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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 3, Iss. 35)

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*.

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

—Job. 27.6

JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. III. No. 35.

New York, Friday, August 25, 1921

Price, 2 Cents

GENERAL STRIKE LIKELY IN PHILADELPHIA WAIST INDUSTRY

The Philadelphia Waistmakers' Union has done everything compatible with its honor to prevent a strike, but all in vain. The manufacturers are evidently bent on precipitating a fight and anxious to match strength with the union.

Last week the Waist Manufacturers Association of that city sent out instructions to its members to reduce all wages 10 per cent and to sever connections with the union, and it now appears that a considerable number of manufacturers have carried out these instructions. It goes without saying that both the leaders and the rank and file of the union have been incensed by this impudent move of the employers, and it is not unlikely that a general strike will soon tie up the entire waist industry of opposition of the union to the employers' move has been confined to strikes against individual firms, but Philadelphia. Thus far the active in a few days it may develop into a general struggle against the Association as a whole. The feeling of the

workers is running high against the provocative and bullying methods of the Waist Manufacturers' Association and now that the individual members of the association display an inclination to obey its orders blindly, the workers in the shops consider it a challenge to the union and are determined to fight it out.

The leaders of the Philadelphia Union as well as President Schlesinger and first Vice-President Sigman of the International have therefore decided to submit the question of a general strike to the entire membership of the union, and upon the outcome of the mass meeting called for August 25th depends whether the next strategic move of the union will be a general offensive or a series of partial attacks.

Should a general strike be decided upon, it is certain that it will be fought with the bitterness and determination so characteristic of all the major struggles waged by the International. The Philadelphia union will not be alone in its crusade against

industrial despotism. The entire machinery and all the resources of our great International will, if necessary, be thrown into action. The nature of the struggle is such as to arouse not only the Philadelphia waist makers, but the entire membership of our vast organization. With their latest move the waist manufacturers have challenged the very principle of unionism in the ladies garment industry and the challenge will be taken up by the tens of thousands of our members.

If the Philadelphia employers bank on the rumors of disunity within the union, they bank on something that isn't. Whatever differences of opinion there may be within the union, it is and will continue to be an indivisible unit in the struggle against those who seek its destruction. If the manufacturers insist on a fight, the union is ready, the members are ready. Their cause is just, their determination to win is steel-bound and their capacity for struggle and victory is well known.

Raincoat Strike Settled

The strike, or rather lockout, in the East Broadway district of the Raincoat trade has been brought to an end when the employers signed an agreement with the Raincoat Makers' Union Local No. 20 on practically the same terms as those of the last agreement, which expired August 1st. Immediately after the expiration of the old agreement the raincoat manufacturers and jobbers of that district locked out their employees and demanded that the workers agree to a reduction in wages and waive their claims to pay for legal holidays.

The strike had not been in progress many days before the manufacturers realized that fighting the union may produce anything but raincoats, and since raincoats are their specialty, they decided to give up their feckish attempt to "break the union."

With the settlement effected in the East Broadway district the entire raincoat industry is now operating on the basis of an agreement favorable to the workers. The raincoat makers have cause to be gratified at the outcome of their struggle and proud of their union, which successfully fought off the attempt of the employers to reduce wages.

The raincoat makers have learned a lesson in the struggle, which we hope will prove a valuable one for them. A few of the manufacturers sought to fight the union by the well-known method of sending their work out of town. If this most effective weapon against the New York organization is not to be used in a similar situation, the raincoat makers of Local No. 20 must see to it that all the out-of-town shops in their trade be fully organized. A step in this direction has been taken by the Executive Board of Local No. 20, by the adoption of a resolution to raise a \$20,000 fund through special assessment for the purpose of organizing the raincoat industry outside of New York. A special membership meeting has been called for August 25th to discuss and act upon the recommendation of the Executive Board. In our next issue the proceedings of that meeting will be reported.

Unity House Filled For Labor Day Week-End

Registration for the week-end of Labor Day at Unity House has been closed. There is still room for half a dozen permanent guests, that is guests for a week or more, but the limit of the house capacity for week-end guests has been absolutely reached. The House will be opened until September 11th at least. If there is an assurance of at least 200 guests for the week following the 11th, the season will be extended a week.

The program for the celebration is now almost complete. The appearance of M. Marcel Salasco, baritone, has already been announced. The Committee has been fortunate in securing the good services of Mr. Samuel Goldenberg, the famous Yiddish "Sanius" as the dramatic star of the occasion.

MACHINERY FOR RAISING FAMINE FUND SET IN MOTION

Following the memorable Conference of August 10th, called by President Schlesinger of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union for the purpose of raising immediate relief for the starving millions in Russia, the Committee of Action which was charged with the task of collecting the levy of one half day's pay pledged by the delegates of the Conference on behalf of our membership, has held two important meetings at which definite plans were decided upon and the machinery organized to raise the fund as speedily as possible.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on August 17th, at the Broadway Central Hotel and was devoted mainly to a general discussion of the methods to be adopted by the Committee in its campaign.

The second meeting held on August 22nd, at the offices of the International, 31 Union Square, was presided over by Brother Lang, Secretary of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union, with Abraham Baroff as secretary. After a thorough discussion a unanimous decision was reached that the pledge of our New York membership be redeemed not later than October 1st.

Some time was devoted to the consideration of a proposal to appoint a certain day as the Famine Pledge Day. After all the pros and cons have been carefully weighed it has been rejected by the Committee as impracticable. The argument prevailed that the appointed day might well turn out to be one of idleness in the shops, and for this reason it

was thought best to leave the day when the levy is to be raised for the individual locals to decide upon. For all locals and individual members, however, October 1st has been set as the day on which the pledge must be fully redeemed.

To facilitate the progress of the campaign, the Committee of Action has organized into sub-committees each of which has been charged with a definite task. All representatives of the various locals constitute the Executive Committee, with Benjamin Schlesinger as Chairman; J. Feinberg, Vice-Chairman; Abraham Baroff, secretary, and Brother Kaplowitz of the Joint Board of Cloakmakers' Union as the Campaign Director. A publicity committee has been appointed, consisting of S. Yanofsky, M. Danish, J. Heller, J. Mackoff, H. Greenberg.

The machinery for raising the famine fund is now in full motion and with the co-operation on the part of the rank and file it should not be difficult to raise the pledged fund in record time.

The following were the persons at the meeting of August 22nd: J. Feinberg, L. Langer, P. Kaplowitz, I. Pinkofsky of the Joint Board of Cloakmakers' Union, J. Halpern, J. Mackoff of the Joint Board of the Dress and Waist Makers' Union, S. Lefkowitz of Local No. 3, I. Sorkin of Local No. 9, M. Weis of Local No. 6, L. Lewin and S. Shanker of Local No. 10, J. Heller of Local No. 17, S. Freedman of Local No. 20, J. Sheinholz of Local No. 22, Miss Freedman of Local No. 5, C. Jacobson of Local No. 25, J. Breslaw of Local No. 35, H. Zucker of Local No. 41, H. Greenberg of Local No. 50, I. Bernadsky of Local No. 90, I. Waislevsky of Local No. 66. The International was represented by Abraham Baroff, Fannie M. Cohn, Max D. Danish and S. Yanofsky.

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JUSTICE

31 Union Square

New York City

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By N. B.

THE IRISH DEADLOCK

The situation in Ireland has again assumed a menacing turn following the virtual rejection by the Dail Eireann of the dominion offer made by Lloyd George on behalf of England. In his address before the Irish Republican Parliament, Eamon De Valera, the recognized leader of the Sinn Fein, reiterated the stand of his party on the question of Irish freedom and repeated English interference with the affairs of the Irish people.

Thus the peace conference between the representatives of the British government and the Irish Republic has failed to attain the expected and hoped-for result of bringing to an end the century-old strife between the two countries. To many sympathizers with the Irish cause outside Ireland the speech of Mr. De Valera came as a bitter disappointment, ending as it does all prospects of an immediate solution of the vexed Irish problem.

It looks very much like a hopeless deadlock at present, though there still is some faint hope left of an understanding between the British and Irish leaders. While the Sinn Feiners are set against any other form of government for Ireland but that of an independent republic, President Valera in his address to the members of the Dail Eireann sounded a hopeful note when he said, "We are not republican doctrinaires."

No formal reply has as yet been made by the Irish Parliament to the proposals made by Great Britain at the recent conference. But it is understood that these proposals will be rejected in such a manner as to leave an open door for further negotiations.

From the speech made by Lloyd George before the House of Commons, it is apparent that the British government has made its maximum offer and will not yield an inch beyond the offer of the dominion status for Ireland. "In negotiation," said Mr. Lloyd George, "there are two courses to adopt. You can always, if you like, keep something in hand to use in another course—but put all your cards on the table. After considering carefully which of these courses we should adopt, without hesitation we adopted the latter because of the importance to bring on the side of our proposals the same opinion not merely in this country, but throughout the world. . . . We have heard no suggestion from any part of the world except Ireland that in these proposals we have not gone to the very limit of possible concessions. I have heard a suggestion that we have gone too far. What I have not made clear is that I do not put forward what I call a bargaining term. We put forward everything we found we could possibly concede in order to purchase peace and the good will of the Irish people."

From these remarks it is evident that the British government offers its dominion offer to the outside limit. Yet, there is an evident desire on the part of the English statement to continue negotiations in good faith with the hope of winning over the Irish representatives. Lord Curzon in his speech in the House of Lords on behalf of the government has made an astounding statement when he said: "We are ready to take our share of the blame, or to take the whole blame if desired." Now that the English government is cognizant of its guilt in bringing about or permitting to continue the manifold Irish tragedy, the way seems to be clear to a candid understanding between the two countries.

In the meantime, while hoping for peace, both sides are preparing to renege warfare. All soldiers on leave from Ireland have been ordered by the British military authorities, to return to their regiments immediately. A similar order was issued by the military authorities in Ireland requiring the return of all officers, both officers and men. The menacing spectre of civil war in Ireland is looming up again.

TERMS OF RUSSIAN RELIEF AGREED UPON.

THE Russian Soviet government has finally agreed to Hoover's conditions upon which he expressed his willingness on behalf of the American Relief Administration to conduct relief activities in the famine stricken districts of Russia. The agreement was signed by Mr. Litvinoff representing the Soviet Government, and Mr. Walter L. Brown representing the American Relief Administration. The agreement stipulates complete control of food distribution by the American Relief Administration, absolutely free from any Soviet interference.

While the Soviet representatives were unwilling to concede these terms fearing the possibility of covert anti-Soviet propaganda, they had no other choice but yield. It is true that Hoover's administration promised not to meddle in the internal affairs of Russia, but the Russians have had their sad experiences with similar promises and it is quite natural for them to be wary of uncontrolled activities of any foreign group, ever fine and noble its professions may be.

With the agreement signed the work of relief will be started immediately. Colonel Wm. N. Haskell has been assigned to supervise the work of the Relief Administration in Russia. The surplus supply from warehouses abroad have already been moved into Russia under the working agreement negotiated at Riga, and food shipments from New York are to begin as soon as vessels are ready.

The American Relief Administration will have achieved a noble and will save many lives and suffering of the Russian people, if it will, in good faith, carry out its mission of saving Russian children from starvation and checking the spread of famine-produced epidemics.

It is the earnest hope of every true friend of Russia and America that the trust offered by Hoover to the starving Russian people will be unimpaired with the poison of counter-revolutionary propaganda.

RAILROAD MEN CONFER IN EFFORT TO SAFEGUARD WORKING STANDARDS

LAST week, representatives of the Big Four Brotherhoods and the Switchmen's Union conferred with a committee from the Western Railroad for the purpose of securing assurance of action by the roads to prevent further wage cutting and modifications of working rules. The questions submitted to the conference by the representatives of the rail unions included cancellation of the wage-cut effected July 1st, promise to make no further wage cuts, further promise not to abolish time and one half for overtime, Sundays and holidays and agreement to allow the present working rules to remain in force for a fixed period.

Whatever the outcome of the Conference may be, it is apparent that the railroad unions have definitely decided not to use aggressive tactics and have retreated to defensive posi-

tions. The most they now ask for and the best they can demand is a promise that no further inroads will be made upon the working standards in the railroad industry. In view of the present industrial depression defensive labor strategy is perhaps the wisest.

MORE WAGE CUTTING

WAGE cutting has of late become a common-place occurrence to which very little attention is paid by the daily press. Here and there, tucked away in a corner we find an item to the effect that one industrial establishment or another has decided upon a drastic cut in wages. The frequency with which these cases of wage slashing occur has dulled the responsiveness of the people, but attention is drawn upon the American standard of living is passed unnoticed, unchallenged and unopposed by the general public.

Within our humble limits we have devoted a fair amount of space in these columns to the noting and recording of wage-cutting, and we would be loath to dwell any longer on this most invidious of all topics but for the fact that a few wage-cuts of recent date claim our attention because of their magnitude and significance for the labor movement as a whole.

To the Interboro Rapid Transit Co. of New York go the honors for having achieved the most pharisaic and touching wage-cut. In its final effort to improve the no of the Interboro decided to reduce their own wages so as to enable the poor company to make ends meet. These who doubted the value of the "company union" will now doubt it no longer, for it has been demonstrated beyond any shadow of a doubt that the "company union" is superior not only to an A. F. of L. union, but even to the blindest state of open shop. What in any other industry is a source of worry, vexation and financial expense to the owners, is in the case of a company with a union of its own a source of material advantage as well as spiritual gladness. There was no trouble at all attending the wage-cut carried out by the I. R. T. The representatives of the company met those of the "union" and as men to men asked their faithful employees to give them their hand and agree to a wage-cut of 10 per cent. Such a course was found the most expedient, in view of the fact that the wage agreement with the company's employees was to run six months longer. The hand-picked representatives of the company's handmade union promptly responded to the call of duty and agreed on behalf of the thousands of men to have the wages cut, all provisions of the agreement to the contrary notwithstanding. Thus, industrial peace has been assured and the possibility of harmonious co-operation between capital and labor is demonstrated to the benefit of the doubting Thomasages.

The United States Steel Corporation proceeds along more conservative lines. Through its chairman, Albert H. Gary, the renowned champion of diverse and many lofty principles the

steel trust has made use of the more direct and less sentimental method of simply ordering the wages cut. On August 19th Gary issued an edict that the pay of 110,000 workers be again diminished to the extent of 10 per cent. Since May 1st the total wage-cut perpetuated upon the main multitude of the kindred of Gary is now equal to 40 per cent.

There is no prospect at present that the steel workers will stage a demonstration expressive of their feelings as to the latest reduction in their pay envelopes. In the words of a prominent representative of the A. F. of L., "where there are three men to every job it is foolish to think, must less talk, strike."

When industry will revive, however, we should not be in the least surprised if Judge Gary will make the sad discovery that sometimes excessive wage-cuts prove a boomerang.

ERIE RAILROAD SHOWS THE WAY.

THE Erie Railroad has earned the position of leadership among the Railroad managements in their concerted crusade upon the Railway Unions and the collective agreements with the men. Without violating a letter of the law and clinging as ever to the principle of "law and order," the Erie officials have practically annulled their agreement with the shopmen and the celebrated eight hour day law by its truly admirable legal technique. The Erie converted the company's own shops into private enterprises technically dissociated from the Erie, and operated by the Railway Service Company, a new borne babe in law. The babe proved an infant terrible, and no sooner born than it proceeded to root out every vestige of collective agreement or labor-protecting law in the railway shops. The eight hour day was augmented by two hours, making it the ten hour day of the good old times, and such new-fangled ideas as time and a half for overtime were cast overboard with a gesture of scorn. From the employment of these shops took exception to the "new" company's methods and went so far as to refuse to accept employment under reduced working standards. It is not exactly a strike, since the representatives of the shopmen do not choose to term it as such, but the Erie officials are fully aware of the import of such methods, and one of the union representatives characterized the present situation in the Erie Railway Shops as "a life and death struggle in which the principle of unionism is menaced."

R. M. Jewell, head of the Railway Employees Department of the A. F. of L., has sent a formal request to the Railroad Labor Board to define the status of the former employees of the Erie Railroad shops who have refused to accept the working conditions of the Railway Service Company. Pending the decision of the Labor Board no effort will be made to call a strike of the shopmen.

A touch of the poignant is added to the situation by the fact that the seat of the trouble is Marion, Ohio, the home of President Harding.

RESOLUTION

Brother Diamond, former vice-president of our local, who has resigned his membership in our organization, has been a good, active and valued member of our local, and we regret that business reasons compel him to leave the organization. We, the members of Local 123, wish him success in his new pursuits.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE,

Local 123, Paterson, N. J.

Members of the I. L. G. W. U., who wish to join the Unity Centers where English for beginners, elementary, intermediate, advanced and high school English, History of the Labor Movement, Applied Economics and Physical Training are taught can register at the offices of their Local Unions, or at the office of the Educational Department, Room 1005, 31 Union Square.

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME

President Schlesinger and first Vice-president Sigman, of the International spent most of last week at Philadelphia in an effort to bring the waist manufacturers of that city to their senses. This they failed to accomplish. The employers in the waist industry have displayed a spirit of unreasoning stubbornness and their Association sent out a command to its members to cut the wages of their employes 10 per cent and thus sever all connections with the Union.

To what extent this command will be obeyed by the majority of the Philadelphia waist manufacturers remains to be seen. It is not impossible that a good many of them have not taken leave of their senses, and these will think twice before doing the bidding of the Association. Most of them have had experience enough to realize that sooner or later the Union will strike back. The fact that the Union may not regard the present moment as the most auspicious for the calling of a general strike, perhaps because of the eagerness of the Association to precipitate such a strike during the present period of depression, is certainly no guarantee that it will not order it when conditions become more favorable. The more farsighted among the manufacturers will reckon with this probability and will, perhaps, ignore entirely the usages of their Association, knowing as they do that it is poor policy to incur the ill will of the Union. They will realize that in terms of dollars and cents the proposed wage cut of 10 per cent will in the long run prove a very costly luxury.

The possibility is thus not excluded that the show of supreme authority over the waist industry of Philadelphia staged by the Association will prove a bluff. In this event the Association will fall of its own weight and the Union will be last to mourn the loss. But even if the Association will succeed in cowering the individual manufacturers into obeying the usages, it will not amount to a victory for the manufacturers nor a defeat for the Union, even if the latter decide that a strike at present is impracticable. The union of the Philadelphia waist makers, affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is not of the kind that surrenders. It has excluded from its vocabulary the words "defeat" and "surrender." It may retreat for strategic reasons, but it is quick to regain the lost positions and some. In the history of the International there is not a single instance of a retreat that was not followed by a vigorous advance which turned a partial defeat into a sweeping victory all along the front.

Philadelphia will, in this respect, not be an exception. Under the circumstances, when the manufacturers are in a rampaging mood the Union may consider it best policy to let their fury be spent to the point of exhaustion. At the psychological moment, however, the Union will give the signal for a storm attack, which will net the workers more than they may have lost in the temporary and partial retreat.

One need not, therefore, be surprised if the Union will not allow itself to be provoked into a general strike, thus playing into the hands of the Association. Should it be deemed best not to assume aggressive tactics at the present moment, one ought not to ascribe it to the weakness of our Philadelphia organization nor to a spirit of resignation on the part of the rank and file. Neither is the case. The Union is as strong as ever and the unity of the workers has never been closer knit. It need hardly be said that the waist makers are, now as ever, fully alive to the injustice of cutting their wages, knowing as they do that such a move is prompted by no other motive save that of greed.

It is a safe prediction that before long there will be something doing in Philadelphia and that the waist manufacturers will have ample reasons to repent and recant. The time is not distant when the manufacturers will be face to face with the alternative of either accepting conditions dictated by the Union or being eliminated from the industry.

WHEN TIME IS MORE THAN MONEY

We witnessed a meeting of the executive committee of our New York locals, which is charged with the task of carrying out the pledge of our membership to contribute a half day's pay for the famine-stricken millions in Russia. Judging from the spirit of enthusiasm that prevailed at that meeting it is safe to predict that our relief campaign will turn out a complete success. We are certain that the enthusiasm of the committee will also fire the hearts of the ranks of our membership and that every one will consider it his sacred duty to pay his share of the pledge at the earliest possible date.

However, to prevent possible tardiness or neglect on the part of some of the members, the committee has adopted a unanimous decision that the pledge of our New York locals must be fully redeemed not later than October 1. Our membership will realize that

a time limit of the kind had to be set in the interests of a speedy and complete achievement of the task.

The last day in September has been agreed upon as the last day on which each and every member of our New York locals must make good his pledge and contribute a half day's wages for the cause of saving millions of lives from starvation. Every minute is precious. Time is more than money in this case—it is life. For every hour of delay the Russian people pay the horrible price of scores of human lives lost. The sooner the International will forward to the Russians the contribution of its members the more lives will be wrested from the clutches of starvation-death. It is superfluous to state here that the utmost care will be taken that every cent of the collected levy be spent for no other purpose than relief work in the famine districts. The International was the first labor organization in the United States to appeal to its members for aid for the afflicted millions in Russia. It is to be hoped that it will also be the first to render first aid to this unhappy people.

With a feeling of pride we make note of the fact that our locals in Philadelphia and Chicago were quick in emulating the example set by our organizations in New York. They did not wait for a special appeal. The great cause itself stirred them beyond the power of human words, and they lost no time in getting to work. Our membership in Philadelphia and Chicago have probably decided upon the half day's pay plan adopted by our New York locals and they would do well in following the New York organization by setting October 1 as the outside limit for making good.

There really should be no difficulty in raising the fund within the specified time limit. Our members made the half-day pledge of their free will and every one of them is now indebted to the extent of a half day's wages. The thought is inadmissible that any of our members will refuse or be loath to meet this debt of mercy and brotherly solidarity at the earliest possible date. To withhold deliberately any debt that falls due is considered more than improper; to do so in the present emergency would amount to a grave moral crime, and we trust that none of our members will take such a crime upon his conscience.

We have mentioned Philadelphia and Chicago among the first cities to follow the example of their sister organization in New York, but we are more than certain that other centers like Cleveland, Boston, Baltimore, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Montreal, Toronto, San Francisco, Los Angeles, etc., will be quick to respond to the distress call of the Russian people. In our next issue we will probably be in a position to announce the glad news that our organization in those cities have fallen in line in the great effort to save a portion of mankind from extinction.

The agreement effected between the Soviet government and the American Relief Administration, whereby shipments of food and medicaments into the famine-stricken districts are to begin at once, may lead some of our workers to believe that all danger is past and that the aid of labor organizations is no longer urgent. Such a belief, if entertained by any of our members, is quite unfounded. To begin with, there is no telling how long this or that capitalist charity organization will carry on its work of relief in Russia. The fact that there was so much haggling about conditions and prerogatives, leaving the starving millions to their horrible fate in the meantime, is an indication that these agencies of capitalist charity have something up their sleeves, that their motive of saving human lives has an admixture of something else. This admixture may well prove a factor in delaying or even terminating the relief activities of these agencies. Should the Russian government find that, whether intentionally or not, propaganda against the present regime is spread with the distribution of foodstuffs, it may well happen that serious obstacles will be placed in the way of the American philanthropy. If, on the other hand, our capitalist philanthropists will come to the conclusion that for their kindred they can get none but heavenly reward, they may soon get tired of the whole undertaking and give it up as a bad job.

While we are by no means certain that such will be the case, the possibility must nevertheless be reckoned with, and for this reason, if for no other, the work of raising funds by the workers must not halt or lag. Under the best circumstances the Russians are sorely in need of the aid of the workers throughout the world, and the circumstances are certainly not of the best. It is therefore imperative that our organizations leave nothing undone to raise from among themselves as large a fund as possible for their famine-stricken and plague-stricken brethren in Russia. The International will see to it that every cent contributed is used for the purpose it has been contributed and for no other.

A REGRETTABLE MOTION

A regrettable incident at the Russian Relief Conference, called by our International, served to dampen the spirits of the delegates. A resolution was moved by one of the local representatives, which smacked very much of "politics." The very introduction of the resolution tended to divide the gathering into two distinct classes—shop workers and union officials. A resolution of this kind might well serve the purpose of a stump "politician," who seeks to sow confusion and mistrust in the ranks, but it certainly is out of place, to use a mild expression, at a gathering where all hearts and minds are bent upon the same noble task of rescuing the Russian people from starvation.

The resolution in question demanded that the workers in the shops contribute a day's pay for the relief fund and that the paid officials of the unions contribute a whole week's salary. The implication was thus conveyed that while the shop workers cannot afford to give of their monthly earnings more than a day's pay, the union officials are so well paid that in proportion they ought to contribute a week's salary. This is, putting it mildly again, demagogic pure and simple, and the delegates to the conference realized it and were

Beware of the Greeks Who Bear Gifts

By ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG

For nearly four years the Russian Soviet Republic has been fighting off the attacks of the imperialist jackals with success. The Red Army of workers and peasants has beaten back the agents of world reaction who were plotting to restore capitalist and capitalist rule in Russia. Kerenski, Tadeuski, Kolchak, Semenov, Denikin, and Wrangel with their mercenary bands have all gone the way of oblivion, thanks to the mighty hosts of the workers' and peasants' army dedicated to the defense of the achievements of the proletarian revolution.

Having failed miserably with native counter-revolutionary plots, the imperialist cliques engaged Poland for the anti-Soviet crusade. The government of the "Socialists" Pilsudski and Dushinski undertook to do what the czarist generals failed to accomplish. The result of their adventure need not be described here.

The foreign governments at whose bidding the Polish jackals sent its armies into Russia stoutly denied any connection with the imperialist designs of Poland. France's share has already been fully disclosed. Now comes the admission from a British Government committee that England was more than a well wisher to the various counter-revolutionary undertakings in Russia. The New York "Times" of August 16 prints a cable from London in which the report of the Committee of Public Accounts is discussed. According to that report "the Treasury sanctioned payments for purposes not authorized by Parliamentary grants"—among which we find that \$10,000,000 worth of army stores were given to the Polish Government without charge and nearly \$50,000,000 worth of stores were given to Russian forces from 1918 to 1920, together with \$32,500,000 in cash. (The moneys given in the cable were in English pounds.)

In addition to open military and financial assistance to the enemies of Soviet Russia, the "neutral" foreign governments had their agents in and about Russia constantly plotting with Russian counter-revolutionists for the overthrow of the workers' government. Members of the Red Cross, who came ostensibly on an errand of mercy, have turned out to be military officers or secret service agents. The chairman of the Polish Red Cross, Soloviev, has recently sent an open letter to the International Red Cross in Geneva in which serious

charges were made against Red Cross agents of several countries.

It is any wonder then that when an offer to aid in the famine-stricken districts came from several government agencies, the Soviet government demanded guarantees against the participation of their agents in counter-revolutionary plots? The Soviet Government knows that it cannot expect all the necessary aid from organized and class-conscious workers. If all the workers throughout the world understood the meaning of the Russian revolution and the sacrifices which the Russian workers have made during the last four years for the universal emancipation of the working class from capitalist rule, there would be no need to issue a general humanitarian appeal to the world. But the workers are poor and the immediate means of beating back hunger and pestilence now stalking through the parched plains of the governments and allied agencies. Russia must have those means for its stricken peoples, but it must also safeguard the liberties won at such tremendous sacrifices. When Secretary Hoover replied to Maxim Gorky's appeal, the Russian Government sent its able diplomatic agent, Litvinov, to negotiate the terms upon which the relief could be sent to Russia.

Some may question the wisdom of suspecting the humanitarian motives of Mr. Hoover. That the Russian Government had good reasons to question the nature of the offer knowing the source from which it emanated, is amply substantiated by its lack of authority than one of Mr. Hoover's own associates in the "humanitarian" business.

The "World's Work" of May and June printed an exhaustive account of Mr. Hoover's work in Europe by Captain T. T. C. Gregory, in which an appraisal of Mr. Hoover as an agent of counter-revolution is honestly admitted over and over again. Captain Gregory was Hoover's personal representative while the latter was head of the Inter-Allied Food Mission and represented the American Government on the Mission.

Discussing the reason for the Mission's work in the Central European States, Mr. Gregory announces that "the Paris Conference had, of course, a certain altruistic impulse, but the motive was primarily selfish. Two the alternatives faced were, to let the new states go on their way, which

would have led inevitably straight to Bolshevism, or to check the growing unrest and menacing disaster by supplying food and work."

In order that the world may have no misgivings of Mr. Hoover's part in the work and may appraise him correctly, Mr. Gregory tells the following about his chief's attitude: "It must be remembered that he (Hoover) was looking beyond the momentary needs of these countries, that he was feeding and succoring Balkan and Central Europe only as an incident to fight he was making to throw back the red waves of Bolshevism that all the time was threatening the young and chaotic states."

Having taken care of the revolutionary movements in the subsidized states of Austria, Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia, the attention of the Food Mission was turned to Hungary, where the workers dared to assume control of the chaotic state of affairs and where without the shedding of blood a Soviet government was established. The Hungarian Soviet Government had to be crushed at all costs and the Mission with the same selfish label undertook the job. According to Captain Gregory the Supreme Council did not look with favor on the idea of organizing a large army for the purpose. He and Hoover did not believe that military force alone had to be depended upon for the accomplishment of the desired object.

"Left to this dilemma by Paris, we in Vienna had to find our own way out," relates Captain Gregory and

the way which was found required no such staggering means as were necessary to finance an army.

The representative of the Hungarian Government in Vienna was then General Boehm, a labor man, who trained the Red Army and was considered a devoted adherent of the new regime. Captain Gregory conceived the idea of winning over to his side the Austrian minister and using him against his government. But let the valiant samaritan tell of the plot in his own words:—

"Boehm, I thought, was the key to the situation. He had trained the Hungarian Red Army and because of that was a powerful factor in the affairs of Hungary. We tested him for egotism, ambition and nerve; we decided that he had enough of the first to fire the second in him, and of the two to give him a passable amount of the third. Thereupon we drew him a picture of what it would mean if he should make the situation in hand, organize a revolution, and throw the Bolshevik out of Hungary. We pointed out to him that the nations outside would do it in self defense if some strong man within did not anticipate them; we urged on him the opportunity that was offered him to make a deathless figure on history's pages—the hero who struck the bloody hand of soviet Communism from the throat of an exhausted nation. I told him that Bela Kun was doomed; showed him that Hungary was not Bolshevik in fact (to which

(Continued on Page 7)

GENERAL FAMINE

By GEORGE SLOCUMBE.

(In London Daily Herald)

Fainting by the roadside,
Dying like flies in winter,
Flee the panic-stricken populations,
Crowd the maddened, fugitive people,
At the sight of the white horses
Faint and die in the desert
The hungry millions of the lost
people,
Women and children first.

The Czar is dead,
Kolchak is dead,
Denikin is in England
Living like an English gentleman
And a Commander of the Bath,
And Wrangel,
Last of the White Hope,
Is somewhere near Constantinople
Nursing his grievances.
But in Paris
Bourtsieff
Can always be depended upon,
In Warsaw
Savinoff is pulling the wires,
And, slava bogu,
General Famine
Has joined the Counter Revolution.

Over all the south of Russia
General Famine
Has hoisted the flag of the Counter
Revolution,
With dead his adjutant-general,
And Despair
His chief of staff,
Over the illimitable steppes
General Famine
Marches to war
With his banner flying
In the hot wind from Asia,
A banner adorned
With an idle sickle
And an empty cornsack.

With the customary chivalry
Of a Russian gentleman of the old
regime,
General Famine
Has given the order of battle—
"Women and children first!"
And under the white sun
Of the vengeance of the Czaars,
Before the hot wind that blows from
Asia,

They ride on their white horses,
General Famine,
Last of the Counter Revolutionists,
And Death his adjutant-general,
And Despair his chief of staff.
They ride over the endlessly stretching
plains,
Over the brown and barren wheat-
fields
To the white city on the horizon
Where a dome rises, gold in the
golden sunlight,
The dome that is the Kremlin,
Palace of the dead and humiliated
Czaars.
And driven before them, like cattle
fleeing from the storm,
Fainting by the roadside,
Dying like flies in winter,
Flee the panic-stricken populations,
Crowd the maddened, fugitive people
At the sight of the white horses
Of the vengeance of the dead Czaars,
Faint and die in the desert
The hungry millions of the lost
people,
Women and children first.

Semenoff,
Ally of the little yellow-faced men,
Threatens by wireless from Vladivostok,
And in Paris,
Paradise of the Counter Revolutionists,
The irremovable
Bourtsieff
Rubs his hands
And calls for ink,
And a paper,
And a pen dipped in gall.
(God
Who marks the smallest sparrow fall
Will not forget Bourtsieff.)

Onward across the endless steppes,
Onward to Moscow, the white city,
Rides General Famine,
Last of the Counter Revolutionists,
And on their white horses,
Indifferent to the hot wind from
Asia,
Treads under the blazing heat of the
Czar's sunlight,
Rides Death his adjutant-general,
And Despair his chief of staff.

chagrined at the fact that also in matters so sacred some of our "radicals" seek to score a point in favor of their hobby notions, even if they hurt the common cause by so doing.

We deem it necessary to bring up the incident because it might possibly result in similar gatherings and produce a similar depression effect. We wish to guard our membership against such sabotage of the relief work for the starving Russians. We wish to impress it upon them that the individuals who employ such methods are not the sincere friends of Russia that they profess to be. If anything, they hurt the cause of Russian relief by throwing monkey wrenches into the fund-raising machinery.

As to the insinuation that union officials of our organization are paid all too well, it is no more than an insinuation, not borne out by the facts in the matter. From what we know, the salaries of our officers, with the possible exception of two or three highest among them, do not exceed by an appreciable amount the earnings of the shop workers. Such being the case, the union official can spare of his earnings no more than the shop worker can spare of his. If, on the other hand, the union official is in a position to part with a week's salary without being much the worse for it, it is clear that his salary is too high and the question may well be raised as to whether the union ought to pay such high salaries to its officers. Whether the question has merit enough to be debated or not, certain it is that it was entirely out of place at the relief conference, where a graver issue was involved.

We earnestly hope that such bits of tactlessness will not find their way into the meetings which our locals will be calling to redeem the pledge of their delegates and hasten the raising of the Russian famine fund.

Educational Comment and Notes

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By S. R. SLAYSON
(In the New York Call)

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Measured by this standard, the educational department of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, whose international offices are in this city, is destined to live and to widen its scope of influence and usefulness both to the members of the union, individually, and to the labor movement, as a whole.

These facts are vividly impressed upon the mind by the report of the work and development of that institution of labor education in this country prepared by Fannia M. Cohn, one of the vice-presidents of the union and the secretary of its educational committee.

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Extension Division. For the convenience of the members lectures are given at the business meetings of the locals on problems affecting the labor movement in all its phases. Small groups also meet in the various offices of the union throughout the city. Educational shop meetings are held.

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Publications. A definite portion of the union's official publications are devoted to the educational department and its activities. Pamphlets in several languages for the cosmopolitan membership of the organization are prepared and published by the department and distributed broadcast among the members. Outlines for the study of various subjects are also prepared by the department.

Music, Art and Drama. The directors of the department believe that the "longing for beauty should be awakened to such an extent that they (the workers) will despise the dirty tenements, oppose insanitary conditions in their shops and abolish slums." The department also aims "to cultivate an appreciation for beauty and art, which tends so much to increase the enjoyment of life." With these objectives in view concerts, theatricals, trips to museums are being arranged and lectures on art and music held.

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In summarizing the work of the educational department the report declares:

"It has always been our conviction that the labor movement stands consciously or unconsciously for the reconstruction of society. It strives toward a new life. It dreams of a world where economic and social justice will prevail, where the welfare of mankind will be the aim of all activity, where society will be organized as a co-operative commonwealth, and where love, friendship and fellowship will replace selfishness.

"To attain this end we thought it would be necessary not only to accumulate knowledge, but to develop a social conscience and a sense of responsibility to the labor movement.

"With this end in view we set out to organize our educational work."

THE OPENING OF THE UNITY CENTERS

The Unity Centers of the I. L. G. W. U. which are located in the following public school buildings will be opened some time in September. In every Unity Center, courses will be arranged in English for beginners, elementary, intermediate, high school and advanced English, History of the Labor Movement, Applied Economics and Physical Training.

East Side Unity Center—P. O. 62, 408 Street 1st St. Avenue.
Washington Unity Center—P. O. 169, 325 Madison Street.
Hudson Unity Center—P. O. 171, 105 2nd Street 1st Avenue.
West Side Unity Center—P. O. 64, 2nd Avenue—Street and Franklin.

Second Street Unity Center—P. O. 62, Washington Avenue and Clermont Parkways.
Lower West Side Unity Center—P. O. 62, River Place and 115th Street.
Midtown Unity Center—P. O. 147, 147th Street and 147th Street.
Brooklyn Unity Center—P. O. 64, Stone and Commerce Avenues, Brooklyn.

For information and registration our members can apply at the offices of their Local Unions or at the office of the Educational Department, 31 Union Square.

An early registration will facilitate matters and make it possible for us to select the required number of teachers.

History of the American Labor Movement

By MAX LEVIN

Outlines of Lessons given at the Unity Centers of the I. L. G. W. U.

Lesson VIII

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

- The history of the I. L. G. W. U. is one of the most brilliant chapters in the history of immigrant labor in America.
 - Practically all workers employed in the Ladies' Garment industry are immigrants consisting mainly of Jews and Italians with an admixture of Slavonic nationalities and a number of native Americans. These immigrant workers have clearly demonstrated that they are not a menace to standard of living of the American born worker, but on the contrary, they have actually helped to maintain and in many instances have raised the standard.
 - Within memory of many of us the "Ready to Wear" ladies' garment industry has developed from small scale manufacture into one of the important industries and has become a factor to be reckoned with in the economic life of the country.
- Within memory of all of us the workers of this industry have succeeded in establishing and maintaining the I. L. G. W. U. to which all friends of labor may point with satisfaction, hope and pride.
 - Cloak makers were the pioneers in organizing unions in Ladies' Garment industry.
 - There were strikes and unsuccessful attempts at unionization early in history of Ladies' Garment industry.
 - Working conditions were horrid.
 - Workers compelled to work in crowded, unsanitary shops from 16 to 18 hours per day.
 - Wages hardly sufficient to sustain life.
 - Workers always irritable and ready to strike.
 - Such strikes were seldom successful; unions formed during strikes collapsed when strikes terminated.
 - There are at least three elements essential to waging of a successful strike.
 - Definite aims and demands.
 - Organized and experienced leadership.
 - Some financial aid and resources.
 - Neither of these elements was at disposal of workers in those early days. The cornerstones of I. L. G. W. U. may be said to have been laid 1859.
 - In that year a group of N. Y. cloak makers organized with the help of United Hebrew Trades "Operators and Cloak Makers Union No. 1."
 - At head of this union was a Mr. Barondess, then a fiery revolutionary.
 - Within a short time this union numbered 8,000 members and won a number of local victories.
 - This union then became a growing menace to the prevalent "sweetening system."
 - To destroy this union ten of the largest manufacturers of that day organized an association and in 1890 a "lock-out" was declared.
 - This "lock-out" involving 8,000 cloak makers lasted for about three weeks and resulted in a complete victory for workers.
 - Similar unions on a small scale were started in other cities.

(To be continued)

CAUTION! This is not a complete lesson. It is merely a suggestive outline.

JOINT CONFERENCE OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 18.

The joint conference of our educational committees held last week was attended by representatives of every Local Union in this city.

The announcement of courses prepared by the Educational Department for next season to be given at the Workers' University, Unity Centers and Extension Division which were approved by the educational committees at a previous meeting, was discussed by the conference. Opinions and suggestions expressed by the delegates will be very helpful to the Educational Department in the future planning of the work.

The main discussion was centered on finding ways and means of reaching the large membership who should take advantage of the educational activities offered by our International. The following suggestions were decided upon:

(1) That the members of every education committee hold office hours in the headquarters of their Unions three evenings a week, between 5:30 and 6:30, at which time they will give information to members who may inquire about the educational activities of the International.

(2) That the educational committees get in touch with the members of their local Unions and call their attention to the pages in our publications, JUSTICE, GERECHTIGHEIT, and GIUSTIZIA, which contain weekly announcements of activities and descriptions of our courses.

(3) That the booklet which announces the courses for next season be sent to the members of the educational committees and to those students who attended last year's courses.

(4) That a leaflet be prepared in three languages, English, Italian and Yiddish and distributed at shop meet-

ings and at as many of the shops as possible.

(5) That speakers be sent to business and shop meetings to acquaint our members with our activities.

A great deal of interest was expressed in the activities planned for the Extension Division. The courses scheduled for this Division are purposeful for groups of members, members of executive committees and shop chairman. They will be given in the language best understood by the members, English, Italian or Yiddish.

Each course will consist of six lessons on special subjects as Current Problems and Tendencies of the Labor Movement with special reference to the I. L. G. W. U., the American Labor Movement. The English and French Labor Movements, Methods of Trade Unionism in America, the Evolution of the Industry, etc. Among the teachers will be Max Levin, J. N. Lemowitz, H. Rogoff, C. Vlodeck and Reuther. They will be given in the language best understood by the members, English, Italian or Yiddish.

These courses will be given at the office of Local Unions at hours most convenient to the members.

To have a larger group of our members take advantage of these courses, it will be necessary to call their attention to these activities. It was suggested that this can best be accomplished by having Local Unions call conferences of two of their members of each shop and through them make popular this work amongst their fellow workers.

The meeting was held at the office of the Bonnaz Embroiderers' Union, Local 68, and adjourned at a late hour with an understanding that the Educational Department call another meeting soon. Fannia M. Cohn opened the meeting.

UNITY CONCERT WITH DESTINN IN OCTOBER PROMISES TO BE A SUCCESS

With the season at Unity House drawing to a close in three weeks, the committee is offering another opportunity for lovers of Unity and of good music to come together. A month or so after the closing of the season, the Unity House Committee is giving a concert in Carnegie Hall with Emory Destinn, the Metropolitan prima donna. The exact date is Friday evening, October 28th.

This great Bohemian soprano has not been heard here for a number of years, and the concert under the auspices of the Unity House Committee will mark her first appearance of the season.

It was Puccini, the gifted Italian composer, on hearing Mrs. Destinn in "Butterfly" at Covent Gardens, London, a few years ago, who publicly declared that no other singer he had ever heard sang the music of this opera more to his satisfaction than she did on this occasion. Had it not been for her wonderful singing, Puccini would never have written "The Girl of the Golden West." During her career as an operatic star, Mrs. Destinn has played the roles of "Carmen" and "Salome." As an interpreter of the Strauss music, the composer himself pays her the compliment of being his greatest exponent.

The proceeds of this concert will go to Unity House. Those who are interested in the maintenance of the House should call immediately at Room 6, 16 West 21st Street, and take tickets to sell.

RAND SCHOOL COURSES

The Physical Education Department of the Rand School of Social Science has just issued its printed announcement for the coming season, which bids fair to be a very busy one. From Monday, October 3, till the end of May, it is planned to have at least thirteen sessions a week in the gymnasium.

Regular members, paying a small annual fee, will be entitled to three sessions a week—men's gymnastic work on Monday and Thursday evenings, women's gymnastic work on Tuesdays and Fridays, and recreational games and dancing for mixed classes on Wednesday.

Other courses scheduled are in interpretive dancing, elementary and advanced, for women; folk dancing and social dancing for men and women; a boys' gymnastic course, a recreational course for boys and girls, one in interpretive dancing for children from nine to thirteen years of age, and a "children's hour" for tots of six to nine, with games, dances and songs.

Beware of the Greeks Who Bear Gifts

(Continued from Page 5)

he agreed) but a state where the labor and socialist elements, heartily sick of monarchical government, had demanded and would continue to demand a voice in the affairs of state, and that Kun had only taken advantage of this advanced position on the part of the majority. In short we offered him the existing plan of glory, fame, honor, and power and a logical scheme for plucking."

With the aid of Italian and British diplomatic representatives and with the approval of his Hungarian co-conspirators, Captain Gregory prepared and submitted through Hoover the following declaration to Paris:

"1. Assumption of dictatorship in which complete powers of government were to be vested. Names to be discussed: Haubrich, Agoston, Garami, and Boehm.

"2. Dismissal of a communistic Kun government, with a repudiation of Bolshevism and a complete cessation of Bolshevik propaganda.

"3. Dictatorship to bridge over period until formation of a government representative of all classes.

"4. Immediate cessation of all terrorist acts, confiscations and seizures.

"5. Raising of blockade and immediate steps to be taken by Entente to supply Hungary with food and coal and to assist in opening up the Danube.

"6. Immediate calling of an Entente advisory body.

"7. No political persecutions.

"8. Ultimate determination respecting socialization of permanent government."

Paris hesitated about accepting the proposed program "but Hoover, driving steadily toward the important thing insisted that a general declaration on the lines of the eight planks presented could do no harm and might result in the overthrow of the Hungarian Reds. He won." The rest of the story is an account of how the trick was done, how the Food Mission, without funds to buy the promised food for Hungary sold supplies

to the Soviet Food Administration and received a million dollars in advance. The food was sent later upon receipt of news of the successful coup.

Thanks to Mr. Gregory who thought he was doing his chief a service when he was telling the world about the "humanitarian" efforts of his Food Mission, we now have an authoritative account of the overthrow of the workers' government in Hungary. Soviet Russia is about to round out the fourth year of its existence. During these years the workers' government has withstood the blockade, military invasions, counter-revolutionary uprisings and plots which affected almost every part of Russia from the Pacific Ocean to the Caspian Sea. Russia is not Hungary, where the Soviet Government existed only about four months. The Russian workers and peasants have not shed their blood on the battlefields, suffered from disease and starvation these four years to relinquish any of the power which they have won for themselves for a piece of bread.

If Mr. Hoover has any plans for Russia besides feeding the famine-stricken people he will have to consult Soviet Russia first. That the Soviet Government will be able to take care of Russia's interests is already manifested in the way the agreement with the Hoover organization was worked out. The response of the labor movements of the world to Russia's appeal for aid has already been so enthusiastic and generous that the Soviet Government will feel encouraged not to give up a jot of its sovereignty to the various government agencies which are now offering aid to the famine stricken districts. Having sufficient knowledge of the designs of the reactionary foreign governments, Soviet Russia will be on its guard against any and all attempts at plots and counter-revolutions. The old adage, "Beware of the Greeks who bear gifts" is well known to the Russians and the past four years have given them sufficient experience to recognize the wolf if he attempted to parade in sheep's clothing.

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WAIST and DRESSMAKERS

Members of Locals 10, 22, 25, 58, 60, 66 and 89

There are manufacturers in your trade who are using the slack price which we are now going through as an opportunity for not employing cutters. There are also instance of improper methods in settling prices for piece workers. This is in violation of our agreement and you are therefore requested, especially if you are a Shop Chairman, to take cognizance of the following:

(1) If your employer is not employing a cutter in your shop, notify your union officers immediately.

(2) Advise with your Union before settling prices for piece workers.

(3) Determine whether the Embroidery brought into your shop is being made in a Union Embroidery chop. If not, report to your Union Officer immediately. Pay special attention to these suggestions.

Fraternally yours,

JOINT BOARD DRESS & WAISTMAKERS' UNION

J. HALPERIN, General Manager

M. K. MACKOFF, Secretary

Educational Comment and Notes

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"With this end in view we set out to organize our educational work."

THE OPENING OF THE UNITY CENTERS

The Unity Centers of the I. L. G. W. U. which are located in the following public school buildings will be opened some time in September. In every Unity Center, courses will be arranged in English for beginners, elementary, intermediate, high school and advanced English, History of the Labor Movement, Applied Economics and Physical Training.

East Side Unity Center—F. S. 42, 43 Street (near 11th Street)
 West Side Unity Center—F. S. 10, 11th Street
 Harlem Unity Center—F. S. 171, 103rd Street
 Union Square Unity Center—F. S. 22, Broadway (near and between 14th and 15th Street)

Second Street Unity Center—F. S. 42, Washington Avenue and Government Park
 Lower Bronx Unity Center—F. S. 45, Bronx Place and 125th Street
 Williamsburg Unity Center—F. S. 247, Williamsburg Avenue and Mulberry Street
 Brooklyn Unity Center—F. S. 24, State and Governor Avenue and 12th Street

For information and registration our members can apply at the offices of their Local Unions or at the office of the Educational Department, 31 Union Square.

An early registration will facilitate matters and make it possible for us to select the required number of teachers.

History of the American Labor Movement

By MAX LEVIN

Outlines of Lessons given at the Unity Centers of the I. L. G. W. U.

Lesson VIII

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

I. Introduction

- The history of the I. L. G. W. U. is one of the most brilliant chapters in the history of immigrant labor in America.
 - Practically all workers employed in the Ladies' Garment industry are immigrants consisting mainly of Jews and Italians with an admixture of Slavonic nationals and a number of native Americans. These immigrant workers have clearly demonstrated that they are not a menace to standard of living of the American born worker, but on the contrary, they have actually helped to maintain and in many instances have succeeded in raising such standard.
- Within a memory of many of us the "Ready to Wear" ladies' garment industry has developed from small scale manufacture into one of the important industries and has become a factor to be reckoned with in the economic life of the country.
- Within memory of all of us the workers of this industry have succeeded in establishing and maintaining the I. L. G. W. U. to which all friends of labor may point with satisfaction, hope and pride.
 - Definite aims and demands.
 - Organized and experienced leadership.
 - Some financial aid and resources.
- Neither of these elements was at disposal of workers in those early days. The cornerstone of I. L. G. W. U. may be said to have been laid 1859.
 - In that year a group of N. Y. cloak makers organized with the help of United Hebrew Trades "Operators and Cloak Makers Union No. 1."
 - Aid head of this union was a Mr. Barondes, then a fiery revolutionary.
 - Within a short time this union numbered 8,000 members and won number of local victories.
 - This union then became a growing menace to the prevalent "sweating system."
 - To destroy this union ten of the largest manufacturers of that day organized an association and in 1890 a "lock-out" was declared.
 - This "lock-out" involving 5,000 cloak makers lasted for about 16 weeks and resulted in a complete victory for workers.
 - Similar unions on a small scale were started in other cities.

(To be continued)

CAUTION! This is not a complete lesson. It is merely a suggestive outline.

JOINT CONFERENCE OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 18.

The joint conference of our educational committees held last week was attended by representatives of every Local Union in this city.

The announcement of courses prepared by the Educational Department for next season to be given at the Workers' University, Unity Centers and Extension Division which were approved by the educational committees at a previous meeting, was discussed by the conference. Opinions and suggestions expressed by the delegates will be very helpful to the Educational Department in the future planning of the work.

The main discussion was centered on finding ways and means of reaching the large membership who should take advantage of the educational activities offered by our International. The following suggestions were decided upon:

- That the members of every education committee held office hours in the headquarters of their Unions three evenings a week, between 5:30 and 8:30, at which time they will give information to members who may inquire about the educational activities of the International.
- That the educational committees get in touch with the members of their Local Unions and call their attention to the page in our publications, JUSTICE, GERCHTIGKEIT, and GIUSTIZIA, which contains weekly announcements of activities and descriptions of our courses.
- That the booklet which announces the courses for next season be sent to the members of the educational committees and to those students who attended last year's courses.
- That a leaflet be prepared in three languages, English, Italian and Yiddish and distributed at shop meet-

ings and at as many of the shops as possible.

(5) That speakers be sent to business and shop meetings to acquaint our members with our activities.

A great deal of interest was expressed in the activities planned for the Extension Division. The courses scheduled for this Division are purposeful for groups of members, members of executive committees and shop chairmen. They will be given in the language best understood by the members, English, Italian or Yiddish.

Each course will consist of six lessons on special subjects as Current Problems and Tendencies of the Labor Movement with special reference to the I. L. G. W. U., The American Labor Movement, The English and French Labor Movements, Methods of Trade Unions in America, The Evolution of the Industry, etc. Among the teachers will be Max Levin, N. Lemowitz, H. Rogoff, C. Vladeck and Brother Schlesinger who will discuss subjects in connection with the I. L. G. W. U.

These courses will be given at the office of Local Unions at hours most convenient to the members.

To have a larger group of our members take advantage of these courses, it will be necessary to call their attention to these activities. It was suggested that this can best be accomplished by having Local Unions call conferences of two of their members of each shop and through them make popular this work amongst their fellow workers.

The meeting was held at the office of the Bonnaz Embroiders' Union, Local 66, and adjourned at a late hour with an understanding that the Educational Department call another meeting soon.

Fannia M. Cohn opened the meeting.

UNITY CONCERT WITH DESTININ IN OCTOBER PROMISES TO BE A SUCCESS

With the season at Unity House drawing to a close in three weeks, the committee is offering another opportunity for lovers of Unity and of good music to come together. A month or so after the closing of the season, the Unity House Committee is giving a concert in Carnegie Hall with Enoch Destinin, the Metropolitan prima donna. The exact date is Friday evening, October 28th.

This great Bohemian soprano has not been heard here for a number of years, and the concert under the auspices of the Unity House Committee will mark her first appearance of the season.

It was Puccini, the gifted Italian composer, on hearing Miss Destinin in "Butterfly" at Covent Garden, London, a few years ago, who publicly declared that no other singer he had ever heard sang the music of this opera more to his satisfaction than she did on this occasion. Had it not been for her wonderful singing, Puccini would never have written "The Girl of the Golden West." During her career as an operatic star, Mrs. Destinin has also sung the roles of "Carmen" and "Salome." As an interpreter of the Strauss music, the composer himself says her complement of being his greatest exponent.

The proceeds of this concert will go to Unity House. Those who are interested in the maintenance of the House should call immediately at Room 6, 16 West 21st Street, and take tickets to sell.

RAND SCHOOL COURSES

The Physical Education Department of the Rand School of Social Science has just issued its printed announcement for the coming season, which bids fair to be a very busy one. From Monday, October 3, till the end of May, it is planned to have at least thirteen sessions a week in the gymnasium.

Regular members, paying a small annual fee, will be entitled to three sessions a week—men's gymnastic work on Monday and Thursday evenings, women's gymnastic work on Tuesdays and Fridays, and recreational games and dancing for mixed classes on Wednesday.

Other courses scheduled are in interpretive dancing, elementary and advanced, for women; folk dancing and social dancing for men and women; a boys' gymnastic course, a recreational course for boys and girls, one in interpretive dancing for children from nine to thirteen years of age, and a "children's hour" for tots of six to nine, with games, dances and songs.

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Beware of the Greeks Who Bear Gifts

(Continued from Page 5)

he agreed) but a state where the labor and socialist elements, heartily sick of monarchical government, had demanded and would continue to demand a voice in the affairs of state, and that Kun had only taken advantage of this advanced position on the part of the majority. In short was offered him the enticing plum of glory, fame, honor, and power and a logical scheme for plucking."

With the aid of Italian and British diplomatic representatives and with the approval of his Hungarian co-conspirators, Captain Gregory prepared and submitted through Hoover the following declaration to Paris:

"1. Assumption of dictatorship in which complete powers of government were to be vested. Names to be discussed: Hauricht, Agoston, Garani, and Boehm.

"2. Dismissal of a communistic Kun government, with a repudiation of Bolshevism and a complete cessation of Bolshevistic propaganda.

"3. Dictatorship to bridge over period until formation of a government representative of all classes.

"4. Immediate cessation of all terrorist acts, confiscations and seizures.

"5. Raising of blockade and immediate steps to be taken by Entente to supply Hungary with food and coal and to assist in opening up the Danube.

"6. Immediate calling of an Entente advisory body.

"7. No political persecutions.

"8. Ultimate determination respecting socialization of permanent government."

Paris hesitated about accepting the proposed program "but Hoover, driving steadily toward the important thing insisted that a general declaration on the lines of the eight planks presented could do no harm and might result in the overthrow of the Hungarian Reds. He won." The rest of the story is an account of how the trick was done, how the Food Mission, without funds to buy the promised food for Hungary sold supplies

to the Soviet Food Administration and received a million dollars in advance. The food was sent later upon receipt of news of the successful coup.

Thanks to Mr. Gregory who thought he was doing his chief a service when he was telling the world about the "humanitarian" efforts of his Food Mission, we now have an authoritative account of the overthrow of the workers' government in Hungary. Soviet Russia is about to round out the fourth year of its existence. During these years the workers' government has withstood the blockade, military invasions, counter-revolutionary uprisings and plots which affected almost every part of Russia from the Pacific Ocean to the Caspian Sea. Russia is not Hungary, where the Soviet Government existed only about four months. The Russian workers and peasants have not shed their blood on the battlefields, suffered from disease and starvation these four years to relinquish any of the power which they have won for themselves for a piece of bread.

If Mr. Hoover has any plans for Russia besides feeding the famine-stricken people he will have to consult Soviet Russia first. That the Soviet Government will be able to take care of Russia's interests is already manifested in the way the agreement with the Hoover organization was worked out. The response of the labor movements of the world to Russia's appeal for aid has already been so enthusiastic and generous that the Soviet Government will feel encouraged not to give up a jot of its sovereignty to the various government agencies which are now offering aid to the famine stricken districts. Having sufficient knowledge of the designs of the reactionary foreign governments, Soviet Russia will be on its guard against any and all attempts at plots and counter-revolutions. The old adage, "Beware of the Greeks who bear gifts" is well known to the Russians and the past four years have given them sufficient experience to recognize the wolf if he attempted to parade in sheep's clothing.

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WAIST and DRESSMAKERS

Members of Locals 10, 22, 25, 58, 60, 66 and 89

These are manufacturers in your trade who are using the slack period which we are now going through as an opportunity for not employing cutters. There are also instance of improper methods in settling prices for piece workers. This is in violation of our agreement and you are therefore requested, especially if you are a Shop Chairman, to take cognizance of the following:

(1) If your employer is not employing a cutter in your shop, notify your union officers immediately.

(2) Advise with your Union before settling prices for piece workers.

(3) Determine whether the Embroidery brought into your shop is being made in a Union Embroidery shop. If not, report to your Union Officer immediately. Pay special attention to these suggestions.

Fraternally yours,

JOINT BOARD DRESS & WAISTMAKERS' UNION

J. HALPERIN, General Manager

M. K. MACKOFF, Secretary

The Weeks News in Cutters Union Local 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN

The first of the two Special General Meetings of this month was held on Monday, August 22nd, and judging by the large attendance, we feel safe in predicting that Arlington Hall, where the meeting for the final adoption of the proposed changes in the Constitution will be held next Monday, August 29th, will be crowded.

After the two readings of the proposed amendments took place, President David Dubinsky announced that since this was the fourth Monday in the month, the meeting was in accordance with our Constitution a "Good and Welfare" meeting, and he therefore invited the members present to discuss informally the different clauses recommended, so as to acquaint themselves with the details, and thereby save a lot of time at the next special meeting.

Many of the clauses proved a great deal of discussion. It mainly centered on the following recommendation of the Constitution Committee:

I—"That every member who signifies his willingness to be a candidate for or be appointed to any office shall sign a blank resignation, same to be filled out by the organization, a majority of two-thirds concurring, at its discretion. Every nominee shall deposit his resignation with the Executive immediately preceding an election."

Some members, while not being entirely opposed to it, thought that it was superfluous, inasmuch as we have already provided in our old Constitution for the impeachment of any official for malfeasance.

II—"That any member owing thirteen weeks' dues is in arrears, and is suspended from all rights and privileges of membership; if, after three more months he fails to meet his obligations, his name shall be dropped from the roll of membership."

This means, in other words, that instead of a member being dropped after failing to pay his dues for a year's time, after January 1st, he would be considered as dropped, upon being in arrears with his dues for only six months. Some of those pres-

ent felt that this would cause hardship for some members, who for one reason or another are not in a position to pay their dues. The President, however, explained to the members that this clause was inserted in order to conform with the Constitution of the International, which, at the last convention held in Chicago, adopted a resolution embracing our present amendment.

Last, but not least, the question of the amalgamation of the offices of General Secretary and Secretary-Treasurer into that of one General Secretary-Treasurer. Some were apprehensive lest the incoming General Secretary-Treasurer will have too much work to do, for the Constitution provides a great number of duties that are to be performed by the above office. However, both the present General Secretary and Secretary-Treasurer stated that they are confident that one man can very well attend to all the duties that go with this office.

If we were to take the sentiments expressed by the members at Monday night's meeting as a criterion, all the changes recommended by the Constitution Committee will be adopted without opposition.

Our Finance Department wishes to announce once more that up to January 1, 1922, any man being in arrears nine months or over with his dues is considered a dropped member and can only rejoin our union by paying a new initiation fee and his back dues and assessments, and that no excuses will be accepted at the window in the office.

Also, beginning August 1st, the office is collecting the \$1.50 assessment which was levied on all members of the I. L. G. W. U. by the General Executive Board of the International some months ago. No dues will be accepted unless this assessment is paid.

The following are excerpts of the minutes of the Executive Board of the past week:

Sam Adler, No. 1364, appeared on summons, charged by Brother Arthur Bernstein, No. 1941, with permitting the firm of Lemel & Kutler, 142 West 24th St., to help him at the table. Brother Adler states that he, in conjunction with Brother Bernstein, complained to the office regarding same, and quit the shop because of it. However, he was recalled a week ago to the same shop. Brother Adler was instructed to immediately report to the office, whenever the boss tries to help him out, which Brother Adler promised to do. On motion charges were dismissed.

Max Darrif, No. 2019, appeared on summons, charged with having returned to work in the shop of M. Greenstein, 162 West 21st Street, while the people were still striking. Darrif and another brother by the name of Morris Wallach, No. 1696, appeared on Thursday, August 4th, on the same charge. The case was then held for further investigation. Brother Wallach, who was sent a registered letter, failed to appear at this session of the Executive Board. The shop chairman and another worker of the shop state that, when they came in to work in the shop on a Monday afternoon, prior to the return

of the workers of the shop, they found these brothers working. Brother Darrif denied that he went to work and states that he having knowledge that the shop was settled, he thought that he could go to work, but failed to explain why he did not ask the shop chairman or take out a working card at the office of the union. During the cross-examination it was also proven that during the strike Brother Darrif worked for Brody & Funt for a number of weeks and failed to secure a working card at the office of the union. On motion a fine of \$10 was imposed upon each brother.

Alex A. Eggers, No. 1220, appeared on summons, charged by Brother Sam Masover, No. 737, with having been found in the shop of B. Schindeldel, at 130 P. M., on Saturday afternoon, July 30th. Brother Eggers states that he, being foreman of the shop, opens and closes the factory, and he therefore had to stay in on Saturday afternoon, but that he did not work, and that Brother Masover found him in the show room with his coat on. This latter statement was corroborated by Brother Masover. Brother Eggers was censured by the Executive Board and instructed in the future to quit the shop promptly at 12 o'clock on Saturday, which he promised to do. On motion the case was dismissed.

CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10 ATTENTION!

On August 1st, the Office of the Cutters Union moved to

231 E. 14th Street

(Between Second and Third Avenues)

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

GENERAL & SPECIAL:

Ratification of Constitutional Amendments

Monday, August 29th

WAIST AND DRESS. SPECIAL

Case of Bro. Julius Levin

Monday, September 12th

MISCELLANEOUS: Monday, September 19th

Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

Cutters of All Branches

should secure a card when going in to work and return it when laid off. They must also change their cards when securing an increase.

LADIES' TAILORS, SAMPLE MAKERS AND ALTERATION
WORKERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 3

ATTENTION!

It is very important for our members to attend their Branch meetings which will be held for:

LADIES' TAILORS AND ALTERATION WORKERS,
AUGUST 30TH, AT 8 P. M., AT LAUREL GARDEN, 175
EAST 116TH STREET.

SAMPLE MAKERS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD,
AT 1:30 P.M., AT LABOR TEMPLE, 14TH STREET &
SECOND AVENUE.

Be sure to be present at your Branch meeting, as very important Trade questions will be taken up.

S. LEFKOVITS, Manager-Secretary.



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