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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 12, Iss. 17)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments

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

"My righteous-
ness I hold fast,
and will not let
it go."
—Job 27.4

JUSTICE

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

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. XII, No. 17

JERSEY CITY, N. J., FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1930

PRICE 3 CENTS

The Need Of Organization :- A Labor Day Message

By BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER
President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Labor Day this year finds the working people of the United States in hardly a festive mood. The economic crisis which began ten months ago still continues and unemployment is still widespread. And winter is at our threshold! Winter—when one's needs are greater than in the summer-time; when a mere home is not enough, but it must be heated; when a mere garment does not suffice, but it must be a whole and warm one.

In this depression it becomes more evident than at any other time how helpless wage earners are when not organized. The organized workers have also been hard hit by the present crises, tens of thousands of them being unemployed; yet their suffering is as nothing compared with the plight of the unorganized workers. The organized workers have a union on which to lean, and which protects and helps them at all times, while the unorganized workers have no one to help them unless it be

the charities. And woe to those whose only hope is the charity organization.

In the well organized industries the employers have not been able to take advantage of the present crisis to cut down wages and to introduce inferior working conditions, whereas in the unorganized or poorly organized industries the employers have in many cases reduced wages and instituted such working conditions that it will probably take their workers many years to come back to the point where they were at ten months ago.

The crisis will pass away. A month sooner, a month later—things must improve and will improve. Let us hope that the bitter experience of the last ten months has led millions among the unorganized workers to realize the need of organization, and that they will soon be animated by a genuine desire to become union men and to be part of the organized labor movement of the country. (Additional Labor Day Messages will be found on page 6.)

Schlesinger Scores Klein's New Charges

In Letter to Impartial Chairman, Union Head Characterizes Industrial Council Accusations as "Propaganda for Piece-Work."

In a letter to Raymond V. Ingersoll, impartial chairman of the cloak and suit industry, President Schlesinger makes a crushing reply to the latest fulminations against the Union by Samuel Klein, executive director of the Industrial Council.

It will be recalled that some time ago the Industrial Council, through Mr. Klein, complained to the impartial chairman that the Union was weak, that it was unable or unwilling to organize the workers and shops of the industry, and that it was not living up to its obligations under the collective agreement. To this the Union, through its counsel Morris Hillquit, made a long and detailed answer, refuting each and every one of Mr. Klein's charges.

One would have thought that Mr. Klein had had enough. But Mr. Klein is nothing if not a glutton for punishment, neither does writer's cramps seem to have any terrors for him. And so he wrote Impartial Chairman Ingersoll another of his endlessly long letters, wherein he rehearsed the old and discredited accusations against the Union and expressed the manufacturers' hardly suppressed desire for the return of piece-work.

It is to this latest epistle from Mr. Klein, which Mr. Ingersoll transmitted to the Union, that President Schlesinger made the crushing reply mentioned above. The reply, which is in the form of a letter to the Impartial Chairman, reads as follows:

August 19, 1930.

Mr. Raymond V. Ingersoll,
Impartial Chairman in the Cloak & Suit Industry,
132 West 21st Street,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Ingersoll:
Thanks for sending me copy of Mr. Klein's second memorandum. I received that document the day you left for your vacation, and knowing that you would not return to the city until today, I delayed the acknowledgment of its receipt until today.

Much in his second memorandum is merely a repetition of what he said in his first memorandum, to which

our Union has already relied through its counsel, Mr. Morris Hillquit, on July 29th. The supposedly new points in this memorandum are either soap bubbles or else propaganda for piece-work.

In his second memorandum Mr. Klein mentions several times the name of a certain agency which supplies him with statistical data. The name of the agency is "National Credit Office." The National Credit

Office may be an authority on statistics dealing with credit, but that it is also an authority on statistics regarding union and non-union shops is new to me and I certainly question the accuracy of their union statistics.

Mr. Klein also states that at a conference called by the Governor's Cloak Commission, one of the largest retailers in the country spoke of the havoc caused in the cloak and suit

(Continued on Page 2)

7,000 Children's Dressmakers Strike

Workers Respond Enthusiastically to Union's Call for Strike Against Sweatshop Conditions, After Negotiations with Employers Fail to Bring About a Settlement—Raincoat Makers Also Walk Out.

The general strike in the children's dress industry was called Tuesday morning, August 26, and is now in full swing.

The great applause with which the decision to call the strike was greeted at an enthusiastic meeting held last Monday night at the Rand School Auditorium is an indication that the workers are fully behind Local 91 and are determined to carry on the struggle to a successful end.

The general strike was called following the collapse of the negotiations with the organized employers for the renewal of the agreement, which expired August 1. The Union demanded a \$2.00 increase for week-work and a 10 per cent increase for piece work together with other concessions that form the basis of union contracts. The employers rejected the demands and there was left but the only way for the Union to bring the employers to terms. THE GENERAL STRIKE.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is backing the strike of the workers' in the children's dress industry. Local 10 ordered all cutters to cease work in the non-union children's dress-shops the moment the general strike was declared. With such powerful support the strike is bound to achieve success.

The terrible exploitation in the children's dress industry must cease. The

unspeakable labor conditions existing in the sweatshops and substandard shops of this industry have begun to affect the labor conditions in the organized shops, making it impossible for the workers to exist. It is only through complete organization that the lot of the workers may be improved and it is this that the Union seeks to achieve.

The workers in the children's dress industry must have the 5-day-42-hour-week. They must have impartial machinery for the adjustment of disputes between worker and employer. Their earnings must not be governed by arbitrary price-fixing but by a minimum wage scale as existing in other needle industries. They must have pay for legal holidays and other concessions without which no worker may expect to live in accordance with American standards.

The success of our strike will sound the death knell of the sweatshops; it will mean greater economic security for the workers and an end to the demoralization of the industry.

On the same day 1200 raincoat makers also went on strike. The strike, which was ordered by the Raincoat Makers' Union, Local 28, is due to the insistence of the employers on a 20 percent wage cut and the abolition of legal holidays as a condition to the renewal of their agreement with the Union, which expired on August 1.

A FINE LABOR DAY WEEK-END PROGRAM IN UNITY HOUSE

The Labor Day week-end in our Unity House which begins Friday Evening, August 29 and ends Monday evening September 1st will this year be exceptionally interesting. More than usually, this will be three days of pleasure and sociability. That is why so many of our members and friends already made their reservations one being made for the week-end as well as for a vacation.

The entertainment will begin Friday Evening. This time it will be the Second Edition of the Kitchen Follies, a satire on the Unity House Management, staff and guests. On the program on Saturday and Sunday Evenings will be amongst other artists, Cella Adler, the Compinsky Trio and other features of interest. On Sunday Evening's program, the entire Unity House community will participate. For Monday morning there is arranged a meeting to celebrate Labor Day. The meeting will be addressed by officials of our International Union and others prominent in the Labor Movement.

Of course, Unity House does not close with the Labor Day Week-End. It is open throughout the year. This is only the close of the Summer season and the beginning of the Fall Season. Unity House is as beautiful, restful and inspiring in the Fall as it is in the Summer.

An interesting conference will be held in Unity House by the Fellowship of Reconciliation which will begin Wednesday, Sept. 11th and will continue and include Sunday, Sept. 15th. Amongst the speakers will be the secretaries of the Conference, Miss Amy Blanche Greene, John Nevins Sayre, J. B. Matthews, Dr. Chas. C. Webber, Chas. A. Thomson and Howard A. Kester. In addition to these will be Prof. Paul Douglas of the Chicago University, Miss Martha Falconer, Dr. Ernest F. Johnson of the Federal Council of Churches, Kirby Page, editor of "The World Tomorrow." The subject for the discussion will be "Overcoming the Violence in My Community." During the conference, too, our members and friends can spend their vacation in Unity House.

News and Events in Local 38

By **BORIS DRASIN**
Secretary-Treasurer

More than half of our slack season has past. Another few weeks and the fall season will gradually begin. Our workers will start to fill the Fifth Avenue shops as usual. There will, however, be a different feeling among the workers. They all know that the agreements between the Union and the employers in our trade expire September 15th. There is an uncertainty as to what may happen. There are new demands on the part of both the Union and the employers.

The clouds are coming together. There will be thunder, lightning, and probably heavy showers on the heads of Union workers and employers. The few preliminary conference held with the Couturier Association representative, Howard Spellman, did not clear the skies. As most of the more important members of the Association are now in Europe we will have to await their return. The next real conference will be held directly with them. Should they refuse to meet with the Union representatives, a general walkout will become imperative on September 15th.

The Fifth Avenue employers are trying to use the general depression as an excuse for daring and absurd demands to the Union. There is no justification for it. Our employers with rare exception have encountered no business depression. There is enough profits for them in this exclusive line of business not to demand a reduction of the wages which are even now too meagre.

The employers also hope to catch fish in muddied water and in the same breath demand the right of arbitrary discharge. Originally it was 20 per cent each season. Later they offered to reduce the percentage but they still cling to their arbitrary principle.

Of course they don't want to recognize that the thousands of dressmakers who toil for them even longer hours and for much lower wages are to be considered. The Union demands that the women in the trade be guaranteed Union conditions—higher wages, shorter hours, the security of the job, etc.

This is the first article on the approaching struggle of Local 38. I will dwell more on it later on. For the present I wish to state that our employers have not had a real strike for many years. Every two years they meet with the representatives of the Union and come to a mutual understanding about working conditions.

BALTIMORE CLOAK CUTTERS CHARTERED AS SEPARATE LOCAL OF I. L. G. W. U.

Baltimore.—On Tuesday, Aug. 19, the cloak cutters of this city were chartered as a separate local of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Vice-President Isidore Nagler, general manager of the New York Cloak Joint Board, came specially to Baltimore to install the new local.

The organization of a special cutter's local means that the Baltimore cloakmakers are now, for the first time in their history, fully organized and in an excellent position to prosecute to a successful conclusion the strike against the few die-hard manufacturers who are still holding out against the Union.

There has been no disturbance in the trade. Both parties benefited through such procedure. It appears that the employers have learned nothing from this experience. They believe that the Union is weak, that now is the time for them to bring the workers to a lower ebb of living. I can state with certainty that they will be disappointed!

The Union is ready to meet the employers in open battle. Nevertheless we hope to avoid an all round catastrophe and that the employers will come to terms with our Union. In the meantime the workers are asked by the Union to watch the situation very closely and to prepare for war.

The last meeting of shop chairmen and active members was spirited and well attended. Plans were laid to enable the Union to meet any eventuality.

Every member of the Union is hereby called upon to join the ranks of our organization committee. Another meeting of this kind will be held next week. Only members of the Union are permitted to be present and all are urged to come.

The writer of this article, Boris Drasin, the manager of Local 38, is calling upon all shop chairmen to come to see him individually to take up matters pertaining to their particular shop.

Activity among the masses of open shop dressmakers continues. Every morning, noon, and night the organizers and active members are around the shops talking to the few girls who are still working. The sentiment in favor of the Union is growing. More members are coming into the Union and often in shop groups. Union members who have jobs in theatrical costume shops are urged to agitate for the Union as many theatrical costume workers in the summer are Fifth Avenue dressmakers in the winter.

Labor News from Everywhere

INJUNCTION VIOLATED; JUDGE TAKES NO ACTION

Nazareth, Pa.—Judge Stewart is conveniently overlooking repeated violations of his injunction by Representative Budenz of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers.

Budenz notified the judge he intended to violate the order. He picks the Krammer hosiery plant and calls on these workers to tear up their "yellow dog" agreement.

UNIFORM LAW PROPOSED TO CONTROL CHILD LABOR

Chicago.—A uniform law prohibiting the employment of children under 14 years of age in any gainful employment was approved by the Na-

EASTERN OUT-OF-TOWN DEPT. ORDERS STRIKES IN 2 LONG ISLAND SHOPS

Employees of Hauser Cloak Co. and Steinmetz Cloak Co. Called Out.

Harry Wander, manager of the Eastern Out-Of-Town Department of the International Union, informs us that his department has ordered strikes in two Long Island shops, to wit: the Hauser Cloak Co., of 132 Liberty Ave., Jamaica, and the Steinmetz Cloak Co., of 112 Rockaway Road, Jamaica.

The strike against the Hauser Cloak Co. was called because that firm had been caught doing piece-work; and the strike against the Steinmetz Cloak Co. was ordered because that firm had fled from Brooklyn to its present home in order to evade Union control.

Brother Wander declares in this connection that the Out-Of-Town Department is on the watch and will order a walkout in every shop that tries to evade the control of the Union or violates the agreement with the Union.

National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

The proposed law would regulate employment of minors between 14 and 18 years and prescribe certain occupations in which persons of 21 years and under may not be engaged.

Thirty-five States were represented and the proposal was approved with one dissenting State and one State not voting.

The draft of the act has been considered for four years. The States are urged to adopt the plan, which has been submitted to the American Bar Association for approval.

BRITISH UNIONISTS

MEET IN NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham, England.—The British Trades Union Congress will hold its sixty-second annual meeting in this city beginning September 1.

Officers of the Congress will report an increased membership because of a trade union recruiting campaign that has been carried on during the year.

The Congress makes an award to any member who secures a minimum of 10 new members. Claimants for this award exceed 5,000, while a large number of trade unionists have not qualified, but have secured from one to nine new members.

The recruiting scheme not only increases the membership, but develops a morale among members.

The Congress will be in session one week. The American Federation of Labor is represented by two fraternal delegates—John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department, and Thomas Maloy, of the International Alliance of Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators.

SCHLESSINGER SCORES KLEIN'S LATEST CHARGES

(Continued from page 1)

trade by the agreement which our Union has made in the dress industry. I was present at this conference and I have no recollection of hearing Mr. Franklin Simon (the retailer in question) make such a reference.

In all the thirty-odd pages of his two memorandums Mr. Klein does not even refer once to the general economic depression in our country. On reading his memorandum one gets the impression that the Cloakmakers' Union is responsible for the crisis in the country, for the widespread unemployment, and even for the large sums of money which the members of his association lost in the Wall Street crash last fall.

Mr. Klein asserts that in many cloak shops the workers work by piece, but he fails to mention that members of the Industrial Council are supplying the work in these shops. Mr. Klein reproaches the Union for not disciplining the workers in these substandard shops, but he fails to reproach the "constructively inclined business men" of the Industrial Council who have their garments made in these substandard shops.

In a trade where week-work is the rule, it is, of course, unhealthy when a number of shops work by piece, even if the number is small. But as to that we expect to present to you, in the near future, suggestions for obviating this evil. The restoration of the unemployment insurance fund, as provided for in Clause No. 12 of our agreement, will, in my opinion, go a long way in that direction.

Sincerely yours,
BENJAMIN SCHLESSINGER

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With The New York Dressmakers

By JOSEPH SPIELMAN, Sec'y-Treas.

(Excerpts from the Report of the Executive Board of the Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 22, I. L. G. W. U., to the General Meeting Held Wednesday, August 20, 1930.)

For the first time in many years, the dress industry has experienced the most severe slack season known. Whereas in former years a substantial proportion of our membership has been working on the summer line, this year there was practically no work at all. The largest proportion of our membership remains unemployed for many months in succession. Needless to say, the problems and difficulties created by this unemployment, has given our Executive Board the most concern. In fact, all our thoughts and energies were directed, during the past few weeks, to the amelioration of the industrial conditions and the preparation for the approaching fall season.

I. Flat Prices

One of the most complained of evils in the industry today is the so-called flat-price system. Employers have arbitrarily, and without the least consideration, established their own labor prices on their lines, irrespective of the amount of work involved or the complication of the styles. This practice has resulted in the breakdown of the minimum wage scales, and forced the earnings of our members, in many instances, down to \$30.00 and \$40.00 per week.

In our conference with the employers, we maintained that regardless of the selling price of the garment, the type of the material, or style, our members were entitled to earn the minimum scales provided for in the agreements entered into last February. The representatives of the employing groups, after many lengthy discussions, finally conceded the validity of our claim and have agreed to entertain and adjust all such complaints in accordance with their revisions of the agreement.

On the basis of this decision, our members are urged:

(a) Make no flat settlements of prices. Instead, every style is to be settled separately, on its own merits, and with a view of yielding no less than the minimum scales: \$1.10 per hour for operating, and \$.65 per hour for finishings.

(b) In every instance where the workers are not earning the minimum scales, complaints should immediately be filed with the Joint Board so that the prices may be re-settled.

2. Changes from Manufacturing to Jobbing

During the recent slack season, a large number of manufacturers have attempted to evade the union regulations by giving up their plants and going into the jobbing business. In a number of instances, we charged the employers with locking out the workers and forced the issue before the impartial chairman. We are happy to report that a very favorable decision has been handed down by the impartial chairman to the effect that no employer may change from manufacturing to jobbing during any current season after samples have been made up.

3. Imposition of Fines

Still another issue, and one which is of great importance, was threshed out in our recent conferences with the employers, is the one dealing with the imposition of fines upon the employers for specific violations of the agreement. Heretofore the only satisfaction we were able to get in cases where the agreements were violated, was that the accused employer "stood instructed" to cease the practice complained of. From now on, such viola-

tions will be punishable by a monetary fine.

4. More Efficiency in the Adjustment of Complaints

Through the efforts of the Joint Board officers, the Associations have engaged additional clerks so that complaints may, henceforth, be attended more promptly. Similarly, the impartial chairman has changed his mode of procedure, with the result that no complaints are being dragged out, as has been the case heretofore.

It is evident from the above, that considerable improvement has been made in our dealings with the employers' associations. These decisions, however, will mean very little if we do not follow them up with a strong campaign of organization and education within our own ranks. We have, therefore, decided upon the following program which we submit for your consideration and approval, at this meeting:

A. **Saturday Drives.** The strict observance of the 5-day, 40-hour week must, at all times, remain of paramount importance. It is an admitted fact that no sooner does a shop violate this basic rule than it is destined to become a full-fledged scab shop. The Executive Board has therefore decided to organize a voluntary Organization Committee, of several hundred members for the purpose of visiting and stopping off all shops working on Saturdays. This work has already started last Saturday. Many members participated in the drive and a number of shops were stopped off, and later summoned to appear before the Grievance Committee.

We urge every member of our local, who is interested in his own livelihood, as well as in the progress of the organization, to enlist in this highly important campaign.

B. **No Overtime.** With a view of placing to work as many of our members as possible, the Executive Board recommends that no shop be permitted to work any overtime whatsoever unless every machine is occupied. The same committees which will go around to picket the shops on Saturday will also be sent to stop off all shops who will attempt to work overtime while there are still vacant machines in the shop.

C. **Minimum Scales.** Our organization is determined to see that its members earn at least the minimum wage scales provided for in our agreement with the employers. We urge each and every shop where the workers do not earn the minimum wage

scales to file complaints so that re-settlement of prices may be effected without any further delay.

In this connection, it is well to bear in mind that because of the lateness of the present season we can reasonably look forward to a rush which will last possibly only a few weeks. During this time the employers will, without doubt, attempt to make up all their losses, and by the same process of reasoning the workers are entitled to earn sufficient to make a living and pay up the debts which they have incurred during the many months of idleness.

D. **Organization Drives.** Experience has taught us that the arrogance of the employing groups and the low earnings of our members is always traceable to the existence of the open shops. Notwithstanding the depression which our industry is experiencing at this time, new shops are continually making their appearance. Unless these and some of the old shops which are not yet under our control, are unionized, we cannot reasonably hope to thoroughly enforce our agreements with the employers. The competition of the open shops is hitting both the union employer and worker alike.

Bearing this fact in mind, the Joint Board decided to establish an organization department which is to function all year round. It is estimated that no less than \$100,000 a year is needed for the purpose of maintaining such a department, and on the basis of our present membership, it would require no less than 50 cents a month per member for its upkeep.

The question of financing such a department has been thoroughly discussed at the last meetings of the Executive Board, Joint Board, and the Board of Directors. It is apparent to all of us that the 35-cent weekly dues now being paid by our members is absolutely inadequate to cover the expenses of the organization.

After due deliberation, the Executive Board decided to recommend to the members that a tax of 25 cents per month be levied upon every member for the purpose above stated.

E. **Initial Organization Department Fund.** To enable the Organization Department to start functioning at once, the Joint Board decided to raise an initial sum of \$10,000, of which sum our local is to contribute \$5,000. In view of the fact that no such sum is at this time available in the general fund, the Executive Board decided to make a loan of our Relief Fund. This sum to be paid back to the fund as soon as the tax will be collected.

F. **Additional Business Agents.** With a view of facilitating the work in the office and attempt to organize the jobbers, a special jobbing department has recently been created.

Likewise, an assistant manager of the Contractors' Department, which is in charge of Brother Moskowitz, has

been elected so that the work of the department may be more efficiently handled and the complaints of the members better taken care of.

The Joint Board also deemed it advisable to appoint two additional business agents to take care of the Brooklyn, Brownsville, Bensonhurst, Harlem, and Bronx shops. On the basis of our membership, our local has to furnish two additional business agents to fill the above requirements.

G. **No Working Cards to Outside Members.** It is common knowledge that wherever local No. 22 members have insisted upon earning the minimum scales, many an employer soon engaged members of other locals who, considering that it is a sort of an extra income, settled the prices considerably lower. It was, therefore, decided that henceforth no working cards will be issued to members of other locals. Later in the season, all members who are not affiliated with the dress locals now at work in shops will be required to change their membership cards or leave their shops.

We urge each and every member and chairman not to permit any worker to sit down to work unless he or she produces a working card issued to his particular shop, and signed by the secretary.

H. **Quarterly Working Cards.** Commencing with the current quarter—July, August, September—every member employed in the dress industry will have to obtain a working card, in addition to his or her member card. These cards will be changed every three months and those who will not have a card with them will not be permitted to work.

I. **Conclusion.** We submit this report to you in the hope that you will realize the seriousness of the present situation and that you will discuss these recommendations in the spirit in which they are offered to you.

We are, without doubt, passing through a very critical period. The industrial depression throughout the land of which we heard so much during the past year, has really not been felt very keenly in our industry until this summer. Now it is at our door. Yet, there is no reason to become discouraged. We have gone through many a more serious crisis and we can easily overcome the present difficulties provided each one of our members will stand close by the organization and will support it in the efforts to meet the many difficulties which face us for the moment.

We are asked to announce that the recommendation for a 25-cent monthly tax, was carried almost unanimously—less than 10 members voted against the proposal.

SAMUEL SHORE NAMED SUPERVISOR OF LOCAL 62

Samuel Shore, at one time manager of the White Goods Workers' Union, Local 62, and for many years a prominent figure in the New York trade-union world, was appointed last week Executive Supervisor of Local 62. He has already entered upon his duties and will direct the affairs of the local in conjunction with Brother A. Snyder, who will continue to act as Manager.

Brother Shore's appointment to his present post was warmly recommended by President Schlesinger and Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky, who praised him for his ability and past services to the white goods workers.

LABOR DROPS IN PENN STATE

Philadelphia.—Wages and factory employment in this State during July declined more extensively than is usual for that month and reached the lowest level since the middle of 1924, according to the local Federal Reserve Bank.

DRESSMAKERS

LOCAL 22, I. L. G. W. U.

Special Notice to Applicants

According to the decision of the Executive Board, all persons who applied for Membership in our Local **MUST PAY THE BALANCE AND OBTAIN THEIR THEIR MEMBERSHIP CARDS NOT LATER THAN SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1930**

Those failing to comply with this decision will be obliged to go again before the Membership Committee.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, Local 22

JOS. ROBINOW, Chairman
JOS. SPIELMAN, Secretary.

JUSTICE

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BENJ. SCHLESINGER, President D. DUBINSKY, Secretary-Treasurer.
DR. B. HOFFMAN, Editor

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EDITORIALS

Labor Day

Labor Day this year finds the wage workers of America in anything but a cheerful frame of mind.

The wage earners of this country have passed through a trying year of unemployment and have had to strive hard to keep the employers from taking advantage of labor's unfavorable position to make it still more favorable for it.

It is said that Labor Day is not the holiday of the working men, but of human labor. And because it celebrates human labor, it has become a national holiday for all Americans regardless of class or station. Work is the foundation of human society. Work has created the great wealth of America and the great civilization of the American people. Hence Labor Day is a holiday for the entire American nation.

Nevertheless, the festival of work—Labor Day—reminds the American working man that he has received the smallest share of the great riches and civilization which his labor has produced. And this year it reminds him of something more; namely, that the great wealth and great civilization which he has created by his labor have robbed him of his job and of his daily bread.

The machines which the workers have produced by their labor and the capital amassed through their toil for the purchase of machinery have thrown millions of wage earners out of work.

Surely the festival of work should be above all the workman's holiday. But how can it be that, seeing that work has become so hostile to him?

The character of Labor Day must be changed. It cannot remain merely a day of merrymaking and parades, but must also become a day of demands and demonstrations. Labor Day ought to be the day on which the workers should demand that they be assured of work and a decent living. Labor Day ought to be the day on which the workers of America should demand a shorter working day and a shorter working week. Labor Day ought to be the day on which the workers should demand the inauguration of unemployment insurance and of real old age pensions.

These are labor demands that must be granted as soon as possible. They brook no delay. Automatic machinery is developing with particular speed and rendering ever more workers jobless. But in order that the demands of the workers may be heard, the workers must be better and more strongly organized. They will gain nothing by appeals to the employers' fairness and generosity. They will triumph only by their organized power and unity.

Let Labor Day, therefore, serve as a reminder to the wage earners that only through organization and solidarity will they be able to gain for themselves a more secure and more comfortable life.

The Spirit of 1910

workers of America, but of the American labor movement in general.

The story of the great struggle of the cloakmakers in 1910, which has been dubbed "the Historic Strike," is still fresh in the memory of most cloakmakers. A great many of them took part in it, and those who entered the New York cloak trade later on have heard the others tell about it. Accordingly, we will not recount here the story of the great cloak strike, but merely describe the spirit that animated the striking cloakmakers. It was a spirit of combativeness, unity, and self-sacrifice such as has rarely been equalled in the annals of labor. And it was this spirit which led to the victory of the cloakmakers and to the upbuilding of a large and powerful union which became the pride of the entire American labor movement.

If we recall to-day that historic strike of the cloakmakers, it is merely to express the wish that among the cloakmakers there may again come to life the spirit of 1910, the spirit of unity, of idealism, of real labor solidarity, and of loyalty to the Union. Given this spirit, many of the present ills of the cloakmakers would automatically disappear.

Who Does Not Want Piece-Work?

facturers' association is known. But in that case, who does not want piece-work? Mr. Klein certainly wants piece-work.

The cloakmakers prefer to work by the piece than by the week, declares Samuel Klein, executive director of the Industrial Council, as the inside manu-

He has said so himself. And the workers, he assures us, also want piece-work. Who, then, does not want it?

We take it that Mr. Klein is a gentleman and does not want to create ill feeling between the cloakmakers and their leaders. Hence we cannot infer that his statement regarding piece-work is intended to say that the leaders of the Cloakmakers' Union and of the International are acting contrary to the wishes of the cloak workers—that the rank and file want to work by the piece but the union leaders force them to work by the week.

And we on our part will surely not say that Mr. Klein is acting against the wishes of the manufacturers he represents. On the contrary, we will say that he is loyal to them and always does what they want. Accordingly we ask, Who does not want piece-work?

Mr. Klein wants it, the manufacturers surely want it, and the workers also want it—so, at least, Mr. Klein assures us; who, then, does not?

Well, Schlesinger and Dubinsky, Nagler and the Cloak Joint Board do not want it. They themselves have said so, and have said it quite emphatically. One must assume, then, that they do not express the wishes of the rank and file or represent the interests of the cloak workers. Is this what Mr. Klein means? We are reluctant to believe that this is what he means. How, then, are we to understand his statement?

But perhaps Mr. Klein believes that it would make for greater efficiency if he were to represent both the manufacturers and the workers, and his remarks about piece-work was his first attempt to speak on behalf of the workers?

We do not doubt Mr. Klein's ability, but neither do we doubt that he believes in what is known in America as democracy. And if he wishes to represent not only the manufacturers but also the workers, he should have come to the cloakmakers and asked them if they wanted him to represent them and to be their spokesman.

In our Union democracy is regarded as a matter of vital importance. It is the workers who decide what they want and what is to be done, and if any one wishes to speak in their name, he must be authorized by them to do so. They must elect him to represent them.

The cloakmakers already worked by the piece once and came to the conclusion that it was not good for them and decided to establish week-work. The manufacturers were against it, whereupon the cloakmakers declared a strike and gained their point. If the cloakmakers had found out that they had made a mistake in fighting to abolish piece-work and replace it with week-work, and that piece-work was better for them than week-work, they could easily have corrected their mistake. The manufacturers would surely have offered no objections if their workers had wanted to restore piece-work. They would rather have gladly consented to it.

We believe, accordingly, that it will make for far greater efficiency if we stick to the old method of division of labor which has prevailed till now. In other words, let Mr. Klein represent only the manufacturers and act as their spokesman, and let the leaders of the Union represent the workers and speak for them. It is for Mr. Klein to say what the manufacturers want, and it is for the leaders of the Union to say what the workers want. Mr. Klein may rest assured that the moment the cloakmakers decide to go back to piece-work, the leaders of the Union will not be slow to carry out their wish and will let him know about it at once. However, we have no desire to mislead Mr. Klein, and so we tell him beforehand not to look forward to this if he does not want to be disappointed, as the cloakmakers do not want piece-work but week-work.

And if Mr. Klein is really so solicitous about the wishes of the workers and seeks their welfare, we should like to ask him to help the workers maintain the system of piece-work in the cloak industry. They need such help, because many of them are being forced by the manufacturers to work by the piece. Surely Mr. Klein knows that the present situation in the cloak industry is not exactly rosy. And when things are not so good for the manufacturers, they are quite bad for the workers. Taking advantage of the precarious condition of the cloakmakers, the manufacturers are simply forcing them to work contrary to union regulations. Nor do all of them possess sufficient resistance and sufficient judgment not to give in to the will of the bosses.

The Manufacturers' Generosity or the Cloakmakers' Good Work?

Once again we must take exception to Mr. Klein's asseverations.

Mr. Klein declares that the manufacturers did not avail themselves of their 10 percent reorganization right this summer. Most of the manufacturers belonging to the Industrial Council made no use whatever of their reorganization right and did not replace a single worker in their shops.

This is quite true. The vast majority of manufacturers really did not avail themselves of their reorganization right. But in that case, why did Mr. Klein complain in the newspapers and to the Impartial Chairman that the manufacturers who do not belong to the Industrial Council enjoy larger reorganization rights? This can only mean that Mr. Klein would like the Union to accord larger reorganization rights also to the Industrial Council manufacturers. But what do they need it for, seeing that they do not even make use of the right they already enjoy?

Mr. Klein attributes this to the generosity of the manufacturers. According to him, the manufacturers did not want to discharge any workers this summer on account of the present

From Time To Time

By Dr. B. Hoffman (Zivyon)

I see by the papers that the prices of manufactured goods and commodities have greatly declined.

We must believe the papers, at least I must believe them, for where would I be if it weren't for the papers? And how can one help believing them? Do they not give facts and figures? However, if prices are falling, expenses ought to be coming down. Yet both husbands and wives say that such is not the case. The husbands say that they have to give their wives no less a week for household expenses than formerly, before prices dropped, and the wives say that even now they can hardly make ends meet. They are not at all aware that prices have come down. Perhaps the storekeepers, the bakers, the grocers, the butchers know about it; but if so, they manage to keep it secret from everybody.

As for cloaks, their price has risen still higher, say the women. A coat which is at all presentable costs its weight in gold. Rags are cheap indeed, but if you want something that is half way decent, you can't even touch it, so much do they ask for it. And the same, say these good women, is also true of other goods.

But on the ground that prices have come down for the storekeeper, a movement has started among manufacturers and business men to cut down wages. I suppose they are afraid the workers may grow rich and become themselves manufacturers and business men.

Let us first of all assure the manufacturers and business men that the workers could not get rich on their wages even if the cost of food and other necessities did grow less for the working people. The manufacturers ought to know from their own experience that a man's needs tend to expand and with them his expenses. When a manufacturer has gotten along for some time on ten thousand dollars a year, he is seized with the desire to live a little more comfortably and begins to spend twelve thousand dollars a year, and presently fifteen thousand. A Chevrolet is quite a good machine, but after one has ridden in a Chevrolet for a couple of years, one wants a Buick. And after

one has ridden a couple of years in a Buick, one wants a Cadillac. In like manner the workingman gets used to living a little more comfortably when he earns more. He cannot buy a car, to be sure, but he becomes accustomed to a somewhat better home, somewhat better furniture, somewhat better clothes, and to take in a show more often. And if a workingman does not get a wage increase from time to time, this is tantamount to a reduction of his wages. His needs expand all the time, but he cannot advance because his earnings do not permit him. In this respect not to go forward means to go backward. If, for example, you see any one nowadays live in a house where there is no hot water, no steam heat, and no electric light, you will surely look upon him as a man who, in the progress of economic life, has remained very much behind. Yet some one might say to you that nothing has happened to the man: he has always lived in the same house. As a matter of fact, his home has improved in the course of time. Formerly it did not even have cold water and one had to fetch water from the pump in the yard. Formerly, too, it was without gas light and would be lit up with a kerosene lamp. The street was unpaved, and when it rained, one had to wade knee-deep in the mud, while in dry weather there were clouds of dust.

Thus it is ever with the necessities of life. What was a luxury yesterday is today a vital necessity. A few decades ago gas light was a luxury that only the rich could afford; today gas light is regarded as a hardship even by a poor man. He is so used to electric light that it has become a vital necessity to him.

It is evident, therefore, that if a workingman does not get an increase for a considerable period of time, it is as though his wages were reduced, because he cannot keep pace with the growth of life's needs and falls behind in the economic race.

But forgetting for a moment the interests of the workers, is it even to the advantage of the manufacturers themselves to reduce wages?

Time was when such a question

would have been thought foolish. The ideal of the manufacturer was to keep wages down as far as possible. His reasoning was quite simple: the less he paid his workers, the more there would be left for him. In recent years, however, the opinion of manufacturers, at least of a large number of them, has undergone a change. They have come to the conclusion that the rule that lower wages for the worker means bigger profits for the manufacturer is not true. On the contrary, the manufacturer can do better business if the workers get higher wages.

To be sure, the manufacturers did not arrive at this conclusion of their own accord, but were driven to it under pressure from the workers. It happened during the few years of great prosperity, when all manufacturers and business men were showered with orders and there was need of more and more workers. Wages had to be raised then, and sometimes a good deal. And in those days, when the manufacturers were forced to pay higher wages, they discovered that higher wages might even be an aid to business and make for more profit. For when the workers receive higher pay, they have the wherewithal to buy the things the manufacturers produce; and when the workers are able to buy more, the manufacturers can produce more and hence reap more profit.

This view is doubtless absolutely right. Business in this country is now very poor. This is because millions of workers are unemployed. And when the workers are out of work they haven't the means to buy and so business languishes.

In fact, the presidents of twelve large American manufacturing concerns came out the other day against the movement to reduce wages. They say this will only make matters worse.

And so it will, indeed. If the workers get lower wages, their purchasing power will become smaller still. And now that America has inaugurated such a high tariff, she will have to depend more on the home market for the sale of her goods, as foreign countries will hereafter buy less from America. Three foreign countries are saying to the United States: "If you put a high tariff on our goods so that they may sell as little as possible among your people, then we will put a high tariff on your goods, so that they may sell as little as possible among our peoples." And since the American manufacturers are dependent chiefly upon the domestic

consumers for a market for their products, then we must have more and more people who have the means to buy, and if we cut down wages, the number of people able to buy will be diminished.

But no matter how plain and logical this may be, the manufacturers are seeking to reduce the wages of their workers. The trouble is that every manufacturer thinks thus to himself: "It is quite true that for the business of the country as a whole it will be better if the workers receive higher wages; but surely I by myself will not spoil the business of the entire country if I cut wages down a little. This will hardly be noticeable in the country, seeing that all the other manufacturers will pay adequate wages. Meanwhile I shall be saving quite a few dollars a week by this wage-cut."

Naturally, each manufacturer believes that he is the only one wise enough to hit upon such a clever idea. Unfortunately, however, while the manufacturers have to be told about raising wages, no one has to tell them about cutting wages. And thus it comes about, that while everybody says that it is not advisable to reduce wages, wages are being reduced.

And so I think that the working people should take no stock whatever in it when they read from time to time that the manufacturers themselves are saying that wages must not be cut. Let them rather keep watch themselves and see that no harm is done to them, and let them know that there are those who want to do them harm.

Governor Roosevelt has declared in one of his recent speeches that 60 companies control 80 percent of American business, and that each company belongs to two or three persons. This means, then, that some 150 persons, at the most 180, own 80 percent of all the business in the United States. Which means that 150 persons, at the most 180, are the real owners of the country.

I do not know how Governor Roosevelt's statement affected others, but upon me it made a profound impression.

Hitherto it was only the Socialists, and I among them, who used to speak and write about the concentration of capital. Whenever occasion offered, we used to show with facts and figures how the enormous wealth of the United States was passing into a few

(Continued on Page 7)

economic depression. Are we then to conclude that he demands larger reorganization rights for the manufacturers so they may be able to display still greater generosity?

And why is Mr. Klein so unfriendly to the workers in this matter? Why does he say that it was only because of their generosity that the manufacturers did not reorganize the personnel of their shops? Is it not also possible that it was because their workers had rendered satisfactory service?

We have no intention to deny that there are kind-hearted cloak manufacturers. We know there are kind-hearted persons and that they may also be found among cloak manufacturers, but this has nothing to do with business. Business men say that business is one thing and friendship another. And so we feel certain that it was not because of generosity that most of the manufacturers did not avail themselves of their right to reorganization, but because they saw no need for it.

In general we do not want to divide manufacturers into kind-hearted ones and hard-hearted ones, for that would make it appear that the manufacturers who did make use of their reorganization right are all hard-hearted. We believe that manufacturers have only one thing in mind, namely, how to get more profit out of their workers. In this respect all manufacturers, whether kind-hearted or hard-hearted, are alike.

There are manufacturers who are famous philanthropists, — and surely a philanthropist must be kind-hearted — yet in dealing with their employees, they are the worst exploiters.

The cloak manufacturers demanded the right to reorganization because they believed this would enable them to get more work, more profit, out of the workers. And when we find that most manufacturers do not make use of their right to reorganization, it is proof conclusive that they are satisfied with their workers and that they are reaping enough profit from them.

The fact is, that the workers want to satisfy the manufac-

turer and work as hard as their strength will permit. Only there are manufacturers who would like their employees to work themselves to death. Strictly speaking, almost all manufacturers want this, but many of them already know that the days when one could force workers to kill themselves working are over. Some, however, still try it in the hope that they may succeed.

Moreover, some manufacturers want to take advantage of their reorganization right to rid their shops of active union men, or of such as watch too closely to make sure that union regulations are observed. However, there is a clause in the agreement which forbids the manufacturer to do this, and the Union takes good care that this provision is not violated.

In short, we cannot agree with Mr. Klein that the matter of reorganization is wholly dependent upon the generosity of the manufacturers. We believe that it depends a great deal more upon their sense and their experience. It is simply this: most manufacturers know from experience that the workers want to satisfy them and to produce as much work as they are able to, and so there is no sense in making reorganizations. On the contrary, there is more sense in not making them. For it makes for greater efficiency if the workers have been employed at the shop for a long time and are used to one another and to the system in the shop, than if the workers keep on changing and there are new workers every year. Not all manufacturers realize this, but the great majority do. Hence this is not a matter of the manufacturers' generosity, but of the cloakmakers' good work.

And since Mr. Klein has displayed so much friendship for the cloakmakers as to demand piece-work for them instead of week-work, he should have gone further and given them credit because their work in the shops had been so satisfactory to the manufacturers that most of the latter had made no use at all of their right to reorganization.

A Page of Labor Day Greetings

Labor Day 1930

By WILLIAM GHEEN
President, American Federation of Labor

The celebration of Labor Day this year will take place at a period when the unemployment situation is very serious indeed. About one year ago when we celebrated Labor Day in 1929 it was clearly evident that a decided reaction had set in and the country was approaching a most favorable industrial condition. Each month the situation has grown steadily worse until now we find that there are more people unemployed on Labor Day, 1930, than at any similar period since the World War. Naturally this problem of unemployment overshadows all other problems.

Fortunately, the American Federation of Labor has functioned in a most serviceable way all during the distressing period through which we have passed and are now passing. The economic facts and philosophy which the American Federation of Labor expounded regarding the establishment and maintenance of high wages have had a tremendous moral and restraining effect. The theory of high wages has made a tremendous appeal to the judgment and opinion of all classes of people associated with industry and industrial enterprises. In addition, the organized labor movement is recognized as a strong force in opposition to any reduction in wage standards and conditions of employment. It has exercised a powerful influence in the maintenance of wages, hours and conditions of employment. This fact has increased the confidence, faith and loyalty of the members of organized labor in the efficiency of the American Federation of Labor.

Other Problems

While the gravity of the unemployment problem holds a dominating position in the thoughts and minds of men and women, there are many other problems of social and economic importance which are being given close attention and careful thought by the hosts of Labor.

Labor is deeply interested in the development of strength and influence in the organized labor movement. We wish to enhance and enlarge the influence and service of the organized labor movement. Labor knows, from experience, that it is through organization, cooperation and collective bargaining that industry can be made more profitable and the wages and living standards of the masses of the people can be raised to a level commensurate with the requirements of American citizenship.

All the gains which labor has made come through organization and organized effort. No one can adequately measure the value of the service which organized labor has rendered to its own membership, directly, and, in an indirect way, to those who are not associated with it.

We are engaged in extending the organization among the non-union workers in every industrial section of the country. An intensive campaign of organization has been carried on in the South during the past year. In many cities and towns throughout the country the organization has inaugurated organization campaigns with marked degrees of success. Both the numerical and economic strength of the American Federation of Labor have been extended and increased.

In the Legislative Field

In the legislative field we have pressed our claims for remedial legislation. Our activities have been directed along constructive and prac-

tical lines. We have secured the passage of the Old Age Pension legislation for the State of New York and elsewhere. We have secured the enactment of Convict Labor legislation and we have succeeded in bringing to the attention of the public the injustice and the evil of "Yellow Dog" contracts.

Substantial improvement has been secured in the enactment of Workmen's Compensation legislation and in legislation designed to better protect the employment of women in industry. We are pressing for favorable consideration amendments to the immigration statutes. We shall continue our efforts in this line until we succeed in making the immigration restriction laws more nearly conform to the social and economic requirements of our Nation. Substantial progress has been made in the improvement of Retirement legislation for large groups of Government employees. We shall continue our efforts in this direction until adequate and satisfactory retirement legislation is secured for Government workers in this field. We have also specialized in our efforts to secure a reduction in the number of hours worked and in the number of days worked per week by Government employees. The economic and social interests of these workers shall always be very close to the heart and mind of the American Federation of Labor.

The injunction relief legislation which was approved by the Toronto Convention of the American Federation of Labor is of supreme importance. This bill is pending in the Congress of the United States and its enactment must be regarded as of supreme legislative importance. The object and purpose of this legislation is to make Labor free economically.

Let Us Build A New World

By DAVID DUBINSKY
Secretary-Treasurer, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

For nearly fifty years now the millions of American workers have celebrated their own holiday, Labor Day. Labor Day is the festival of the American labor movement; it symbolizes the striving of America's toilers toward a higher and nobler life, toward human progress and advancement.

Our road to economic freedom is nowhere strewn with roses, but it is more difficult in this country than elsewhere, owing to the apathy and political backwardness of the American masses. Reaction is in the saddle; injunction are hailing down upon our labor unions; and in the richest country on earth, at a time when there exists widespread unemployment aggravated by the growing displacement of workers by machinery, there are no unemployment insurance and old-age pension laws.

But the organized workers of America are not deterred by the insolence of injunction judges and the malice of the enemies of organized labor. Despite all the obstacles in its path, American labor continues to fight for its aims and ideals.

In our own trade, the employers are trying to destroy the rights we have won by such hard fighting. In the last twelve months, under the most trying conditions, we have succeeded in retaining the positions won by us with so much toil and trouble. And from Labor Day we seek inspiration and strength for further conquests by our Union and for fresh triumphs by American labor.

Exactly twenty years ago we cele-

Labor must not be singled out as a class to be made the class victims of injunction procedure. We wish to be governed by law and not by judicial decree. The entire influence of the organized labor movement must be mobilized in support of this legislation.

As Labor enters into the spirit of Labor Day and participates in its celebration this year it will keep in mind the lessons of the past and the problems of the future. It will vigorously contend for a practical and humane solution of the problem of unemployment and will reiterate its demand that this blight upon our civilization be permanently removed. To say that unemployment is a necessary evil is to admit the superiority of uncontrolled forces over intelligence, education and efficiency.

We hold that unemployment occurs because of the failure of industry and society to deal with it and to apply a remedy. The definite demand of Labor, upon the celebration of Labor's national holiday, is that industry and society immediately seek and secure a practical solution for the problem of unemployment.

GREEN WILL SPEAK ON LABOR SUNDAY

Washington.—An address by President Green will feature a Labor Sunday service held on the grounds of Washington (Episcopal) Cathedral in this city.

The service will be from 4 to 5 P. M., Sunday, August 31, and will be broadcast on a country-wide hook-up.

President Green speaks in Syracuse, Labor Day afternoon, and Secretary Frank Morrison will speak in Baltimore Labor Day evening. Both speeches will be broadcast.

brated on Labor Day our great victory of 1910, a victory which marked the birth of our economic freedom. As a result of that victory, our brothers and sisters were for the first time delivered from the horrible sweatshops and made free and independent men and women.

And so, brothers and sisters, let us avail ourselves of this year's Labor Day to strengthen our Union and to prepare it for further struggles. Let us dedicate all that is finest and noblest in us to the task of preventing the return of sweatshop exploitation against which we fought so valiantly in 1910 and again in 1929. And together with the rest of the American workers let us become the builders of a new world, a world with just laws to protect the wage earners from unemployment in their active years and from want in their old age.

Long live America's organized labor!
Long live the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union!

WAGE-EARNING MOTHERS FORCED INTO INDUSTRY

Washington.—The United States Women's Bureau again proves that wage-earning mothers are forced into industry.

The bureau has repeatedly refuted the claim that these women work for wages to secure pin-money.

The latest denial of this claim is the result of a study of 550 Cleveland mothers who are engaged in wage-earning occupations.

Most of the 550 women were doing full-time work away from home.

New Outlooks

By FRANK MORRISON
Secretary, A. F. of L.

This Labor Day is marked by a pronounced trend toward new economic outlooks and a realization that our Nation is at the threshold of another era.

These viewpoints have been developing since the World War. During the past year, however, more thought has been given to the revolutionary effect of automatic machinery and its displacement of workers, mass production, mergers and the encroachment of equity courts in the field of law enforcement.

These sweeping changes, yet in their infancy, have overturned former concepts. The new cycle has brought adherents to policies that would have been considered, a few years ago, inconsistent with American principles.

The last thing that man will abandon is his social viewpoint. He readily accepts physical changes, as these are self evident. He clings to the intangibles, however, until new ideas fit into his economic life. He then yields to this inexorable power.

It is because of our changing economic life that the Nation is discussing new ideals. Old age pensions, long advocated by organized labor, was considered, a few years ago, unfitted for our American system. The automatic machine, with its army of unemployed together with displacement of workers who have reached the age of 40 and 45, make old age pensions a problem of major importance.

The same is true of unemployment insurance which, an eastern Governor recently declared, the people will accept as certain as they accepted workmen's compensation.

The changed outlook is again illustrated by an increasing popular disapproval of our poor house system, with its excessive overhead and humiliating failures. The poor house is looked upon by thinking men and women as a symbol of human despair.

The new viewpoint on old-age pensions again sustains our claim that trade unionists are the pickets of progress and that economic facts and social necessity eventually make certain the principles these unionists are the first to urge.

This has been true of other problems, such as abolition of child labor, establishment of workmen's compensation, higher wages, shorter hours, free education and other issues now accepted by the general public.

The past year has been marked by a clearer understanding of the misuse of the injunction. This process is no longer called a "labor" problem. Equity is rapidly encroaching on the rights of the public press and business. Labor will continue its agitation against this wrong. We are certain that as it is understood the law making branch of government will yield to an enlightened public opinion. This change will come when the public understood the difference between government by law and government by the conscience of one man who sits as an equity judge and who sets aside every Constitutional guarantee that his irresponsible edicts may be enforced.

The universal five-day week is a certainty in the near future. It is a necessity because of changing economic conditions, and it is now being enforced in many sections.

Organized labor faces the new Collective Age with a better understanding, with increased membership and a greater faith in their possibilities through unified action.

The Antics of the Los Angeles Times

Ignorance, Misrepresentation and Appeals to Sectional Prejudice
Mark Its Campaign Against the Efforts of Our Union to
Organize the Los Angeles Garment Workers

By MILTON HARVEY

General Harrison Gray Otis may be dead, but his spirit goes marching on.

General Otis, we hasten to add for the benefit of our younger readers, was in his day generation the arch foe of organized labor, the man whose hatred of trade unions amounted almost to a mania, and who did perhaps more than any one else to turn California, once the Gibraltar of unionism in America, into an open-shop stronghold.

This anti-union war he carried on by means of his paper, the Los Angeles "Times". And true to his spirit that paper continues to fight relentlessly any attempt on the part of wage earners to organize and improve their lot.

Strange to say, the Los Angeles "Times" breathes n'er a word against the business mergers we daily read of. It waxes hot and indignant only when labor tries to organize. Apparently, it believes that what is good sauce for the goose of capital is not good sauce for the gander of labor.

Just now the Los Angeles "Times" is all wrought up about the efforts of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, to organize the cloak and dress-makers of Los Angeles. The plight of these Los Angeles ladies' garment workers was vividly described in these columns by the Secretary-Treasurer of our Union, David Dubinsky, following his visit to Los Angeles last spring. We quote:

"In Los Angeles, where there is a considerable cloak and dress market, and where thousands of cloak and dressmakers are employed, conditions are so bad that one is reminded of the sweating system which existed in New York thirty years ago. A ladies' garment worker who ever worked in New York and then has the misfortune of working in a Los Angeles shop, knows what a union means. Aside from the fact that wages are low and hours of work long, the despotism of the bosses is appalling. They lord it over the workers and do what they please with them. There exists a veritable state of slavery, and those who have ever worked in a union shop are most anxiously awaiting the moment when the Union will come and deliver them from their bondage."

The foregoing appeared in our issue of May 16. Almost three months later, to wit, August 15, the "California Jewish Voice" of Los Angeles, carried on its front page a long account of a mass meeting of Los Angeles cloakmakers, held three days earlier, at which the speakers, nearly all of them from the rank and file, demanded that the Union call a strike. And why? Because "their patience is at an end; they have nothing to lose; no one is sure of his job; the bosses do what they please, pay as much as they choose, and the hours during the season are intolerably long."

Thus we learn, from a newspaper which is not connected with our Union or any other, what the Los Angeles cloak workers themselves have to say of conditions in their trade. And what they say agrees fully with what Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky reported last spring.

Such being the case, what could be more natural than for the International, which in the past fourteen months has won more humane conditions and American standards of living for the ladies' garment workers in New York, Cleveland, Toronto,

Montreal, Boston, Baltimore, and other cities,—wherein it had the cooperation of governors of great states and mayors of leading cities,—what we say, could be more natural than for the International to come to the rescue of our suffering brothers and sisters in Los Angeles who call to it for help? And how else could it help them than by organizing them,—the only way workers can help themselves?

Accordingly, when sickness in his family made it necessary for Joseph Breslaw, a Vice-President of the International, to settle temporarily in Los Angeles, the Union took advantage of the opportunity and commissioned Brother Breslaw, whose organizing ability, energy, and long experience as a labor leader have made him an outstanding figure in our ranks, to organize the exploited garment workers of Los Angeles.

All this is perfectly natural. But what is perfectly natural to reasonable and fair-minded Americans, seems suspicious and menacing to the Los Angeles "Times," with its anti-union complex. In the efforts of the

International, an A. F. of L. union, to organize the cloak and dressmakers of Los Angeles and thereby deliver them from sweat-shop conditions which must cause every true American to blush, that paper sees a dark and sinister plot by an international terrorist organization, acting in collusion with the cloak and dress manufacturers of New York, to wreck the budding ladies' garment industry of Los Angeles for the benefit of the New York trade. Could ignorance, malice, and falsehood go further than that?

And so by scare-heads, insinuation, misrepresentation, and appeals to sectional prejudice, it tries to poison the minds of its readers against the efforts of the International to win humane conditions of work and an American standard of living for the ladies' garment workers of Los Angeles.

Thus, in the course of a single week, it recently carried three items about our Union's campaign of organization in Los Angeles; two highly-colored news "stories," and one a highly prejudiced editorial.

One of these stories, bearing the scare-head "Terrorism by Unions Expected," read in part as follows:

"Local manufacturers of women's dresses and other apparel, threatened by union harassment just on the eve of the prosperous fall season, expressed fear yesterday that methods of intimidation and terrorization similar to those which have characterized strikes in the garment industry in

New York City will be attempted here.

Their apprehension has been intensified by the disclosure that international agents of the union in New York City have arrived in Los Angeles to launch a general strike in the garment industry next month."

On July 23 it carried a longer story, full of misrepresentation and sectional prejudice which bore the following sub-head: "Garment-Worker Organizer Here to Make Drive; Industry's Gain Vexes Eastern Rivals." The "garment-worker organizer" referred to is none other than Brother Breslaw, whom doctors advised to take his ailing wife for a six-month stay in Los Angeles. But maybe these physicians were hirelings in the pay of New York women's wear manufacturers out to ruin their Los Angeles competitors!

The Los Angeles "Times" returns to the attack in an editorial appearing in its issue of July 26. The editorial, entitled "A Threat To Workers"—Oh, how the Los Angeles "Times" loves the workers!—says in part:

"Appearance of a union organizer plentifully supplied with funds, rumored to have been furnished in large part by a rival, close-shop manufacturer, is a threat to the prosperity of Los Angeles' garment manufacturers, and to their employees....

"The open-shop garment manufacturers of this city have been steadily gaining ground for several years past and in 1929 are believed to have put out \$75,000,000 of product, as compared with a third of that amount two years before. They have been meeting New York competition all over the West, a condition made easier for them by the fact that the New Yorkers are weighted down with union regulations. The eastern concerns naturally would not be displeased to see their coast rivals similarly handicapped. Industrial trouble here would be for the advantage also of the New York union members, who expect to get the work thus taken from the hands of the Los Angeles workers."

Notice these repeated appeals to sectionalism on the part of a paper which always boasts of its 100 percent Americanism!

That these ravings of the Los Angeles "Times" will not deter our Union from organizing the disgracefully exploited workers of Los Angeles, goes without saying. Indeed, all that these antics of the country's leading anti-union paper have accomplished is to supply material for jests to "Our Justice," the new weekly launched by the Cloak and Dressmakers' Union, Local 65, I. L. G. W. U. As our sprightly young contemporary remarks in its first issue: "The (Los Angeles) 'Times' will fight anything that carries a union label. You can't change a leopard's spots over night."

From Time To Time

(Continued from page 5)

hands and how a small number of capitalists were capturing and swallowing all the concerns and enterprises in the country. But when Socialists said this, people thought, "Who cares what they are saying! Isn't it in the very nature of Socialists to be forever grumbling and finding fault with everything?" And this was often the thought of former Socialists who during the last few years of prosperity in America had suddenly seen the light and grown "wise." A year ago one of these "wise" ones tried to show me from his own case how wrong it was for the Socialists to assert that the rich were monopolizing the earth. Why, he himself could prove to me that in America every one really had an opportunity to get rich. For a long time he, too, had believed in the assertions and theories of the Socialists. But one day it had occurred to him to play the stock market and he had convinced himself that, given a little sense, everybody had a chance to make money in America. He, at least, had no reason to complain. At any rate, he now had a wholly different view of Wall Street and of the capitalist system in America. But a short time ago I met this wiseacre again and learned from him that he was no longer "wise." The great Wall Street crash last November had put an end to his wisdom as to that of tens of thousands of others. And when I drew him out a little more, he was already willing to admit that, generally speaking, the Socialists were right in many respects. "Why, at bottom I am myself a Socialist," he declared.

Be that as it may, Socialists are always highly pleased when some one who is not a Socialist, for example Governor Roosevelt, comes along and says the same thing that the Socialists are saying, and even proves it with figures and facts. And as I believe that the working people are not able to do without Socialism, I am glad that the Socialist contends he thinks it can be set right?

I do not know what Governor Roosevelt proposes to do about this state of affairs in which 150 persons

control 80 percent of the country's business. He did not indicate in his speech what he proposed to do about it, but from his remarks I gather that he believes such a state of affairs is all wrong. But what is wrong ought to be set right. Well, how does he think it can be set right?

I happen to have a good plan for setting it right. We ought to set up a Socialist society in which the business and the factories and all the natural resources of the country will belong to the people. In such a society it would not be possible for a couple of hundred persons to be the economic masters of the land. For in a Socialist society all would be equally rich. I say distinctly "equally rich," and not merely equal. Of course it's good to be equal, but it isn't good to be poor. Hence it had better be equally rich. And this will really be the case under the Socialist system. Everybody will have all he needs, which means that all be equally rich. But what is Governor Roosevelt's plan for ameliorating a state of affairs so absurd as to permit 150 persons to have in their grasp nearly all the wealth of the country?

Feigenbaum Greeted on 70th Birthday

Benjamin Feigenbaum, the famous Socialist writer and lecturer who played such an important part in the education and organization of the immigrant Jewish workers in America, was seventy years old on Tuesday, August 12. The day was made on occasion for rejoicing by the entire Jewish labor movement in this country and in Canada, for Jewish labor rightly looks upon Brother Feigenbaum as one of its greatest teachers and friends.

In this celebration the International heartily participated, well remembering the distinguished services Brother Feigenbaum rendered to the ladies' garment workers in the early days of our Union, especially during the historic strike of the New York dressmakers in 1909. Both President Benjamin Schlesinger and Secretary-Treasurer David Dubinsky sent warm messages of congratulation to the veteran Socialist and friend of the

workingman.

President Schlesinger's telegram read as follows:

"Dear Comrade and Friend Feigenbaum: It is with great joy and pleasure that I congratulate you most heartily upon your seventieth birthday. The vast majority of the membership of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union remember and will never forget all you have done to help build up their great labor organization. We wish you and Mrs. Feigenbaum good health and many happy returns."

Following is the telegram sent by Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky:

"Accept heartiest congratulations upon your seventieth birthday. The many thousands of members of our International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, whom you have taught and guided for so many years, greet you upon this occasion and wish you good health and long life."

TWO WEEKS IN LOCAL 10

By SAMUEL PERLMUTTER

Committee of One Hundred Patrolled Garment District Saturday Morning

On Saturday morning, August 16, 1930, a committee of about one hundred cutters assembled at the office of Local 10, at 7 o'clock in the morning, from which point they started out for the ladies' garment district for the purpose of apprehending those who would defy the Union and go to work on Saturday.

As usual, those cutters who reported to the office for this work were divided into teams, so that every available subway and elevated station south of 42nd Street, and West of 4th Avenue, was well covered.

It was due to this vigilance committee that spread over the entire garment center that a number of cutters were espied going to work. Those cutters who had decided to put in a day's work on Saturday, had learned by the time they reached their destination, that it would be best to give up all possible hope of carrying out their plans, and return home to enjoy a day's rest. Those, however, who were more persistent in carrying out their intentions were either checked before they reached their destinations, and others were stopped-off in the shops.

It should be said, however, that the percentage of cutters found going to work on Saturday was rather insignificant when compared with previous seasons. Whether this is due to lack of work in the industry, or to the greater measure of discipline prevalent amongst the cutters, is something which cannot be stated with any degree of accuracy. The fact, however, that the workers of other crafts, such as finishers, operators, etc., were found in the garment center in much larger proportions leads one to conclude that the cutters are much more inclined to observe Union conditions.

It may also be added that the would-be violators, knowing that the garment district is being patrolled Saturday mornings by committees of cutters, would not venture to defy the organization. At any rate it can be stated beyond the shadow of a doubt, that these Saturday morning activities have their telling effects upon checking violations of Saturday work.

As a result of these Saturday morning investigations, many cutters were summoned before the Executive Board, charged with violating Union regulations by going to work on Saturday. The Executive Board, in meeting out punishment to these offenders, made a distinction between those who were actually caught working in the shops, and those who were only seen on the streets. The reason for this attitude on the part of the Board is due to the fact that in a number of cases, cutters were able to prove that their presence in the market did not necessarily indicate that they had intended to go up to work. Accordingly, in most of these cases the Executive

Board was inclined to give them the benefit of the doubt, and so while it imposed fines upon them for this violation, it suspended sentence, and admonished the cutters to make it a practice not to be around the market on Saturdays, when work is not permitted, lest they be suspected of going in to work, and that the fine now imposed would be increased at the next summons to the Executive Board. As for those who were actually found working in the shops, no excuses were accepted, and fines ranging from \$10.00 to \$50.00 were imposed.

Reliable Manufacturers Prophecy Late Season

On several occasions it has been remarked in these columns that this season is the worst in many years. At this time of the year, when the more legitimate houses should be clamoring for overtime and extra hours on Saturday, we find ourselves in a condition where most of our cutters employed in these houses are barely working during the week.

Only last fall season, the Industrial Council called the Union to a conference and requested that the eight Saturdays' permission on which was granted to the employers in the agreement, and which was to start beginning September, should be shifted back to August 15th. In submitting their request for this change of date, the representatives of the Industrial Council pleaded that they were overstocked with orders which had to be shipped immediately and that this change would enable them to make these shipments, and thus prevent cancellations.

The Union, in consideration of the circumstances, saw fit to grant their request. Immediately thereafter, calls began pouring into the office, requesting permission to work on Saturday. This, however, is far from being the situation at the present time. Instead of receiving calls for permission to work on Saturday, the office is busy adjusting complaints with regard to the equal division of work.

The writer of these lines has visited some of the largest firms in the trade, and strange as it may seem, most of them predict a late season and many weeks of work ahead of them. One particularly large manufacturer, in analyzing present conditions, declared that the fact that the stores had not bought any merchandise as yet, coupled with the fact that a vast majority of manufacturers did not cut any stock, promised a season which might go into effect any day, and he is of the opinion that once the season does start, it will run late into November. If the reliability of the statements is to be judged by the character of the firms, then it is almost certain that the prediction will come true.

Office Enforcing Measures With Regard to Overtime and Temporary Men

While it is true that we find the cloak and dress trades in an abnormal condition which manifests itself by the number of unemployed cutters at present, nevertheless, quite a number of firms are very busy and are working overtime.

The office is now calling more meetings than ever before for the purpose of ascertaining conditions in the shops, and in every case where cutters reported working overtime, and where there is any doubt as to space for additional cutters, investigations are being made, and no overtime is permitted unless every inch of available space is occupied. Already, a number of firms have been investigated, and wherever additional room

was found, overtime was stopped and the employers were forced to put on additional cutters.

Amongst these firms are Wolf Rubins & Sheinberg; Gotham Girt Coat Co.; M. S. Hendler; Jacob Kinzier, Carmel Bros., etc. Also the foremen were instructed with regard to engaging cutters temporarily. Warnings were issued that such practices constituted serious violations, and wherever any one should be found responsible for engaging cutters on temporary jobs, he would be summoned before the Executive Board and severely punished.

Conferences Held with the Associations in the Dress Trade

In the previous issues of the Justice, mention was made of several conferences having been held with the Contractors Association, and the Wholesale Jobbers Association.

On Wednesday, August 6, 1930, another conference was held with the Affiliated Dress Manufacturers' Association. This conference was called for the purpose of straightening out many differences that have arisen recently between the affiliated Association and the Union, because of the apparent neglect of the Association to enforce Union conditions in the shops under their control. In many cases adjustments were made, and the employers affected by them failed to live up to the decisions. This Association, which was created during the general strike, and is still in its inception, harbors in its midst a number of members who do not as yet realize the responsibility and seriousness of contractual relations with the Union, and are therefore lax in carrying out Union provisions.

At this conference, the Union made it very plain to the employers that unless the Association made an obvious effort to enforce union conditions in shops of its members, as provided for in our agreement, shops would be stopped off wherever cases of violations should be discovered, and individual action against them taken.

The chief complaint filed by the Union against the Association at the conference, was with regard to the practice of certain members of the Affiliated Dress Manufacturers' Association in sending out work to non-union shops. This charge of the Union grew out of investigations conducted by the Impartial Chairman of the Dress Industry, Dr. N. L. Stone, who employs a staff of accountants under his supervision, and whose reports show that quite a number of members of the Affiliated Dress Manufacturers' Association have dealt with non-union shops.

The spokesman of the Association explained that the employers in question had dealt with these non-union shops prior to the strike of February, 1930, and that the non-union production that was found on the books was the finishing of work sent to them before February. They assured the Union that the Association would do everything in its power to compel the employers to live up to all provisions contained in our agreement, including that forbidding non-union production, and further stated that communications had been forwarded to all their members, warning them against committing any violations, and they expected that before long the percentage of non-union production would be considerably reduced.

An Interesting Case

Among the various cases that come up before the Executive Board, one that deserves the attention of the readers is that of Mandelbaum, of 512 7th Avenue. This is a very busy shop, and has been working overtime during the past few weeks. In their devotion to their work, the cutters forgot that they were not permitted to work on Saturday. The firm of Mandelbaum, having been desirous to

work on a particular Saturday, requested the Union for permission, with the result that the tailors and the operators received permission. The cutters, however, did not find it necessary to request permission from Local No. 10. The office discovered this violation, and they were summoned before the Executive Board. The cutters, upon being asked by the Board as to the reason for their conduct, explained that Business Agent Goldowsky had given them permission to work. The cutters were instructed that in the future they were not to accept any permission to work extra hours from anyone except Local 10, and a fine of \$15.00 was imposed upon every one of them.

As to the statement made by the cutters with regard to Business Agent Goldowsky, the Executive Board decided to send a communication to the Joint Board, which read in part as follows:

"I am directed by the Executive Board of Local No. 10, to call your attention to a very serious matter in connection with the firm of Mandelbaum, 512 7th Ave., which is being controlled by Business Agent Goldowsky.

"At a Joint Board meeting held on Wednesday night, August 6, 1930, a discussion ensued with regard to permission granted to the above-mentioned firm to work on Saturday, July 26, 1930.

"Among other delegates who participated in the discussion, Brother Kaufman, of Local No. 9, stated that the entire shop including the cutters were working on that day.

"Immediately upon receiving this information on the floor of the Joint Board, I personally approached Brother Goldowsky and asked him whether the statement of Brother Kaufman with regard to the cutters working on Saturday was true. Brother Goldowsky in turn assured me that it was ridiculous as he was positive that the cutters did not work. Incidentally, my attention was called to the fact that the chairman of Mandelbaum was present at the meeting of the Joint Board. Therefore, I also inquired of the chairman as to the veracity of the charge made by Brother Kaufman against the cutters. The chairman informed me that all the cutters did work.

"The cutters were subsequently summoned before the Executive Board. They all admitted having worked on that Saturday.

"Our Executive Board, in view of these acts, feels that Brother Goldowsky either deliberately misrepresented the facts about this shop, or committed an act of gross negligence. In either event it does not speak well for a Business Agent, who should be acquainted with the conditions of the shop, especially when permission is requested for Saturday work.

"Our Executive Board therefore wishes to apprise you of this matter and request that you kindly take this matter up with Brother Goldowsky and instruct him as to future conduct in a case of this kind.

"Fraternally,

SAMUEL PERLMUTTER,
Manager.

ATTENTION CUTTERS OF LOCAL 10

In view of the changes that are constantly being made by cutters from one job to another, all cutters are urged whenever such changes are made, to secure a new working card, and turn in the old one. Any member found working without a working card, will be called before the Executive Board.

ATTENTION CUTTERS OF LOCAL 10

In accordance with the decision of the Executive Board, cutters are once more warned against working overtime, unless special permission is granted them by the office.

Any cutter found working overtime without the consent of the office, will be summoned before the Executive Board, and Disciplined Accordingly.