition.

Last week, one of their agents called a meeting of the workers under false pretenses, promising those who would attend directly work and good wages. No one came to the meeting. It is now hoped that this will convince the bosses and their agents that they cannot upon the needs of the workers in Ashabula.

The Ashabula local was instrumental in organizing a central labor body in that city composed of 25 different unions.

The Cleveland office is constantly on the watch and is in close touch with the officers of the Ashabula local giving them advice and assistance whenever necessary.

Generally speaking there was no work in Cleveland and surrounding districts during October and November in the cloak and dress industries. Everywhere, however, it is hoped that the spring season will be well in and will furnish jobs for all.

STUDENTS' DANCE RECITALS

Ruth W. Deans will give a Lustrous Recital Saturday evening, December 8, at the Washington Irving High School, under the auspices of the Sunday Dance Recitals. Others in appearance in this concert are: Doris, Ella Frutkin Dancers, Tamara Ruth Pugh, Arthur Graham, and Durie Kauff by and Charles Weisman.

An Upheaval in Connecticut Dress Shops

It is probably no news to readers of "Justice" that we have at present approximately five thousand organized workers in the dress industry in the State of Connecticut and that in these shops our members are working today under most conditions on a basis of 55 hours a week, and are earning anywhere from 14 dollars a week for a floor girl, up to 25 dollars a week and over for operators.

It could hardly seem possible to describe, or acquaint fully the readers of "Justice" with conditions that prevailed in the dress shops in Connecticut before the recent general strike, or to compare them with conditions as they are today. While it is no secret that the four years of oppression had under most conditions (particularly in the needle trade), deplorable everywhere, yet it seems that conditions in Connecticut were far worse than elsewhere. To put it in a few words, the very basis of work conditions here was: Long hours and no pay.

The Hell That Was

The shops were working anywhere from 55 hours a week, allowed by the State Labor Department, to 75 hours per week, in violation of the State Labor Law. Wages were anywhere from a dollar and a half per week up to six dollars, and in a good many instances girls were compelled to work for two or four weeks without any over-time pay under the pretext that they were learning the trade.

In all these shops the employer, or his foreman, would stipulate the price for each garment and the employees had to say in the matter. This practice has now been entirely done away with, and in each shop we now have a shop chairman or chairman and a price committee and the workers themselves now have a say in setting prices.

When I first came out to Connecticut in the early part of the past summer, in direct violation of the law, it seemed very discouraging, and for a time, at least, it appeared that the workers in the dress shops had become so accustomed to work

By Bernard Shub
I. L. G. W. U. State Organizer

under sweat-shop conditions that they would not have any sort of a union. They had no faith that their conditions would be improved. So their response to our call for meetings was very poor and the few girls who did come seemed to be so discouraged that they did not believe (and they told me so) it would be possible to make any changes.

A Great and Pleasant Surprise

After several attempts to form a nucleus of an organization, I succeeded in getting but a handful of girls in the cities of New Haven and Bridgeport, and when plans were made to declare a general strike all through Connecticut, we were rather skeptical of the result. However, we were pleasantly surprised when on August 15 (the date when the call for a general strike was issued) approximately 3,500 people responded to our call in New Haven, Bridgeport and Hartford.

Moreover, these girls have quickly learned the benefits of a union, judging by the number and nature of complaints we now receive. One can easily reach the conclusion that these workers would never again agree to work under non-union conditions or be without a union. Some of the complaints are very interesting. For instance, a girl who in the past, was quite content to work for four dollars a week, working fifty-five hours, has been in the office of the Union to complain that she does not make the minimum wage. An investigation revealed that this girl had made \$11.50, or over 100 per cent in excess of the minimum for 55 hours.

Since the settlement of the last strike I have had quite a few stoppages, ordered by the chairladies because the employers refused to recognize either the rights of the chairladies to settle prices or where the employer had otherwise attempted to violate any of the Union rules, such as unequal distribution of work during the dull season.

Our Locals and Strength

The last group of workers to join our Union and to become organized was that of Stamford, Conn., and we now have about one thousand members in that local.

At present we have four locals and they are divided as follows: Local 151 in New Haven with 24 shops and approximately 2,000 members; Local 152 in Bridgeport with six shops and about six hundred members; Local 153 in Hartford with about 500 members; Local 154 in Stamford with 1,000 members.

Among the Corset Workers

Besides the organization work in the dress line, we have also succeeded in organizing about 1,000 corset workers in the cities of Bridgeport and New Haven.

The situation in the corset industry is entirely different from that of the dress or cloak industry. While the corset workers are anxious to be organized, their employers appear to be determined to fight every attempt on the part of the workers and of the Union to establish better conditions in that industry.

We have reached an understanding with the firm of Warner Bros. in Bridgeport, where we have obtained an increase of 20 per cent for all their help. We have also reached an understanding with the "La Relesta Corset Co. of Bridgeport, after a brief strike. In New Haven we have carried on a strike for over four weeks against the firm of I. Newman & Sons and, after several conferences held between Brother Wauder, president and the firm, a settlement was reached.

While we have succeeded in organizing about 1,000 corset workers into Local 154, the Corsetworkers' Union, we have hardly scratched the surface. The conditions under which the corset workers are working would warrant an extensive organization drive. It might be well to mention that there are approximately five thousand people employed in the corset industry in Connecticut.

Phila. Dressmakers Move To New Home

By Elias Reibner
Manager, Local No. 50

Last week a greater and stronger dressmakers' organization than the unions in the Philadelphia dress industry could have boasted of in all the years of its existence, has moved into new headquarters.

The new offices are very spacious and comfortable, convenient and light—in full keeping with the needs of the enormously enlarged membership of the dress workers' union and fully equipped for its increased activities. It occupies three floors of a building located at the corner of 19th and Cherry Sts., and is, beyond doubt, the finest trade union office in Philadelphia.

To give you an idea of the size of our new headquarters, I may say that the fourth floor, which takes up the general meeting room, occupies comfortably between 500 to 1,000 people. On the whole, there is an atmosphere of roominess and warmth in every corner of the building.

House Opened
on Saturday 25

Last Saturday, November 25, our new union home was officially opened for the members and for all our friends. The opening was arranged as a real celebration, and indeed it was one of the finest holidays the Philadelphia dress and waistmakers had enjoyed in a long time. Over 2,000 people came to take part in the celebration, despite the slack season which prevails now in the shops. Our members, young and old, came with their friends and families, some bringing along their children, and with a happy smile on their faces were going from room to room, from floor to floor, admiring the splendid offices their Union has fixed up to attend to their business.

Among these visitors were some of our veterans, the pioneers of many years ago, some of whom are out of the trade by this time, alongside with newly enrolled members, those who came in since the Union has become a big factor in the industry, after the

successful general strike last May. There was a mingling of races and color in that throng—native, Italian, Jews and Negroes, all making up one happy family.

Shop-Send Floral Gifts

The offices on every floor were filled with plants and bouquets of flowers sent by shops, individuals and sister organizations.—The Cloakmakers' Union, the American Clothing Workers, the Shoemakers' Union and the Embroiderers' Union. Several valuable piece-of-office equipment were also presented to the new headquarters by various shops.

The opening ceremony began promptly at one o'clock. The writer, who presided, welcomed the guests who came to celebrate the opening of the new headquarters and said: "We spend a good deal of money, energy and time to fix up a nice home for the members of our Union. Not everything can be done at once, however, for we must first economize and plan always how to build the tomorrow, our future. The trade unions must beware of the general attack that the bosses in America are preparing slowly to make on the entire organized workers' front—to rob them of the improvements they had gained through their campaigns and with the help of the NRA. The organized workers must understand the meaning of the flagrant and persistent campaign that capital is now carrying on against the recovery program."

A Place for Work and Sociability

"In our new headquarters, we will have all kinds of activities, social, recreational and educational. We will take all our members should find here in their own social spheres; that they should have a place where they can spend their free time and also have an opportunity to become enlightened, through lectures and discussions, of their rights and duties as members of a trade

union. We will make the rooms as pleasant and as charming as possible so as to serve as a drawing card to our members, particularly to our new members, the young ones who have just set their feet on the organization. Our first problem was to organize the members and to get them into the Union. Our second problem is to hold them in the Union, and though this is a very complicated problem, we feel that we shall solve our second problem as well as we did our first."

President Dubinsky Sends Regards

Following this a letter was read from President Dubinsky, in which he expressed regret that he was unable to come and take part in the celebration. The announcement caused general disappointment among the members, for Brother Dubinsky has declared himself greatly to our workers by the cooperation and help he has rendered our Union before and after the general strike. Our members know that President Dubinsky has contributed a great deal toward the upbuilding of our organization and they are strongly grateful to him for it.

Also delivered by David Brodinsky, of the United Hat-needle Trades; Joseph Schwartz, of the Jawbreaker Workers' Union; Ben Kaye of the Cloakmakers' Union; Ben Bess; George Rubin, of the Shoemakers' Union, and M. Haffin, Charles Binesky and Abraham Bloomfield, of the Philadelphia Tailors and Dress Makers Union. A number of congratulatory telegrams were received and were heartily applauded. After the meeting a luncheon was served, which was prepared by an arrangement committee consisting of: Ben Kaye, David Brodinsky, Joseph Schwartz, Max Levin, Rebecca Schwartz and Max Waler.

Prayer by a Member

To conclude this letter, I deem it fitting to quote a remark made by a veteran member of our Union at our gathering, who said:

"All historical holidays are almost connected with miracles. In our case, I feel, too, that a miracle has



Elias Reibner

... Local 142 Begins Active Career ...

A Lesson Well Remembered

Some fifteen years ago, in 1918, a group of women's neckwear cutters, whose hearts realized that they could get any relief at all as working conditions and wages were concerned while remaining unorganized, had decided to form a union. They had, however, made one mistake. They did not take into consideration that the workers who must turn the material into a finished product after they had cut it, must also be organized. After a month or so, they went out on strike. They stayed out for several weeks, lost their strike, and went back heartier, but not a union. Yet, within their hearts there has been always remained the feeling that if the time should ever come when they could be organized, they would not fail to grasp that opportunity. That time finally came. Last July, a group of cutters met and decided to gather together the scattered fragments of their first organization, with the understanding, however, that they would endeavor to get in, as operators, the trimmers, the pressers and all other workers connected with the ladies' neckwear industry into one local.

It happened. The Philadelphia Waist and Dress Makers Union has become again a great and powerful organization. I feel like kneeling and raising my eyes to God to say a prayer of gratitude.

The following shops, sister organizations and members contributed gifts and flowers:

Susquehanna, Elkhart, Paramount, B. E. T. A. U. Aag Eagle, the Office Fours, H. Moonblatt, Goldstein and Levin, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union, Astor A. Kramer, Ada Rosenfeld, Executive Board of Cutters' Branch, Checkmatters' Joint Board, Willis and Schneider Pressers, Leo Wolf, Sattitt and Teitelbaum, W. Levinson, Rudolph and Morgil, Ash, O'Leary, Adella, Abba, Wolf Bros., Bettini, Fairman, Wallace, S. Silverstein, Levitt and Blinder, Embroiderers' Union, Neckwear Makers' Union, Shapiro and Mordt, Sophie, Edith and Rose Kalish.

By Joseph Turvin Manager Ladies' Neckwear Workers' Union

We Begin to Organize

For three months they had struggled along making very little headway. The possibility, now of losing the job and being blacklisted in the industry, still was prevalent among the workers. Then, a few days before Labor Day, Fred Dubinsky of the I. L. O. W. U. was approached relative to obtaining some assistance to the neckwear workers from the International Union, and this assistance was gladly furnished to us.

We began an educational campaign the day after Labor Day. Some fifty thousand pieces of literature were mimeographed, printed and distributed. Shop meetings were called, and in some cases the meetings were very well attended. The organization began to take on shape. Some of the fears felt by the workers were becoming dispelled. The name of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union began to sound like a magic word among the workers in the ladies' neckwear shops.

"Had not the dressmakers under the leadership of Brothers Dubinsky and Hochman called a great victory? Why can't it be done in the ladies' neckwear industry?" was being heard everywhere.

We Reach Agreement

Our employers, in the meantime, had submitted a code in Washington. Wages in this code ran from \$12 to \$16 for the girls, and cutters' wages was to be fixed at \$50 per week. We took this code and used it to great advantage. The result of this agitation was an influx of about five hundred members, within one week. Under the guidance of President Dubinsky, we then forwarded a letter to the Employers' Association which had been formed in this industry, requesting a conference at which the question of an agreement would be taken up with them. Our request was granted and after three sessions, an agreement was

reached which granted the workers the following minimum wage schedule: Operators \$6 an hour; trimmers 40c an hour; hemmers on starts 47c an hour; pressers 77c an hour. Cutters' wages were set at \$2, and head cutters were given \$4 a week. The hours were established at 37½ per week. The other essential parts of the agreement conformed with the general International Union agreement.

An Effective Stoppage

An industry-wide stoppage was declared on October 2, and on the next day over sixteen hundred workers were sent back under similar working conditions. We then tackled what is known as the "itching shop" and found in these miserable conditions as far as hours and wages are concerned, in some of these shops girls worked for as low as \$4 or \$7 a week, in some cases the hours ran as high as fifty-two hours a week.

A strike was declared against eighteen "itching" firms employing close to six hundred workers. Within one week all these workers were sent back under independent agreements.

We are at this time very much interested in straightening out our out-of-town situation, which comprises 25 per cent of the entire industry in the country.

Our Active Group

Some of the active members who aided in our victory are: Charis Flaxberg, Ben Danziger, George Liebson, Ernest Rithoff, John Gleason, Max Pollock, George Bandman, Merry Hoffer, Anna Wenger, Ethel Jay, Emmael Flax, Ralph Blum, Bella Abrams, E. Rubin, Nettie D'Amico, Edward Haperstein, George Silverman.

The officers of the Union are: George Bandman, President; E. Rubin, Vice-President; E. Rithoff, Treasurer; A. Wenger, Recording Secretary and M. K. Pollock, Financial Secretary.

We have opened up roomy new offices and a day-room for the membership at 131 W. 25 Street, New York City, on the 1th floor.

British Labor Moving Swiftly to Front

A veteran British Labor leader, Ericc elected to Parliament on the Labor Party ticket, parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Health in the last Labor cabinet, and now member of that Party's National Executive Council, Miss Susan Lawrence is visiting the United States. Miss Lawrence has come over for a brief stay. She intends, in addition to New York, to visit Washington, D. C., Chicago, and if time permits, the eastern mid district in the South before returning, within a few weeks, to England by way of New York.

This is Miss Lawrence's first visit to the States. Of New York City, unlike his many another Londoner, she speaks in superlatives. In her estimation it is the ideal big city and, despite occasional blemishes, the most beautiful city on God's earth. Our talk, however, quickly switched to England and in the revived progress of the Labor Party stimulated by the remarkable Labor gains in the recent municipal elections, Miss Lawrence commented:

Power of Labor Rising Again

"The upswing of the Labor political movement in the British Isles, since the 1921 debacle, is now definite and very much in evidence. The splendid results achieved in the municipal elections have been very encouraging. It indicates the way the new winds are blowing in British political life, but the discrepancy among the great masses in England transcends even this very tangible expression of confidence in Labor municipal politics."

There is, no doubt, all through England, a profound dissatisfaction among the working masses with the present political rulers, the so-called Coalition Government, which actually is a government by and for the Tories. One of the mainpivots for this bitter resentment is, of course, the disgraceful treatment of the unemployed—the "means test," which has deprived a great mass of the jobs of their right to unemployment benefit; and has subjected all of them to the hardship of asking of what is almost a beggar's "ouch before obtaining any relief.

An Interview With Susan Lawrence, Noted British Labor Leader and Former M. P.

By M. D. D.

War Clouds Disturbing

"There is another vital cause. The question of peace or war is a very serious one in European politics today, and the English masses look with profound distrust on the foreign policy of our present Government concerning disarmament. They have no faith in the Ministry of its professions. They don't believe its spokesmen reflect the genuine peaceful tendencies of the majority of our people and they are apprehensive that, if left in power very much longer, they might directly, or indirectly bring on another European catastrophe."

We asked Miss Lawrence for some concrete illustration of the current revival of the British Labor Party.

"We have been carrying by elections to the House of Commons with astounding regularity, we have made sweeping gains in municipal canvasses, but that is by far not all. Most important is that our great political machinery has not only recouped its former strength but we are today doing a magnificent educational job within the Party's framework. We are, day by day, systematically with our constantly growing membership, our Party's political and economic claims for the future, and we have the faith," Miss Lawrence remarked with emphasis, "that this future is our great chance."

The all switched to America and we asked Miss Lawrence what she thought of the NRA, what in general is the attitude of the Labor Party in England, thinking of our New Deal.

Labor Plans Big Things

"The British Labor Party," Miss Lawrence continued, "naturally has experienced a new birth, there is a wave of confidence through our ranks and a determination to do big things. This parliament is supposed to carry on until 1935, but will probably get out of business soon or then that. It is generally expected that we shall have another election in 1932.

"It is odd, of course, he asserted on to consider at this moment the outcome of that election. If the present Government with the Tory Government should continue to dominate (I the current tempo, however, could not suppose me to see Labor — one out on top or near it. Our present position is that in the event of an impending minority the question of avoidance of lower class by insured rest, in a group of individuals' leaders in England ought to be a special concern of the entire Labor Movement of Great Britain which is to determine our course. In case of a clear majority, our course, naturally, would be less difficult."

Program for Basic Industries

"One of all circumstances, our program, and we are looking it clear at the terms of England at every opportunity and an every opportunity in nationalities and state controlled industries and public utilities and services. Regarding the patchwork patchwork of the past, we want nationalization of the banks, of all means of transportation, of power, which includes gas, electricity and other public utility services, and so on. Our chief aim, of course, will be to strike outright Socialism and will attempt to spread all sorts of bogues up and down the land to discredit us. But we are planning to fight this great battle out in the open and we shall be ready for them, when the time comes."

The all switched to America and we asked Miss Lawrence what she thought of the NRA, what in general is the attitude of the Labor Party in England, thinking of our New Deal.

meeting with opposition from the same sources. It was in the British Labor Party, have been trying to enact.

Keep About NRA Legislation

"To us President Roosevelt's recovery program is not a matter of mere academic interest. We have the same problems in our fight on unemployment and poverty to contend against and our remedies—the shorter work-week and the upbuilding of the purchasing power of the workers—are the same as yours. We wonder our entire trade union movement has been deeply stirred by your shorter work-week.

"We, of course, realize that the enforcement of the codes of the NRA will offer the main problem. It is on the outcome of this fight to carry out the NRA in practice that its success or failure may hinge. And I see clearly that the enemies—all the torres and diehards in your own country—are gathering their forces to defeat it."

Absorb Hitler Terror

In reply to a question, Miss Lawrence declared that, with the exception of a few Tory sheels, all England views with unmitigated horror and aversion the ascendancy of Hitler and of his cohorts in Germany. There is a great deal of sympathy for the victims of the Hitler terror, and it is generally recognized that the triumph of the Nazis is not merely a blow to the cause of democracy the world over but it likewise is a direct menace to European peace and security.

If it is characteristic that not once during this interview did Miss Lawrence refer to Ramsey MacDonald in her discussion of British Labor politics—the latter-severed decisively left his name out—so completely, it would seem, has that erstwhile Labor chieftain gone out of the British Labor picture. George Lansbury is the spokesman of the Labor political group in the House of Commons, and, according to Miss Lawrence, is very popular and "universally beloved among the British working masses."

Labor Movement Honors J. Breslaw

1,000 at Dinner Tended by Cloak Presses, Local 35, to Their Manager

About a thousand invited guests came on Sunday evening, November 19, to a testimonial dinner, tendered by Local 35 of the I.L.G.W.U., the Cloak Presses' Union of New York, to their manager, Vice-President Joseph Breslaw, in honor of his twenty-five years of activity in the workers' organization.



Joseph Breslaw

The dinner, which took place at the Central Plaza, 111 Second Avenue, was marked by an unusually large attendance, by warm speeches of tribute paid to the guest of honor and by a spirit of genuine comradeship which permeated the big gathering. Louis Law, the secretary of Local 35, acted as toastmaster.

Breslaw Endorsed

In his address, before introducing the speakers, emphasis was laid on the loyalty and undivided esteem which the members of the cloak presses' organization entertain for their leader, Mr. Breslaw, stressing the point that he was "one of their bones and flesh of their flesh, one who has grown up with them from the risks over a period of 25 years." Yabovsky, for many years editor of the "Gerechtigkeit," dwelt on Breslaw's courage, and forthright spirit. One may not at times agree with everything Breslaw stands for, he said, but one is bound to respect his courage and his steadfastness in adhering to the principles of trade unionism.

Isidore Nagler, general manager of the Cloak Joint Board of New York, pointed out that Breslaw is the true spirit of our movement, a quality which has been for many years, a quality which has been for many years a source of inspiration to his coworkers and a stimulus to the Union in its darkest moments. Bro. Martin

Platt, the noted leader of the German Garment Workers Federation who recently escaped from the Hitler jails, greeted Bro. Breslaw in the name of the now persecuted trade unionists of his native land.

"A Level-headed Leader"

President Dubinsky, who few in the banquet from Cleveland, where he attended the International Convention on that same day, received an ovation when he rose to congratulate Breslaw. He said among other things: "I have attended this very afternoon another banquet in Cleveland given by our local organization. Now I am here at another celebration, and cannot help interpreting these festive affairs as but another sign that our Union is going through a period of great revival.

"Wherever I go these days, whatever city or market I visit I find a new spirit. No matter what comes to pass in the near future, whether the NRA remains or is weakened, I am confident that our members will know how to defend the conditions and the improvements we have already gained. And among those who have contributed to our success and advance, Bro. Breslaw undoubtedly occupies one of the most prominent places, for he is one of the most dependable and level-headed leaders our organization can boast of."

"Marking New Era"

Bro. Breslaw, in a brief talk, expressed deep gratitude to the guests for the honor bestowed on him and gave thanks to the Executive Board of Local 35 for having singled him out for such a fine tribute. "I hope," Vice-President Breslaw said, "that this dinner will mark the beginning of a new epoch in our midst, an era that will signify the return of our Union to a 'gold standard' in the sense of values and service to our membership."

Among those who attended the banquet were Adolph Hank, president of the Amalgamated Hat, Julius Hoffman, general manager of the New York Dress Labor Union, Louis Schacter, labor editor of the Forward, and Emil Schlesinger.

Educational Dep't Swings Into Action

By Fannie M. Cohn
Executive Secretary
Educational Department, I.L.G.W.U.

Our educational program is already beginning to function. We have been busily engaged for the past few weeks in starting our activities in the various new sections, especially in New Jersey and Connecticut. We have met nightly with groups consisting of executive boards, of shop chairmen and chairladies, and we have been pleasantly impressed by the fact that plans, identical in these outlines, are being carried to the October issue of "Justice," are already evolving from these preliminary talks.

Wide Discussion Program

In accordance with our program, there will be discussions of some of the complex problems of our industry, such as the jobbing and contracting system, and of the permanent union features, such as our agreements and the various codes adopted for our trade. This will involve, of course, a general discussion of the NRA. Our program also includes discussions of the economic, social, and political problems of the present turbulent period and of the plans suggested for leading us out of the current depression. In the headquarters of some of our local unions, speakers are already meeting weekly to review the highlights of past and recent history of our International Union. This should help them to understand our past struggles for the fight to organize and to compare them with our present problem. We provide for a radio, or films to the extent that it is possible, to review the highlights of past and recent history of our International Union. This should help them to understand our past struggles for the fight to organize and to compare them with our present problem. We provide for a radio, or films to the extent that it is possible, to review the highlights of past and recent history of our International Union.

At the first educational meetings, our groups have become so interested in the outlines that each of them volunteered to bring at least two more with him or her in the next session. Gradually, as the weeks go by, we will have the bulk of the membership in each local. Where necessary the discussions will be conducted in Italian or in other languages. We are now refining the outlines on the economic and problems peculiar to our industry and our International Union. (1) to be used as guides for discussion leaders and lecturers; (2) the abstracts and functioning of the I.L.G.W.U. from

some specially written for us. This should help to develop solidarity among our workers.

Talks on Daily Events

For meeting purposes we are preparing report talks that will appear from time to time in "Justice." These talks will be based on immediate facts and on daily experience, to stimulate thought and to encourage change.

Our new members are beginning to realize that they had only laid the foundation of their local thru their strike, so that now they are completing the structure and that each one of them has to participate in it. They are becoming more conscious of their position. And this understanding was voiced by a very charming young girl in our New Haven office when she, as shop chairlady, took a bundle of copies of "Justice" from the organizer, and, turning to her, said, with smiling eyes:

Special Social Rooms

Our members everywhere are heartily endorsing the suggestion to have in the headquarters of each local a special room for education and social activities. Such rooms are to be attractively furnished, with reading tables, book cases and supplied with current literature that can read there or take home. Such places are to serve also as a place where they may meet for a chat with other members and friends. Sociables will be also conducted there, including Saturday afternoon tea, combined with informal discussions of the topics of the day.

Special for concerts and for dancing will be provided by the Association. And I represent the workers in the shop before the employees." And with a twinkle of pride and self-importance she added, "I've a man somewhere!"

New York is by no means standing still. In some of our locals we are already conducting some educational work. Other locals are making plans for starting activities, and are providing for their structure in their quarters. Our Educational Department has always urged upon our better locals which should act as a nucleus in their class one of our members to be in charge of their social and educational activities. We are happy to state here that some of our locals have decided

Unionizing An Entire Town

I am sure that if the whole picture of the work achieved here in South River were to be set down in print, it would read like a piece out of the realm of fiction. To the South River workers, however, the coming of the union has been a great reality, for it has brought them the first bit of security, of comfort and peace they ever had in their lives.

In this small Jersey town, for many generations past, the whole population worked during the past four years in the local dress factories. The men could find no jobs, so the wives, the daughters and the mothers went to work. You can easily visualize what the home life of the workers in this community has been in these miserable years!

As far as the working conditions were concerned, the employers could have done just as they pleased. There was no one to complain to, and if a worker was discharged, there were always three or four others to take his place; so they fought and battled in constant fear of losing their jobs, against one another in their struggle for a miserable existence. One might think that under such conditions, it would be an easy thing to organize these workers into a union, where the miserable wage men, rescued from the sole means of a livelihood, it requires a good deal of courage to take the chance of losing it by being the

to create each new office. Our Educational Department, with its many years of experience in the workers' educational movement, is well equipped to cooperate with them.

Workers' education again, comes into its own in the I.L.G.W.U. There was never a greater need for it. It is destined to make its contribution to the Labor movement by assisting the trade union leadership in its important task of enlightening our new recruits in how to become conscious members of the great army of organized labor to which they belong and how to function intelligently and effectively within their local union, and finally to develop among them a sound workers' ideology and to enrich them with new social and cultural values.

By Yona Finkelshteyn,
Secy., Local 150, So. River, N. J.

first one to join a union. Then there was another factor which added to the difficulty, about a year ago conditions became so unbearable in one of our shops that the girls went out on a strike. This strike soon spread until it included every shop in South River. Then followed eight long weeks of hunger and violence, night long walks of a futile attempt on the part of a left-wing union to bring about some settlement. The death of a child finally brought this about to an end.

Subsided, the workers went back into the factories to work under the old conditions, and after that the same became quiet again. The price the workers paid for their first attempt was too high.

With such a situation to battle against, the task of organizing these workers into a union was indeed tremendous. There were always ordinances in this town passed by the local authorities to prevent any attempt on the part of labor to organize, and the distribution of pamphlets, against any labor meetings and against out-of-town organizers.

The Polish National Home of South River, an organization to which many thanks are due for their readiness to assist in our work of education and of its hall to hold meetings provided we could obtain a permit from the mayor and the council. But no permission was granted. Finally, after weeks and weeks of conferring, of requesting, and of pleading, permission for a meeting was obtained and such a meeting was arranged.

It would require a dramatist to adequately describe that meeting. It started that night. The rain poured down against the roof of the hall and dashed against the windows, while nearly 1500 drenched people crowded into the large meeting hall. They did not come there to organize; they came out of curiosity, suspicious and hostile, ready to fight. Here was another organization, and, to the whole of many of them, the same organization that was there before, trying

to drag them through another period of terror with the same empty results. Dynamite was in the air—it needed only the slightest friction to set it off. How it happened that violence was averted would make another story. What is more important, however, is that not only was there no violence but through skillful management the hostility and the suspicion of the workers was allayed. Very few people signed up that night, but the ice was broken.

After that meeting was comparatively easy. Within a few weeks practically every person working on dress in Middletown County became a member of the I. L. G. W. U.

On the afternoon of November 9, the organization of Middletown County was climaxed by a celebration meeting held in the Capitol Theatre of South River. All the shape sewers, large baskets of flowers. To show their appreciation they came from all parts of the county, from Perth Amboy, Jamesburg, Woodbridge, Avenel, Carteret, New Brunswick, Highland Park and South River. They came by hired buses and cars to hear for the first time the man who had done so much to make all of this possible; David Dubinsky, President of the I. L. G. W. U., Harry Waser, Manager of the Out-of-Town Department, James Leftwiler, who works in Hightstown, and many of them understood better than English, and Simon Baumgard, Manager of the Middletown County Local, who served as chairman of the afternoon. Certainly it must have warmed the hearts of these men who helped so loyally to achieve these wonderful results, to have heard Mary Murray, chairlady in one of the shops, express in her own words and gratitude, emotion and loyalty which every worker, proud within that theatre felt towards the leadership that has brought with the American market is still an integral part of the International, and is, therefore, a part of our family, and is promised to do all in his power to help us, provided, of course, and this is emphasized, that the Montreal cloakmakers are truly determined to make a sincere effort to help themselves."

"That the local situation is serious enough to warrant immediate action is beyond doubt. The cloak-

makers have been hopelessly and helplessly exploited long enough. In his closing remarks the President stressed the fact that the Montreal cloakmakers must realize that their only salvation lies in the building up of a strong and, above all, a permanent union.

And Now What?

The visit of President Dubinsky has given our local organization a clear picture in retrospect of the chaotic condition of the last fall season and has brought forcibly to us the realization that something definite must be done to improve our conditions.

Our elementary human needs will continue to be jeopardized and ignored as long as we allow our industry to stay disorganized. In Canada we have no NRA to give impetus to the labor movement. But no statistics has yet been found for the power and force of organized labor, no matter under what circumstances.

During the past year a good many cloakmakers strayed away from our ranks and attempted to set out a franchise by their own individual efforts. These "individualists" have not only failed miserably but have also pawned their souls into the bargain. Let us hope that they will benefit by their costly lesson.

The drive for membership is now going on and we are having weekly meetings of all local and organizing committees and executives have been placed to direct the campaign drive. The following membership have been issued by the Joint Council:

Local '34, Outlets' Union, moved from 127 West 38th Street to 42 West 35th Street.

Local '36, Tailored Hatters' Union, from 21 Juno 18th Street, to 127 West 32nd Street.

Local '35, Dress Pressers' Union, moved from 121 West 12th Street to 159 Broadway, corner 77th Street.

Local '42, White Goods and Underwear Workers' Union, moved from 5 West 16th Street to 275 Broadway.

Local '31, Children's Dressmakers' Union, moved from 2 West 16th St. to 36 72nd Avenue.

Local 142, Ladies' Neckwear Workers' Union, moved from 2 West 16th Street to 127 West 32nd Street.

Local Entrance Fee Ordered

"All those who are still eligible as old members can settle their full obligations to date and become members in good standing by paying a flat sum of \$1 to the Union. New members will be accepted for an initiation fee of \$1 for men and \$1 for women."

There is every likelihood that Brother Kraisman of Toronto will divide his time between the two cities and aid us in our work. President Dubinsky also promised to send

President Dubinsky Visits Montreal

By H. Goldstein
Secretary, Local No. 67

President Dubinsky visited Montreal on Thursday, November 16, and in the evening addressed a mass-meeting of cloakmakers at the Prince Arisier Hall. The large auditorium was filled to capacity, and the cloakmakers listened with eager interest, while the president had to tell them.

In his introductory remarks, he sketched a brief word-picture of the phenomenal gains that the International has accomplished in its status during the past few months. Proceeding to an analysis of the Montreal situation, President Dubinsky stressed that the plight of the cloakmakers of this city was pitiful indeed. He said that not only did he find the weather in Montreal rather cold, but the local cloakmakers were equally as frigid in response to their union obligations. He cautioned the cloakmakers to take stock of their present conditions and to consider the difference in earnings under a franchise system and the earnings of the cloakmakers in the unorganized and controlled markets. Their pay depends on after all the city council, that can keep the workers away from their doors.

Local Situation Precarious

Fortunately, he continued, the International's now in a sound position to take care of all its backward centers, that stand in need of improvement. The Canadian cloakmaker, though he does not compete with the American market is still an integral part of the International, and is, therefore, a part of our family, and is promised to do all in his power to help us, provided, of course, and this is emphasized, that the Montreal cloakmakers are truly determined to make a sincere effort to help themselves."

"That the local situation is serious enough to warrant immediate action is beyond doubt. The cloak-

an international representative to wind up the technical organizational details as soon necessary.

Our past failures have been partly due to a erroneous interpretation as to what a union means, and lack of constructive cooperation on the part of certain groups. Workers can expect to get out from their trade union only in proportion to what they are prepared to put into it. We believe it to achieve.

Let the final thought be deeply embedded in the minds of the Montreal cloakmakers. A better life and our greatest economic advances can only be achieved by the building up of the maintenance of a strong and united cloakmakers' organization under its banner of the I.L.G.W.U.

MANY LOCALS MOVE TO NEW QUARTERS

The growth of several of our local in New York City, resulting from the recent strikes and organizing campaign has compelled many of them to seek larger headquarters in order to be able to take adequate care of the interests of their members. Among these local unions are the following:

Local '34, Outlets' Union, moved from 127 West 38th Street to 42 West 35th Street.

Local '36, Tailored Hatters' Union, from 21 Juno 18th Street, to 127 West 32nd Street.

Local '35, Dress Pressers' Union, moved from 121 West 12th Street to 159 Broadway, corner 77th Street.

Local '42, White Goods and Underwear Workers' Union, moved from 5 West 16th Street to 275 Broadway.

Local '31, Children's Dressmakers' Union, moved from 2 West 16th St. to 36 72nd Avenue.

Local 142, Ladies' Neckwear Workers' Union, moved from 2 West 16th Street to 127 West 32nd Street.

LOCAL SECRETARIES

If you want that all your members are active, it is up to you to see to it that their right addresses are on file in the General Office. All change of residence should be promptly forwarded to Building Department, 3 West 16th Street, New York City.

In Decatur, Ill.

By Nale Enger
Organizer, Local 120, I.L.O.W.U.

Our local employers have tried about every means of keeping the girls out of the Union, but they keep coming into our organization just the same.

They have been holding up the work in the shops in the hope that they would obtain a code for the wash dress industry with a 4-hour week and a minimum of 19 a week, with the additional privilege of forcing the girls to take work home. But the girls have not lost their enthusiasm for the Union; quite to the contrary, their interest in the organization is daily on the increase as they see how badly we need here collective bargaining as a means of combating the greed of the employers.

Fighting Home Work

We had here Mrs. Bernard Shane a couple of weeks ago and he did some nice work. Local 120 is only about 3 months old and we have no agreements with the employers. Yet, we have made him realize that our organization although we have never asked for recognition.

We have had quite a fight here against the policy of the employers to force the girls to take work home and to work half of the month. We have stopped that through our own efforts, and we have been getting splendid cooperation from organized labor in this city in general.

We are now planning a series of public meetings, to which we intend to accomplish two things: First, to educate our members in the principles of trade unionism, and also to give the garment workers who are not outside our ranks an opportunity of learning what they are missing. We expect to have Bro. Halls or Shane for our first public meeting and are arranging for other good speakers. We intend to start about December 1.

Unfair Boss on NRA Board

The appointment of one of the most unfair dress manufacturers in this city on the local NRA Commit-

In the Cloak Shops of San Francisco

By David Giesel
Manager, Local No. 8

Our main problem at the present is lack of work. Not that all our other trade problems are solved. On the contrary, we still have a great deal to do before all wrinkles will be ironed out. But lack of work, the inability to make a living, is still our most vital, most pressing problem.

At the beginning of last August we had high hopes. We were inclined to believe that the misery suffered by the San Francisco cloak-makers in the last three years was a thing of the past. We considered the Cloak and Suit Code a weapon designed to fight the battles of organized labor and we were certain that the San Francisco cloakmakers would know how to wield this weapon. It still seems to me that we were correct in our appraisal of the Code, but there is no doubt whatsoever that the general economic situation has interfered with the workings of the Code and has considerably dulled the edge of this weapon.

A Villa Union Built Up

Between August 14 and the end of September we were busy building the Union and adjusting wages in line with the Code and we did a good job in both instances. From a mere shadow we built up a strong, virile, fighting organization, incidentally abolishing all piece-work in the city, and in the wage adjustment we managed to get for the workers all that is coming to them under the law.

Once Board had met with a storm of protests from organized labor, and several letters and telegrams of protest were sent both to General Johnson. As I am writing we received the news that the wash dress code, which is a part of the general contract agreement code, has just been approved and that it goes into effect on November 27. So I shall have more news to tell you about the Decatur situation later, in my next letter.

Because the industry here is on a week work basis, the determination of wages in the "worker of average skill" bracket was a rather involved matter, requiring a lot of hard work and a good deal of sound judgment, but, on the whole, the adjustment was satisfactory. Approximately 8 per cent of working in all crafts are getting the absolute minimum; the wages of 18 per cent are somewhere between the absolute minimum and the workers of average skill wages; 50 per cent are classed as workers of average skill; and 20 per cent are earning from \$1.80 to \$16.00 a week above the latter sum.

Short Season Hurts

It must be admitted that a few workers are dissatisfied with the wage adjustment. They hark back to the pre-depression days when wages for cutters, operators, and pressers were at least 25 per cent higher than at present. Besides, because of the short season, the average earnings for the year are extremely low. But under the present circumstances very little, if anything, can be done to remedy this evil. A substantial improvement of the economic situation in general is the only solution for this problem.

So far we have not succeeded in drawing an official agreement with the local Manufacturers' Association. But the Association has recognized the Union in principle and is willing to establish contractual relations with us. Until the official agreement is finally drawn, we meanwhile have set up an Arbitration Board consisting of union men and employers to take care of all problems and disputes that may arise in the industry.

No Hurry to Contract

To be frank, we are in no hurry to draw an agreement, for unless we can get the kind of an agreement we want, we would rather get along without one. And we feel that we can wait. We are organized; we control the shops, we dominate the situation, and we are certain that with patience, we will get all we ask for, all that is coming to us.

Martin Plett Tour Very Successful

Martin Plett, the first German trade unionist and Socialist leader to reach the United States since the rise of Hitlerism early this year, left New York on Tuesday, November 21, for a trip as far west as Milwaukee and as far South as St. Louis. His tour is being sponsored by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, and the Workmen's Circle.

Plett was formerly the head of the powerful German Clothing Workers' Union and is now the secretary of the International Secretariat of the Clothing Workers. When Hitler came to power in March, Plett refused to "coordinate" his union into the Nazi regime. He was thrown to a concentration camp, at the same time being viciously beaten by the Nazis. He was later released from prison, and with the help of some comrades he fled the country to Holland, and arrived in the United States five weeks ago.

LOCAL 1, CLOAK OPERATORS, REELECT LEVY, ZUCKERMAN

The Cloak Operators' Union, Local 1, of New York had a general election of officers for 1934 on Wednesday, November 22. The officers voted for were: Manager-secretary, chairman of local, 18 business agents, and 23 executive board members. The entire administration list, headed by Vice-President Louis Levy for manager-secretary, was elected. The majorities given to some of the successful candidates resulting the result of four to one. Only one of the so-called "left" candidates was elected to the Executive Board, the last on the list.

Over 3,000 cloak operators, the largest number that ever took part in a Local 1 election, voted in this balloting. Louis Levy, received 3,714 votes while only 114 voted against him. Nathan Zuckerman, candidate for reelection as chairman of the Local 1 received 2723 votes with 719 voted against him.

The following business agents were elected: Benj. Kaplač, J. Hays, A. Goldstein, M. Golub, J. Feinberg, H.

Tour's Main Objective

The tour of Martin Plett has two principal objects: One is to carry the truth about Hitlerism to the country. Secondly, it is also a large sum as possible with which to help German refugee Socialists and trade unionists, and to carry on anti-Hitler propaganda both in this country and in Germany. The Martin Plett Tour Committee, composed of David Dolejsky, President of the International, Joseph Schloberg, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated; Joseph Haskin, Secretary of the Workmen's Circle; and R. C. Vladek, Treasurer, expects that trade unionists and Socialists throughout the country will make every effort to swell the income of the Martin Plett meetings, so that anti-Hitler propaganda may be carried on vigorously. The tour is being managed by the Labor Research and Publicity Bureau, 41 Union Square, New York City.

Fried, A. Black, J. Miller, A. Bruner and A. Yetter.

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS PLANNED FOR MEMBERS' CHILDREN

Members of the I.L.O.W.U. having boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 16 are invited to enroll their children in a series of educational trips which Pioneer Youth of America will conduct in places of unusual interest around New York City on Saturday mornings in December and January. These trips are being planned to help children understand how New York lives, works, and functions as a city and are not merely "light-swinging" tours such as school and clubs frequently take.

To enroll an 11-12 year old boy or girl, write or phone for a descriptive announcement and application blank, to the Director of Trips, Pioneer Youth of America, 69 Bank Street, N. Y. C., telephone WA3830-5427. Preference will be given children whose parents are members of labor unions and only a limited number of children can be accepted for each series of trips.

The Revival in Toledo

By Philip Kaminski
Secretary, Local 67

The Cloakmakers Union of Toledo has made splendid progress in the last three months. Until last August our local had only 72 members and our financial standing was very poor. We have today a membership of 271 and our treasury is in better shape than ever before.

The morale among our members has improved greatly. Now, since we are in a state contact with each other, our morale is at very well a level and our influence in the shops has grown.

A Hand-to-Mouth Meeting

We held in Toledo have probably suffered more than any of the average local in our trade, and that was quite natural. We had a small organization, and the majority of our workers have always lived from hand to mouth. We used to suffer from seasonal unemployment even in times of general prosperity. And when the depression struck our life became tough with very little power for resistance.

Today, as we compare conditions and prices which prevailed in the shops a couple of seasons ago with those of last season, we stand as great improved men. And even though there is very little work in the shops right now, the members of our local are showing a fine union spirit. On October 21, our local had a massed dance which proved to be a fine success. Brother Levy acted as chairman of the committee and has done excellent work in this connection.

And I have something I wish to emphasize is that our members do not forget a debt we owe to Brother A. W. Gierstler, the manager of the Cleveland John Boyd, who came here in September and went on several weeks, giving valuable cooperation and was of great help to our local. The good leadership of our chairman, Morris J. Cohen, who had put his heart into the help of our local, has improved the Toledo cloakmakers and to obtain business working conditions for them, which will be always appreciated by the members of Local 67.

The Blouse and Waismakers Organize

Local 25, the Blouse and Waismakers Union, has rejoined the family of the International Union.

Only a short time ago there was not even a sign of an organization among the waist and blouse workers in New York. As late as last August so one had even the remotest idea that any attempt would be made to organize that branch of our industry. Even in the international office hardly anyone knew how big the waist and blouse trade was, where the shops were located, and still less, the possibilities there were of organizing it.

And even when the dressmakers had begun preparations for the general strike, there still was no talk about starting any activity among the workers in the blouse shops. The waist industry was practically forgotten for many months except for a few shops in which very cheap cotton waists were being made, and as far as the blouse workers were concerned no one seemed even to bother about them. They were no problem for anybody because in one appeared to know anything about them.

Blouse Shops Employ 3,500 Workers

But the blouse industry, as we know by now, did come along, and its figures are considerable numbers. Our investigations show that in the season the blouse shops in Greater New York employ close to 3,000 workers, and a surface survey discloses that in the "Out-of-Town" area another 1,500 workers are employed, which makes a total of about 4,500 blouse-makers. The strike of the dressmakers was the signal that started a movement among the blouseworkers to organize. A number of blouse shops, in which members of the dressmakers' union were employed, went down on the day of the walk-out, but found out that their shops could not be settled because there was no provision made for them in the dress agreement. The blouse manufacturers claimed that they are a separate and distinct industry and that the agreement of the dress trade could not be applied to them. The leaders of the dress strike, having enough problems of their own

By M. Moskowitz
Manager Local 25

on hand, could not give them the necessary attention, and the few shops which came down on strike were sent back to work on a temporary arrangement, on the promise that something would be done for them later.

Dubinsky Leads Non-Union Code

The blouse manufacturers, in the meantime, vying to protect themselves from the dress agreement, organized the National Blouse Manufacturers' Association, and, without losing time, proceeded to Washington to obtain a code for their trade. President Dubinsky objected to this move on the ground that the workers of the industry were not represented in the proceedings and succeeded in blocking the attempt of the manufacturers to secure a code without union representation. President Dubinsky then assigned Brother Sel Polakoff to begin preparations for a general strike in the blouse shops, to take place in the middle of September. The manufacturers were then making overtures to the Union for a settlement; negotiations were started at once, and, after several conferences, an agreement was reached with the Blouse Manufacturers Association.

The writer was appointed by Pres. Dubinsky to take charge of the blouse situation on September 11, which left scarcely enough time for adequate preparation. That it was late in the season, and any postponement might have endangered the success of the strike. So, after two meetings which were rather hurriedly arranged, and after two circulars were issued and distributed among the workers, the strike of the blouse workers was called on Tuesday, September 15. The response was very encouraging; the blouse workers, it seemed, were waiting for the call of the Union, and it became quite evident on the first day of the strike that the blouse workers meant business. Of course, several shops were slower in coming down than

the rest, and for those shops a picket committee was at once organized from the strikers and from Y.P.M.L. members, who helped us out considerably during the strike. It took about two weeks to wipe up the strike, which resulted in the unemployment of 63 shops and the dismissal of more than 1,500 workers.

Doing Business Like Old Union

We have since installed and equipped a local office which is functioning regularly as an old established local union. Soon after the strike was over, a shop chairman's meeting was held and a provisional Executive Board was elected. Of course, there is still a great deal to be done. There are a number of blouse shops in New York and vicinity which still have to be organized; there are also a number of large shops outside of New York that will have to be taken over. The Out-Of-Town department, under the management of Brother Wander, has been cooperating with us all this time and has succeeded in organizing a number of important blouse shops. To our regret, this organizing activity had to be curtailed to a great extent because the slack season had set in, and when there is no work in the shops it is obviously useless to attempt doing organizing work among the "open" shops. However, we expect that the season will begin soon, and the Executive Board has prepared a plan for the complete organization of the blouse industry which will be submitted to our next general membership meeting shortly to be called. The Executive Board will also take up the question of a regular election of an executive board and officers for the newly formed Local 25.

Strike Swept Out Foul Conditions

The blouse-makers has all be stratified with the results of the strike, by which the working conditions in the 'Blouse shops' have been greatly improved and a permanent union of blouse workers was established. The conditions in the blouse shops were miserable beyond

In Central Pennsylvania Owns

By Samuel Otto
International Organizer

When President Dubinsky ordered me about four weeks ago to undertake a survey of the knitting dress and cloak factories in Central and Western Pennsylvania, I had no idea what a big task I had on my hands. I was about to discover in file until now unexplored territory.

After two weeks of investigation, I learned that there were from twelve to fifteen thousand workers employed in the towns that I visited on cotton dresses and children's wear. Most of the shops in this territory are of a large type, some of them employing several hundred workers. During this period I covered York, Harrisburg, Shrewsbury, Wilkes-Barre, Harrisburg, Reading, Dixon City and Pittston. The workers in these shops are largely of old Pennsylvania Dutch stock, with a mixture of girls of Italian ancestry in some of the coal towns.

Gains Wiped Out By Trickery

These factories are all supposed to work under the President's Wage Plan, but an employment Agreement which I found out they are violating is right and left, both with regard to hours and pay. I learned, for instance, that they have succeeded in evading higher prices on individual operations by resorting to such tricks as enlisting the aid of punches and forcing the workers to

keep silent about it with the result that minimal increase provided under the NIRA arrangement have been completely wiped out. In this manner the added labor and shorter hours have so offset the nominal increase that some but the fastest can earn the minimum. The blouse girls are fired and rehired, replaced by new help as workers.

This is all done in open daylight for the employers in these towns depend so much on the timidity of their workers that they violate the law and their own pledge right in the open. Some violations did reach the Compliance Board in Harrisburg, but action on them was so tardy that the cases fell asleep.

Boies Wild Whip

On the face of it, it would seem quite clear that the situation of the workers in our trade in this part of Pennsylvania calls for immediate organizing relief, yet it is no less apparent that unionizing activity in this section is bound to meet with a number of obstacles. And the principal difficulty, in my view it is, is timidity and fear on the part of the workers themselves, who appear to

prevailed in the blouse shops before, our members, we believe, may well be satisfied with the results.

Our agreement contains, besides, provisions against arbitrary discharges and for equal division of work in slack seasons, and many other safeguards for the benefit of the workers. And although we were not able to effect a one hundred per cent unionization in the blouse trade, the members of Local 35 know that, thanks to their International Union and especially to the tireless efforts of President Dubinsky, they are well on the road now towards building a strong and stable organization for the protection of the interests of the workers in the blouse shops in and outside New York City.

be afraid of the whip their bosses hold over them. In many of these shops the employers have already told their women workers that they would be dismissed if they joined the union or attended any meeting.

Nevertheless, while difficult, the problem could be overcome through concerted effort and hard work. I have proof of it in the fact that within the short time that I began to work in this section, we have already succeeded in organizing a local in Harrisburg; another chapter is to be organized in Scranton, and a local is being set for some time in Reading. We printed several circulars of distribution in Harrisburg and Scranton and found the people interested in our message. We had a meeting of shop committees in Scranton and are laying the basis for union activities in other towns.

Local Men in Charge

One plan, which has since been approved by President Dubinsky, is to have local trade unions in charge of our activities in the various districts. We have already succeeded in engaging the help of Brother M. S. H. (Sawghar) for the Harrisburg district and of Brother Frank R. Walek, who is secretary of the International Union, for the city of Reading. I may also report that about a week ago I was called out to Trenton, N. J., which is outside our territory, to do some work in connection with a strike of 63 workers in the N. J. Garment Company located in that city. This strike, which is a spontaneous affair, concerned about three weeks and had ended in a peaceful settlement, the workers having formed a so-called company union. Shortly after the settlement, however, a settlement developed among these workers to join the International, and they are now ready to form a local union of the I.L.O. The company and employer will have to sign a union agreement unless they are willing to face another strike. There are two other cities, Green and Trenton, but these will, quite likely, have to be taken care of later.

Before and Now: A Glowing Contrast

The drive to organize the women garment workers in the State of New Jersey, which came with the force of a hurricane, has accomplished one magnificent result. It has definitely, and let us hope, for all time, destroyed sweat shop conditions which for years have infested the shops in the small towns of this State.

Astounding Facts Revealed

Now that the campaign is nearly over, facts of an astounding nature stand revealed before us. Women and young girls, we find, used to work in these shops at pay as low as 12 per week. And the tragic thing about this was that these girls, who worked for such starvation wages without uttering a word of protest. Fear of losing even these few pence had kept them quiet and submissive.

In some of these towns, the contractors, it would seem, had adopted a special technique in "running" their shops. They had a vast cheap labor market to draw from—mothers with large families to support and young girls or children anxious to earn a few dollars. The shops were so formed that the mothers, the contractors, would work with their daughters, breaking them into the trade.

In the corners of the shop would be the old women, grandmothers, aunts, aching their eyes on finishing the garments. In this manner, mother and families and the entire community would become economically dependent upon the boss. The children would work a to him as they would in their parent's; the women would hurt out to him their family troubles; and the employer would use the same consolation to young and old alike—a few more hours of work each day to "keep the girls out of mischief" and to give the mothers a chance to earn money.

A Boss Entertains

Occasionally, the boss would entertain in royal style. Shortly before the strike, I was told of an instance, where a contractor had hired two buses and drove the entire shop out

By Anna Senowsky
Mr. Local 144, Newark, N. J.

to Rockaway for a good time. Traffic merry-making, indeed, for even when they finally did get away from their sweat shop, trying to be happy and to amuse themselves, they had to be grateful to their boss who had so benevolently financed the outing.

The support of the businessmen in such small towns, too, was a powerful factor in the popularity of the contractor. Every storekeeper in the town realized and cherished the source of all his business—the Saturday night pay at the sweat-shop; the pennies that filled the collection boxes on Sunday were earned by poor hands struggling to earn their living in the sweat shop. No wonder that the chamber of commerce and the board of church trustees of the town would chant in unison: "A fine upstanding business man, this dress contractor, and a wonderful asset to the community!" In such towns the union organizer had a real battle on his or her hands—it was not only the employer who opposed them bitterly but the entire town.

Awakening Thru

And yet the Union succeeded in organizing those people, in warring tag deep discontent with their conditions, and in finally awakening them to the defense of their own true interests. Loud expressed and loudly resented, they responded to us so readily, that we were more than pleased—we were honestly thrilled. These workers understood the language our organizers were speaking to them—they knew what long hours, miserable conditions and low wages meant! Brother Max Gutman, who was the first to start organization work in Newark, had enlisted the help of the Newark Socialist, who did splendid work during the strike, organizing, picketing and working with us day and night. Peter Detelson, Philip Goodman, and Clara Isaacson have remained with the organization and are still doing very valuable work for us right now. Nevertheless, we are still facing

our greatest problem, the problem of educating the membership as to the real meaning of unionism. This new element in the International has many prejudices to overcome and many lessons to learn, but they are eager for education. Local 144, in Newark, N. J., is therefore, planning an intensive educational program that would be of value and meaning to the workers, including social gatherings and various forms of entertainment.

First Educational Evening

The first of these evenings, was the installation of the Newark Local, 144, on Friday night, November 19, at the Workmen's Circle Lyceum. The hall was overcrowded with members and their friends who came to take part in this, their own celebration. When James Phillips led off with "The Song of the Dreamers," one could feel the strong enthusiasm for our movement; reverberate through the large assemblage. Guest speakers were President Dubinsky, Nibbs Astoria, Wander and Esther Cohn, all representatives of the International; O'Henary Grou, Secretary of the Essex Trade Council and Mr. Costello, editor of the "Union Labor Messenger," also spoke. Ray Porter Miller, William Brown, and Janet Phillips sang ballads and songs accompanied by Esther Schultz at the piano. After Brother Dubinsky's inspiring talk the audience rose and with overwhelming enthusiasm responded by singing "Solidarity." The celebration ended with a banquet.

To me the entire evening was a source of personal inspiration, as it served to demonstrate how successful our effort at organizing them, until now bitterly oppressed workers, has been. To have taken part in improving their conditions has been, to me and to all here, a wonderful experience. But to strengthen our position here in Newark and in other cities, we must interest our new membership in active work in the Union, with the cooperation of the other dress locals in the vicinity and with the great dress organization in New York.

(Continued from Page 32)
around the garment center on that day. Otherwise they will be positively appalled that they are going to work for which the penalty will be just as heavy as if they caught actually working in the shop. Should, however, some special situation arise that would make it absolutely essential for a cutter to be in the market on Saturday, he should report this to the boss for which the penalty will be properly applied if he is in advance.

Status of Head-Cutters

Another serious problem of recent development is the status of the head-cutters, some of whom have acquired the idea that they are exempt from the 5-day (56-hour) week. The Executive Board of Local 14, however, has criticized some of them, as happened in the Delaware Valley. In this connection, in some cases, that they are not excluded from the operation of the 5-day week, and that if they desire to continue their membership in our organization, they would have to observe the 56-hour week. Only when the firm is satisfied to employ them merely as overseers, meaning by that that such head-cutters would not perform any work in the cutting department other than supervision, may they claim such exemption.

Under a supervisor status, a head-cutter would be allowed to do either marking, cutting or stitching, as he chooses, but he would be bound by his resignation to the Local, provided, of course, it is proved satisfactorily that he conforms with the above condition. Should he later desire to restate himself as a cutter, he would be entitled to a reduction of pay to one-third of the regular finishing fee.

Full Nominations Made

The special meeting of 15 Local 144 officers for 1934, was one of the most important we have had in many years, not only from the viewpoint of attendance, as over one thousand members had packed the main hall of the balcony and sit tables so respectfully, but also as judged by the excellent attendance that prevailed throughout the meeting.

Manager Samuel Perlmutter was around the floor first, and he rose to nominate Brother Joel Abramowitz for the office of president of the Local. Perlmutter, among other things, stressed the point that Brother Abramowitz has joined this Union as a dress cutter while still a very young man. During all his years of membership he has served the organization loyally in different capacities, without any compensation. The nomination of Bro. Abramowitz was widely applauded.

Brother Louis Stulberg, while nominating Samuel Perlmutter for manager of Local 14, stated that Local 14, thanks to the fact that thousands of members have been added to its rolls in recent months, has become a little International of its own, which requires special ability and training for coping with problems confronting the Local now in its various branches. Stulberg said that he is confident that in presenting the name of Samuel Perlmutter to lead this organization, he is fully meeting such a high standard.

Perlmutter's name received a rousing approval. The same fine fraternal spirit prevailed throughout the meeting when the names of Brother Louis Stulberg and Maurice W. Jacobs were submitted for the office of Second Business Agent and of Secretary by the Executive Board, respectively.

The following were nominated for the various paid and unpaid offices of the organization for the coming year:

President—Joel Abramowitz, Marjia Feldman.

Vice President—Nathan Sperowitz, David King.

Manager—Secretary—Samuel Perlmutter.

General Business Agent—Lubin Stulberg, William Zwolton.

Secretary to the Executive Board—Maurice W. Jacobs, Oscar Sigman.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Samuel Mazoner.

Delegates to Central Trade and Labor Council—Samuel Martin, Louis Diamond, Harry Lebin, Morris Shulitzky, Samuel Lerman, No. 421A.

Business Agents to Check Joint Board—Samuel Lerman, Louis Pinkas, Max L. Gordon, Philip Anis, Sam Diamond.

Business Agents to Dress Joint

Board—Max Goldenberg, Fred Ratner, Arthur Alvin, Adolph Rosen, Julius Levin, No. 3, Joe Shapiro, Harry Washel, Joseph Weinberg.

Club, Executive Board Members—Louis Piner, Nathaniel Sigerman, No. 1477, Charles Seaver, Sam Greenberg, 725, Joseph Adam, Albert Silverman, 2908, Harry Saksberg, Isidor, Reisman, 1590, Emanuel Kopp, 640-6, Harry Kopp, 2285, Max Fahn, 158, Sam Chansky, 351, Frank Jann, Sam Kerr, 7225, Nathan Weinstein, Louis Dupnick, 1233, Harry Frieden, Nathan Aschowitz, 251, David Bell, 117, Maxer Saksberg, 255, Michal Saksberg, 444, Harry Scher, 2122, Isaacson Wolf, 1235, Mordechai, 1001, Samuel Detrich, 376, Abe Cohen, 1542, Morris Lefkowitz, 11682, Wm. Marlow, 1049, Harry Simon, 2781, Milton Citron, 923, Abraham Kaplan, 728, Elias Bae, 2222, Milton Krasnigol, 1296, Adolph Belter, 26, Isaacson, 2285, Mordechai, 2012, Isidor Cohen, 1915, Sidney Tullman, 6025, Julius Levin, 2, Louis Giffert, 4184, Morris Shulitzky, 2146, Louis Strick, 11773, Morris Klawficht, 6724, Jack Stein.

At its conclusion of the nominations in Executive Board was closed. This is recorded in the highest vote having been chosen. They are as follows:

Mayor Katz, 353, Harris Hachen, 250, Abe Reiss, 234, Louis Brown, 213, I. as Marjonia, 236, Morris Deussen, 227, Louis Gabriel, 225, Joseph P. 141, Sam Sobel, 228, Jerome Weisberg, 25.

ATTENTION

Officers of Local 10!

A Good and Welfare Meeting will be held

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18th

at

Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Pl.

at 7:30 P. M. sharp

Bar and every member is urged to attend this meeting

(official list)

Cutters' News and Events

By Samuel Perlmutter
Manager of Local 10

As usual at this time of the year, Local 10 is making preparations for elections of officers for the coming year.

A big vote is expected, largely because the membership of the Local has materially increased during the past year. Besides, a wider interest in union activity is expected to bring out a large vote this year, and all members will be notified and urged, in the regular way, to take part in the balloting. At its next session, the Executive Board will decide the penalty that will be imposed upon members ignoring their duties as union men and failing to vote.

Suggested Changes in Local By-Laws

The Constitution Committee, though appointed quite some months ago, has not been able to meet yet owing to the many strikes in which Local 10 was involved. Practically all the officers, paid as well as unpaid, are members of the Constitution Committee, and they had to devote all their time to strike activities. The Constitution Committee, however, has taken into consideration some of the important phases which have developed as a result of the vast change in the Local, and has decided to act without further delay on all such amendments as are required to meet the present situation.

The following are the emergency amendments recommended by the Constitution Committee to the last membership meeting of the Local, all of which were discussed pro and con by a considerable number of members and most of which have received unanimous approval.

Section 1, of Article No. 4, to be amended to include "Executive Board Secretary."

Another part of Sec. 1, Article 4, to be amended as follows:

"An Executive Board of 25 members" (instead of 17, as heretofore), consisting of "11 Cloak and Suit Men" (instead of 9, as heretofore), "9 Dress Men" (instead of 6, as heretofore), "2 from Miscellaneous Branch" (instead of 2, as heretofore), and "2 men from the Patternmakers' Branch provided they have a membership of at least 250 members."

Another part of Sec. 1, of Article 4, to read as follows: "of these the President shall appoint with the approval of the Membership at a regular meeting, 2 Cloak and Suit Men, 2 Dress Men and 1 man from the Miscellaneous Branch."

Section 4, of Article 2, of the By-Laws, to read as follows:

"The duties of the Executive Board Secretary shall be to keep a record of all the minutes of the Executive Board, also General and Special Meetings of the Local, to keep these records up to date, and such other work as may be designated by the Executive Board in conjunction with the Manager-Secretary-Treasurer."

"The present Section 4, of this same article to become Section 7 and present Section 7 to become Section 4."

Warning to Cutters

As a result of the Saturday drives, two points closely associated with the subject of control have now arisen which require some clarification.

in order to avoid misinterpretation which might lead to summoning before the Executive Board and possible punishment.

It happens very often, when our committees go out in the market for patrolling purposes, that upon finding a cutter in the district, they take it for granted that such cutters are there for the purpose of going up to work.

We wish, therefore, to serve notice on these men, in order that they may not get themselves into trouble, that Saturday, from the viewpoint of the Union, is today no less a holiday than Sunday and that cutters should, therefore, refrain from hanging.

(Continued on Page 31)

ATTENTION! MEMBERS OF LOCAL 10!

INSTALLATION MEETING
will be held on
Monday, December 16, 1933

at
Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Pl.
at 7:30 P. M. Sharp

At this meeting, the induction of the newly elected officers will take place, and the appointment of additional members to the Executive Board will be made.

David Dubinsky, President of the I. L. G. W. U. Brother Isidor Nagler, General Manager of the Joint Board Cloakmakers' Union, Julius Hochman, General Manager of the Dress Joint Board, and other speakers will address the meeting.

Each and every member is, therefore, urged to attend this meeting without fail.

Books will be stamped signifying attendance and the \$1.00 fine for non-attendance will be strictly enforced.

ATTENTION, CUTTERS MEMBERS OF LOCAL 10!

Election of Officers

for the ensuing term of 1934

will take place on

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1933

at

ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

The polls will be open from 12:30 Noon to 6:30 P. M.
Come without fail and bring your dues book with you.