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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 48)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

Vol. IX, No. 48.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

Toronto Workers Ready To Fight 'Bedroom Shops'

Sec'y Baroff Reports Workers Determined to Put Local Industry on Wholesome Basis.

Secretary Abraham Baroff, who returned this Monday morning from Toronto, where he went to take stock of the local situation and to address meetings of cloakmakers, found the Toronto organization in fine fighting mettle and ready to strike in the event the local manufacturers refuse to put into effect the agreement which was negotiated in 1925 and which was expected to put an end to many objectionable shop practices.

While in Toronto, Secretary Baroff met most of the local workers at member and executive meetings. The Toronto workers' chief complaint is that the local cloak manufacturers have violated the agreement by sending out work to "bedroom" shops and thus deprived the members of the organization of work. The wage schedule of 1925 has also fallen down in many shops and must be restored.

Secretary Baroff further said that he will submit a report of his findings in Toronto to the G. R. E. in the near future. President Sigman will, quite likely, pay a visit to Toronto before the arrival of the next season, and will take a hand in negotiations with the employers in an effort, first, to settle differences in a peaceful manner.

1,200 Cutters Vote For Phila. Plan and For Boston as 1928 Convention City

Vice-President David Dubinsky Unanimously Re-elected As Manager of Local 10 at Great Meeting—Assistant Manager Shenger, Chairman Jacobs and Vice-Chairman Stoller Also Returned Unopposed—Relief Fund Tax Sanctioned—Practice of "Temporary Help" During Seasons Abolished—Vote for Executive Board and Business Agents on December 17.

The biggest meeting of Local 10 within the memory of the oldest members of the cutters' organization of New York took place last Monday, after work hours, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks' Place, the regular assembly place of the cutters. 1,200 members succeeded in gaining admittance into the big assembly room, crowding the place far beyond its normal capacity, while at least four hundred members of Local 19 were turned away, after their books had been stamped and their vote recorded.

The vast attendance was justified by the unusually important order of business of the special meeting. On the agenda of the gathering were, among other subjects, such important matters as the two international referenda—proportional representation and convention city, and nominations for all officers, paid and unpaid. Small wonder, the cutters laid everything aside and came to the meeting.

The results of the meeting, in brief, are as follows. The members of Local 10 voted unanimously for the Philadelphia Convention plan of modified proportional representation, and also gave unanimous approval of Boston as convention city for May, 1928. Complete nominations were made for all officers, including an executive

Magistrate Will Hold Three Communists In Sigman Libel Suit

"Not a Scintilla of Evidence" to Support Communist Suit—Rules Magistrate Brodsky—Will Examine Final Brief December 9—Reckless Falshoods of Desperate Men Turn the Workers Against Them, Says President Sigman

Holding the editors of "The Freiheit" and "The Einigkeit," two Yiddish Communist publications, on criminal libel charges, Magistrate Brodsky, sitting in Jefferson Market Court on Friday, November 25, completely vindicated Morris Sigman, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, charging "there is not a scintilla of evidence" justifying published reports that Bro. Sigman diverted union funds to private ends and that he had "sold out" the workers to the employers.

Indicating that he intends to hold Maloch Epstein, editor of "Freiheit," and Paul Novak, editor of "Einigkeit," for the Grand Jury, Magistrate Brodsky gave defense counsel until December 9 to present briefs.

The hearing, in which Brodsky sat as a committing magistrate, was concluded yesterday after five extended hearings in various magistrate courts. Judge Brodsky, in denying motions by defense counsel to dismiss the action

against Epstein, Novak and William Gropper, "Freiheit" cartoonist, refused to concede to contentions of Communist counsel, Joseph Brodsky and Louis B. Boudin, that the articles and cartoons complained of were "quite innocent" and that they did not intend to convey the impression that Sigman either "stole money from the union" or "sold out to the employers."

"When it is brought out in this court," Magistrate Brodsky said, "that Mr. Sigman's equity in his property at Storm Lake, Ia., is only \$6,000 and your publication states that it is worth over \$100,000, asking at the same time, 'Where did Sigman get this money?' then I say that is a serious effort to wrongfully prejudice the public mind against a man enjoy-

(Continued on Page 2)

One Week To Unity Reunion Big Night

Opera House, Ave.—Music in Piccadilly

Let us more remain to the union dance, which Saturday night, December 3, at the ballroom of the Opera House, 34th Street Avenue.

On a occasion hundreds upon hundreds to whom the ideal for which "Unity" stands is dear will again join together in good fellowship. No better ballroom could be found to refresh the memories of last year's delightful affair.

The Reunion offers an excellent opportunity to build around the memory of the happy days at Unity warm ties of old and new friendships. It will be a stimulating evening for dancers and non dancers alike.

The committee has spared no effort or time to make this affair a social treat. You are advised to come early and make sure of being admitted.

Tickets are \$1.00, including wardrobe. They can be obtained from the Educational Department at 3 West 16th Street, and at the door.

Joint Executive Conference Plans Mine Strikers' Relief

All New York Locals Will Attend—Miners Must Be Helped, Slack or Busy, Is Slogan—Clothing and Footwear Center Opened in Joint Board Office.

Heroic efforts to raise large sums of money, as well as food and clothing for the embattled miners of the Pennsylvania and Ohio coal fields evicted from their homes in the present strike situation, will be made by the New York locals of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union at a conference to be held this Thursday night, December 1, of all the executive boards of the New York

locals affiliated with the International Joint Board, at Webster Hall, 119 E. 11th Street.

Cloakmakers and dressmakers themselves have come through seasons of severe unemployment following the general strike of 1926, but they are expected to respond to the emergency call, as far as their means will permit, of the coal miners. President Morris Sigman recently returned from Pittsburgh, where he attended a conference of international union presidents to consider problems of relief, will give a first hand account of conditions in the fields at the Webster Hall meeting.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has an extraordinary record of contributions to workers in distress. In 1918, the union donated

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board and business agents for 1928. Vice-president David Dubinsky, manager of Local 10, being the only nominee.

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Big Tucking and Pleating Shops Stand Solidly With International

Members in Key Factories All Registered With Union

The Communist clique, driven out of its last place of refuge in the I. L. G. W. U., the tuckers' local, No. 41, is making an attempt to convert this lamentable occurrence into another "cause," for which the faithful would be asked to contribute once again for the glory of Moscow and its Union Square apostles, amen!

The Communist press, in the last few days, has been harping on a number of "victims," members of Local 41, whom the International is now "depriving of jobs" because they wouldn't accept its orders, poor things. So the time, obviously, has come to pass the hat around again and, at least, hope for a fat collection. What are the facts?

The officers of Local 41, instead of attending to the business of their local, had turned it into a Communist "revolutionary" outpost. Be-

sides, small matter, they refused to pay international assessments and per capita dues, and its leaders

(Continued on Page 2)

Second Meeting of Boston Chairmen Tackles Slack Season Problems

Distribution to Work, Sanitation in Shops, Prosanis Label Discussed—Brother Dembitzer Speaks At Several Meetings in Boston.

The second meeting of shop chairmen in the cloak and dress trades in Boston took place on Thursday, November 17, and drew, in addition to the shop heads, a very representative gathering of all active workers in the local organization. It was quite clear that the introduction of these meetings found great favor with the Bos-

ton workers, as these meetings can serve as the best means for discussion of timely events and problems in the life of the Boston union, and for keeping up contact between the office and the men and women in the shops.

During that same week, Bro. Paul Dembitzer, manager of the propaganda

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Magistrate Will Hold Three In Pres. Sigman's Libel Action

(Continued from Page 1)

ing an admirable reputation for a good many years. It was making out of a minnow a great big fish."

When defense counsel sought to convey the impression that by "selling out" they did not mean Sigman did it "for money," Magistrate Brodsky refused to be impressed by the explanation.

President Sigman, commenting on the conclusion of the hearing, said:

"It must be very plain now to the public at large that the attacks against Mrs. Sigman and myself were deliberate, poisonous efforts of desperate men. Eliminated from contro-

of our unions because they made it a tail to the political kite of the Communist Party and the Communist "Red" Internationale, the Communists had hoped to alienate the workers by absurd and reckless charges against men who had served unselfishly the interests of the workers.

"I am naturally gratified at Judge Brodsky's measured reproach of the defendants and at his declaration, after following the evidence closely, that there was not a scintilla of proof for any of the dastardly charges against me.

The accusations were the work of discredited, desperate men. They have reaped what they have sown."

Second Meeting of Boston Chairmen Tackles Slack Season Problems

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department of the I. L. O. W. U., visited Boston and spoke at several member meetings arranged for him in advance. His meetings were well attended, and provoked a large amount of interest.

Sol Polakoff, International Organizer in Boston, presided over the chairmen's meeting, and introduced Mrs. Rantoul, secretary of the Boston Joint Board of Sanitary Control in the ladies' garment trades. Mrs. Rantoul told the chairmen of the highly useful work of the Sanitary Board among the department stores and among women's organizations in New England. The active campaign to make the "Prosanis" label popular is bound to increase a demand for it in all stores, and the time is not far when the consuming public would refuse to buy a garment without a sanitary label. Mrs. Rantoul concluded with a plea to the shop chairmen to keep a strict watch over the application of the label in the shops.

Miss Luscomb, director of the Sanitary Board, spoke next, dwelling largely on the difficulties associated with enforcing conditions of cleanliness in the shops, and gave an ac-

count of her efforts to interest the public at large in this highly important social activity.

After Brother Polakoff had replied to a number of questions from the floor, he introduced Brother Dembitzer, who spoke at length on the conditions of the needle industry all over the country, and its impending problems. He had just returned from an extensive speaking trip for the International in the Middle West, and found that the workers everywhere were busy combating industrial abuses and shortcomings which were nearly alike in all markets. Thus he found the jobber problem as sharp a problem in Chicago and Philadelphia as it is in New York and Boston. The "left" pestilence is a matter of the past in our centers, and the Union now is in a position to devote its energy to really constructive work. Its principal task, however, seems to be organization of the unorganized, as thousands are coming into the garment trades yearly from other elements hitherto little connected with this industry.

Brother Dembitzer's speech was very well received and he was warmly applauded when he concluded his talk.

Biggest Tucking and Pleating Shops Register Solidly With International

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feverishly supported the commissars whom the members of the cloak and dress locals had ousted from leadership some time ago. The result was that the International suspended the defaulting group of Communist officers of Local 41 and appointed a provisional executive committee to take charge of its affairs. This committee, with the aid of Secretary Baroff and vice-presidents Greenberg and Halperin, later succeeded in renewing the agreement with the manufacturers' association in the trade obtaining wage increases for a number of workers.

Within a short few weeks, the overwhelming majority of tuckers and pleaters registered with the International local. Among the registered shops are the largest in the trade, such as the Star Pleating Co., Pollock

Brothers, Big Four, Novick & Rothenberg, Enterprise, Knickerbocker, Excellent, Arch Tucking, Libbits Pleating, B. Greenberg, Sol Levin, and many others.

In several shops, some two or three Communist followers refused to register. The chairmen, naturally, insisted that all the workers in the shops should belong to the same union, and sent these workers down to take out International books. Hence, the Communist squeal of "persecution" and "victimizing." It will help them nothing at all, however. They will have to register, if they want to work in International shops—no more and no less.

JOINT EXECUTIVE MEETING TO CONSIDER MINE STRIKERS' RELIEF

(Continued from Page 1)

\$148,000 to European relief; \$50,000 to the steel strikers in 1919; \$45,000 again to European relief in 1921, and \$55,000 to the miners in their great 1922 strike.

The Webster Hall meeting will be under the direction of Ben Moser, secretary of the New York Cloakmakers' Joint Board. Speakers will include Vice Presidents Salvatore Ninfo, David Dubinsky and Julius Hochman, general manager of the Joint Board.

1,200 Cutters Vote For Philadelphia Plan; Favor Boston For 1928 Convention City

(Continued from Page 1)

inee to succeed himself, was, in accordance with the by-laws of the cutters' organization, declared elected for the managerial post for the ensuing year. In the same manner, assistant manager Sam B. Shenker, the local's chairman Maurice W. Jacobs, and vice-chairman Max Stoller, were declared elected as they had no opponents for their respective offices. The balloting for an executive board and for business agents of the local will take place on Saturday, Dec. 17, and the installation of officers will follow on Monday, December 19.

Among the other important decisions adopted by this extraordinary meeting of Local 10 was one to levy

a tax of \$1 on the membership for the Relief Fund. The members also voted, without a dissenting voice, to abolish the practice of "temporary" help during the active part of the year in cutting rooms, making it obligatory upon employers to hire steady cutters for the work they need. This rule will be henceforth strictly observed in all the shops of the industry.

The cutters also voted to join the movement of relief for the striking miners initiated by the International, and to open, in the office of Local 10, a collection center for clothing and footwear to be forwarded to the needy strikers. Further steps to assist the miners with funds will be taken in conjunction with other locals and with the International Union.

Philadelphia Dress Workers' Circle Mixes Fun With Educational Work

Group Walks, Excursions, Lecture Courses, Supper Meetings Arranged Months Ahead—Local 50 Library Continually Growing.

Sister Ada Rosenfelt, secretary of the Philadelphia Dress and Waist-makers' organization, Local 50, writes:

"At the invitation of the Women's Trade Union League, our E. S. R. C. held its meeting in the new club room on Monday, November 21, right after work. The meeting was in the nature of a party and meeting. A light supper was served, and Miss Watmough entertained the group by playing folk dances on the piano. The members were enthusiastic, and the meeting was very warm and friendly.

"While we all had a very good time we did not forget the business of the Circle. We were able to formulate many good plans for the coming season. Several new members enrolled for the swimming group, which will begin November 30. A hike was arranged for December 4, to go about a mile and a half from Willow Grove, where supper will be served for 60 cents. It was arranged that we all meet at the office of the Union at 9:30 A. M., Sunday, December 4 and spend the day in the country.

"It was also decided that the trip to Washington be arranged for January 8, 1928. All those wishing to register for the trip are to give a deposit of one dollar.

"It was decided that the Circle give a party on Christmas eve, to charge a nominal sum, and invite the members and their friends. The plans for the party were left to the Board of Directors of the Circle.

"The question of the classes was also taken up, and cards were given out asking the members to sign up for the following subjects: English, Monday night; psychology, Tuesday night; labor problems, Wednesday night at the Labor College.

"The members promised to make these classes popular among the workers in their shops.

"In view of the fact that we all had such a very good time at this supper-meeting, it was decided that we have a supper-meeting once a month.

"At the meeting we had the pleasure of listening to Minnie Rubinstein, one of our former members, who is now the chairman of a similar Circle in N. Y. Sister Rubinstein brought us a message of greeting from New York and stated that it was the Philadelphia group that inspired the New Yorkers to start such a recreational and educational circle.

"Miss Mary Hillyer of the Y. W. C. A. gave an outline of recreational sports that should interest our members. She suggested bowling, volley

ball, and other ball sports that would be good exercise for us. The group decided to try having a bowling party November 28. Those who wish to participate in this party will meet at the office of the union, we will have supper, and proceed to the bowling hall. The other suggestions were given over to the Board of Directors.

"After the routine business of the meeting was finished, election of officers took place. A motion was made that election of officers be held every 6 months. The following officers were elected:

"Sara Fregant, Chairlady; Fanny Althouse, Secretary. Board of Directors—Fannie Shatkin, Sophie Diamond, Esther Solomon, Rebecca Schwartz, Rose Freedman, Anna Solomon, Fannie Baskin.

"The Board of Directors met and decided to hold a mask party Monday night, December 26th, tickets will be \$1.00 including refreshments, prizes will be given to the three best masks. Tickets for sale by Circle members and office of Union."

Local 50 Library Enlarged

"Within the last week the library of the Waist and Dressmakers' Union has been enlarged by about 100 books. The new books, in their varied colors, give the library the charm of a new dress, and it has become the center of attraction for many of our members.

"At our library books can be found that are difficult to obtain, and sometimes not to be had at all, at the public libraries, and such exclamations as this can be heard daily, "I have been trying to get this book at the public library for a long time and have not been able to do so until I joined the library of our Union." This is true particularly since we have enlarged the library.

"Every member of the union can become a reader of the library, and they are invited to take advantage of our well stocked and well selected library."

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News and Events In Local 38

By **BORIS DRASIN**,
Secretary-Manager

With the passing of Thanksgiving Day, which usually marks the end of the winter season in our trade, it is well to take stock of the passing season and of the benefit it brought to all of us.

The season started later than usual, which is accounted for by the unusually warm weather during the past three months. This, for a time, caused fear that there would be little work in the trade. However, it turned out better than was expected. The principal shops were as busy as usual, and most of our houses have made full use of the two months' extra half-day of Saturday work, for which the workers were paid extra. Also, a fair amount of overtime was made during the week, which, in all, gave our workers a chance to make up a bit for the dull summer. Most shops are working this week, either on part time or in shifts. The expectation, however, is that should the weather turn cold soon, there will be more work during the month of December.

This condition in the trade has reflected itself in the Union, too. Many members who formerly used to be in arrears with regard to dues have paid up, so that now quite a number of them can boast of having a union book paid up in advance. Members have also begun paying the \$3.00 tax that is to be paid up in full before the June, 1928, book is given out to our workers.

However, there are a number of members in Local 38 who are less faithful to the Union and who pay dues only up to the point that keeps them just legitimately within the Union. It is worthy of notice that quite a number of such as like to call themselves "progressives" or "radi-

icals" are in the latter category. These people "forget" that the money derived from the payment of dues is the only source of income on which this organization exists, and that it can make progress only when dues are properly paid. Our shop chairmen should exert more influence upon such members, and should see to it that everyone working in our shops is on equal standing with the rest who feel more and care more for the welfare of our Union. After all, every worker is cared for equally by the Union and gets all the benefits from his organization and should, therefore, carry his part of the burden as well as the rest.

Another eight months and our Union will be confronted with the signing of new agreements with our employers in the trade. Every Union member knows what complications arise on such occasions. A good financial foundation is an important factor in every Union, especially at such times. Financially secure, it will be easier for the administration to carry out the work that makes for progress in the Union and for the betterment of conditions in the shops. Our chairmen can do a great deal to bring about this condition. It is expected of them and hoped that they will earnestly work for it.

Our moving into presentable and comfortable new quarters has helped considerably in raising the good feeling of our members, who have more conveniences now at meetings. Many of our members speak with admiration of this accomplishment, so much so, that some of them conceived the idea of expressing this feeling in more than words. For instance, the workers of Phillip A. Haring have sent a gift to the Union in the form of a large wall clock. While mentioning this, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the workers of Haring in the name of the Executive Board, and in my own, and particularly the committee who had charge of this affair, which consisted of B. Isenberg, chairman, A. Golluscio, A. Grodka, J. Reichel, Ph. Diamond and J. Schwartz. It is encouraging to know that members appreciate when things are done for them.

At our recent elections of two executive board members to fill vacancies, only one, Sister B. Schwartz, was elected, as the vote of the other two was tied. The matter will have to be voted upon again at the branch meetings. The International Branch will meet on Tuesday, December 6, at Harlem Educational Center, 62 East 106th Street, at 8 P. M. Besides election of an executive board member, the regular business of the branch will be conducted.

Members are also herewith informed that no more Saturday work will be permitted, as the agreement with the employers calls for an exception in October and November only.

With the New York Dressmakers

By **J. SPIELMAN**, Secretary

From the list of candidates, published in last week's issue of "Justice," our members have, doubtless, noticed that there is a substantial number of candidates nominated for the 1928 administration of our local. The Election and Objection Committee is now examining those candidates who have signified their intention of accepting office, and investigating their records. We hope to be able to announce definitely next week the names of the candidates who will appear on the official ballot of the Union.

In the mean time, the members are showing a warm interest in the forthcoming elections. Hundreds of members called last week at the local office, and most of them have, in some manner or another, discussed the fitness of this or that announced candidate. Needless to say, we are, from the standpoint of the organization, highly elated with this enthusiasm on the part of our members, which, of course, shows clearly that they have the interest of the organization close at heart.

The local elections will take place on Thursday, December 15, 1927. The balloting places and the hours will be announced next week.

Subsequent to the publication in last week's "Justice" of the report concerning the Joint Executive Board meeting of the Dress locals, a feeling of enthusiasm and vigorous activity has become manifest within the ranks of the members of Local No. 22.

The statements of President Sigman and General Manager Hochman, at that meeting, show unmistakably the determination on the part of the International and the Joint Board to undertake a widespread organization campaign in the dress industry during the approaching season.

As outlined in some of our former reports, Local 22 in conjunction with Locals 10, 35, and 89, is at present preparing a program of intensive activity, which we hope will place the

dress industry among the best organized needle trades.

Several important conferences between the above-mentioned locals are being held at this time. We hope in the very near future, to be able to announce in detail the results of these deliberations.

In connection with the above-outlined activity, the Dress Department held several shop chairmen conferences last week. These gatherings are not advertised in the press because they are of a more or less consultant nature; that is, the manager of the dress department outlines briefly to the chairmen the plans and problems of the organization, with a view of learning their opinions and getting their criticism and suggestions. The spirit at the first few conferences was very encouraging. The chairmen assembled, expressed their satisfaction with the method being pursued. Brother Moskowitz, manager of the department, emphasized that it is the organization's intention to take the chairmen into confidence and that no final steps will be decided before it is certain of their approval. What we ask of the rank and file of our members at this time is to continue the interest they have shown in the organization. Above all, to attend the meetings called by the locals so that they might thoroughly familiarize themselves with the plans and problems of the organization. It is only in this manner that we can solidify our ranks and succeed in organizing the dress industry.

The next section meetings of our local will be held on Thursday, December 8, 1927. The meetings will be held in the following places:

Bronx members will meet at McKinley Square Gardens, 1258 Boston Road.

Downtown members at Beethoven Hall, 210 East 5th Street.

Brownsville members at the Brownsville Labor Lyceum, 217-19 Sackman Street.

We are looking forward to good attendances at all these meetings.

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Free Speech, Labor Talks on Debs Radio

Forrest Bailey, director of the American Civil Liberties' Union, will broadcast eye-witness accounts of the industrial conflict raging in Colorado between the coal operators and miners over Station WEVD, the labor radio station, Sunday (Dec. 4) at 2:20 p. m. The Civil Liberties office in New York has received reports affecting civil liberties in the mining districts which Mr. Bailey will use in making a plea for the restoration of free speech and assemblage and the withdrawal of armed guards from the mining zone.

In conformity with its policy of broadcasting news and features regarding the aspirations of the American labor movement, WEVD will also broadcast talks on labor conditions Monday at 4:15 p. m. and Tuesday at 9:15 p. m. by Elsie Gluck of the research department of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Thursday evening at 9:15, James

O'neal, editor of the New Leader, will give another lecture in his course on "Backgrounds in the History of the American People." McAllister Coleman, also of the New Leader staff, will give labor's view of the news of the week on Saturday evening at 7:30.

Musical features for the week on Station WEVD include a lecture-recital by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holden Huss, pianist composer and soprano, on American composers. This number will be broadcast Sunday at 2:30 p. m. Abe Berg, violinist, student of Leopold Auer, will play Tuesday afternoon, Thursday evening, and again on Saturday evening.

Excelsior, "the Voice from the Deep," a regular feature on WEVD, will sing Thursday afternoon and again Saturday evening. A new feature will be the Debs Opera Quartet, which goes on the air Thursday evening at 9.

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JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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

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EDITORIALS

HELP THE STRIKING MINERS!

The soft coal miners of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, on strike since last April, are calling for help. The trade union workers of America should respond to this call without a moment's delay.

The striking miners' appeal for help has reached the Labor movement through the voice of the American Federation of Labor, the organization with which the miners have been affiliated since the early days of their union. Eight months of the struggle have nearly drained all their resources. The brute force of the gunmen in the employ of the powerful mine companies, the crushing tyranny of the Big Money ring which stands back of the coal barons have driven the soft-coal miners from their homes. Tens of thousands of them are living in tents and barracks erected on ground rented by their union, the United Mine Workers, and thousands more are facing eviction daily.

Against overwhelming odds the United Mine Workers have fought a grim battle all spring, summer, and fall, relying exclusively on their own means, taxing their own working members to the utmost, to secure the bare necessities of life for the locked out strikers and their families. But now winter is here, the cold, bitter winter of the coal fields, and the miners, their wives and children, huddled together in the cold-smitten barracks, need food, clothing, shoes and blankets in order to survive the hardships of the struggle and to fight their way to victory.

The coal barons and their allies, the steel companies, the railroads and the financiers in Pittsburgh and New York who own the mines, are counting heavily on the rigors of the winter months to break down the fighting spirit of the miners. So far, however, not even a minute fraction of the 150,000 men who quit the pits last spring have betrayed the cause of their union. Like a wall of stone they have stood without yielding an inch of ground, ready each day to make new sacrifices.

The coal miners know what a terrible enemy they are facing in the fast approaching winter. They know that the colds and frosts will multiply the sufferings of their poorly-clad, undernourished wives and children, but they are determined to prove that they are equal to the greatest test that this struggle for their elementary rights might put them to. All the miners ask today of their fellow workers in the Labor movement is help to tide over the few hard months ahead of them, help that would lift their arms and strengthen their hearts in this titanic conflict.

The miners in the soft coal fields of Pennsylvania and Ohio are fighting today one of the greatest battles ever fought by organized workers in America. Their conflict is the conflict of the whole labor movement of America, and the miners well deserve that the labor movement offer them every assistance it is capable of.

We hardly need emphasize the fact that our workers, the ladies' garment workers, owe the miners a great debt. The miners never refused to come to our aid, whenever we called upon them, in times of strikes or at any other critical moment in the life of our organization.

Besides, our workers, the cloakmakers and the dressmakers in New York and elsewhere, have themselves more than once tasted the bitter hardships of a long and protracted strike. Our men and women know what it means to stay out for long months on the picket lines, though we must admit that, hard as our own battles had been, they do not begin to compare in bitterness and severity to the great fight which the 150,000 coal miners are now carrying on against their masters and their henchmen—the Coal and Iron Police, the State Constabulary and Deputy Sheriffs, the brutal injunction judges—defying cold, want and hunger from their temporary shacks in the coal fields of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Unfortunately, this is the "slack" period in most of our trades, but that should not deter our workers, in every shop, in every trade, and in every local, from beginning the work of miners' relief at once. Committees should be organized in every local, in every joint board, to undertake the collection of funds, shoes and clothing, to be forwarded without delay to Pittsburgh headquarters, from where they will be distributed in the strike fields. Money should be forwarded to the office of our International, which will transmit it to Washington for the United Mine Workers.

Shop chairmen should be called at once to organize this work of relief on a responsible basis. Don't wait for the "busy" season with your help! The miners' strike is a great emergency in the life of the labor movement, an emergency that tolerates no postponement. It is not only a tremendous humane duty that

stares us in the face, not only the question of tens of thousands of little children freezing and ill-fed who must be given warmth and food and saved from disease, but there is at stake in this struggle an even greater issue. The coal barons and money magnates should not be permitted to starve the coal miners into semi-slavery, should not be permitted to crush the United Mine Workers, the biggest single labor union in America, in this momentous fight!

Together with the other organized labor forces in this country we can help the miners win this fight. In the words of President Green's appeal: "Give money. Give clothing. Give food. Give anything you have that will help the miners in this great struggle!"

INJUNCTION MENACE IS GROWING

The last few weeks have seen several remarkable developments in the realm of judge-made law in industrial disputes. In Pennsylvania, a federal judge practically set aside all safeguards provided by law insofar as they affect the striking miners and issued a decree prohibiting not only the distribution of relief to the strikers and their families but forbidding congregation of strikers in their churches, presumably on the ground that this constitutes an "assembly" which promotes the interests of the defensive fight the coal diggers are waging against the mine owners.

In New York City, on the other hand, the Interborough Rapid Transit Company is seeking to obtain a blanket injunction against the entire American Federation of Labor that would restrain it, or any of its affiliated unions, from attempting to unionize the subway and elevated workers of New York whom the company now is holding down under a sort of a "yellow dog" contract and a company union.

Clearly, the monopolistic coal and transit combines, whose appetites had been whetted by the docile readiness of judges to abuse equity powers in favor of employing interests in times of strikes, are getting ready to strike a blow at the very heart of the labor movement, to attempt an assault on the right of the workers to organize and to carry on strikes.

There can be no two opinions about that, and the American labor movement, lest it is smothered by this arrogant pugnacity of the union-baiters, must summon all its strength to fight off this onslaught. That the labor unions in New York City are appraising this situation correctly is shown by the fact that practically all of them are rallying to the cause of the subway and elevated workers' organization, pledging the services of their officers and members in the great organizing campaign which is carried on among the transit workers to enlist them in the American Federation of Labor.

That is, naturally, the best and most effective answer the organized workers of our city can, for the moment, give to the brazen challenge of the transit magnates. If it is the whole labor movement they are after, the whole labor movement must line up in the fight of the subway and elevated workers for the right to organize and to have a union of their own. Two weeks ago, the building trades unions instructed their active men to take upon themselves the duties of volunteer organizers, on their way to and from work, among the still unaffiliated subway and elevated workers. This week, the printers, the barbers, the stage folk, and several needle trades unions offered the Amalgamated Street and Electric Railway Union their help to organize the workers on the lines and simultaneously to arouse organized labor in general to the peril of the contemplated injunction.

The moral and material effect of this spontaneous rally on the part of the New York trade unions cannot be overestimated. As far as we can recall, this is the first time in the history of the labor movement in New York City that organizations, as distant from each other in a craft sense as bricklayers are from printers, have actually enlisted themselves in organizing activity affecting another group of workers. It is a splendid demonstration of solidarity which should serve to strengthen not only the subway workers but every other trade union in the city. It will, moreover, show the railway magnates and traction speculators that in this fight against the American Federation of Labor and against the subway and elevated workers they have opposed to them every one of the \$30,000 union workers of New York City.

BEGIN THE WORK NOW!

The time to start well-planned and effective work both in the cloak and dress trades for the next season is now and today. The ground must be well prepared, the plans well thought out and made workable, and for this the most opportune time is the present, while there is still time to discuss and do the preparatory work.

That was the sense of the decision of the New York Joint Board a week ago to call meetings of shop chairmen, and, later, meetings of block and district committees, to shape and coordinate plans for missionary union activity in every district in the market. Still later, larger meetings of all active workers will be called to the end that the cooperation of every loyal worker might be secured by the time the season is at hand and the actual work has started.

We welcome heartily this spirit of incessant activity which enlivens the meetings of the Joint Board, despite the fact that, for the moment, slack conditions in the trade make practical organizing work nearly impossible. But it is a highly encouraging fact that the leadership of the Joint Board and of all its affiliated locals bear constantly in mind the thought that the work of the Union is never done, that in time of "slack" it must prepare for augmented activity during the next season, that the

The Trade Union Movement of Germany

By B. WEINGARTZ

Special Correspondence from Germany

The trade union movement of Germany is not as old as, for instance, the trade union movement of England. While in England trade unionism took root with the coming of capitalism, or industrialism, in Germany there were many obstacles to clear before it became possible to go ahead.

After the rebuilding of the German Empire in 1871, which gave so great a stimulus to capitalism, Bismarck, the chancellor of "iron and blood," had succeeded in arresting the growth of the labor movement through the institution of the so-called "anti-Socialist" laws, which killed for a time the labor organizations and made the growth of trade unionism impossible. Only after the abolition of the "Repression" laws in 1890, did it become possible to build up trade unionism on a firm basis.

It may be inferred from this that trade unionism in Germany commenced in 1890. In 1892 there were 56 unions with a membership of 237,094. Since then the movement has grown year by year. Trade unionism in Germany is built on the principle of one union for each industry, as may be conjectured from the following table:

NUMBER OF UNIONS AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE "FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT."

| Year | No. of Unions | Membership |
|------|---------------|------------|
| 1892 | 56 | 237,094 |
| 1900 | 58 | 680,427 |
| 1906 | 66 | 1,689,718 |
| 1913 | 49 | 2,573,718 |
| 1919 | 52 | 5,479,073 |
| 1922 | 49 | 7,896,065 |
| 1925 | 40 | 4,158,451 |

(The trade union congress of 1925 decided: "In order to give each union the utmost strength, so that it might be able to fight best for the betterment of general conditions of life, it is best that unions be organized on industrial lines and that the workers of an industry be bound together in such a union." Thus, nearly all sections of the metal, or engineering, or of the printing trades, the leather trades, are each of them merged into one union.)

The German trade union movement is guided by the principle: The less unions the stronger the weapon with which to fight the battles of labor. The slogan of German trade unionism is: "Less trade unions and more trade unionism."

Movement Highly Centralized

In each of the 38 unions now in existence a rigid centralization scheme exists. The executive council of each union controls the whole of the local branches. The final word before the declaration of a strike rests with the executive council. No union branch may use the union fund to support a local strike movement without the sanction of the executive council.

Again the whole movement is welded together in the "Allgemeine Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund," (Federation of German Trade Unions) with central offices in Berlin. Notwithstanding the fact that each union is an independent unit in itself, the Council of the Federation has an im-

mense influence over the movement. The executive members of the Federation are all fully paid officers.

The Federation is represented throughout the different cities by local trades councils. The place of these councils in the movement is a very important one, and they perform a very influential part in the industrial life of the city or district. Nearly every local council maintains a "legal information bureau," where the workers may obtain legal advice in matters pertaining to the law free of charge. One hundred and four trades councils own "people's houses," in which the offices of the unions are domiciled. The "people's houses" have, besides the offices, large halls for meetings, with restaurants and living accommodations for those organized workers who are traveling from place to place.

The German trade unions spend large sums of money for educational purposes. Thus in 1925 for this item alone the sum of 454,434 marks was expended. The year 1926 was a year of crisis. Unemployment was rampant, and many union members were on the idle list. This state of affairs gave the movement a setback, as may be seen by the falling off of the general membership from 1923 to 1925, after which a standstill set in, and now a new impetus has been given to the growth of the unions. Nearly all organizations show large increases in membership, and it is regarded as certain that this growth will continue.

The Trade Union Centers

Of course, the German labor unions are not as solidly united into one movement as, for instance, the English movement. The German movement still has three distinct trade union centers: (1) The "free" trade union movement, of which we have been speaking, and which is generally designated as the "socialist" union movement, as it is linked up, in one way or another, with the Socialist movement; (2) The so-called Hirsch-Dunker unions, who are linked with the Liberals or Democrats, and (3) The Christian unions, which are tied up with the "Center" or Catholic party. Of the three, the "free" unions are, of course, the strongest, as may be seen from the following table:

ALL ORGANIZED PEOPLE IN 1925.

| Trade Union Centers | Workers | Clerks | Civil Servants | Total |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Free Trade Unions | 1,074,265 | 432,575 | 178,296 | 4,685,136 |
| Christian Unions | 569,719 | 394,463 | 302,977 | 1,267,159 |
| "Nationals" or Communist | 157,571 | 304,278 | 94,000 | 555,849 |
| Synicalist or Communist | 63,586 | | | 63,586 |
| "Peaceful" Unions | 187,720 | 59,452 | | 247,173 |
| Religious Sects | 23,389 | 11,200 | | 34,589 |
| Other Unions | 15,791 | 150,989 | 1,175,853 | 1,342,543 |
| Total | 5,091,951 | 1,352,958 | 1,751,126 | 8,196,035 |

The Communist organizations are really insignificant factors, with no influence whatever. Their only business appears to be to hinder the advance of labor, their time being devoted solely to fighting their only enemy—the free trade union movement—which leaves them no spare time for fighting capitalism.

A few words as to the general principles of the German trade union movement. In spirit, the "free" unions are bound up with the great Socialist movement of Germany. In this connection it is noteworthy that, notwithstanding the fact that the political movement of the country is split up into Socialist and Communist parties, the trade unions were not split up into political factions, as even the Communist party commands its adherents to remain members of their respective trade societies.

The Garment Workers

After having given a general, but very brief, glimpse of the German trade union movement, a few words should be mentioned with regard to the general clothing workers' unions, with which are bound together all the sections of the needle trades.

There are six different national organizations in the clothing industry, and of these, the Clothing Workers' Union, with a membership of 82,822, is by far the most influential. The Hat Makers' Union is also affiliated to the Federation of "free" unions, and there is hope that within the next few months this union will become amalgamated with the Clothing Workers' Union. The "Christian" union has a membership of about 15,000 workers, and the Hirsch-Dunker union has only about 5,000 workers, so that within a very short time, when the hatmakers become amalgamated with the Clothing Workers, the latter will have a membership of 103,322 as against 34,000 for all the other factions put together.

In the Clothing Workers' Union all the sections of the needle trades are adequately represented. Originally, it was an organization of tailors and tailoresses of the bespoke trade. Later, all the sections of the industry were amalgamated with the main union. A very important part of German trade union work lies in social service to its members. The Clothing Workers' Union, in common with nearly all other unions, pays sick and funeral expenses, unemployment benefits, traveling expenses, and other benefits. It should also be borne in mind that in Germany the State also assumes larger social functions with regard to the worker than in many other countries, including America. Thus, we have in Germany in operation a great State insurance system.

This system covers not only the sick and aged but also the unemployed. During the years of the economic crisis, hundreds of thousands of German workers were enabled to keep soul and body together through the aid of the State benefit systems, but more of this in another article.

SOCCER GAMES

With four points separating the Wanderers from first position in the league table the Brooklyn eleven will tackle the job of improving their standing against the Boston Soccer Club. On Saturday the Wanderers travel to Boston to meet the Beaneaters at Boston and the two teams will return together on Saturday night for their second meeting of the weekend at Ebbets Field on Sunday. This game will mark the first appearance of the Boston team in Brooklyn this season.

"Porgy"

"Porgy" is convincing evidence that a play may have color and warmth and be beautifully produced and yet be poor theatre. It is amazing to contemplate the amount of love and devotion and care that went into making "Porgy" fit for the theatre, the dexterity with which group effects are achieved, and yet to go away with the profound conviction that theatre is an exclusive art and not "all the king's horses and all the king's men" can set up a substitute art in its place.

The success of DuBose Heyward's novel in its own field need not be dilated upon here. The book is a remarkable achievement; it catches for all time the warm life of the Southern Negro in its own environment and impressions it within the pages of a narrow book. It is Negro life distilled by a fine economist. A perfect job.

The Theatre Guild has contrived, by every lovely device, to transport the novel into the theatrical frame, but it has failed to imbue it with any portion of vitality of the book itself. First, at the Guild, "Porgy" is episodic, not dramatic except for an occasional flare-up. In the book, the dialogue illumines, develops a character or pushes the story irresistibly forward; in the theatre, the speech is quaint, occasionally humorous, but almost always static. "Porgy" lacks the rhythm and movement of the stage.

The mob scenes are impressive; pictorially, this writer does not recall a play in recent years so ablaze with color. Mamoulian, the young imported director, has done a perfect job with his materials. Frank Wilson, Rose McClenden and several other Negroes, all of whom are born actors are absolutely genuine in their parts. But the theatrical ingredient for which workers in the theatre sweat and pray is lacking and nothing can obscure its absence and nothing can take its place.

RICHARD ROHMAN.

BERTRAND RUSSELL AND "COMPANIONATE MARRIAGE"

Bertrand Russell, the distinguished philosopher, will speak for the first time in New York City on "Companionate Marriage" from the point of view of one who advocates this reform of conventional marriage.

Russell, who is noted as one of the leading scientists, as well as philosopher, of his age, has given years of profound study to the subject and he has reached conclusions which are even further advanced than those of Judge Ben Lindsey, who also is an advocate of "Companionate Marriage."

Russell's lecture will be given at Mecca Temple, 133 West 54th Street, New York City, Saturday evening, December 3rd, 1927, under the auspices of the American Public Forum. Tickets can be obtained in Room 1006, 1650 Broadway, at the Rand School, 7 East 15th Street, or at the box office.

DANCE AND SOCIABLE FOR WHITEGOODS WORKERS

Saturday Evening, December 3rd

The dance and sociable arranged for the members of the Whitegoods Workers' Union, Local 62, will take place this Saturday, December 3, at 8 p. m., in the auditorium of the I. L. G. W. U. Building, 3 West 16th Street.

There will be a stimulating orchestra, dancing, delicious refreshments, entertainment and fun. It will be a get-together of friends who wish to spend an evening in sociability and good fellowship.

Admission is by ticket only, which may be had free from the office of Local 62, at 117 Second Avenue.

Union's task is not complete as long as there is a cloak or dress shop left unorganized in the whole metropolitan district.

Out of this mobilized activity there will, no doubt, come a tremendous amount of good. Despite a poor season, and hampered, in addition, by many other obstacles, the Joint Board, in a few weeks' of organization work, succeeded in placing back under union control not less than 250 cloak and dress shops. With an earlier start, better laid out plans, and a much improved organization in general, the activity before and during the coming season should yield even better results and bring the International Joint Board much closer to its goal—complete control over labor conditions in all coat, suit, and dress shops in the New York market.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Can We Organize The Flapper?

Answering a Pertinent Question

By FANNIA M. COHN

DO you still believe, Anne, that the flapper can be organized? I have less confidence in the organizational ability of the flapper now than ever.

"Why this growing pessimism, Ruth? What has happened to justify your skepticism?"

"Nothing in particular, except observing the lack of interest of our flappers in the economic, social and labor conditions, and their willingness to accept things as they are. We see no protest coming from them."

"Hear, hear!" cried Anne. "You are one of those who accept the general conception of the flapper without stopping for a moment to think whether it is so. If you would, then you would realize how contradictory this assertion is. Isn't it true that the flapper is accused of breaking away from old traditions and age-honored customs and established moral conventions? Didn't she in the past of opposition discard the 'respectable' long dress, and force her brothers and her mother and sweetheart to tolerate the short dress that hardly reaches the knees? Didn't she dare to bob her hair like a boy's?"

"You might enumerate many other virtues of the modern girl." Ruth broke in impatiently. "Why not mention her courage in using a lipstick in public places, and her freedom of approaching men? But what has all this courage to do with the organizational ability of the flapper?"

"Hold on, Ruth," answered Anne, "similar complaints are made by each generation as the new one challenges its established code of morals. Each time, those who cling to the old conception are shocked by the looseness of the behavior of those who break them, and interpret it as a sign of degeneracy; especially is this to be noted when a particular age is in a process of transition. This is to be expected in our 'woman's age.' Since the war, women suddenly have begun to realize their importance in the social and economic scheme. But the change in their status was so sudden that many were overwhelmed by it. It is natural that we are still in a state of confusion, and the result is the flapper. Frank, daring in breaking social customs and traditions, she is, I be-

ENTERTAINMENT

IN THE BRONX

Saturday evening, December 17

Our educational season in the Bronx will start with an entertainment on Saturday evening, December 17, in the beautiful auditorium of P. S. 54, at Freeman Street and Intervale Avenue.

The program for the evening will consist of a concert by prominent artists, group singing led by a competent director, and a short talk on a topic of the day. The speaker will be announced later.

The Educational Department invites our members with their families to this entertainment.

The courses and lectures which will be given in the Bronx on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings, will be started right after this.

Such societies as this one in the Bronx were already given in various parts of the city where our members reside, and were everywhere highly liked and appreciated by our members.

lieve, the forerunner of the modern woman—as some would call her—the modern woman in the making.

"We know, for instance, that she does respond to excitement—that she has a fighting spirit and is unafraid to make decisions. Approached in a spirit of friendship, she will be found accessible to new ideas. She resents an attitude of authority. Further, the flapper doesn't want moral conceptions of life preached to her. She is willing to find out for herself.

"These characteristics should be studied and utilized by the labor movement for organization purposes."

"Wouldn't you be more definite, Anne, and tell me how you would approach the flapper—what organization method you would apply to her? In a word, what would make her fight for the improvement of her economic conditions? What would stimulate in her a desire for a place in our industrial society?"

"It is not easy to answer your questions, Ruth," replied Anne. "We have not as yet developed an organization method for the new working girl. In fact, we had hardly started to develop an organization method and to appreciate the need of special machinery for the organization of women in general, when we were confronted with this special problem—the flapper.

"But my first concern is our attitude toward the flapper—the attitude of those who are to be her leaders. Can you imagine a general succeeding with an army in whose ability and fighting spirit he has no confidence? We all know that a prime requisite of success is the faith in the work undertaken. Women suffer under additional disadvantages in that while men are led by those of their own sex, women in the labor movement as in many other social institutions are still mostly led by men, and therefore the element of misunderstanding is inevitable. When we realize that women's handicaps are not so much physical as psychological, this should make us more hopeful of her. Because though we know how difficult it is to change biological characteristics, yet according to modern psychology, character may be changed by the proper environment and atmosphere. Psychologists agree that praise can bring most constructive results and that blame and discouragement are destructive."

"I still don't know where you're getting, Anne," said Ruth, in a puzzled way. "Suppose you tell me how you would successfully approach the flapper in an organization campaign?"

"Well," began Anne, "do you want a concrete example, a 'case project'?" This happened many years ago in Chicago: At that time there was as yet no union of dressmakers established and the belief was general that it would be a "hard job" to start an organization among such girls. This was based on the fact that Chicago was famous for its mixture of many nationalities. Some say that 40 nations were represented. Many of them hardly knew the English language. A young woman, a trade unionist, interested in the organization of women, took it upon herself to find out by actual experiment whether the women in the garment industry in Chicago could be organized. She went to work in a factory controlled by one of the leading mail order houses, considered impenetrable for organization purposes. As usual, many reasons were given: First, that the hundreds of men and

Weekly Educational Calendar

WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM 530

Saturday, December 3rd

1:30 P. M. A. J. Muste—The Worker in Modern Society—a course of ten lessons to be continued weekly.

Sunday, December 4th

11 A. M. Dr. N. B. Fagin—Contemporary American Literature—a course of four lessons.

Dr. H. J. Carman will give a course on "The Rise of American Civilization" based on the book by Charles and Mary Beard. Time and place will be announced later.

Saturday, December 3rd

I. L. G. W. U. AUDITORIUM, 3 West 16th Street

8 P. M. Dance and Socials for Whitegoods Workers' Local 62. Admission by tickets only. Get same at Local 62, 117 Second Avenue. . . .

Saturday, December 10th

9 P. M. UNITY REUNION DANCE in the ballroom of the Manhattan Opera House. Paul Whiteman Piccadilly Players. Tickets are \$1.00. Obtain them from the Educational Department, 3 West 14th Street.

Saturday, December 17th

8:30 P. M. Entertainment in the Bronx—Concert and group singing—P. S. 54, Freeman Street and Intervale Avenue. Free to members of the I. L. G. W. U. and their families.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN CLEVELAND

207 Superior Building

Mondays

6:30 to 8 P. M. Prof. Culton—History of the Labor Movement.
8 to 9:30 P. M. Mr. Ashner—Public Speaking.

Wednesdays

7 to 9 P. M. Dr. Ellias—Psychology.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN CLEVELAND

We received an encouraging letter from vice president Chas. Kreindler notifying us that the Joint Board in Cleveland has started educational activities for its members.

The program consists of the following courses: "Psychology," by Dr. Ellias, Dean of Cleveland College, given every Wednesday from 7 to 9 p. m. "History of the Labor Movement" by Prof. Culton, every Monday from 6:30 to 8 p. m. "Public Speaking" by Mr. Ashner, a noted attorney, Mondays from 8 to 9:30 p. m. The classes meet in the office of the Cleveland Joint Board, 207 Superior Building.

Brother Kreindler, with the assistance of active members, we are sure will do everything possible to make the program a success, and our Educational Department will be glad to assist our Cleveland fellow workers in their enterprise.

women who worked there were divided into separate units, according to the various articles produced each with its own complicated problems and separate management. Secondly, the workers there belonged to many nationalities, each group speaking its own language. Thirdly, the skilled and better paid workers considered themselves Americans, proud that English was their common language. Indeed, this group was superficially considered to be satisfied with conditions, and it was thought that nothing could induce them to join their 'fellow workers' against their employers. And they held strategic positions; without their cooperation a strike would be futile. Above all was the fact that the employer had unlimited resources and public prestige; in case of an open conflict, all the public agencies would be on his side.

(To be continued.)

BOOKS TO READ

Carl Sandburg's vast collection of American songs, "The American Songbag," which has just been published by Harcourt, Brace and Company, is that rare kind of book in which almost everyone can find something of interest. Its songs of the pioneers, cowboys, lumberjacks, and railroad gangs give the spirit and the courage of earlier days. Musically, it shows that we have had an almost unrecognized art in our midst of which no one need be ashamed—poetry and music that have come straight from the heart of the people. But altogether it is a book to be sung rather than to be read. Snatches of many of these songs are familiar to many people who have retained them as old memories or have found them in college songbooks. But there is no other place where they can be found complete.

About one hundred of the folk-songs in "The American Songbag" have never before been published. Mr. Sandburg has spent years in collecting the material for the book and in verifying and selecting the correct versions of words and music.

This book and other Harcourt, Brace publications, can be purchased through our Educational Department at reduced rates.

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Militarism vs. Education

By NCRMAN THOMAS

It is time for Americans to decide whether or not they want the War Department through the R. O. T. C., alleged patriotic societies and fearful faculties to act as censor of what shall be said and taught in our colleges. Compulsory military education in many American colleges and universities, it is increasingly clear, does not exist to develop soldiers ready for modern trench warfare—that is impossible in the R. O. T. C.—but to inculcate a lavish military psychology. The proof? Here are the two most recent instances:

1. At New York's great City College a year ago, in belated response to an intelligent and effective student demand, the faculty offered a course in civilian physical drill as an alternative to the military drill which had been compulsory. Apparently almost every possible attempt was made to sabotage this alternative course and to render it difficult and distasteful in the eyes of the students. Matters came to a head this year when the course was not even offered to freshmen who were left to console themselves with the vague assurance that they might have a chance to take it later. If not they would of course have to take at least two years of military drill. In student meetings students attacked this whole performance as an evidence of faculty insincerity. In consequence, two students have already been suspended for what they said on the campus and a third is threatened with suspension for what he said at a meeting off the campus at a conference held in another educational institution. The effect of such suspension can only be to create a state of terrorism at City College and to make the R. O. T. C. and everything connected with it a sacred cow immune from criticism. Do we want to educate our boys in such an atmosphere?

2. At the University of West Virginia President Trotter has announced that no speaker who is opposed by the military department of the university, the American Legion and the D. A. R. will be allowed to address students in university buildings. Opposition from the military department and allied societies which confuse patriotism with repression compelled first the Religious Work Council of the university and later the Y. W. C. A. to cancel meetings arranged for Kirby Page, editor of *The World Tomorrow* and a speaker of national reputation. Individual students on their own initiative finally arranged a meeting off the campus. Local papers vigorously supported the right of free speech. On the other hand an anonymous six page mimeographed attack on Page was generally circulated by the protesting groups. This report was based wholly on attacks previously made by the notorious Freddie Marvin and by the anonymous writer of the bulletin of the military society, the Scabbard and

Blade. The same university president who was intimidated by such attacks permitted Admiral Rodgers, an advocate of the most extreme form of preparedness, to speak without let or hindrance. That is to say, a state university may be used as a forum for those who believe that war is normal and inevitable but those who are working with might and main to save the next generation from the curse of war must be stifled. This is not education. This is tyranny.

HEARST THE TROUBLE MAKER

William Randolph Hearst, American newspaper proprietor and Mexican land owner, is doing his best to make trouble with Mexico on the ground that telegrams in his possession prove that Mexico stirred up opposition to the United States in Nicaragua. Even granting that all the telegrams he claims to have are genuine—which is to say the least doubtful—they by no means prove what the headlines and commentary in his newspapers artfully suggest. They simply show (1) That during the Chamorro regime which the United States never recognized Mexico supported Scazasa as the legal president; (2) that after the United States set up the puppet president, Diaz, Mexico continued friendship with, and perhaps some support for, Scazasa. It should be remembered that Senator Horah and other Americans argued in our own Congress that Scazasa had a far better legal claim than Diaz. Certainly Mexico had as much right to aid what she thought were her interests in Nicaragua by continuance of her established policy as we had to defend what we thought were our rights. Not Mexico but the United States sent marines to reduce Nicaragua to subjection.

Just what absentee landlord Hearst hopes to gain we do not know. At any rate he has taken up that incendiary torch which his noble fellow patriots like Fall, Doheny and Sinclair had been obliged to lay down. At a time when the Mexican government has sternly dealt with rebellion at home and apparently has made its peace with the bankers represented by Mr. Morrow, and when the oil interests are discredited in America, Hearst sees fit to try to make our relations with Mexico more difficult. Some time he may want American boys to fight for his Mexican acres. Meanwhile he can make those same boys pay for his papers which inflame their passions and may sometime send them to war. It is all too likely that such are the sordid reasons for this contemptible and scarcely honest piece of journalism.

Max Tobias, Manager Chicago Cloak Association, Passes Away

On Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Day, the Chicago cloak market suffered the loss of a true friend

With the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board

By BEN MOSER
Secretary-Treasurer

A meeting of the Joint Board was held on Friday, November 25, at the office of the International, 3 West 16th Street.

Chairman, Benj. Kaplan. Local No. 35, in a communication, advises the Board that Brothers M. Goldowsky, L. Bezahler, H. Dorfman, E. Wasilevsky and N. Schechter, were elected as business agents to represent their Local in the Joint Board.

The communication is referred to the General Manager.

The General Executive Board, in a communication, appeals to the Joint Board to aid the 150,000 striking miners in Central and Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Northern West Virginia and elsewhere.

The communication calls upon the Joint Board to immediately organize jointly with its affiliated locals, Miners' Relief Committees and act as headquarters for the collection of money, food, clothing, etc., among the local unions in their respective localities.

Following the reading of this communication, President Sigman addressed the delegates of the Joint Board. In his address, President Sigman states the following:

He attended a conference of all National and International Unions held at Pittsburgh, Pa., last week in behalf of the miners. The facts revealed at this conference, concerning the situation of the striking miners, gave a most vivid description of the horrors and deprivations to which the striking miners and their families are subjected.

Admitting the difficulties of our own struggles, they cannot be compared to those of the miners. Nearly all the striking families have been evicted from the only homes that they have known. In some instances, these were the homes in which they lived with their families for more than a quarter of a century. The Union attempted to invoke legal action to restrain the company from evicting the tenants, but the company succeeded in finding a loophole in the law, which permitted them to go on with these evictions. The pretext on which they secured this permission from the court was the inconceivable one that the roofs of the houses had to be fixed. Emergency shacks have been erected by the Union, but these shacks need fuel and supplies.

Only 100 strikers deserted the ranks of the strike, which has been going on now for seven months. Three thousand and gunmen with criminal records have been added to the regular police force and state militia patrolling the district and fighting the miners. In order to replace the strikers, the Company has imported Mexican scab labor and convicts. In spite of this, production, however, is very low.

The International has decided to raise money, which will be donated in behalf of the General Executive Board and its affiliated locals. The needs are great in that coal alone requires an expenditure of \$10,000 a month. Bare necessities are required.

President Sigman closes his remarks concerning the coal strike with a request that the delegates and individuals give whatever aid is possible to the striking miners.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolutions were adopted:

- 1.—That the Board of Directors should prepare a definite plan of procedure to be submitted at the joint meeting of the Executive Boards.
- 2.—That the Joint Board shall appeal to its members, through the Press, to send in clothing, shoes, blankets, etc., for the striking miners.
- 3.—To arrange a joint meeting of all Executive Boards of the affiliated locals for Thursday, December 1st, for the purpose of discussing the question of relief for the miners.
- 4.—To invite all shop chairmen and active members to attend this meeting.

President Sigman then talked to the delegates regarding the preparations for the coming season. He states that the expectations for the next season are good and that the Joint Board must now begin to map out its plans and prepare its machinery to be set in motion with the approach of the new season. By engaging the active cooperation of the shop chairmen and all other active workers, much can be accomplished in the way of strengthening not only our forces but also to unionize the unorganized forces.

For once and all, the Union will have to call to definite account the jobbers who are in contractual relations with us, but who have failed to fulfill their obligations. Plans must therefore be formulated to cope with this situation.

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY RE-OPENS TOMORROW

Workers' University re-opens Saturday, December 3, 1:30 p. m., in Washington Irving High School, room 530, at 16th Street and Irving Place. Mr. A. J. Muste, head of Brookwood College, will give on the initial night an introduction to his course of ten lessons on "The Worker in Modern Civilization."

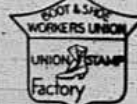
On Sunday, December 4, 11 a. m., in the same place, Dr. N. B. Fagin of the University of Baltimore will give the first of four lectures on "Contemporary American Literature."

Mr. Muste's course will be continued weekly at the same time and place.

Admission is free to members of the I. L. G. W. U., but they must register with our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street or at Washington Irving High School.

Buy Union Stamped Shoes

We ask all members of organized labor to purchase shoes bearing our Union Stamp on the sole, inner-sole or lining of the shoe. We ask you not to buy any shoes unless you actually see this Union Stamp.



Boot & Shoe Workers' Union

Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor
244 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

COLLIS LOVELY
General President

CHARLES L. BAINE
General Secretary-Treasurer

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

By the unanimous decision of the 1,200 members, who packed the spacious ballroom of Arlington Hall beyond capacity on Monday evening, November 28, crowding every inch of space around the hall and in the gallery, the members of Local 10 went on record as being opposed to full proportional representation, and voting in favor of the majority report of the Philadelphia Emergency Convention of 1925 giving to local unions of the International a form of representation based equitably on the size of their membership.

That was one of nearly ten important decisions reached at that special meeting, in addition to the nomination of candidates for office for 1928, and the selection of an election board. More than half of the candidates, by the way, were practically re-elected as no opposing candidates were nominated. A decision was adopted taxing the members \$1.00 each for the purpose of raising money for the Relief Fund, by holding an entertainment and ball on Saturday evening, April 14.

Say Issue is Camouflaged

It may be said unhesitatingly that last Monday night's meeting was hardly equalled by any previous meeting, particularly in point of attendance and interest displayed in the matters taken up. The attendance, about 1,200, is declared by many to be a conservative figure. At least 300 men were unable to get into the hall, and those in the anteroom who could not get near enough to the door to hear and participate in the proceedings, were compelled to leave.

The order of business consisted of recommendations by the Executive Board, contained in its report of the special meeting held on Saturday, November 26, namely the vote on proportional representation, the choosing of the convention city, the voting on the assessment for the Relief Fund, the appointment of a ball committee, nomination of candidates for office, the choosing of an election board, and a decision of far-reaching importance bearing on an evil in the trade commonly referred to as the engaging of temporary men.

No doubt, by this time, the members are quite familiar with all that has been said about Proportional Representation. This question occupied the interest of every convention for more than ten years, and was a subject for heated discussion and debates within the International for a decade. It reached a climax at the Emergency Convention in Philadelphia in 1925, when the Law Committee adopted an amendment to the constitution of the International, which amounted to a compromise between the system of representation that prevailed prior to the 1925 convention and strict proportional representation. The convention further decided that the membership of the International conduct a referendum on the majority and minority reports.

The Executive Board recommended to the members that the majority report be adopted. The majority recommendation of the convention allows local unions of 300 members two delegates, to locals up to 1000 members—three delegates, and to local unions having a membership of 1000 or more an additional delegate for each 1,000 members or a fraction thereof.

In a brief address Isidore Nagler declared that a local must be allowed a vote on the basis of its industry and trade problems and not merely upon its numerical strength. Each craft, he pointed out, is entitled to a voice in its affairs. Members of small

unions as well as those of larger local unions must each be given an equal opportunity for progress and expansion. The sponsors of strict proportional representation were swayed more by political motives than by industrial needs of the workers in the ladies' garment trades. Nagler said that the majority proposal of the convention is an equitable form of representation. It gives a proper form of representation to every local union, no matter how small or how large its membership, and he urged the members to adopt this recommendation. Considerable interest was aroused when one of the members in the gallery, Morris Kroll, rose to say that the great number of cutters present at this meeting, offers decisive proof that the cutters are the most stable element in the International and in the industry; that they do not shift at frequent periods, and that the great majority of them can boast of many more years of constant membership in the union than can the members of other local unions. And for that reason he declared that it would be unjust to deprive Local 10 of a fair voice in the councils of the union, which strict proportional representation undoubtedly would.

It was evident to the members of Local 10 that the minority report is a camouflage, and that it would not increase activity and progress of the union or control of the trade. President Maurice W. Jacobs finally called for a rising vote on the recommendation of the Executive Board, which is the adoption of the majority report. The 1,200 members rose as one and not a single member rose when a contrary vote was called for.

End of Temporary Jobs

Another decision was adopted affecting a certain evil in the trade, the employment of temporary men. This issue aroused considerable interest, when it was presented to the members, nearly all of whom applauded the stand taken by the Board. This matter became an evil of considerable proportion when, during the past year or two, some foremen or head cutters made a practice of engaging cutters for temporary employment. This just meant that a new cutter, hired at the beginning of the season, was not added to the regular staff, and, at the end of the season, was not entitled to an equal share of work during the slack season. "This practice," Manager Dubinsky declared, "has been also encouraged by some of the cutters themselves, who, in many instances were too narrow-minded to permit an additional man into the cutting department, thus avoiding the sharing of work with him during the slack period." It finally brought about a condition allowing some men to hold two jobs—one a regular place of employment and the other a temporary one. In this way, unemployed men were deprived of an opportunity to secure a job even at the height of the season.

The Manager pointed out that these men are not content with merely a violation of this sort but, in order to avoid detection and to cover their tracks, they fail to secure working cards so that the office may not become aware of this practice. "This system," Dubinsky said, "has encouraged employers to maintain favorites in their cutting rooms and when they had sufficient work for extra men at the height of the season, they would even set about seeking permission from the office to secure temporary men." The Manager pointed out, however, that when a man secures a week or two weeks work during the slack season outside of his regular place of employment where he might have been laid off for lack of work, it does not constitute a violation providing he secures a working card from the office.

On this score, the Executive Board instructed the office not to permit the employment of temporary men when conditions in the cutting department warranted permanent employment of an extra man or men for the season. The office was further instructed by the Board that a cutter who has a permanent job and secures a temporary one, or who fails to secure a working card before taking such a job should be summoned to the Executive Board to be disciplined. The Board also instructed the office to keep a close watch on the shops or head cutters who are in the habit of practicing this evil.

Entertainment and Relief Fund Tax Adopted

It is now approximately two years since Local 10 held an annual affair for the double purpose of raising funds for the Relief Fund and to give the members of Local 10 an opportunity once a year to get together with their friends and families for a night of merry-making. The recommendation of the Executive Board to hold such an affair on Saturday evening, April 14, 1928 at the Concourse Place, 161st Street and Grand Concourse.

Manager Dubinsky reported at length on the financial state of the Relief Fund. Just previous to the reading of his recommendation, President Maurice W. Jacobs had requested the members to rise in memory of the members of Local 10 who passed away during the present year. In the course of his report on the Relief Fund, the Manager mentioned incidentally that the majority of the men who passed away were not in good health at the time of their death and heirs were therefore not entitled to the constitutional death benefit of \$100 to those who joined before 1925 and \$125 to those who joined Local 10 prior to 1926. When the members of the family of the deceased were informed that they were not entitled to benefit under the constitution because the member was not in good standing at the time of demise they, nevertheless, persisted in requesting some benefit, as in many cases, the families were left destitute.

The result was that when these cases were taken up by the Executive Board sums of from \$25 to \$50 were granted to these families from the Relief Fund. "Because of the great economic hardships suffered by the cloak members of Local 10, as a result of the 1926 general strike, and because no affair was held within the past two years for the raising of funds for the Relief Fund, which has become entirely exhausted," the Manager declared, "if we are to meet the requests which are frequently brought before the Executive Board's attention, the Relief Fund must be replenished."

The committee making temporary arrangements for the affair felt that nothing less than an assessment of \$1.00 per member would give the Fund an appreciable amount of money. It was, therefore, recommended that an assessment of \$1.00 be levied on every member, which would entitle him to one ticket for the affair. It is interesting to note that unusual arrangements are being made for a very enjoyable evening. Not only has the fine grand ball room of the Concourse Plaza been secured for the occasion but the committee is at work on plans to stage an entertainment together with the affair. The members unanimously adopted the decision of \$1.00 tax and expressed themselves as highly pleased with the recommendation.

The committee on arrangements are David Dubinsky, David Fruhling, Isidore Nagler, Sam B. Shenker, Samuel Perlmutter, Meyer Skluth, Harry Shapiro, Max Stoller, Philip Ansel, Ben Evry, Philip Orestsky, Harry Zaslavsky, John C. Ryan, Harris Hacken, Harry Goldstein, Louis Porer, Julius Levine, Louis Gilert and Elias Bass. Additional appointments are to be made by the president within the next few days.

Election Practically Unanimous
What amounts to a complete and unanimous endorsement of the present administration of Local 10 by the 1200 members at the great meeting was manifested when more than half of the officers were nominated without contest, thus making their reelection a foregone conclusion.

The keynote of the present feeling of the members of Local 10 was struck when Manager Dubinsky in his speech of acceptance declared that for the first time, practically, since he was a candidate for office, his name was being placed on the ballot without opposition. "This, especially at the present time," he said, "is due entirely to the absence of a destructionist element in the organization, which gives us the rare opportunity of being able to throw our entire resources toward improvement of trade conditions and to a better control of the shops. In this connection, it is necessary to inform the members that the Executive Board had adopted important measures; covering drastic control of the dress shops and the organization of more of the cutting departments among the non-union dress shops."

The following is a list of candidates who accepted nomination for the various offices: President, Maurice W. Jacobs; Vice-president, Max Stoller; Manager, David Dubinsky; Assistant Manager, Sam B. Shenker; Sergeant-at-Arms, Samuel Massover; Business Agents to the Joint Board, Isidore Nagler, Samuel Perlmutter, David Fruhling and Julius Bender. Delegates to the Central Trade and Labor Council Michael Ondusko, Samuel Sokol.

Members of the Executive Board—Louis Pankin, Harry Zalofsky, Joel Abramowitz, Philip Ansel, Louis Porer, Emanuel Kops, Isidore Ostroff, Max Stoller, Nathan Saperstein, Samuel Kerr, Ben Evry, Louis Gollinsky, Isidore Cohen, Isidore Goren, Morris Peller, Max L. Gordon, Meyer Friedman, Jacob Kops, Max Pastel, Max Yaged, Isidore Cohen (2015), Morris Kroll and Elias Bass.

The election board that was chosen to take charge of the elections consists of Abe Reiss, Morris Strauss, Jos. Fox, Max Poltacheck, Max Silverstein and Samuel Rosen.

Attention, Members of Local 10!

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1928

Saturday, December 17, 1927 at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place. Polls will be open from 12 noon to 6 p.m. It is your duty as a member of Local 10 to participate in this election and carry the 1928 election stamp in your book.

INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

Monday evening, December 19, 1927, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place. Prominent speakers will address the members on the occasion of the induction of the 1928 officers.