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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 1, Iss. 32)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.



JUSTICE



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTER NATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

VOL. I. No. 32.

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Price 2 cents.

ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING OF LOC. 9 AT COOPER UNION

Our Recent Strikes and Victories

On Saturday afternoon, Aug 16, the Cloak Finishers' Union local 9 held a membership mass meeting at Cooper Union. It was the first meeting of cloakmakers of its size since the settlement of the last general strike.

The meeting was called, according to Brother Halpern, Manager of local 9, with a double purpose: to ascertain the spirit of the rank and file of local 9, to find out how they feel about the new work system and other changes in the industry; and to talk things over about strengthening the local financially, about raising large fund for emergency purposes.

The mass meeting at Cooper Union was highly satisfactory in both ways.

The spirit of the rank and file was one of unbounded enthusiasm, which was unusual even for a cloakmaker meeting. The true meaning and import of the recent revolution in the cloak industry, the establishment of the week-work system, was evidently felt by the cloak finishers, who cheered lustily every reference to the new system.

The meeting was presided over by Brother J. Halpern, manager of local 9, who was greeted with much applause.

The principal speakers were: Ab. Baroff, secretary and treasurer of the International, I. Fineberg, chairman of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union and

the socialist ex-congressman Myer London.

To say that the speakers were received with enthusiasm, with cheers and much applause would be saying very little. There was an emanation of love, brotherhood, joy and gratitude that flowed from the packed hall to the speakers' platform. It was a most inspired and inspiring testimonial to the leaders and devoted friends of the cloakmakers.

The tide of enthusiasm reached its height when ex-congressman London rose to address the cloakworkers. The audience, to a man, jumped to its feet and what with shouts, and waving hats and kerchiefs, and applause, it was a volcano of joy and ecstasy.

Those who witnessed this and other scenes at the meeting of local 9 will no longer doubt as to the spirit prevailing among the rank and file. The audience gave an unmistakable demonstration of its appreciation of the recent victory and of the way the new system works in practice.

The cloak finishers also gave their approval to the suggested raising of larger funds for and by local 9. There is little doubt that the concrete recommendations of the Executive Board in this matter will be received in a spirit of readiness and confidence by the membership of the local.

The officials of local 9 have good cause to be proud of the results achieved.

PRESIDENT SCHEESINGER IN CALIFORNIA

On Friday, Aug. 15 President Schlesinger left for Los Angeles Cal. He went there to assume the direction of the strike of the Los Angeles cloakmakers, which has been on for several weeks. The issue of the strike is the week work system, which is insisted upon by the Los Angeles Cloakmakers' Union Local 52.

Several urgent requests came from the California strikers that President Schlesinger come there in person, and at the recent special meeting of the general executive board of the International it was decided that the President make this long trip.

Brother Schlesinger promised to send the Justice an account of

the Los Angeles situation as he sees it. In the next issue we may be in a position to print a communication from the President of the International.

On his way back Schlesinger will stop at several cities with a view of boosting up our locals where such exist or establishing new ones where conditions warrant it. His return trip will be a kind of agitation tour on behalf of the International and will be of great aid to our remote locals, for Schlesinger knows how to infuse new life and vigor wherever he comes.

Needless to say that our best wishes go with him in his campaign on behalf of Labor's cause.

By A. BAROFF
Secretary-Treasurer of the International

Now that our organization campaigns have proved successful all along the line I consider it in order to review the recent events in our unions, events so trenchant with the spirit of struggle and triumph.

The beginning of the year 1919 was also the beginning of an intense, feverish activity in the locals of our International. Every local took up the question of a 44 hour week and better wages for its members.

It so happened that in most of the locals the old agreements with the manufacturers expired at about the same time and new agreements had to be concluded. This, of course, served as occasion for new demands to be presented to the various associations. The individual locals drew up their new demands and submitted them to the International for endorsement.

Our general office was busy. Meetings of the various committees of the locals were called to discuss their demands and put them in final shape for presentation to the manufacturers' bodies. This work done, the office began arranging conferences between the unions and the manufacturers of the several bodies of the garment trades. Six strenuous weeks were spent in efforts to gain for the locals all their demands without resorting to strikes. But these efforts proved futile in most cases, and it was becoming more and more apparent that the trump card, the general strike, would have to be played in order to compel the employers to yield.

It fell to the lot of the Ladies' Waist and Dress Makers' Union local 25, one of the largest locals of the International, to step forth as the vanguard of our forces, and open the struggle for the 44-hour week. This union, with a glorious record of victories, of bravery, of loyalty and devotion to the cause of labor, was forced to call a general strike in order to make the manufacturers change their tactics, to recognize the power of the organization and to reckon with its demands.

The general strike of the Waist Makers' Union was called on Jan. 21 and lasted some 12 weeks. The workers fought like lions against their employers. The International, its officers, its financial resources were placed in the service of the heroic waistmakers.

This strike conducted virtually by the International office was a model of endurance and loyalty on the part of the strikes, and could not help exerting a desirable influence upon the sister trades, in which the manufactur-

ers were preparing to fight their workers tooth and nail.

The strike of the Waistmakers' Union which was conducted with so much system and efficiency and which drove many of the waist manufacturers to their ruin, impressed the manufacturers of other trades with the faculty of fighting their organized workers. These manufacturers benefited by the lesson taught the waist and dress employers and came to realize that the best and shortest thing for them would be to enter into conferences with the union and concede the demands of the workers. And so it really happened. While the waist makers were engaged in a desperate struggle with their employers, the International, managed to renew agreements with the manufacturers of the Children Dress, white goods, wrapper and Kimono and Embroidery industries, securing for the workers the 44 hour week, a reasonable increase in wages, minimum scales, and union standards of work.

The waist makers' strike was finally settled. The workers gained a greater victory than they originally hoped for, and their success had its effect also on the Philadelphia, Pa. situation, where local 15, without a strike, gained the 44 hour week and higher wages.

This campaign of our International and its locals in the above-mentioned industries was but the forerunner of a wide organization campaign in other industries, which are under the jurisdiction of the International. Both in New York and in the provincial towns the activities of the International locals reached their high-water mark. The 44 hour week was at the top of the list of demands presented or about to be presented to the manufacturers. Increases in wages and general improvement in conditions of work were demanded by all our locals. The non-union workers and the laggards of the affected industries hastened to the banners of the respective unions, which were to fight decisive battles for all the workers of their trade.

The membership meetings and particularly those of the executive board were cauldrons of activity inspired by the vision of victory and a better life.

It is superfluous to say that our International took more than an active part in this crusade for a better life. It encouraged the weak locals by rendering them even a greater measure of support than that given the stronger ones.

The realization that the Inter-

THE WEEK

By S. Y.

NEW YORK WITHOUT "L" AND SUBWAY SERVICE FOR 48 HOURS

It has not been the good fortune of Manhattan and the Bronx to boast before Brooklyn of having peace, happiness and contentment among the subway and elevated employees. Also Manhattan and the Bronx had a taste of a traffic strike, which lasted almost two days. The difference between the Brooklyn strike and the New York tie-up was only in the degree of excitement and disorder. The Brooklyn strike was a stormy affair. Cars as well as heads were smashed, and the station houses were fairly filled with arrested strikers. There was none of this "dramatic" element in the New York strike. Cars were not damaged, strikers were not arrested, and if there was excitement it was not over. At 4 A. M. Sunday morning 17 all subway and elevated trains stopped dead, and late on Monday as if nothing had happened, the subway and "L" lines were again running.

And there is a reason. It is only charged that the strike called by the Brotherhood, the "union" organized with the aid of the Interboro officials and under their direct influence, was not a strike of employees against employers, but one in which the employees were silent partners.

If the charge is true, the strike is really a new phenomenon in the realm of industrial relations, and it will be worth while to dwell on it as a long length.

Three years ago the employees of the New York Elevated lines went on strike. The Amalgamated did not succeed in getting the subway employees to join in the strike, so that, in spite of the wholesale support on the part of New York labor, in spite of the fact that tens of thousands refused to ride in the scab-driven subways and "L's," preferring the tedious improvised jitneys or taking "Footwalk Avenue Line," the strike was broken and the Interboro came out triumphant.

But to prevent another strike—and a strike is annoying and costly even if the strikers are beaten—the Interboro created a "union" of its employees after its own heart. It provided its pet "union" with headquarters and officials, and, what is better still, the "union" was furnished gratis to its members. No salaries were paid to business agents and similar loafers. Why waste money on such nonsense if the company takes care of the affairs of the union? Another thing. The "union" was established on the principle of "no strike." A specific clause to that effect was inserted

national steered the waist makers union to victory and helped raising the better half of the \$500,000 spent to win the strike, gave new heart to the workers of the other trades in insisting on their demands of better wages and shorter hours. Close upon the conclusion of the waist maker strike the Joint Board of our mighty Cloakmakers' Union of New York began making final arrangements for the great revolution in the cloak industry, which has been so brilliantly carried out.

But of this—next time.

in the agreement between the Interboro and its pet child.

And so the Interboro and the Brotherhood lived in peace for 3 years. During that time the company raised the wages of its employees. Not because the latter demanded an increase or threatened a strike, but because the kind-hearted company realized that its well behaving workers are entitled to some increase in wages, in view of the high cost of living.

Immediately after the B. R. T. strike the Interboro again ventured a 10 per cent increase in wages to its employees. But—wonders upon wonders!—the Brotherhood refused to accept the raise and demanded an increase of 50 per cent.

This was too much even for the Interboro. The company argued that it was on the verge of bankruptcy and could not grant the increase. It suggested that the workers apply to the co-partner, the city, for a raise.

And when the Brotherhood leaders went to the city, that is, to Mayor Hylan, he received them all but cordially and told them point blank that he did not believe theirs was a bona fide strike; that the company was behind them and that the whole thing was a "put up job." The company, he charged, organized the strike in order to wrest from the city an 8 cents fare.

The Brotherhood leaders denied the charge with great indignation. They demanded higher wages, they said, because they could not get along on those they were getting, and as to the company's campaign for an increased fare, it is none of their concern.

The leaders of the company "union" spoke as if they turned revolutionists over night. They would have none of arbitration, they would not postpone the strike for a single day. Either they get a 50 percent increase or strike.

Their impudent manner convinced the Mayor and the city still more that the Brotherhood strike is but a screen for the Interboro to get an increased fare.

This circumstance explains the reason why the Interboro showed so much "fairness" in the strike. The company did not so much as protest against the breach of contract by the Brotherhood, and did not make the least attempt to man the trains with scabs, as it had done successfully three years ago. On the contrary, it rejected every offer of scab labor. Under such circumstances, when the employer is himself on the side of the striker, the latter could not help win the strike. After a few hours of negotiations the strike was settled. The employees will get a 25 per cent increase in wages and the rest of the demands will be submitted to arbitration.

The Brotherhood may boast of a victory, but the Interboro, too, may boast of its organizing abilities. It has organized a 100 per cent union of its employees and now, when the public will forget about the strike-charges of the Mayor, it is almost sure to get its long-covered 8 cents fare, with the aid of the union of its own making. What it could not accomplish through persistent and costly lobbying at Albany it is

about to accomplish with the aid of its own union.

Moral: A good union like the Brotherhood is the best investment for an employer.

THE CONFERENCE IN THE WHITE HOUSE ABOUT THE PEACE TREATY

The Senators of the Foreign Relations Committee who are still so bitter in their opposition to the peace treaty, and especially to the League of Nations, had a conference with the President last week which is remarkable for the fact that the representatives of the press were not debarred, but on the contrary, invited to attend, so that full publicity might be given the proceedings.

The conference or rather the quizzing of the President lasted over three hours; the questions and answers fill several pages in the daily newspapers. It will, therefore, be impossible to give even a synopsis of all the questions and answers in these columns. But the results of the conference seems to be negative. The adherents of the peace treaty believe that the President answered brilliantly every question he was asked and came out the victor in the battle of wits. The opponents on the other hand are of the opinion that the president said nothing new, had not succeeded in winning over a single one of his former opponents and that things remain as they were.

The President argued that peace must be concluded at once so that the people know how to direct their daily tasks; the present crisis both in America and Europe, in the opinion of the President, is largely a result of the undecided situation. The President said that an early ratification of the peace treaty is essential to the welfare of the whole world. In connection with this argument it is interesting to quote the following excerpts from the debate between Senator Brandegee and the President.

Senator Brandegee—Mr. President, the situation is this: If Germany has surrendered its navy, demobilized its army, and been shorn of large portions of its territory; if we have no demand for reparation or indemnity against her; as, you stated in your address to the Congress, the war is over; if there is no fighting going on; if Germany has signed the peace treaty and you have signed the peace treaty; if, in fact, there is a condition of peace; and only the resolution of Congress that a state of war existed a year ago; if that is all, is there no way by which peace which actually exists can be made legally effective except by the adoption of the proposed treaty?

The President—Senator, I would say that there is no way which we ought to be willing to adopt which separates us in dealing with Germany from those with whom we were associated during the war.

Senator Brandegee—Why? The President—Because I think that is a moral union which we are not at liberty to break.

Senator Brandegee—If we have rescued our fellow-belligerents from the German peril voluntarily and without any charge, and if we prefer not to have any entanglements in our connections with European powers, but to pursue our course as we did before the war, where is the moral obligation to merge ourselves with Europe forever?

The President—I do not substitute it as merging ourselves,

but I do think we are under the plainest moral obligation to join with our associates in imposing certain conditions of peace on Germany.

We see then that we could have a legal peace with Germany, whether the senate ratifies the treaty or not. All the President will have to do is to proclaim that our war with Germany is at an end and this will amount to a state of peace; but the President thinks that it would not be morally just toward France, Italy and England, and declare peace on our own behalf without ratifying the treaty.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN MEXICO

So far American troops crossed the Mexican border not for the purpose of making war upon Mexico. Their object is to get hold of a few Mexican bandits who had captured two American aviators and demanded a ransom of \$15,000. The two aviators have been set free and it is they who are leading the robbers in the pursuit of the bandits. So far it is a kind of punitive expedition but there is no telling what such a chase after bandits may result in. A few years ago the American army entered Mexico to catch General Villa, but at that time it was done with the consent and approval of the Carranza Government. But the present expedition was undertaken without the consent of the Mexican Government. Only when the soldiers had crossed the border Colonel Langhorne of the American Army notified General Antonia Frinuela about the event and asked him to announce the fact to the Mexican troops so that conflicts may be avoided.

But an armed conflict can hardly be avoided in such cases and if such a conflict should take place it will mean war with Mexico, a new war in the midst of all the hopes and yearnings for universal peace.

SOUTHERN ILLITERACY.

Harmonious relations between whites and negroes in the South can readily be cultivated, according to one of the investigators on negro migration in 1916-1917, the report on which has just been issued through the United States Department of Labor. The report cites particularly, among the experiences of a number of communities, the case of Adams County, of which Natchez, Mississippi, is the county seat. The harmony existing there, he believes, is due to the close contact of the leaders of the two races.

"It is significant that in the older counties which line the eastern banks of the Mississippi from Tennessee to the Louisiana line, where relations between the races are fairly good, white adult male illiteracy is by counties from one-half to one-fifth what it is in the state as a whole; and that in two counties notorious for white-papping and expelling negroes, white adult male illiteracy is 50 per cent more than for the State as a whole," the investigator writes.

Relations are most cordial, it is asserted, where white illiteracy is lowest, where communities have existed for generations and whites and blacks have long been in contact; where the soil is fertile; where right of trial in court is maintained for negroes and where negroes are encouraged to own property.

THE AFTERMATH OF WAR

By JULIET S. POYNTZ

Well nigh a year has passed since the war was officially at an end, and the world is farther than ever from a solution for its difficulties. Indeed it is only just beginning to rub its eyes, to gaze at the devastation, and to realize the terrible plight in which four years of destructive frenzy have left it. Our papers tell us little or nothing of the true state of affairs, and we fall back into an attitude of indifference, trusting that the peoples of Europe are muddling through somehow. Our own troubles, the affairs of the shop, all the round of our small lives withdraws our attention from the awful tragedy that is being enacted across the sea. We do not realize that the workers of Europe are lying prostrate in an agony of starvation and unemployment and that they are stretching out their hands to us, in their simple faith that the workers of England and America will not forget them. We begin to realize the situation when we read the statement of a moderate man like Arthur I. Henderson of England, that before the winter comes a final paroxysm of rage and despair will seize the people of Europe in which the last remnants of civilization may be destroyed.

There were wise men who said when the war started that it could not last longer than six months, that all the nations would undergo a financial collapse which would make it impossible for them to continue the war. But the war went on. For four long years it continued while the nations plunged deeper and deeper into debt, mortgaging their last penny and the welfare of many generations to come for money to continue the slaughter. The increase in national debts alone has been two hundred billion dollars for all the countries concerned. This debt falls upon each citizen as a burden of about \$400 as compared with \$50 before the war. The interest alone on the national debt is ten billion dollars per year — ten billion dollars per year to pay for implements of slaughter and destruction rather than for the double ends of human welfare — better houses, better schools, better wages, better food, insurance for the workers against sickness, accident and old age.

In addition to the actual money expended out of the public treasuries there was a tremendous additional cost which it is very difficult to figure. The devastation of the war areas probably covers a figure as high as the cost of the war itself. Add to this the enormous value of the national and international trade, commerce and industry that was destroyed. In ships alone the various nations lost fifteen million tons worth 7 billion dollars. The value of the war in business and manufacturing can hardly be computed but is gigantic.

So much for money! What of men? Sixty million men fought each other in death grapple on all the battle fronts. Of these 8 million lie dead on the battlefield while more than twice as many again were wounded. Out of every two men conscripted in the Great War one is either dead or maimed. Among the people at home the toll of death was even greater than on the battle lines. Massacre, starvation and disease due direct-

ly to the war took off 9 millions of human beings making the war death reach the fearful total of 17,000,000, a number equal to the entire adult population of Germany or England before the war. Think of a catastrophe which could wipe out of existence a whole nation. A whole nation with its millions of human beings!

In addition to the actual destruction of life we must set down to the account of the war the wreckage of human happiness and the spread of virulent disease. Tuberculosis developed in the terrible conditions of trench life and in the home population through underfeeding is now spreading abroad over unhappy Europe.

General diseases in a terrible form affect great sections of the population through the enforced prostitution of women through war poverty and the unnatural life of the men at the front. Syphilis is raging in every country of Europe to a degree unheard of before. Through it physical degeneracy threatens not only this generation but the entire European race for generations to come. And what of the hopes and happiness of human beings! What of the despair which the war has left in its wake. Can we ever

measure in cold figures or in terms of dollars and cents the infinite loss which has fallen upon humanity, the ruin of homes, the blasting of love, the loss of our sons, and the grief over our suffering! How can we describe the universal misery and desperation!

Nor is there yet an end. The close of the war has brought no relief, no hope. Conditions are worse than before. The entire economic system has collapsed. The populations of Europe which had grown up around their industries like the little coral animals on a great coral reef suddenly find their place of fixture gone. Their heads are pulled beneath them, and they find themselves floating lose with no power either to earn, or to buy, with no means of producing or consuming — without work and without food. We know that in this economic system human life is possible through a complicated system of exchange of goods and food. Credit is necessary to keep the mines and mills going. It is the heart which pumps the blood through the entire system. Transportation, ships and railroads, are necessary to keep goods moving from factory to retail store, to keep food moving from the fields to the great cities, to keep coal moving from the mines to the workshops which cannot run without fuel. We know that manufacturing or production is necessary to prepare the raw materials of Nature for human use, cotton, wool, leather, rubber, iron. And best of all we know that work in field or factory is necessary to provide the wages with which to buy the necessities of life. What then do you say of a condition where all these necessities of human life are absent, where credit, transportation, fuel, production and food have all broken down together — where there are no wages to buy food and clothing, no food and clothing to be bought because there are no railroads and ships to carry it, no railroads because there is no coal to run them, no coal because there are no railroads to

carry it, no factories working because there is no coal to make steam, because there are no markets in which to sell and no raw materials to buy, and no banks ready to supply credit where they see no chance of a profitable return.

There, in a few words, is the story of the collapse of the capitalist system. For it has collapsed — if not yet in America, in all the countries of Europe. And the canker of competition is eating its way slowly but surely into our own economic system. The collapse of international credit must involve us. In an international crisis we can't escape. The American workers cannot buy back what they produce in field and factory. Therefore the goods must be sold to the Brazilians and Chinese. The food which we produce but cannot afford to buy must be sold at famine prices in other lands. The credit which we cannot use must be sent to employ savages and coolies to do the work which should be done by our own population.



Labor Items



BIG OIL PRODUCERS

URGING MEXICAN WAR

The board of foreign missions of the Presbyterian church has made public a report which charges that oil interests are manufacturing propaganda to embroil this nation in a war with Mexico. The report was prepared by Samuel G. Inman, executive secretary of a Latin-American committee of this church.

Mr. Inman declares that the American people are being deceived by inspired propaganda and that "intervention in Mexico is coming as fast as certain interests can possibly force it." These interests, it is stated, "are playing not simply for oil wells in Tampico and Vera Cruz, but for a much larger stake; they have found out that Mexico is full of oil. What they want is for the United States to get hold of Mexico so that they can easily obtain these billions of dollars of oil property which are certain to be developed in the future."

Mexico City, Mexico. — The Mexican Review publishes a statement of the area of oil lands held by various companies operating in this country. The English interests, known as the Lord Cowdry group, hold 1,410,237 acres. The Standard Oil Company is not included in the list, but three groups which are declared to be in "complete accord with the Standard Oil Company" hold 906,822 acres. There are 291 smaller concerns listed as controlling 1,259,207 acres, and the combined holdings of these smaller concerns and nine large companies total 5,430,271 acres.

The Mexican secretary of industry and commerce reports that during the year 1918 the value of oil exported from Mexico was \$140,557,553.39, and the government collected over \$1,000,000 in export taxes.

LABOR SCARCITY!

In commenting on conditions in the coal industry the Coal Trade Bulletin declares that "labor is growing more scarce," and that aliens are leaving the mines and that "their places are not being filled because there is no one to fill them."

Against these assertions may be placed statements in a letter to Congressman Huddleston, of Alabama, from Director General Densmore of the United States employment service. Answering a query of July 12, last, the federal official declared that "ever since the armistice was signed thousands of miners have been idle."

"Unemployment has been keenly felt in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and the southwestern districts. Unemployment in certain sections of Indiana, Illinois and Ohio is such as to create distress and want among a large number of miners and their families.

"There are approximately the same number of men employed in and around the coal mines now as there were in 1918. In some sections, due to illness, Italians and Slavs from Europe have returned to their native land, but this has been offset by the return of thousands of men who served in the army and navy during the war."

WARNED AGAINST UNION-BAITING

"Keep hands off trade unions" is the essence of a recent order to officers of the Ordnance Department of the army by Brigadier General Pierce, acting chief of ordnance. The order is directed to officers in charge of workers and declares that "it must be clearly understood that there shall be no abridgement of the right of men to join societies, associations or unions of any kind, and no limitations upon conferences between representatives of those bodies and the proper ordnance representatives."

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly.

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A. BAROFF, Sec'y-Treas.

S. YANOFSEV, Editor
B. LEHRMAN, Business Mgr.

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EDITORIALS

TO THE RESCUE OF OUR LIBERTIES

It is hardly necessary to adduce evidence to prove that the forces of reaction in our country are doing everything in their power to stifle and suppress every manifestation of freedom and genuine education; every effort to the end that the war which took such a fearful toll in human lives and gave birth to so much human misery, should not have been fought in vain; that the world be once for all made safe for real democracy, for real peace and for genuine progressive development of all peaceful lines of pursuit.

The forces of reaction view such efforts as a menace to civilization, to the thing they call civilization. And to stifle the awakening of the masses brought about by the events of the last 5 years, no choice of means is made; no methods are considered objectionable and the system of persecutions in the Czaristic Russia of old is copied freely. Peaceful meetings are raided; newspapers are suppressed; arrests are made without even a semblance of cause or warrant; even educational institutions with splendid records of research and popular education along all lines, are destroyed or greatly molested. In a word, the country which has fought and bled to win freedom and democracy for the whole world is in grave danger of losing her own fundamental liberties — freedom of speech, press and assembly, — liberties which had been considered inviolable and imperishable before the war started, but which are now cynically violated by the very forces, that pretend to defend our American institutions. And not only is there no sign of abatement of this tornado of reaction, but it seems to be gaining in fury and is manifestly bent on destroying beyond repair all that we had of freedom and liberty.

This danger should not be minimized. For the present, it is true, this retrogressive and reactionary campaign is conducted in some guise or another. The champions of the dark dare not as yet come out in open challenge and defiance of all that is striving for a better world to live in. The campaign is as yet not directed against the labor movement as a political and economic theory. For the present the black crusade is ostensibly directed against bolsheviks, anarchists, I. W. W., etc. These elements are branded as the ulcers on the body politic, and the greatest efforts must be exerted to eliminate them, thru a surgical operation, if need be. But only a blind man cannot see that the forces of reaction will not stop here. Now the persecutions are directed against the anarchists, the bolsheviks, the I. W. W., but before long the entire

labor movement together with the socialist movement will be branded as bolshevik and anarchist, and the same argument will be used — that these elements must be destroyed or civilization will perish.

And it is for this very reason that the trade union movement should be in the vanguard of the forces to combat reaction. It will be fatal shortsightedness if our labor organizations will fail to take steps to check this encroachment upon their liberties.

We address ourselves particularly to our own International. This organization, in the course of the last few months has gained remarkable victories for its membership. These victories are due primarily to the wonderful spirit of harmony and solidarity both of thought and action within the organization itself. But they are due in no small measure also to the fact that labor the world over is permeated with the urge of a better life worthy of human dignity and of the dignity of those who toil.

It is against this urge that our organized forces of reaction are waging war; and all our victories may be frustrated or even paralyzed if reaction will succeed in its purpose.

If shortsighted workers, who see nothing beyond their immediate material interests are indifferent spectators in this invasion of reaction it is regrettable enough, but they cannot be blamed for "they know not what they do". But this extenuation does not apply to our workers. The tens of thousands who constitute the membership of our International are fully aware of the significance and danger of the present sweep of reaction. They can readily foresee the disastrous consequences that must attend the triumph of the forces of darkness and oppression. And for them to remain idle spectators would be treason to themselves and their class.

We believe, therefore, that now when the International is through with its own struggles, having triumphed brilliantly in all of them, having for the time being stabilized its own affairs, it would be but proper for the unions composing it to call a kind of convention, if you please, which should ascertain what the International is to do and what it can do at the present moment. What stand to take in this tide of reaction and what methods to employ of stemming it.

We would naturally want to see the International in the lead of the crusade against oppression and persecution, for it deserves this place both because of its numerical strength and because of the caliber of intelligence of its members. If the International will assume the leadership we do not doubt that other great unions

will rally around its banner and will together declare war upon the war against our fundamental liberties, upon the agents of reaction who would convert our country into an enormous military barracks where every word of protest would be tantamount to high treason and punishable as such.

But the honor of leadership is a secondary matter. The important thing is for some strong organization to assume the leadership. And now, we doubt that the very fact of mobilization of the progressive trade union forces will have a curbing effect upon the sinister forces that have run amuck! The reason our reactionaries are so impudent and reckless is that they believe there is not an organized element of our society to check them and teach them prudence. As soon as they will become aware of the existence of such an organized element, they will be biting teeth, no doubt, but the brakes on their fury.

And even if it is to be a direct encounter why not welcome it? Why stand idly by when hundreds are arrested in defiance of all precedent and law? Why not raise a huge protest against such outrages? Why swallow down such a malicious insult as the raid on the Rand School? Why not identify ourselves with the noble aims of this institution!

The policy of cowardice is a disgraceful one, but it also does not pay. In the long run it leads to impotence and death. An organization like the International and other organizations of its caliber must have the courage of their convictions and not remain silent when it is their highest duty to protest aloud.

It may be objected that such a course on the part of the International may gain for it the reputation of being bolshevik and revolutionary and may result in the loss of its good name of a bona fide trade union. But we pointed out above that the opposite policy — that of voiceless submission — will in the long run lead to the same result. The way to fight reaction is, in the words of Dante, courage, courage and an ounce of courage. The time when the labor movement had to be voiceless is over. If virtue was made of necessity at that time, there is no need and no excuse for it now. The labor movement is directly affected by the public affairs of the land and it must assert itself on all occasions of public consequence.

But even if we admit that the International cannot plunge itself headlong into the struggle with reaction, it is nevertheless true that it can aid materially in this struggle.

A few weeks ago a meeting of various labor and socialist organizations was held in New York, at which it was decided to raise a \$100,000 fund to fight reaction.

Such a fund is not too large when we take into consideration the fact that the reactionaries have millions at their disposal in addition to the formidable forces of the press. With the aid of the latter a systematic campaign of mis-education is carried on the country over. Can the progressive labor movement do nothing by way of furnishing an antidote?

It can and it must. And the first step in this direction is the raising of the proposed fund.

But as far as we know nothing has been done yet in this direction. We have scanned in vain

the reports of our locals to find evidence of their interest in this question. It has never been raised at the meetings, it has never been discussed.

This indifference must not be. We appeal to the International as a whole and to every member of the International individually to do their duty. The \$100,000 fund must be raised, and as A. Baroff, the secretary of the International, expressed himself, the fund can be raised at once, if every worker will contribute 25c and send it to the treasurer of the fund, who is no other than Brother Baroff.

To do this no unusual degree of courage is required. Given the good will and the fund can be raised in no time. Our members can surely afford to contribute 25c or even \$1.00 each for this noble cause. If they can pay the raise in rent, the high prices of foodstuffs imposed by the profiteers, large and small, they certainly can afford to contribute a trifle for the urgent campaign against reaction, for the rescue of our common liberties.

AT THE UNITY HOUSE

We again visited the Unity House. This time only for a few hours. It seems that the Unity resort is the only place in the world of summer resorts where one does not feel the dreariness and oppressiveness of the rainy weather we have been having so much. There the sunshine of gayety and comradeship in a large measure makes up for the lack of sure-enough sunshine.

As to the material side of the Unity House little need be said about it. It is admitted by all the visitors that there is nothing left to wish for on this score. But also the spiritual side hasn't been neglected. A library has been established at the cost of several hundred dollars and consisting of hundreds of volumes donated, borrowed and bought, and of the best current periodicals.

Too much praise cannot be given the dancing class and its director — beg pardon, directress — whose name we, unfortunately forgot to inquire about. From our own observation we can assure the readers that it is simply impossible not to make progress under the able and original tutelage of this artistic woman.

The entertainments arranged every evening contribute much to the amusement and interest of the vacationists. Only local talent takes part in them, but they are none the less interesting and entertaining for it.

The happy Unity vacationists would be happier still if they knew how bored and uncomfortable guests are in the regulation resorts, how heavily time hangs on their hands, and how unbearable the inclemencies of the weather are. Lucky indeed are those whose fortune it is to spend their summer vacation in the Unity House.

The American Federation of Labor

ITS SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY AND ITS POLICIES AS REFLECTED AT ITS LAST CONVENTION.

By S. YANOFSKY

The social philosophy of the A. F. of L. as manifested by its 26th annual convention, differs radically from ours in that it rejects our view of the inevitability and desirability of the complete breakdown of the present economic system and the establishment of a new order of things. The A. F. of L. has as its working basis the present and the immediate future. It practically ignores the remote future. Some of its leaders may be giving thought to the things that are to come in the distant hereafter and may have visions of an ideal order of society similar to those of socialists and anarchists. But these visions do not at all influence their concrete work in the present. The area of cultivation of the A. F. of L. is circumscribed by the visible horizon of the present.

Many a time I was wondering what stand the A. F. of L. would take in the event of a revolution breaking out in America. As a result of my observations I am inclined to answer the question in the following way: If the leaders of the Federation would not see in the revolution any likelihood of immediate and positive advantages for the working people of the country they would oppose it with all their might.

The practical character of the philosophy and policies of the Federation are best expressed in the preamble to its constitution:

Whereas, A struggle is going on in all the nations of the civilized world between the oppressors and the oppressed of all countries, a struggle between the capitalist and the laborer, which grows in intensity from year to year, and will work disastrous results to the toiling millions if they are not combined for mutual protection and benefit.

It, therefore, behooves the representatives of the Trade and Labor Unions of America, in convention assembled, to adopt such principles among the mechanics and laborers of our country as will permanently unite them to secure the recognition of rights to which they are justly entitled. We, therefore, declare ourselves in favor of the formation of a thorough Federation, embracing every Trade and Labor Organization in America, organized under the Trade Union system.

The preamble, as we see, states clearly that the aim of the labor movement is merely mutual protection and benefit, merely the securing of rights to which the workers are entitled. But there is not the least hint about abolishing all oppression as if it were something that is to endure forever.

This point of view is, of course, the very opposite of the one held by socialists or anarchists. But it is the point of view of American trade unionism, it is the reflection of the social philosophy of the American worker.

It is this difference that gives rise to antagonism with which the A. F. of L. views the socialist party and all those who direct their efforts for a better future,

in which there is to be no capitalist class. The leaders of the A. F. of L. as well as the rank and file think that the capitalist class is as indispensable to society and civilization as is the working class itself, for they consider the capitalist class as the organizing class of society, as the indispensable partner in the work of the world. It is of no importance to us at present whether they consider the ultimate fate of society too idle a thing to waste efforts on, or whether they have their own fixed notions about the state of things to come. The important thing is that every activity that is a hindrance to the immediate goal—the organization and unionizing of all workers, is regarded by the A. F. of L. as a detrimental activity which is to be checked and combated.

The socialist party, the I. W. W., the Non-Partisan League, the movement to found an independent labor party cannot hope to obtain the sanction of the A. F. of L. because it is firmly convinced that all of these social agencies, despite their lofty aims and principles, tend to keep the workers dissatisfied and are to this extent a detriment to American labor and a hindrance in its efforts to secure immediate improvements.

Another characteristic feature of the mode of thinking of the A. F. of L. heads is their antagonism to the "outsider," the "intellectual," who takes it upon himself to enlighten the worker, to hand him a new creed of emancipation.

In this particular the A. F. of L. has much in common with Russian Bolshevism in its first stages, which repelled the entire *intelligentsia* for fear that it may dictate the workers their mode of action. The A. F. of L. is highly jealous of its independence and will brook no interference in its internal affairs. It considers itself thoroughly competent to solve its own problems as they come up.

This accounts for its lack of understanding and sympathy with the trade union movement of Europe, which is strongly influenced by European socialism. What have the socialists, the outsiders, to do with the trade unions? The A. F. of L. asks with feeling, and it regards these uncalled-for advisers as mere hangers on, mere parasites on the labor movement, and the sooner the latter will rid itself of the socialists the better for it.

In this sense the A. F. of L. is one of the mightiest strongholds of the existing system. Wm. R. Bosson, governor of New Jersey, in his address of welcome to the convention very aptly expressed this attitude of the Federation in the following words:

"There was a great meeting in New York City last night, and one of the speakers arose and said that unless their very plans were carried out chaos would be the result—and he was applauded to the echo. And I say a great thing about the mighty arm of this body, represents stands unalterably opposed to that gospel. Yours is a policy of construction and not

destruction, and, so long as that it true, they can belch their mouthings in vain."

This doubtful compliment was received by the delegates with much applause, and the president of the convention did not find it necessary to qualify the aims of the convention as expressed by the governor.

On the other hand it is clear that the A. F. of L. is by no means the stronghold of the present economic system with all its cruel injustices. In his reply to the address of welcome by the Mayor of Atlantic City, Samuel Gompers found it necessary to say the following:

"Well, in the year of grace 1919, sanctified by more than four years of blood-letting, the day of tyranny and autocracy, whether it be in the political life or the industrial life of our peoples, has gone. Very recently an industrial concern in Toledo refused point-blank to reconsider an arbitrary action taken by the company in increasing the hours of labor of the workers. If any employer believes that industrial autocracy or industrial despotism is going to prevail in the United States of America, it should count on being counted without his host. The principles for which this labor movement has been contending from its very inception must come to full fruition. We are making no unjust or unwarranted demands upon society or upon employers as such, but for the service which the men and the women of labor give to society, a service without which civilization itself would perish—for that service we insist upon a return that shall give us the opportunity to live a full-rounded life, ourselves, our wives, our children, our dependents, and to make of this country of our and of this world of ours a place worthy of the civilization of our time.

We have some concept of our duties and our responsibilities, and we have been honored by being told frankly and freely that we have shown our full appreciation of the responsibilities which rest upon us. The history of the labor movement will, to the future historian, be the greatest source of information and inspiration. We are growing in numbers, in power and in influence. To carry that power and that influence to the fullest extent and to realize our duties to ourselves and to our fellows, and in great appreciation of all that has been done in the past, having a conscious vision for the future, to carry on our work according to the best judgment for results to our fellows—that is the thing to which we will give our attention."

We see, then, that while it is true that the A. F. of L. is a stronghold of the present system when stormed from without by all kinds of futurist parties, it is equally true that the Federation has its own scores to settle with this same system. And there is no telling where and how far the struggle will be carried if the present system will fail to reward labor so that the worker may live a "full-rounded life."

This new conception of which

Gompers speaks in general terms, but which will, in time, have to be defined more clearly, furnishes the greatest hope that after all the role assigned by the governor of New Jersey to the labor movement will not prove a betrayal to the working class. This new conception will force the A. F. of L. against its will perhaps, to get on the side of the "disrupters" and "destroyers."

But this is merely a prophecy. At present the A. F. of L. is really aiding and supporting the bourgeois order, but at the same time it is also the greatest power in organizing the workers. Perhaps it cannot be otherwise: [N]ever out the great task of organization and unification of labor if its views and policies were different. Not so much because it would surely be hindered in its work by the controlling forces of the present system, but because it would, perhaps, be impossible to unite the workers of America in any other way.

The quotations from the various speeches made on the very first day of the convention give a sufficiently clear idea as to the general views of the A. F. of L. They are elucidated still further by the report of the delegation sent to Europe by the A. F. of L. This report will be the subject of our next article.

Emigration from England

London, England. — A desire to emigrate from England after demobilization and assistance tendered by the government are possibilities, according to a report of a special committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions, which interviewed the British colonial office on this question.

It was intimated to the trade unionists that emigration to British colonies only would be assisted, as the government "can be under no obligation whatever to assist the migration of labor of any kind to countries outside the empire.

Even unemployed labor possesses potentialities and to assist its transference to alien countries would be unwise."

In answer to the claim that soldiers would not return to indoor life, the trade union committee says:

"Had the war lasted only 12 months this assumption might have been realized. Four and one-half years' direct association with the mud and suffering of Flanders has modified original conceptions of the desirability of outdoor life. All the surviving clerks who left the General Federation of Trade Unions to serve with the army are anxious to return. Most men now manifest great anxiety to settle down at home."

EXECUTIVE OF LOCAL 25 ACTS ON INDUSTRIAL MATTERS

A regular meeting of the Executive Board was held on Tuesday, August 12, 1919, at Beethoven Hall with Sister Mollie Friedman as Chairlady.

Upon the request of the committee which appeared before the Executive Board representing the Friends of Soviet Russia, a resolution was adopted to call upon the Congress of the United States to take action in the present Russian situation which shall bring about the discontinuance of the blockade against the Russian Soviet Republic. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved that:

1. We, the Ladies' Waist and Dressmakers' Union, composed of 30,000 members affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, as citizens of the United States, call upon the Congress of the United States to take action in the present Russian situation which shall bring about the discontinuance of the blockade against the Russian Soviet Republic. Without our having declared war against Russia this blockade is bringing death by starvation to hundreds of thousands every month.

2. We urge the immediate recall of all American troops in Russia and the abandonment of attempts to secure special troops for service there. That is no service for the soldiers of a democracy.

3. We do most earnestly protest against the coniving or collaborating of our government with any counter-revolutionary groups such as those of Kerensky, Denikin servants of a discredited monarchical regime.

4. We hold that the American government must do nothing that will hinder the Russian people from determining their own form of government in accordance with their own economic and political ideals.

5. In sum, we call upon Congress to exercise its constitutional functions for the purpose of creating a genuinely democratic foreign policy consistent with the memories of the revolution by which it was founded and the Civil War by which it was perpetuated.

As to the question of a contribution which this committee asked in order to assist them in their campaign same was referred to the Finance Committee for action.

Brother Finkelstein, our new Chief Clerk, was introduced and in brief he outlined the plans for the future work of his department. He concluded his speech with the statement that he feels the responsibilities of his office and he will try to devote his energy for the welfare of the members of the organization in order to improve the conditions of the workers in our industry.

Upon Brother Finkelstein's suggestion, a permanent Grievance Committee to meet with the representatives of the Association every week, and take up grievances which could not be adjusted by the Deputy and Chief Clerks, was elected. This committee consists of Brothers Essenfeld, Schoenfeld, Finkelstein and Sister Mollie Friedman.

The Finance and Relief Committee's report was taken up and acted upon.

The report of the Board of Directors was taken up and it was decided to approve of the action of this body in reference to the

shops of J. & S. Elisburg, Mitchell & Weber and Drubin, Kantrowitz and White. The question of establishing a new minimum for the industry, was referred to the Board of Directors in conjunction with the Conference Committee. It was reported that the three managers representing the three departments were instructed to work out a definite plan of action and bring their recommendations in to the Board.

The Secretary was authorized to call a special meeting of the Board as soon as the managers and the Conference Committee would be ready with their plans. It was also decided that as soon as Brother Horowitz returns from his vacation, he should arrange for conferences with the Associations.

A special meeting of the Board was held on Friday, August 15th. The Managers and Conference Committee reported that they held a meeting on August 13th, 1919, in the offices of the International. They stated that the committee has been considering the advisability of making a 10% increase for all week workers, or demanding a revision of the minimum scales. After discussing the matter at some length, the opinion was reached that since we had received a general increase not more than four months ago and considering the present conditions in the industry, it would be advisable to ask for a readjustment of all the minimum scales of wages as they exist in our industry at the present time. By this means the minimum would indirectly be raised. The Committee then discussed what minimum should be demanded when they confer with the Associations. Their decision was guided by the prevailing minimums, also the percentage of workers engaged in the industry receiving above these minimums. They therefore decided to recommend a demand for the following increases:

Drapers, receiving \$23 to receive \$28; Sample Makers, receiving \$22.50 to receive \$26; Examiners receiving \$17.50 to receive \$22; Finishers receiving \$15.50 to receive \$20; Ironers (Women) receiving \$20.50 to receive \$24; Ironers (Men) receiving \$24.50 to receive \$28; Pressers receiving \$33 to receive \$38; Cleaners receiving \$13 to receive \$17; Base rate for operators, existing minimum of 50 cents to be increased to \$1.00.

The Committee also took into consideration the shortage of labor in our industry and also the promise made by our Conference Committee to the Associations at the time of the settlement of the general strike, that as soon as normal conditions will be established in the industry their demand for apprentices in the draping and ironing departments will be granted.

The Committee therefore decided to recommend the following arrangements:

1. *Drapers' Apprentices:* One apprentice to be permitted where not less than three drapers are employed.

That such apprentice start with \$19 per week and at the expiration of two months, they shall receive the scale of full fledged drapers.

2. *Ironers' apprentices:* One apprentice to be permitted where not less than three ironers are employed. In factories where ten or more ironers are employed not

more than two apprentices to be permitted.

That such apprentices shall start with \$17.50 per week and the same period of apprenticeship as established for drapers shall apply to ironers.

3. That a Registration Bureau for apprentices is necessary; therefore it was suggested that no apprentice, in either branch, shall be engaged by the Employer unless said apprentice submits a certificate of registration issued to the applicant by the Ladies' Waist & Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 25.

4. At the expiration of two months apprenticeship the apprentice shall automatically pass into the class of full fledged worker and shall be entitled to the full scale as provided for in our agreement.

5. The applicant shall be required to make a payment of \$3 upon receipt of certificate and after passing the trial period shall be required to join the Union.

6. No employer shall have the right to engage any apprentice unless he has notified the Union forty-eight hours prior to the time of hiring and unless the Union is unable to supply a full fledged worker. The employer must then engage such apprentice according to the provisions of clause 3.

This report was unanimously adopted. The Managers were instructed to notify all the business agents to prepare lists of date of the different shops of the various week work departments. The Managers were also asked to make arrangements for conferences with the Association.

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN CUTTERS UNION LOCAL 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

PREPARATION FOR BANQUET COMPLETED

Only five more weeks before the Victory Banquet and tickets are selling fast. From all indications the affair promises to be the biggest the Union has staged yet. The Committee is meeting every night and all the Business Agents have been given tickets to be sold to the membership. Last week's issue of this paper carried with it reports of banquets held by the other locals of the International. It would not be amiss to say that the Cutters' Union's Banquet will surpass all these, since past affairs held by the Union have been tremendous successes.

Members should bear in mind the fact that they can attend the Banquet only through reservation. And for this reason they are urged to secure their tickets at least two weeks in advance of the date. Those of the men who postpone their affairs until the last day will be sorely disappointed when they learn that they cannot secure tickets. The dinner will be held at the Century Opera House, 67th Street, between Lexington and Third Avenues, on Saturday night, September 27th.

TAKE STAND AGAINST REDUCTION OF WAGES

A very important meeting of the Executive Board took place last Tuesday, August 19th, at which a no less weighty question than safeguarding the present scales of wages was taken up. Every other case for that night was laid aside in order that this and other equally important matters may be taken up.

As is commonly known, there are few shops now that are paying only the minimum scale of wages. Due to the prosperity in the Ladies' Garment Industries, and the high cost of living, which has more than anything else led to the present increases above the minimums, the cutters of Local 10 have managed to secure raises up to \$50 per week; the average wage paid being \$45 per week.

The Executive Board felt that at the first opportunity the employers would make a scramble towards reducing the wages. It also felt that such a thing would create untold miseries upon the workers in view of the constantly rising cost of living.

The workers know, from past

experiences, that Congress or the Legislature can do nothing to bring down abnormal living costs, except the writing of voluminous reports. A month does not pass without the raising of rents. Hence it could readily be seen that unless stringent measures are taken in order to enable the men to hold on to their gains it would not be long before a square meal would look like a luxury to the workers.

The Executive Board decided therefore, to call a special meeting within about three weeks from now where the proposition of employing all of the organization's resources with a view to forestalling any attempt on the part of the manufacturers to reduce wages. The members are advised to keep themselves informed through the medium of this journal so that when the date of the meeting is announced they should attend and voice their disapproval against attempts to reduce their earnings.

IN THE DRESS AND WAIST BRANCH

A conference with the Dress Contract Manufacturers' Association was held at which a number of important matters were taken up. This was the second conference within the past few weeks; others are to be held before the issues in question will be finally disposed of. The first of these conferences was held at the invitation of the Association, its committee claiming that their members had certain matters to take up with the Union. Incidentally representatives of Locals 10 and 25 availed themselves of this opportunity to take up some of their problems which need serious attention. As soon as some definite stand is taken on any of the questions up for consideration a report will be rendered at the next meeting of this Branch of Local 10 and also in these columns. Thus far the contemplated conference with Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association was not held due to the continued stay of Benjamin Schlesinger, President of the International, out of town. It will be recalled that one conference was held a few weeks ago when the question of certain members of the Association who refuse to unionize their plants and who are still looked upon as members was taken up by the Union. Now that the Chicago strike was won it is

oped that Schlesinger will be able to take this matter up.

IN THE CLOAK AND SUIT BRANCH

With the return of Secretary Rosenberg and Manager Gorenstein, the full staff of the Cloak and Suit Branch is at work. Manager Gorenstein states that for the next few weeks the office will be busy with recording the conditions obtaining in association houses. He is sending out shop meeting notices for every evening in the week. In this manner a complete record of each house will be secured and where standards are found to have been lowered steps will be taken for proper adjustment. The business agents are continuing their control of independent shops. In this connection it is important to bear in mind the necessity of every man having in his possession his dues book and working card. In this wise the agent can determine the man's standing and it will save the member the necessity of being called before the Executive Board.

The much sought and much craved for system of equal distribution of work has finally been established following the settlement of the recent general strike in this industry. Plans have been completed for the proper enforcement of this system. Cutters are advised to inform the office of any slack up in their shops after which steps will be taken so that each man will have the opportunity of earning a few weeks wages in the slow season. Of course, there is little fear of that just now when the trade is quite busy.

IN THE MISCELLANEOUS BRANCH

A conference was recently held with members of the Children's Dress Manufacturers' Association and the Union. The entire meeting was taken up with matters pertaining to Local 50, thus making it impossible for Local 10's representative to put before the employers the request of the cutters in this industry for the raising of the minimum to \$35 per week. However, this matter will be taken up within a short time.

The request was to have been made also of the other two associations, Wrapper and Kim no and Underwear Manufacturers. The changes in the staff of officers in this Branch prevented this year. At the last meeting of the Miscellaneous Branch the appointment of Jacob Fleisher as business agent was ratified; the question of a second officer was referred to the Executive Board. With the return of Israel Lewin, Manager of the Dress and Waist Branch, who was appointed temporary manager, conferences with the three associations will immediately be asked for and the matter of bringing the Branch out of its present rut will be well underway.

THE DRY SEASON

Yeast—Well, there's one consolation now that July 1st has passed.

Crimsonbeak—What's that, F'd really like to know!

"The postage stamps are only two cents now."

"Yes, but we're so dry we can't lick them."—Yonkers Statesman.

W. E. BRYAN

Incentive

Much has been said about the destruction of the incentive, if we change the existing system of business. What is incentive? One definition is: The motive. Therefore, it presents this question in the mind of the writer—whether it is not a duty to destroy the incentive in many cases. Unquestionably it should be destroyed where the motive is to monopolize the trade for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many.

There is an incentive behind the effort to destroy the labor movement. It is selfish because it involves insufficient wages and thereby a lessened purchasing power by the workers. It proves there is no consideration for the common good as the general welfare is dependent upon the well-being of the masses. The incentive behind the workers in seeking better wages is to increase their purchasing power; it will enable them to buy more and of better quality, thereby contributing to the general welfare; it will better clothe, better feed, and better house the workers and their dependents; it will better educate the children of the workers, better fit them for the responsibilities which they must assume—that of government, and as fathers and mothers of the generations yet unborn.

Have we no greater mission on earth than to acquire vast fortunes for the few, then to have the power of such fortunes exerted to bring about want and suffering for the many? If this is the mission of mankind, it would be far better to have left the human family in its primitive state. The development of the mind cannot be justified if the knowledge acquired is to be devoted to the exploitation of the peoples of the earth, and the God-given resources therein. There is more than enough for all, if the system under which we live would permit individual initiative. The system demands that the many must seek the opportunity to work at the terms of the few who control the land and basic industries. If it is wrong to destroy the incentive of "big business," which in effect limits the opportunity of the many, then it is a crime against humanity that they must live and endure the persecution.

If incentive must live and be protected, if it involves the increased power of the few, what can be the incentive of the workers to even live, much less to devote themselves to their task? The worker is entitled to the full product of his toil, his incentive for efforts put forth is to acquire that which by right and justice belongs to him, but is withheld and denied to him by those with the incentive to acquire and control the earth and its resources.

What is the future perspective of the worker who has journeyed beyond the summit of life? He shudders to think of what there is in store for him when old age overtakes him and he is no longer physically able to earn a living. He has lived a struggling existence, impossible to accumulate sufficient to provide his needs in his declining years. He sees want and suffering awaiting him, not even a ray of hope to escape it, only that death may come before want and suffering claims him. Should an incentive live that produces such abhorrent results?

The fault lies in the character of the incentive. An insane money desire is a vicious incentive. It takes from those having the least to spare; it takes by methods morally criminal, even though within the law; it roams as a beast of prey seeking the weaker of its kind from whom to exact tribute; it employs the best legal talent that money can buy to devise ways and means of exploitation and evade the law; it sets itself up as an obstruction to the progress of others through monopolistic control of transportation, terminals and markets; through prohibitive tariff it takes possession of entire countries without payment for the privilege and at the expense of the citizens thereof; it corrupts governments, moral politics, and even exerts its corrupting influence over religious bodies. Great fortunes thus acquired sometimes fall into the hands of heirs more considerate, they make amends as best they can by giving back the ill-gotten gains through various

charities, but the crime cannot be atoned in such manner, as it does not return the plunder to those whom it rightfully belongs.

There would be a more universal incentive an honorable and desirable incentive, if it was directed to the attainment of the greatest common good. Selfish incentive should be destroyed, wherever found; it is destructive in its effect upon production because it takes from the great army of producers all the encouragement to do their best. They would produce to the extent of their ability if the harvest would return to them a full measure for their exertion, but with a knowledge that an unjust rate is to be exacted through the system, the desire or incentive is chilled.

The basis of the conflict which was enacted in Europe was the incentive for more power with which to exact tribute, or command greater numbers of human beings to do the bidding of an autocratic government. Who will say such an incentive should not be destroyed? It follows, if autocratic incentive on the part of the governments should be destroyed, autocratic motives and practices in industry are more harmful to the masses, because of the direct and close contact with

POOR SERVICE

Jones—Mayor Bump says he is a public servant.

Bones—He is, but you ought to see some of the stuff he serves them.—Town Topics.

Marcella—No Man's Land must have been terrible.

Waverly—Yes, and it affected me more than most people, you know.

"Why?"

"Because I am in the real estate business."—Youngstown Telegram.

MEETINGS OF CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10.

ALL BRANCHES

(General)

Monday, August 25th

CLOAK AND SUIT

Monday, September 8th

DRESS AND WAIST

Monday, September 15th

MISCELLANEOUS

Monday, September 22nd

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL,
23 St. Marks Place.



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Shear Expert
488-90 6TH AVENUE
NEW YORK
Bet. 49-50th Sts.

ATTENTION OF DRESS AND WAIST CUTTERS!

THE FOLLOWING SHOPS HAVE BEEN DECLARED ON STRIKE AND MEMBERS ARE WARNED AGAINST SEEKING EMPLOYMENT THEREIN:

Jesse Wolf & Co.,
105 Madison Ave.

Son & Ash,
105 Madison Ave.

Solomon & Metzler,
33 East 33rd St.

Clairmont Waist Co.,
15 West 36th St.

Maek Kanner & Milius,
136 Madison Ave.

M. Stern,
33 East 33rd St.

Max Cohen,
105 Madison Ave.

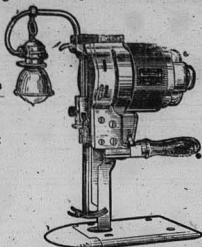
Julian Waist Co.,
15 East 32nd St.

Drezwell Dress Co.,
14 East 32nd St.

Regina Kobler,
352 Fourth Ave.

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Saves labor and knives

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NO MISUNDERSTANDING

Mrs. Eze—So you and your husband have separated because of a misunderstanding!

Mrs. Wye—Not at all, my dear. We parted because we understood each other only too well.—Boston Transcript.

Risign to one's feet when the national anthem is played is rapidly becoming the first law of self-preservation.

—Plumbers' Journal.

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Local 35, I. L. G. W. U.

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UNITY HOUSE CLOSÉS 15TH OF SEPTEMBER.

ONLY LOCAL 25 MEMBERS ACCEPTED FOR LA' BOR DAY, SUBJECT TO ROOM.

ALL MEMBERS NOT HOLDING REGISTRATION CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, AND MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN THERE WILL BE GIVEN FIRST PREFERENCE.

Cutters' Banquet

LOCAL 10, I. L. G. W. U.

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