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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 12, Iss. 25)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments

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

JUSTICE

Official Organ of the International
Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Vol. XII, No. 25. Jersey City, N. J.

Friday, December 19, 1930

President Schlesinger Keeps In Daily Touch With Union's Activity

Committee to Visit Him for Week End

Pres. Benjamin Schlesinger, still compelled by his physicians to remain in his Catskill retreat for the sake of his health, is, nevertheless, in constant touch with all the activities of the Union, taking as ever a keen interest in all its affairs.

Last week, a group of executive board members of Local 48, the Italian Cloakmakers' Union, headed by Vice-President Ninfo, visited Pres. Schlesinger and spent with him two days.

A large committee of friends is planning to visit him this week-end. The Forward Association has also appointed a committee of four friends of Pres. Schlesinger to visit him in Parksville. The committee consists of B. C. Vladek, I. Feinberg, Meyer Gillis, and Dr. B. Hoffman.

Cloak Tailors and Pressers Install 1931 Executive Bodies

Operators Elect This Week—Cutters Follow on Saturday—Local 20 Staff for 1931 Chosen.

The last month of the year is election month in all New York locals of the I. L. G. W. U., with the exception of the dress locals which have elections in May.

Small wonder, therefore, that the cloakmakers, with little work in the shops to distract their attention, have in the past few weeks concentrated all their interest on these elections. Hectic campaigns, with an abundance of electioneering in the form of circulars, leaflets, group and faction meetings, have marked these elections so far, stirring up an unusual amount of factional heat and controversy.

The elections in the major cloak locals were held,

by advance arrangement, under the supervision of a special committee of the G. E. E. and of an outside committee, consisting of Roger N. Baldwin, chairman of the Civil Liberties' Union, and Dr. William Nunn, of Columbia University.

The election of officers in Local 35, Pressers' Union, took place on Tuesday, December 3rd. It was a heated contest, and resulted in some unpleasant after-election charges of intimidation on the part of some election officials and their supporters outside the booths. The returns showed that the following candidates were chosen:

Manager, Max Cohen; chairman, I. Wasilevsky.
Cloak Business Agents: M. Goldowsky, J. Gold, H. Slutzky, M. Goldstein, C. Aronsky, M. Carolinsky.
Dress Business Agents: L. Reiff, M. Guzman, C. Cherkess.

Executive Board members, Cloak Division: C. Belofsky, L. Biegel, H. Dorfman, H. Dubow, M. Gotheif, A. Levenson, M. Leventhon, M. Marcus, L. Langer, A. Ovnitzky, I. Rothstein, A. Saslow, M. Silverman, O. Stein, H. Strauss, B. Trilling. Dress Division: S. Cipes, J. Goldstein, J. Katz, J. Kushner, S. Landsman, M. Loev, J. Spitalnick, A. Weisman.

Kirtzman Re-elected Manager of Local 9

The balloting for 1931 officers in the Cloak Tailors' and Finishers' Union, Local 9, took place on Thursday, November 20. It was one of the most popular elections held by the cloak tailors' organization, and resulted in the practical reelection of the 1930 executive board of the local, with the exception of a few who did not seek reelection. The complete list of those elected is as follows:

Manager: Nicholas Kirtzman; Louis Kaufman, chairman.

Business Agents: Abraham Etkin, Carl Bercovici, Isidore Wallack, Samuel Feinertstein, Hyman Saltsberg, Alex Miller, and Isidore Cohen.

(Continued on page 2)

Couturiers Again Reject Mediation; Strike Situation Remains Unchanged

Shops Picketed Daily—Citizens' Committee Continues Support of Strikers.

The developments for the past two weeks in the strike of the ladies' tailors in the shops of the Couturiers' Association, now three months old, may be summed up as follows:

The Couturiers' Association, in a letter of December 4, addressed to James Marshall, chairman of the sub-committee which suggested that the Association meet with them concerning plans to bring the strike to an end, rejected such a meeting on the ground that "the Citizens' Committee has 'pre-determined prejudices' against the employers. The letter, in this manner, disposed of the suggestion advanced by Mr. Marshall that Lieutenant-Governor Herbert H. Lehman be approached by both sides to act as mediator of the conflict.

Mr. Marshall, on behalf of the Citizens' Commit-

tee, nevertheless, continued in his efforts of peace, and on December 5 addressed another letter to the Couturiers' Association, pointing out that the Committee did not intend "to urge Lieutenant-Governor Lehman upon them if he is unacceptable. We merely suggested that possibly through the medium of our committee we might bring about the arbitration of your differences." And further: "We notice from your letter that you insist upon the principle of 'reorganization.' This principle the Union is willing to accept. You also insist upon a 'dollar's worth of work for a dollar paid.' With this principle the Union is also in full agreement. If, therefore, you are not prompted by a desire to break down Union standards of work (and we accept your statement to that effect) it seems to us that you owe to yourselves, to your workers, to the community in which you live, the duty of arbitration in order not to place a greater strain upon the social and economic fabric of the country."

Shops Vigorously Picketed

In the meantime, the strike continues in all vigor, the shops of the members of the Association and of the three independent shops being picketed daily despite the harsh weather.

The Citizens' Committee, headed by Dr. E. C. Lindeman, as chairman, Mrs. Frederick V. Field as secretary, and Dr. John A. Fitch as treasurer, is meanwhile doing all in its power to arouse sympathetic public opinion for the strikers, and has also issued an appeal for funds to aid the most needy among the workers. A goodly sum of money has already been received by the Committee and turned over to the relief fund of the strikers.

Milgrims' Picket Decision No Curb of Right to Picket

Declares Attorney for Union in Explaining Court Ruling — Forbids Only Claims on Banners That Do Not Tally With Facts.

The decision of the Court of Special Sessions in New York City, handed down on December 5, in the case of the appeal of Sam Jenkins, Oslo Bersey and Adolph Weiss against a magistrate's decision which found them guilty of "disorderly conduct" for carrying a banner with the inscription "Milgrims on Strike" in front of the latter's establishment at 6 East 57th Street, confirming the decision of the lower court, does not, in any manner, constitute an infringement of the right of strikers to picket in front of strike-bound shops, Mr. Samuel Markewich, attorney for the pickets, declared. This fact, Mr. Markewich further said, should be made clear to the tailors on strike at present in other couturier shops as well as to the members of the Union in general.

Asked for a summary of the decision and of the facts and circumstances attending it, Mr. Markewich, in part, said:

"The basis of the decision in this special case, where the three pickets were held for disorderly conduct, appears to be resting on the fact that on the day when these pickets were apprehended with banners in front of the Milgrim establishment, namely, on September 20, 1930, the workers em-

(Continued on page 2)

Spring Season Cloak Labor Prices Not To Affect Union Wage Scales

Union Labor Standards Will Be Maintained, General Manager Nagler Informs Trade—Workers' Interests Must Be Safeguarded.

Confidence that, regardless of whatever minimum labor prices are finally reached as between the cloak contractors and the coat and suit jobbers and manufacturers, union wage standards will be maintained intact on spring work, was voiced last week by Bro. Isidore Nagler, general manager of the New York Cloak and Suit Joint Board, when it was announced that Impartial Chairman Ingersoll

had set the minimum scales for spring coats and suits for the entire cloak trade.

Bro. Nagler said that he was not in a position to comment on any particular set of minimum prices fixed by Chairman Ingersoll. The question of the minimum prices is the affair of the three employers' associations. "The Union's job," Bro. Nagler added, "is to see that union wage standards are lived up to."

"We are, of course, not in a position to determine the justice or injustice of any given set of minimum prices. We can only state that as long as contracted labor standards are made the basis of price agreements, the Union will be perfectly satisfied. That is our chief interest in the matter."

Record Department Will Start on Jan. 1st

The new Record Department in the General Office, Secretary-Treasurer David Dubinsky announces, will definitely begin functioning on January 1, 1931. The staff of clerks which has been at work in all the New York locals transcribing the membership on the new I.L.G.W.U. cards, will complete the job by that time.

Letters were also forwarded to all locals outside New York to complete the recording of the membership on the International cards and to forward them to the General Office not later than December 26, Bro. Dubinsky declared.

Shenker-Michel Shop Strike Reported Settled in Chicago

Settlement Reached After Two Weeks of Lockout—Firm Will Withdraw From Gary.

During the past two weeks, the Chicago cloak market has been deeply stirred by a conflict between the local Cloakmakers' Joint Board and one of the largest coat and suit houses, the firm of Shenker, Michel & Weinglock. The fight was precipitated by the attempt of the firm to remove its factory to Gary, Ind., and to operate it there on a non-union basis.

The lockout by the Shenker-Michel firm occurred on December 2, when the workers were told to take away their tools, an act which the Joint Board at once declared as a breach of the agreement between the Union and this firm, which was to run until June 15, 1932. The firm has operated in Chicago for the past 20 years, has an office and a showroom in New York, and belongs to the New York Industrial Council.

About two months ago, the firm had a conference with the Chicago Joint Board officers, at which the firm asked for amending its agreement, including the right of "reorganization" and piece work. The Union retaliated by asking overtime rates on time exceeding 40 hours a week. The matter rested until the firm, after completing its removal plans, locked out the workers. The Joint Board, thereupon, declared a strike against the Shenker-Michel firm, and the New York Joint Board called a strike in the sample-making rooms of this firm in New York City, which was followed by a notice sent by the New York Industrial Council asking the firm to resign from the Council.

As we go to press, we received a report that the strike-lockout in the Shenker-Michel shop was settled on Tuesday, this week, December 16. The terms of the settlement include piece-work for some of the crafts employed in the shop.

The International refused to take part in the settlement negotiations as its policy is unwaveringly opposed to any piece-work proposals or terms. The question of the adjustment of this strike-lockout on the aforementioned basis will be made a subject of special discussion at the next meeting of the General Executive Board, in January.

Union Terms Observed in All Children's Dress Ass'n Shops

Signing of Collective Pact Deferred by Mutual Consent Until Beginning of Year—Factories Operate Under Union Conditions.

Notwithstanding the fact that the shops belonging to the members of the Infants', Children's and Junior Dress Association officially were not signed up through a collective agreement with Local 91, these shops were operating as union shops and under union standards, Harry Greenberg, manager of the Children's Dress Makers' Union, declared in announcing that the signing of the collective agreement with the employers' association has been deferred until after New Year's. Bro. Greenberg declared that there was a rift in the negotiations for the signing of the contract in the trade.

On Nov. 15, almost six weeks after the strike in the children's trade was settled, Local 91, through manager Harry Greenberg, submitted a draft of a proposed agreement to the manufacturers' association for ratification and approval. The contract was similar to the agreement in effect between the Union and the Affiliated Dress Manufacturers, Inc., with some slight changes pertaining to the children's dress trade. In the meantime, employers belonging to the association are paying the workers a \$1 flat increase, as provided for in the decision handed down by Impartial Chairman N. I. Stone, the increase also applying equally to workers on a piece-work basis.

The strike in the children's dress industry was settled on September 4, after a walkout that lasted two weeks, during which time several thousand workers from the organized and independent shops were affected. At the time of the settlement, terms were agreed upon with the proviso that the wage raise and the minimum scales be decided upon by an impartial arbitrator. Dr. Stone, the impartial chairman, handed down his decision in the latter part of October, which resulted in a compromise.

Big Phila. Meeting Endorses Report of Contract Committee

Report of Conference Committee Heard—Problem of Three Shops Referred to Joint Executive Meeting—Jobber Opens Inside Shop, Secretary Davidson Reports.

While there is no work yet in the Philadelphia cloak shops, not even samples to begin the spring season, the interest of the cloakmakers in the organization is by no means abated. The attendance at the general member meeting on Thursday, December 11, in fact, Secretary Simon Davidson writes, has been the biggest in years. Practically the entire membership came to the meeting.

A summarized report of the conference between the Union and the cloak manufacturers was rendered by the conference committee. Bolled down, the complaint of the employers amounts to an assertion that the cost of production of garments in many shops is too high when present subnormal economic conditions are taken into account. The Union's committee promised, therefore, to consent to a revision of individual wage cases wherever the situation might warrant.

The problem of Gamson's, the Modern, and the Rich shops, each offering individual difficulties for solution, was turned over to the Joint Board with full power to act at its discretion.

Union's Economic Problems

There was an intense debate, at this meeting, over the Union's economic problems, a debate that lasted two hours, Secretary Davidson writes. It was finally agreed that, as the matter obviously could not be settled at a membership meeting, it be referred to a joint meeting of all the local executive boards. Such a meeting will be held before 1931 is ushered in.

Lerner Bros. Open Inside Shop

The cloak firm of Lerner Bros., since their inception, were jobbers. Recently, however, they came to the conclusion that inside-made products would create for them a better selling market. For the time being, they are realizing this plan on a small scale, only cutting and sample making being done in the inside premises, but as the season develops additional help will probably be engaged. These arrangements were, of course, made with the consent of the Union. The three contractors who were working until now for this firm will continue to make up the bulk of its work. There is, however, a cutters' problem involved in this case, inasmuch as until now all the cutting formerly done by this firm had been made in its contractors' shops. With cutting now being done inside, the Union found it practical to send up a man to Lerner Bros. who understands the technique of an inside shop. As a result, the contractors' cutters are complaining that the jobs belong to them. The matter undoubtedly will be straightened out by the Union.

The Union also reached an understanding with the firm of Gamson & Son, in accordance with which this firm will remain in business. This is cheerful news, as fifty workers will have places where to earn a living without burdening the rest of the small Philadelphia cloak trade.

Nomination of Officers in January

The Joint Board decided to have nominations for local officers and for Joint Board officers in all locals during the first week in January, with a view of having elections by the middle of the month. All members are entitled to run for any office, and it is expected that there will be sufficient interest displayed to make it an interesting race.

Cloak Tailors and Pressers Install New 1931 Boards

(Continued from Page 1)

Executive Board members: Sam Berman, Frank Blumenkrantz, Sol Goldstein, Michael Goldofsky, Pauline Cohen, Isaac Kaner, Max Dobkin, Morris Blatt, Harry Gardner, Gussie Halperin, Morris Kaplan, Philip Herman, Max Giltenberg, Elias Goldman, Louis Gottlieb, Morris Yanikowitz, Michael Kipnis, Barnett Rosenberg, Hyman Newman, Harry Karp, L. Rashkin, Hyman Liss, Sam Berger and Philip Kohen.

Gingold Again Heads Local 20

The balloting for officers in Local 20, the raincoat makers' organization of New York, which occurred on Saturday, December 6, was one of the most exciting ever conducted by this local. A large assortment of printed "ammunition" in the form of leaflets and slate cards was widely scattered among the workers. The elected officers are:

Manager: David Gingold; Secretary-treasurer, Sal Oleesky; Chairman, Ben Weisberg; Vice-chairman, Joseph Kessler; Executive Board members: Israel Klein, Sol Immerman, David Maslin, Harry Grossman, Max Kaplan, Sam Saroff, Gabriel Levitt, Nathan Friedman, Godel Karp, Issie Levy, Philip Duglin, Jack Weisberg, Louis Zimmerman.

The installation of the Executive Board and of the officers of Local 9 took place on Monday, December 15. The Pressers' Union installed its new officers at an executive meeting, on Tuesday, December 16, while the Raincoat Makers, Local 20, have set Saturday, December 27, as the date for the induction of their new staff.

Local 1 Election in Progress

As these lines are being written, the torrid pre-election campaign which was carried on for several weeks in the cloak operators' local between two contesting groups, has come to an end, and the balloting for officers is proceeding in several parts of the city under the supervision of the G. E. B. committee and the Baldwin group of watchers.

Advance returns indicate that Louis Levy has been elected manager of Local 1 by about 150 votes over Bro. Haines, the present incumbent.

The election in Local 10, Cutters' Union, will take place all day long next Saturday, December 20, in the regular meeting place of that organization, Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks' Place. A complete account of the results of the voting in the above mentioned locals will be given in next issue of "Justice."

Milgrims' Picket Decision No Curb of Right to Picket

(Continued from Page 1)

played in that shop were actually not out on strike yet. The Milgrim workers joined the strike several days later. In other words, the inscription on that banner—"Milgrims Are On Strike"—technically did not on that day correspond to the actual situation, and that is the reason the court assumes the position that the inscription was false and had tended to "work injury to the firm's business."

"It is quite apparent, of course, that if the court had wished to avoid quibbling it could have taken into account the fact that within a few days the Milgrim shop did come down on strike and the inscription on that banner did then accurately describe the situation in that firm's shop. We need not, however, put more into that decision than what it actually contains. It should not, under any circumstances, be considered as an attack on the right of strikers to picket. The judges themselves are quite eager to make this known in several parts of this decision, from which we quote:

"There can be no doubt that the union may, in the proper case, use lawful means to induce the employer to recognize the union that has declared a strike and to employ only union labor. . . . We do not wish our decision to indicate that it is our purpose in any wise to rule on the question which is not before us, whether a union in its efforts to carry out its purposes may call a strike against an employer of non-union labor for the purpose of unionizing that particular shop or trade. . . . It was not an announcement that Milgrim's was a non-union shop."

The Milgrim firm, about two weeks after the strike was declared in its shop, settled with the Union and is now running its factory under standard union conditions.

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Local 22 News

By J. SPIELMAN, Secretary-Manager

Idleness—And a Warning

Unemployment in the dress industry continues unabated. Here and there one may observe some slight signs of a resumption of work but still too meagre to amount to anything of importance.

Aside from the immediate distress to which our members have been exposed as a result of the prolonged idleness, the situation is fraught with danger for quite another reason. We have in mind the possibility of some of our employers taking advantage of the protracted dull period to reduce prices and to lower standards. Under the guise of providing immediate relief and in some instances, as a gesture of benevolence, piece workers in some shops are being urged "to make up a few lots" at reduced prices. Needless to say, the organization will not countenance such a procedure. Our agreements with the employers provide for definite wage scales and other standards of production. These wage scales will remain in force for the duration of the agreement.

We take this opportunity, therefore, to caution our members against the possibility of becoming partners to a breach of contract. They must particularly be on guard when settling prices for piece workers. Settlements must be made only upon the basis which will yield the operator a minimum of \$1.10 per hour and 65c per hour to the finisher. Settlement of prices which do not yield these minimum earnings cannot be regarded as final, and the garments in question must be resettled.

Some Very Successful Meetings

Enforced idleness also has its measure of compensation, at least from the organization's standpoint. One reaches this conclusion after witnessing the splendid attendance at our recent section meetings.

At no time within our recollection have the official meetings of our Union been so well-attended as they are of late. Following the discontinuance of the Downtown Section meeting, we have established a new section in the Bensonhurst and Bath Beach district. The average attendance at the last few meetings is close to 100, and the indications are that before very long the meetings, which are, for the time being, held in the Workmen's Circle Centre, 7212-72nd Street, will have to be moved to larger quarters.

The same is also true of our East New York and Brownsville section, which is now waiting in Skolnick's Mansion, 593 Pennsylvania Avenue. The attendance there is very gratifying.

Of course, Bronx still remains our banner section. This is largely due to the fact that the largest proportion of our members, live in the Bronx. For the past few months this section has met in the Socialist Party Headquarters on Boston Road. The place has now grown much too small, and we have been obliged to look for larger quarters elsewhere.

The same may be said of the meeting of our colored members held last Tuesday, at the Urban League headquarters. The attendance and the spirit at the meeting was splendid in every respect. We shall have more to say about this meeting in our next report.

Are You Paid in Cash?

The closing of one of the largest banks in the city, last week, has added new difficulties to a situation which is already full of woes. Hard-earned pennies, saved only at the cost of whatever little luxuries or recreation a worker and his family may afford, remain, for the present at least, tied up. Just another growing tribute to the insanity of a system which permits private individuals and corporations to gamble with and embezzle other people's money.

Reports are reaching us that "bucket-shop" employers (we have a good many of them) are using the bank failure as an excuse to withhold wages. In fact, there were some instances where employers who had never dealt with the defunct bank, have resorted to this trick. While we do not wish to make matters any worse than they are, we nevertheless, feel that wages must receive preference above all other obligations at all times. Any member of our union whose wages have been withheld, whether because of the bank failure or for any other reason, is requested immediately to call at the office of the Union and report same. Incidentally, it is well to bear in mind that our agreement with the employers specifically forbids the payment of wages in checks.

Toronto Dressmakers Eager To Join Union

Branches of Crafts Organized in Dress Trade—Cloakmakers Also Getting Ready for Agreement Renewal.

Bro. Bernard Shane, International representative and Joint Board manager in Toronto, paid a short visit to New York last week and brought tidings of a lively organizing campaign conducted by the Toronto locals in the dress industry, a campaign which is already producing excellent results. Bro. H. D. Langer, former business agent of the Joint Board, is in charge of the organizing work.

As reported in last issue of "Justice," member meetings of the dressmakers are attracting large numbers, the general meeting on November 20 having been attended by 500 workers. Now, the Toronto locals, the Pressers', No. 92, and the Cutters' Local No. 83, have appointed large committees that are canvassing the non-union dress shops for the purpose of organizing branches of their crafts. Already substantial craft units, according to Bro. Shane, have been formed, and these are continuing the missionary work throughout the trade.

The majority of the 2,500 workers in the dress trade are women, most of them working under very much inferior conditions, as far as wages and hour are concerned, than the workers in the union shops. At the present pace of organizing, Bro. Shane predicts, by the start of the new spring season the majority of the workers in the Toronto dress shops will have been organized. A movement for a general strike will then be put in motion and demands forwarded to all the dress firms.

The negotiations for the renewal of the collective agreement in the cloak trade of Toronto, which expires early in February, will also be started soon. Bro. Shane expressed the belief that no material obstacles will be found in the way of a peaceful resumption of the collective pact, which has proved to be a stabilizing factor in the local cloak industry and has won the approval of the workers.

Boston Items

By ISRAEL FEINBERG, Vice-President

Since my last report, I have been delaying to write hoping that Boston might possibly become an exception to the general rule, namely, that industrial conditions in Boston might prove to be somewhat better than in other centres. But it seems that in our present economic system there are no exceptions. Things in Boston are far from good.

The so-called fall season has not only made it impossible for us to make headway but, as a matter of fact, has placed us financially in a way that new organizing work appears unthinkable. Our employers, furthermore, have been acting in a manner that only adds to the hardships of our workers. I am not ready to say that the employers have done it with malice in their minds. It might perhaps be more correct to state that their actions have been the result of the depression in industry.

We are having the usual quota of complaints here, typical of the slack period, and we are trying to adjust and straighten them out. We had a few cases where the employers wanted to reorganize the shops and cut down their work forces. We succeed, however, in convincing these firms that their requests were not warranted, and I wish to state that these employers displayed a liberal attitude by accepting the Union's viewpoint and a willingness to adjust the matter. This may indicate a new tendency on the part of the Boston employers to deal with the Union on a friendly basis. If this be the case, they will find it an advantageous tendency to all concerned.

"The Voice of the People"

As regards other activity in the local field, I may mention that we had nominations and elections for our Local and Joint Board offices. If the old saying, "the voice of the people is the voice of God," is true, we should presume that our Boston members have picked the best suited people for the proper jobs. Yet, frankly, we are far from satisfied with the number of people that took part in these elections, though it ran up to several hundred. It is important that union members should learn the lesson that if they want their organization to function properly and efficiently, they must take part in large numbers in the elections. As to the new officers of the Boston organization, I hope that they, too, will realize the importance of their positions and conduct themselves in such a way as to set an example for the members at large.

I also want to make mention of the fact that we have organized here, for the winter months, a Social and Educational Committee which has already started its activity. This Committee will arrange entertainments and lectures—offering our members a better understanding of the principles and policies of the Labor movement in general and of our Union in particular. As a start they have arranged a concert and dance for the 12th of December, at Union headquarters, 25 La Grange Street, in the auditorium.

Hope for a Good Season

As I am writing these lines, the trade is dull, but we expect the season to start soon. We hope to have a good season so that our people might have a chance to earn a decent living. I also want to call the attention of our members to be more prompt in their payment of dues and assessments, for it is vital for our Union to be financially in a position to defend the members against any aggression on the part of any employer who might be tempted during these hard times to break away from union control. We have a strike here, at this moment, in the shop of Factor & Friedman, a firm which violated the terms of the agreement and even ignored the decision of the Impartial Chairman. We feel confident, however, that this firm will soon acknowledge that it had acted not very wisely.

NAGLER WARNS CLOAKMAKERS AGAINST CHECKS FOR PAY


Brother Isidore Nagler, General Manager of the New York Cloak Joint Board, this week issued a warning to cloakmakers, especially those who work in contractor shops, not to accept checks for wages.

Wages must be paid in cash, Brother Nagler reminds the workers, and the Union is finding it more and more difficult to collect pay in cases where bad checks had been issued by insolvent employers. This is even more important now, at the end of the season, when the number of firms going out of business is high and the risk of accepting a check is therefore greater.

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With the New York Dress Joint Board

By ANTONIO CRIVELLO, Secretary-Treasurer

Within the past month, the Dress and Waist Joint Board has held two regular meetings, one on November 19, and the other on December 3, in the Council Room of Local 22, 60 West 35th Street. Both meetings chiefly concerned themselves with action on the reports of the Board of Directors' meetings submitted for approval in regular order.

A summary of these activities, approved by the Board of Directors and by the Joint Board, follows:

A. Staum, manager of the Jobbers' Department, reported that he settled with the Ar-Fish Dress Co., working for the Mutual Dress. Also that, after the Lorbrun Dress discontinued receiving work from Harry Frank, jobber, he settled with the former firm. Due to the fact that another partner had joined Wilk Bros. this firm discontinued its \$4.75 line and took on a \$3.75 line, it had at the same time locked out its workers. The office has been trying since then to adjust this matter. The firm claims that it intends to become a jobber.

H. Miller, of the Affiliated Department, reported that the Lady ReJane Dress Co. locked out its workers on the claim that they intend to become jobbers. The firm was declared on strike, pending further efforts to adjust the difficulty.

Open Shops Unionized

Bro. Max Guzman, manager of the Organization Department, in a report submitted to General Manager Hochman, covering two months, stated that his department had stopped several shops, the majority of them open shops, and succeeded in reaching settlements with most of them. Five of them joined the Affiliated Association and the rest joined the Dress Manufacturers' Association. The union workers in the settled shops were distributed among the locals, as follows: Local 22, 193 members; Local 59, 76; Local 35, 39; Local 10, 18; clockmakers, 19. The rest of the workers, who were in the majority non-union, were distributed among the locals upon payment of initiation fees when their shops were settled.

At the second meeting of the Joint Board, on December 3, another lengthy report was received from Bro. A. Staum, covering the activity of the Jobbers' Department for two and a half months.

108 Complaints Adjusted

Bro. Staum informed the Board that at the time he took charge of the Jobbers' Department the office of the Impartial Chairman was investigating the books of the members of the Wholesale Dress Manufacturers' Association. The investigation disclosed the fact that the jobbers were dealing with a number of non-union shops. The Union, during this period, filed 108 complaints with the Jobbers' Association, divided as follows: Sending work to non-union houses—62; employing non-union sample-makers—33; claims for wages—8; and sending work to striking shops—5. These complaints eventually were all settled in favor of the Union, except where it was found out that the complaints were not supported by facts.

The following shops were organized during this period through the jobbers:

Arfish Dress, Lorberfeld & Port, Bogner & Gottlieb, Sadora Dress, Al Gee Dress, F & C Dress, Fusco & Kraus, Kleinman Dress, I. Seidler, A. Friedman, A. Friedberg, Lorbrun Dress, Best Sale Dress, Dixie Belle Frocks, Penn Dress, Stadler Dress, Aetna Dress, Equitable Dress, Friedman & Meyers, Schwartz & Eliner.

Of the above-named shops, the following are uncontrollable:

Lorberfeld & Port, F & C Dress, A. Friedman, Best Sale Dress, Equitable Dress, Friedman & Meyers.

Upon filing complaints with the jobbers that the above-named shops are non-union, and after instructing them that they could not deal with non-union shops, these shops were organized.

The following shops were organized through the efforts of the Jobbers' Department in conjunction with the Organization Department:

Bar Mar Dress, W. H. Levy, Adeline Dress, Dor-eta Dress, Lido Dress, Phyllis Dress, Kadetz Bros. Through the efforts of the Jobbers' Department, in conjunction with the Out-of-Town Department, the following two shops were organized: Keyport Skirt & Dress, Sonia Dress & Waist Co.

During this time, the following two jobbers were

A Unionist Looks at Unemployment

By SALVATORE NINFO

Economists and sociologists are feverishly trying to pry into the causes of the present crisis in industry. Varied explanations and conjectures are being advanced on all sides purporting to throw light on the background of the general depression which has thrown so many wage earners and salaried people out of employment and painful occupations. Of these causes responsible for the industrial debacle the chief are:

- World war debts;
- The American protective tariff;
- Breakdown in currency standards;
- Lowering of consumer power in many lands.

Being only a trade unionist, one whose immediate contacts are with labor organizations that are striving day in and out to protect the daily needs of the working masses without delving into long-range problems and possibilities, I frankly confess my unpreparedness to deal with causes that are intellectually weighty and complex. Nevertheless, dealing largely with the human element in industry and daily contacting with men and women who are the chief victims of the crisis that is upsetting life and livelihood in our society, I have had the opportunity of observing facts—lots of them—and of watching, in my own limited way, the phenomena that are creating this very unemployment and its accompaniment—misery and want—and these observations, I believe, entitle me to a summary of my opinion on this subject.

Machines at Work

Let me tell you of an incident, which perhaps will interest you as it interested me while I observed and reflected upon it. One morning, last August, on my way to the office, some noisy blasting in a street near my home attracted my attention. Turning around I noticed two huge machines in operation on some sewer construction or repair work. The street block was being ripped wide open and only two workmen and a foreman were handling the entire job.

That same evening, on my way home, I found as I was passing that same street that all was again in perfect order. The huge pile of stone and dirt had disappeared and the street looked as if it never had been touched. Just imagine what a prodigious amount of work these machines directed by those four men had performed in the course of but a few hours!

That set me to rapid thinking. Here—without the benefit of special research and preparation in the science of economics—was a glaring example of what machines can do in a few hours—work that would have required weeks of labor but a few years ago. I thought of other industries, particularly of the needle trades which I know so well and which interest me so much. Machines for button sewing, for felling and basting have been invented doing away with so much tedious and heavy work in finishing garments. Pressing machines, with operations requiring but moments, flatten the most stubborn lapels and eliminate so much of hand-basting and other minute and time-consuming work in vogue before.

The Key to the Situation

I thought of farmers and farming. The great tractors, the huge plowing, seeding and mowing ma-

chineses which have driven out so many thousands of farm hands and are doing the planting and reaping of our harvests at such remarkable economy. Here was the key to the situation, here was the answer to the misery of unemployment! Common sense and an eye that sees things without a film can quickly see that the development of modern machinery has thrown on the industrial scrap-heap hundreds of thousands of workers, that this progress of industry is continuing to do it at an appalling pace, and that this technological advance is responsible for our ever-increasing bread lines.

What is the remedy? Machines are fast discarding man-power from our industries, yet workers are still needed to regulate production. How shall this work be controlled, how shall we in our present-day economic structure so regulate it as to make it possible to men and women who depend on their work for a livelihood to exist not only despite the machine progress but with its aid?

A Trade-Unionist's Answer

The first answer of a trade unionist, of course, is—build up a solid organization in every trade and industry. And in the process of building and perfecting your union body, bear in mind that the paramount problem today is—the work hours.

A Trade-Unionist's Answer

A shorter work day or a shorter work week!

The machines, while they have robbed so many wage earners of their jobs, have nevertheless, been a blessing to humanity. Modern standards of living are the result of machine production. It is up to us to harness machinery for the benefit of all mankind. It is up to us to see that machinery does not victimize humanity but becomes the benefactor of all of us. A shorter workday, continually being shortened to meet the increased volume of production made possible by machines, is the logical and practical answer to this challenge which the machines have thrown down. It sounds like a tremendous problem—it perhaps is. But it is surely one that should be solved by earnest men and women, by people who would not see their fellow workers starve because of the advent of a new age in industry, the machine age.

For example, if a pressing machine operating 24 hours, has made it possible today to meet the needs of a small cloak shop where formerly four pressers were employed by hand, it is quite obvious that a shift of four men each working 6 hours directing this machine could achieve this work in the same amount of time. Mind you, I am not arguing here for an eight hour, a six hour, or a four hour day. It is immaterial to me, at this moment, whether this problem is to be figured out on the basis of day hours or weekly hours. What interests me chiefly is that the work hours in the shop, factory or mill should be divided among all the workers of that shop, factory or mill under the improved machine production after the maximum of work-hours had been established.

A Life-Saving Remedy

Clearly, it is a question of a progressive reduction of work hours to suit the quickened tempo of machine progress. Nothing else but that. And this question is today already overshadowing in importance all other problems concerning industry. It is being discussed in all serious organs of public opinion, even in the most reactionary of them. Law-makers, financiers, ministers of the gospel and editors are beginning to admit, some of them reluctantly, that the present crisis and all future crises will never find a solution unless the workday is progressively reduced.

The immensely increased interest in this problem has prepared the way for the trade union movement to press the solution of unemployment in the direction of a shorter workday. The labor unions should not find it difficult to secure the approval, if not the cooperation, of all alert and sound thinking elements in our national life for the enforcement of a shorter working day in industry. Union leaders should keep these thoughts before the membership of their organizations constantly in the forefront. Knowing the facts, keeping in close touch with the progress of machinery in their own trades and agreeing upon a sound program of shortening the hours of labor to eliminate this tragedy of unemployment due to over-production and its immediate result—underconsumption, will prepare us intelligently for the practical introduction of this life-saving remedy in the workshops of industry where we must make a living for ourselves and our dependents.

unionized: F. E. D. Dress, Wm. Avedon. This was done through the Contractors' Department. After striking the jobbers a few days, the jobbers joined the Wholesale Dress Manufacturers' Association.

Bro. Staum further reported that during these two and a half months 19 complaints were received and adjusted in independent shops. Fifty-eight visits were made to independent and open shops and 21 shop meetings were held.

Shops on Strike

Bro. Guzman reported that the Wilk Bros., Lady Re Jane and the Ravenhue Dress were still on strike. The La Bee and the Navarre Dress, each employing about 25 people, were settled.

In a later report of the Board of Directors, Bro. Stoller, manager of the Affiliated Department, declared that the Ravenhue Dress has become a jobber, and that the Weston Dress Co. discontinued operation of its factory. There is also trouble in Hackmeier & Hume owing to the removal of four machines by the firm on the ground that it requires the space for a sample room. Bro. Stoller refused to sanction this change, until the firm first puts the machines back into their places.

In This Corner

By M. D. DANISH

THE AGREEMENT reached last week by the representatives of the twenty-one railway labor unions whose contracts with the railways affect 1,600,000 men, on a program that would restore 150,000 laid-off railroad workers to service is significant not only because of its direct importance to the unemployed in the transportation industry but of its general effect on long-range planning for curbing of unemployment.

The outstanding feature of the railwaymen's program is its emphasis on the six-hour day, on the basis of the prevailing pay for the present eight hours for the men in the transportation service, and the five-day week for most of the men in the shop service and in maintenance work. Discarding all palliatives and half-measures for unemployment relief, the railway unions have thus come out unequivocally for shorter hours as the only effective measure that would reemploy the idle men and would at the same time not affect earning standards.

Within a few days, it is expected, the executives of the railway brotherhoods will meet the presidents of the leading railways to consider the program formulated by the unions. If the demands of the unions are refused, the next step will be for one of the brotherhoods to serve demands on one of the carriers and carry the case up, through the machinery provided for in the Railway Labor act, to the point of mediation. There is, of course, a likelihood that the railways will not at once accede to the six-hour day and the five-day week on the basis of the old wages. Chances are that the unions' program will undergo some change through federal mediation. The very fact, however, that the railway unions regarded as the most conservative organizations of labor, have boldly come to the front as the advocates of the shorter work-day as the chief cure for unemployment, should encourage labor unions in other industries to push forward shorter hours as the only radical policy in dealing with unemployment as a national disease.

WHEN SOME THREE WEEKS ago it became known that District Attorney Crain, in response to aroused public anger over disclosures of depredations by organized "rackets" and blackmailers in a number of New York trades, had summoned a group of influential citizens to a meeting to form a "committee of public safety," the announcement did not create any particular furor. In fact, a great many of the more sceptically-minded just dismissed this appeal for "civic cooperation" as an empty gesture.

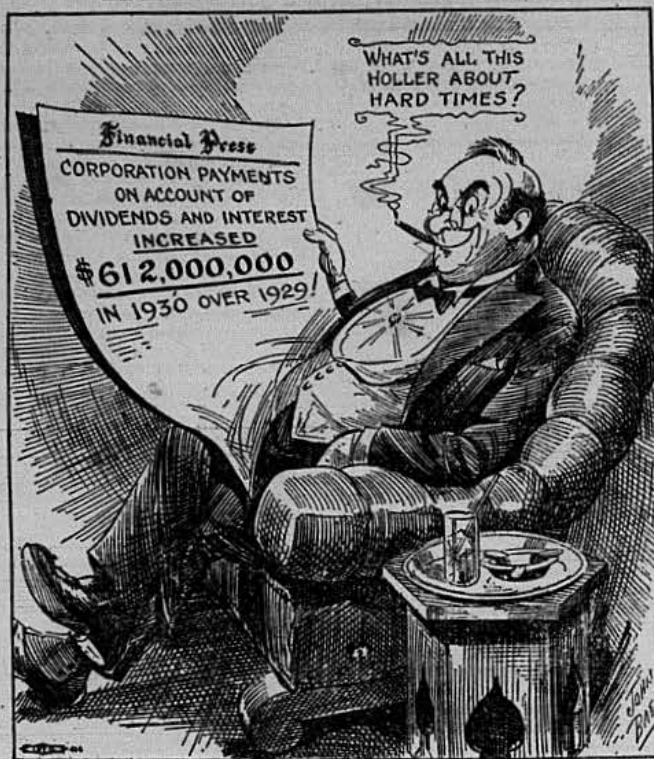
It would seem at this moment that the sceptics who have at the outset predicted that Mr. Crain's mountain would bring forth a mouse have not been shooting too far afield. As if purposely disregarding the judgment of the labor men who came to the first meeting of the "committee on public safety" that these "rackets" are supported by non-union firms as "insurance" against unionization and against higher work standards in their shops, the District Attorney, as his first step to "combat racketeering," decided to ask the grand jury to indict two leading officers of the Pocket Book Workers' International Union, men highly regarded in the New York labor movement for their uprightiness and idealism, former alderman Barnett Wolf and Samuel Lederman. It goes without saying that the grand jury promptly acquiesced in Crain's request.

It is futile even to discuss the basis of the allegation against these two leaders of the pocket book workers—the complaint of a certain "skilled union worker" that because he was "in bad" with some of the "higher ups" in the union he had been unable to hold down a steady job. If this case ever comes to trial, both Wolf and Lederman will in all probability be absolved of the grotesque charges laid at their doors.

It is illuminating, nevertheless, that of all the mass of evidence against "racketeering" which has supposedly come streaming into the office of the District Attorney for many weeks past, he should have pounced upon the officers of the Pocket Book Workers' Union on the palpably worthless allegations of a would-be "union" worker.

It is so typical of Tammany's alleged friendship for labor, so typical of the lack of sincerity which characterizes each of the "public movements" with which from time to time, it attempts to placate popular indignation!

HE HASN'T HEARD OF THE DEPRESSION!



—Labor, by John M. Baer.

EDWARD A. FILENE, noted Boston retail merchant, has come out the other day with a new slogan for "restoring the nation's buying power"—a "Sell Now" campaign. In brief, Mr. Filene urges producers and distributors, in other words, manufacturers and retailers, to make prices low enough on generally used commodities to stimulate buying.

One of the chief inferences of Mr. Filene's suggestion, and as one of the greatest retailers in the land he ought to know, is that the middleman, the jobber, the merchant today is holding back whatever buying power there is in the country by unreasonably high prices. The middleman, of every category, could cut down prices materially and make commodities more accessible to the consuming masses and still make a profit. No "buy now" campaigns, no sales stimulation by high-pressure advertising will help distribute this buying power unless the middlemen and the merchants come across with real, drastic reductions of prices, such reductions as the average man and woman would recognize and appreciate at once.

Mr. Filene's proposal to the retailers to offer their merchandise to the consumers at lower than "rock bottom" prices so that many more people will be able to buy more things, however, carries along with it another suggestion which is by far even more interesting and sound. Filene advises the manufacturer to "make wages as high as they can be made." It is not at all a question of generosity but a case of enlightenment selfishness. High wages cause an employer to look to better production methods and the elimination of waste, and high wages create a higher buying power, which eventually results in employment-giving power.

It is doubtful whether Mr. Filene's advice to the retailers to slash down prices to the consumer would fall upon open ears. The retailer recognizes only one compelling force in price-fixing and that is competition. And the big jobbing and wholesale interests which control price-fixing and keep the consumer at their mercy have neither the collective intelligence nor the vision to follow the line of action suggested by the great Boston merchant. Mr. Filene's insistence on maintaining wages at their highest level as a means of creating a higher buying power, however, stamps him as an observer of superior intelligence and a sound student of business and industrial conditions.

TWO ADDITIONAL DISTINGUISHED voices were heard last week urging a system of national unemployment insurance. One was that of Dr. Robert A. Millikan, former Nobel prize winner and one of America's greatest physicists, who told the Association of Life Insurance Presidents that "business and industry must create a system of scientific planning and develop insurance for unemployment, sickness

and old age" or these functions would be taken from them by government. The "brutal fact" of overproduction cannot wait long for a solution, Professor Millikan told the insurance chiefs, if the present form of society was to survive.

And speaking before the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Dr. Royal Meeker, former chief of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, in advocating a ten-year plan of public works, came out even in more emphatic words for a system of job insurance, both as a remedy and as a preventive for unemployment. There is no reason why the nation as a whole could not insure its citizens against unemployment, as it might against illness or any other industrial accident. "Make no mistake," Dr. Meeker told the engineers, "we are paying unemployment insurance right now. We are paying it in breadlines and soup kitchens and charity handouts. But unemployment insurance on a national scale will cost less than the American dole system and will be spread evenly over the population and industry."

There is a wholesome thought in Dr. Meeker's remarks which the opponents of unemployment insurance, in and outside the trade union movement, might find difficult to brush aside. Those who would not like to see such a system of job insurance introduced on the ground that it would be tantamount to a "dole" system might be reminded that we have already a dole system in operation in the form of humiliating charity handouts, our only means at hand to mitigate the ravages of unemployment.

THE DEATH of Mother Jones removes from the American labor scene a legendary figure.

The immigrant girl, of sturdy revolutionary Irish stock, who brushed aside the terrible personal blows which life dealt her in her early days, blows which would have crushed a less vigorous mind, has been for the past sixty years the Joan of Arc of the American coal diggers, their vanguard leader in every arena where the fight was the fiercest and danger the greatest!

Mother Jones, as she was lovingly known to union labor men and women all over the land, was in the noblest sense of the term a "woman unafraid." In the service of humanity she was never afraid of jails, of the courts, of the bayonet-bearing militia. Over and over again she was sentenced to prison terms; she never ran away. She stayed in jail until her enemies opened the doors.

The memory of this crusader for the submerged will endure in the hearts of millions as long as the struggle for human freedom lasts, as long as men and women who toil for the mere crumbs of life—those whom she so unselfishly loved—are enlisted in the battle for their own liberation.

With the N. Y. Cloak & Skirt Joint Board

By MORRIS J. ASHBES, Secretary-Treasurer

A regular meeting of the Joint Board Cloak, Skirt & Reefer Makers' Union, I. L. G. W. U., was held Wednesday, December 3, 1930, 7:30 P. M., at the International Auditorium, 3 West 16th Street. Chairman, Phillip Ansel.

The Board of Directors submits the following reports:

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held Monday, November 24th, 7:30 P. M. sharp in the International Office, 3 West 16th Street. Chairman, Alex Student.

Brother Ashbes, secretary-treasurer, reports that the Finance Committee, acting upon the request of Local No. 65, Los Angeles, decided to donate \$100 to the strikers of that city.

Managers' Reports:

Brother Lefkovits, Manager of the Jobbers' Department, reports that his office has been busily engaged with payroll cases. During the past week, five such cases were referred to his Department and everything is being done to expedite the collection of these monies.

Brother Sorkin, Manager of the Industrial Council Department, reports that a number of Industrial Council firms are going out of business, while others are joining the Merchants' Association. In the latter cases, the Union is contesting the applications of these firms—and is referring them to the Impartial Chairman for adjudication.

Brother Sorkin also reports about his investigation of the case of Wm. Badger, about which an inquiry was made sometime ago at the Board of Director's meeting. Information reached him that an unofficial reorganization has taken place in the above firm by mutual consent of the firm and the workers, without the Union's knowledge.

Having ascertained these facts, the Union demanded the replacement of a number of discharged workers on the ground that the reorganization was not authorized by the Union. The firm expressed its willingness to comply with this demand at the beginning of the Spring season. At present, the firm employs 6 operators, 4 samplemakers, 16 finishers, 5 pressers, 6 cutters, 2 examiners. This case will be followed up.

General Manager's Report:

Brother Nagler reports that the Children's Dress-makers' Union, Local No. 91, requests that we permit them the use of our Brownsville Office because their present condition necessitates some economy on their part. He recommends that such request be granted.

Brother Nagler also comments on Brother Sorkin's report. He states that a number of firms served notice upon their workers that they are either going out of business or about to become jobbers. As far as the cases of manufacturers, who applied for membership in the Merchants' Association, he has nothing to add to Brother Sorkin's report. In the cases of firms that claim to be going out of business, we must await further developments. Past experience disclosed that, in a number of such cases, shops were not given up entirely, but were closed temporarily, pending a dissolution of partnership or reorganization of the firms. This same condition may be prevalent in a number of our current cases. We are following them up and will give them the necessary attention.

The Secretary then reads the next Board of Director's report held on Dec. 1 at 3 W. 16th Street, with Sam Berman as chairman.

The I. J. Rubin Case

Brother Nagler gave an account of the Impartial Chairman's decision in the case of I. J. Rubin, jobber. Before reading the decision, he gave the following review of the case:

This firm had a contractor on its premises named Erlich & Saltzman. Recently the contractor's lease expired and the jobber leased the space to another contractor named I. M. Roller, formerly of Roller & Rosenberg, dropped members of the American Association. This contractor applied for reinstatement as a member in the American Association, to which the Union objected on the ground that he owes wages to the former workers of Roller & Rosenberg and that the shop, which is now occupied by this contractor, belongs, in reality, to the jobber, I. J. Rubin, who is a member of the Merchants' Association.

Simultaneously with this objection, we also filed a complaint of lockout against the jobber, I. J. Rubin, demanding the reinstatement of the work-

ers employed formerly by Erlich & Saltzman. The jobber denied being the direct employer of these workers and the case was referred to the Impartial Chairman.

After hearing the arguments on both sides, the Impartial Chairman rendered a decision in which he did not sustain our charge of lockout against I. J. Rubin on the following grounds:

"At present there is nothing in the agreements which says that a jobber may not sublet to a sub-manufacturer or that if he does so that workers must be treated just as though employed directly by him. All that a trial board can now do is to seek to get at the real facts and establish responsibilities in accordance with what it finds.

"In the present case the essence of direct employment cannot be shown or inferred. The contention of the Union, therefore, cannot be upheld.

"The firm will be expected to live up to its assurances, given at the hearing, that it will not employ cutters."

Brother Nagler added that the Impartial Chairman's decision in the case of I. J. Rubin will have no bearing upon other cases of a similar nature. The Union adopted a policy sometime ago to place upon jobbers the responsibility for shops maintained on their premises by so-called contractors. In the case of I. J. Rubin, our contention was not sustained, due to the fact that we were unable to prove that the jobber was the direct employer of the workers in question. We will, however, pursue our adopted policy in the future, as we did in the past. Our contention is that the inside contracting shops belong in reality to the jobbers, notwithstanding the fact that they are conducted by contractors. The jobbers must therefore bear the full responsibility for such shops. With the exception of the above case, the Impartial Chairman upheld our contention in a number of cases and his decisions were in our favor, as has been reported to this Board from time to time.

Further Away From Free Competition

By HARRY W. LAIDLER, Ph.D.

THE period 1921-1929 is the third significant period of consolidation in the history of America. The first took place in the eighties, and saw the emergence of the Standard Oil, the whiskey and other trusts. The second occurred during McKinley's administration and was brought to an end by the big stick of Theodore Roosevelt. From 1919 to 1928, inclusive, no less than 7,249 mergers and acquisitions were recorded. These mergers were especially conspicuous in the electrical and gas and radio industries among public utilities, in entertainment, in food products, in marketing—where chain stores are now doing over one-fifth of the total business and one corporation has a turnover of over a billion dollars a year—and in banking. In 1929 only 22 mergers were recorded in public utilities. In 1926 and 1927 the numbers averaged nearly 1,000.

As a result of the merger movement of the last generation, we now find, in the words of Professors Jenks and Clark, that "everywhere, in manufacturing, distribution, retailing, competition has given way to some degree of industrial monopoly."

At present, two corporations now own about a half of the iron ore in the United States. Four corporations dominate over eighty per cent of the anthracite field. One great corporate system controls over three-fourths of the telephone service in the United States. Another corporation controls a major part of the telegraph service. Five or six corporations control more than half of the electricity generated in the United States. In steel, in oil, in many other industries, great concentration of industrial control exists.

In banking billion dollar banking houses have made their appearance, and chain and branch banking has led to increased concentration in financial control. The first 250 banks of the country, constituting but one per cent of the banks, have at present resources of nearly thirty-five billion dollars, nearly one-half of the total resources of the 25,000 banks of the United States. Twenty-four New York banks, or less than one-tenth of one per cent of the total, have combined resources of about 15 per cent of the nation's total, while their capitalization is

almost as great as that of the 20,000 banks situated in towns of 10,000 population or less.

Such private banking houses as J. P. Morgan & Company are greatly extending their control over industry through the development of such investment trusts as the United Corporation and such holding companies as Standard Brands.

Financial and industrial control is being centralized through interlocking directorates. In 1930, Albert H. Wiggin of the Chase National Bank was serving on nearly 50 boards of public utility, manufacturing and financial concerns. The name of Samuel Insull appeared on over eighty boards; of Richard Mellon on nearly 50; of William Mellon on 33; P. A. Rockefeller on 68; of Oris P. Van Swerfing on 32; of Patrick E. Crowley on over 70; Sidney Z. Mitchell on 35, and of Charles E. Mitchell on 32. Many are represented by dummies on important industrial boards.

The movement toward the revision of the Sherman Anti-Trust Law is constantly increasing in strength. The trust-busting era is nearly over and the coming struggle is likely to be between those who believed that regulation of private monopoly would adequately safeguard the consumer and those who are convinced that we should advance from private monopoly to public monopoly.

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Montreal Locals Nominate Candidates

From Montreal, Vice-President Max Amdur, local joint council manager, writes as follows:

"Like in all cloak centers, the situation here, between seasons, is far from bright. The employers, more than at any other time, have to be kept in check now. It stands to reason that their appetites grow with hard times.

"We are having nominations for offices in the locals and for the Joint Council. The Council decided, as a matter of economy, to have only one business agent in the field. Brother Albert Eaton, of Local 19, is quite likely to be one of the candidates for this post.

"The election will take place in a couple of weeks. I will notify you of the results in time."

2 WEEKS IN LOCAL 10

By SAMUEL PERLMUTTER.

A Symposium on Unemployment

The Good and Welfare meeting held on Monday, December 8, assumed the character of a symposium, in which a large number of members participated.

The discussion, with a time limit of ten minutes for each speaker, centered around the question of unemployment, and among those who took part in it, in addition to a large number of members from the floor, were Manager Samuel Perlmutter and International General Secretary David Dubinsky.

Brother Samuel Perlmutter, in touching upon the situation in the cloak and dress industries, pointed out that while the cutters, too, have been affected by the present conditions of unemployment, nevertheless, as far as union standards are concerned, Local 10 has held more than its own, and, as compared with other crafts in the industry, our standards are superior. He further stressed the organization activities that are being conducted by the two Joint Boards, as well as by the International. There are very few labor organizations in the United States, Brother Perlmutter stated, which spend as much money for organizing purposes as the I. L. G. W. U. Ours is a problem of constant organization, for cloaks and dresses are articles the manufacture of which can easily be removed from one section to another. The organization must, therefore, be ever on the alert and watch where the employers send their work in order to prevent the spread of non-union shops. With conditions as they prevail to-day, this task becomes increasingly difficult for the Union to achieve.

Local 10 must begin to consider the establishment of a fund to insure its members against unemployment, and this, Brother Perlmutter stated, is something that the International is taking under advisement now. In the very near future a plan to that effect will be submitted to the membership for consideration.

Dubinsky Urges Initiative for Jobless Fund

Brother David Dubinsky, in addressing the local, declared that while the International is now considering measures for unemployment relief, Local 10, as a local of sound financial standing and prestige, ought to start at once action on its own initiative for the institution of an unemployment insurance fund. As manager of Local 10, he had thought very often of the advisability of such a fund, but as conditions then did not warrant it as badly as they do to-day, he hesitated to recommend it to the membership. At this time, however, more than ever before, such a fund is imperative, and if, out of this meeting, there will grow up a strong sentiment and demand for unemployment insurance, it will, indeed, have served its purpose.

Evidently, the members, as shown by their applause of the remarks of Brothers Perlmutter and Dubinsky, received the suggestion very favorably. Among others who took part in this discussion, were Brothers Arthur Weinstein, Herman Kanson, Sol Levien, Sam Martin, Harry Reichel and Isidor Goze.

A motion was presented by Brother Adolph Sonnen that a resolution be sent to the Governor and to the Supreme Court of California protesting against the unjust imprisonment of Mooney and Billings, who are still being kept in jail after it had been proven that all the witnesses who testified against them had given perjured testimony. This motion was unanimously carried.

Perlmutter Appeals to Members to Join Cutters' Branch of Workmen's Circle

A number of our members have become tubercular in the past few months. Most of these cases have, however, upon examination been found to be in incipient stages and, therefore, curable. The difficulty, however, lies in the fact that very few of our members belong to organizations that maintain sanitariums where tubercular cures might be effected.

We, therefore, call upon those members of our local who are not as yet affiliated with any such fraternal organization immediately to take advantage of the opportunity to join the cutters' branch of the Workmen's Circle, which was organized last January. Our records show that almost all of our members who suffered from tuberculosis were cured in the sanitarium of the Workmen's Circle, located at Liberty, N. Y.

Aside from this, there are many other important benefits to be derived from joining this organization. We urge each and every member to hasten to join this branch. All information regarding details concerning the benefits of this organization will be supplied by the officers of the Cutters' Branch of the Workmen's Circle, who can always be found at the office of Local 10. They are Brothers Philip Orelsky, Max L. Gordon, and Meyer Katz, secretary of this branch.

Election of Officers for 1931, Saturday, December 20, 1930

The election of officers of Local 10, which occurs every year on the third Saturday in December, as provided for in our Constitution, is a duty which every member interested in the affairs of his organization must perform. The officers of the organization are those who conduct the routine work of the Union, and the Executive Board is the body that legislates for the entire membership.

The members of Local 10 have always demonstrated a keen interest in the life of their organization by casting a large vote. Casting a large vote does not only indicate a desire to elect competent men to office, but it also shows signs of a living, active and militant organization. A small vote, on the other hand, proves lack of interest and stagnation. The fact that the major local offices are not contested is no reason why our members should neglect their duty to vote in the coming election. Every member is therefore urged to come down to Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place, on Saturday, December 20, to cast his vote without fail.

Polls Will Be Open from Noon to 6:30 P. M.

This is in accordance with a recent by-law adopted by our local to extend the voting time by one-half hour, in order to make it possible for those of our members who observe the Sabbath to cast their votes in this election.

Come without fail, and bring your dues book with you.

The following are additional amendments to the constitution, as proposed by the constitution committee, to be submitted to the membership for adoption.

ARTICLE 8

Section 6—Any suspended member wishing to be reinstated in this Union shall pay all monies due at the time of his suspension together with all dues and assessments which are levied during the period of his suspension, unless otherwise decided by the Executive Board.

Section 7—A member who has been dropped from the roll, can rejoin this Union by paying the current initiation fee, together with all monies due this Union at the time his name was dropped from the roll, unless otherwise decided by the Executive Board.

Section 13—No receipt for money received shall be recognized as valid by this Union, unless signed by the Manager-Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE 9

Section 1—The minimum rates of wages and maximum of hours of work of members of this Union shall be fixed by Trade Agreements with the approval of this Union.

ARTICLE 10

Section 1—No member shall be permitted to accept employment by the day unless otherwise provided for by Trade Agreements with the approval of this Union.

ARTICLE 11

Section 1—Overtime may be permitted on the first five working days of the week, for not more than Two and One Half hours each day, unless otherwise prescribed by Trade Agreements with the approval of this Union.

ARTICLE 12

Section 1—The following words to be eliminated: "Or to the General Secretary of the Union."

Section 2—The following words to be eliminated: "In accordance with Article 8, Section 1, of the Constitution."

ARTICLE 13

Section 1—Bills of committee's expenses shall be referred to the Executive Board and must be presented not later than two weeks after such expense have been incurred and must bear the signature of the Chairman and Secretary of such committee.

ARTICLE 15

Section 1—This constitution shall not be repealed, amended, suspended or annulled except by a two-third vote of the members present at a special meeting for that purpose, and such at least at one meeting prior to the one at which action is taken.

ARTICLE 1

Section 1—The President shall jointly with the Manager-Secretary-Treasurer sign all checks authorized by the Executive Board.

He shall appoint all officers and committees, not otherwise provided for in the Constitution, with the approval of the membership.

He shall be ex-officio member on all committees and for his services during his elective term, he shall receive the sum of \$200.00.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1

Section 5—It shall be the duty of the Manager-Secretary-Treasurer to organize the trades, adjust shop complaints of members and attend to such other business of the Union, as the latter may direct.

He shall receive his instructions from the Executive Board, and shall render reports to same.

He shall have charge of the Business Agents, Controllers and Office Help.

He shall be the custodian of the funds and securities of this Union, except as otherwise directed by the Executive Board.

Health Center Will Aid Labor Unions to Care for Unemployed Sick Members

A conference of labor representatives and of the Board of Directors of the Union Health Center was held recently to discuss in what way and by what means the Center could assist its affiliated unions in the present crisis. Unemployment carries with it a great deal of sickness and competent care in such an emergency is of prime importance. Indeed, there are very few labor unions today that are adequately prepared to handle sickness among their members. The larger unions, it is true, do give relief in time of need. But the absence of systematic and permanent provisions when sickness enters the homes of trade union members is now felt more keenly than in normal times.

The results of the conference are embodied in the following resolution which was sent to all the labor unions of New York City:

That the Union Health Center should inquire of its affiliated unions in order to ascertain whether or not there exists a need for such special services.

That if such a need exists the Union Health Center should establish such special services without charge to the patients—and with a very nominal charge to the unions, this charge to include medicine.

That the Union Health Center is the logical institution which can best deal with health problems confronting organized labor at all times, but especially so at this time.

That unions in need of such service should get in touch with the director of the institution, Dr. George M. Price.

The Union Health Center desires the unions to know that it stands ready and willing to assist them in their effort to care for their sick members.

A course of lectures on "Labor and Health" is being arranged by the Union Health Center, to start after the first of the year, and to be delivered by specialists in the various branches of medicine. These lectures will be held on Fridays at the headquarters of the Center, 131 E. 17th Street. Watch for further announcements.

A spring conference of nationally known labor leaders and leaders of the medical profession, is planned by the Union Health Center. Already a number of people have signified their willingness to sponsor the project. Union and other organizations are asked to let the Union Health Center know if they intend to participate in the conference.

PAULINE M. NEWMAN.

CUTTERS OF LOCAL 10 ATTENTION

INSTALLATION MEETING
will be held

Monday, December 29

at
ARLINGTON HALL
23 St. Marks Place
at 7:30 P. M. Sharp

At this meeting, the installation of the newly elected officers will take place, and the appointment of additional members to the Executive Board will be made.

Benj. Schlesinger, President of the I. L. G. W. U. David Dubinsky, Secretary-Treasurer of the I. L. G. W. U. Brother Isidore Nagler, General Manager of the Joint Board Cloakmakers' Union, and Julius Hochman will address the members at this meeting.

Each and every member is therefore urged to attend this meeting without fail.

Books will be stamped signifying attendance, and the \$1.00 fine for non-attendance will be STRICTLY ENFORCED

Editorial Page of JUSTICE

AN UNEMPLOYMENT relief fund for the members of our Union in New York is an urgent matter. At its October meeting, on the eve of the slack season, the General Executive Board deemed it practicable to postpone action for a time.

A Relief Fund for Jobless Members

Within a few weeks, however, it would be possible to call the locals and the joint boards together to decide upon a concrete plan.

For it is daily becoming more and more evident that, even if the coming Spring season proves to be a good season, there will be enough unemployment in our trades to give our organization serious concern. It is a matter of common knowledge that our industry in New York has not been able for a number of years past to absorb the full supply of the workers in the market. Our locals, which are daily wrestling with the task of supplying work for their members, are all too familiar with this constantly growing fringe of jobless and half-employed in our midst.

The argument that such a situation should be met by the industry as a whole—fundamentally true and indisputable—is no answer to this question at this moment. Right now we have no unemployment insurance fund in our industry. Despite our insistent warning, our employers, last year, selfishly disregarded our demand for the immediate establishment of such a fund in our trades on the basis of a charge upon the industry. In an urgent hour like the present, however, it is futile to seek refuge in speculation of what might have been.

We must prepare for the eventuality of distressing need. There is not much time to be lost, and every available resource should be mobilized to that end. Our unions, in the past, have blazed the way in meeting relief emergencies for themselves and for workers in other industries. There is no reason to doubt that, in this case too, they will live up to their splendid traditions of efficient self-help and true fraternity.

TORONTO, ONE of the liveliest spots on the map of our International Union today, is beginning an earnest drive to unionize the local dress market.

Toronto—A Beehive of Union Activity

nothing in-view of the fact that the Toronto dress

The dress trade in Toronto employs over 2,500 workers in more than 100 shops, mostly women, of whom a large percentage are native Canadian Gentile girls. The last point is worthwhile

employers, like their fellow dress manufacturers in many cities in the States, have in the past counted on this factor as insurance against union influence and what goes with it—the establishment of union work conditions in their shops.

In the Toronto dress shops—which are overwhelmingly non-union—the wages for women workers begin at \$8 a week—this despite the Ontario law providing a minimum wage of \$12.50 per week for women—running up to \$20 during the season and rarely exceeding \$25 for a few of the most skilled operators. The work hours run practically without limit, from 8 in the morning and until late at night during the rush time—this also despite the law against factory overtime work for women, a law that is being handily circumvented by the employers on the pretense of "emergency" work. Small wonder the Toronto dress firms are such great adherents of the "open shop," and are daily praying that their hitherto docile workers might not become contaminated with the baneful virus of the Union.

It would seem, however, that this coming season the "open-shop" dress firms of Toronto are due for a rude awakening. The excellent results attained in the cloak shops of Toronto since they were completely organized last winter has lent a strong impetus to organizing activity among the dress workers, a campaign that is now being pushed with zeal and ability. The big committees put in the field by all the cloak locals—cutters, pressers, operators—to organize branches of their respective crafts in the dress shops, are reporting cheerful results. A number of dress shops already were canvassed and enrolled in the organization, and many more are fast on the way. A special organizer has been engaged to coordinate all the activity and he reports a hearty response everywhere.

By the time the Spring season arrives in the Toronto dress shops, the local dress organization should be strong enough to put to the employers some definite demands on behalf of the workers. And upon the attitude of these manufacturers towards this final step of the Union's drive will depend whether there shall be peace or war in the Toronto dress trade next season.

The Toronto Joint Board, meanwhile, is getting ready for the renewal of the agreement with the cloak manufacturers in that market which expires early in February.

The first year of collective contractual relations in the Toronto cloak trade has exceeded optimistic expectations. The Union is in control of work conditions in all cloak shops, and its leadership has the full confidence of the workers. Con-

ferences with the manufacturers, at which the Union expects to present several modest improvements, will begin early in January. It is to be hoped that the employers will put no obstacles in the way of an agreement.

THE STRIKE of the 4,000 textile workers in Danville has all the elements of becoming another Gastonia—with all the factors that contributed to the tragedy in

Another Gastonia. Tragedy?

North Carolina two years ago swinging fast into play in the strike-ridden arena of the Virginia town. Soldiers escorting strike-breakers to the mills; tear gas bombs dispersing strike pickets; the city patrolled by riot squads; scores of jail sentences and money fines for "blocking entrance" to the factories; provocative eviction notices served on the strikers' leaders that they would be turned out of the mill-owned shacks on December 24—on the very dawn of the season of "good will and benevolence to all mankind"—coupled with the arrogant broadcast by the mill owners that they have "nothing to mediate or arbitrate" and would "fight to a finish," is surcharging the air of Danville with tense anxiety.

On the other side of the picture, the textile strikers, who with their families comprise nearly half the population of Danville, after 11 weeks of striking appear not to have lost a particle of that unbreakable spirit that sent them out of the mills in September to defend against great odds, their elementary rights as union members. They are digging in for a long fight—"even if it takes all winter"—in the simple words of the local leaders. All efforts to open the strike-bound mills thus far have failed. The strikers are pooling all their meager resources for the protracted siege, even of the extent of "unionizing the cows," 125 strong, to keep up a supply of fresh milk for sick children and mothers. A commissary taking complete care of the food, clothing, fuel and medicine for needy families is functioning in wartime fashion.

Yet, a heart-gripping question is hovering over the Danville arena. With the militia on the ground, the forces of "law and order" at their beck and call, what will the textile barons do next in an attempt to crush the resistance of these rebellious men whom for a generation they had been accustomed to regard as putty in their hands, whom for years they had treated as dust under their feet? What other atrocities are likely to burst over the heads of the Danville strikers that might scatter them pell-mell and back into the penonage of the cotton mills?

The whole organized labor movement, in the meantime, is watching this dramatic contest with acute concern, watching and helping. Luckily, the Danville strike at this moment is the only major struggle on the labor horizon that is making an appeal for help. There should be no difficulty for the labor unions, hard times notwithstanding, to supply the required \$1,000 a day for the minimum relief of these strikers. There is too much at stake in this all-absorbing conflict in the Virginia cotton town to let it go lost for the lack of support.

Cutters, Attention!

All Events of Special Interest to Local 10 Members, Will be Found on Page 7 — the Cutters' Page.

CUTTERS OF LOCAL 10 ATTENTION

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
For The Ensuing Term of 1931
will take place

Saturday, December 20

at
ARLINGTON HALL
23 St. Marks Place

Polls will be open from 12:00 noon to 6:30 P. M.

Come without fail and bring your dues book with you.

A VISITOR IN THE GALLERY



—Courtesy N. Y. Evening Telegram.