

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."
—Job 27.6

JUSTICE

"Workers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains."

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. VI, No. 49.

New York

1924.

Price 2 Cents

Gompers Again To Obey I. L. G. U. Decision

A. F. of L. President Insists That Officers of Local Comply With Decision of General Executive Board—Deprecates Rejection by Local 17 of International's Offer to Refer Matter to Referendum of Whole Membership—Final Decision on Injunction Expected Shortly

The outstanding feature this week in the fight between the insubordinate officers of Local 17 and the International Union, a fight which has so far resulted in the procuring of a temporary injunction by these local officers against the I. L. G. W. U. and the New York Joint Board, has been another telegram from President Gompers addressed to Local 17, calling upon it to comply with the decision of the International and make an end to the infamous proceedings into which they had dragged their local and which has cast a dark shadow upon the entire Labor movement.

There was practically no other development in the controversy in the last few days, except for the attempt of several officers of the local to raise a disturbance at the regular meeting of Local 2 last Monday, December 1, at Manhattan Lyceum, in which they utterly failed. After Local 17 had rejected the offer of the International to have the dispute submitted to the whole membership of the International for a referendum vote, Morris Hillquit, the attorney for the I. L. G. W. U. informed Mr. Samuel Seabury, the lawyer for the officers of Local 17 in the injunction proceedings, that the Union can offer no other method of settling the dispute out of court into which the leaders of Local 17 had dragged it, and that it is ready now for the court's final decision.

President Gompers' second telegram from El Paso addressed to Jacob

Heller of Local 17 reads as follows:
El Paso, Texas,
November 27, 1924.

Your night letter telegram to hand. The course you have pursued is exceedingly disappointing to me who has always respected and had confidence in you. You misinterpreted the purport of my telegram. You undertook to have a judge issue an injunction as if that would settle an internal dispute in the bona fide Labor movement and when the Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union proposed that the dispute as to its decision be referred to a referendum vote of the entire membership of the International Union, the proposal was flag-

rantly rejected. We cannot expect to be in entire agreement with every decision rendered by a Local Union, by an International Union or even by the American Federation of Labor, but once a decision has been reached, the course of true trade unionists and faithful men and women is to abide by the decision reached in the interest of your own good name and standing and more than all else in the best interests of the men and women whom you have so long so ably and faithfully represented. You should see to it that by your course they shall not be dissipated or destroyed. Comply with the decision and help to carry it into effect in my advice.
SAMUEL GOMPERS.

I. L. G. W. U. Presents Marble Bust of Samuel Gompers To El Paso Convention

President Gompers Thanks International for Gift—El Paso Gathering Adopts Resolution Commemorating I. L. G. W. U. on Twenty-fifth Anniversary

On Monday, November 24, during the afternoon session of the seventh day of the 44th convention of the American Federation of Labor, having been granted the special privilege of the floor, President Morris Sigman, head of the I. L. G. W. U. delegation at the convention, arose and delivered a half an hour's speech at the end of which, two of his colleagues,

Brothers Louis K. Langer and Louis Pinkovsky unveiled a beautiful bust of President Samuel Gompers, done in Italian marble. The delegates and visitors arose and applauded for several minutes.

The presentation of this gift to President Gompers, the warm impulsive address of President Sigman and the touching response by Gompers gave the El Paso gathering, no doubt, some of its most stirring moments. On the following morning, Secretary William Green of the United Mine Workers' of America presented a resolution by unanimous con-

sent, which was adopted by acclamation in which the American Federation of Labor conveyed greetings to the I. L. G. W. U. upon the event of its quarter of a century of existence and which praises the Ladies' Garment Workers' Union for its many achievements for the workers in the needle industry.

The reader will find on page seven of this issue the full speech of President Morris Sigman delivered upon the presentation of the gift to the El Paso convention and the reply made to it by President Samuel Gompers.

Union Again Confers With Dress Contractors' Association

Last Monday, December 1, the second conference between the Joint Board and the Association of Dress Manufacturers, Inc., the contractors' organization in the trade, took place. At the same time the Wholesale Dress Manufacturers, Inc., the jobbers, met at the Hotel MacAlpin to discuss various production problems.

No action of a definite nature was

taken at the meeting, between the Union and the contractors' association and it was adjourned subject to another call at an early date.

It is also expected that a conference between the Union and the jobbers' association will take place very soon, in all probability within the next two weeks.

Sigman and Baroff Call Upon Members to Aid Dist. Council

The campaign launched several weeks ago, under the auspices of the District Council in the Miscellaneous

Trades of New York, for the unionization of the masses of unorganized workers in these trades is gaining headway every day. From a good prospect and a mere hope, this drive is beginning to develop tangible results of a most encouraging nature.

The campaigning so far has been conducted largely through mass distribution of literature on a scale never before attempted in the history of organizing activity in the I. L. G. W. U. Five illustrated folders have already been distributed throughout the districts where the miscellaneous trades' shops are located—in hundreds of thousands of copies—by the volunteer committee under the management of Vice-president Samuel Leffkowitz, the director of the District Council. This committee, however, in order to be of effect will have to be reinforced by every member of the International working in the same buildings where these non-Union

New York Joint Board Opens New Label and Insurance Office

Will Aid in Control of Label Distribution—To Enforce Regular Contributions to Unemployment Fund By Contractors and Jobbers—Brother Charles Jacobson in Charge of New Department

The New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board installed this week a new office to be known as the Label and Insurance Department of the Union.

This department, which will be located on the fourth floor of the Joint Board Building, at Lexington avenue and 25th street, has been placed under the supervision of Brother Charles Jacobson, a veteran union officer, and for many years associated with the former dress and waist joint board in New York. Brother Jacobson is very well equipped for the job and is expected to make of it a valuable adjunct to the activities of the joint board.

Such a department has become a necessity for the Union as under the terms of the last settlement, a provision had been adopted to have sanitary labels sewed onto every garment manufactured in the union cloak shops of New York and vicinity. This settlement also calls for an unemployment insurance fund to be raised jointly by the workers and the employers, and it will be the direct concern of Brother Jacobson's new office to see to it that both these provisions are squarely lived up to by the employers.

The distribution of the label to the manufacturers is being conducted

from the office of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control and is being supervised over by Dr. Henry Moskowitz. The label office of the Union will aid Dr. Moskowitz in this respect and will cooperate in the control of the application of the label in the industry. Brother Jacobson's office will also systematize the control of the contributions by contractors and jobbers towards the Unemployment Fund and will enforce general adherence of all parties to the unemployment fund obligations in the future.

(Continued on page 2)

Sigman and Baroff Call Upon Members To Aid Dist. Council

(Continued from page 1)

workers are employed and their influence will have to be used to the fullest extent to persuade these non-Union men and women to join the organization.

Sisters and Brothers:

In the City of New York, in the heart of the needle industry, within the very buildings in which you—cloak makers and dress makers—are working, there are tens of thousands of workers employed under non-union conditions. Unorganized and unprotected, they become easy prey of the employers, who are always ready to take advantage of the individual helplessness of wage-rampant in the waist, children's dress, embroidery, white goods, custom dressmaking, hemstitching and button industries.

The International, through the District Council of Miscellaneous Trades of Greater New York and Vicinity, has initiated an organization drive. A staff of organizers under Brother Samuel Lefkowitz, assisted by the officers and active members of the different locals comprising the Council, is carrying out a most energetic and efficient campaign. Hundreds of thousands of circulars and many mass meetings have already brought gratifying results.

The task, however, is tremendous. The season in these industries will soon be over, and we want to be ready to introduce union conditions in the shops in these industries at the earliest possible moment. We therefore need all the aid we can get. And we have decided to appeal to every member of the International in the City of New York to help us in this work.

There are many ways in which you as a member of the International can be of assistance in this drive. You may be working in a building where there is a shop of the miscellaneous trades, or there may be a shop or more on the same block or street where you are employed. Then again, there are surely many workers employed in the miscellaneous trades who are relatives, friends, acquaintances or neighbors of yours. Talk to these workers. Inform them of this campaign. Convince them of the benefits of unionism and collective effort. Surely your union cannot expect of you less than complete cooperation in this big organization campaign.

We are certain that each member of our International Union will do his utmost to help bring to the complete unionization of these miscellaneous trades, and help to bring hope into the hearts of these despairing workers, help to reduce their hours, increase their wages, and elevate their conditions to the level of those prevailing in the cloak and dress industry.

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION,

MORRIS SIGMAN, President.
ABRAHAM BAROFF, Gen. Sec'y-Treas.

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS IN NEW YORK, ATTENTION!

Members of the International who wish to help in the organizing campaign being conducted at present among the various miscellaneous trades in New York City and desiring to obtain information with regard to the form of aid and cooperation they might give to this big undertaking, are requested to call at any of the local union offices listed below where they will be given all necessary directions and instructions.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MISCELLANEOUS TRADES OF GREATER NEW YORK

Headquarters

3 West 16th Street Telephone Chelsea 2148
New York

Embroidery Workers, Local 6—501 E. 161st st.—Melrose 7690.

Cutters, Local 10—231 E. 14th st.—Lexington 4180.

Waterproof Garment Workers, Local 20—130 E. 25th st.—Madison Square 1934.

Waist Makers, Local 25—16 W. 21st st.—Watkins 7957.

Ladies' Tailors, Theatrical Costume and Alteration Workers, Local 38—877 Sixth ave.—Circle 8299.

Hemstitchers, Pleaters and Tuckers, Local 41—6 W. 21st st.—Chelsea 3823.

White Goods Workers, Local 62—117 Second ave.—Orchard 7106

Bonnex Embroidery Workers, Local 66—7 E. 15th st.—Stuyvesant 3657.

Custom Dress Makers, Local 90—744 Lex. ave.—Regent 3091.

Children's Dress, Bathrobe and House Dress Makers' Union, Local 91—7 E. 15th st.—Stuyvesant 2957.

Embroidery Designers, Local 97—138 E. 31st st.—Lexington 5018

Salespeople's, Local 131—175 E. Broadway—Chelsea 2148.

Button Workers, Local 132—7 E. 15th st.—Stuyvesant 5952.

With that in view, President Morris Sigman and Secretary Baroff have issued the following appeal to all the members of the I. L. G. W. U. in Greater New York:

Local 66 Counters Demands of Embroidery Employers

The first conference in the bonnax embroidery trade, with a view to the renewal of the agreement in the trade which expires on January 31, 1925, took place last Monday, December 2, at the Hotel MacAlpin, late in the afternoon. Representing the local at the conference were Max M. Eisenfeld, Nathan, Riesel, Max Halebsky, Leon Hattab and Z. L. Friedman. The employers' association was represented by William Halperin, J. Zahn, Morris Grossman, A. Altman and Ben Cohen.

The committee of the employers presented to the Union a list of demands to be embodied in the new agreement, which included a request for limiting legal holidays with pay to six days, a two-weeks' trial period instead of the one-week period in force at present and a stipulation that the forty-hour week would not be enforced in the trade during the life of the next agreement. The Union's committee countered with a proposal for the enforcement of the forty-hour week, an unemployment insurance fund, the right of the shop-chairman

to divide work in the shop during slack periods, spoolers and stampers to get work during the slow periods of the year, and the absolute exclusion of the employers from doing any work on the machines.

After the demands and counter-demands had been read by both parties, the conference continued to discuss the suggestions made by each side in a general way. Vice-president Lefkowitz represented the District Council of New York at the conference. The next session will take place on Monday, December 8, at the same place and hour, when an effort will be made to come to definite terms. The officers of the local are quite optimistic regarding the outcome of the conference and hope that an agreement in the trade will be reached without a conflict.

Local 66 will have a special general meeting of the membership on Thursday, December 4, at the Debs Auditorium, 7 East 15th street, to make first and final nominations for officers for the coming year. A big attendance is expected.

Jamaica Girl Pickets Terrorized

Magistrate Holds Girl In \$500 Bail—Not on Facts But "On Looks"

After the firm of Gottlieb & Seiff, a reefer shop at Rockaway Road and South street, Jamaica, L. I., lost in its attempt to prevent the strikers in that shop through the means of an injunction from picketing, it has now begun resorting to more direct methods of interference with the elementary rights of the workers. A cordon of strong-arm guards stationed around the shop has for the past few weeks been harassing the pickets in a most brutal way, accosting them and beating them up practically under the eyes of the police who, instead of protecting the girl pickets, are either totally blind and deaf to this mistreatment of the union workers or even arrest them and haul them to court on charges of "disorderly conduct."

Last week, Miss Sonia Markowitz,

was thus arrested after she had been attacked by a strikebreaker and a thug and was subsequently held in \$500 bail for examination. When she was brought before Magistrate Lawrence Gresser he decided to hold her for special sessions, not, as he admitted, because she was charged with having committed any specific act, but because he "did not like her looks."

Despite all these persecutions, the Gottlieb & Seiff strike continues unabated. The girls who have been fighting to force the firm to sign a union agreement since August and who are determined to win union work conditions from their bosses, are today, after four months of striking, as undaunted as on the first day of the strike, strong-arm men, court persecution, and police hounding to the contrary notwithstanding.

Your Bank

Has every facility for all your banking needs. Pays 4% interest and shares its profits with the depositors. "Sends money to every part of Europe at lowest charge."

Has Resources of \$3,500,000, after 11 months of Existence

Has Over Three Thousand Depositors and Growing fast Daily

This is the time to transfer your account

Bring your bank book and begin drawing interest at once.

Member Federal Reserve System

International Union Bank
FIFTH AVENUE → → AT 21st STREET

International Takes Over Unity House; Will Rush Renovations

In conformity with the decision adopted last Spring in Boston, at the convention of the I. L. G. W. U., the General Executive Board voted several months ago to take over the property and the management of the Forest Park Unity House, the big summer resort conducted by the Dressmakers' Local No. 22, for the last four years in the Blue Ridge Mountain section of Pennsylvania.

The Unity House will henceforth be managed by the General Office of the I. L. G. W. U. from 3 West 16th street. It will become the property of the International, and as such will

in the future belong not to one local but to all the locals of our Union. It is expected that this move will increase tremendously the number of visitors and vacationists to the Forest Park House during the next vacation season and will make it even more popular among the masses of our members in New York.

The general office, under the direction of Secretary Baroff, undertook at once to carry out an extensive plan of renovations and remodeling of the House to make it a better and more comfortable place for guests next summer. A small army of masons

and plumbers are already at work on putting up a number of open-air bungalows for such visitors as prefer to sleep in the open rather than in enclosed rooms; the dining room is to be enlarged and running water is to be installed in all rooms. A great new dance hall will be erected on the lake, eighty feet wide by a hundred feet deep; a new bowling alley will be constructed near the lake shore; showers will be placed in all the dormitory halls, and new plumbing will be installed throughout the main house and all the smaller buildings.

After the remodeling is completed,

The Next Health Lecture

On Friday, December 5, Dr. Beaton Liber will deliver the second of his series of health lectures in the Union Health Center Building, 131 East 17th street. The subject of the lecture is *On What Does Health Depend*.

The lecture begins promptly at 8 p. m. Admission free.

The Unity House, already the largest summer home in the section, will become the best equipped and most comfortable summer home in the entire county, and by far the most ideal vacation place owned by any Labor organization in the country.

Dressmakers Elect Officers Next Thursday, December 11

The dress makers of New York, all belonging to the Dress Makers' Union, Local 22, will have their annual elections for officers—including a secretary-treasurer, a sick benefit committee and an executive board, on Thursday next, December 11. The elected officers will serve the organization during the year 1925.

The voting will take place in six polling booths in the following places: the Joint Board office, 130 East 25th street; main local office, 6 West 21st street; Harlem office, 145 East 121st

street; Downtown office, 33 Second avenue; Brooklyn office, 105 Montrose avenue, and Brownsville office, 229 Sackman street. The booths will be open from 9 a. m. to 7 p. m.

Two candidates have been nominated for the office of secretary-treasurer, Julius Portnoy and the present incumbent, Isidore Schoenholz, three men are nominated for the sick benefit committee, and fifty-six men and women have been named for the executive board, of whom twenty-five have to be chosen.

Staten Island Firm Sues Union for \$10,000

The Shapiro Cloak Company, a contractor concern of the run-away type, has filed a civil suit against the I. L. G. W. U. for \$10,000 in the Richmond County Supreme Court.

This firm has operated in Staten Island a "cooperation" shop of the kind that prefers to mulct the workers at some distance from New York. After an unsuccessful effort to operate a non-Union shop in Manhattan, the shop fled to Stapleton, Staten Island, and opened a place on Brighton beach, where its workers, however, struck, and after a few weeks the

firm entirely disappeared from its new quarters. During the short strike three of its employes, Green, Newman and Brown, were arrested and held for trial.

Last week, the Union received notice that this contractor is suing it for \$10,000 as damages, apparently resulting from the refusal of its workers to be employed in a scab shop. The matter will be settled in court in a short while. William Motion, a well-known Richmond County attorney, is appearing for the Union in this case.

Convict Labor

One of the greatest of social evils of the present day is the prison contract system of labor. It can no more be defended than slave labor—in fact, it has many of the social and economic evils of slave labor. It is expensive to the State and taxpayers, and unfair alike to consumers, convict, free labor, and the employer of free labor.

For instance, there are about ten prisoners in twenty States making garments for open market sale. The manufacturer who has the contracts for this labor pay the States a comparatively small sum of money—much less, of course, than the labor of these unfortunate is worth. With this labor costing only a fraction of the labor cost to all other manufacturers of the same line of goods, they make their product under conditions that free labor would not submit to. The finished product is put on the open market at a price just low enough to hurt the manufacturer of free labor at fair wages and not low enough to bring any relief to the consumer, for as soon as the employer of free labor has been raised the price of the prison product in that territory rises. Last year 15,999,000 work

shirts alone, made by prison labor, were sold on the open market. The work shirt is only one item; other garments, as well as boots and shoes, Hosiery, furniture and hardware, made by prison labor, flood the market to the detriment of the public, the manufacturer and free labor.

We will agree that for the sake of the prisoner as well as the taxpayer prisoners should be employed, but so that prison labor does not compete with free labor. Many States have solved the problem, and all must sooner or later.

Only three things are needed: First, of course, a wise system of prison industry, which will employ all prisoners at useful employment, producing in the main what is needed at State institutions in the way of food, clothing, furniture, hardware, etc. Second, a centralized purchase of State supplies, so that State and other Governmental institutions may consume prison production, instead of buying all supplies on the open market. Third, an interchange of prison-made goods between States, so that there will be an adequate market for

1,500 Cloak Operators Attend Meeting of Local 2

Last Monday evening, December 1, about 1,500 cloak operators, members of the new cloak operators' organization of Greater New York, assembled at Manhattan Lyceum, to discuss a number of pressing problems confronting the local.

On the order of the day of the meeting, presided over by the administrator of the local, Vice-president Meyer Perlestein, was the dues' raise. A budget for the local and the last stoppage and its results. Owing to the lateness of the hour, the last topic was laid over until the next meeting, but the members of the organization thoroughly discussed and approved the first two proposals. In general, the meeting was conducted

in a fine spirit and its discussions were marked by sincerity and earnestness.

Next Monday, December 8, another series of section meetings will be held throughout the Greater City, which will be attended, it is expected, by not less than 4,000 members. Under the new law of the local a member failing to attend at least one section meeting a month is liable to a fine of a dollar and this provision will be strictly carried out. At the next section meetings, the Executive Board of the local will submit a number of proposals concerning the activity of Local 2 during the next season, to be discussed by and decided upon by the members.

Local 20 To Nominate Officers

The Waterproof Garment Workers' Local of New York, better known as Local 20, will elect this month a set of officers for the coming year, including an executive board, a secretary and a manager. Last week, the local had first nomination to fill these posts.

On Thursday next, the raincoat makers will have second and final nominations for officers in Manhattan

Lyceum, 65 East Fourth street, at 8 p. m., sharp. Meyer Perlestein, the manager of Local 20, has issued a call to all members to come to this meeting without fail to complete the nominations for candidates.

The meeting will also elect a committee on objections which will meet a few days later to receive and act upon objections that may be filed against the nominees.

Novelty Workers Meet Next Tuesday

The Tuckers, Hemstitchers, Pleaters and Novelty Workers' Union, Local 41, will hold a very important members meeting Tuesday, December 9, right after work in the International Building, 3 West 16th street.

prison goods and so that each prison may thus be able to supply all needs of State institutions without financing more than a few industries.

This will not be difficult to accomplish, for it is not only right; it is simple and economical.

Taxpayers would pay far less for supplies for State institutions; prisoners would be, as they should be, strictly under the State control, and the employer of free labor would have, as he should, the open market without this dangerous and unfair competition.

At least all prison-made goods sold on the open market should be labeled, in fairness to the public. The pri-

All members in the trade are urged to be present at the meeting. A complete report of all activities of the Union will be submitted by the officers.

soner contractor always fights this because he knows when his practice is made public, the buyer will have none of his goods.—Chattanooga Labor World.

Unity Centers

Our Unity Centers in seven public school buildings are now open. There are classes in English for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Register at once, at the Unity Center nearest your home or at our Educational Department, 3 West 16th street.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Office, 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel.: Chelsea 3148

MORRIS SIGMAN, President. S. YANOFSKY, Editor. A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer. H. A. SCHOOLMAN, Business Manager.

MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor.

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year

Vol. VI, No. 49. Friday, December 5, 1924.

Entered as Second Class matter, April 18, 1916, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 3, 1879.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1102, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 15, 1919.

Cards entitling our members to tickets at reduced prices to twelve Philharmonic Concerts can be obtained at our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.

The next two concerts will be given at the Metropolitan Opera House, Sunday afternoon, December 14, and December 21.

Economic Problems of Soviet Russia

Berlin, November 24.

The most perplexing problems confronting the leading minds in Soviet Russia today are not that of a political kind, neither foreign nor domestic, but questions of an economic nature.

The Soviet regime has, to all intents and purposes, succeeded in overcoming opposition to itself both at home and abroad, and if its future existence were to depend exclusively on political factors, it may be safely asserted that it is reasonably secure. No sober-minded person could believe today that politically Russian Bolshevism is facing any grave danger. Its last two victories in this field had been scored over Savinkov and the Georgians. Savinkov, the liveliest and most courageous of its political enemies, the organizer of many terrorist acts and uprisings in the past, has left the company of the emigré-conspirators in Western Europe and came to Russia to make peace with Bolshevism and to throw himself upon its mercy. (Such is the official version of the story; the fact is, of course, that all this had been arranged in advance.) Savinkov decided on this step after he had become convinced that Bolshevism in Russia is a tough piece of granite upon which all its enemies would crush their teeth in vain and that among all the big capitalist States in Europe not one could be found which, for fear of public opinion of its own, would dare to support actively a campaign against the Soviets. Savinkov's return to Russia, his trial before the Moscow revolutionary tribunal, his recognition of the Soviet régime and his repentance of former transgressions, have made a deep stir among the democratically-minded sections of the emigrés and have materially increased the prestige of the Soviet.

The speedy liquidation of the Georgia uprising, a rebellion concerning every nerve of which the Soviet Government had been well informed in advance and which it purposely allowed to organize and mature so as to be able to crush its Caucasian enemies in one full swoop, has served to discourage greatly those enemies of Bolshevism who still had hopes that it was possible to overcome it by force. The recognition, definite or pending, of Soviet Russia by almost all the important nations of Europe is another telling sign that in the eyes of the statesmen of the whole world the power of the Soviets is firmly entrenched.

Nevertheless, the more tranquil the political situation becomes in Soviet

"Russian Industry Devours Its Capital Stock"

(Special Correspondence to JUSTICE)
By LEON CHASANOWICH

Russia, the graver grows its economic situation. And since the powers that be have begun breathing easier politically in Russia, they have turned their attention to economic problems. The paramount question in Russia today is: How can Russian industry be made to pay and go on without deficits and have an it normally develop and grow?

On thing is quite clear to everyone in Russia: If industry cannot be put on its own feet, if the existing political order cannot guarantee its normal growth and development—the Communist regime cannot endure long. It will totter by reason of internal decomposition and will die, if not through defeat by an armed enemy, from economic bloodlessness and industrial bankruptcy—an even less desirable outcome.

In the official Russian press—and in Russia there exists no other press—may be read quite often frank declarations concerning this fundamental problem, particularly in the "Torgovo-Promishlennaya Gazeta," a daily newspaper for commerce and industry which carries on its masthead the motto—"Proletarians of all lands, unite!"; in the "Economichezkaya Zhizn," and in "Trud," a daily of the trade union movement, the only one of its kind, we believe, in the world. In the "Torgovo-Promishlennaya Gazeta" of October 8, we read, for instance, the following report of a speech by Ginzburg before one of the sections of the National Council of People's Economy:

"Until a short time ago industry regularly was devouring its capital stock." At least, until the 1922-24 period this could be proved demonstrably. At the present moment this process is apparently nearing its end, though it cannot yet be asserted that we are increasing capital in our industry. If the turnover in industry is increasing it cannot be said that the increase involves the capital stock. If we consider also the capital invested in the inactive industries, the consumption of capital is even today greater than its accumulation."

Light industry is in a much better condition in Russia than heavy industry and less complaining is heard about it. It would, however, be a mistake to assume that light industry in Russia is in a normal condition.

As the lighter industry produces largely articles of immediate consumption for the masses, and as the State controls completely all foreign commerce, the Russian light industry can dictate market prices and, thanks to the fantastic scales fixed by it, get along without State subsidies and thus create the impression that it is self-subsisting. Concerning this, Antropov writes in the "Torgovo-Promishlennaya Gazeta":

"Our light industry, while it does not receive any subsidy, is nevertheless able to exact such aid indirectly by means of high prices, i. e. it is being subsidized by the village consumer." "But the peasant," the writer goes on to say, "alone produces more than what he consumes; and the village is not able, through the sale of its surplus, to accumulate enough capital to improve agriculture and for the introduction of a higher farming technique, as the city industry takes away from the village, through the high prices for commodities and the high taxes required to maintain the State machinery, its surplus, which in turn makes impossible the progress of Russian agriculture."

An idea of the high cost of manufactured articles in Russia can be had, for instance, from the fact that a suit of clothes of the better kind brings the price of \$200. The backwardness of Russian industry is so great that a Russian economist who recently visited America wrote back: "We do not manufacture in Russia but handworkers and have some domestic industry." It is asserted that in 1923, the city population of Russia produced but forty-one per cent of the total produced by it in 1913.

How abnormal the situation is, particularly in the heavy industry, is further evidenced by the fact that it is afflicted with never-ending disputes concerning prompt payment of wages. The "Trud" in an editorial of October 12, under the heading "It Cannot Continue in This Manner," writes, for instance: "The difficulties attending regular wage payments in the steel industry are not decreasing but grow more acute from month to month."

The newspaper states that one trust had had to wait with paying wages a whole month. In other words, the steel workers employed by that trust received their pay for the first week in August seven weeks later. Another trust was three and a half weeks late. During September some enterprises were able to give some advance payment to the workers, but during October not a cent

could be had by any of them for that purpose. "The situation," says the paper, "is becoming very strained and places in jeopardy the normal course of industry in one of its basic divisions."

The main cause of this difficulty is explained by the fact that the buyers of metal for the Government do not pay their bills promptly and, secondly, the metal industry does not receive the credits promised it by the State banks. The "Trud" writes further: "As it is becoming necessary to record fighting which takes place every month when the time for wage payments approaches and the financial difficulties affecting the basic metal industry, and since a fitful payment one month does not guarantee the elimination of similar troubles the next month, it is high time, we believe, to raise the question of the accelerated liquidation of the metal debts in all its gravity. We are too poor to afford chronic fighting whenever pay time approaches in this industry, fighting which dislocates the trade and prevents us from squarely facing and solving the urgent problems of labor productivity and of the improvement of production methods."

As many other industries, besides the metal trades, are not in a position to pay wages regularly, they obviously cannot take care of their obligations with regard to social insurance either. Complaints to that effect are heard constantly and the workers' compensation bureaus have not been able, on this account, to meet the needs of the workers in these industries. On the strength of what we stated above, the following facts may be deduced:

1. Russian industry is gradually devouring its capital stock which is not being regularly and efficiently replenished. Old buildings are not being rebuilt; used out machinery is not exchanged for new and the whole progress of industrial technique leaves Russia untouched.

2. As the basic capital in industry is not being renewed or increased, no capital can, of course, be had for the increase of the means of production or the increase of production totals. While in other countries factory technique makes constant progress, in Russia it is steadily going backward.

3. Russian industry cannot rest on its own bottom. A part of it, heavy industry, must be subsidized by the State; another part, light industry, exists only thanks to the abnormally high price of commodities. The entire Russian industry is thus being artificially maintained at the expense of the village, which in turn prevents the peasant from making agricultural progress. Thus, both industry and agriculture remain backward in Russia.

4. The dangerous symptoms of the unhealthy state of Russian industry are reflected in the never-ceasing troubles accompanying the payment of wages which involve, Generalize as they do, the constant effect of its social insurance guarantees.

Russia presents the greatest paradox, no doubt, in the world's history: The Bolsheviki are ardent followers of Karl Marx, whose theory demands the highest degree of economic maturity and of economic development as a condition precedent to the introduction of Socialism. The Bolsheviki do not deny that they have no real political power in Russia; the country was not economically ripe for Socialism. The greater must be their desire to hasten the economic development of Russia and the stronger must be their striving to utilize the entire political apparatus in their hands to make a historic short-cut and in the brief possible time to take up with the other economically developed countries of the world.

How Soviet Russia expects to overcome this great difficulty we shall touch upon in our next article.

Briefer Wars

By GEORGE R. KIRKPATRICK

After all it may be for the best that there are thousands of chemists busy developing more and more deadly gases in preparation for the next (and inevitable) war. You see, it's this way, perhaps? The sooner the soldiers are butchered, millions and millions of them; that is, the sooner the diplomats "honor is satisfied," the sooner a war must come to a close. Germany quit because she was exhausted—bled too much. France was all eagerness to call it off—she was frightfully weakened—bled too much. England was conceding her hideous wounds as best she could, frantic to quit—bled too much.

Well, suppose the means of destruction had been so developed by 1914 that ten or fifteen—or twenty—million men would have been killed in the first six months of the war. In this swift and perfectly simple manner each nation's honor would have been

satisfied,—there being no more wage-slave blood to spare. The war would have stopped with a jolt of suddenness, treaties would have been signed, and the world could have gone straight back to business again. Don't you see how much time would have been saved—over three and a half years? In this saved time a hundred billion dollars' worth of wealth could have been produced by the armies returned home; three hundred and fifty billions less wealth would have been wasted.

Well, really, this is worth serious consideration by our leading business men whose one thought is "money saved," and by our Y. M. C. A. secretaries and preachers who prayed lustily to the Almighty for a "swift victory for our arms, our dear boys, our flag." And the efficiency-economy experts should be turned on this problem of briefer wars. Per-

haps, too, a stack of human corpses, piled mountain high suddenly before the bulging eyes of the gullied people, would attract their attention to the statesmen and capitalists who promote and manipulate the war. But if we can bury the boys almost as fast as they are killed, the war is likely to last longer. Really, after all, we may yet decide, guided by economy experts and efficiency gentlemen—may decide to turn on the gas, butcher 'em quickly, and get to work.

Hurrah for the chemists devoted to death in league with hell, in the pay of the pluries, in the name of the flag, inspired by visions of millions slain with efficiency swiftness—all for the sake of the Lord. Let mankind bow low reverence for the statesmen who make no plans for a federated world, promote no propaganda for sincere international fellowship, but devote billions of dollars in preparation for war deep in the sea, war over the rolling waves, war all over the land, and war miles high in the sky. Let us be unconcerned. Death is now a science and an art. Capitalism swiftly ripens and rots—for its swift, brief and terrible collapse. A—

The Child Labor Amendment

By MARY VAN KLEECK

From an Address Delivered on October 29, at the Civic Club, Utica, N. Y.

"We cannot discuss the more fundamental aspects of this proposed amendment until we have clearly in mind exactly what its provisions are. The exact wording of the amendment is as follows:

Section 1. The Congress shall have power to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under eighteen years of age.

Section 2. The power of the several States is unimpaired by this article except that the operation of the State laws shall be suspended to the extent necessary to give effect to legislation enacted by the Congress.

"To make this amendment part of the Constitution ratification by thirteen or more States will be necessary. After its adoption Congress will be free to pass a law which will, undoubtedly, follow the main provisions of its predecessors. Let me remind you that we have had two Federal child labor laws. The first, passed in 1916, was based on the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce and prohibited the shipment in interstate commerce of products of any 'mill, cannery, workshop, factory, or manufacturing establishment' in which children under fourteen were employed or in which those between fourteen and sixteen worked longer than eight hours a day and forty-eight hours a week. It also prohibited shipment between States of the products of any mine or quarry in which children under sixteen were employed. This was declared unconstitutional in 1918 on the ground that it was an unwarranted use of the commerce clause.

"The second child labor law was based on the power of the Federal Government to tax. It provided for a tax of ten per cent on net profits of any 'mill, cannery, workshop, factory, or manufacturing establishment' in which children under fourteen were employed or in which those between the ages of fourteen to sixteen worked more than eight hours a day and forty-eight hours a week. A similar tax was imposed upon any mine or quarry employing children under sixteen. This law was declared unconstitutional in 1922 on the ground that it was an unwarranted use of the taxing power of the Federal Government.

"Thus, both of these laws were designed to extend throughout the country those restrictions on child labor which are in effect in New York State. The new law presumably will contain precisely the same provisions, but it will do so as the result of a direct grant of power to Congress.

Objections: Agriculture

"The provisions of the first two Federal laws are the best answer to the two objections most frequently pressed by opponents of the proposed amendment. These two objections are first, that the amendment does not expressly exclude agriculture, and, second, that it has an age limit as high as eighteen years.

"In answering either of these objections, the first point to be made clear is that the proposed amendment is not a proposed law, but will merely give Congress the power to pass a law. A grant of power should be in general terms. The scope of the law, including the occupations to be covered by it, has wisely been regarded as a question to be answered in the law itself and not in the Constitution. This law will pass through the usual process of legislative enactment in Congress. It will register public opinion as the congressmen interpret it. Those who are lacking the amendment have clearly stated that they are aiming to secure legislative pro-

tection for children similar to that existing in a number of the largest industrial States, and similar to the preceding Federal laws. Agriculture has not been included in any of these measures. Who is likely to urge its inclusion in a new Federal law, if it is not the friends of the Child Labor Amendment? They are clearly on record on this point. Will it be the National Association of Manufacturers or the farmers? The objection is one which falls to the ground in the light of any sensible prophecy regarding the immediate future.

Eighteen Year Limit

"As to the age limit of eighteen years, it should, again, be borne in mind that the Federal Government has only such power as is granted to it by the States. The States have clearly the right, which has been unchallenged in the courts, to pass legislation to protect minors up to the age of twenty-one years. Many child labor laws now prohibit the employment of minors between sixteen and eighteen years in extra hazardous occupations and prevent their employment for injuriously long hours. The framers of the amendment, believing that Congress should have the power to extend these standards, decided to limit the power of Congress to legislation affecting children under the age of eighteen. No one familiar with the facts believes that Congress would enact a law prohibiting the employment of children in any factory under the age of eighteen; nor does any one believe that Congress would prohibit the work of children 'in gardens.'

Political Theory

"Let me, first of all, speak of the political theory back of it. As everybody knows, the Federal Government has only such power as has been granted to it by the States, either in the original Constitution, which the States adopted, or in amendments to the Constitution. . . . It was the fundamental intention of the founders of the Republic to establish a great experiment in political democracy. It was never their intention to bind the power of the people in their political democracy as to prevent their insuring freedom and happiness to the population. If freedom, health, and happiness are menaced by industrial developments beyond the wildest dreams of the founders, it would be in accord with their spirit to find the means in our democratic system to make the democracy at which they aimed a working instrument.

"To have stretched a clause like the commerce clause to cover child labor would, however, be a departure from the essential meaning of that clause, which might lead to loose and vague interpretations and to applications which would not be foreseen. I think it fortunate that the first two child labor laws were declared unconstitutional. I think it preferable that the right of the States to grant a new power to the Federal Government should be exercised in the regular process of amendment of the Constitution. In the one case, we would be moving blindly. In the other, we know what we are doing and why. It is important in understanding what we are doing in 'the Child Labor Amendment' to point out that this is not regulation of industry but protection of childhood. . . .

Administration

"For those opponents of the measure who base their opposition upon objections to centralization of the machinery of government in Washington, I have great respect. My personal conviction is with them on the general theory of the importance of

The Vampire II

By BERT LEACH
(Apologies to Kipling)

A fool there was, and he cast his vote
(Even as you and I)
For ragged pants and a tattered coat,
And some grub on which he didn't note,
He voted for G. O. P., you'll note,
(Even as you and I)

Oh, the work we do for the favored few,
And the miserable wage we get!
We crack the nuts, they take the meat;
They hand us chaff, they take the wheat,
And to make our bondage more complete
We Vote for this system yet.

A fool there was, and he gods had none;
(Even as you and I)
He worked all day, from sun to sun,
He got no cash, so he worked for fun;
And he voted just as his dad had done
(Even as you and I)

Oh, he worked like fun, from sun to sun,
And he plotted and schemed and planned,
But he simply couldn't make ends meet,
If his head kept warm, then he fruse his feet,
And his kids hadn't half enough to eat,
But he couldn't understand.

The fool was stripped to his foolish hide;
(Even as you and I)
They couldn't use that, though they may have tried,
So the poor old fool was kicked aside.
(Even as you and I)

It isn't the shame, and it isn't the blame,
That stings like a white hot brand;
It's the cursed foolishness of a day,
Who'll work ten hours for two hours' pay,
And then vote for this thing on election day,
And will not understand.

—Labor.

Radical School Notes

On Saturday, December 6, at 5:30 p. m., Mr. John Langdon-Davies, lecturer on psychology and anthropology at Oxford University, will lecture at the Radical School, 7 East 15th street, on the question "The Egyptian Crisis."

At 1:30 p. m., on December 6, Dr. Scott Nearing will discuss "Mexico Inaugurates a President," in his Current Events Class at the Radical School.
On Wednesday, December 10, at 5:30 p. m., Mr. Johan Smertenko will

discuss the vadjá Sex Plays in his Current Dramas Course at the Radical School.

On Thursday, December 11, at 7:00 p. m., Dr. Scott Nearing will discuss "Can a Radical Political Party Be Established in the United States?" in his Current Opinion Course at the Radical School.

On Friday, December 12, at 3:30 p. m., Mr. Herman Koptein will discuss Rubinstein, Grieg, and Tchaikovsky in his course "With the Great Composers," at the Radical School.

local administration. I believe, however, that in meeting the administrative problems of Government which are increasing in importance in the United States, we must proceed by the method of studying actual results rather than through a priori decision on theoretical grounds. Certain subjects which are of importance to the nation as a whole must be dealt with, I believe, through the working out of new methods of political administration which shall avoid the limitations of an exclusively local responsibility on the one hand and, on the other, the cumbersome, self-defeating, machinery of centralized administration in the face of great variations in local conditions.

"In the Child Labor Amendment we have an excellent illustration of this possible middle ground in administration. . . . In the first place, I know of no other measure in the field of labor legislation in which more careful work has been done on problems of enforcement; for instance, in this State the New York Child Labor Committee assigned Miss Jeanie Minor to the Department of Health in New York City to develop day-by-day the best administrative methods for proving the age of children and handling other details connected with the issuance of employment certificates.

Relative State Standards

"The weakness of some State Departments of Labor is an important consideration when child labor laws

are discussed. . . . Through cooperation with the State Commissioner and through giving him some additional assistance, the Federal Government could raise the standards of State administration. The success achieved by the vote of the Association of Governmental Labor Officials, which went engorged in favor of the proposed amendment by a vote on May 22, 1924, and in the resolution declared "the belief that the enactment of Federal child labor legislation will aid the States in the enactment and administration of child labor laws." Further evidence on this point is afforded by the fact that, while the two previous child labor laws were in effect, net-work-gains were made in strengthening child labor legislation in the States.

"On the other hand, since the last child labor law was declared unconstitutional in May, 1922, no State has brought its child labor law up to the Federal standard. Although the legislatures of thirty-two States with standards lower than those of the Federal law met in 1923, only eight of them made any improvements in child labor legislation."

WALDMAN & LIEBERMAN
LAWYERS

302 Broadway - New York
Telephone: Worth 5623-5624

LABOR JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office, 3 West 10th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel.: Chelsea 2148.

MORRIS SIGMAN, President.

S. YANOFFSKY, Editor.

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer. H. A. SCHOOLMAN, Business Manager.

MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year

Vol. VI, No. 49. Friday, December 5, 1924.

Entered as Second Class matter, April 18, 1925, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1103, Act of
October 3, 1917, authorized on January 26, 1919.

EDITORIALS

THE A. F. OF L. CONVENTION

We have not before us all the daily proceedings of the El Paso convention which ended last week. Nevertheless, the brief press reports and summaries which we have read appear sufficient to confirm us in the belief that, while the forty-fourth annual gathering of the Federation has failed to do a great many things we should have liked to see it do, it has, on the other hand, done nothing which would even for a moment make us despair of the progress of our Labor movement in America.

To judge an A. F. of L. convention fairly and squarely, one must always bear in mind that the annual assembly of American Labor is a representative body in the fullest sense of the term; that the several hundred delegates who meet on the convention floor come there not to speak their individual minds and preferences but to express the will and wishes of the three million workers who send them there.

The significance of the American Federation of Labor convention is contained precisely in this distinct characteristic of it. For better or worse, the convention of the American Federation of Labor speaks not merely for the few hundred of its delegates but for the whole Labor movement. These conventions indicate its tendencies and they outline the road upon which it travels. To attempt to remake it overnight by force or some extraneous influence is folly and failure foredoomed. The American Labor movement is capable of making headway but it would be the height of stupidity to endeavor to remake it to anyone's order by the stroke of a pen or the waving of a magic wand.

And once we assimilate this forethought, we are placed in a better position to grasp the ebbs and flows at the Federation's conventions, whether they be to our liking or not, and to make peace with the slow, at times wearying tardiness of its processes of development—to make peace with it and to welcome it.

We had hoped, for instance, that this convention would lay the cornerstone for an independent political Labor party in America and that it would definitely discard the old policy of trading with the old political outfits. The action of the Executive Council at Atlantic City gave hope, at least, that this question would be seriously considered at El Paso.

None of these prophecies have, however, been fulfilled. The Council in its report, declared that its attitude in the last campaign was based entirely on the old non-partisan policy and that it never contemplated taking part in the forming of a third political party of Labor. The convention thereupon endorsed the action of the Council and thereby brought to an end the anticipations of those who had hoped that the El Paso convention would open a new page in the history of American Labor.

This, no doubt, was a distinct disappointment. But most of the delegates who came to El Paso surely knew well in advance the attitude of the unions which sent them there. The Executive Council knew no less—and the same and logical inference from this all is that the organized workers in America are not yet ripe and ready for outspoken and independent political action, for the formation of a Labor party on English lines. True, such a party may be a vital necessity for American workers, but it would seem that, for the time being, these workers appear to think otherwise. And the convention, despite the individual wishes of many of its delegates, could not act but in way that would reflect the state of mind of its constituents.

Nevertheless, as one reads carefully the recommendations of the Executive Council adopted by the convention, one cannot escape the impression that the idea of independent political action has made a deep impression upon the leading minds in the American Federation of Labor. For instance, the report of the Executive Council on this subject recommends the adoption of such "legislation as is needed so that independent political movements may function whenever the need for same may arise."

It seems to us that these few words in the report of the Council leave a wide door for independent political action in our movement. Of particular significance are the last words—"whenever the need for same may arise"—a statement which beyond doubt accepts the theory and principle of independent political activity of Labor leaving its adoption in practice only to time and expediency. Today, the American workers may not see the urgency of such action; a year or two from now their point of view might change and then such activity will become highly desirable. It is, nevertheless, important that such political activity in our Labor movement is no more taboo, no more the forbidden fruit of yesterday.

Even more important is the point in the report of the Executive Council which states that "there are other progressively minded groups composed of persons who cannot by reason of their occupation or station in life be affiliated directly to the trade union movement, but who are nevertheless sympathetic and responsive to the needs of the American wage earners and to our non-partisan political campaign policy. To embrace these helpful influences in Labor's political struggle it is recommended to devise a plan and procedure that will accomplish that end." We cannot think of any other interpretation of this phrase than that it plans the formation of a Labor party in opposition to the two existing old parties.

For if it meant anything else, what interest, indeed, might the American Federation of Labor have in inward-looking groups consisting of persons other than trade-unionists? What can the American Federation of Labor do for these groups and what can these groups do for it except to give expression to their progressivism within a new political alignment contemplated by the American Federation of Labor.

There is an indication of real progress in this passage, and while it is true that, as yet, it may sound like lip service to the principle of workers' independent action in politics only, the very fact that the American Federation of Labor is openly discussing and seeking a way for collaboration with "other progressively-minded groups" in its own political campaigns is a sign of a great awakening. Who knows but what such "progressively-minded groups" might eventually contribute to the horizon of political activity in the American Federation of Labor!

SAMUEL GOMPERS AGAIN HEADS THE A. F. OF L.

The news that the old chief of the American Labor movement has been re-elected to lead the American Federation of Labor has given us true delight. We are sincerely glad that we have misinterpreted the few passages in his opening speech which, to us, sounded like farewell words, like a will dedicated to his successor. Not that, for a moment, we believed that the American Labor movement is not strong enough to weather even such a loss—but the thought that Samuel Gompers has reached the end of his road and is forced to sentence himself to retirement has annoyed and depressed us. We cannot somehow conceive Gompers alive and outside of the workers' movement!

Samuel Gompers, however, fooled us; he does not intend yet to withdraw from his life work; he remains at his post without even a sign of any opposition in view. We hope that he may keep on fooling us for many more years to come. For, the truth is—Samuel Gompers is still wonderfully hungry for activity, for fight and combat. In this respect he is the youngest among us, and the American Labor movement may feel proud and happy that it has at its helm such a wonderful old man as Samuel Gompers.

We have not received yet the stenographic report of the speech delivered by President Morris Sigman of our International as he presented to Samuel Gompers, in the name of the I. L. G. W. U., a marble bust of the grand old chief of American Labor. From the few words in the dispatches in the general press, we infer that President Sigman had touched in his talk upon the many events in the life of the I. L. G. W. U. in which Gompers had taken a prominent part.

Gompers, indeed, occupies a prominent place in the history of the growth of our organization. There has not been a critical moment in the life of our Union in which he took no part and gave no aid. He fully deserves the gratitude expressed by our International through this gift. And we should like to hope that our own deep recognition of his great worth and value to the Labor movement, as well as the profound enthusiasm evinced by the entire convention on that occasion, have contributed to his decision not to retire from the leadership of the Federation, if he ever did contemplate any such thing.

ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Elsewhere in this issue the reader will find an appeal by President Sigman and Secretary Baroff to our New York members to aid the District Council in its present drive to organize the unorganized workers in the miscellaneous trades in this city.

It is an appeal that should find a ready response among our masses. The fact that in New York City, side by side with the fully organized cloak trade, there have for years existed hundreds of unorganized miscellaneous garment trades' shops employing literally tens of thousands of workers under degrading conditions, is an anomalous condition and a shame upon ourselves and our organizations. Moreover, our organized workers frequently work on the same floors and in the same buildings with these unorganized men and women, and it would seem as if it has never entered their mind to inquire why these workers have been left out of our great family and why they would not share with us the benefits of the trade union movement?

This appeal should find a warm response among our workers even on the ground of self-interest and the preservation of their own gains and acquisitions. These trades employing fifty thousand workers are not so far removed from the cloak and dress trades as they would seem. They are in the same situation as the organized cloak and dress makers. Their long hours, miserable wages and the abject subservience in the shop is bound to have a deteriorating influence upon the working conditions of the ladies' garment workers in New York in general—unless our organized workers wake up to their responsibility in this situation and help, by every form of cooperation possible, in this great drive to organize the masses of unorganized workers

Address by Pres. Sigman in Presenting Bust of Samuel Gompers to A. F. of L. Convention

Reply by President Gompers

Delegate Sigman: I rise to ask the privilege of the floor of this convention to address it on a special matter. I ask you to bear with me just a few minutes and give me the opportunity to share with you some of the joy and happiness of my organization, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. While we are gathered here in this convention, my organization, which is a part of the great American Labor movement, is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. I am sure that a great many of the delegates here know something about the organization I represent, but it seems to me there is much more connected with the efforts of the Ladies' Garment Workers that the delegates here may not be acquainted with.

I am sure that a great many of the delegates coming from New York, Cleveland or Chicago will remember the pioneering work of the ladies' garment industry of about twenty-five or thirty years ago, when it was recognized as the sweatshop industry. The ladies' garment industry is older than twenty-five years. It was always one of the most prosperous industries, but not for those who were working to produce these fine, artistic garments for the women of our country. It has been a good and prosperous industry for the employers engaged in it. The workers in the industry had been working unlimited hours for the smallest wages one might imagine, and under circumstances which had caused them to contract occupational diseases in large proportions, compared to other industries.

About forty years ago, individuals engaged in our industry, undertook the pioneering work of organizing these men and women, but the task was very difficult—difficult because of the fact that in this industry of ours we had to educate the workers in many languages. We had the Jewish worker, we had the Italian worker, with his temperamental attitude, we had some Polish workers, and we had some who came from Ireland; they occupied the more aristocratic positions in the industry; they were the cutters and the graders.

The work was undertaken, as I said before, by a few pioneers, and from time to time spontaneous outbreaks and spasmodic strikes were called in the various existing markets, but with no result as far as establishing a permanent organization in the industry was concerned.

Twenty-five years ago some of the pioneers in this industry decided to ask the American Federation of Labor to issue them a charter for an international union, and the efforts were again made at that time, always applying for the aid and assistance of the organized Labor movement of the country. The struggle was hard, the task was difficult. For years and years attempts were made and some organization developed, but it did not last very long. As late as 1905 or 1906, I am told, after the very many efforts, the ten officials of my international union were obliged or compelled to appear before the President of the American Federation of Labor

and the Executive Council and inform them that they were exhausted, that they had lost courage, that they had lost faith in the possibility of ever organizing the ladies' garment workers.

It was then that the American Federation of Labor, through its officers, undertook to not only supply the necessary courage and imbue our officials with the desired spirit to continue in their organizing efforts, but also to supply the financial needs to pay rentals and other expenses. With that aid, financial, moral and spiritual the work was undertaken again, and when we reached the year 1908, the year in which I became a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, we again reached the stage where most of our leaders and some who had taken a very prominent part in the life of the struggling international felt that the time had come when we had to give it up.

Again, I remember, Brother Abe Rosenberg and John B. Dyche, president and secretary of the International Union, immediately communicated with President Gompers, and when they returned from Washington we saw the two high officials of our International Union in a new mood.

They reached a decision—and I think the necessary confidence in ourselves—we communicated with a good many who had been active in former years in our International Union, and when we presented to them the thought that we wanted to call upon the fifty or sixty thousand cloak makers in the City of New York to cease work and once more make a fight for humane conditions in the industry, some of them went so far as to tell us that if we dared take such a position they, on their own initiative, would go out and advise the cloak workers of New York not to respond to a general strike call, because in their judgment they felt we were going to bring more sacrifice and more misery upon these already exploited workers.

Again our General Executive Board instructed its officers to communicate with the chief of the American Labor movement, and again they were advised never to give up, but to keep on fighting, that the day must come when the oppressed workers in the ladies' garment industry would arise against these miserable sweatshop conditions under which they had been working.

In 1910 a great event took place. The cloak makers were called to a mass meeting in Madison Square Garden. To that meeting we invited all our friends whom we thought would give us a word of encouragement. To that meeting they invited President Gompers. It was a wonderful scene when we saw the cloak makers, faces pale from work, with their coats off

and their sleeves rolled up, soiled with the cloths they had handled while producing clothing for the women of our country.

When the time came President Gompers had his say. I as an ordinary worker, active in the campaign, felt that the inspiration given to the workers by the address delivered by President Gompers, was sufficient to cause the ladies' garment workers to again take up the battle. Most of you probably know that our international union with about two or three thousand members conducted a strike of 60,000 men and women for twelve long weeks with the result that we obtained many improvements for the workers in the industry, and a ray of hope and sunshine at last started to come into the ranks of the garment workers.

During the strike we accomplished a protocol of peace which was discussed throughout the world of Labor, as well as the community in general, and from that day we began working under American standards, living under American standards and thinking in an American way. From that day our organization has continued to make progress.

You have probably learned of our effort to renounce our unexpired agreements in the City of New York, and in this respect we have accomplished something new in our industry. We had a commission selected by Governor Al Smith for the purpose of bringing peace and harmony in the great City of New York. We have accomplished and in operation an unemployment insurance system to which the employers are contributing two per cent of their total payroll and the workers are contributing one per cent of their earned pay. This will bring in about \$1,600,000 per year to be divided among such cloak workers and garment workers as may be unemployed.

Another recent accomplishment is the adoption of a sanitary label that each garment manufactured under the present contract in the City of New York must bear. That label signifies that the garment bearing it has been produced in a sanitary shop and under union conditions. That label represents three different parties—the union, on the one hand, the employers on the other, and the public. The public is represented by Dr. Schiefelin, Dr. Henry Moskowitz and Lillian Wald. Under the supervision of these three factors, the public, the employers and the union, this label of sanitary union conditions must be on every garment, and it has been made obligatory on the part of the employers' associations as well as on the part of individuals.

You will therefore realize, delegates, when you consider that we are comparatively youngsters in the movement, many of my colleagues here having come into the organization after I became a member; that we certainly feel proud of the fact that the garment workers have succeeded in establishing such a wonderful or-

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

By H. SCHOOLMAN

This Week Twelve Years Ago

Two workers employed in the shop of the Montreal-Delton Costume Co. because ill as a result of the miserable sanitary conditions prevailing in the place. In consequence, the rest of the shop struck, and at the same time that the dictatorship of the foreman and of the designer in the shop be checked before they would return to work.

Local 1, cloak operators, adopt a resolution signed by Kotler, secretary and Sterling, chairman, endorsing the policy of the weekly paper of the Joint Board, the "New Post," and commending it upon the international work in relation to the information it supplies to the workers on trade and union matters.

The "New Post" comes out editorially for unemployment benefit as a very urgent and absolutely necessary means of relieving the workers during slack periods. It suggests that the Union undertake a study of the problem with a view to practical steps in this direction.

organization as we have. We felt that we would not have completed the performance of our duties as men and women of our organized Labor if we did not come before this convention and express our joy, and at the same time express our thanks to all those who have been helpful in building up our organization in the face of these most difficult and particularly trying conditions. We felt it our duty to express our appreciation to the Grand Old Chief of the American Labor movement, Brother Samuel Gompers, because it was due very much to the courage with which he imbued our leaders that we have been able to build up this wonderful organization of ours.

(At this point in Delgado Sigman's address, two of his co-delegates, Louis E. Langer and Louis Pinkasoff, unveiled a beautiful bust of President Gompers, done in Italian marble. The delegates and visitors arose and applauded for several minutes.)

Delegate Sigman: We could not find a better way of expressing our deep and sincere appreciation to President Gompers than by presenting you, delegate, to see here before this convention the bust of Samuel Gompers to see himself in the way we see him. This bust represents, in the judgment of the members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union one of the greatest men that the Labor movement has ever known, and it is because of this feeling that we have towards President Gompers that we came to the conclusion to avail ourselves of the genius of one of our best artists—artist recognized as the best artist in the sculptural world, Moses Dykaar, to build up this bust of President Gompers, with his fine features in his face, but with a broad human heart of sympathy for all those who suffer in the Labor world and in the community in general.

President Gompers, with this gift here my organization extends to you the wish, from the depths of his heart, for further work, for further activities for many years to come for this great cause of organized Labor in the United States and the world over.

President Gompers Replies

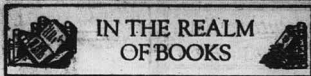
President Gompers: It is difficult for me to express that which wells up in my soul. How can words convey what you know one must feel under such circumstances as this? Earlier in the convention a great tribute was paid me. I was then unable to say anything with respect to it. I am not in a much better condition to express myself now.

Brother Sigman came to me this morning with Brother Langer, one of his associates, and said that he would like to say something to the convention, the nature of which he did not care to disclose to me, but wanted to have that privilege because he had no proposition to make; he simply wanted to say something in regard to

(Continued on page 8)

in the children's dress, white goods, embroidery, button and novelty trades.

The call of President Sigman and Secretary Baroff, we are confident, will not remain a voice in the wilderness. Our New York members should put their shoulders to the common wheel and, in a mighty effort, help roll on the great campaign of the District Council, which bids well to be a pronounced success if it only receives the full-hearted cooperation of all the International members in the Greater City.



IN THE REALM OF BOOKS

An American Institution

Florenz Ziegfeld Presents at the New Amsterdam Theatre the Nineteenth Annual Production of the Ziegfeld Folies—Glorifying the American Girl. Staged by Julian Mitchell. Dialogues by William Anthony McGuire and Will Rogers. Lyrics by Gene Buck and Joseph J. McCarthy. Music by Victor Herbert, Raymond Hubbard, Dave Stampfer and Harry Tierney. Tableaux Devised and Staged by Ben All Haggin. Orchestra Under Direction of Victor Baravalle.

By SYLVIA KOPALD

I might begin by urging you to go at once to the New Amsterdam. But after all a dollar is one hundred cents and workers have many uses for their pennies. Our needle workers are a more or less serious lot, moreover, whose interests lean toward talk and books and study. What have they to do with the Ziegfeld Folies? "What Price Glory," of course, and the Theatre Guild, and the Provincetown, and the Yiddish Art Theatre, or the concert hall and opera gallery. But the Folies! Join the throng of tired business men and the main streets and the regular fellows who kindly to the pink flesh of the Folies—"Glorifying the American Girl." No, one who urges such a course upon our workers must carefully explain reasons.

Undoubtedly there are reasons. Perhaps the most persuasive lies in the place of the "Folies" in our national life. Mr. Ziegfeld's "annual edition" of girl and whirl and color have become one of our foremost American institutions. No visit from out-of-town to New York—that is, no "regular visit"—is complete without a journey to the Folies. The out-of-towner may wish to see the City Hall

and Wall Street and the subway—but the "Folies" lie first in his schedule. And little wonder. In the Folies is, after all, the epitome of New York's famed "night life." Ziegfeld has even run a midnight Folies, and who, watching the array of girls with their stereotyped front-row smiles can fail to recall that last movie he saw—perhaps "Broadway Rose." Yes, bouquets of Broadway Roses rise before him and sheer silks shimmer in colored spot-lights and synchopantantalizes his sedentary blood to sweet uneasiness. And the "bald-headed" rows are there too, just as one expected them—marry, in evening-clothes and accustomed smiles. The rated "front row orchestra" only smiles; the gallery contributes the gruffaws.

Of course, the "Folies" have a certain beauty of their own. The huge announcement of directors and contributors that heads the "Folies" program shows how truly the regular edition are cooperative efforts. Victor Herbert's music dots ponds a sweet sentimentalism that is always pleasing, and the commemorative numbers which were offered to his memory made one realize what a

friend light opera had lost in him. There is a splendor in gorgeous silks and lovely youth and warm colors and stirring grave and mass and ecstatic arrangements which leads the "Folies" a real beauty, at more than rare moments. And there is wit, too, in the "Folies," and shrewd caricature and pointed cleverness. Will Rogers hits the absurdities of our national politics with a rapier-like humor and our American life of the apartments and back-stage and small town is broadly satirized. Certainly, the Folies has its tragedies.

Finally this American institution combines within itself so many of our favorite institutionalized sports. Indoor and outdoor. Politics, first, and then jazz and girls and "strong men," and clog dancing and mechanical tricks (the illusion of the shadowgraph was really effective), and bootlegging and always extravagance. No subtleties here—for everything must be done on the grand scale. And, then, think of all the national figures one visit to the "Folies" will enable you to see. Will Rogers and Ann Pennington and the Tiller girls and the Ziegfeld chorus and such lesser big lights as Evelyn Laye and Dorothy Lewis and Lena Lamary and Misty and Yvonne, and so on. You see, one dollar is only one hundred pennies and there are reasons for visiting the "Folies."

And now that so much has been said let me prepare you. Make all the allowances you will, go anxious to watch only an American institution, grant all the beauty and wit there is—and you will still be disappointed and dismayed—and a little disgusted. Can this be America? It is not, but go hasten to say, that so much about nakedness stalks the boards. No, there is only beauty in a lovely human body and in rounded youth; the ugliness lies in the fleshly sensuality that leers at it. And there is enough of such ugliness at the "Folies"—not only in the well-groomed front-row but also in the ordinary American boys back gallery who approach high-pitched hysteria as they urge "baby to come on." So you will find disgust in the audience whose twisted appetites make the human beauty that

the Greeks made eternal art, a hectic "show."

And you will find dismay in the thought of the forces that bring normal appetites on. What is there in our industrial civilization that leads men to seek their recreation in that? It is hot and tawdry at the New Amsterdam. Humanity is a dwarfed unstar crowd where the night lights dim the stars. It is all so forced, so stale. Why do men seek this when country is only twenty minutes away, and when books or friends or simple sports are possible alternatives. There is nothing to do or simple in the "show." The Phantom ships and shadowgraphs and oriental slave markets and a beauty contest that reaches down the ages to Eve and is won, of course, by the modern American girl. Jazz and fake emotions and feeble burlesques and circus antics. Only when Will Rogers appears does reality peak timely through the "Folies." Why do people flock to see the nineteenth (think of the eighteenth like it behind) edition of this? Yes, one turns from the "Folies" to our industrial civilization in dismay. Men are made, not born, like this.

Finally, the institution itself will disappoint you. The "Folies" wears its coat so proudly. Every number is designed obviously to reach the highest possible expense account. And high class vaudeville emerges. If the Theatre Guild had such funds at its disposal it, too, might fail sometimes, but always gloriously. And the principals are disappointing. Ann Pennington may have unusually twinkling knees, but to me she seemed an unattractive, ordinary little jigger. And (perhaps it isn't abroad in Gaiety) even Will Rogers left me a little cold. He made me ungracious twice and amused me almost all the time. But if wit is an expression of the subconscience, Will Rogers' gook back to Roosevelt and mine goes forward to—well anyway forward. So you see, his wit is bound to leave us, no—percenters a little dissatisfied.

Yes, go to the "Folies." See this American institution—just once. It will make you more determined to help build the new ones.

President Sigman Presents Gompers Bust To A. F. of L.

(Continued from page 7)

his international union which would interest the delegates and the Labor movement generally.

This American Federation of Labor of ours is, I believe, the freest forum of any legislative or organized body of which I have any knowledge; but, recognizing the intense desire of the convention to proceed with our business, I hesitated for a moment, but said that at some appropriate time during the afternoon I would recognize Brother Sigman for the purpose he indicated.

You have heard what he has said. Somehow or other, opportunities have been given to me which have been given to few men of my time. Whatever I am, whatever I have tried to do, I owe to you, my fellow trade unionists. I owe to the great rank and file of our movement, the men and women who are yearning for a better life and who, many of them, did not know how to accomplish it. They believed in one thing insofar as I was concerned—if I could not help them, by all that is holy I would not hurt them. There wasn't anything in life that I valued so much as that I might be of some service to my fellows. Station in life, in public affairs, or private advantage, had no allurements. Nothing in the whole world so glorified the soul as service to our fellows.

These men and women to whom Brother Sigman referred and whom he so ably and faithfully represents were struggling and yearning and

hoping—demoralized, impoverished and scarcely even hoping. They knew me, and believed in me and trusted me. I gave whatever help I could, and upon occasions when they were in a quandary as to what to do they came to me and asked my counsel, and I gave it. I gave my support to the full extent of whatever ability I possessed.

I remember that tremendous mass gathering in Madison Square Garden, and no one can understand their situation unless they had seen the gaunt figures and pinched faces and sunken eyes of the lattered men and women in that assemblage. Thousands were unable to gain admission to that great hall, and it was really left for me to give the battle cry or to advise the men and women to go back into their bondage.

The utterance that I then gave that night was in a sentence: "This is not to be a general strike, it is to be an industrial revolution, and it is better to die in a struggle for freedom than to end a mass gathering in slavery."

I don't know, I didn't know at the time, but it was evident that at least one time in my life my audience was electrified, and transformed into action, with the result that has been only too indefinitely described by Brother Sigman.

The incident which has just transpired is momentous and some lesson to us. It is quite true that our American Labor movement has not ventured upon some courses—which the

uninitiated and uninformed and inexperienced do not know. I would rather that the American Labor movement put a dollar in the pay envelope at the end of the week and cut down an hour a day of the burdensome toll than to cast votes once in every four years. I don't underestimate the value of the importance of that duty and that function, but, after all, the great aim of Labor is progress economically more than politically.

There are some people who imagine that poverty and misery will drive men to revolution and the attainment of right. Hungry stomachs may create a riot, but never a successful revolution. People become accustomed to hunger and misery. The path of liberty is always enlightening and a spur to still greater progress.

I do wish that the students of the Labor movement—and I mean you and me, also—would take the time to know and learn what the Ladies' Garment Workers' International Union has done. It is a revelation to those who have not yet known. When the Ladies' Garment Workers' International Union completed their new home they informed me, through their officers, that they had a few niches in their great assembly hall in which they desired to place pictures or busts of some of the men who had given service in the Labor move-

ment, and asked me whether I would not pose for a great sculptural artist for a bust of myself to occupy one of those niches. I consented. I never dreamed—my credulity was imposed upon me—I never thought that the bust, when completed, was really intended as presented by Brother Sigman.

I don't know what to say in expression of my appreciation. No word can convey to you what I feel in regard to this fellowship which you have instituted. What can I say other than that I am profoundly grateful! I would like you to understand what I would like to say. Let me sum it up, then, just in this: I know of no other man who has shown me my appreciation and gratitude than by giving you and the cause of Labor and all of that for which our movement stands, the best service that I can without sparing myself, no matter what the cost of the result.

I want to live for one thing alone—to leave a better Labor movement in America and in the world, if I can, than I found in it when I entered as a boy on the field of the industrial and humane struggle for right.

BUY
WHITE LILY TEA
COLUMBIA TEA
ZWETOCHNI CHAI
Exclusively



DOMESTIC ITEMS

Girls' Petty Wages Are Used to Pay Rent

Working girls in New York City whose wages average from fifteen to eighteen dollars a week must pay at least eight dollars a week to secure a decent room, according to the annual conference of the association to promote proper housing for girls.

The association makes no comment on girls forced to labor for fifteen dollars a week.

"The majority of these girls are earning between fifteen and eighteen dollars a week and can only afford to pay four or five dollars for a room a week," said an official of the association. "Food and clothing and doctors' bills must come out of this, and nothing is left for recreation. Even five dollars a week is too much for the girl earning only fifteen dollars to pay for room rent. And the rooms at this price are fast disappearing; eight dollars is the lowest well-recommended room that is offered, and even that often opens up a court. Of course, cheap rooms actually exist, but they do not meet the minimum requirements of cleanliness, heat, ventilation, etc."

According to the housing association there are 25,363 self-supporting girls between the ages of fifteen and twenty-six in this city who have no permanent homes. Only twenty-seven per cent are accommodated in permanent homes.

Meat Cutters Advance

Membership of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, of Dallas, Texas, increased more than 300 during the last six months, according to Dennis Lane, Secretary-Treasurer of the union. Mr. Lane said that the membership has more than doubled in the last three years. Within recent weeks twenty-four new locals have been established.

State Labor Board Calls Conference

The annual industrial conference of New York State will be held in this city December 2, 3 and 4 under the auspices of the State Department of Labor.

"The broad general theme of the conference will be the maintenance of peace and stability in industry," said Bernard L. Shientag, Industrial Commissioner of the State Department of Labor. "Under this general head it is proposed to consider: The peaceful solution of industrial disputes, what should be labor's participation in the conduct of industry, the effect of the shorter workday in industry, cooperation in accident prevention and the health of the workers in industry."

Speakers of international reputation have been invited to attend, and a general invitation is extended to the public. The conference will be held at the Hotel Roosevelt.

Women's Clubs Favor New Child Labor Ban

After an all-day's debate, the annual convention of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs approved the Federal Child Labor Amendment, and will ask the State Legislature to ratify same.

The opposition was led by a Brooklyn delegate, who pictured the amendment as the opening wedge for a system that would overthrow our institutions. She read a lengthy charge that the effect of the amendment would mean the surrender of the child to a bolshevik state. One delegate pointed out that these statements were made when equal suffrage was urged. Opponents of the child labor amendment were swept aside amid gales of laughter and the resolution was adopted with but few dissenting votes.

Nation's Oil Resources Wasted By Private Greed

"Oil men are plain boobs if they can not set their house in order," said Henry L. Doherty of New York, head of the Cities Service Organization, addressing the National Petroleum Marketers' Association.

The speaker said the oil industry is in a bad way and the public, not knowing enough about it to insist on correction, "will pay for all eternity" the price of the industry's wasted natural resources, its demoralization and its increasing competition.

Quoting figures by the United States geographic survey, Mr. Doherty declared that "we are devastating the oil reserves in the country at a rate which would exhaust them in about twelve years."

LEARN DESIGNING

Earn 50 to 200 Dollars a Week

Take a Course of Instruction in

THE MITCHELL DESIGNING SCHOOL

Of Men's, Women's, Misses' and Children's Wearing Apparel and Ladies' Fur Garments

The Mitchell School of Designing, pattern making, grading, draping and fitting of cloaks, suits, dresses, fur garments and men's garments.

ESTABLISHED OVER 20 YEARS

New Ideas — New Systems — Best Results
A course of instruction in the Mitchell Designing School means an immediate position — Bigger Pay. **READY TO LEARN! REASONABLE TERMS!** Individual instruction. Day and Evening Classes. Write, show books and full information.

DEMONSTRATION FREE AT OUR SCHOOL
Dressing Classes: Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Mitchell Designing School

Phone FLOR 3214

18 West 37th Street New York City



FOREIGN ITEMS

AUSTRIA

The Vienna Chamber of Labor, and its Work

The recent publication of the budget of the Vienna Chamber of Labor gives an interesting glimpse into the excellent work done by the Chamber, at the head of which are the leaders of the Austrian trade unions.

In 1925, the Chamber expects to spend 10,500,000 of kronen; and in fixing this sum, it has taken into account both the enlargement of its sphere of activity, and probable general rise in prices. Most of its expenditures will go to promote culture among the workers. It will allot no less than 350,000,000 to purchases and sales in connection with its library of sociological books; 32,000,000 it will pay for newspaper subscriptions, etc., and 80,000,000 for the publication of its own quarterly magazine on Social Science. 100,000,000 are set aside for statistical research, and 50,000,000 for its collection of social-political legislation. 400,000,000 is earmarked as a first instalment for the education and recreation of the unemployed.

The Chamber has recently devoted more attention than formerly to educational work, especially the training of trade union officials, works councillors, etc., which it considers to be one of its most important duties. In addition to making grants to the six existing people's colleges, it will organize about fifty classes on Social Science, history, natural science, and mechanics. 200,000,000 are also to be allocated to educational classes for trade unions, to which special attention will henceforth be devoted.

Another very promising activity is that of the protection of apprentices and vocational guidance. Although the Chamber will spend 300,000,000 on different grants to education and 540,000,000 on welfare work for young people, it hopes also to be able to contribute 400,000,000 to the Pensions Fund and 200,000,000 to the Educational Fund.

It should be noted that the Vienna Chamber of Labor is a public body, supported by public funds.

MEXICO

Mexico Linking Up With International Labor

Ricardo Trevino, the General Secretary of the Mexican Trades Union Congress, and ex-Minister of Labor of the present Government, has recently visited Amsterdam. Following on the negotiations conducted by Secretary Brown in Mexico last year, Trevino assured the I. F. T. U. that at the Congress of the Mexican Federation of Trade Unions, in November, he will propose affiliation with Amsterdam. Despite the recent troubles, the Mexican Federation of Trade Unions has a membership of approximately 800,000. General P. Calles, the president elect of Mexico, is himself a trade unionist.

Trevino has also been in touch with the British, French, and German Labor movements. At his invitation Cramp, of the British delegation of the British Trades Union Congress, who is attending the Convention of the American Federation of Labor at El Paso, on the Mexican border, will at the same time attend the Congress of the Mexican Federation of Labor, which is to be held at Ciudad Juarez, simultaneously with that of the American Federation of Labor, (Ciudad Juarez and El Paso lie so close together that it will be possible for delegates to attend both congresses). The British leaders have also been invited to attend the Congress of the Pan-American Federation of Labor in Mexico.

ITALY

The Revival of the Italian Trade Union Movement

"Giustizista," the Italian Labor Journal, publishes very cheering news concerning the revival of the Trades Union movement in Italy. "The reconstruction of the trade unions," it writes, "is in full swing; the workers are streaming back into the bona fide trade unions, especially the metal workers, textile workers and building workers. Both in Venice and Savona trades councils have been reestablished. One of the chief factors in this change is the internal disintegration of the Fascist Trade Union movement. The illusion that the Fascist organizations can or will do anything for the workers is now quite at an end."

"Giustizista" calls upon the bona fide trade unions to prove themselves worthy of their returning members. The workers must be brought to realize the necessity for strict discipline; the mistakes of the past must be avoided in the future. "Both the leaders and the rank and file must set to work openly and courageously to correct their former faults. This will be a guarantee for a better future for the whole movement."

JAPAN

Growth of Solidarity Among Japanese Workers

According to the Japanese Journal of Social Reform, a further step forward in the direction of cooperation among Japanese workers has been taken in Japan. At the beginning of August, the manual workers of the Nippon Electric Company of Tokyo struck work in sympathy with the lower grades of salaried employees, who were demanding a thirty per cent increase of wages, and the abolition of the dual system of wages payments, under which, in addition to their regular wages, workers receive certain allowances. This system was introduced during the war when industry was booming and it works very badly for the workers, for it makes them dependent for part of their wages upon the caprice of the employers.

The strikers had not been able to reach a settlement by the middle of September, when the magazine was published. The employers refuse to recognize the General Federation of Labor, to which the union is affiliated, and which tried to negotiate for them. Settlement is further hampered by the fact that the company's Board of Directors is dominated by Americans, who are ignorant of workers' conditions in Japan. Besides the aid of the General Federation of Labor, the strikers also obtained financial support from various other unions in Tokyo. Solidarity is evidently making strides in Japan.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Activities of Our Extension Division for 1924—1925

Our Educational Department has worked out an extensive plan of activities to be arranged in the districts where our members reside.

In carrying out this plan we are trying, as always, to enlist the co-operation of our local unions. As usual, Local 2 promptly responded. In the Educational Committee, under the chairmanship of Brother L. Levy, in cooperation with the Educational Department in the following plan:

The commencement of our Educational Season will be celebrated by musical programs and addresses in the following districts:

1. In the Bronx on Friday evening, December 5, in the auditorium of Public School 61, Charlotte street and Crotona Park East. Mna. Soloff, soprano; Max Jacobs, violinist, will participate.

2. In Harlem on Friday evening, December 12, in Public School 171, 163rd street, between Madison and Fifth avenues.

The following courses and lectures are being arranged for these districts:

In the Bronx, the first lectures of the season will be given by Dr. B.

Hoffman, on Friday evening, December 12, at Local 2 Club Rooms, 1581 Washington avenue, and will be followed by B. C. Vladeck, Dr. Iago Goldstone, Joseph Cohn, Morris Sigman, L. Feinberg, J. Hochman and I. Isokowitz. The same lecturers will also lecture in the Harlem, Brownsville and down-town districts on Friday evenings. The place will be announced later.

Max Levin will start his course on "The Industrial Development of Modern Society," on Sunday, December 7, at 10:30 in the morning, in Local 2 Club Rooms. The courses to be given in the other districts will be announced later.

Dr. B. Hoffman will give a course on "Twenty-five Years Labor Movement in America," in Harlem. This course will be given in the Harlem Socialist Educational Center, 62 E. 106th street, on Sundays at 10:30 a. m. The first lesson will be given on December 21.

Admission to these courses and lectures will be free to the members of the I. L. G. W. U. They are all invited.

Opening of Educational Season in Philadelphia a Success

Last Friday evening, November 28, hundreds of our Philadelphia members assembled in the Young Friends' Auditorium, northwest corner of 15th and Cherry streets, to celebrate the opening of their educational season. For this occasion an especially interesting musical program, performed by Harry Aleinikoff, was arranged. A special feature of the evening's entertainment was a film on the Life of Labor. This was arranged by our Joint Educational Committee in cooperation with the Philadelphia Labor College.

Vice-president Feinberg, as chairman, pointed out the significance of this gathering because not only were there assembled members of our own International Union but also men and women representing locals of various international unions.

Vice-president Amdur told the audience of the effort that our International Union is making to educate its members and of the contribution it has made in the field of workers' education within the trade unions. A. J. Muste told the audience of the aim and purpose of the Brookwood Labor College to serve the Labor movement by "capitalizing" the experiences of the trade unions and transmitting its results to the younger generations in an effort to make them more effective in their daily struggles for a better life and in the attainment of their ultimate aims.

Dr. Leeds who will start his course on Sociology for our members on Friday, December 5, gave an outline of the five topics with which he will deal. Dr. Leeds' description of his course was most interesting and the audience responded to it.

Fannie M. Cohn, Secretary of our Educational Department, briefly told the audience of the aims of the workers' education movement within the trade union. She pointed out that the aim of workers' education is to interest the workers not only in the problems of their own organization but also in the problems of society as a whole. She told them that the Labor movement strives through this new venture, workers' education, to make one of the greatest contributions to our modern industrial society, and that in its effort to make the workers' education movement a success, it has the assistance of men and women of high standing in our "academic" world. She said, "We invite the men and women of our colleges and universities who are in sympathy with the workers' immediate and ultimate aims, and who believe in the new social order, to join us and assist us in developing our own Labor colleges."

The evening was most inspiring. The audience was in a festive mood and there was hope and pride on their faces.

Local 2 Opens Lecture Season

Local 2 will celebrate the opening of our educational season for 1924-1925 with a concert this Friday evening, December 5, at 7:30, in the auditorium of Public School 61, Crotona Park East and Charlotte street, Bronx.

The participants in the program will be the well known soprano singer, Madame E. Soloff, who will sing opera airs and Yiddish and Russian folk songs, and Max Jacobs, the conductor of the Chamber Symphony Orchestra, the well known violinist, and there will be recitations by a promi-

nent actor. No effort has been spared to make the evening an artistic and literary success.

Our members and their families are invited to attend this celebration.

The educational activities in the Club Rooms of Local 2, 1581 Washington avenue, Bronx, will start this Sunday, December 7, at 10:30 a. m., at which time Max Levin will begin his course of six lessons on "The Industrial Development of Modern Society." This will be followed by other courses which will be announced later.

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

Washington Irving High School
Irving Place and 16th St.
Room 530

Saturday, December 6

1:30 p. m. B. J. R. Stolper—Clear Voices in English and American Literature.

2:30 p. m. Paul Brisenenden—Current Trade Union Problems: Collective Bargaining in the Soft Coal Industry.

Sunday, December 7

10:30 a. m. H. A. Overstreet—Psychology of Conflict: Psychology the Cure for War.

11:30 a. m. H. J. Carman—The Industrial Development of Modern Society: The Foundations of the Modern Economic Order.

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' BUILDING
3 West 16th Street

Wednesday, December 10

7:30 p. m. Alexander Fischandler—Psychology and the Labor Movement.

Thursday, December 11

6:30 p. m. Sylvia Kopald—Economics and the Labor Movement.

This course will attempt to show the purpose of modern industry, its organization, and how the business management of modern industry has and is working out.

UNITY CENTERS

Tuesday, December 9

Bronx Unity Center—P. S. 61

Crotona Park East and Charlotte Street

8:45 p. m. Theresa Wolfson—Changing Economic Institutions.

This course will attempt to show the functions of our economic institutions and the changes that have continually affected them.

Wednesday, December 10

East Side Unity Center—P. S. 63

Fourth Street near First Avenue

8:45 p. m. A. L. Wilbert—Social and Economic Forces in American History: Manufacturing.

EXTENSION DIVISION

Friday, December 5

Public School 61, Auditorium—Crotona Park E. and Charlotte Street, Bronx

7:30 p. m.—Concert given by the Cloak Operators' Union, Local 2, to celebrate the reopening of our Education Season. Participants in the program will be Madame E. Soloff, soprano, and Max Jacobs, violinist.

Russian-Polish Branch, Cloak Operators' Union—315 E. 10th Street

7:30 p. m. A. Velligrin—Europe After the War.

Saturday, December 6

Local 9 Building—47 Lexington Avenue

1:00 p. m. Max Levin—Discussion Method.

Sunday, December 7

YIDDISH

Club Rooms, Local 2—1581 Washington Avenue, Bronx

10:30 a. m. Max Levin—Industrial Development of Modern Society.

Friday, December 10

YIDDISH

Club Rooms, Local 2—1581 Washington Avenue, Bronx

7:30 p. m. B. Hoffman—The First Attempt of American Trade Unionism in an Independent Political Struggle.

Friday, December 10

Public School 171, Auditorium—163rd Street, between Madison and Fifth Avenues, Harlem

7:30 p. m.—Concert given by the Cloak Operators' Union, Local 2, to celebrate the reopening of our Educational Season. Participants in the program will be announced later.

OUT-OF-TOWN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

PHILADELPHIA

Friday, December 5

431 Pine Street

7:40 p. m. John B. Leeds—Sociology: Family.

The Friday evening lectures in the Club Rooms of Local 2 will start on December 12, 7:30 p. m. The first lecture will be given by Dr. B. Hoffman, whose topic for the evening will be "The First Attempt of American Trade Unionism in an Independent Political Struggle—Accomplishments of the Labor Government in Europe." The Friday evening lectures which will follow this one will be given by H. Rogoff, B. Vladeck, Dr. Iago Goldstone, Joseph Cohn, Morris Sigman, L. Feinberg, J. Hochman and I. Isokowitz.

The lectures to be given in other parts of the city where our members reside, such as Harlem, downtown and Brownsville, will be announced in next week's issue of Justice.

Dr. B. Hoffman will give a course of five lectures on "Twenty-five Years Labor Movement in America," in Harlem Socialist Educational Center, 62 E. 106th street, on Sundays, at 10:30 in the morning. The first lecture will be given Sunday morning, December 21.

Admission to the courses and lectures is free to the members of the I. L. G. W. U.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

The most important occurrence during this week were the conferences between the Joint Board and the Dress Association for the renewal of the agreement in the dress industry. The agreement now in effect is to expire on December 31.

Conferences Continue

Last Monday, December 1, another conference took place where the question of the method of price settlement, mainly, was discussed. So far, what was taken up concerned the general situation. Such questions as the increase in the minimum and the right of a business agent to visit an Association shop unaccompanied by a clerk were held for the moment in abeyance, while the discussion of general matters was in progress.

As to whether any serious break will occur cannot be said at the present time. Some of the demands put forth by the union, particularly the time mentioned, and the question of unemployment insurance, will no doubt cause a stir.

The question of insurance is an entirely new one for the dress industry. The matter of the investigation by a union representative of a shop is not a new one and is a subject that was previously discussed. How much difficulty there will be in the enforcement of unemployment insurance and the sharing by the employers of the creation of a part of this fund cannot be foretold. In so far as the union is concerned the practicability of the creation of an unemployment insurance fund has been experienced and demonstrated by it.

A similar fund has been effected in the cloak and suit industry under the recommendation of the Governor's Commission, which set a few months ago and held hearings on the renewal of the agreement and the demands of the Joint Board for the cloak makers. On this point the union comes well prepared. It is able to prove the absolute necessity for unemployment insurance by figures and well-founded arguments.

That there is need for such a fund in the dress industry is not doubted by any worker in the dress trade. This trade is in a far greater stage of instability than the cloak industry was ever prior to the installation of the present machinery for the gradual elimination of the smaller shops. The very frequent changes in the styles and the existence of the numerous small shops make for constant unemployment and uncertainty of the length of a season. Hence, the creation of an unemployment insurance fund in the dress trade is highly desirable.

Another Important Demand

The other important demand which was endorsed by the cutters at their last meeting is the right of a business agent to visit shops alone for the purpose of investigating as to whether the conditions of the agreement are being lived up to by the employers.

When manager Dubinsky spoke on the union's demands, he said that the union would strain every effort to secure this demand. In so far as the cutters are concerned this is one of the important points. Of all complaints filed in the course of a year, the number relating to an employer doing his own cutting exceeds all others. When a business agent takes up a complaint of this nature in the office of a firm's establishment and in the presence of the Association's clerk it becomes very difficult to prove the basis of a complaint.

For when the employer is called into the office to testify he at once enters a denial to the effect that he was not doing his own cutting and offers some sort of a lame excuse to

the effect that he expects his cutter in the shop or that he had sent for him. An investigation of the books discloses very little. Most of the books of the contractors are kept in a shoddy manner and invariably there is no semblance of a bookkeeping system.

In its efforts to eliminate so unfair a condition which not only has a detrimental effect on the worker but verges on cut-throat competition with the more legitimate employer, the union finds it of the utmost necessity to be accorded some fair means of investigating a condition of this sort.

Hence, if a business agent were to have the right to make a preliminary investigation of an occasional control of the shop, not encumbered with the red tape accompanying the investigation of formal complaints he could establish his complaint and later, on regular complaints, would have at his disposal a basis for proving his complaint.

Union's Conference Meets

At the time of writing another conference was being planned. However, before a meeting of the union's representatives with members of the Association's conference committee took place, the union's conference committee met for the purpose of discussing the more important points. The results of the conferences had not reached the writer at the time of writing. However, it is doubtful as to whether the next conference will reach a final conclusion. If any important decision is arrived at it will be reported to the cutters at their next meeting on Monday, December 8.

How much opposition there is on the part of the Association against an increase in the minimum is not known. That the union will strongly insist upon such an increase has already been stated by manager Dubinsky at the last membership meeting and was reported in these columns in the last issue.

Need For Increase in Minimum

Because of the very many small shops which go in and out of business frequently it becomes difficult for the union to establish a decent average wage for the cutters. Many times when cutters have succeeded in securing fifty-five dollars per week have seen these very same men being forced to revert back to fifty dollars per week. Only if they were fortunate enough to secure a decent number of weeks' work after the first season do they manage to get an increase.

Constant re-organizations, firms going out of business, and new firms being organized,—all these make the establishment of a reasonable wage difficult. Because of this situation cutters are compelled to seek new jobs almost every other season. When the manager reported to the Executive Board on the progress of the conferences he pointed this out and said that this more than anything else was the reason why the union is pressing for an increase in the minimum.

Trustifying Job Big Evil

This week saw the ushering in of the season in the better line of dresses. The resumption of work in the cloak trade is not as noticeable. The beginning of the season in the better line of dresses does not mean the resumption of work in all lines. The cheaper lines usually begin somewhat later.

With the beginning of work in the more expensive line of dresses the office expects to cause a number of cutters a good deal of unpleasantness. For some time it has been the custom of the cutters of the larger shops either for them or their foremen to hire men, and make these new men promise that they will not

demand equal division of work in the slack season, with the result that at the end of the season wholesale layoffs take place and the men laid off invariably do not ask for a share of work.

In some cases where men in spite of their promise complain to the union, much difficulty is experienced in reinstating them. Manager Dubinsky is determined to put a stop to this. He has issued instructions that no working cards are to be issued to new men for the houses with which the office has experienced this difficulty unless these men are sent by the office. The shops in question are: M. Rentner, Ben Gershal (dress department), Brown Brothers, David Zimet and a few other houses of similar size.

The shops particularly mentioned are those which have carried on the practice mentioned beyond a limit. When the office attempted last season to force the issue and compel some of the men to ask for division of work it could not succeed in this. The men who were laid off and were hired by the firm with the understanding that they are not to divide work refused to file complaints.

For this reason the office is determined to hold to strict account cutters who permit new men to work over one day without a working card. The office also will not permit any cutters of these shops to choose new men. Any man securing a job, upon making good, must not promise not to claim a share of work. This condition is prevailing to such an extent that the office was compelled to take this action.

Election of Officers Near

In practically two weeks from the day this issue reaches the hands of the members they will be called upon to go to Arlington Hall for the election of officers for the ensuing term will take place. To be exact, this will take place on Saturday afternoon, December 20. Balloting will begin at 12 o'clock noon and will close at 5 p. m.

The office looks for a vote of unprecedented proportions. That this is assured, if only for the number of contestants, will be seen from the size of the ballot. However, a still better reason for a large vote is the fact that the great majority of the members are paid up and in good standing. This is largely due to the extension granted the members which permitted them to pay up their dues to the end of the year on November 15 at the thirty-five cent rate.

There are seven offices to be filled, with a total number of twenty officers to be elected, which includes two members of the Miscellaneous Branch on the Executive Board. The total number of candidates is fifty-eight.

Two candidates each have accepted nomination for the office of President, Vice-president, Manager, Business Agent and Inner Guard. There are forty-five candidates for membership on the Executive Board, which include four candidates of the Miscellaneous Division, out of which the members will be called upon to elect

twelve. The Executive Board consists of fifteen members; ten are elected by the membership at large, two are elected by the miscellaneous members, and three are appointed by the president.

Every candidate has to conform with certain constitutional provisions. At the time of writing the list has not entirely been gone through. A partial investigation of the list has so far disclosed that one candidate for the Executive Board will not appear on the ballot due to the fact that he is not a member of the union for two years. A revised list of those eligible to appear on the ballot will be given here in a subsequent issue.

"Covering" Boss Costly

One of the members was recently fined by the Executive Board, having been found guilty on charges of testifying falsely in a complaint by the union against an employer who was doing his own cutting.

The employer in question was confronted by Business Agent Bernstein of the Joint Board with proof to the effect that he had been doing his own cutting. The boss insisted that the cutter had cut out the work. Upon the business agent's learning that the cutter was not paid for the time he demanded and succeeded in securing the pay and said that upon conclusive proof that his cutter had cut out the disputed work the union itself would then turn the money over to the cutter.

Some time later the cutter appeared before the business agent and confessed finally that he was not in the shop and that he had not cut out the work. This is not the first case of its kind, which the office has experienced. However, they do not occur frequently. The purpose of reporting it in these columns is that it should serve as a warning, since the violation is quite a grave one. Members guilty of such offenses are invariably the greater losers in that they encourage their firms in such practices.

Activities in Miscellaneous Branch

Preparations for the organization campaign in the miscellaneous trade continue. Committees are still distributing literature which is the means adopted by the union of preparing the non-union workers for the day on which a strike call will be issued.

The cutters too are considerably active in this work. The office has supervised the distribution of a large amount of literature. Another thing with which the office is now taken up in this division is a few discharge cases which occurred during the last week in underwear shops. The slack season has set in in some shops and the employers in this manner seek to rid themselves of some men.

The members of this division are reminded of the fact that election of officers will take place on Saturday, December 20, in Arlington Hall. They are urged to bear the date in mind and choose from among the four candidates two men to represent them on the Executive Board.

CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

For the term beginning January 1, 1925.

Saturday, December 20, 1924. Polls open from 12 o'clock noon to 6 P. M., in Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place.

Members owing not less than twelve weeks' dues and holding membership in the union for at least six months are eligible to vote.

Notice of Meetings

Regular Meeting Monday, December 8th

At Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place

Meetings Begin Promptly at 7:30 P. M.