

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."  
—Job 27.8

# JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. IX, No. 42

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1938

PRICE 3 CENTS

## Unity House Reunion Dance

Saturday, December 10, the Time—Manhattan Opera House Ballroom, the Place—Paul Whiteman Piccadilly Players, the Musicians

The Unity House Reunion Dance, which will be held Saturday evening, December 10, 1937, in the ballroom of the Manhattan Opera House, at 34th Street and 8th Avenue, is already beginning to attract wide interest in labor circles in New York City.

This affair, like the reunion of last year, was arranged at the request of numerous guests who spend their vacation at Unity House, the thousands of Unity "alumni" who wanted the dance hall and the music to recall the beauty and sociability of Unity House. The committee on arrangements is nobly responding to this demand. No money or effort is being spared to make the Reunion a huge success. The committee only regrets that it was unable to find a beautiful hall large enough to accommodate all the friends of Unity.

Those who wish to be among the lucky ones will have to secure their tickets as soon as possible. Tickets are \$1.00, including wardrobe, and can be obtained at the office of the Educational Department, 2 West 16th Street, Chelsea 2148.

REMEMBER, Saturday, December 10, is the date of the Unity Reunion Dance.

## President Sigman Reports Cleveland Pact Near Adjustment

Time Guarantee Retained—Joint Board After Few Non-Union Shops in Local Market

President Sigman, who returned last Saturday morning from Cleveland where he conferred with the local manufacturers' association on the renewal of the agreement in the Cleveland women's garment trade, announced that the prospects for a peaceful continuation of the contract between the workers and the employers are quite bright.

Together with the conference committee of the Cleveland Joint Board, headed by vice-president Kreidler, business agent Katovsky, and chairman Louis Friend, President Sigman twice met the representatives of the Cleveland Women's Manufacturers' Association, and after several hours of discussion finally reached an understanding on the most important points of the agreement. Work-hours and pay will remain intact in the new contract, and the 40-hour guarantee will also be preserved. There is, however, a probability that this guarantee will be rescinded in the few contractor shops, but that instead all the employers in the industry will contribute one percent of their payrolls to a fund which will be used to compensate the workers employed in these outside shops for any time they might be short of the 40-week schedule.

The Cleveland Joint Board intends to go strongly before the next season starts after the few non-union cloak and dress shops which have until now succeeded in eluding the local organization. Some of these shops are located in the suburbs of Cleveland.

While in Cleveland, President Sig-

## Cloak Jobbers Pledge To Shun Non-Union Shops

Non-Union Contractors Not Entitled to Work for Union Jobbers Conference Agrees—Joint Vigilance Committee Selected

Representatives of the International Joint Board conferred last Thursday afternoon, October 13, with a committee of the Merchants Ladies' Garment Association at the Waldorf Astoria to bring about a greater measure of unionization in the cloak industry.

The Joint Board was represented by its general manager, Julius Hochman, its president, Benjamin Kaplan; Jacob Halperin, manager of the jobbers' department; secretary-treasurer Ben Moser; secretary Fried of Local 2; secretary Vassilevsky of Local 35; David Dubinsky of Local 10; manager Kirtzman of Local 9, and manager Ninfo of Local 48.

The conference was brought about by the revelations made recently by the Union's accountants of a number of flagrant violations by the members of the jobbers' association involving sending work to non-union firms. At a previous conference, as will be recalled, the jobbers' association undertook to live up to this provision of the agreement strictly, but, it would seem, couldn't or wouldn't exercise sufficient

pressure on its members to abide by that decision.

The Union's spokesmen, at last week's conference, pointed out this lack of faith on the part of the jobbers who are violating the agreement. After an open discussion, the conference went on record without dissent against any act of impairing the vital clause of the contract forbidding jobbers to send work to non-union firms. General Manager Hochman presented data supporting the charge made by the Union, and demanded that the members of the jobbers' group should do no less than refuse to give out work to other than bona fide union sub-manufacturers, as tabulated by the union and the association.

Before adjourning, the conference selected a joint committee—from the union and the association—to act as a sort of vigilance committee in the trade to observe that jobbers should not "forget" their obligations. This committee will begin work without delay.

## Strike In Four Cloak Shops A Finish Fight

Twelve Contractors Employed by Klipstein Stopped—Work Terms Must Not be Violated, Is Union's Position

The strikes against the firms of Klipstein, Lipchansky Bros., Zaidenberg, and Preistadt, reported last week, continue in full blast and will not be terminated until these firms decide that they have had enough and are ready to observe union conditions in their shops.

During this week, the Joint Board succeeded in stopping work in all the contractor shops employed by these firms. This fact, it is announced, has had quite a sobering influence upon the struck employers. It has impressed them that contract-breaking after all, not such immune business, even in "slack" time.

A similar attitude of uncompromising resistance to any firm attempting to dodge union conditions will be maintained by the Joint Board. The officers of the Union are planning to watch with special vigilance all shops during the impending "slack" season, when it is expected that some manufacturers or sub-manufacturers would be tempted to take advantage of idle conditions and disrupt union terms in their shops.

## Communist Defense Breaks Down at Sigman Libel Suit Hearings

Now Claim They Didn't Charge President Sigman With Diverting Union's Funds—Union Cannot Be Run As Tail to Political Kite, Head of I. L. C. W. U. Declares

The hearings before Magistrate Brodsky in the Tombs Court on the criminal libel suit instituted by Bro Morris Sigman and Mrs. Sigman

against the two Communist publications, —the Freiheit and the Elnickit —were resumed this Monday, October 17, and lasted until late in the afternoon of the following day, when an adjournment was taken until November 27.

Both days were given over to testimony by President and Mrs. Sigman and to their cross examination by the lawyers for the defendants. It will be recalled that both Communist sheets had accused President Sigman of "selling out to the employers," and that in other statements published by the Communists they said that Mrs. Sigman conducted a "house of ill fame" on her farm place in Storm Lake, Ia. —questioned by his counsel.

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## Dues and Membership Control Will Be Put Through in All Shops

Business Agents Volunteer to Work in Judge Panken's Campaign—Members Will Have to Pay Up Arrears During October

A meeting of all business agents, district and local managers of the New York Joint Board, held last Friday afternoon, October 14, in the Council Room of the I. L. C. W. U. building, discussed for several hours conditions in the shops and the outlook for the immediate future. All of the speakers stated unanimously that, notwithstanding the early arrival of "slack," in itself a very depressing factor, the morale of the members and their confidence in their organization, continues unimpaired.

The speakers, without exception, further stressed the point that the regime of the commissars is all but forgotten in the cloak and dress shops. Uppermost in the minds of the workers is the pressing problem brought up to the surface of the organization by President Sigman, the problem of bringing back the bigger shop in the cloak and dress industry.

Another object which the general

manager of the Joint Board, Bro. Julius Hochman, had in view in summoning the meeting of the officers, was to coordinate a drive for a more general enforcement of dues paying in all shops, a matter which has been

(Continued on page 2)

## Boston Sanitary Control Board Adopts New Safety Regulations

106 Shops in City on Board's Inspection List

The Boston Joint Board of Sanitary Control had its first fall meeting last Monday, October 10, in the Boston Men's City Club. Representatives of the Union, of the employers' groups, and of the public were present. Dr. Parmenter presided when the meeting opened and was later succeeded in the chair by Mrs. Rantoul.

The director of the Joint Board,

Miss Luscomb, reported that during the Summer speakers for the Board had appeared before several college summer schools and women's conferences discussing its work and the "Prosanis" label. The office also did a considerable amount of publicity among social and civic welfare organizations, popularizing the sani-

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## Communist Defense Breaks Down at Sigman Libel Hearing

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former assistant district attorney Samuel Markewich, President Sigman directly charged that Louis Hyman, ousted manager of the New York Joint Board, and several of his Communist associates called out in the summer of 1926 the disastrous cloak strike at the behest of the Communist party and without a referendum vote by the membership as required by the Union's constitution.

"I did everything possible to show these men and women the fallacy of their position," said President Sigman. "I took the floor and advised these ex-officials to submit the question of a strike and the acceptance or rejection of the Governor's Commission to a referendum vote of the members of the Union. I pointed out that a larger measure of democracy had been demanded by the workers at the International's convention in Philadelphia. Notwithstanding this, the Communist controlled delegates decided that a referendum should not be held and that the commission's report should be rejected.

"I decided that the strike would be an illegal act, so far as union proceedings are concerned. I told the delegates of the Joint Board that, as the strike progressed, they would realize that you cannot apply communism to an economic venture and that 30,000 families were involved."

### What a Trade Union Really Is

President Sigman said he called the attention of the delegates of the Joint Board to the communistic thesis which advised the splitting of the labor unions "until the Communists can convert them into weapons for the revolutionary struggle." "A union can't act on instructions sent from Moscow or Germany," he said, "it must have its freedom and act as economic conditions warrant." In reply to another question President Sigman further said that while the Communists rejected arbitration by a commission appointed by Governor Smith on the ground that it was "class collaboration," the Communists did not hesitate in the sixth or seventh week of the strike to call in Arnold Rothstein, and others of his ilk, to settle the strike for them.

President Sigman read into the record excerpts from theses of the Red Trade Union Internationale which called upon Communists in the trade union to slander their leaders if they opposed Communism and, if they could not capture the trade unions, to destroy them. His bank account shows a balance of \$70 or \$80, Bro. Sigman further stated, in reply to the charges that he had diverted "hun-

### MANAGERS AND BUSINESS AGENTS DISCUSS SHOP PROBLEMS

(Continued from Page 1)

neglected by a considerable number of cloakmakers.

The meeting also heard a committee from the Judge Panken Trade Union Campaign Committee, headed by Bro. Sol Metz, who appealed to all business agents and officers to help in the political canvass for the reelection of Justice Panken. Bro. Metz spoke in eloquent terms of Justice Panken's record as a judge, and of his services to the general American labor movement. The business agents voted to enlist in the campaign, as canvassers and watchers, and promised to do all in their power to make Judge Panken's reelection a certainty.

dreds of thousands of dollars from the union's treasury to his own pocket."

Under cross-examination by defense attorneys on Tuesday, it was further brought out that the only "dishonesty" charged against Bro. Sigman was that the union "used unemployment insurance money" at the suspension of the fund in July this year to pay off mortgages on union buildings threatened by foreclosure and to repay employers whose securities had been spent by Communists formerly in office.

In articles published by the two newspapers, however, President Sigman had been charged with diverting "hundreds of thousands of dollars from the union treasury" to his private pocket in the purchase and maintenance of his property at Storm Lake, Ia., in which he has an equity of \$6,000. Pres. Sigman was further charged with running a bootlegging establishment and Mrs. Sigman, who testified on Tuesday afternoon, with "conducting an immoral house on the premises."

### Communist Lawyer Ready to Back Water

Louis B. Boudin, of counsel for the defendants, admitted in open court yesterday that "we do not contend that Mr. Sigman diverted monies from the union for his Western farm." He tried to prove there were irregularities in the uses to which \$380,000 was put by the International early this year, which had reverted to the union after employers failed to contribute their share to the fund and workers had been urged by Communists eliminated from the union not to contribute toward it. Pres. Sigman, however, showed that, after a sum was turned over to unemployed workers, a considerable amount of the fund was used to repay manufacturers threatening to sue the union for securities used up by Communists while in office. The insurance money was loaned to the union for the purpose. When Boudin sought to interpret the action as an "irregularity" justifying the alleged libel against Mr. Sigman, Magistrate Brodsky became impatient and personally objected to the construction placed upon the action. Magistrate Brodsky admonished Boudin, warning him that the term "irregularity" was altogether too vague with which to impeach the integrity of an individual.

Bro. Sigman testified on Tuesday that he left the organization of the Industrial Workers of the World in 1908 for the very same reason that he has steadily opposed Communist activity within the International since it began, namely, because of efforts to make a "labor union the tail to a Communist kite."

Mrs. Sigman testified that her bank account shows a balance of \$98, that no money was made on the Sigman property after the first year of its purchase and that they have been unsuccessful in trying to find a purchaser for their place. When Mr. Boudin sought to connect Mr. Sigman with the management of the farm, saying "I am sure that Mr. Sigman does not want to hide behind Mrs. Sigman's skirts," Magistrate Brodsky became impatient, rapped for order and said:

"Mr. Sigman is not hiding behind the skirts of Mrs. Sigman. As far as this court sees, the Sigman place at Storm Lake, Ia., is a perfectly legitimate enterprise and nothing to be ashamed of. It casts no reflection upon his as President of a union."

## Fire Drills Adopted for Boston Shops

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lary label and stressing its importance as an agency of shop safety and cleanliness.

Miss Luscomb told the Board members that the fall inspection just completed covered a total of 196 shops. Of these 37 were found in the A grade and the remainder in either B or C grades.

Sales of sanitary labels during May, June, July and August had been approximately this year as last. In September there was, however, a falling off in the sale of dress labels. The

Board instructed the director to call the attention of all dress manufacturers to this fact without delay and to stress the point that an audit of the firms' books might be invoked to discover the cause for the shortage.

General Organizer Sol Polakoff, who is in charge of the Boston Joint Board, urged the necessity of more adequate fire safety in the shops, and Mr. Meyer Bloomfield, for the public, suggested the holding of regular fire drills. The meeting decided in favor of this suggestion, and the Board will now work out a set of rules to cover fire drills in all shops.

## In Memoriam

Gene Debs, Died Oct. 20, 1926

A LONG and crowded year has passed since Gene Debs' voice was stilled in death. He did not live to see the crowd make Jack Dempsey a hero. He did not live to see how far the country which he loved would go on the road to empire. He was spared the ghastly tragedy of the legal order of Sacco and Vanzetti. For him perhaps it was as well, but not for us. Strong men and good there are among us but none to take Gene's place. There was in him a quality of lion hearted courage, irresistible love, which made him unique in history.

In a true sense Gene Debs cannot die. He is immortal here on earth. Even in distant days should he die in the conscious memories of the humanity he served he still will live in the streams of unconscious influence which float out from those whose thoughts and affections and deeds he inspired.

Yet it is not enough for Gene Debs—say, rather, it is not enough for us—that he should live in memory and influence as a great personality. He cared more for the immortality of the cause which he loved than for himself. And if his spirit now could speak, to us he would sadly, perhaps indignantly, disclaim the tributes of affection that we bring to him who have deserted the cause to which he gave the whole measure of his devotion.

Something we have done for the cause. The Debs Memorial Radio station WBYD in New York City which probably will observe its formal opening on the anniversary of his death is a peculiarity fitting monument to him. For it is a living thing through which he hopes and aspirations of men may speak as once they spoke through him. No single tribute to Gene Debs can be more effective than the adequate maintenance of the radio station named in his honor.

No single thing, that is, if we accept the building up of that mighty and passionate party of the workers dedicated to the peace and freedom and happiness of mankind for which he so unremittingly toiled. And, to build up that party is not a single or a simple thing. It requires the cooperation of men and women all over America. It means loyalty to humdrum and commonplace tasks. It means courage to work without false expectations of immediate victory.

It is not true that we are too prosperous to need a labor party inspired by socialist ideals. Almost one third of our population of sixty-five years of age and over is dependent or partially dependent on some sort of public or private charity or family help for support. That would be inconceivable if we were as prosperous as the propagandists tell us. It is not true that we are so hopelessly weak that we cannot if we will build up a stronger labor movement and with it a labor party. The two must go hand in hand.

Gene Debs was a great man. He

## All Getting Ready For Halloween Night

Locals 10 and 66 Cooperate with Dressmakers' Committee

Preparations for the Halloween Festival of the Women's Organization Council of the Dressmakers' Unions, Locals 22 and 89 are now in full swing. The committee in charge of this Festival has engaged Schiller's Orchestra to provide music for the dancing. Refreshments will be served. A special committee of Locals 66 (Bonnaz Embroiderers' Union) and Local 10 (Cutters' Union) is cooperating with the dressmakers' committee. As announced before, the Festival will be held in the International Auditorium, 3 West 16th Street, on Saturday evening, October 29th.

Tickets can be obtained at the office of the Dressmakers' Unions, Locals 22 and 89, and it is suggested that they be obtained soon as the capacity of the hall is limited to two hundred.

The next meeting of the Women's Organization Council will be held this Thursday at the Joint Board Building immediately after working hours.

## 'RES. SIGMAN REPORTS CLEVELAND AGREEMENT NEAR ADJUSTMENT

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lge—there are but a few of them in Cleveland—made an attempt to heckle President Sigman on New York affairs. They were, however, quickly accommodated by Bro. Sigman, who gave the Cleveland cloakmakers a graphic accounting, without mincing words, of latter-day developments in the New York market. The workers staged an ovation for President Sigman when he concluded his talk.

## THEATRE GUILD PLAYS AT REDUCED PRICES FOR OUR MEMBERS

We are glad of the response of our members to the Theatre Guild's offer whereby they can see the six plays to be produced this season for \$5.00, just \$1.00 for each play, instead of paying \$2.25 for the same seat at the regular rate.

The plays to be presented will be chosen from the following:

Porgy, by Dorothy and Dubose Heyward.

The Doctor's Dilemma, by Shaw.

A Month in the Country, by Turgenyev.

Subscription blanks can be obtained from our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.

was also a great leader. And his greatness as a man and as a leader was derived in no small part from the greatness of the cause which he served. How shall we honor him unless we also dedicate our less gifts in ways most appropriate to the particular problem of our time to that same great cause.

NORMAN THOMAS.

# Among the Dressmakers, Loc. 22 An Old Labor Union With A New Idea

By J. SPIELMAN, Secretary

The response of our members to the suspension notices was very gratifying. Close to two hundred members, whose names were placed on the suspension roll, have paid their dues last Saturday, while a good many others were granted ten day extensions, because of illness and other special circumstances.

It may not be amiss to explain here that in taking this action, our local considered the present conditions in the industry. We are likewise aware of the fact that there is a large number of dressmakers who are still outside of the Union's ranks. Under these conditions, we are not too anxious to suspend a couple of hundred members who are affiliated with our local. However, the financial arrangement under which the local is operating is such that we have no other alternative. Almost the entire expense of the Joint Board and the International, with both of which bodies we are affiliated, is being raised by the locals. Each local paying its proportion of the full sum based upon the number of members it has on the books.

### "Dead" Members a Burden

Of the thirty-five cents dues which the members pay weekly, twenty-five cents is turned over to the International and the Joint Board. Thus, if the books of Local 22, for example, show that we have 7,000 members among whom there are 300 who are in arrears for nine months and who will perhaps never pay, our bills to the International and Joint Board must still be paid upon the basis of the original 7,000 members. It means, therefore, that the remaining 6,700 have to pay, in addition to their own share, enough to make up for the 300 "dead ones," so to say. In other words, the local treasury has by now advanced \$9.75 for every one of those members who have not paid for thirty-nine weeks dues. It is quite natural that this condition is weighing heavily upon the treasury of the local and we have on other choice save to consider those who have not paid their dues for thirty-nine weeks dues as dropped members.

Dropped members cannot continue paying dues on their old books but must appear before the membership committee for re-instatement. Such dropped members are treated in the same manner as all newcomers who want to join the Union, and must comply with all the requirements of the local.

### Fine Section Meetings

Our section meetings, which were held last Thursday, were unusually well-attended. The reports, which the local submitted to these sections, were read in detail, widely discussed, and approved by the general membership.

The Bronx section, which met in the main hall of the McKinley Square Gardens, was filled to capacity. Similarly the Brownsville meeting was very well attended. The attendance at the Downtown meeting has not been as large as formerly. It would seem that the number of dressmakers residing downtown is continually

shifting to the upper part of the city. Our experience has shown us that only those meetings which are called downtown immediately after work are proving successful. It is too much to expect of any member who does not reside downtown, to spend the evening here and then travel home in the late hours.

Two referendums have recently been submitted by our International Union. One deals with the proportional representation of delegates from the locals to the conventions of the International. The other has to do with the choice of the city in which our next convention should be held.

Some of the members of Local No. 22 have utilized the columns of "Justice" for the purpose of expressing their views and opinions on this very vital question. Our Executive Board will announce next week, the date and place where the question will be discussed and voted upon, so that each member may have an opportunity to participate.

We wish to anticipate this subject by calling the attention of the members beforehand so that as many of them as possible will participate in the balloting of this referendum.

### Shifts in Office Staff

Some slight changes have recently taken place in the personnel of the section officers. Brother Mendel Bluestein was succeeded, last week, as chairman of the Downtown Section, by Brother Harry Sheyerman, who until recently was the shop chairman of the Lion Costume Company. Bro. Saul Silver succeeded Brother Harry Eisenberg as chairman of the Brownsville section, of which Brother Paley is the secretary.

We have, in one of our former reports, mentioned a number of shops who have voluntarily taxed themselves with certain weekly sums as a contribution to our organization fund. Close to \$1500 has been collected within the last few weeks from this source.

Last week, the workers of the firm of Pion Bros. and Bobrowsky, 263 West 38th Street, at a shop meeting, voluntarily assessed themselves with \$10.00 for each operator and \$5.00 for all other crafts, as a contribution to the above mentioned fund. It is a splendid manifestation of loyalty that the workers of this firm are showing. We know that there is little work in the shop at this time and a good many of them could find much more use for the sums they pledged, but the members of Local No. 22 working for Pion Bros. & Bobrowsky are old timers—many of them have helped build our union. They know how urgent and indispensable is its service and existence.

It is in the action and manifestations of the workers of this and similar shops, that one finds inspiration for harder work and more sacrifices in the cause of our union and the entire labor movement. Incidentally, we want to mention here that Sister Rose Radnoffsky, a member of many years standing, is the present chair-lady of the Pion Bros. firm.

### Conditions in Dress Industry

The editorial in the October 7th

By MATTHEW WOLL

The International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America is an old American trade union. Its broad and varied experience has followed the ebb and flow of the tides of industry and it emerges better and stronger than ever. It is practically forty-seven years old. Since 1880 it has survived all the elements that any organization must encounter.

As stated by its Vice-President Joseph P. Ryan, this International Union found the old fraternal and trade union method of providing for death and disability overburdening—a liability rather than an asset. Stated in his own terms, it:

"Found it necessary to adopt modern methods. For years the Brotherhood had in vogue the Funeral Benefit and Conditional Disability Benefit coverage. Approximately nineteen years experience developed the fact that it was a liability rather than an asset. Like cable car transportation, it has passed into history."

Just prior to 1925, it began to survey its trade union benefit system. It studied the modern method of insuring trade union groups of workers. In 1925, at its 14th Consolidated Convention held in Kansas City it decided to insure all its members for \$1000 under a group policy. What that change has meant to this International Trade Union is best related in its own words. Read what it has to say regarding group insurance and note the results secured in the past twenty months:

"The Fourteenth Consolidated Convention, Kansas City, 1925, provided standard insurance coverage. Group Insurance on a compulsory basis has made it possible for our membership to secure benefits that cannot be equalled or excelled and the premium rate of \$1.25 per thousand dollars, with all of the additional provisions for disability for the member and his family, constitute a rare privilege when considered thoroughly.

Boilermaking and shipbuilding has its usual risks the same as other occupations. Twenty months' experience under the Compulsory Insurance develops some interesting information:

199 Natural death claims paid	\$1.00 each, or.....	\$199,000
26 Accidental death claims paid \$2,000 each, or.....		52,000

issue of "Justice," dealing with the dress industry, has evoked new life and hope among us all. It is gratifying to note that the General Executive Board of the International, as well as the editor of "Justice," have paid so much deserved attention to the condition of the dress industry. We all agree upon the fact that something will have to be done pretty soon and on a much larger scale than has heretofore been attempted, to restore the dress industry to its former standards.

It is noteworthy that even the manufacturers are beginning to see the folly of the game they have played in the last two years. Their constant effort to evade Union regulation and their desire to foster and encourage the small shop has brought havoc and ruin upon the dress industry. This cut-throat competition, which we attribute solely and directly to the manufacturers, has reached the stage where many of them cry out in agony for some relief. What the dress industry needs is a thorough standardization, which can only be brought about by the elimination of the bed-room and fire-trap shops, and the unionization of the industry.

It is to the achievement and realization of these ends that we hope the energies of our entire organization, including the international office, will be directed.

15 Total disability claims paid \$1,000 each, or.....	15,000
35 Partial disability claims paid, involving.....	19,000
Of this number, 26 were paid for the loss one eye, three for the loss of the use of one arm and one for the loss of one foot.	
7 Natural death claims were paid in Voluntary Insurance.....	7,000
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$292,000</b>

The International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America is not content to provide only life insurance through the group method but it also insures its members in case of death by accident or in case of disability. Again read what this International trade union is doing:

Natural death from any cause.....	\$1,000
Accidental death at or away from place of employment.....	2,000
Total disability, preventing him from following his trade.....	1,000
Complete loss of the sight of either eye.....	500
Loss of the use of either foot.....	500
Loss of the use of either hand or arm preventing him from following his trade.....	500
If paid disability for the loss of one eye, one foot, one hand or arm, the member still retains protection for the full \$1,000 at death and \$2,000 if accidentally killed, or death from the result of said accident. This makes a maximum protection for any member of.....	\$2,800

In addition it enables the individual member to secure voluntary additional insurance at a comparatively small additional expense. The figures thus presented are very impressive in themselves. The great human cause involved is even more impressively presented in the distribution made, which shows clearly the great and noble service rendered by this International union through group insurance.

We are advised that the beneficiaries of this great undertaking were as follows:

157 claims were paid to the wives of the membership.
46 claims were paid to the members themselves.
The remainder were distributed among fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers and kinfolk and in a few cases the claims were paid to the estate where so designated by the insured or by the courts.

Could there be a more impressive lesson to organized labor? Yes, this is an old trade union with a new idea. Others have adopted a similar course. Many others are now in the process of making this new idea effective in their own trade. Others again are seriously considering ways and means of following a like course.

It is just this situation that impelled over sixty National and International Unions, 7 State Federations of Labor, 34 City Central Labor Unions, 267 Local Unions to organize The Union Labor Life Insurance Co. It is to prevent outside capital insurance companies exploiting this new idea of trade unions that The Union Labor Life Insurance Co. was founded. It is to enable the labor movement of America to use and control its own insurance funds and pool them in the interest of all workers and the trade union movement that The Union Labor Life Insurance Co. came into existence.

The International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America has done splendidly. (Continued on Page 7)

## 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 2143

MORRIS SIGMAN, President | A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer  
MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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## EDITORIALS

### UNION MEN AND UNION DUES

By the end of this week, every member of the cloak and dress makers' locals of New York will have received a letter from the Joint Board urging him or her to pay up their arrears in dues.

It is a part of a rigid control undertaken by the central organization of our workers in New York City in all union shops with regard to the payment of dues and other union obligations. The appeal sent out by the Joint Board is a common sense, frank statement, as it should be, addressed in the spirit of true trade union leadership, telling the truth, with nothing to conceal and nothing to sidestep.

Our Union, like any other labor organization that means to be of use to its members, cannot do its work properly without a steady revenue. Such an income it may derive only from its membership, and from no other source. In other words, if it cloakmakers and the dressmakers would have a virile, fighting trade union they should support it, in bad times as well as in good times.

And this is a point that we should like to stress. A good union member is not only the one who pays his dues in prosperous times, when the seasons are good and the earnings high. A good union member is not only the one who stands in line when the weather is fair and all is smooth and serene in his trade, in his union, and in his shop. It is the worker who never loses sight of the fact that his union must be kept going regardless of "busy" or "slack", who is a real trade unionist. It is this kind of worker that forms the backbone of the union, its shock troops and mainstay.

Plain words these are, and that's what they are intended to be. The season in the cloak shops has so far disappointed a great many of our members, we know this perfectly well. There is hope that there may still be some work during the few coming weeks, and this hope is not entirely extravagant because, in point of fact, the New York cloak jobbers and manufacturers have no stocks on their racks, and the retail stores have hardly any winter merchandise to show.

Notwithstanding this poor season, the better and more loyal element of the cloakmakers and the dressmakers have helped to carry the burden of their organization splendidly during these hard and trying months. These faithful members have made sacrifice after sacrifice, giving freely of their time, of their labors, and of their earnings that the union may be strengthened and its control extended through the industry.

This loyal element has made it possible in such a short time to establish a normal working machinery in all locals, to drive the disrupters out of our midst completely, and, in addition, to carry out during this summer a very effective and fruitful organization campaign that has won back a great many non-union shops to union work-standards.

In a trade union, however, the burden cannot and should not be placed on one group only. A trade union is organized for the benefit of each and every worker belonging to it, and the obligation of maintaining it rests equally upon all its members. The dues dodger, the member who is always ready with an alibi why he has failed to pay his dues, is not much of an asset to a union.

To be sure, we have always had the dues dodger in our midst in the past, too, but the Communist chaos and sabotage, naturally, have helped to multiply this species of slacker, who took advantage of the internal warfare to escape the onerous duty of paying dues.

With the passing of the rule of the Moscow agents, this last vestige of demoralization has no longer a place in the union shops in the cloak and dress industry. And that is principally the purpose of the dues control drive which the International Joint Board is now putting into effect. The overwhelming majority of cloakmakers and dressmakers in New York, and everywhere else, have declared in an unmistakable voice that they will have a union, owned, directed and managed by them. And the men and women who work in the union shops, all without exception, should bear a part of this task of management. They should pay their dues regularly and prove by this simple act that they actually mean what they say—without excuses to offer and apologies to extend.

We have a premonition, and we don't mind mentioning it, that the gang of hyenas that is still barking in helpless rage on the fringe of our organization, the discredited, castout commissars and their allies—the red-black-yellow brigade of ex-jobholders—

will attempt to make use of this direct and frank appeal of the Joint Board to abuse and besmirch once again our Union and its leaders in some scurrilous leaflet or in their party press.

The toothless bite and the hoarse bark of the bedraggled Moscow agents, however, does not disturb our Union and its members any longer. This outfit, which feeds today on the crumbs that fall off the Moscow table, never honestly had any regard for the life and safety of the New York cloak and dress organization while they had bossed it. All they were interested in was—to hold on to the reins as long as they could in the interests of a political group that our workers never have known nor cared to know anything about.

Today, we have a trade union in the cloak and dress industry, and the Joint Board wants to impress upon all its members that a trade union, in order to exist, must be supported by its members. We feel confident that the workers in the shops, such of them as have in the past overlooked the vital importance of being in good standing with their locals especially, will respond warmly to the call of the Joint Board and will help the shop chairmen to carry out this dues' control thoroughly and efficiently.

It is a sacred duty which we all owe to our Union, a duty which must be met squarely and honestly, if we really are what we proudly claim to be—union men with sufficient intelligence, loyalty and ability to run our own organization and direct our own economic destiny.

### LABOR CONDITIONS AND "INSIDE" PRODUCTION

Mr. Alfred Lyons, manager of the dress jobbers' association in New York, in commenting in "Women's Wear" on the pronounced tendency of dress jobbers to return to "inside" manufacturing, ascribes it to, what he chooses to call, "the present disorganized condition that exists in the workers' union." In other words, Mr. Lyons would have his public, and his members believe, that the breakdown of labor standards in many shops is the sole incentive which prompts jobbers to open "inside" shops, and, as the natural inference would be, with a strong union in the trade and with conditions prevailing in all shops, the jobbers would again seek to turn over their work to contractors and foster chaos and demoralization throughout the dress industry.

Mr. Lyons' has thus hung up the jobber-submanufacturer problem on the horns of an ugly dilemma. According to him, the members of his association would only operate "inside" shops when the union is "disorganized", and would disorganize the trade should the union become strong again and enforce actively the observance of union conditions in the shops. We cannot think of a more sinister, distinctly profiteer point of view. We are in no mood, however, for polemics with Mr. Lyons on this subject. We should like, nevertheless, to quote from a statement by President Sigman, in the same publication, on the same subject, though with reference to the cloak industry. It might give Mr. Lyons a few ideas to digest with profit to himself and to the group he speaks for. Says President Sigman:

"The jobbing system has turned upon itself, and is eating itself up. The signs are clear that, even assuming it ever had any economic justification, such justification has disappeared, and the system itself is bound to go into the discard. A great change in the production system of the industry is coming. If it is guided, and wisely guided, by the jobbers themselves, in cooperation with the other factors in the industry, the change can be made without any serious upheaval.

"The only hope for the industry is in a return to the system of inside manufacturing, where the sellers have direct supervision over the making of the product that he sells. That is the lesson of the past season—a 'bad' season, but withal, a season in which the bulk of the business has been placed with the inside manufacturer, rather than with the jobber.

"Now, as a matter of fact, some jobbers, recognizing the new buying tendency, have attempted to get into the picture through setting up what they called 'inside' shops. But while some of these are real 'inside' shops, too many are more camouflage shops, and the jobbers who have set them up will find that their problem has by no means been solved.

"I say that the jobber-submanufacturing system was bound to meet with serious difficulties, because it was in essence, from its very beginning, a mere profiteering device. For whatever reason manufacturers switched to jobbing, they did so without any thought either of the welfare of the industry, or of the future of the article which they were selling. They placed profits above the welfare of the industry, and they are now paying the price.

"The jobbing system has depended for its temporary success upon the element of competition between sub-manufacturers. The small shop, an uneconomic unit, was encouraged to grow in numbers. And the more small shops there were, the more intense competition became.

"Now this competition aimed at making a cheap garment, not a good garment. The struggle between competitors was bound to affect the quality of labor that went into the garment. To meet the constant cry of 'cheaper, cheaper,' which is the chief characteristic of the jobbing system, the amount of labor put into a garment had to be skimped.

"But the jobbers who were caught in this uneconomic system found themselves embarked on a course from which there was no turning. There were certain things they did, as jobbers, that they had to do, and that they wouldn't have done under any other production system.

"For example, consider the constant temptation to overproduction, and unwise production, that is inherent in the very structure of the jobbing system. On the strength of the cheapness brought about by what he considers his business acumen, the jobber was under a strong temptation to produce tremendous amounts of

## The Bankers Split Their Ranks

By LOUIS STANLEY

YOU would think that because trade unions go in for labor banking that, therefore, trade unionists know something about banking. You would certainly expect that since labor has a stake in banking that on that account active labor men would take more than a passing interest in our financial institutions. But alas, such is not the case. The specialists in the form of labor bank officials attend to this aspect of our work. The rest of us get upon the roof-tops and yell "robber," scold the "money interests," condemn "Wall Street" and deride "the House of Morgan." Meanwhile, on the ground floor the bankers are having the time of their lives. They are ransacking our homes, playing all kinds of profitable pranks upon us, but we on the roof-tops are too busy proclaiming them thieves in general to take note of their thiev-eries in particular.

Thus it has happened in the present controversy in the Federal Reserve System. Here is a splendid opportunity to point out the brazen practices to which the Wall Street bankers resort, to indicate the nefariousness of our capitalist system, to show how our everyday lives are affected. But who has done it? Only bankers with interests opposed to the New York dictatorship have raised a loud protest, but theirs has simply been limited to the particular details which affect them. The fundamental principle of financiers' control of our economic system goes unchallenged.

### Wall Street Outwits the West.

What has happened in the Federal Reserve System. The bankers' ranks have split in two. The Easterners, that is, Wall Street, have taken control of the nation's banking system and the Westerners, who have other interests at stake, have been compelled to submit to the yoke. Not that such a state of affairs was unrecognized before, only this time it has gone the limit.

The Wall Street crowd has manoeuvred itself into a position of open domination through the manipulation of the machinery of the Federal Reserve System. The International Bank, the Federation Bank, the Amalgamated Banks and other labor banks belong to this system. It was established in 1913 to provide some sort of centralization for the nation's banking. The country was divided into twelve districts, at the head of each being a Federal Reserve Bank in the principal city. In these twelve Federal Reserve Banks ordinary depositors like ourselves might not open accounts. Only banks, legally known as members, were eligible. In these central banks the member banks were compelled to keep a certain amount

of reserve funds to cover the demands of the depositors. Hence, the name Federal Reserve System.

### The Rediscout Rate.

A member bank had one advantage in belonging to this system. It might have a lot of promissory notes, pledging borrowers to pay back the bank's loans to them in, let us say, sixty or ninety days. But sometimes a bank might have immediate use for money and would rather not wait a month or two to collect what is due it. It, therefore, goes to its central reserve bank, hands in the notes and gets the cash in advance. However, it must pay for this advantage. The Federal Reserve Bank deducts a stated amount, that is, it rediscouts the note by charging a certain rate of interest, known as the rediscout or discount rate. The member bank does not lose by the transaction. It only makes less money, for while the Federal Reserve Bank may charge 4 per cent, the original loan may have been at the rate of 4½ per cent or more, and the bank can still pocket the difference.

That brings us to the other aspect of the situation. The twelve reserve banks make for decentralization, but this tendency is counteracted by the existence of the Federal Reserve Board at the nation's capital. This body consists of eight persons, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Comptroller of the Currency and six others appointed by the President of the United States. It is for that reason that it does not escape political machinations. This Federal Reserve Board, among other functions, supervises the discounting of the twelve Federal Reserve Banks to see that rates of discount "shall be fixed with a view of accommodating commerce and business." The rates, it is stated in the law, are "subject to review and determination of the Federal Reserve Board."

### Usurpation of Power?

That brings us directly to the current controversy. It will be noticed that it is not provided in so many words that the Federal Reserve Board has the authority to establish rates for any district. It only has the powers of "review and determination." Yet on September 6, 1927, the Board ordered the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank, the central institution for the Seventh District, to reduce its discount rate from 4 to 3½ per cent. The bank had been asked to initiate the change voluntarily and had refused for reasons which we shall see. The Board then compelled the Chicagoans to do its bidding.

Two questions now arise in this connection:

- (1) Did the Washington authorities have the right to exercise such power, and
- (2) Why did they?

garments, feeling sure that they will sell on the strength of their competitive price.

"Of course, this has had an effect on the consuming public, and this in turn has affected the retailer. It is perfectly obvious that the consumer was bound to lose confidence in these products where labor trimmings, and materials were skimmed, in a mad competitive race. Nor was the retailer helped by offers of cheap goods, because he could never be sure that the man down the block couldn't buy them cheaper.

"The result has shown itself this year, when the industry is going through a period of stress. All observers agree that the inside manufacturers are in much better shape than the jobbers. The retailer has definitely shown his preference.

"The large inside shop—that is the only hope of the industry. And because the union now, as always, has the welfare of the industry at heart it is willing to confer with jobbers who think seriously of such a change. Not only will the union put no obstacles in their way, but we will cooperate in every way possible. The union is prepared to discuss the problems that such a change will bring about across the conference table, to the end that the industry may be consciously and wisely guided along the path of its salvation."

The first problem is more than a legal one. If it is admitted that the Federal Reserve Board can dictate discount rates, then we have in effect a strongly centralized banking system with all the powers for good or for evil that this implies. So long as the Wall Street bankers dominate our financial institutions and the Republican party, which is their mouth-piece, that long will the country be in the grip of the moneyed oligarchy in New York. Probably that is inevitable, as economic developments indicate, but we ought to be aware of the trend and its social implications.

The answer to the second question as to the reasons for the Board's high-handedness throws light on the internal conflict in American financial capitalism. Wall Street has two efficient ways of turning surplus funds into big money: one is speculation on the stock market, the other is investment abroad. Well, it so happens that stock gambling has gone beyond all rule and reason. Prices of shares have risen out of any semblance to their value. The usually gullible public has not bitten very easily. Therefore the stock manipulators cannot let go. They must keep boosting the stock market quotations, and to do so they need cheap money. To them a reduction in the Federal Reserve discount rate is a matter of life and death, for the interest rate in the money market generally drops accordingly. If the rate of discount and, hence, of interest stays up, the whole flimsy speculative structure they have built up artificially will collapse.

### Financial Imperialism.

The matter of foreign investments requires special attention because it is an integral part of the financial imperialism which is engulfing us. The banking authorities in the Old World, the Bank of England, the Bank of France, the Reichsbank, have been striving to keep interest rates high enough in Europe through rediscouting control to attract capital into industry. Even European funds have been finding their way to the United States. What England, France, Germany and other countries need is money for the work of rebuilding. Since the Wall Street bankers have lent money to Europe it is their desire that this reconstruction be hastened—at a good rate of interest. Hence, the necessity of keeping the rediscout rate and automatically the interest

rate in the United States low in order to make European investments with their higher interest rate attractive. The stock speculators and those who invest abroad—the Wall Street gang—both profit.

On the other hand, the Western bankers, led by Chicago and Minneapolis, oppose these arguments with a logic of their own. They say that American domestic interests come first. Foreign considerations are none of their business. The West needs to attract capital just as much as Europe. Especially with the harvesting season approaching is this important. A low rediscout rate is theoretically beneficial to the farmers, but actually funds will not be induced to move westward. From the point of view of the bankers, of course, it means that they will not be able to charge farmers who borrow at as high a rate of interest as they should like to. Instead, London, Berlin and Paris will be the mecca of all good superfluous money.

### Cheap Money—High Prices.

There is another aspect to the situation. Cheap money produces high prices, for more dollars must be given for a stated amount of commodities. The experience of Germany with the worthless marks is a case in point. Rising prices enable business men to make profits without any exertion on their part at all. Business is stimulated. However, if it is an artificial impetus that is given to industry in this manner, then the resulting inflation may end in disaster. In the meantime, consumers—workers and farmers—must pay higher prices for the commodities they buy.

The first reduction from 4 to 3½ per cent in the Federal Reserve rediscout rates came in July in Kansas City. Nine other banks followed suit. Only Chicago and Minneapolis held out, true to their independent behavior in the past. Chicago was peremptorily ordered to fall in line early in September. A week later Minneapolis surrendered. The whole incident reveals deep-seated clashes of interest in the bankers' clan. How the Republican party will reconcile the two sets of contributors to its campaign funds, it is not easy to say. Thus far, concession has been made to the Westerners by the appointment of R. A. Young, head of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, to replace D. R. Crissinger, who has just resigned as governor of the Federal Reserve Board at Washington. Whether this will mean a halt to the encroachments of Wall Street, it remains for the future to tell.

## "Women Go On Forever"

After seeing "Women Go On Forever" I can understand why a friend in a theatrical producer's office lay awake nights plagued by the notion that, in rejecting the play, he must have rejected another Gorki's "Lower Depths." If there is any solace in the fact that this box-office hit is making money for other reasons than its resemblance to that immortal drama of sewer life, he can have it, but that Daniel N. Rubin, the young American author, just escaped greatness cannot be denied.

The play at the Forrest Theatre opens with a first act so compact with dramatic action as is rarely witnessed in the theatre. But what strikes the spectator is that Rubin succeeds in making all life flow through the sitting room of Daisy Bowman's boarding house with the same realistic carelessness and with the same amazement as it does in its more notable Russian counterpart. There is murder and birth and seduction and theft and violence and every other elementary activity crammed logically into that first act, and it is only as the tension is somewhat relieved by the curtain that one dis-

covers with regret Gorki's spirituality is missing.

In short, here is a first act showing a sensitive playwright, acute in every one of his senses, logical, observant of character and able to create it, but with no philosophy of an illuminating sort to hold together all that he sees and feels. The result is, unfortunately, what was to be expected. The second act promptly degenerates into trite melodrama, to be sure excellently contrived, but a second act only remotely resembling its predecessor. There are wisecracks about honeymooners, sentimental stanzas about babies and the blind, the cops, etc., etc.

The third act is about the same.

A cast of good actors, featuring Mary Boland as the landlady, does extraordinarily well with this sort of thing. We recommend the play to our readers who want to weep with me over a young American who just missed his great opportunity. But we are told, there are many scripts still on his shelf and perhaps there is one among them that will hit the bell.

RICHARD ROHMANN.



## EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



### The Next Educational Season

(This begins the announcement of activities of the I. L. G. W. U. educational program for 1927-1928. It will be continued weekly, and will later appear in booklet form for free distribution among our members.)

#### WORKERS' EDUCATION

The union is becoming an increasingly complex institution. Its functions are multiplying; its responsibilities to its members, to the labor movement, and to society as a whole are growing. It is becoming increasingly more difficult for the individual to function in the union effectively, since to do so he must be well acquainted with its mechanism and its various activities.

A union is a democratic institution. Each member is a full fledged citizen, having a voice and a vote in its councils. Like other social institutions, however, the union has only a small active citizenry; most people do not take advantage of the democratic machinery which has been established. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the union keep its members informed of its affairs, since even the passive group, by its power of suffrage, can, if it is left uninformed, destroy all the constructive plans of the organization.

The union has an additional problem: As the organization through which the workers function in our modern society, it has an aim and a responsibility to keep the workers informed, not only as to the affairs of their organization but in regard to society as a whole. More and more we are realizing that it is urgently important that the workers should be acquainted with the problems of the industry in which they are engaged and of the world in which they live. These considerations influenced the initiation of workers' education, and are still further influencing its development.

#### OUR OWN ACTIVITIES

It has always been the belief that the trade union itself is the school in which the worker, if he takes active part in the affairs of his organization, gets his real training and education. It is there, whether at a local meeting, a shop meeting, a convention or in the councils of the executive committees, that his development begins. It is there that he assumes a great many functions, those of the voter, the legislator, the judge, the administrator. There he comes to realize that he must make his decisions discriminately, and carry them through carefully, for upon him rests the success or failure of his organization's policy. He learns to take responsibility and thus develops his character and personality. He learns also how to defend his position before the employer, the public and his own fellow workers, when he must explain to them the aims, tactics and policies of the union.

But as the functions of our International grew and its position became better defined, we began to realize that these active members who had acquired experience in our union's affairs could be made even more effective if they could add to their experience the special training of the activists offered by our Educational Department. With this in view, our International organized an Educational Department in 1917 and the 1925 convention authorized an annual appropriation of \$17,500 for the following two years.

Not only to members who have acquired experience, however, does our Educational Department offer activities. Its program is so arranged as to satisfy each of the various groups composing our International Union. All its activities are, of course, open to our entire membership; but quite naturally, each individual is appealed to most by those that are best suited to his needs.

Thus, members of executive boards, paid and unpaid officers of the Union, and shop chairmen, are more likely than any others to be interested in studying the economics of our industry, its influence upon the policies and tactics of the American Labor movement in general and our own union in particular, the labor situation in basic industries, the history of our International, and shop economics. Active members of the rank and file of our union, on the other hand, will be interested also in knowing the place of the workers in history, and in keeping abreast of current events in the industrial and labor world, and in making a social study of literature. Trade union women will be particularly interested in a discussion of the organizability of women and their place in the labor movement. The wives of our members may be interested in studying the power of women as consumers, how to acquaint children with the labor movement, the contribution of trade unionism to the welfare of the family, the part the trade unionist's wife can play in the labor movement. Every group will be interested in social psychology, a social interpretation of American literature, and social tendencies in modern literature; but the instructor will vary the handling of his material in the various groups, taking into consideration the knowledge of the persons in them.

The Educational Department of our International also provides a program of activities for passive as well as for active members, for small groups as well as for larger ones, and even includes in this program the families of our members. This year we shall extend the plan of having lecturers speak at local meetings on some labor, social or economic problem of interest to the audience. These talks usually last from 30 to 40 minutes, and will again be followed by a short period of questions. The discussions will be conducted in the language best understood by the group, whether English, Yiddish, Italian or Russian. Of

course, to carry through this program we must enlist the cooperation of our local managers and executive boards, and must hold periodic meetings of the Joint Educational Committee consisting of representatives of our various locals in New York and vicinity. We are sure we will get the cooperation of our local unions in this work now as always.

In addition, our department is arranging for frequent sociables on Saturday evenings. (Many of our members will remember their enthusiastic appreciation of the Friday and Saturday evening gatherings arranged by our Educational Department. We carried on part of our program daily through the cloak-makers' strike last year, and even reached their wives and children.) This year we plan that our Educational Department should extend its pioneering in the field of social activities, and so prove more useful to the labor movement. The programs will include music, since this is a great educational factor. As before, the audience will frequently join in the singing, led by a competent director. Unfortunately, we in the labor movement do not sing enough. Group singing has a most stimulating influence. It draws the group together and creates amiability and is of great educational and artistic value. The programs will also include short addresses on social, economic or labor topics. There may also be a pageant or other dramatization of the trials and tribulations, victories, and defeats, joys and sorrows which the founders of the labor movement went through before it took on its present form. The evening may end with a dance for the younger guests. Such gatherings are attended by our members and their families, and bring together young and old, men and women in a festive mood. All this tends to develop fellowship among our members, which we regard as of great importance.

#### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS' WIVES

We realize that a better future for humanity cannot be achieved without the assistance of women. Our hopes in the great task we have undertaken will be much greater if the mothers are intelligently enough informed to carry it on.

As workers we want our children to understand the problems, purposes and aims of the labor movement for which their parents endured so many hardships, and for which some even made the supreme sacrifice. Who can bring these things to the child's consciousness better than the mother?

But if the labor movement is to win the fullhearted support and cooperation of the wives of its members, they must be taken into the confidence of the organization and inspired to realize their own importance as a social force. In order that their husbands may frankly share their experiences with them, they must be fully informed about the affairs of the organization. So informed, they will be willing to place at the disposal of the labor movement their will-power and practical common sense and influence, to aid their husbands in their daily struggles.

The Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U. has long realized the need of meeting this situation and, therefore, inaugurated a series of educational activities for the wives of our members. We arranged lectures and discussions and invited the women to attend.

At that time a special appeal was made to the husbands that where there were young children to be taken care of, that they should stay at home and relieve their wives for that evening. Not wishing to confine ourselves to the wives of our own members, our Educational Department prepared a series of articles on workers' wives. For next year we are planning to increase our efforts in this direction.

(To be continued)

#### BERTRAND RUSSELL AND WILL DURANT DEBATE THIS SATURDAY AT MECCA TEMPLE

What is expected to be one of the intellectual adventures of the year is the debate scheduled between Bertrand Russell, noted English philosopher, pacifist, scientist and educator, and Dr. Will Durant, author of "The Story of Philosophy," for Saturday evening, Oct. 23 at Mecca Temple, 55th Street and Seventh Avenue. The subject is: "Is Democracy a Failure?" Dr. Durant will contend that it is, while Russell will maintain that it is the best of all possible systems and works.

Considerable interest has been created lately in the subject, since Bernard Shaw and the Very Rev. Dean Inge debated it in London, Dean Inge supporting Dr. Durant's contention, while Shaw showed complete agreement with Russell. While Dr. Durant will offer a substitute system for democracy, he has indicated that it will not be based on "committees of

experts" which Inge proposed as a remedy for the faults of democracy.

Interest has been further heightened by the controversy over Bolshevism and Fascism which occupied almost the entire address of Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University, before the new freshman class at the college. Dr. Durant is not expected to offer either Bolshevism or Fascism as a substitute political system.

Dr. Durant, the sale of whose book has been phenomenal, will be remembered as creator of the Labor Temple public forum and its popular educational activities. Russell, who was ostracized during the war for his pacifist faith, is a noted mathematician, author of "Education and the Good Life" and an expert on children's education.

Samuel Untermyer, prominent attorney, will preside.

## The Communists in The Trade Unions

### Are Communist Parties Workers' Parties?

By PAUL DEMBITZER

For a number of years past the Communist parties in various countries have had as their slogan: "Every party member must belong to a trade union!" In Germany, for example, the Communist organization has gone to the length of issuing a warning to all non-union members that, unless they join their union before a fixed time, they would be expelled from the party. Yet, despite the rigid discipline which is supposed to have existed in that party, it could not enforce this decision, and the number of its members who are not union men is still inordinately large. This leads one to infer that a large percentage of the men and women who belong to the Communist parties are actually not workers, but consist of a declassified grouping of men and women who belong "nowhere". For, it stands to reason that, were these people working men or women, they would have joined the union in their trade, especially since their party demands it.

#### Leaders Admit It

In the May Day number of "Pravda" the manager of the organization department of the Executive of the Comintern, Piatnitzky, is very bitter concerning this glaring discrepancy between the number of organized party members and the number of union members. Judging from his statement, it is quite apparent that the number of non-union Communists is quite large in almost every country, with the exception of England, where the Communist party plays an insignificant part in the political life of the country. Even in such a well-organized industrial land as Germany, barely seventy per cent of the organized Communists belong to trade unions. In Upper Silesia, where the richest German coal-mines and the largest iron factories are located, only 46 per cent of the members of the local Communist organization are members of trade unions. In the industrial Rhine region the condition is not much better, as only 55 per cent of the Communist members are union people. In the important seaport, Stetin, 78 "revolutionists", out of a total of 402, are members of a union, while 28 of these were expelled from the usually tolerant German labor bodies.

The state of affairs is even worse in Checho-Slovakia, which is so strongly organized in the industrial field. Out of a total of 138,000 organized Communists, 35,653 are affiliated with "Red" unions, 9,100 with the Amsterdam Trades Unions, several hundred members belong to the Catholic unions, while 93,000 organized Communist "revolutionists" are members of no trade union whatever.

Piatnitzky also makes public figures with regard to the United States.

He states that barely 40 per cent of the members of the Workers' (Communist) Party of America are members of trade unions, and he deplores the fact that only Great Britain can boast that 90 per cent of its Communists are members of trade union organizations. Candidly, we are inclined to doubt the correctness of Piatnitzky's figures, but even if we are to accept these figures as correct they indeed reveal a curious state of affairs. But—and here is the rub—it would be a mistake to suppose that the Communist slogan: "Every party member must be a union member," is actually the result of a sincere belief that a political labor party is in honor bound to aid and support the trade union movement. The Communists are interested in the trade unions principally as a field where to gain recruits for themselves; where they could "bore from within" in order to capture them for party domination.

#### Failure to Capture Unions Stirrs Ire of Chiefs

Piatnitzky does not worry so much over the fact that so many Communists do not belong to the trade unions, as he is aroused over the general failure of Communist activity in the trade union movement all over the world. He, in fact, is quite frank about it. Just as we in America have the notorious Communist "Trade Union Educational League", whose purpose is to "educate" trade unions to a point of extinction, similar organizations exist in almost every European country. Their chief aim is to carry out the orders of the Communist party in their country, and, wherever possible, to "capture" the unions for the party. Our Communists, of course will not openly admit that this is the true purpose of their "Trade Union Educational Leagues", but would insist that it is a legitimate workers' education group. Only a short time ago, Louis Hyman, formerly a Communist tool in the management of the cloak general strike in 1926, complained in the Jewish Tammany organ "The Day" that the I. L. G. W. U. was fighting the League in the same manner as it was fighting Communism in the unions." Mr. Hyman's rather childish plaint, however, could be best answered by Piatnitzky's frank statement in the "Pravda" of May 18 and 19, 1927.

"The number of our Communist 'cells' in the trade unions is large enough, but their activity is not very satisfactory. For example, we have in Germany today fourteen such Communist groups within the trade unions. But, unfortunately, they have shown no signs of life, and they appear to be unaware of their own existence. We are informed by the district committee of the Ruhr region, that in that district alone there are 213 Communist nuclei in the trade unions. Of these forty per cent are inactive, forty per

cent have shown only faint signs of life, and only twenty per cent have been functioning properly. In Hamburg 120 Communists are members of the union of Post Office Employees, but only 30 of these attend the meetings of the group. In Frankfurt-on-Mayne only ten per cent of the members attend the meetings of the Communist groups in the unions. At the last general meeting of the Communist faction in the German Metal Workers' Union, in Frankfurt, only four out of a total of 209 Communists were present.

"And," Piatnitzky concludes, "I could mention many more such facts, not only with regard to Germany, but to many other countries as well." But, what is most interesting, are the reasons he gives for the failure of the various "Trade Union Educational Leagues".

#### "Borers" Not Practical Persons

"The officers of the Communist 'cells' in the trade unions," he says, "are not composed of comrades who have actually worked at the trade and in the trade union. The Communist party committees appoint only loyal and tried Communists to head these Communist factions. But while they are good Communists, they are not well enough acquainted with trade union problems, and these groups, therefore, concern themselves with abstract subjects and lack the specific knowledge that would enable them to deal with the current problems confronting the trade union movement."

But, does Piatnitzky mean to say that he does not approve of appointing people who are not acquainted with the trade union movement as heads of the Communist "nuclei" in the trade unions? Not at all! His chief concern is that "such Communist members of the group as are active in the union, should be brought into closer relations with the Communist Party, that they be made to see that all Communist orders in the trade unions are executed and meet with no opposition from other elements. This is very essential, for if the Communists in the trade unions will not do our bidding they will naturally, be of no use to the Communist party."

One can readily understand, after reading this frank and open-hearted statement of one of the chief leaders of the Moscow "Comintern", the character of these "impartial trade union educational leagues." His statement also establishes indisputably the fact that the Communist parties are not satisfied with merely establishing their influence in the trade unions, but are chiefly interested in "capturing" them and turning them into branches of their party. Our own Jewish Communists, of course, still have the temerity to argue that their "Trade Union Educational Leagues" has nothing to do with Communism, but that Sigman, Green and the rest are accusing them unjustly. It is also interesting to note what this high official of Moscow thinks the duties of the Communist

members in the trade unions should be. He teaches them:

#### Dual Allegiance Ordered

"Communists in the countries where there are also trade unions that have no class character whatever, must consider it their duty, side by side with their activities in the unions affiliated with the Amsterdam Trade Union Internationale, to conduct a systematic activity within the ranks of the Catholic unions."

—And further:

"The influence of the Catholic and National Socialist parties upon the workers can very easily be destroyed, or at any rate, weakened considerably, by joining the trade unions of these parties, and subsequently through well planned activity in these unions. This same policy must be practiced in the free (Amsterdam) unions. In other words, our people must enroll in these unions, but at the same time, they need not leave the 'Red' unions."

According to this oracle of Communist trade unionism, Communists may, at one and the same time, be members of two different unions—in the "Red" unions as members, of course, and in the various other unions, as simple provocateurs. That probably explains why our own American Communists at times show so much love and fondness for our American Federation of Labor.

The Russian Communists not only apply the old autocratic methods of Tsarism in the administration of the life of Russia, but they are also adopting the old Tzarist methods of planting spies and provocateurs in the labor movement, whenever they get the chance.

### AN OLD LABOR UNION WITH A NEW IDEA

(Continued from page 3)  
ly with a new idea. There is even a more modern idea and improvement made in the application of this new idea and that is to place all trade union group insurance as well as the voluntary insurance of every trade unionist, worker, friend and sympathizer with The Union Labor Life Insurance Co.

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"And by union, what we will  
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## The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

Following meetings by the various executive branches of the International and the Joint Board, steps are now being taken both in the cloak and dress industry to bring it up to a level commensurate with the needs of the organization.

In the cloak industry, the drive against the small shops, a subject which was discussed last week by the officers of the International and the Joint Board, will have its start in a conference with the various employers' groups. As for the dress industry, though temporarily halted by a lull in work and the intervention of the Jewish holidays, the organization campaign will be resumed with greater intensity with the beginning of next season.

### Control Drive Started

In the meantime, especially in view of the fact that the cloak season has not ended and is expected to last a few weeks longer, the Joint Board has undertaken a membership control drive. Because of the Jewish holidays, many workers were not in a position to place themselves in good standing, and have permitted their indebtedness to the union to accumulate. Knowing that with the arrival of the slack season the workers will not be able to pay their dues, the Joint Board has inaugurated at once a dues drive. Manager Dubinsky was assigned to head this drive, and for the next two weeks or so his headquarters are at 130 East 25th Street. Of course, he will be found at his office every day after five o'clock.

Last Monday, a meeting of the officers took place under Manager Dubinsky's direction at the Joint Board office to discuss this drive. The business agents were assigned to visit the shops to enforce uniform payment of the dues. The manager especially requested the cutters to give full cooperation to the business agents visiting their shops and to aid in whatever way they possibly can to make the drive a success.

There is every reason to believe that the Joint Board will succeed in effecting an excellent control in all shops in the course of this drive. This drive is only intended to give the members an opportunity to place themselves in good standing. The drive is preliminary to a general control, so that when the union is ready to take measures against the small shops, the members will be ready.

The question of the small shop, and how to encourage the growth and expansion of the large shops, is fast passing the stage of discussion only among the officers and members of the union. At one of the recent meetings of the Joint Board, Julius Hochman, general manager, reported that conferences on this subject will be held with the employers' organizations would be held. Conferences will also take place in the near future with the American Association, the contractors, and the Merchants Ladies' Garment Association, the jobbers.

### Discuss Plans For Dress Drive

The big problem, as previously pointed out in these columns, is the matter of organization in the dress trade. At the beginning of the present season, a drive was undertaken with some success. But work dropped off suddenly. In fact, whatever work there was found in the dress trade was spasmodic. The result was that organizing actually had to be postponed for a more opportune time.

In discussing this question at the Joint Board meeting the officers and delegates decided that the ground must now be prepared not only for the resumption of the drive, but also

to make it a real intense one. The dress division of Local 10, and Locals 22 and 89, the Jewish and Italian members of the dress craft, have decided to put all of their resources behind this move. The Joint Board, naturally, will supervise the work.

An encouraging sign is to be found in the splendid attendance of the branch and section meetings of Locals 22 and 89. Not since the Communists were driven out of the union by the members have these meetings been so well attended. The dress-makers seem determined not to rest content until the union has conquered the unorganized territory in the trade.

In Local 10, the organization activities in the dress branch have also fallen off. It will be recalled that the Executive Board has decided on a drive against the many non-union dress jobbers who opened cutting departments. The cutters of five non-union jobbers have since been brought into Local 10.

However, the office is not idle. Some of the men in many of the non-union dress cutting rooms are known to the office. Hence frequent meetings are held with men who keep the local in touch with conditions in these shops. So far the men report that a majority of the cutters had been laid off. The men, however, keep in frequent contact with the office, so that when work is resumed the drive will likewise be resumed.

### Some Cloak Shops Called On Strike

What the difference between union and Communist control actually is, is something, at least four cloak manufacturers, are now learning directly. These four shops very likely did not take seriously the assumption of union control by the International Joint Board. They were under the impression that the phrase-mongers were still ruling the union by way of the mouth. They found themselves, however, sadly mistaken when action was taken against them for their flagrant violation of union conditions.

H. Seidenbergs, of 134 West 37th Street, decided to adopt the old method of retaining favorites in the slack season instead of dividing work equally among all of the workers. The inside workers were discriminated against, while a plentiful supply of work was sent to outside shops. In addition to this the firm attempted to discharge some workers on the pretext that it was going out of business.

Similarly Lipshansky Bros., of 253 West 35th Street, violated the agreement. This firm refused to pay workers for Labor Day. It also sought to cut the wages of the men in its employ. These violations were taken up with the American Association, of which the firm is a member, in accordance with the agreement. But the firm refused to obey the order of its own body. There was nothing else for the union to do but to declare a strike.

Klipstein's, of 1385 Broadway, is another firm on strike. Considerable

trouble was once before experienced with this firm. Then it was "the right to reorganize." But a desire on the part of the employer to discharge certain workers actually had been the real aim behind that move. The firm failed then. Now another attempt is being made to starve the workers, this time on a large scale. This firm, too, was in the habit of sending a good deal of its work out, forcing most of the inside workers into idleness. A strike is also in progress against the Freystat Company.

### Office Prepares For Slack Season

While there are yet signs that promise a few more weeks of work in the cloak industry, the office is nevertheless preparing for the usual slack time problems. As far as the dress trade is concerned the slack problems are already evident. The office has already received complaints of unequal division of work in the larger shops and of discharges in the small shops. Those violations come up at the beginning of every slack season. However, as fast as these cases come up, they are given attention, and adjustments resulting in compensation for some men and the reinstatement of others, were already made.

Manager Dubinsky decided upon two courses which he intends to follow at once. One is a control of the shops. This is done twice a season. Once at the beginning, when a check is made on such of the men as fail to secure working cards and are in arrears; the second control is carried out at the end of the season to see to it that whatever work the slack season affords should be done by the cutters. A slack time control is about to be made within a week or so.

Another step the manager has decided upon is to draw the attention of cutters to the coming of the slack season and the need for the payment of dues while there is yet some work. It will be pointed out to them that when the slack season sets in they will not be in a position to pay their dues. The result will be that in a couple of months they will find their indebtedness to the union a burden. Since the cloak season is about winding up, some of the cutters in this trade are compelled to work overtime, and therefore may not find it possible to come to the office to pay their dues during the usual hours. For that reason the office will be kept open all of next week every night until 8 o'clock and Friday until 6.

During the slack-time control it is well for the cutters to remember to have their books and working cards with them. For when the controller reports to the office that he found a cutter in a certain shop without his book or card that cutter will be compelled to waste a good deal of time reporting to the office.

### A. F. L. Pledges Further Aid

The resolutions submitted by Isidore Nagler, delegated to the convention of the American Federation of Labor, which last Saturday concluded its session in Los Angeles, Cal., were adopted. These resolutions thanked the A. F. of L. and many of its affiliated bodies for the valuable aid they rendered to the International during

its struggle against Communist domination. Nagler also read to that body a letter sent by International President Sigman to the convention in which was contained a report and a brief review of the struggle and the present situation.

After being reelected to the post of president together with the entire Executive Council, President Green complimented the Jewish workers on the fight they had made against Communism in their unions. He said that the Federation had torn out Communism "root and branch" from the organized labor movement.

Nagler is now on his way back to New York. By the time our members will receive this issue of "Justice" he will in all probability be back home. In one of the previous issues it was reported that Nagler would probably render a report of the convention and give his impressions at a membership meeting in November. However, since the meeting has been postponed to October 31, because of the Jewish holidays, it is likely that he will attend that meeting.

### Important Reports At Oct. 31 Meeting

Not only will the next membership meeting be important because nearly a month will have elapsed since the holding of the last meeting, but also because important things have taken place in the union that will make the meeting one worthwhile attending. The meeting will consider, among other things, the recommendation to give financial assistance for the campaign for the reelection of Judge Jacob Panken.

Then there are the decisions of the General Executive Board, adopted recently in Boston. As vice-president of the International Union, Manager Dubinsky was present at the G. E. B. meeting. He is expected to give the membership a general report on the present standing of the union and its future plans, and will also call on the members to take action on certain of the decisions adopted.

In connection with the help in the reelection of Judge Jacob Panken, it is interesting to report that a number of cutters have volunteered in this work. These men were called to the meeting of the Executive Board last Thursday, where Dubinsky discussed with them what aid they might render.

The cutters will be pleased to learn that the man whom they endorsed in 1926 as candidate for Governor has in very plain words stated where he stands in the labor movement. Not only did he not seek the endorsement of the Communists, but when they tendered him their "endorsement", he, in very plain terms, threw it back at them and said that he would have nothing to do with an organization whose avowed object was the destruction of the labor unions.

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## Attention, Members of Local 10!

### NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, October 31, 1927

ARLINGTON HALL,

23 St. Mark's Place. 7:30 P. M.

PURPOSE: Special Recommendation of the Executive Board.