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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

3-4-1927

Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 9)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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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*.

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

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

—Job 27:5

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

Vol. IX, No. 3.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

White Goods Bosses Balk at Union's Terms

Union Calling General Member Meeting to Reach Decision on Further Steps

The subcommittee of Local 62, which in the past two weeks has made persistent efforts to reach an agreement with the employers on the workers' chief demands, has failed to achieve results.

It appears that the spokesmen for the Association have steadfastly refused to concede the request for a 40-hour, five-day week and for a raise in wages. The position of the manufacturers endangers peace in the trade, as the white goods workers are in no mood to change their stand on these demands.

Local 62 is now making arrangements for a big member meeting within a few days, where the whole situation will be reported to the workers and a final decision taken. The leaders of the organization, in the meantime, appeal to the members to lend no credence to rumors being circulated in the shops concerning the next union moves, and calls on all white goods workers to straighten out their accounts with the office and help the local strengthen its position financially.

Dr. Moskowitz Appeals To Shop Chairmen To Enforce Strict Observance of "Prosanis" Label

Director of Label Division Declares Label Best Weapon Against Non-Union Shop Menace—Associations Will Cooperate If Shop Heads Demand Enforcement.

In an appeal addressed to all shop chairmen in the cloak and dress shops in Greater New York, dated March 1st, Dr. Henry Moskowitz, director of the Label Division of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control in the women's garment trades of New York, calls upon all the shop heads to "insist that every garment they make carries the 'Prosanis' label."

The recent cloak strike has served to stimulate the growth of unsanitary, substandard non-Union shops in the trade, and the best method for combatting the growth of this evil is insistence on the label to be sewed in in every garment. Absence of the label on a garment should be made direct evidence that the garment was manufactured in a non-Union shop. There is no better and no easier way of stopping the non-Union leakage in the market than by carrying out a 100 per cent enforcement of the "Prosanis" Label. The appeal in full follows:

AN APPEAL TO THE SHOP CHAIRMEN

The condition in the cloak industry today resembles on a small scale the condition of the world after the Great War. You have been through a great war for twenty-four weeks. You have passed through the longest strike in your history. For twenty-four weeks you were fighting on the picket lines to get what you thought was your just due. Your Union spent three millions

Philadelphia Dressmakers Sign Collective Agreement With Dress Association

Peace Settlement Affects 5,000 Waist and Dress Makers' Machinery for Adjusting Disputes Set Up—Demands of Union Granted—Director of Public Safety & Elliot Chief Mediator—Vice-President Elias Reisberg Elates Over Victory.

Exactly five years after the unsuccessful strike of the dress and waist makers had come to an end in Philadelphia, Local 50 succeeded in reaching a collective settlement with the manufacturers' association last Monday, February 23, which definitely removed the threat of a strike and averted a clash in the industry that for some time appeared unavoidable. The victory for peaceful mediation was achieved through the untiring efforts of Director of Public Safety of Philadelphia, Mr. George Elliot, in getting the dress manufacturers to sign an agreement with the Union.

The agreement affects 50 of the largest dress manufacturers in the city, who recently formed an association when prospects of a general strike became imminent. The most significant

clause in the agreement, signed by Lemuel B. Shoefeld, counsel for the union, and Harry Shapiro, attorney for the Waist and Dress Manufacturers' Association of Philadelphia, provides for impartial machinery in the settling of disputes between workers and employers. It is understood that Judge Horace Stern has been invited to act as impartial chairman by Director Elliot and that he is very likely to accept.

Most Union's Demands Granted

The union had presented the manufacturers' demands for a 40-hour week and a raise in wages.

(Continued on Page 2)

G. E. B. In Special Meeting Confirms New Locals

Unionist Board Members Make Appearance at Meeting

They had previously complained they had not been given notice and a General Executive Board meeting of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union at which former Communist-Party controlled local unions were reorganized for refusing to pay their per capita tax and assessments to the International, three Communist Vice-presidents of the union disregarded a special order to attend a Board meeting on Wednesday afternoon to reaffirm the action.

The Board meeting on March 2 was called at the request of three Vice-presidents to allow the Communists, Julius Portnoy, Joseph Boruchowitz and Louis Hyman to present their case, though they had received official notice through "Justice", the union's publication, prior to the last meeting which was held at the Hotel Cadillac.

(Continued on Page 2)

Big Shops Vote to Work Extra Hours for I. L. G. W. U. Fund

Shop Meetings Decide to Give Earnings to Aid Union's Reconstruction Work.

Workers in a number of cloak and dress shops voluntarily last week offered at shop meetings, to the International an extra day or a half day's pay to help eliminate Communist gangsterism in the cloak and dress market.

Among the shops which voted extra financial support to the International, the best known are—Mandel & Miller, with 65 workers, who decided to work for the Union each week a half day; Rothman, Reis-

man & Bieber, with 200 workers, who volunteered to contribute a day's wages; Ben Gershel Dress shop, 65 workers—a half day each week, and Harmony Drees Co., with 40 workers, a half day each week. The drive for special financial assistance to the Union on a larger scale will begin this Saturday, when district shop chairmen's meetings will be held to consider at once this move to strengthen the financial condition of the organization.

The International's treasury, after the disastrous cloak strike which was lost by the Communist leaders, had been materially depleted because the workers were in no position to pay their weekly dues regularly. The voluntary action of the members to contribute extra earnings to the Union at this time attests to the loyalty of the rank and file of the membership to their parent organization better, perhaps, than any other act since the war against the Communist disrupters had been launched by the International.

Communist Sluggers Again Beat Up Workers In Garment District

Worker From Reisman, Rothman and Bieber Shop Attacked Near Home in Bronx—Union Members Will Defend Themselves

Several brutal attacks by Communist-hired gorillas on workers in union shops where the ex-job holders of the defunct Joint Board had called "strikes" in order to keep up turmoil in the trade, have aroused the workers to the necessity of retaliation, in the event these depredations by Communist bruisers continue.

The hyperbolic of the Communists is even more amazing inasmuch as after every particularly revolting attack of their strong-arm gangs on union workers employed in union shops, they still have the temerity to shout that their own adherents are being mistreated and arrested.

An incident that created a stir of indignation in cloakmakers' circles last week occurred in the Bronx on Thursday evening, February 24, when Morris Katz, a presser employed in the shop of Reisman, Rothman, and Bieber, a union shop selected by the

Communist gangsters as a central point of attack, was assailed near his home by a squad of gorillas with lead.

(Continued on Page 2)

Communist Picket Chief of Cloak Strike Disappears

Elias Marks, Secretary of Picket Committee of Cloak Strike, Who Induced Scores of Cloakmakers to Plead Guilty, Disappears—"Revolutionist" With Ugly Record, Long Suspected As Spy, Believed to Have Fled to Russia.

One of the chief commissars of the Cloakmakers' Union has disappeared, and nobody in cloak circles seems to know what has become of him.

Elias Marks, the Communist secretary of the picket committee during the cloak strike, has vanished in the last few weeks and has not been seen even in Communist circles. He was last

sight of shortly after the cloakmakers, whom he had induced to plead guilty, were sent to jail.

Marks is the "revolutionist" whose unsavory record was uncovered at the Philadelphia convention of the I. L. G. W. U. in December, 1925. He came to Philadelphia as a delegate of Local

(Continued on Page 2)

Phila. Dressmakers Sign Agreement With Association

(Continued from Page 1)

facturers with a set of 12 demands for improving labor standards and conditions in the industry. Only one of these, a request for a 5-day, 40-hour week, was not granted. The workers obtained, however, the 44-hour week for the year 1927. Instead of the present 48 and 50 hours. The workers will enjoy five legal holidays during the year, time and a half for four hours overtime per week, minimum wage-scale for week workers, price committees for piece workers, equal division of work for all employees in the dull season, the creation of a joint board of sanitary control and the adjustment of all complaints, disputes and grievances between employers and employees. The agreement also provides for no discrimination against workers for union activity and declares that no outside contractors are to be employed by manufacturers, unless all their inside workers are first employed.

The agreement does not affect about 50 manufacturers in the trade who have had already union agreements, nor does it affect a score of independ-

ent manufacturers who have been watching the negotiations between the association and the union. The union, Vice-president Elias Reisberg, manager, declared, will prosecute its organization campaign in the shops of those non-union manufacturers who are not parties to yesterday's agreement. While a general strike has been averted, Brother Reisberg stated, the union will not rest content until conditions similar to those obtained from the employers yesterday will obtain in non-union shops.

A very tense mass meeting, originally announced as a strike meeting held last Monday night in the Labor Institute cheered the announcement that concessions had been obtained from the employers without recourse to strike. Only a handful of Communists were disgruntled with the settlement achieved without a strike. Over 1500 men and women, including many non-union workers endorsed the work of Vice-President Reisberg and his executive committee, which cooperated with Director Elliot in the negotiations with the employers.

Sluggers Attack International Members

(Continued from Page 1)

pipes and beaten into near insensibility. Katz is a small fellow, and a harmless, quiet worker. He is working in R. R. & B. shop for the past ten years.

The bloody assault on Katz has strengthened the feeling among the

cloakmakers that steps must be taken to defend the members of the Union against the Communist bruisers. The cloakmakers and dressmakers are demanding that these deprecations be brought to an end, and that the Communist gangsters be driven out of the garment district.

Communist Picket Chief Disappears

(Continued from Page 1)

2 to help make the "revolution" for the Communists. But when taken to task on the floor of the convention, he admitted that, when brought before a judge during the Palmer raids in 1920, he promised to "be good and not to have anything to do with Socialists and radicals", and thereby escaped a jail sentence.

During the cloak strike, Marks acted as secretary of the picket committee, his only qualification for the job

being his membership in the Communist Party. He sent hundreds of cloakmakers to work in scab shops on the pretext that he wanted to learn of conditions in these shops. Some cloakmakers demurred to this procedure but many obeyed orders. Most of those who went to "experiment" in the scab shops, especially the non-Communists, were compelled to turn over their earnings to Marks, who told them that it would go to the Union's treasury. Of course, no receipts of any kind were issued by Marks to these cloakmakers.

This Communist hero now disappeared on the eve of his indictment by the Grand Jury. He was indicted together with Joseph Goretzky, former Communist manager of Local 35, and the chairman of the picket committee. There are rumors in the cloak market that Marks fled to Russia, where, so doubt, he will fare much better than the workers whom he had treacherously induced to plead to crimes they never committed and who are now in jail.

Moskowitz Appeals To Shop Chairmen To Enforce Sanitary Union Label

(Continued from Page 1)

ing on credit. You must now make up your losses.

Substandard Shops Menace the Trade

You find that the industry is now in a state of chaos. The twenty-four weeks of strike not only deprived you of wages and work, it enabled many of your employers to start non-Union shops, not only in the city but out of town, and even after an agreement was signed by your Union, you find that there are a great many scab shops where all the standards of the Union are being violated. Many are working long hours. They are being speeded up by piece work. They are being paid sweat shop wages.

They are your competitors. They are their own enemies, we say. They should be protected against themselves, we say. But how? There is only one way. We must do all we can to prevent the garments from flowing into these scab shops.

Fortunately we have a weapon. It is the sanitary union label. If you, as shop chairmen, insist that every garment made in your factory carries a "Prosanis" Label, then it follows that if garments are discovered without such a label they have been made in non-Union shops, and if a manufacturer uses non-Union contractors we can compel him to unionize his production and punish him severely by fine and otherwise for his violations of contracts.

The "Prosanis" Label is your protection. You can make or break it. If you do not cooperate with your business agents in enforcing the label then it is of no use. Unfortunately there are some shop chairmen who are not interested. They are the enemies of the Union. Employers welcome such indifference. They are playing into the hands of the exploiting manufacturer. They are making it difficult for the Union to create civilized conditions in this industry. They are making it hard for manufacturers who are earnestly seeking to carry out the agreement they signed with the Union. If these manufacturers must meet the sweat shop competition of the non-Union shops they will not be able to do so. Conditions must be equalized. The Union to do this for them. The Union acknowledges that these manufacturers have this right.

Shop Chairmen Can Make the Label Function

I have been promised 100 per cent

BOOKKEEPERS CLEAN LOCAL OF COMMUNIST DUAL-UNIONISTS

Found guilty by a Trial Committee of the Bookkeepers, Stenographers and Accountants Union of being members of the Trade Union Educational League and carrying on Communist disruptive tactics in the union, 21 members were expelled at a membership meeting of the union held on February 28 at the Rand School, 7 East 15th Street. Three other members who were on trial were found not guilty.

The action taken against the Communists was in line with the uncompromising stand taken by the American Federation of Labor which resulted in the expulsion of 23 Communist delegates from the Central Trades and Labor Council.

Among those expelled were: Margaret Cowi, Irving Franklin, S. A. Neegin, Jerome Roman, I. Silverstein, H. S. Weinblatt, and Florence Wortis, employed by the defunct Joint Board of Cloakmakers, and Locals 9, 22 and 35 of the I. L. G. W. U.

support from the associations having an agreement with the Union. I know that the International, the Managers and every business agent is anxious to make the label a success, but you, the shop chairmen and the workers, are in the last analysis the only people who can make the label function.

If you are indifferent. If you are calloused to your own interests you will do nothing about it. I cannot believe that you will deliberately injure your own interests. I cannot believe you will allow bundles to be shipped into shops where scabs will make garments at low wages and deprive you of the opportunity of making the garments in Union shops under decent sanitary conditions. The market is full of non-Union leaks. It is like a sink with many holes in it. Stop the holes by having every garment made carry a "Prosanis" Label.

Help your International, help your manager. Support the business agents that are coming into your shops and insisting upon the use of the label. Support those manufacturers who are willing to abide by the Union agreement, but who find it hard to carry out their obligations because you are permitting thousands of garments to be made by their non-Union competitors and by the scabs who are undermining your very life blood.

Every Garment Should Carry Label!

The Union is passing through a serious period of reconstruction following the longest war in your industry. Every effort should be made by you to help them build up again a strong Union. Talk is cheap—cheering is cheap—promises are cheap—excitement is easy. Remember it is much easier to destroy than to build. Reconstruction means work. If you are interested in the cause of your Union you will not neglect to back up your own leaders in the hard task of rebuilding your organization, which has been shattered and weakened by the strike.

Therefore, I appeal to the shop chairmen and the rank and file to insist that every garment they make carries the "Prosanis" Label! It can be bought at the office of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control. Orders can be mailed to the office on the authorized order blanks and they will be filled and mailed by parcels post c.o.d. Employers need not be inconvenienced by even sending a messenger to the office of the Board.

May the "Prosanis" Label which means for healthy people, be also the means of helping you rebuild again a strong and healthy Union.

HENRY MOSKOWITZ,
Director Label Division.

G. E. B. Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

on February 12. After waiting for the Communists to appear yesterday, the General Executive Board promptly approved the action of the last meeting at which the charters of Locals 2, 9, 22 and 35 were revoked and new charters issued to reorganized locals representing thousands of cloak and dressmakers of the various crafts who revolted against the Communists after their disastrous conduct of the 25 weeks' cloakmakers' strike. Morris Sigman, President of the International declared after the meeting that while last Wednesday's meeting was superfluous since the Communists had received notice to attend the previous meeting, it dispelled all doubt as to the legality of the International's procedure and demonstrated lack of good faith on the part of the Communists.

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International Committee Examines Candidates for Local Elections

Local 35 Candidates Examined Last Monday—Operators, Finishers and Dressmakers' Nominees Go Before Objection Committee.

Final arrangements for the election of officers in Local 2, 9, 22 and 25 are being made by the special election and objection committee of the International Union, working together with similar committees of the locals, to take place within the coming two weeks. Nominations having been completed during the past week, the task that remains now is that of sifting the fitness of those nominated for office and of setting a final day for the election.

During the past week, the Election Committee of the International, which is headed by Vice-president Max Am-

dur, had examined the candidates of Pressers' Local 35, Operators' Local 2 and of dressmakers' and finishers' locals 9 and 22. A list of all the eligible candidates of these four locals, whose names will appear on the ballot, will be printed in next week's issue of this paper.

The election committees of the locals report widespread interest in the coming balloting among the rank and file of the union, who look upon it as their first free and untrammelled choice of officers in years. A very large vote is expected.

Men's Clothing Trades Chairman Condemns Die-Hard Paper Box Bosses

The loss of the recent paper box strike, after several unsuccessful attempts by a citizens' committee to bring about a settlement and collective bargaining in that much underpaid and overworked trade, has prompted Mr. Jacob Billikopf, impartial chairman of the men's clothing industry publicly to brand the obstinate-box employers of New York City as persons "with contemptuous disregard for public opinion." Throughout the larger part of the eighteen weeks' strike Mr. Billikopf, who had taken an earnest interest in the efforts to settle that strike, the workers were willing to negotiate. It was the employers who were determined to fight the thing to the end. The workers lost the strike not because it was established that they were striking for unworthy purposes but because the employers had the advantage of position and financial power.

"Such a victory by the employers settles nothing. It increases bitterness. It remedies no basic cause of trouble in the industry. Wages and working conditions are still subnormal according to official documents of the State Labor Department. It is not a

matter of indifference to the public that this should be so. Nor should those men and women who sought to substitute negotiation for force see the failure of their efforts without recording their solemn protests. A public which is powerless to take other action may at least be informed of the facts in order that it may render its moral judgment against a repetition of this sort of thing in the industrial life of the community."

"IN ABRAHAM'S BOSOM"

"In Abraham's Bosom", the play of Negro life, which the Provincetown Playhouse brought out at the end of December, is now at the Garrick Theatre. Much that is interesting to our readers is in this play. First it is the work of a young man, a worker himself—if farmer and teacher can be considered to earn the appellation. In Paul Green, the author, the Provincetown were happy to find a new playwright. He is considered by many to be following in the footsteps of Eugene O'Neill, and "In Abraham's Bosom" is being mentioned tentatively for the Pulitzer prize.

Labor The World Over

The Eight Hour Day Still in the Balance in Germany

The present endeavor of the German workers to secure emergency legislation to protect the eight hour day, is meeting with the fiercest opposition from the employers. The Government is, moreover, attacking the eight-hour day in another way. It has introduced a new bill which is to take the place of existing regulations relating to working hours. But this bill is extremely unsatisfactory, for it exempts large sections of manual and non-manual workers from the application of the eight hour day: it complicates the question of working hours instead of simplifying it; it threatens Sunday closing and week-day closing at 6 p.m.; and, in fact, it establishes so many and such incredible exemptions that those workers who come under it are in point of fact absolutely deprived of the eight hour day.

This attack shows how absolutely indispensable it is that there should be emergency legislation. The government is failing in its first duty at a very critical time, and in consequence, there will be the fiercest conflicts. The German trade unions, too, are determined to strike hard and quickly. During a discussion at the Ministry of Labor attention was called to the tremendous gravity of the situation. The working class rejects the empty hopes held out by the Government. The fate of the emergency bill will show whether the eight hour day is to be really introduced into Germany at once, or not.

Italian National Center Moves Abroad

VAIHO'S large newspapers, among them the "Manchester Guardian" have in the last few weeks, reported that Mussolini is making attempts to get into touch with various leaders of the Italian Confederation of Labor, so as, if possible, to win them over to cease their opposition to Fascism, and to cooperate in the Fascist trade unions. This is not surprising. For Mussolini himself is fully conscious of the incapacity of the Fascist trade union leaders, and, faced by a very serious economic crisis, which is daily becoming more acute, and may therefore lead to grave difficulties among the workers, is probably feeling anything but secure in the midst of the compulsory "harmony" which is alleged to exist between the workers and employers who are adherents of his party and of his organizations.

At much about the same time, it was decided to transfer the seat of the Italian trade union centre to a foreign country; the repeated destruction of their premises and the persecution and imprisonment of their leaders make it impossible for the centre to continue its work in Italy itself, even if they conform to Article 42 of the new Trade Union Act, which theoretically guarantees their right of existence.

This is the reply to Mussolini's attempts to subdue the centre by medieval methods of torture and oppression. The best testimony to the present intolerable state of things in Italy

is the fact that, after years of constant physical danger and the greatest financial and personal sacrifices, the Italian trade union leaders are being at last forced to decide on the removal of their centre abroad. This decision annihilates Mussolini's camouflage, staged in view of the International Conventions, and the position of the Fascist trade unions in the International Labor Office and at the Labor Conferences, and intended, if possible, to give the world the impression that after all, there is some sort of organizational freedom in Italy.

A Brave Government in Poland

In order to get a democratic look about the Polish Government recently decided to consult the various economic groups concerning their respective interests. They began of course with capital and industry, a leader of industry being also made chairman of the commission which is to draw up an economic report for the government. Then came agriculture and lastly—not until they had protested against their exclusion in parliamentary speeches and newspaper articles—the workers. (Even the government papers are today saying, however, that the workers ought to have been consulted first.)

The Government, having declared that it "had the courage" to hear all the grievances of the workers, the latter submitted a program of which the chief demands were: public control of the government by a national body in the interests of the safety of the Republic; the granting to the workers of a voice in the management of industry, trade and communications; the founding of a Chamber of Labor; higher wages; land reform; the introduction of a cost of living index; unemployment relief; a house-building program; public labor exchanges; the recognition of the workers' right to work, without distinction of religion or nationality (Polish Jews are at present excluded from the civil service and industrial work, etc.); tenants' protection; legislation against cartels; the prohibition of the export of corn; and the stabilization of corn prices for the whole year.

In his reply the Minister showed quite as much courage as before—he just said that the government did not mean to do anything at all; for the sake of the budget it could not possibly establish a cost of living index for civil servants, or raise wages. (This magnificent example will be very inspiring to other employers!) But, feeling it must do something to raise its moral prestige, the government eventually did appoint a Workers' Council of Fifteen, which is to advise the government on all economic matters.

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JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. | Tel. Chelsea 2143

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

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

Vol. IX, No. 9. New York, Friday, March 4, 1927

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1920, 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 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 28, 1923.

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EDITORIALS

LAST-DITCH HOOLIGANS

The cloak and suit industry in the New York market is today on a basis of complete peace. Every employers' association in this industry, and the overwhelming majority of the "independent" firms have signed agreements with the International Union, the only body that can act and speak with authority for the organized workers in the cloak shops. The same is true of the dress industry, where the renewal of agreements with the jobbers and the contractors has removed every legitimate cause for conflict.

This, of course, does not preclude the arising of grievances and complaints in the cloak and dress shops, grievances that, under the terms of the agreements and with the aid of the machinery functioning under them, are to be adjusted with the object in view toward securing as great a measure of satisfaction to the workers as possible.

How, then, in view of this condition of organized peace can be explained the dozen and a half of shop strikes, or rather the disturbances in front of these shops that are calculated to give the impression that strikes in these factories are carried on by the Union? Who is fomenting these outbreaks in union shops, operating under union agreements with union workers? Who is marshaling the gangs of "gorillas" that are infesting some of the busy corners in the cloak and dress district during the morning hours when the workers stream into the shops and in the late afternoon when the shops are being emptied—who is employing these plug-uglies to browbeat and terrorize cloakmakers and dressmakers from entering some shops, and who is paying for the cruising sluggers in automobiles who follow some of the members of our Union to waylay them on their return home?

Our readers, of course, know their identity. The members of the Union do not have to be told who these malefactors are. They had had this crew of Communist pirates on their necks for many months, as leaders and officers, until, but a short time ago, they had succeeded, with the aid of their International, in ridding themselves of their tutelage and "leadership". True, it was a mighty costly task, this job of getting rid of the Communist leeches who for two years had sucked the cloakmakers and dressmakers' organization nearly dry of its life-blood; true, this liberation from the Communist yoke had to be paid for by the cloakmakers with a disastrous strike and by the dressmakers with a weakened and partly demoralized union.

But great as the price was, dear as the lesson had cost, in the long run, it was probably well worth it. For, it does not require a great imagination to visualize what the end of the cloak and dress unions would have been, if in the nick of time they had not been wrested from the clutches of the Communist swindlers and marauders. One only has to look back upon that record of monumental incapacity and treason which has brought the Union under their regime to the precipice of despair to become convinced of the complete and quick disaster that was awaiting it had the Communists remained in the saddle.

The coming of peace and orderliness in the industry, the re-establishment of normal relations with the employers, and the return of the workers to the shops with the beginning of the Spring season, has, naturally, only served to infuriate the discredited and outcast band of former Communist job-holders.

These apostles of turmoil for the sake of turmoil, who feed on discontent and thrive on incitement, had found themselves "generals" without an army. Peace, normalized conditions in industry mean death and anathema to them. The atmosphere of organized relations where suspicion and hatred give way to a recognition of rights and obligations is not an environment where the Communists could play their game without being detected by the mass of the workers. They need constant turmoil, wrangling and animosity to be able to ply their trade; they need division in order to be able to rule.

So, when they discovered themselves outside of the Union's lines, licked to a standstill by the International and despised by the thousands of cloakmakers and dressmakers whom they had betrayed, these deposed job holders of the Communist persuasion, turned their attention to that phase of their old game that in the past had yielded them the best results,—the stirring up of trouble in picked individual shops, and the terrorizing of both workers and employers in establishments that signed agreements with the International.

We realize, of course, that marauding of this kind costs money, and that the "idealists" whom these Communist outcasts are hiring to keep up guerilla warfare in our industry are well paid journey-men of their calling. We are not in a position at this moment

to state where this union-wrecking crew is getting the funds for this enterprise; the day is, perhaps, not distant when our own members and the labor movement in general, will be in position definitely to learn where these imposters are deriving this revenue from. Surely they are not getting it from the cloakmakers or from the dressmakers, hard as they may try to fitch some nickels from them. A casual visit to their lair in the old headquarters at any hour of the day, or on any day of the week, could convince most anyone that, save for a handful of fanatics, the mass of our workers would have nothing any longer to do with them.

But this guerilla strategy of the former job holders, carefully concealed under a mantle of Communist hypocrisy, brutal and annoying though it may be for some of our members, will not carry them very far — it certainly will not succeed in "converting" the cloakmakers to the political faith of these discredited prophets.

As far as the outside world is concerned, the intelligent observers who had watched the clash between the forces of destruction and sanity in our much-harried organization in the past two or three years, and such as are still keeping their eyes fixed upon our situation, they will hardly be misled by the Communist squeak that they are "compelled" to call strikes in single shops because their adherents are being discriminated, discharged, or otherwise interfered with by the International locals.

The best evidence of the outlaw nature of these so-called strikes is furnished by the fact that in each and every one of these shop disturbances the number of workers pulled out by the Communists, as compared with the numbers remaining in the shops and continuing to work despite intimidation and terror, is so small as to be virtually insignificant. The average ratio in all these twenty-odd shops—out of a total of nearly 3,500 shops in the city—is about twenty-five to one. In other words, out of every twenty-five workers employed in these "pulled" shops only one worker is on "strike", and it is for the "protection" of this "army of strikers" that the Communists are surrounding the shops with their hired thugs and are raising the hallyhoo of a strike, of discharge and of discrimination.

This dying effort of the beaten Communists to retrieve their fortunes in the cloakmakers' and dressmakers' unions by a display of bought-and-paid-for sluggery, besides teaching another lesson in Communist methods and tactics, has, nevertheless, stirred our men and women to a realization that this new wave of hooliganism must be brought to an end. The several attacks made by Communist gorillas last week on cloakmakers working in union shops have roused our members to the urgency of self-protection against these mercenaries.

Our Union owes a duty to its members and to the community in general to protect them against these hooligans who come to them preaching the ethics of "working class solidarity" with lead pipes and blackjacks in their pockets.

INJUNCTION A LA MOSCOW

The temporary injunction obtained last week by the ex-officers of the defunct Joint Board, still making their quarters in the Lexington Avenue building, against the International Union Bank, will probably remain for a long time an unique outrage in labor annals. We wonder if this classic ever will be outdone by any under-cover traitors that might sneak their way into the workers' movement in the future.

The facts involved in this action are simple enough. The ex-leaders of the Joint Board and of the recent cloak strike, had borrowed, prior to the strike and during the strike, a large sum of money from the bank. As security for these loans, in accordance with banking regulations, they deposited some stock of the International Union Bank owned by the Joint Board and some bonds of the building association which owns the Joint Board building. Recently the Bank sued on some of the notes which fell due and which the deposed union officials failed to meet. To this action they responded with a demand for the stock and bond security, which took the form of temporary injunction to show cause why the loan collateral should not be returned to them.

In plain words, the Communists would both have the pie and eat it. They borrowed money, pledged security for the loans, and now, without paying it either fully or in part, would have the security, which, by the way, does not belong to them, back. Probably, they need these stocks and bonds badly. Imagine what depredations they could commit all over the garment district, how many shops they could "pull down", and how much misery they could add to the lives of our workers, if they could come again into possession of such large funds!

Fortunately, the chances of their getting hold of these securities are rather slim. Getting a temporary injunction is a comparatively easy matter, but it is a far more difficult proposition to get away with such a robbery in broad daylight on the open highway. And that's exactly what the Communist financiers are after. There is hardly a doubt that they will be sorely disappointed.

This, however, is by far not the most nauseating feature of this injunction affair. The very spectacle of these "revolutionists" swearing out an injunction against a union institution in a "capitalist" court, could serve as a gauge of the mife of cynical irresponsibility in which they are wallowing. The labor movement has had its Brindells and its Sam Parkses; it has suffered from agents-provocateurs and pigeon stools who sought to sell it for a piece of silver in the dark. But we fail to recall an instance where men posing as ultra-radicals had had the temerity to attack a labor-owned institution by the means of an injunction.

This ugly mission has fallen to the Communist usurpers. We admit the honor and the distinction is fully theirs; their code of ethics, their training and education fully fit them for the role of injunction procurers.

With American Communists Underground

2. How the Communists Secretly Prais'd and Later Openly Maligned Sigman

At Secret Meetings, the Communists Decided That President Sigman Was the "Ablest, Most Energetic and Honest" Leader—In Public They Slandered Him As "Gangster and Betrayer"—Communist Intrigues Revealed By A Former Communist Who Took Part in Their Secret Meetings.

By JOSEPH LEVINSON

THIS incident relates to the time when Benjamin Schlesinger had resigned as head of the I. L. G. W. U., in January, 1923. As could have been expected, the cloakmakers in New York City were all agog concerning Schlesinger's successor to the presidency of the Union, and, of course, the Communists began mobilizing their forces and to act as once as if that was their sole and exclusive business. How otherwise, indeed? I am certain that the Communists, had they been in existence at the time the New York orthodox Jews elected a chief rabbi some fifteen years ago, would have held a secret caucus and put forth their candidate for that office, too. For, did not the Communists pick the "left" Metropolitan for the faithful Russian Greek Catholics in New York a year or two ago?

So the alarm was sounded, and all "confidential" cloakmaker-Communists were summoned to a meeting at party headquarters. The meeting, however, was called not by a cloakmaker, and the person who arrived to issue instructions at the meeting was not a cloakmaker, either. It was called by Mr. Weinstein, Communist secretary, and the visiting emissary was none other than our great industrial expert and statesman, "Comrade" Yoditch.

Yoditch spoke in the name of the party in favor of Sigman for the presidency of the I. L. G. W. U. The cloakmakers at the meeting all felt as one that Sigman was the fittest person for the post, as we always have had confidence in him, and we, naturally, felt highly elated. Not a word of criticism of Sigman had been uttered at the meeting, while everyone present spoke of him as of the "ablest, most energetic and honest". It was decided, or rather it was ordered by the party emissary, that, while we may not work openly for Sigman, we should secretly support him, but that in the event of an opposing candidacy, we might come out even in the open and work for his election at the convention. Could anything be sweeter?

The Communist Party Suddenly Decides That Sigman Is a Gangster and a Betrayer

Then, as if from a clear sky, the Party decided that Sigman is a gangster, a traitor, a highwayman, and most everything on the villain's calendar.

This decision, of course, was not reached through the consultation of the party chiefs with the so-called rank and file. Perish the thought! It was one afternoon, a short time thereafter, that I picked up the "Freiheit" and spied out a huge headline which carried the startling designation of Sigman as a "criminal and a betrayer of the cloakmakers and of the dressmakers." This almost knocked me off my feet. I knew, of course, that the cloakmaker-comrades had not been consulted about this matter in the least. Later, I learned that this sudden change-about-face was the result of the refusal on the part of President Sigman to appoint two Communists to places of responsibility in the Union. Sigman declared that these Communists would ruin the work, if it were

intrusted to them. That refusal was enough to stigmatize him in the eyes of the Communist chieftains as a "gangster and a traitor".

I Fly in Quest for Justice

With that sheet in hand, I made my way hurriedly to a fellow Communist, Abraham Serebrenny, in whom I personally had confidence, and who enjoyed a general respect among the comrades. Serebrenny, I know, keeps at present at a distance from his former pals. I presume he, too, is beset with doubts and headaches. I don't know whether he is still a full-fledged Communist today—whether he still would dance the dervish dances together with that band. But I do know that he is an honest person.

I met in his house a few friends—non-Communists, and showed him the brand new comment on Sigman in our party organ. I was mad clean thru. I now come to think that it was this terrible provocation that had served as the first impetus to drive me away from the Communist Party. One has to be a cloakmaker and to know what Sigman has done for the cloakmakers' union to appreciate the effect of that stab-in-the-back on me!

Serebrenny tried to quiet me by belittling the importance of that malignant attack on Sigman. "You know how light-mindedly we deal in names, epithets and insults," he commented, "If Sigman were aware of our delightful customs, he might be inclined to take this assortment of slander as a compliment." Serebrenny's opinion just summed up the general impression concerning Sigman in Communist circles. There wasn't one among them who considered Sigman anything but an honest and upright leader, and even today, while for the sake of dirty politics they are still attacking him in the press and at meetings, such among them who are conscientious and honest, know well enough that he is a thoroughly able and scrupulously honest person.

And so, while that incident did tend to open up my eyes to the tactics and ethics of my Comrades, I still continued to wade along in the Communist jungle until I struck an uglier snag that gave me an even ruder shock.

Outplaying Tammany in Brownsville

I am told that there is honor even among thieves, that even in the underworld double-crossing is taboo. But it would seem that the Communist code of morals precludes even such a "prejudice". Let me tell you of this Communist-cloakmaker affair in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn.

There was in Brownsville, in the old Local 11 of the I. L. G. W. U., a secretary by the name of Elkin, not a "left" and, certainly, not a "right". This Elkin had converted the office of Local 11 into a place that a self-respecting cloakmaker would shun for miles. It was a hard job to dislodge this fellow from office, but after a great deal of effort the members of Local 11, the majority of them non-partisan, finally succeeded in getting rid of him.

A new election for officers, including the office of secretary, was to be held, and the Communists became busy with their caucuses. They did not put forth a candidate of their own—they were too weak for that, and, besides,

had no candidate that stood a chance of success. They, however, put forth Comrade Kurinsky (he is now secretary of Local 2 of the International) for the executive board. To insure Kurinsky's election to the board, they formed a secret bloc with one Brodsky, at that time reputed to be a "right", and a former member of the Socialist Party, who was running for secretary. Brodsky, however, did not have the support of the regular trade unionists and of the Socialists, who united on one Harry Chancer for this post. The Communists agreed with Brodsky to trade their votes for whatever votes he might deliver to Kurinsky.

Brodsky Double-Crossed

And now let us see how faithfully the Communists carried out their end of that "deal". No sooner had that transaction been concluded than they hurriedly got together a caucus of their own, without Brodsky, and decided: Since Brodsky is, after all, a "right" and would not be an entirely safe bet in case he is elected, it would be best to double-cross him, to vote for Elkin, in the hope that, though a nonentity and a weakling, Elkin might be "controlled" and, in the long run, inclined to play the game as told. Elkin would have to take orders, they figured, as he could find no support among the "rights" who had been responsible for his elimination. As far as the outside world is concerned, they reckoned, the Communists, who would not support Elkin in the open could easily point out later that he was elected by "right" votes and that they are not, therefore, responsible for him.

Such was the scheme. The "comrades" continued to carry on their whispings with Brodsky, who was made to feel that he already had the office "cinched". The plans of the Communists, despite these maneuvers, failed, however, of realization, as Chancer was elected as secretary by a small plurality.

This little incident of Communist political and trade union morality recalls to mind the reply of that husband in a novel that I read some years ago, to his wife who complained of being mistreated because she was suspected of carrying on secret amours with another man. "You are so treacherous, that not only are you betraying me, your lawful husband, but you are even playing false to your lover, on whose account you had been betraying me."

How a Commissar "Explained" To Me the Brownsville Affair

Soon after the Brodsky-Elkin incident, I as organizer of the Communist branch, called a special meeting to discuss "Our Policies in the Unions", to which the dentist-commissar Jacob Mindel was sent as "leader".

I pointed out at that meeting that the action of the party in the election of Local 11 was unclean and treacherous and that it was dirty politics played at the expense of innocent union men, who consider their union as the sole defender of their bread and butter interests.

Thereupon, Commissar Comrade Mindel took the floor and spoke as follows: (I am quoting him verbatim.) I remember his words distinctly, so deeply have they sunk in my memory. "I am amazed of Comrade Levinson, who spent so many years in the labor movement and still remains a naive political baby. You must know that the Communist wagon is not rolling along paved roads lined on both sides with flowery beds; the Communist wagon travels through hills and valleys, through heaps of mud and through swampy ravines, and silt is bound to get stuck to its wheels."

And with this introduction, half-cynically, half-hypocritically, our visiting commissar proceeded to "explain" and justify to us the policy of the party as affecting such incidents as the Local 11 election.

In the name of the approaching revolution, we had to vote for Elkin, though they, the chiefs, considered him absolutely unfit for the office. The ideal of the Communist commissars is—anything that would keep their "wagon rolling", anything that would not endanger their collections, their eternal passing around of the hat. That's the reason why they, for instance, are still playing with a Louis Hyman, not a Communist, but one whom, for the moment, they consider a handy fellow for their foul game in cloakmaker affairs!

The C. C. So Ordered

After the last convention of the I. L. G. W. U., in December, 1925, in Philadelphia, the Communist members of the cloakmakers' union held a caucus meeting, at 108 East 14th Street, the headquarters of the party.

The field marshal of the occasion was Comrade Boruchowitz, who delivered the report of the convention. Boruchowitz's reputation as a meaty-mouthed windbag is firmly established even among the Communists. Some men in the audience attacked Boruchowitz for having taken along with him to that convention Moishe Rubin, Schelly and Hurwitz, persons as cordially hated by honest Communist in New York cloak circles as they are despised by the "rights". These fellows are considered as cheap clay, and though they had been parading right along as "non-partisan", are looked upon as "boys" who are ever ready to do "jobs" for the Communist junta. (Moishe Rubin, by the way, who played such a ugly part in the last cloak strike, has since become an embroidery boss. Schelly, under the mask of a "non-partisan", wrote Communist-colored news for the "Tag" during the strike, while Hurwitz, of the same caliber, played the part of a "non-partisan" broom in the hands of the Communist sweepers.) The better type of Communist regarded this trio with a feeling of execration.

The meeting stormed with angry protest against these three fellows and against Boruchowitz for having taken them along with him to the convention in defiance of the prevailing sentiment among the comrades. One Ehrenkrantz shouted at Boruchowitz: "No one authorized you to take these men to Philadelphia, but you seem to love to surround yourself with persons who are hated and distrusted by everybody, with the result that we are ourselves made to appear black in the eyes of every honest union man!"

Dazed and bewildered by the fire directed at him, Boruchowitz tried to answer his critics. But his reply consisted of practically one phrase only: "The C. C. (Central Committee) so ordered, and that is all!" But who is that C. C.? Of course, just one person—Charles Ruthenberg. And what does this Ruthenberg know about cloaks and cloakmakers? Well, the answer to this again is: The C. C. so ordered, and that ends it!

Even Foster had, during the heat of the fight against the International in 1925, advised the cloakmaker-Communists to give up the fight, as they had no fair fighting issue. But Ruthenberg ordered otherwise. The C. C. so wanted. The C. C. would rule the cloak industry.

At that same caucus-conference on East 14th Street, I remember a delegate from Chicago, one Comrade Goldman took the floor. A strange fellow that Goldman, for he warned the New York comrades against going ahead with their work. The Communists, he said, had won out in Chicago, but have, as a result, ruined the cloakmakers' organization. He warned

(Continued on page 7)



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Tell Your Fellow Workers About Our Educational Activity

We are surprised to learn that many of our members do not as yet know of the important educational activities carried on by our International Union. Of course, this can be explained by the fact that our members live in the greatest city in the world. They are scattered among 6 million inhabitants. To this we must add the fact that New York offers so many real and artificial stimulants. No other city can pride itself on offering so much music, drama and lectures on countless subjects. The intellectually curious person is bewildered by so much offering and hardly has time to take advantage of many things.

We must also not forget the great amount of time it takes for people to go to and from work. Hours are spent in the overcrowded cars of the subway each day. This, on top of a day's work, so exhausts people that when they finally reach home they are good for little else but a hurried meal and rest.

As a result of all this, New York is not the place for concentrated effort. But if those of our members who attend our educational activities would take the trouble to acquaint their fellow workers also, with our program and stimulate their interest in our work, we are sure, that more members would take advantage of the opportunity offered by our International thru

SOCIAL FACTORS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Course Given by Dr. H. J. Carman in Workers' University, Sunday, March 6, 11 A. M.

Dr. H. J. Carman started a course in "Social Factors in American History" which is being given in our Workers' University, Washington Irving High School, Room 530, Sunday 11 A. M.

This course as presented by Dr. Carman is most interesting and of great educational value. We do not need to emphasize the importance for workers to study the social factors of their country in which they function as citizens and workers.

New students can still join this course.

Admission free to I. L. G. W. U. members.

THEATRE GUILD EXTENDS REDUCED PRICE SUBSCRIPTION TO OUR MEMBERS UNTIL MARCH 10

We want to remind our members that on the request of the Educational Department, the Theatre Guild management is extending the workers' subscription offer until March 10.

This offer entitles our members to see five plays for \$5.00 and get \$2.20 balcony seats.

The plays offered are "The Silver Cord", "Pygmalion", "Ned McCobb's Daughter", "The Brothers Karama-

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.

Our members can order these thru our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.

the Educational Department, for social and intellectual development. We cannot depend too much on announcement in our weekly publications. The personal touch will achieve where the printed word cannot reach.

We urge upon our members to do their bit in enlightening their fellow workers on the activities of our Educational Department, and extend to each and all of them an invitation to visit our classes.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL REUNION TO BE HELD SATURDAY, APRIL 2

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of our Educational Department. Our students are planning an elaborate affair to commemorate the event.

A special committee is working on plans which will be announced later. We advise our members to reserve Saturday, April 2, for our Students' Council Reunion.

Details next week.

THE SEX QUESTION IN LITERATURE

Discussion by Dr. H. Lieberman, Friday, March 4th, 8 P. M. at McKinley Square Garden, 1258 Boston Road

Dr. H. Lieberman will discuss "The Sex Question in Literature" this Friday, March 4, 8 P. M., in McKinley Square Garden, 1258 Boston Road, Bronx.

Due to illness Dr. Lieberman could not discuss this subject last week as scheduled, and B. J. R. Stolper, who conducts a course in literature in our Workers' University, took his place. But Dr. Lieberman will positively lecture on Friday, March 4.

The sex question occupies a prominent part in literature and in the drama, and we are sure this discussion will be most interesting and of great educational value.

This is Dr. Lieberman's eighth lecture of his course on "Literature and Life". They will be continued on Friday evenings throughout the season at the same place and time.

Admission is free to I. L. G. W. U. members.

zov", and one other to be produced later. In addition, subscribers will receive greatly reduced rates for an engagement of the Rochester American Opera Co., free tickets to lectures, a subscription for next season's tickets.

This inducement will be good until March 10, but we advise you to give it your immediate attention, so that you will be able to select that night on which you wish to go. If you have already seen one of the plays a reduction of one dollar per play will be made.

This is an excellent opportunity to see the best dramatic productions at cost. We advise our members to become subscribers as this will inspire the management to continue these special arrangements next season.

Subscription blanks may be obtained at our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street.

Weekly Educational Calendar

Washington Irving High School, 16th Street and Irving Place, Room 530

Saturday, March 5

3:30 p. m. B. J. R. Stolper—Social Tendencies in Literature. "Yiddish Literature a Lively Invalid"—Sholom Asch.

Sunday, March 6

11 a. m. Dr. H. J. Carman—Social Factors in American History.

EXTENSION DIVISION

McKinley Square Garden, 1258 Boston Road, Bronx

Friday, March 4

8:00 a. m. Dr. C. Lieberman—The Sex Question in Literature.

EAST SIDE UNITY CENTER

P. S. 25, Room 410, 330 East 5th St.

To be announced.

HARLEM UNITY CENTER

P. S. 72, Room 406, Lexington Ave. at 105th St.

To be announced.

HARLEM SOCIALIST CENTER

62 East 106th Street

5 p. m. A. Fiehandler—How Can We Learn to Think Straight.

Time to be announced

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Friday, March 4

Local 50 Headquarters, 52 North-10th St.

7:30 p. m. English—Alex Cheney

8:30 p. m. Robert Morley—Labor Problems.

810 Locust Street

Wednesday, March 9

5 p. m. Robert Kerlin—English Literature.

Labor Movement Seeks Funds For Debs Memorial Radio

Charging that the radio broadcasting facilities of the country are "almost entirely in the hands of the dominating reactionary interests", the Debs Memorial Radio Fund opened this week its campaign to erect a broadcasting station as a memorial to the late Eugene V. Debs, Socialist leader.

The Fund seeks to raise \$250,000 to erect a high-powered station to be known as WDEBS. According to the plans, WDEBS will "be operated in the interests of all progressive movements and ideas and in aid of all struggles for social justice in the tolerant and broad-minded spirit of Gene Debs." The trustees of the Fund include many non-Socialists as well as several national leaders of the party of which Mr. Debs was the standard bearer for almost three decades.

Norman Thomas, director of the League for Industrial Democracy, has accepted the chairmanship of the Board of Trustees, it was announced and Morris Hillquit, the treasurer. The other members of the Board of Trustees are: James H. Maurer, Pa.; John Haynes Holmes, N. Y.; Albert F. Coyle, Ohio; A. M. Todd, Mich.; John Whitlock, Ill.; D. C. Viadeck, N. Y.; Theodore Debs, Ind.; Victor L. Berger, Wis.; Harriot Stanton Blatch, N. Y.; Robert Morse Lovett, Ill.; Harry F. Ward, N. Y.; A. Philip Randolph, N. Y.; Elizabeth Gilman, Md.; Wm. Mitch, Ind.; Joseph Baskin, N. Y.; Sidney Hillman, N. Y.; Abraham Barron, N. Y.; Upton Sinclair, Cal.; Abraham Cahan, N. Y.; Cameron King, Cal.; and Roger Baldwin, N. Y. G. A. Gerber of New York is secretary of the board and will be the director of the drive. Offices have been opened at 21 Union Square.

Mr. Thomas and Mr. Hillquit joined in issuing the following statement explanatory of the aims of the drive.

"The friends and admirers of the late Eugene V. Debs are raising funds for a memorial worthy of the great departed American champion of liberty and justice.

"No better or fitter monument to the memory of Eugene V. Debs could be conceived. The radio is fast becoming one of the most powerful and effective channels of information, education and propaganda. It is almost entirely in the hands of the dominating reactionary interests.

"The country needs at least one powerful voice of criticism and warning, of peace and progress. That voice will be the voice of WDEBS.

"The project is as costly as it is vital. It calls for at least \$250,000. It can be realized only through the wholehearted and generous support of all liberty-loving persons and organizations. You are one of these. Will you help?"

Provincetown Playhouse Production

New playing at

GARRICK THEATRE

65 West 23rd St.

In Abraham's Bosom

"A sweeping theme... noble in conception."—Post.

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.

Agreement With Association of Dress Manufacturers, Inc.

(Continued from last week)

Jobbers and Outside Contractors

"17th: (a) None of the merchandise manufactured by the association members shall be directly or indirectly manufactured for or sold to or for the account of any manufacturer or jobber who is not under contract with the union to observe and maintain union standards.

"(b) In order that the union may have an opportunity at all times to investigate the final destination of the merchandise manufactured by the employer, each employer agrees to furnish to the union through the association, at least once a month, the names of manufacturers and jobbers for whom he is working and to whom he is selling merchandise.

"(c) None of the merchandise manufactured by the employer shall be made for him in the shop of any other employer except by agreement between the association and the union, and then only in the shops of members of the association.

"(d) The employer shall not purchase any ready made garments from any factory located in New York City or outside of New York City unless the workers in his inside shops are fully employed, nor in any event, from any factory that does not maintain the standards of wages and hours established under this contract, does not operate under a contract with the union and is not registered with the union.

New Members

"18th: (a) Before admitting a new member the association shall inform the union in writing of the application for membership. If a strike or dispute shall be pending between the applicant and the union at the time, the union shall give to the association within five days a written statement containing full particulars of the matters in dispute, and the association will not admit such applicant until such dispute has been adjusted. The association may undertake to adjust the dispute or may submit such adjustment to the impartial chairman. Such adjustment shall be made on the basis of the agreement existing between the union and the applicant, and the rights of the union and of the employees under such agreement shall be preserved up to the date of such adjustment. After the applicant has been admitted to membership in the association this collective agreement shall supersede his individual agreement with the union.

"(b) The association shall once in every month furnish to the union a full list of all its members with the location of their places of business, and keep the union informed at all times of additions and changes.

Shop Strikers

"19th: There shall be no interruption of work in any shop for any reason excepting in the case of a dispute in prices as provided for in this agreement, but work shall proceed in operation subject to the determination of any dispute or grievances as hereinabove provided for. In case of an interruption of work, the Union obli-

gates itself within twenty-four hours upon notice from the Association to order the workers back to work, and upon the failure of the workers to return within said period of time, the said workers shall be deemed to have abandoned their employment.

Adjustment of Disputes

"20th: All complaints, disputes or grievances arising between the parties hereto, involving questions of interpretation or application of any clause of this agreement, or any acts, conduct or relations of employer and employe operating directly or indirectly under the terms of this agreement shall be submitted in writing by the party hereto claiming to be aggrieved to the other party hereto, and the chief clerks of the association and the manager of the union, or their deputies, shall in the first instance jointly investigate such complaints, grievances or disputes and attempt an adjustment. Decisions reached by the chief clerks or their deputies shall be binding on the parties hereto.

"Should the clerks or deputies fail to agree, the question or dispute shall be referred to a trial board consisting of one member from each organization, party hereto and a third party or umpire who shall be chosen by the respective representatives of the parties hereto on the said trial board. The umpire shall be appointed immediately upon such disagreement and shall be rendered within 48 hours from the submission. A decision of two members of such board shall be effective and shall be final.

"Any member of the association who fails to comply with the decision of the clerks or deputies or with an award of the trial board within 72 hours from the rendition of same, shall forfeit all his rights and privileges under this agreement, and, if such decision or award includes a payment of money, the association obligates itself to pay all such money to the union or any of its members, as the case may be, within 48 hours after such default.

"If a new complaint is made against an association member after his default in compliance with such decision or award, he shall not be reinstated to membership in the association and to his rights under this collective agreement until and before such new complaint has been fully adjusted.

Conference Board

"21st: There shall be created a conference board under this agreement to consist of five representatives of the union and five representatives of the association, for the purpose of considering and passing upon general trade problems, and to more effectually carry out the purpose and spirit of this agreement. Meetings of such board shall be called upon three days' notice to the association and the union.

Security Deposit

"22nd: As security for the faithful performance of this agreement on its part, and on the part of all the manufacturers constituting its membership, the association has deposited with the International Union Bank, to the joint

By NORMAN THOMAS

Legislation by Log Rolling

THE McNary-Haugen bill may or may not be a wise measure. It may or may not encourage the subsidy habit and set up almost unworkable machinery for collecting equalization fees. We know that the farmers have real grievances, and suspicious as we are of the practical effects of this bill and the subsidy principle which it incorporates, we admit that the attempt to apply this measure may have wholesome educational effects. What we are concerned in at present is the practical lessons that this bill furnishes in the science of log rolling.

No one even pretends to believe that a bill which was first decisively defeated in both houses has won enough votes in Congress to pass simply on its merits. Not at all. It has marched on under the ancient banner: You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. First, every crop from corn to cotton which was declared basic, and admitted to the benefits of the bill was basic less in an economic than a political sense. The question was: how many votes could be caught in the wheat, corn or cotton areas? Thus the Republican West made its alliance with the Democratic South. Next, the farm bloc bargained for the help of the coal bloc by agreeing to prevent any legislation which might give the Federal government power to protect consumers against the coal barons in the probable event of a big coal strike. Having gained greatly by this trade the farm bloc next made terms with the group which is pushing the branch banking bill earnestly desired by the national bankers. Thus they got their bill on the Senate's calendar and thus they got it passed. They will probably succeed in the House. The New York papers report that the bill has won Tammany converts not because they have changed their minds—if any—on the merits of the bill but because they see a chance to embarrass Coolidge and help Smith. Finally, in all the speculation about what the President will do with the bill no one asks: does he believe in it?—it is known that he does not—but which does he most fear, Andrew Mellon and the interests which want to keep all subsidies for themselves, or the embattled farmers of the Middle West?

credit of the parties hereto, the sum of \$10,000, which sum shall continue on deposit. Any and all awards of damages in favor of the union or any of its members made by the clerks or deputies or the said trial board shall be paid out of such security deposit, and the association shall, within 72 hours after such payment, replenish the security deposit to the full amount of \$10,000, or, at its option, pay the damages so awarded directly and leave the deposit intact.

"23rd: The Union obligates itself to enter into no contract, by reason whereof any contractor engaged in the dress industry shall receive any benefit or aid not accorded to members of this association, pursuant to the terms of this agreement, or contain any terms more advantageous to such contractor, and any such benefit, aid or advantage accorded to any contractor in violation of this agreement shall be deemed incorporated herein.

"The association may from time to time inspect all individual contracts entered into between the Union with individual contractors for the purpose of ascertaining whether this clause is complied with.

Duration of Contract

"24th: This agreement shall enter into force on the day of execution hereof and shall continue to and include December 31, 1928.

We repeat that in giving this realistic history of the way laws are passed we are not singling out this particular bill or its backers for especial criticism. They have simply played the game very cleverly. But it is useful for American citizens to observe how laws are really made.

Is There No Protection Against Rottenness?

In the Browning case of malodorous memory the court lent itself to giving a pornographic holiday to the multitudes. This thing we call the dignity of the law reached a new low water mark. The chief villains, however, in this plot against our social health were not judges or lawyers or the rich and vulgar old sensualist and his gold digging girl wife who were the principals in the case, but the newspapers, especially the tabloids, which systematically fed our young children with carrion and tried hypocritically to dis infect it with a moral. Now that the Browning case is temporarily over they are trying frantically to find other cases equally nasty.

Censorship of pornography, whether on the stage or in print, is an entirely different matter from censorship of ideas and we should favor censorship as a matter of protection for the next generation—if we thought it would work. There is no natural or inherent right to spread out before the eyes of our children such stuff as is the main substance of the tabloids. Unfortunately censors have made a rather ridiculous record for themselves. They forbid Shaw and Ibsen and pass any leg show. Perhaps laws and the enforcement of laws against pornography are a better defense although the recent Tammany police raids in New York seemed better designed to advertise certain shows than to end them. A great paper has argued that laws will only result in bootlegging filth. Probably there will be some such bootlegging, but we should prefer our children to take their chances with the occasional bootlegger rather than that they should be assaulted at every newsstand by papers which publish what by law should be forbidden.

This is a matter of especial importance to radicals and progressives. There is a great psychological difference between the pornography with which the masses are systematically fed and what has been called the "healthy animalism" of certain great classics. A crowd gone mad about the Browning trial is a crowd hopeless for building any strong union, farmers' organizations or sound labor political party. Perhaps, as some cynical commentators have observed, the people who revel in their daily dose of tabloid pornography are beyond hope anyway. The rising generation is not beyond hope.

Indeed, we are inclined to think that one of the gravest symptoms in our times is its undue obsession with sex. Imperialism in Mexico and elsewhere, problems of housing—outside "love nests"—super-power programs, etc., have no "sex appeal", and so some of our erstwhile radicals who ought to be fighting the good fight for justice and freedom, spend what energy and time and money they have on half baked Freudianism and a revival of the world old bondage of licentiousness in the name of modern freedom.

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With American Communists Underground

(Continued from Page 5)

Boruchowitz against capturing the union in New York, as that might lead to the ruin of the organization. Without the experienced leadership of the "rights", he continued, you cannot lead the union.

But who indeed, would care for the

advice of a Chicago comrade, even though he comes with some sad and sobering experience? Who is interested in his testimony? Didn't the C. C. order the capture of cloakmakers' union? Wasn't that enough to close the debate?

(To be continued)

25th Anniversary Jubilee of Local 10 1901-1926

MARCH 26
SAT. AFT., 2 P. M.
AT MECCA TEMPLE

CONCERT and MASS MEETING

Two free tickets for every good-standing member of Local 10. Have you obtained your tickets? Very few left. If you desire to attend the concert, call for your tickets at the office of Local 10 immediately.

A copy of the History of Local 10 will be distributed to each member at the concert.

MARCH 27
SUNDAY EVE., 5:30 P. M.
AT MECCA TEMPLE

BANQUET

:: PROMINENT ORCHESTRA ::
ENTERTAINMENT :: DANCING

H. Trotzky, caterer of Broadway Central Hotel, has been engaged to take charge of the supper. Both formal and informal attire appropriate. Reservations limited to 1000; about 600 already sold.

Below are listed the shops which had made reservations up to the past Monday; (since then other shops have been added):

AARON GOLDSTEIN
H. FREDERICKS
T. KLIPSTEIN
L.E. KASHMAN & PORTFOLIO
GREENBERG & LUDWIG
M. & S. HANDLER
MUTUAL SKIRT CO.
CROWN CLOAK CO.
ZUCKERMAN & HOFFMAN

ROSENFELD & SON
KUPFER & SCHLOSSBERG
WITTENBERG & SHIMBERG
L. ZIMMERMAN
FRIEDMAN & PINER
B. HELLER
GORDON V. LYONS
MILLAR & MANDEL
P. PORTFOLIO

ISMAN & BERNSTEIN
DARTMOOR CLOAK CO.
FRED BROTHERS
FORETZ BROTHERS
L. BENJAMIN
REN GERSHEL DRESS CORP.
SAMUEL FLOERSHEIMER
HATTIE CARNEGIE

FABER & HINES
LUBOW & BLOOM
S. E. S.
SHAPIRO & SONS
LEPCHANSKY BROS.
BARBER & KAGEL
WEINSTEIN CORP.
ISIDOR WEINSTEIN

Additional List of Shops Will Be Printed Next Week

In order to complete all arrangements, the names of all those attending must be in the hands of the office not later than ten days before the banquet. Table for groups of cutters working in the same shops are being arranged.

WILL YOUR SHOP BE INCLUDED? WILL YOUR NAME BE ON THE SOUVENIR LIST?

A Souvenir program to commemorate the jubilee celebration, containing the names of all the guests and members attending the banquet, will be printed, the cover for which is being prepared by an artist of distinction.

Only about 400 reservations are still left. Reserve your place now in order to avoid future regrets, as this magnificent affair will be long remembered by those present.

The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

If there was ever a doubt in the minds of the baker's dozen sympathizers with the disruptive element which all but ruined the Union as to how the members of Local 10 view their activities, that doubt surely must have been dispelled at last Monday night's meeting, which filled Arlington Hall beyond its normal capacity.

The case on which the members acted grew out of the refusal of Morris Alovis, a participant in the so-called "Cutters' Welfare League", to renew his working card in disregard of the orders of Business Agent David Fruhling.

Before the members of Local 10 gave the executive board authority to take action in cases of this nature, Alovis believed that he, together with his small group, could defy the decisions of the local. In making the round of the shops under his jurisdiction, Brother Fruhling asked Alovis one day in his shop if he had renewed his working card. When informed that he had not, Fruhling ordered him to do so at once.

Following the failure of Alovis to carry out the orders of Fruhling, he was summoned to the executive board on the added charge of defying the orders of the International. The re-

sult was the imposition of a fifty-dollar fine. Considerable humor attended the entire incident. During the course of Alovis's comings and goings to the office and executive board he sought to create the impression that he would remain "loyal" to his "league".

"Welfare League" "Double-Crossed"

But his determination slowly began to weaken, reaching a climax last Saturday, February 26, when, upon paying twenty dollars towards his fine and on promising to pay the balance in instalments, Alovis was given a working card. The entire case was reported at the last member meeting on February 28. How the members felt towards the action of the member in question was clearly manifested when the question of adopting the executive board's recommendation came up. The members unanimously voted to sustain the fine imposed upon Alovis.

Manager Dubinsky stated that another case of "double-crossing" the League" occurred also over a working card. Not until the business agent in the second instance had taken action and only after the cutter had come before the executive board, did he get a working card. Dubinsky also reported the case of Jacob Lukin, one-time candidate for manager of Local

10, who, about two weeks ago, appeared in the office and requested permission to pay dues, having been almost dropped for non-payment. He was reminded of the order of the Communist "Welfare League", the organization to which he belonged, which decided against paying dues to Local 10. He, however, insisted upon paying his dues to Local 10. Apparently, the "League's" membership is not a very loyal or reliable one.

Members Urged to Report Violation of Agreements

In reporting on conditions in the industry, Manager Dubinsky stated that the members, particularly the dress cutters, should disregard all rumors and reckless statements to the effect that certain conditions which the members enjoyed in the shops prior to the renewing of the agreements were wiped out.

The manager stated that the trial period in the dress trade under the renewed agreement is still one week and that any member agreeing to a second week's trial period without the consent of the Union would be subject to discipline by the executive board. A dress cutter taking a job and entering his second week of employment becomes entitled to his job as heretofore. Likewise, in the matter of the 15 per cent above the minimum scale; a members securing employment (temporarily, that is, making a job for one week or less, is entitled to 15 per cent above the minimum scale, which is fifty dollars per week

and should get \$57.50 for one week's work.

With regard to hour work, the manager emphatically stated that any cutter found to be employed or who hires himself out at hour work may be summoned before the executive board. Hour work does not exist in the cutting trade, and members who accept hour work employment do so in violation of the agreements and the rules of the Union.

A Statement of Facts

There is a scab sheet being circulated among the members, to addresses secured from the office during the recent cloak strike, ostensibly for the purposes of the strike but actually for the spreading of Communist lies by means of such sheets. That sheet contained a story about Brother Philip Graff, who has requested the writer to enter a true statement of facts. He was urged against doing so on the ground that no honest member of Local 10 would take stock in the story circulated, but Brother Graff insisted.

He states that the story in the scab sheet concerning him is nothing but a tissue of lies. He had lost his week's wages and, upon informing Manager Dubinsky of it, part of it was made good in the office and the other part through contributions by Graff's fellow-workers in the shop. The "story" about his "falling asleep" and about having his pocket turned inside out was a cloth woven of Communist lies.