



Cornell University  
ILR School

Cornell University ILR School  
**DigitalCommons@ILR**

---

Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

---

5-13-1927

## Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 19)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/justice>

Thank you for downloading an article from DigitalCommons@ILR.

**Support this valuable resource today!**

---

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) at DigitalCommons@ILR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Justice by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@ILR. For more information, please contact [catherwood-dig@cornell.edu](mailto:catherwood-dig@cornell.edu).

If you have a disability and are having trouble accessing information on this website or need materials in an alternate format, contact [web-accessibility@cornell.edu](mailto:web-accessibility@cornell.edu) for assistance.

---

## Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 19)

### Keywords

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 27:5

# 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. 19.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

## Local 91 Prepares To Hold Election

Local 91, of which Vice-president Harry Greenberg, now acting Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union, has been manager for a number of years, has nominated at its last branch meetings candidates for all paid and unpaid offices. Next Tuesday, May 17, is set as examination and objection day, when all candidates will have to appeal before the election committee at the office of the local, 7 East 15th Street, to pass a test of their eligibility to run for office. Candidates must bring along books and appear at 6 o'clock sharp.

The following were nominated for the various offices:

Manager-secretary: Harry Greenberg.

Business agent: Morris Sirota, Morris Berkowitz, Rella Klein, Jos. Plotkin.

Italian business agent: Peter Li Causi.

Executive board members, children's (Continued on Page 2)

## Street, Block Committees, and Open Forums Organize Well-Planned Activity

### Union Patrols Guard Members Against Attacks From Communist Terrorists—Leaflets Regularly Distributed and Discussion Forums Conducted Daily—Picket Duty Coordinated.

The general organization committee of the big cloak and dress locals in New York City has been in existence two weeks, but has already succeeded in coordinating its forces and in launching widespread activity. The committee, with headquarters at 122 West 18th Street, is managed by Bro. B. Fried of Local 2, the cloak operators' organization.

The street and block committees, to which the work in the small territorial units is assigned, are already on the job. All street corners from 26th to 29th Street West are being visited by

the members of these committees during morning and noon hours and the volunteers keep a sharp lookout for Communist raiders who used to terrorize the members of the Union in the past. This entire territory is under the direction of five captains who instruct the committeemen and direct their work.

So far only four locals have registered for this work, Nos. 2, 9, 22 and 55. In the course of the current week, the committee expects to increase its staff materially from several other locals which are now recruiting their quotas for the big organizing task. The main object of the committee is to enable our members to learn, thru personal talks and leaflets regularly distributed, of the true issues and (Continued on Page 2)

## Open House

Forest Park, Pa., the summer season 17th. Those who wish vacation there, may register at Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U., 4th floor of the International Building, 3 West 16th Street, beginning Monday, May 22.

A score of workers have been busily engaged in getting Unity ready for its guests. New plumbing is being installed on the entire estate. All the buildings and cottages are being thoroughly cleaned and the grounds put into shape to make Unity look as lovely as ever.

The Educational Department will this season be in charge of all registration, information and publicity connected with the Unity House. An extensive educational program for the summer is now being put in shape. Plans are also being made to have an elaborate opening on a big scale.

Considering the numerous improvements and the many plans that are being made for Unity, it is expected that this year the big vacation house at Forest Park will be even more comfortable and hospitable than ever.

## Communists Forced To Oust Chairman of Their "Prisoner Defense Committee"

### Henry Robbins, Ousted Chairman, Claims He Is Victim of Communist Frame-up—Says They Are Shielding Graft and Misconduct by Making Him Scapegoat—Promises Startling Story of Inner Corruption

Communists in the cloak and fur trades officially admitted this Tuesday May 10, that Henry Robbins, chairman of their so-called Defense Fund for imprisoned Furriers and Cloakmakers, has been removed from office for misuse of funds raised for defense and for refusing to give any accounting of such funds. Confirmation of the fact was carried in the columns of the "Freiheit", official organ of the Communist Party, which warned that no contributions should be sent to Robbins.

The admission of the misuse of funds, which had originally been charged by Morris Sigman, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, who had been fighting the Communist effort to raise money for "cloakmakers' defense" as a smoke screen for the personal aggrandizement of individual Communists and Left Wingers, is made by the "Freiheit" as follows:

"A report has just been issued by the Joint Defense Committee of Cloakmakers and Furriers that it has forced the removal of its chairman, Henry Robbins (Continued on Page 2)

## President Sigman Chief Speaker At Cleveland Joint Board Meeting

### Cleveland Organization Honors I. L. G. W. U. Members, Delegates at Workmen's Circle Convention, at Banquet—Ben Kaplan, Ben Moser, Charles Kreindler Speak—Abe Katovsky is Toastmaster

The Cleveland Joint Board of the ladies' garment workers' unions, taking advantage of the presence of Presi-

dent Morris Sigman, and of a number of active I. L. G. W. U. members last week in Cleveland as delegates to the Workmen's Circle convention, invited them to speak at a special meeting of the Cleveland Joint Board on Monday, May 2.

Bro. Sigman was in excellent speaking trim and delivered a very informative and inspiring talk, which was rewarded by frequent outbursts of applause. Bro. Ben Kaplan, chairman of the New York Joint Board, and Ben Moser, its newly elected secretary-treasurer, also spoke. M. J. Ashbes, an old active worker in the cloakmakers' organization of New York and a Workmen's Circle veteran, was among the speakers. The meeting gave the active workers of the Cleveland organization the opportunity they had long sought to acquaint themselves first hand with the real facts and issues underlying the struggle of the International to rid the Union of the Communist menace. Brother Louis Friend presided.

### Dinner a Warm, Comradely Affair

The Cleveland organization, in addition to this meeting, arranged a small banquet for its 25-odd delegates, members of the I. L. G. W. U. attending the Cleveland convention. The dinner, which turned out much bigger than originally planned, took place on Thursday, May 5, and was attended by many of the leading administrators of the Workmen's Circle, and by some outstanding Cleveland unionists, Business Agent Abraham Katovsky after as chairman.

## Spirited Dress Workers Meeting Resolves To Build Great Union

### Reports of Hochman, Spielman and Moskowitz Received With Keen Interest—Union's Problem Is Sad Heritage Left by Communists — Meeting Sends Message to Governor Fuller for Sacco and Vanzetti

A well-attended general member meeting of the Dressmakers' Union, Local 22, took place on Tuesday, May 3, in the Debs Auditorium. The meeting set a record for attendance and enthusiasm coupled with an intelligent and all-round discussion of the

immediate tasks facing the dressmakers at this hour.

Brother Jos. Spielman, executive secretary of Local 22, read a report of the activity of the reorganized local for the past three months, since it took the field of activity in the dress industry in January, and pointed out the immensely valuable work done by the volunteer committees prior to the election of the regular officers of the local. This work has gained for the local a measure of control of work conditions in the trade and has won for it the respect of the employers as well.

The local has now 5,500 members, and expects to score another record gain within the near future. The number of Communist followers in the dress shops has dwindled down to an insignificant figure, as the dressmakers are daily turning away from them and are seeking affiliation with the organized forces of the International. Bro. Spielman also reported that during the last season, the local succeeded in re-

## Philadelphia Dressmakers Have First Get-Together of Season

### A Fine Program of Recreation Activity Mapped Out for Next Summer

The first "jubilee" dance of the Social and Recreational Circle of the Philadelphia Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local 50, I. L. G. W. U., held last Saturday evening, May 7, proved to be a heartening success.

The Girard hall room of the Stephen Girard Hotel was filled with members of the organization and members of other Philadelphia unions and their friends. Later in the evening, a light

buffet supper was served in the beautiful dining room of the hotel. After supper, social dancing was resumed, varied with folk dances in which all participated. Kaaze's orchestra furnished the music for the evening. The committee in charge consisted of Ada Rosenfeld, chairman; Sophie Diamond, secretary; Eva Saletsky, Rebecca Kaplan, Anna Levitt, Rebecca Schwartz. (Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 2)



## Street Committees and Open Forums Develop Wide Activity

(Continued from Page 1)

points of conflict in the organization and to protect them against the brutal attacks of the Communist henchmen on the cloak and dress street corners. The committee wishes to record with satisfaction the fact that in this respect noticeable progress has already been achieved.

### Daily Forum Meetings Held

The open forums established by the organizing committee are beginning to function with regularity. A daily meeting of the forum is being held since April 26 in the headquarters, 122 West 18th St., where under competent direction questions affecting the welfare of the interest of the trade and of the Union are being discussed by hundreds of visiting members. The forum discussions are being led by Brothers Dem-

bitzer, Nachlin, Moser, Guterson, Sternman, Levinson, Bernstein and Stern. Next week, Brother Julius Hochman, general manager of the Joint Board is announced to speak.

The committee requests that all captains, who are members of the executive committees of their locals, appear every morning at 7 o'clock at headquarters to receive instructions for the day. Four shops are at this moment involved in strikes, and it is therefore important that the picket work in front of these shops be well organized and directed.

The special committee of six, consisting of Brothers Niufo, Vasilevsky, Kaplan, Kirtzman, Bernstein and Spielman is busy at present preparing a new plan bearing on organizing activity in individual buildings in the women's garment making zone.

## Phila. Local 50 Entertains Members

(Continued from Page 1)

The success of the occasion has led the committee to make plans for further activities.

Other activities of the Circle include tennis, swimming, hiking and study groups. Last Sunday, a large group took advantage of a hike arranged by the Circle, under the guidance of Miss Mullen, who gave a nature talk. The

## Local 91 Election

(Continued from Page 1)

dress division: Anna Langer, Esther Stein, Isidore Hirschberg, Harry Bloom, Esther Goldin, Anna Martway, Bertha Freier, Bessie Levy, Rella Klein, Barbara Chiseley, Celia Aiof, Lillian Roth, Lena Epstein, Bella Grey, Jennie Pinkus, Jennie Karton, Sophie Greckoff.

Bath robe workers, executive members: Philip Manela, Morris Greenberg, Sam Gates, Hyman Feigenbaum.

Brooklyn members: Mary Yankelewic, Morris Kass.

Brownsville members: Jack Sirota, Millie Savelsky, Sara Mittin, Sara Platovskiy, Ida Kreuzel, Bessie Botwinick, Ida Matchower, Anna Drubinsky.

### BLICKSTEIN'S DESIGNING SCHOOL

208 Grand Street, New York  
 Tel. 4-1111  
 School for Designing, Cutting and Grading in all trades of ladies', men's, children's and fur garments. Patterns and cut at low prices.  
 The school is open all year around.



## LEARN DESIGNING

Earn 50 to 200 Dollars a Week

Take A Course of Instruction in THE MITCHELL DESIGNING SCHOOL OF MEN'S, WOMEN'S, MISSES' and CHILDREN'S WEARING APPAREL and LADIES' FUR GARMENTS.

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

New Ideas—New Systems—Best Results  
 A course of instruction in the Mitchell Designing School means an Immediate Position—Bigger Pay.

DEMONSTRATION FREE AT OUR SCHOOL  
 —A GOOD PROFESSION FOR MEN AND WOMEN— EASY TO LEARN  
 Individual Instruction. Day and Evening Sessions  
 Evening Sessions: Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
 Call for Free Booklet and Full Information

MITCHELL DESIGNING SCHOOL

ESTABLISHED OVER 20 YEARS  
 18 West 37th Street Telephone: Wisconsin 3710 New York City

hiker enjoyed the beautiful country scenes through the Wissahickon section. The next hike will be held on Sunday, May 23; those who desire to go on the hike will meet at 69th Street and Market at 10:30 a. m.

Arrangements are also being made now for a three-day trip over Decoration Day for members of the group and their friends. All these plans are part of the program of the Circle to develop and encourage activities in which workers in the waist and dress industry will meet in a friendly, social way.

## CURRENT BOOKS AT REDUCED PRICES

Our Educational Department is continuing its arrangements with leading publishers, which enables it to furnish books to our members at wholesale prices. Lately, very interesting books have appeared on social and economic problems, and also fiction.

### Provincetown Playhouse Production

Now playing at  
**GARRICK THEATRE**  
 65 West 45th St.

### In Abraham's Bosom

"A sweeping theme... noble in conception... Past."

The story of one Negro's struggle in a hostile world.

Present this Ad. at the box office to secure special half-rate tickets — two tickets for the price of one.

## Communists Forced To Drop Chairman of Their "Cloakmaker Defense Committee"

(Continued from Page 1)

Robbins. The decision reads as follows:

"The Joint, Defense and Relief Committee makes known that Henry Robbins, who was chairman of the committee, has been removed from all defense activity and as chairman of said committee. Among the reasons for which he was removed are the facts that he refused to turn over receipt books, upon which he had received moneys for the Defense Fund and that he was unable to give any full accounting for tickets, which he had in his charge, for the motion picture 'Broken Chains', to the special committee which was appointed May 2.

"The Defense Committee makes known, therefore, to everyone that they must give no moneys to Robbins for defense purposes, since he no longer has any connection with the committee."

(Signed) I. BRAUMER,  
 H. TRACHTENBERG,  
 S. ZIMMERMAN,  
 B. ROSENFELD,  
 L. KLEINMAN,  
 Chairman of Committee.

### Robbins Asserts He is Victim of Communist "Frame-up"

When the fact of his ousting from the chairmanship of the so-called "Cloakmakers' Defense Committee" became known, press representatives sought to get Robbins' side of the charges. Robbins, who is a cloak cutter, could not be located, but friends who talked with him during the day stated he attributed his sum-

mary removal to fear on the part of the other members of the Communist "Defense" Committee of being exposed by him.

"They knew I had the 'goods' on them," he is reported to have said, "and they resorted to this action in order to discredit me in advance by making it appear there was irregularity in handling the funds. But they are not going to get away with it, for I am going to call for a show-down at once."

### Union's Warning Vindicated

In the absence of President Sigman, Julius Hochman, manager of the New York Cloakmakers' Joint Board, decried the admission to be complete confirmation of the contention made immediately after the creation of the so-called defense committee that money was being diverted from its announced purposes. The International was forced at that time, Mr. Hochman explained, to warn a group of well intentioned liberals and radicals not to lend their reputations to the Communists' money raising efforts, especially since a good part of whatever amounts were to be raised were to go for the defense of certain Communist officials who had forced rank and file members to plead guilty to charges of assault during the recent cloak strike, over their protests of innocence. This was done, Mr. Hochman said, to save the skins of the Communists' higher up.

"The forced resignation of Robbins," Mr. Hochman summed up, "is made public by the Communists only because the pressure has been too great."

## Dressmakers Hold Enthusiastic Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

establishing the relief fund which the Communists had pilfered together with all other resources of the dressmakers union. He appealed to the workers to aid in this relief work, which for many years past has been a source of strength to the local.

The members of Local 22 also heard reports on the general conditions of the trade from Bro. Julius Hochman, general manager of the Joint Board, and from Bro. Moskowitz, manager of its dress department. Bro. Moskowitz emphasized the fact that of the 700 shops in the industry about 600 are today under union control, and that the number of the non-registered either open or "left" shops is diminishing with gratifying rapidity. In the course of the last five weeks, no less than 500 complaints were attended to and adjusted. A number of shops voted substantial sums for the support of the International reconstruction fund.

The meeting voted to send messages of greeting to the Workmen's Circle and Capmakers' conventions, and decided to send a telegram of protest to Governor Fuller of Massachusetts, asking that the cases of Sereo and Van-

zetti be investigated by a special commission and that all facts bearing on their trial be given a thorough sifting by an unbiased group of jurists.

## HARLEM BANK OF COMMERCE

2118—2nd AVENUE, NEW YORK  
 Tel. Lehigh 2800-1-2-3  
 Branch: 431—3rd AVE., N. Y.  
 Tel. Lexington 8053

The Workmen's Bank for Workmen

All Banking Operations

4 1/2 %

Money Orders, Letters of Credit, Drafts, Steamship Agency, Notary Public, Safe Deposits.

AFFILIATED WITH

## ATLANTIC STATE BANK

594 ATLANTIC AVE., BROOKLYN  
 Branches:  
 182 GRAHAM AVE., BROOKLYN  
 108th ST., Cor. 1st AVE., New York

## 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.  
 COLLEEN LOVELL  
 General President  
 CHARLES L. RAINE  
 General Secretary-Treasurer





# The Supreme Court Enforces "Involuntary Servitude"

Labor's attitude has gradually been becoming more and more hostile to the anti-trust laws, and with good reason, as their interpretation has developed under court decisions. The recent decision of the Supreme Court in the Bedford Cut Stone Case follows up a long line of others applying the Sherman and Clayton acts in a way hostile to unions, though these laws have had comparatively little effect on large combinations of capital. The United States Steel Corporation, the outstanding merger of the country, survived federal prosecution, unscathed. The Standard Oil Company was technically dissolved, but the dissolution has not apparently resulted in much effective competition in the refining and distribution of oil. Mr. Mellon's aluminum monopoly still stands. Yet activities of the unions, previously thought legitimate, which Mr. Gompers and others believed would be protected by the Clayton act, have been forbidden. This latest decision directs the issuance of an injunction denied by lower courts, which Justices Brandeis and Holmes in calculated language term "an instrument for imposing restraints upon labor which reminds of involuntary servitude." A hostile lay critic of the Supreme Court could hardly go further in condemning its policy.

### Bedford Cut Stone Case

What are the admitted facts of the case? Twenty-four companies producing Indiana lime-stone ship 70 per cent of the cut stone used for building construction in the United States. They are combined in an employers' organization, which is affiliated with a national body, the "International Cut Stone Quarriers' Association." For many years they had trade agreements with the Journeymen's Stonecutters' Association, a national trade union made up of 150 locals scattered throughout the country. This was an ordinary and typical arrangement for collective bargaining; without their national union the stonecutters would have had a bargaining power wholly unequal to that of the employers. In 1921, the employers refused to renew the agreement, there was a strike and a lock-out, and the employers organized a competing company union. In order to protect their organizations, the journeymen stonecutters put into effect a provision already existing in their constitution, which stated: "No member of this Association shall cut, carve or fit any material that has been cut by men working in opposition to this Association." This was clearly a measure to protect the existence of the union, and so to preserve a means for true collective bargaining. The employers asked an injunction against the union for using it. The injunction was denied by the lower courts, including the notorious "injunction judge" Anderson of Indiana, who previously had not scrupled to enjoin a national coal strike. Yet the Supreme Court ordered that the injunction be issued.

Justice Brandeis, in his minority opinion analyzing the action of the court, brought out clearly the only possible reason for the injunction. The stonecutters did not carry on their controversy in any illegal manner. They were not guilty of trespass or breach of contract. They were not guilty of "violence or intimidation," even of the constructive violence or intimidation sometimes seen by courts in ordinary picketing, for they did not picket at all. They did not boycott either the master stonecutters or the builders who used their products; on the contrary, they were willing to work on any stone except that specifically cut by the scabs. The case thus differs from the Duplex Printing Case, in which machinists refusing to repair

printing presses in plants which bought presses from the Duplex Company were adjudged in violation of the law because, in the courts' eyes, they were guilty of a "secondary boycott." There was no conspiracy with employers or other outsiders to the controversy, no agreement for a sympathetic strike. The stonecutters simply refused to work on pieces of definitely scabbed stone. The only ground left on which their action could be called unlawful in refusing to work on the stone was, therefore, as Justice Brandeis says, "because it was an article of interstate commerce." An action by a union in self protection is therefore "necessarily illegal if thereby the interstate trade of another is restrained."

### Application of the Anti-Trust Laws to Labor

"Restraint of trade" is the phrase originally invented to describe the action of a business monopoly which limits competition in the interests of its own profit. This interpretation applies it to the action of a union of workmen using the only means in their power to protect their jobs. Could there be a more monstrous perversion of the intentions of the people and of Congress in passing the anti-trust laws?

The country is becoming more and more convinced that some latitude in combination should be allowed to capital in the interest of the general good. The Federal Oil Conservation Board has recommended that the anti-trust laws be suspended so that oil-well interests can combine in order to control production and diminish waste. A similar proposal has recently been made by a prominent engineer connected with the bituminous coal industry. The laws are being continually weakened in their application to capital. But can the country contemplate the existence of the great powers which combination confers on capital, and at the same time prevent the existence of the checks furnished by a strongly organized labor movement? Can it, while relaxing the law in favor of organized capital, deny to organized labor the most elementary protective measures? No more fundamental challenge to ordinary public fairness, not to say to the labor movement itself, has been issued in years in this country than the Bedford Cut Stone decision. It is to be hoped that labor will spare no effort to make its justified resentment effective, and that fair-minded persons outside the labor movement everywhere will join with it on this issue.

## Step By Step

Step by step the longest march  
Can be won; can be won.  
Single stones will form an arch  
One by one, one by one.

"And by union, what we will  
Can be all accomplished still.  
Dropt of water turn a mill,  
Single none, singly none."

# JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2148

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

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

Vol. IX, No. 19, New York, Friday, May 13, 1927

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1926, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1911.  
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1919.

# Three Cloak Shops Strike To Keep Union Terms Inviolable

Organization Committee Aids in Fight for Work Conditions—Ben Levy's Workers Register After Communist "Joint" Confesses Helplessness

The Joint Board of the N. Y. Cloak and Dressmakers' Unions declared this week a strike against three cloak shops—Benjamin Levy, Lebow & Bloom and Goldberg & Goldberg, where attempts to tamper with work terms during the slack period were made by the owners.

In the Ben Levy shop there are employed 40 workers, of which only 16 were registered with the Union until last week. Four of the non-registered were bitter opponents of the International, and taking advantage of the division of opinion in the shops, the employer made a serious effort, when the slack period approached, to break up work conditions in the shop. But the Levy shop is in Brother Sam Perlmutter district, and, upon learning the facts in this case, he at once notified the firm that its attempt to fish in muddled waters would not succeed.

Some of the "lefts" employed in the Levy shop first paid a visit to the old defunct headquarters of the "Joint Board" on Lexington Avenue, where they got the reply that nothing could be done for them, that the ousted

"chiefs" are helpless. Thereupon, the workers in the shop turned right about and came to the International office and registered. The Union at once took up their case, and, when the firm still refused from its stand, declared a strike.

The other shop, where a strike is now in progress, is owned by Lebow & Bloom. The firm is known as a trouble seeker, and has now discharged several active union workers. The Union appears ready to satisfy the craving of this shop owner for trouble, and has called out the workers on strike. The third shop—Goldberg & Goldklang—until now was a "left" shop, and to all intents and purposes a scab shop as far as union conditions were concerned. Most of the workers went down at the call of the Union, though some "lefts", after having been refused union books at the rate of a half dollar a book, on which they insisted, returned to scab.

The strikes are being directed by the organization committee of the Joint Board locals and are being vigorously prosecuted.

## TALKS ON LABOR BANKING

By SOLOMON FILLIN

Chairman of the Board, International Union Bank

### SAFETY AND SERVICE

The International Union Bank, operated for the equal benefit of depositors and stock holders, gives personal service to each and every depositor regardless of the size of his or her account.

Whether you have \$5 or \$500 with this bank we want you to feel perfectly free to come in at any time during banking hours to discuss your financial problems with one of the officers of the bank. It should be needless for me to say that no charge of any kind is made for this service, for we are here, not only to take good care of your money, but also to see how we can help you in any way involving money matters. Should you be considering purchasing stocks, bonds or real estate, we will be very glad to give you the benefit of our advice. All such conversations, of course, are in confidence and no one would know that you have discussed your problems with us. In the large chain banks personal interest in each depositor becomes impossible. This is true because they are organized primarily for money making purposes while in the case of our bank your interests are identical with ours and we feel that it is part of our duty to co-operate in every way with our depositors.

In the International Union Bank you will find a friendly spirit such as does not prevail in the banking offices of

the very large institutions. As far as safety is concerned there is no difference. The International Union Bank operates under the supervision of the banking department of the State of New York, and a member of the Federal Reserve System, offers the utmost in safety for your savings. In many banks, for not only do we pay interest it pays considerably more than 4 per cent interest which is compounded quarterly, but we also give you interest on every dollar you deposit immediately from the first of the month after date of deposit. You do not have to wait six months or three months for your money to begin to draw interest. All these things we do because this bank was organized to assist in every way those who keep their funds with us. We pay the largest interest consistent with sound banking and in the future, when opportunity arises and conditions permit, this rate of interest will probably be increased.

What I am trying to bring home to my readers in this series of articles is that the International Union Bank is not only a safe place to keep money in, but is a bank where we try in every way possible to assist in making the path through life a little easier. That this effort on our part in meeting with success, is known to be true. All I have to do is to look at the daily figures placed upon my desk to see the continual increase in the number of our depositors as well as the growth in our resources which now is nearing the five million mark. It may interest you to know that not only are there thousands of people in New York and vicinity who have the utmost confidence in this bank, but we receive deposits by mail from many parts of the world from people who know that the very first consideration of this bank is safety of the funds of its depositors.

Before I close this article I want to bring home to you again the fact that all the transactions and deposits of this bank are in absolute secrecy. To tell any one, even our stock holders, that you have an account with us and the amount on deposit would be a violation of bank ethics which would not be tolerated.

Thousands of people call us the "Strong Friendly Bank" and I trust we will always continue to deserve this title.



# JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Office: 3 West 14th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2148

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

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

Vol. IX, No. 19. Friday, May 13, 1927

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1926, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under  
the Act of August 24, 1912.  
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1109, Act of  
October 3, 1917, authorized on January 25, 1919.

## EDITORIALS

### GOING FAST

Events in the last ten days have moved with such rapidity in the closing reel of the conflict between our members and the fast dwindling clique of their whilom Communist bosslets, that even the proverbial passerby on the run, we assume, can't fall to read today the signs of the approaching end of this costly adventure. Only such as would deliberately shut their ears to the shrieks of despair that are daily emanating from the Communist backyard could maintain that the promoters of dual seab unionism in our trades still have a chance to survive the gale that is engulfing them from all sides.

First came the sorry exhibition of Communist "strength" at the May Day meetings, which, according to most reliable census takers, mustered less than half of the crowds that Communists May gatherings had drawn in the past three or four years. The meetings were extensively advertised; the weather was superb, and they all took place on Sunday afternoon, an ideal time for workers to come to meetings.

Yet all of them fell through with a thud. The cloakmakers and the dressmakers on whom the Communists stage managers in former years counted to fill the halls did not show up. Apparently they have had enough of Communist working-class "solidarity" in the past couple of years to have lost taste for additional avowals of such solidarity from a Communist platform. An appeal for "unity" from Communist lips, indeed, is enough to make any honest thinking working man or woman who has watched their antics at close range, to revolt with disgust. Small wonder that the groups of faithful party members who came to these meetings sat there disheartened and surlily. For these Communist May Day "celebrations" looked more like memorial gatherings, and the orations of their "Kid" Zimmermans, Portnoys and Hymans, and their pleas for just one more bandout to help "tide them over" until their fight against the International is over, sounded more like a dirge than like a battle cry.

The next blow in order was the appointment of a receivership for the union buildings, the Joint Board building and the buildings of Locals 2 and 9, in which the Communist ex-officials are still holding out in defiance of the will of their owners, the vast majority of the membership of the union.

Omitting detail, we may state, that these ouster proceedings against the Communist usurpers of the Union's property actually disclose that this wrecking outfit, which has probably spent every cent it could lay its hands on in the past few months to keep up a strong-arm squad with which to harass and annoy the members of our Union and to "pull" union shops on strike, has failed completely in paying taxes and interest on the buildings to the mortgagees and has thus rendered itself liable to swift court procedure. The fact that the sums which they were supposed to pay in order to hold on to these buildings for another while were comparatively small confirms faster the belief that this gang is down and out and that it does not seriously intend, even for appearance sake, to cling to these buildings much longer.

In other words, what the International itself has hitherto not cared to do—to oust the usurpers from the property that does not belong to them by legal process—the mortgagees of the houses are now carrying out through foreclosure proceedings. The buildings will, quite likely, be put on sale in the near future, and its present illegitimate occupants will be put out. The International may, and may not, regain possession of the buildings, but that is a secondary matter. Our Joint Board and its locals will have suitable spacious headquarters from which to transact their big and varied business. Important above all, however, is the fact that this ouster measure against the Communists registers the extent of their demoralization and rout and of their complete abandonment by the rank and file, and foreshadows their final exit from the scene of our activity.

And last, but by far not the least of the week's events, was the withering denunciation of Communist policy, methods and tactics in the American trade union movement, with especial reference to Communist depredations in the needle trades, at the Workmen's Circle and at capmakers' conventions.

The delegates at these two conventions, who represented one hundred thousand workers, this year, stronger and clearer than on any past occasion, indicted and convicted the band of Communist union wreckers of unparalleled treachery and of unprincipled conduct and read them out of the labor movement forever. There was no mincing of words at Cleveland and in New York with regard to the Communist adventurers, as one after another delegates rose and rejected their spurious "peace" proposals and "olive-branch"

offerings. The members of the Workmen's Circle and of the Capmakers' Union would have no further truck with the Communist poison squad. They have judged them not by their meek, hypocritical phrases of today but by their acts of disruption and malice for the past five years, and on this record declared them unfit to be associated with by any honest man and woman in the workers' movement.

Not alone that. The Workmen's Circle and the capmakers both pledged themselves, to their fullest extent, to aid our organization and other labor organizations where the Communists have been experimenting with their death-bearing virus, in their present mighty effort to rehabilitate their shattered forces and to regain their former strength. Our members will receive this pledge with profound thanks, as it once more confirms their belief that the masses of the workers are with them in this struggle against the Communist usurpers, and that out of this conflict they will soon emerge purged forever of the plague which threatened to destroy their union.

### SOME SLACK TIME THOUGHTS

The perennial slack period is here, with all the worry, heart-ache, and misery that come in its train. And there is a thought or two in connection with this slack time especially that we should like to share with our members.

For the first time in two years, the cloakmakers will not receive this slack time any checks from the Unemployment Insurance Fund. This is one of the leftovers of the devastating Communist activity, which in the last months of its regime in our Union sabotaged this fund—for a year and a half to come—on the order of the Communist caucus. Before they were ousted from control, the Communists deliberately made a gift of several hundred thousand dollars to the manufacturers and the jobbers and thus robbed the workers of a similar sum that would have come in rather handy in slack time.

Of course, this is not the only evidence of destruction that the Communists left in their trail. But this sample of their activity is so concrete, so self-evident that it stands out by itself as testimony to their lack of faith and callous disregard of the interests of our members. The cloakmakers and the dressmakers will remember it more vividly this slack season than during precious seasons because the last spring season was short and wholly unsatisfactory, and coming on top of a protracted and fruitless strike, fell short of giving our workers a breathing spell and an opportunity to mend some of the damage done during the long months of enforced idleness last summer.

During these weeks of slack time, the active and virile element in the local unions have a special duty thrust on them—to keep alive the interest of the rank and file in the organization and to guard the union against every possible open and overt attacks from the enemy. It is no secret that the Communists have been looking forward to the coming of the slack season to start anew some of their dirty work. They have hoped that in slack time, when the workers feel depressed and somewhat disheartened, they could begin again staging their "demonstrations" in the cloak and dress district, "pull" down shops with the help of their gangs, and otherwise raise hell and havoc among our members.

So far, the renewed gangster exploits of the Communists in the garment market have done little harm. Sporadic efforts here and there by their hired "pickets" to interfere with union members going to work in union shops have, on the whole, proved rather abortive. But they undoubtedly will try to create as much mischief as they possibly can during this slack period, and our active workers should guard against it with all vigor and vigilance at their disposal. They should also make every effort to attract the workers made idle by inactivity in the shops into the open forums organized by the Union in various parts of the city, where, instead of being harassed, and often assaulted, by Communist hoodlums, they may peacefully discuss the affairs and problems of their trade and of their organization in an atmosphere of congenial comradeship.

### THE SLIMY ATTACK ON BROTHER BAROFF

Nothing, perhaps, typifies the moral fibre of the Communist clique better than their slimy attack on Secretary-Treasurer Abraham Baroff, at present convalescing after two severe operations on a farm in Connecticut.

The gutter Communist sheets, first the Yiddish "Freiheit", and more recently the "Daily Worker" have, namely, printed in connection with Brother Baroff's enforced absence from the office a lying story to the effect that "Baroff had quit the office after having signed enough checks to keep himself going together with Sigman," and had run away from the Union. The ghoul who concocted this story, of course, knew that he was lying, and so did the editors of these "newspapers". It was naturally conceived in sheer malice, with the only object in view to cause as much pain and anguish as possible to Brother Baroff, who is lying today on a sick bed away from the field of battle in New York City.

What our members think of this ugly Communist stab at Secretary Baroff is reflected in the action of the Joint Board last week, which sent a telegram to him assuring him of "their affectionate regard and bitter contempt for poisonous innuendoes spread by the Communist press against his impeccable character and record of unselfish activity." The telegram concludes with wishes "for speedy recovery and restoration to union activity as our honored leader and associate."

We are certain that the sentiment of this telegram is shared by every man and woman belonging to our Union, who are familiar with Brother Baroff's splendid record of thirty years of pioneer



# Women In Industry In Great Britain

## The Problem of Great Britain

THE problem of the organization of women in Great Britain is beset with difficulties peculiar to this country, bound up with the hundred years of industrial experience, and having its roots in an age when a savage individualism regarded the workers as units of labor power to be used to the uttermost, and to be thrown aside when no longer physically able to work.

The earlier chapters of factory life in Great Britain are filled with tragedy. Nevertheless, even in the worst periods of our industrial history there are records of ephemeral organizations among women, as, for example, the "Ancient Virgins," the "Female Tailors," the "Women Bookbinders," and undoubtedly the spirit of organization was much more strongly marked amongst the spinners and weavers in the cotton and lace trades. But if we take the growth of organization in the last fifty years, we find that it has risen from a recorded membership of 20,000 in 1870 to 423,000 in 1913, prior to the outbreak of war. The development of war industries and the national regulation of women's work secured by that magnificent trade-union leader, Mary Macarthur, resulted in an immense increase in trade-union membership that reached its peak period in 1920, when the woman membership of trade unions stood at 1,340,000. This "peak period" coincided more or less with the highest point reached by wages.

We have here a striking illustration of the effect upon women workers of reasonable and stable trade-union rates of wages. It shows that the most successful organization does not take place amongst the lowest-paid workers, but rather amongst those who have reached a certain standard of expenditure.

The dismantling of the munition factories and the dispersal of the munition workers took place simultaneously with the collapse of trade, since when membership dropped with great rapidity until we appear to have reached the bottom in the 1925 figures—476,917. These figures represent the total organized women affiliated to Trades Union Congress. Within these figures there have been varying movements up and down in particular trades—some trades have already shown a revival.

These figures are all the more to be deplored in view of the fact that there is undoubtedly an increase in the number of women in industry, which is calculated at about 4,150,000—that is, women between 18 and 65 who are employed under a contract of service and are eligible for trade-union membership. There is a great increase of women's work in all trades where repetition work and subdivision of processes have been introduced, particularly in subsidiary parts of aeroplanes, motors, wireless and films, in the engineering and allied trades alone the total number of women employed in 1920 was double the number employed in 1913, and not on work scheduled as men's work; that is to say, it was work on which no men had been employed.

The degree of substitution of women's labor for men's is a matter of controversy upon which no reliable statistics can be obtained. It was a part of trade-union policy in Great

By MARGARET G. BONOFIELD  
Chief Woman Officer of National Union of General and Municipal Workers, Member of Parliament, was Member of Labor Cabinet.

Britain, and agreed to by the women themselves, that those women who took men's places during the war on war work should retire from that work when the men came back to claim it. This agreement has been honorably kept by the women. It is, nevertheless, true that in certain branches of work where men were never employed and where women did the initial work, as, for example, in some departments connected with war pensions, women were displaced by men. This was the result of profligate pledges made by politicians to provide "homes for heroes." However, these things have more or less found their level again.

With regard to wages, very large areas of women's trades are fortunately regulated by Trade Board rates. The steady influence of the act has been of incalculable value to arrest the fall in wages. When trade is moving upward, these delays—sometimes to the extent of three months or six months, after an application has been made for a change of rate—are vexatious to the workers, but when trade is on the slump the delays tell in their favor.

From a detailed list of Trade Board rates recently issued one may see that the average rate for women workers in connection with power factories is around about 26 shillings to 28 shillings for a 48-hour week. American readers who may be shocked at the lowness of this wage must remember that the pre-war rates for these trades were around about 7 shillings 6 pence to 12 shillings for a week much longer than 48 hours—chain-making was even lower, as in this trade the workers earned 5 shillings to 7 shillings 6 pence for a full week of over sixty hours. It must also be remembered that these figures have to be taken in relation to the cost of living; the actual purchasing power of the workers has not increased to the extent which the money wage would imply.

## Hours of Labor

Under the Trade Boards, the 48-hour week is generally accepted as the normal week, with overtime payment at time and quarter for the first two hours, then time and a half, and double time on statutory holidays. These conditions, which have been more or less established by protective legislation, do not apply to the catering trade or to the nursing profession. Waitresses in the teashops and in many restaurants and hotel servants have very long shifts, and their wages are considerably below those quoted as the Trade Board rates for a 48-hour week.

The hours of shop assistants are regulated not by Trade Boards, but by Closing Orders under the Shops Act of 1912.

The British Factory Act which permits a 60-hour week is very much out of date on the question of hours. Nearly all power factories work on the basis of forty-eight hours per week, with a Saturday half-holiday from twelve noon. There has been a sustained agitation to secure the amendment of the Factory Act, to bring it into line with ordinary practice, and it is a matter

of intense disappointment to the workers at the present moment that the government has decided not to proceed with the Factory Bill introduced by the Labor Home Secretary in 1924. Instead, they have tabled a bill which in many particulars falls short of present practice. No provision is made for washing facilities or accommodation for keeping and drying outdoor clothing. The clauses dealing with hours are very unsatisfactory. A working day of ten hours and a period of employment of twelve is to be permitted. Provisions for overtime cause even more serious misgivings. If they pass as they stand at present in the bill, it will mean that a 54-hour week will become possible for all workers from fourteen and upwards, and a 57-hour week for women and young persons over 16. Never before in the history of factory legislation has the principle of general overtime been allowed in the case of young persons under 18.

There are certain very bad spots unprotected by any kind of regulation, and it is interesting to direct the attention of those women who do not work in factories, but who are constantly declaiming against protective legislation for women, to note that those trades in our country that have no regulation of any kind, and where the women have complete freedom from any legislative interference, are the trades in which the worst sweating conditions prevail, as, for example, fur-pulling and catering. For years there has been an agitation, especially in connection with the catering trade, pressing for the establishment of a

Trade Board. Inquiries were set in motion as the result of our pressure—deputations placed before the Ministry glaring instances (which were all too common) of long hours and miserable wages, and as far back as 1920 the then Minister of Labor, Dr. Macnamara, announced that he proposed to establish the required board. Excuse after excuse was manufactured for delay, and finally the Cave Committee of Enquiry led to the closing down of any further activity in the way of new boards. It was hoped that the Labor Government might have been able to establish the boards, but their term of office came to an end too quickly, and before this much-needed step could be taken, although the preliminary investigation required by the act had been completed by them and its results had confirmed the necessity for a board.

## Joint Industrial Councils, Etc.

Another form of a more advanced stage of collective bargaining, which presupposes organization both on the part of the workers and the employers, is the Joint Industrial Council. Many of the J. I. C. agreements not only provide for wages higher than those under trade board, but also include clauses relating to annual holidays with pay and other valuable conditions.

During fifty years of effort, women in industry in Great Britain have made for themselves a place in the national industrial system, so that there is no longer any question of "exterminating" women in industry, but only of seeing that they work under conditions which shall give them equality of opportunity with men.

—American Federationist, May

## Union Accounting

To a business man, his books are the heart of his enterprise. From them he determines whether he has made or lost money, whether he can pay a dividend, how much income tax he owes Mr. Mellon, whether he can go on functioning or must shut up shop. A labor union is not a business; it does not operate in the hope of making a profit; it sells nothing and buys very little; but despite its totally different aim, good bookkeeping is almost as important to it, as it is to the business man. In some respects it is more important, for the money which comes into the union treasury is in the nature of a trust fund to which all the members have contributed, and in which all are entitled to know at any time the exact story of how it is being used. Such a story only the books can tell. A stockholder in a business wants accurate accounting records in order to be assured that he is getting the dividends to which he is entitled; a union member wants accurate records in order to be assured that his dues are not being wasted, and that the policies for which he votes are being carried out.

Dollar for dollar, furthermore, a union must usually have the more elaborate set of records. A cash grocery store with a turnover of \$50,000 a year, does not require a fraction of the bookkeeping which a union collecting \$50,000 a year from its members, demands. A cash register, a simple general ledger, and an inventory sheet, will tell the grocer all he needs to know, but the union must have cash books, minutes, a general ledger or summary book, and an alphabetical record on cards or bound books keeping accurate account of every individual member in the organization. The posting of the cash books to the members' records is a job that would make the grocer or nearly any business man doing an equal volume—throw up his hands in dismay.

Union records are simple in theory, but not so simple when it comes to the actual job of keeping them, because of the relatively large number of small unit accounts which must be accurately maintained. A good many union treasurers have come to grief because of failure to grasp this distinction. Any intelligent man from the ranks when he is elected as financial secretary, can quickly grasp the essentials—or the theory—of union bookkeeping... what comes in less what goes out should be on hand. Simple enough. But when he comes, without training or advice of any kind, to put that simple theory into actual practice, the mistakes and errors he can make are almost endless. He can get his stamps all bawled up with his cash records of dues stamps received and disbursed; he can scramble the comparative records of the minutes calling for financial transactions and the actual transactions as shown on the books; he can fail to systematize his cash book balances with his bank balances; he can fail to systematize his vouchers; he can tangle up his postings to the members' ledger, and lose complete track of the exact standing of members as shown by the ledger—and so forth and so on. All this he can do perfectly innocently. A case recently came to our attention, where the financial secretary of a local found himself short \$1,200 after a meeting night. He had not taken one penny of the money, but his system of collection and recording was so loose that there was no way to check the transactions during the meeting. Instead of keeping his receipts separate, and depositing the total in the bank, he paid part of the receipts out for expenses. In such a hury burly anything may of course happen, and the money disappeared. As a result he had to go into his own pocket (and that of his friends) for the missing \$1,200.

(Continued on page 7)

service to the workers. Our whole movement will resent with equal vigor this miserable assault upon the character of one of its best and beloved representatives.

As for Brother Baroff, knowing him as we do, this malicious effort of the Communists to besmirch him will only quicken his determination to get back into the fighting fold as soon as his recovery makes it possible, to help us all to rid the trade union movement of the last remnant of these hoodlums.





## EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



### Chicago Labor Broadcasting Station Opens New Magnificent Headquarters

By FANNIA M. COHN

Hundreds of men and women of trade unions and their families, assembled last Wednesday and Thursday May 4 and 5 at the offices and studios of the Chicago Federation of Labor, 623 South Wabash Ave., to celebrate the opening of their new headquarters and of two new broadcasting studios. The offices which are magnificently equipped, were strewn with flowers. Hundreds of bouquets had been sent by various trade union organizations, amongst them "one from the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Machinists' Union. Everyone was in a most festive mood; joy was expressed on all faces.

John Fitzpatrick, President, and Edward Nockles, Secretary of the Federation, who conceived the great idea of a radio station for the labor movement in Chicago, and who are responsible for this achievement, accompanied by the engineers, explained the mechanism of the radio station, while a number of artists, musicians and singers performed. They explained how the voices are broadcast and how they are heard in the homes when people listen in. The audience was delighted to see personally the orchestra which they had previously heard over the air and the singers whose songs they loved. The mystery was revealed to them, and they took pride in the fact that they had contributed to this great enterprise which has already cost the Federation \$100,000. I heard one worker say to another, "You know, it costs \$100,000 to date and every penny is paid off." I asked him to explain; he said, "Everyone of us who belongs to the Chicago Federation of Labor volunteered to tax ourselves \$2 to be paid off in two years." Another worker broke in, "Just think, now labor's voice can be broadcast daily in Chicago, and we can speak to 500,000 trade unionists and their families, and discuss the aims, problems and details of the Labor Movement without any interference from anyone."

Fitzpatrick and Nockles admitted that their general programs could be broadcast from any other station as they are of an entertaining character, "but" said they—"we give our audiences daily Federation talks on the Labor Movement which no other station would broadcast. Our program includes talks on Workers' Education, the Ideology of the Labor Movement, Company Unions, problem of organizing men and women. Special talks will also be given for the wives of trade unionists, as we realize that they are a great social force. We want to use this force for the advancement of the Labor Movement and we can only do so if we keep them informed on social, economic and labor problems." I am sure that if special attention will be given to interest the wives of trade unionists, they will throw themselves heart and soul into the support of such undertakings and help to make the success greater.

It is marvelous to think what one city federation of labor has done for its members. It has made "the voice of labor heard over the air."

#### Mass Education Through the Air

Much has been said lately about mass education in connection with workers education. I cannot imagine a better medium of educating the rank and file of the great trade union army than the radio, especially when we think that this medium will reach the

minds and hearts not only of trade unionists but of their wives and children and the public in general.

In an article on Workers' Education and Company Unions I once discussed the opinion of many good trade unionists that workers education would be a fine thing if we had the money to finance it. In that article I suggested that money can be raised from the trade unions for a cause in which they are convinced. Nothing is a better demonstration of this than the radio station of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

The Labor movement will have to appreciate the importance of the radio, motion picture, and the press as the great mediums through which to reach the army of organized labor. We must find a way to take advantage of these modern inventions. Again, I wish to repeat, that we can raise money for them if the leadership has the necessary vision and unqualified faith in the ideals and confidence that it can win over the rank and file of its members. Only then will they be able to impress the millions of organized workers to use these mediums. These workers will be willing to make contributions for these purposes, as the Chicago workers who are contributing 25 cents quarterly for a period of two years for their radio stations. They may even be willing to provide money for their own films to dramatize the labor movement and inspire the workers to further effort to make the movement stronger, so it will take its proper place in our modern civilization, and help to make the world a better place for all to live in.

At twelve o'clock midnight the voice of the Chicago Federation of Labor Radio Station can be heard in New York. Its wave length is the same as that of Station W E A F.

### HARCOURT BRACE PUBLICATIONS

ELMER GANTRY, by Sinclair Lewis.

Here a preacher really breathes in fiction. It is the story of the Reverend Dr. Elmer Gantry from his conversion during wild college days through theological seminary—where the students talk like human beings, not like pious dummies—through his curious adventures with a woman evangelist, his first country pastorate, to the day when he stands out as a Big City Pastor.

Gantry is as real as George F. Rabbitt and will become as universally known. The controversy roused by "Main Street" was small compared with the sensational discussion inherent in "Elmer Gantry".

Mr. Lewis has not been afraid to grin whenever he wanted to, yet never afraid to show reverence before whatever seemed to him to be real religion. He has slashed into every aspect of the church; he has stepped on any toes that looked interesting. But the book is not a tract, not argumentative. It is an authentic novel, a portrayal of character, a story, a work of art.

Other Harcourt Brace publications which have created a great deal of comment are "Abraham Lincoln" by Carl Sandburg, "Microbe Hunters" by Paul de Kruif, "The Book of Marriage" edited by Count Hermann Keyserling, "Life of Christ" by Giovanni Papini, "Queen Victoria" by Lytton Strachey.

Harcourt Brace publications can be

### Workmen's Circle Establishes Brookwood Scholarship

The Workmen's Circle, at their convention held in Cleveland last week, voted to establish a Meyer London Scholarship at Brookwood Labor College. They also voted to increase their financial assistance to the other educational activities carried on in the American labor movement.

The leaders of this big workers' fraternal organization realize that if it is to expand, it will have to make an appeal to the young people, the children of the Jewish immigrant workers who reared this unique organization. To attract the younger generation to the ideals for which the Workmen's Circle stands, this appeal should be made in English and on an American basis. This they realize, and hence their increasing interest in the problems of the American Labor movement which can be best expressed by supporting the various educational activities initiated by it. In this way they also participate in the development of these activities.

It was gratifying to note that this was the general trend of mind animating the hundreds of delegates who assembled in Cleveland.

Fannia M. Cohn, secretary of our Educational Department, addressed the convention on behalf of Brookwood, and suggested that a Meyer London scholarship be established at Brookwood in appreciation of the services rendered by him not alone to the Socialist Party and to the Workmen's Circle, but also to the trade union movement as a whole. The appeal made a profound impression on the delegates and met with a most inspiring response. As a result the scholarship was established.

This attitude of the Workmen's Circle is a natural development. An organization of this kind, animated by a progressive social and labor philosophy, should be eager to win over the younger generation to its ideals, in the hope that their influence will extend to other groups within the Labor movement.

### National Labor Health Conference Next June

A call to a National Labor Health Conference to be held in Cleveland, O., June 18th and 19th at the Hotel Winton, has just been issued by the Trade Union Council of the Workers' Health Bureau, among whom are James Maurer, President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, James Donnelly, Secretary of the Rhode Island Federation, Harry Call, President of the Wa-

shington State Federation, Max Freund, Organizer of the International Bakery & Confectionery Workers, Henry Ahrends and Edward Radtke, representing painters of the Northwest and Wisconsin.

"Every one of the 300 working days in the year 77 workers are killed on the industrial battlefield and over 8000 needlessly injured in performing their jobs," states the Workers' Health Bureau in issuing the call. "This record of slaughter has been declared unnecessary by no less a person than the U. S. Secretary of Labor who reported last July that 85 per cent of the 35,000 deaths and the 2,500,000 accidents which occur in industry each year are preventable."

The entombing of 77 coal miners in West Virginia this week makes a ghastly addition to the record of 25,000 miners killed during the past 10 years, when every other country has cut down the death rate in the mines through the introduction of compulsory safety measures such as rock dusting and safe explosives.

Organized labor can no longer tolerate this situation. The forces of labor must be united for a concerted attack on the causes of industrial accidents and occupational diseases and a relentless campaign waged for the removal of these dangers. The National Labor Health Conference will propose measures for the immediate control of industrial hazards and will organize to take practical steps to put these safeguards into operation. Every labor union is urged to send delegates to the conference to share in the task of drafting a program for safeguarding the health and lives of workers.

Price, on behalf of the Union Health Center, with a silver loving cup, and the staff of the department gave him a beautiful desk set.

The guests spent a very enjoyable evening and left with the firm resolve to continue their work for the Union Health Center.

obtained through our Educational Department at greatly reduced prices. We advise our members to take advantage of this opportunity to collect fine literary works.

### Dental Clinic Fete Draws Big Crowd

Unions Give Gifts to Clinic Heads at Anniversary Celebration

The tenth anniversary of the Dental Department of the Union Health Center was celebrated last Saturday evening, May 7, at the Park Palace, 110th Street and Fifth Avenue. The labor unions as well as the professionals, were well represented at this jubilee. Bro. Manny Weiss of Local 6 was chairman.

The speakers of the evening stressed the importance of the clinic for the workers, promising aid and cooperation in the future so as to enable the Dental Clinic to serve efficiently all the workers in the City of New York.

Messages containing good wishes were received from many individuals, and from a score of organizations. David Dubinsky, manager of the Cutlers Local 10, and chairman of the board of directors of the Health Center, presented Dr. George A. Price with a portrait of himself painted by Jaffe, the well-known Russian painter. Harry Gronberg presented Dr. Max



## Labor The World Over

### Social Insurance Congress in Belgium

ON March 6th, a special congress, attended by 242 trade union representatives, and 135 delegates from the Benefit Fund Centres of the Friendly Societies, was held at Brussels to discuss the question of social insurance in all its forms (sickness, invalidity, maternity, old age and death).

Two main demands formed the central theme of the debates: (1) There must be direct state social insurance, with contributions from the state, the employers and the workers; and (2) The friendly societies already established by the workers themselves for insurance purposes must be retained and promoted. Strong attack was made at the congress on the employers' benefit fund clubs, which are increasing in number, and constitute a growing danger to the workers, although it is a perfectly well-known fact that these centres have only been set up to provide soothing syrup for the workers, and then deliver them over, helpless, to their fate.

The Congress passed a resolution demanding universal compulsory social insurance, and deploring that for financial reasons, the government has not yet introduced such a system, and has not even, while waiting for better times, established compulsory contributions from employers and workers, as it might have done. The Congress advocated the establishment, as a transition measure, of a National Benefit Fund acting through the Friendly Societies.

## Union Accounting

(Continued from Page 5)

Bad records, furthermore, while putting penalties such as the above on innocent but untrained financial officers, lend themselves with great readiness to down right defalcation. They increase the temptation to go wrong. Another recent case has cost the members of a group of locals \$50,000, thru the derelictions of officers who kept chaotic books. They never balanced with the bank, and were not expected to; they never verified receipts from initiations with the records of new members, and were not expected to. They had a free field—and it proved too tempting.

Two essentials are necessary for sound union accounting. First, an adequate bookkeeping system, laid out as simply as possible with plenty of printed directions, and plenty of printed forms to make it as nearly automatic as can be. Secondly, somebody who at least understands the rudiments of bookkeeping, to run it. By its very nature, it cannot be a job for raw amateurs. Neither does it call for a C.P.A. to keep the books. Any intelligent man or woman by means of a little tutoring or perhaps a night school course, can learn to run the records of a local. When it comes to central bodies, and international offices, a thorough grounding in double entry is necessary.

Lastly, no matter how expert the bookkeeping, the membership and the financial officers are both entitled to a competent audit by an impartial auditor who has no direct connection with the union, and has no political strings to pull. The membership should be assured that its trust fund is intact; the financial officers have the right to be protected from all charges of misappropriation, dishonesty, or incompetence—when they are doing their level best. Such assurances, only an audit can give.

### After Communism—Fascism in Bulgaria

A REPORT received direct from Bulgaria makes it clear that the situation of Bulgarian workers grows daily worse, and that the trade unions work under conditions unknown in Western Europe for forty or fifty years past.

In Bulgaria nothing whatever is known of ordered working conditions, hygienic workshops, state care for workless or sick, etc., etc.; the authorities squander money recklessly and are given over to bottomless corruption; and the persecuted and oppressed trade unions are too weak to ameliorate the misery of the workers alone and unaided. Even in trades where unions have acquired some strength, they can do nothing, for they are under constant supervision from the police, who do not allow them the slightest free action. Trade union meetings are forbidden or, if they are held, broken up by force, and strikers are arrested by the police, beaten, thrown into prison and condemned to suffer appropriate penalties.

Reaction, both economic and political, is making giant strides. Not only are there Fascist organizations among the middle classes (which terrorize the country) they are to be found even among the workers, especially among the young. Unemployment, poverty and starvation stalk through the land, and combine to drive the unorganized and ill-educated sections of the workers into the ranks of the Fascist unions. As Fascist trade unionists, they are equipped with badges, uniforms and guns; and for a mere pittance, they are persuaded to join the ranks against their class-conscious brothers and rob them of their freedom. Small wonder that, under such circumstances, the authorities are deaf to all the protests of the "free" workers' organizations!

Reviewing Bulgarian history during the last eight years, it is manifest that the Bolshevik wave which submerged the country during the years 1919-1923 has been followed by a still more terrible wave of the bloodiest Fascism. The sorely tried members of the "free" trade unions, who have remained steadfast against both these incursions, look for the brotherly sympathy and assistance of labor organizations in other lands in their endeavors to build up their unions and by their means reconquer their rights and liberties.

### Special Congress for the Eight-Hour Day in Holland

ON March 12th and 13th a special congress of the Netherlands Federation of Trade Unions protested against the growing violation of the statutory eight-hour day. It was further decided to launch a campaign for the inclusion within the scope of the Eight-Hour Day Act of a variety of categories, such as clerks and shop assistants, transport workers, land-workers, waiters, etc. to whom it does not yet apply. Various delegates spoke at great length on the impossible conditions in certain trades, where "normal" working hours of from 90 to 100 hours per week are by no means exceptional. The president of the federation declared in conclusion, that the unconditional ratification of the Washington Convention is an absolute necessity; but this tremendous achievement will not have been finally safeguarded for labor until the whole

## With the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board

A meeting of the Joint Board was held on Friday, May 6, 1927, at the International, 3 West 16th Street.

### Communications:

Local 89 informs the Board that the following delegates have been elected by their Executive Board to represent Local 89 on the Joint Board: John Egitto, Joseph Salerno, Anna Alfano, Joseph Miranda, Antonio Barone, Anna Rugierro, Joseph Piscitella. The delegates of Local 89 are seated.

### Manager's Report:

Brother Perlmutter, Manager of American and Independent Departments, report that a strike is to be declared against the firm of Benj. Levy for discharging workers and for sending work outside while the inside workers are forced to be idle.

The firm employs 40 workers, of which only 16 were registered with the International. The workers first complained to the deposed Joint Board, and were told that nothing could be done for them. Thereupon, they brought their complaint to the International. The Union undertook to act for the registered members only. However, when the non-registered members noticed that the firm was willing to take up the case of the registered workers, they agreed to register. The Union then undertook to adjust the complaint for the entire shop. The firm, however, refused to reemploy them.

### General Manager's Report:

Brother Hochman reported that the May 1st celebration of the International at the Jolson Theatre was a great success, while the meeting of the Communists in the Century Theatre was a failure. Not until four o'clock in the afternoon were they able to bring together a handful of people from other halls. It becomes more and more clear that the workers are turning away from the Communist leaders.

Brother Hochman states further that right after the meeting he left for Philadelphia where he addressed a well attended gathering of members of our International.

Last Wednesday Brother Hochman

of the working class is united in demanding from the governments of the various countries.

### The Trade Union Centre of Memel Territory in 1926

THE report presented to the Fourth Congress of the trade union centre of Memel, which is affiliated with the I. R. T. U., shows that, owing to difficult economic conditions in the territory during the year, little could be done to improve working conditions; thanks to the wise precautions of the Centre, however, the unions were able to maintain their position. Although over 30,000 Lits (about \$1,500) had been disbursed in strike pay and benefits, yet when the year closed the assets of the centre were not less than 18,000 Lits (about \$600), no considerable sum when it is remembered that the membership of the centre is only about 1,500. After some vicissitudes the Centre has been able, with the help of a special levy of the members, to launch a modest journal of its own, known as "The Journal of the Members of the Trade Union Centre and of the Building Workers of Memel Territory". Comrades Westphal and Seewald were respectively re-elected president and secretary of the Centre.

addressed the delegates to the Cap-makers' Convention in the name of our International at a banquet and on Friday, May 4, addressed the convention.

Brother Hochman reported further that he visited the cloakmaker prisoners today. The victims of Communist treachery expressed their appreciation of the work of the International to free them from prison. The prisoners asked him to convey their greetings to all the local members and urged them to do their utmost to rid the Union of the Communist traitors. They declared that the Communist commissars visited them in jail and proposed to pay them to denounce the International. The prisoners refused to listen to the shameful proposals of the Communists.

Brother Hochman reported further that the Organization Committee is doing excellent work. The members of the committee are devoting themselves wholeheartedly and loyally to their work. The expenses of the committee for the last two weeks were not more than \$55 per week. The Organization Committee succeeded in stopping two important shops this week. Communist gangsters attacked two of our members because they would not follow Communist orders. One of the gangsters was sentenced to jail for five days.

The Communists declared a strike against the firm of Fishelberg Dress Co. because the firm sent away one of their commissars. Gangsters and strong-arm men were sent to the shop to intimidate the workers. However, they did not succeed in reinstating the Communist commissar, and the shop is working as in normal times.

Brother Hochman declared that the discharged Communist, Turk, called him up and asked him to take up his case. He also sent several workers of the shop to the office, asking that he be permitted to return to work in the shop of Fishelberg for several months, and that at the end of that period he would either register, or leave the shop. Brother Hochman declared to the committee that he would not discuss the case unless Turk himself appears at the office of the International.

Brother Hochman declared that the dress situation is even better than could have been expected, in spite of the continued attempts of the Communists to create trouble in the more important dress shops. Lately the Organization Committee has been concentrating most of its efforts on important dress shops, and, though the majority of the members of the committee are cloakmakers, they are doing excellent work for the dress-makers.

Brother Hochman stated further that the Union has met in conference with the American Association. Plans were adopted for a more efficient adjustment of complaints and ways and means of compelling manufacturers to abide by the clauses of the agreement were considered.

Brothers Hochman, Schoenfeld and Rieff are appointed to represent the Joint Board at the conference of the trade unions on May 11th, the purpose of which is to protect the labor movement from the attacks of the Communists.

The Board decided to send a message to Secretary Broff, expressing regret that his illness prevents him from being with the International in its period of reconstruction.

M. SCHOENFELD, Secretary.



## The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

It was an enthusiastic meeting that took place last Monday night, May 9, in Arlington Hall, at which, in addition to the regular routine business, such as the reports of the executive board and the report of the manager on trade conditions, a discussion took place on the contemplated organization drive by the Joint Board. At the conclusion of this discussion, nearly half of the members who filled the large meeting-room, volunteered their services in the drive to combat Communist propaganda and acts of terror, undertaken by the Joint Board as part of its program to rebuild the Union.

### Old-Time Spirit Prevails

The offers to enlist as volunteers for service in the organization drive followed Manager Dubinsky's report. He opened with a report on the work for which the organization headquarters had been opened at 122 West 18th Street. Our members are, no doubt, familiar with this, as a report of it was contained in these columns last week. Not only will the drive against the open shops be conducted from this new center but it is also being used as an open forum. The daily discussions by hundreds of members who attend the forums are organized to familiarize them with the activities of the Union and to counteract the propaganda of the union wreckers.

Manager Dubinsky pointed out that while some cutters had already volunteered their services in the organization drive and the number is far from sufficient. He said that the dull season still prevails in both cloaks and dresses, which makes strict organization drive difficult for the present. He told the members, however, that much could be done to weld together the ranks of the members of the International and to make them understand the present situation by attending the forum centers. He therefore called upon the members to volunteer their services to this work.

It was a joy for the old-time active members of Local 10 to listen to the talks of the dozen or more men who participated in the discussion urging the cutters to close their ranks at this opportune moment, when the International situation is so well in hand. Julius Kwait said that it was his impression from his contact with the members at large that Local 10 is still the cutters' union of the old days and that the vicious propaganda of the Communists to disrupt it remains with out effect.

Isidore Nagler declared that the present situation in the Union has passed the stage when fears might be entertained insofar as control by the International is concerned. The work of the Communists, however, is still characterized by the same disruptive methods and utter disregard of constructive union work as in days when they were in control of the Joint Board. At the present time the disruptors have no control over the membership or the industry and their work is no longer as much damaging. What is wanted now, he pointed out, is that the members should put their shoulder to the wheel with the determination to complete the task begun several months ago by the Union.

The number of members who offered their names for service in the organization department far exceeded expectations. Of course, this by no means closes the call as far as cutters are concerned. The nature of the work undertaken by the Joint Board required the utmost effort on the part of the active membership. Men will be called upon at future meetings to vol-

unteer, and those reading these lines and having some time to spare should send in their names, ledger numbers and addresses to the office. Brothers "Dolly" Levin, Arthur Weinstein and Louis Forer participated in the discussion and appealed for volunteer service.

### How "Lefts" Secure Members

In the course of the reports of the executive board and during Dubinsky's report of the activities of the office, a number of instances were cited of the remarkable manner in which the Communists attempted to win members from among the cutters. Unfortunately, for the Communists, there is a limit even to trickery and their methods succeeded in these instances no more than all their methods to gain control of the Union and the members did in the past.

Sam Honig desired one day to pay his dues. Not having sufficient time himself to come down to the office, he asked his wife to make the payment for him, giving her his dues book at the same time. He took it for granted that she knew where Local 10 was located. However Mrs. Honig did not know the exact location of the office and, upon inquiry, was directed to the offices of the defunct Joint Board.

She was advised that that was the place at which she might make the payment. Nothing was said to her except that her money was taken and rubber stamps placed in the book in the spaces provided for dues stamps. Upon Dubinsky's becoming aware of Honig's payment of dues to the illegal organization, he called him to the office. When Honig came to the office he made the statement to the effect as described above. Later he reported with his wife who in substance made the same statement. Honig declared that he had no intentions of supporting any other organizations and had no intentions of severing his relations with Local 10.

Honig was told of course that the amount covered by his wife's payment of dues to the scab organization would not be recognized by Local 10 and he would have to pay up his full arrearage. Mrs. Honig attempted to secure a refund of the money extracted from her under false pretenses, but to no avail. Since all methods are fair to the Communists they probably thought that that was as good a way to secure money as any other.

A more glaring instance of the tactics pursued by the Communists who win members or secure money in support of their disruptive work concerns cutter Isidore Chasin. His membership in Local 10 is of recent date and he is not sufficiently familiar with the rules of the Union and all that has been carried on by the Communists. When a few so-called "lefts" employed in his shop, demanded of him that he pay his dues to the defunct organization he demurred, saying that he believed he must pay his dues to Local 10. The usual tactics were employed, coercion, intimidation and the threat of the loss of his job.

In an effort to avoid a disturbance

## What the Cutters Should Read in the "History of Local 10"

The "History of Local 10" by James Oneal, recently published, has been distributed to the members. It not only is a history of twenty-five years of work and achievements by a union, the membership of which is largely composed of immigrants, but it is the story of the development of a trade union, of the development of an industry, and a record of the struggles waged by this union.

There are those of the members of Local 10 who may find it impossible for some reason or other to go through the entire book in one sitting but who, nevertheless, are anxious to be acquainted with its high lights and important incidents. For this reason each week there will be given in these columns vivid extracts from each of the leading chapters of the book that might stir interest of our members in the general contents of the volume.

In last week's issue the attention of the members was directed to the third chapter of the "History", describing "The United Cloak and Suit Cutters' Association". Page 33 of the same chapter tells of the expansion of the industry and of "the organization of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union in New York in June, 1900, by eleven delegates representing seven unions in four cities. The organization of the suit cutters therefore was the logical sequence of the expansion of the industry and the general revival of unionism following the industry depression of the middle '90's."

Pages 40 and 41 tell of the internal affairs of the cutters' organization, their constitution, some of its provisions, rate of dues, rules governing the admission of applicants, shop regulations and so on. "A pass-word, changed each quarter, must be obtained by members to be admitted to union meetings."

"In January, 1902, the Union received its charter from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and became Local 6. A somewhat short-sighted craft spirit manifested itself in the cutters' union of this period. . . . The restricted outlook of the United Cloak and Suit Cutters of this period is recorded in its constitution adopted in September, 1901. Article 20 provided that no part of its funds could be appropriated 'for any purpose other than the payment of actual necessary and legitimate ex-

penses and the maintenance of the body.' The larger view of a trade unionism that considers all phases of the labor movement as worthy of support and the duty of organized workmen to extend democracy and popular control into all the institutions of society was to come later.

"However, even at this stage of its history Local 6 recognized something of the larger unionism that was to flower into the greater unionism a decade later. At the second meeting of the temporary organization in July, 1901, a committee of three members was elected 'for the purpose of organizing and harmonizing the different warring factions throughout the trade. The Gotham Knife Cutters survived and its existence brought some problems of jurisdiction. The Manhattan Knife Cutters had also appeared on the scene. Gotham and Manhattan also elected committees on harmony. Manhattan was a union of shirt and waist cutters whose members were drawn chiefly from the East Side where the scale was lower than the scale paid uptown. The tendency of the East Side cutters to drift uptown caused Local 6 much anxiety and for a number of years the latter elected a committee of three to attend meetings of the Manhattan Knife Cutters to protect the interests of members of Local 6. This continued until the East Side cutters affiliated with the American Labor Union in 1905."

(One member of the Arbitration Committee was Joseph Baroness.)

and seeking not to endanger his job he gave them \$5. However, they managed to secure his dues book under a false pretext and took it down to the defunct Joint Board where the five dollars were accepted in payment of dues and rubber stamps placed. When this matter came to the attention of the office Dubinsky summoned him to the executive board. However, there was no reason to doubt his story and the executive board dismissed the charge against him with the admonition that should such compulsion be exercised against him in the future he should report to Local 10.

### Members Warned Against Trickery

To the members of Local 10 such instances as cited above regarding Communist trickery and the despicable means to which they resort in their union-smashing work, are by no means new or unfamiliar. Not only have they learned of many similar instances but many of them experienced them in the course of the

short-lived Communist control of the union and during the conduct of the recent cloak strike. However, lest some of the more gullible element of the cutters fall victim to this propaganda, another instance or two is not amiss.

Among some of the letters and bulletins sent out by the "left" Welfare League contains the following question: "Why does Dubinsky collect the assessment?" Apparently this was another attempt to win support by urging the members not to pay dues and assessments.

However, it is good Communist ethics to preach one thing and practice another. In the case of the few cutters who in the manner explained above were made to pay their dues to the illegal organization attempts were made to force payment of the twenty-dollar assessment. One of the cutters who was thus forced to pay his dues showed that of the amount he paid in \$5 was extracted from him towards this assessment.

In connection with Dubinsky's report on these matters he recalled to the members a statement in one of the Communist publications to the effect that "old-timers attend meetings of the Welfare League". From authoritative information it was learned that this had reference to a famous character who had been twice dropped from the membership rolls of Local 10 and is still dropped at the present time and whose record lends additional color to the Communist scab activities. He was known to the cutters as "Philadelphia Jacobs" and "Cock-Eyed Jacobs".

## Miscellaneous Members of Loc. 10

### Notice of Regular Meeting

MONDAY, MAY 16, 1927

ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARK'S PLACE

The Meeting Starts Promptly at 7:30 P. M.