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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 13, Iss. 1)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 13, Iss. 1)

### Keywords

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

### Comments

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

# JUSTICE

Official Organ of the International  
Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Vol. XIII. No. 1. Jersey City, N. J.  
Friday, January 2, 1931

## President Schlesinger Makes Rapid Headway Toward Full Recovery

Voice Much Better. — Returns to Catskills to Complete Cure.

President Schlesinger of the I. L. G. W. U., who is visiting New York this week to consult his physicians on the condition of his throat and general health, will return to the Parkville, N. Y. place where he has been apjourning for the past two months, early next week, very much encouraged by the report of the doctors under whose care he has been since his health was seriously impaired about a year ago.

President Schlesinger will probably spend a few more weeks in the mountain resort to complete his cure. His throat and voice are greatly improved and his general condition is materially better. While in New York, President Schlesinger attended a meeting of the New York members of the G. E. B., and received a number of local committees.

## President Schlesinger Will Install 1931 Joint Board

Locals 1, 10, 17 Administrations for  
Coming Year Inducted This Week.

The formal installation of the new Cloak Joint Board for 1931 will take place next Monday evening, January 5, 1931, in the Auditorium of the International Building, 3 West 16th Street. President Benj. Schlesinger will induct the new officers.

In addition to President Schlesinger, who is staying over in New York City for this special occasion, the installation ceremonies will be attended by General-Secretary Dubinsky, First Vice-President Salvatore Ninfo, and Vice-President Julius Hochman. General Manager Isidore Nagler of the Joint Board is candidate for re-election for his present post without opposition.

## Ladies' Tailor Strike Goes On Unabated

Not a Deserter From the Ranks, Says  
Local Manager Drasin. — Fight Will  
Continue Till Workers Win.

The strike of the ladies' tailors in the ten Fifth Avenue shops, now fourteen weeks old, is carried on with the same obstinacy that characterized it from the first day the Couturiers' Association precipitated the conflict in mid-September when they locked out their workers and refused to renew the collective agreement with the Union.

The shops are picketed regularly by the members of Local 38, and as the busy work season is now gone and the couturiers' trade is slack, the struck shops are practically empty. The strikers, nevertheless, are not a bit disheartened. They know that soon, as the Spring season makes its appearance, the employers will find themselves hard pressed for tailors and will have to conclude peace with the Union.

The grit and courage of the strikers is daily winning for them more and more admiration not only among their fellow workers in the I. L. G. W. U. family but through the entire community. To fight for a principle in such hard times as prevail today in the country requires more than ordinary devotion to ideals, and the men and women from the Fifth Avenue tailor shops who have carried on this struggle for the preservation of their organization for three and a half months enduring cold, hunger and privation deserves all the admiration and the support which the Labor Movement is in a position to give them.

## New York Cloak Board Will Fight Secret Deals

General Manager Nagler Warns Industrial Council Firms Will Be Held Accountable for Collusive Arrangements.—Impartial Chairman Notified.—Workers Entering Private Deals with Employers Will Be Severely Punished.—Stories of "Pay Cuts" With Union's Permission Branded as Fakes.

A warning that the Union will hold "every firm belonging to the Industrial Council strictly accountable for attempts to enter into collusive agreements with their workers," was sent this week by General Manager Isidore Nagler of the New York Cloak Joint Board to Mr. Samuel Klein, Executive Director of the Industrial Council Cloak & Suit Manufacturers' Association of New York. The warning was prompted

by information which reached Brother Nagler that a number of Industrial Council firms had approached their workers with suggestions to enter into clandestine arrangements aiming at the lowering of work standards in the inside shops. A copy of the letter was also sent by Brother Nagler to Impartial Chairman Raymond V. Ingersoll with a request that he take up the matter personally with Mr. Klein.

General Manager's letter to Mr. Klein reads as follows:

"December 27, 1930.

"Dear Mr. Klein:

"May I inform you of a serious matter that has been brought to my attention by a number of workers employed by members of the Industrial Council.

"It seems that a number of your members have approached their workers with requests to enter into secret arrangements with them with the object of lowering the standards in the shops. A practice of this sort can only result in serious disturbances and interruptions during the coming season.

"We are determined to make a very careful and thorough investigation and wherever we find evidence of these collusive agreements we shall hold such firms strictly accountable.

"In order to curb these attempts on the part of your members, I suggest that you communicate with them at once and warn them against entering into any collusive agreements with their workers and that you also make it clearly understood that they shall be held strictly responsible for the consequences of their act.

"I am forwarding a copy of this communication to Mr. Raymond V. Ingersoll, the Impartial Chairman, in order that he may be fully acquainted with the situation.

"Very truly yours,  
ISIDORE NAGLER,  
General Manager.

### Stories of "Authorized" Pay Cuts Pure Fakes

Stories spread by anonymous cloak manufacturers in the trade press to the effect that cloak workers in the shops are accepting wage cuts were characterized by Brother Isidore Nagler as intentionally misleading propaganda prompted by a desire to see such things happen but in no way supported by facts.

"I hesitate to dignify these fake claims with an answer, Brother Nagler declared, if they are the irresponsible talk of irresponsible employers, they are not worthy of an answer. If, on the other hand,

(Continued on page 2)

### Locals 1, 10, and 17 Install Staffs

On Monday evening, December 29, Local 10, Cutters' Union of New York, installed its newly elected officers for 1931 at a great meeting in Arlington Hall, addressed by Brother William Collins, Organizer of the A. F. of L. in New York, General-Secretary Dubinsky, Vice-Presidents Nagler and Hochman.

Local 1 installed its new executive board and officers on Tuesday evening, December 30, at a big meeting at Bryant Hall. Ex-president Abraham Rosenberg installed the officers. General Secretary Dubinsky, Dr. B. Hoffman, Vice-Presidents Nagler and Hochman delivered speeches. Louis Levy and William Zuckerman are respectively the new manager and chairman of the Operators' Local.

The installation of the new staff of Local 17 took place on the same evening in the Auditorium of the International Building. Brothers Dubinsky and Nagler officiated at the induction ceremonies. Vice-president Heller was re-elected Manager of Local 17.

President Schlesinger sent messages of congratulations to all these meetings.

## Chicago Joint Board Reaches Pact With Cloak Employers

Workers Will Soon Vote on Agreement  
Terms.

The Chicago Joint Board of the Cloak and Dress Unions reached this week an understanding with the Cloak Manufacturers' Association of that city with regard to terms of a new agreement.

Since the collective agreement in the cloak trade of Chicago expired on November 30, conferences looking to the renewal of the pact have been going on continually between the Joint Board and the employers' association. This week, the terms of the agreement finally were reached at the office of the Union's attorney, Mr. Peter Sissman. At these conferences the Joint Board was represented by Morris Blais, Joint Board manager, M. Goldstein, secretary-treasurer, D. Borowitz, chairman, M. Borin, M. Trabakow, S. Lederman, P. Davids, and Business Agents M. Novack and A. Rabinowitz.

The manufacturers' association was represented by B. Kirshback, president, H. Ellsberg, M. Handmacher, J. Itzkoff, M. Linsky, and J. Rubowitz, manager of the association.

Although all the points in the new agreement have been agreed upon, the contract is still unsigned pending the approval of its terms by the membership of the local body. A meeting for this purpose will soon be called by the Chicago Joint Board,

## Warning! To All Cloakmakers

Information has reached the officers of the Joint Board that in some shops belonging to members of the Industrial Council, the employers are attempting to enter into secret deals and arrangements with the workers for the coming season—to cut wages and to lower other work standards.

The Union is now making a thorough investigation of these charges. The Joint Board is taking steps to prevent the employers from conspiring to make such deals. As far as the members of the Union are concerned, the Joint Board is herewith serving notice upon all cloakmakers that anyone found to have entered into such a secret arrangement with an employer or to have helped to bring about such a deal will be severely punished even to the extent of expulsion from the ranks of the organization.

ISIDORE NAGLER,  
General Manager,  
New York Cloak Joint Board



## Baldwin Censures Election Conduct of Pressers' Local

Statement Suggests Change of Rules to Guarantee Fair Elections.

to the General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union: Friends:

The undersigned, whom you invited to serve with certain of your vice-presidents as a committee to supervise the elections in three local unions, are obliged to make the following extended report concerning the election in the Cloak & Suit Pressers' Union, Local No. 35. The reason for making this report is the difficulties which arose both before the election and at the election itself. We owe it to you to state the facts together with our conclusions and recommendations, so that you may be guided in whatever action it seems best to you to take.

Before the election in Local No. 35, we were consulted by members representing candidates opposed to the administration, who made various complaints to us which we endeavored to settle. On election day, Mr. Baldwin was present at the one polling place in Bryant Hall for two hours in the morning and for a part of the afternoon, endeavoring to settle controversies which arose there. Mr. Nunn was present all of the latter part of the afternoon until the polls closed. Vice-presidents Ninfo, Halpern and Reisberg were present at the polls practically the whole day. We were obliged, by the difficulties which arose, to put in much more time on this election than in either of the other two locals.

There were present also at Bryant Hall four young men, employed by us for the General Committee in charge of the elections. They supervised the election in all its details together with the count and the inspection of the registration. They have made a report to us stating the facts as they saw them.

These facts reported to us, together with our own observations are as follows. None of these stated facts is in dispute:

1) The Election and Objection Committee elected by Local No. 35, was composed entirely of members favorable to what was known as the administration slate.

2) Because of the fact that the election was in charge of persons favorable to the administration, the opposing candidates all withdrew some ten days before the election. We got them to agree to go back on the ballot, so that it could be a real election, on condition that certain members favoring their candidates were appointed by us as watchers, and on condition that we would be responsible for checking all voters against the membership cards in the Union office. The administration objected to this procedure and appealed to the International officers, who sustained the Committee, and the administration finally consented to the arrangements made. But the ballots were printed so late that they were not ready for the time set for opening the polls, nor were the opposition candidates able to get the numbers of their candidates as they appeared on the ballots until the evening before the election.

3) On the election day the polling place opened at 10:30 instead of 8 o'clock in the morning, only sixteen booths were prepared for a membership of 5,000 with an estimated vote of 2,000 (the actual vote cast was about 1,500). This obliged many voters to vote outside the booths—on the stage or in the balconies and not in private, until more booths were provided late in the day.

4) During the day large crowds gathered in the hall and at times became unruly. They had to be ejected several times. The special officer selected by the local union to keep order was a member friendly to the administration and so conducted himself that he was finally ordered out of the hall.

5) Two members of the Union friendly to the administration, shortly after noon time, violently assaulted three members of the opposition—two on the street near Bryant Hall and one further away. This so intimidated the opposition that many of them refused to go to vote. The watchers appointed by the Committee from among the opposition were also so intimidated that they withdrew. For the same reason the opposing candidates refused to be present at the count.

Despite these irregularities in the election during the day, the Committee did not order the election stopped because we could not at that time

ascertain how serious the effect would be on the election.

Despite the fact that no registration books were prepared, all those voting were registered with their full names, their ledger numbers and their father's or mother's names. These were all checked the next day, against the membership cards of the Union and all were found to be bona-fide paid-up members. No irregularity, therefore, appeared in that respect.

It was complained that the ballots were improperly printed in that there was no space provided on the ballot for manager for a "yes" or "no" vote and that therefore members did not have an opportunity to vote against the one candidate. It was also objected that there was no "yes" or "no" vote for the six candidates for business agents, there being only six candidates for the six posts to be filled. This complaint which is not based on any union rule, does not seem to us well-founded. The remedy for that is to nominate opposing candidates. Nominations obviously could have been made if they were desired.

### Conclusions

Our conclusions, based upon these facts, are:

1) The election was marked by disorder and irregularities. The most important factor was the assaults upon members of the opposition which prevented many members of the opposition from voting. The withdrawal of their watchers and the withdrawal of the opposing candidates from the count illustrates the extent to which they felt intimidated, whether justly or not. Many members of the Union did not feel they had a fair chance to vote. How many more might have voted for the opposing candidates we cannot say. It is not our business to speculate as to what the result might have been if all the ballots of members desiring to vote had been cast.

2) The irregularities so clearly violate the election rules laid down by the I. L. G. W. U., that we cannot give the election our approval. It was marked by greater irregularities than any with which we are familiar in any local of the I. L. G. W. U. The best that we have heard said of it by any responsible officer of the Union is that it was fairer than previous elections in Local No. 35. That does not impress us as an argument for approving this election.

Concerning the specific assaults committed on election day, we are assured that the men guilty will be charged and brought to trial in the Union. With that we have nothing to do.

### Recommendations

While we cannot approve the conduct and the arrangement of the election in Local No. 35, we are reluctant to recommend to you the holding of a new election. If the vote had been close as between the administration and the opposing candidates, that would be a valid reason for so recommending or if the irregularities had been greater, we would so recommend without hesitation. More important in our opinion is a change in the present rules in order to guarantee fair elections. When an election committee can be elected as now, composed entirely of the supporters of one ticket or another, with the administration holding an unfair advantage all along the line, a fair election is difficult.

We therefore recommend that the experience in Local No. 35 and in other locals as well, be used to revise the rules. That is a job which will take time and extensive consultation with all interested parties.

We shall be glad to render any help within our power in revising the rules of the elections if the aid of such outsiders as ourselves is desired. We hope that rules will be adopted which will make it unnecessary hereafter to call in anyone outside of the International's membership to guarantee the fair conduct of any and all elections in your locals.

Fraternally yours,

(signed)  
ROGER N. BALDWIN  
WILLIAM L. NUNN.

## JUSTICE

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## Los Angeles Strike Benefit Ball Reported Fine Affair

Workers in Shops Remaining on Strike Hold Fast. — Local 65 More Than Doubled Membership.

The Los Angeles Cloakmakers' Union, Local 65, had a ball and entertainment on December 12, the proceeds of which were given over to the fund supporting the cloakmakers still out on strike in some Los Angeles shops since September 4.

The strike, which is under the direction of Vice-President Joseph Breslau, who for the past eight months has been the International representative on the Pacific Coast, affected some 55 shops, of which 35 have settled and are working under union conditions. About 20 shops are still out.

Local 65, however, feels that the strikers will be able to force the remaining firms to meet the Union's terms as soon as the season starts and the demand for workers becomes urgent. As the situation stands at present they consider the gains already made by the walkout very substantial. Before September 4, the Los Angeles cloak local only had a skeleton of a union in some seven shops. Today there are 35 union shops in that city, in which a 42-hour five-day week is in operation and all other union terms are observed. Local 65, besides, more than doubled its membership in the past four months and retained confidence in its ability to control work conditions in the Los Angeles cloak market.

Nearly all the important I. L. G. W. U. organizations in the East sent greetings to the Los Angeles striking cloakmakers on the occasion of this benefit ball. President Schlesinger and Secretary Dubinsky in a message, among other things, stated:

"In unity lies your power and strength—as an organized body you will reach your goal. We wish you all the success and happiness you are striving after."

## ELMAN RECITAL FOR WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE

At Carnegie Hall, Saturday Afternoon, January 3 Mischa Elman, famous violin virtuoso, will make his first appearance of the season at a benefit recital for the Women's Trade Union League of New York, on Saturday afternoon, January 3rd.

The Women's League is well known in working circles in New York for its unflagging interest in the work of organizing women in industry. It has an enviable record of nearly twenty years of unbroken achievement in the field of labor.

The Elman Recital is under the auspices of a special benefit committee, of which Mrs. Myron I. Borg is chairman, and Mrs. Otto H. Kahn, Mrs. Gerard Swope, and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt are associate chairmen. Tickets may be obtained from the offices of the League, 247 Lexington Avenue, or at box office, Carnegie Hall.

## New York Cloak Board Will Fight Secret Deals

(Continued from Page 1)

they are the secret hopes of anonymous officials in some of the employers' associations, they are hardly worth taking notice of. Yet, because these statements are misleading, they should not be allowed to pass without comment.

"First of all, let me make this perfectly plain: The Union has not, and it will not, permit any reduction in wages.

"Second: If the Union at any time finds that secret arrangements for reducing wages have been made in any shop, it will at once proceed to collect every penny of back wages, whether because of wage cuts or illegal overtime. Any manufacturer who is figuring his cost of production on the basis of secret arrangements is banking on a pipe dream and is due for a very unpleasant awakening.

"Third: Depend on it that such secret arrangements will become known to the Union. You just cannot keep that kind of thing secret for very long.

"The Union is conferring with manufacturers who feel that they must put through reorganizations. When the Union is satisfied that the reorganizations are in good faith, we act accordingly. But no concessions are being made.

"What too many cloak manufacturers seem to forget is that the cloakmaker gets so little work in the course of a year that even at present wage scales he makes a bare living at best. The Union is not going to permit his wages to be cut, because that would mean added privation for the worker."

# Idleness Now At Peak, Says American Federation of Labor Chief

**Unorganized Are Harder Hit Than Those Who Are Protected by the Unions.— Building Trades and Factories Show Up Worst.—Strong Plea for Needy.**

"In spite of the tragedy of more than 5,000,000 men out of work" President Green of the A. F. of L. believes that reports received by the Federation for December "give ground for encouragement."

True, unemployment for the first two weeks of the month showed an increase over November, but the increase, according to Mr. Green, was not as great among trade unionists as is usual at that time of year. Among the unorganized it was more than the usual seasonal increase.

In a statement issued to the press on the day before Christmas, President Green presented the following summary of the situation.

### At the Peak

"Unemployment in the first weeks of December increased as it usually does at this season and more are now out of work than at any time during the present depression.

"Our preliminary estimate of the total number unemployed in the United States in December based on government employment figures, supplemented by our own is 5,300,000. According to our revised estimate for November, 5,000,000 were out of work in that month, showing an increase of 300,000 from November to December.

"Suffering from unemployment is already intense and every effort is needed to relieve the unemployed. Many American citizens in the past month have shown the same spirit in meeting this emergency which carried us through the problems of war 13 years ago.

"Only the same self-sacrificing effort can help us to meet the present great human emergency.

### Need for Relief

"Contributions for relief of the unemployed and efforts to provide work must continue even more vigorously through the next two months. We cannot hope for any general improvement before March.

"In spite of the tragedy of more than five million out of work, our figures for December give ground for encouragement. Unemployment did not increase as much from November to December this year as it usually does even in normal years.

"In 1928 the increase in the number of union members out of work was 17 per cent from November to December; in 1929, 28 per cent, while this year the increase was only 5 per cent.

### Buying Power Emphasized

"This indication that the rising trend of unemployment is slackening is encouraging news indeed. If January figures again show less than the normal increase we will be justified in the belief that a change for the better may be in the making.

"Better employment and increased buying power of wage earners is fundamental to business revival.

## Senderowitz Again Montreal Joint Board Business Agent

**Vice-Pres. Amdur Resigns As Manager.**

A rather hectic pre-election campaign in the Montreal locals, centering on the question of whether there should be one or two business agents to attend to the business of the Joint Board in the shops, came to an end last week with the reelection of Brother Samuel Senderowitz as business agent for the ensuing term of 1931.

The division of opinion which created a lot of bad blood in the local membership may be traced to the appointment last summer by the Joint Board of Montreal of an additional business agent, Brother Goldberg, to help in the shop control work, at the suggestion of Manager Amdur. The maintenance of two business agents, however, proved too expensive a proposition of the Montreal organization, and the majority of the members decided to get along with one business agent.

Several candidates were proposed for the post, including Brothers Goldberg, Eaton and Senderowitz. The former two in the end declined, and Brother Senderowitz was returned without opposition. The Montreal cloakmakers, according to letters received from that city, are anticipating a good spring season, badly needed to repair somewhat the precarious condition of the local workers.

"It is not certain, however, that this slackening of the unemployment increase has yet extended to groups outside the labor movement. While our figures for trade union members showed no more than the usual seasonal increase in the number out of work from October to November, and less than usual from November to December, reports from the Department of Labor covering unorganized as well as union workers in manufacturing, showed much more than the usual seasonal increase.

"It appears that conditions are more serious for those without union protection."

Summarizing the figures tabulated by the Federation, President Green announced the following results:

The number out of work in the United States increased from 15.9 per cent in November to 16.5 per cent in December.

"It will be seen," said Mr. Green, "that unemployment has reached the highest figure thus far in the depression."

By way of comparison he pointed out that in December of 1928 and 1929 it was estimated that 10 per cent were out of work. This is a severe indictment of the kind of prosperity the country had before the big slump.

### Those Hardest Hit

President Green's reports show that conditions in the Metal Trades are about the same as in November, but in printing and building "unemployment is higher than at any time during the last three years."

"Forty-five per cent of the building tradesmen are out of work and nine per cent of those in printing," President Green declares.

"In the other trades, only one group shows only a slight improvement, and that is clothing and textiles, where the number out of work is 25 per cent in December as against 27 per cent in November.

"In the following groups unemployment had increased in December: Textiles, manufacturing (the largest increase was in manufacturing), service and trade, railroads, water transport, street transport, musicians. Unemployment among musicians is as serious as in the building trades.

"Reports from 24 cities show that in 19 of the 24 unemployment is still increasing, five report no change or slight improvement since November."

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## With the New York Dress Joint Board

By ANTONIO CRIVELLO, Secretary-Treasurer

A regular meeting of the Joint Board of the Dress & Waistmakers' Union, I. L. G. W. U., was held on Wednesday, December 10, 1930, in the Council Room of Local 22, 60 W. 35th Street. Brother Benj. Evry, Chairman.

The minutes of the Joint Board meeting of December 3, 1930 and the following report of the Board of Directors of December 8, 1930 were read and approved:

"Brother Max Guzman, Manager of the Organization Department, reports that last week he omitted a certain case. He states that through the efforts of Brother C. Iandoli, business agent, the shop of Isaac Kaplan was organized. He says that the shop consists of sixty-five workers, and that up until now twenty-five of these have already joined the Union, as the shop has only just started to work.

He then cites the case of I. Islin Dress Company which, he claims, gave up the shop and became inside contractors for the Barbara Frocks, as an open shop. He says that Brother M. Terry, business agent, called the shop down on strike, and that after one day's strike, succeeded in settling with the firm. He adds that Brothers Staum and Moskowitiz were also helpful in the settling of the Islin Dress.

"Regarding the Lady Rejane Dress, Brother Guzman says that the shop is being picketed by the members. He states that he had a meeting recently in reference to the above and that there were over 100 people in attendance, representing every local.

"Brother G. DiNola reports about the shops in the outlying districts. He then appeals to the Board for an organization drive in the districts of which he is in charge.

"Brother Julius Hochman, General Manager, tells Brother DiNola that it is now premature to discuss organization work, but that in the next two or three weeks, the Board will take up the problems of our organization and that the situation in the outlying districts will then be discussed.

"Brother Julius Hochman then states that one of the jobbers, Herman Beispiet, resigned from the Association last week, but through the efforts of Brother Moskowitiz the shop was settled and rejoined the Association."

Brother Hochman then informs the Board that the case with the Association in reference to Clause 24 of our agreement which has taken up most of his time and energy for the past few weeks, was finally concluded today. The importance of this case will be seen when the decision is rendered.

He then states that he is glad to be able to report very favorable developments in the strike of the Lady Rejane Dress Company, and says that if things continue this way, we may look forward to a successful termination of the strike.

The report of the General Manager is approved.

## DRESSMAKERS UNION LOCAL 22, I. L. G. W. U.

All our members are urgently requested to attend the  
**REGULAR SECTION MEETINGS**  
which will be held in the following places

**Thursday Eve., January 8**

**Bronx:**  
Ambassador Hall, 3875 Third Ave.,  
cor. Claremont Parkway

**Brownsville, East New York:**  
Skolnick's Mansion, 503 Penna. Ave.

**Bensonhurst, Boro Park:**  
Workmen's Circle Center, 7212-20 Ave.

**Come early. Bring your member cards with you.**

JOSEPH SPELMAN, Manager  
JACOB COOPER, Chairman



# THE DANVILLE STRIKE

Behind The Fighting Lines in the Virginia Mill Town

FOUR thousand workers in the Riverside and Dan River Cotton Mills, Danville, Va., have been on strike since September 23, 1929. About two thousand of them were out of work during the summer. The workers, with wives and children, constitute perhaps 15,000 people who are being fed by the United Textile Workers, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Last February a wage cut of 10 per cent was put into effect by the company. This was after President Hoover had requested manufacturers to refrain from wage cutting during the depression. It also followed a considerable period during which the "stretch-out" had been installed in the mills. The "stretch-out" system involves the multiplication of looms and other readjustments in the drive for production. General unrest followed, and led to an invitation from the loom fixers of the plant to the American Federation of Labor to organize the workers. Within a few weeks a great majority of the employes joined the union. The union books showed 4,142 names which represented the great majority of the working force. A colored local of the United Textile Workers was also organized. While Communists later came to Danville and attacked the United Textile Workers and the A. F. of L. as too conservative, they made no headway in the situation. On the other hand, the union made every effort to conduct negotiations on a "no strike" policy, and offered the company full cooperation in efficiency and production through the union's industrial engineer.

H. R. Fitzgerald, president of the Danville mills, refused to take any offers of mediation under consideration. Increasing numbers of skilled employes of long standing were discharged for taking a prominent part in the union.

A large number of employes were laid off during the summer, part of them because of slack work. When, early in September, the company began to increase its force, discriminating against the former workers who belonged to the union and according to the strikers bringing in new workers from out of town, efforts were made at mediation by State and Federal conciliators, and by the Governor of Virginia, to whom Mr. Fitzgerald replied that there was "nothing to mediate." The local union then voted to strike, and the result has been a virtual shutdown of the mills for the past thirteen weeks.

## Working Conditions

It is true that these mills have been above the average of Southern mills in many respects. There has been no night work for many years. The wages have been above those in most Southern cotton mills, and about the same as those in two large mills in North Carolina. A welfare program under the Y. M. C. A., a community welfare building, a medical department and nursing service, and an "industrial democracy" plan have been features of the management's policy. Nevertheless, wages for many workers have been hardly above subsistence levels. By interviews and inspection of pay envelopes at union headquarters, the following samples of wage data were discovered:

Common labor, colored	\$6.70 a week
Girls—ticketing, sewing room	9.00
Women weavers, broadcloth	about 12.00
Other weavers	16.00
Other weavers	18.00 to 23.00
Loom fixers	20 to 27.00
Unskilled labor, white	13.00

It is not claimed that these wage data are representative of all departments or classes of workers. It was desired to secure full wage statistics from the company payroll but the company refused to grant the request for this detailed information.

Added to the dissatisfaction over the wage scale was that occasioned by the "stretch-out" which the workers claim resulted in many cases in doubling the number of looms or machines per worker but at the same time in some cases reducing his weekly pay, and in other cases only slightly increasing it although the work was greatly increased. Also, it is represented that the wage cut was finally proclaimed by the president, in an announcement in which he said that it would go "whether you like it or not" and without a favorable vote by the "house of representatives" although the plant is supposed to operate under "industrial democracy."

## Housing

There are no water or sewer connections—not even sinks—in the houses (with the exception of 50 houses on Bishop Avenue, which is a beautiful sec-

tion, superior in every way). The run of the 1,000 other company houses (900 in Schoolfield Mill Village, close to the Dan River or Schoolfield plant, and 100 in the city of Danville, near the Riverside plant) are the usual dreary type of house, similar in design and color, set on brick pillars; there are no cellars, no sinks, no inside toilets or water connections. They are equipped with electric lights. The houses are kept in good repair. Water is obtained at a hydrant beside each house, and is piped from a protected water supply. The outside toilets, which are cleaned regularly, stand in rows at the end of the lots.

Streets are kept in good condition. Most of them are cinder roads and have sidewalks and curbs. Bishop Avenue is paved.

House rents are low, averaging about 50 cents per room per month; the number of rooms ranged from two to four and five. Quite a number of employes live in other than company houses, many owning their own houses in the city.

## Conduct of the Strike

One was impressed by the quietness and order of the strikers, and the lack of any evidence of force or violence on their part. The strikers are a fine type with a high level of intelligence and ability. They are "church folks" and reliable citizens. The police up to the present have shown fairness and have handled the situation sensibly. No evictions from the company houses have occurred.

With increasing tension, growing pressure of hunger and despair, due to sickness in families and suffering of children, it is difficult to predict what may occur at any time. Private labor spies are said to be present, seeking to stir up trouble for their own advantage, although it is understood that the company has refused to employ them. A few cases of dynamite explosions have occurred but no conclusive proof has been presented as to who was responsible for them.

## Need of Relief

Interviews revealed the fact that no funds to meet the special strain on the community are available from social agencies. In fact, their usual drive, and that of the Community Chest, are being canceled this year, and the city administration is being asked to supply the budget. However, the city faces possibly decreased revenues from taxation and it was not yet decided what it could do.

The City of Danville has a Health Department under a competent health officer, and a staff of nurses. And the Parent Teachers Association has been supplying milk lunches in the schools. But none of this work affects the Schoolfield Mill village, with 5,000 inhabitants. The mills on September 1 closed down most of their welfare work and discontinued employment of the two visiting nurses who were at work in the community, leaving Schoolfield without visiting service. With cold weather, scanty clothing, little fuel, and undernourishment due to short rations, there is likely to be more sickness. The diet of relief rations supplied by the unions provides no green vegetables or lean meat; except for a few sick cases children do not have milk. Only enough evaporated milk is supplied for coffee, and to "thicken gravy." Even these supplies are running low, and are maintained only from day to day, as money becomes available. There is every prospect of severe suffering and sickness among so large a number of people if the strike situation remains unchanged and no further resources become available.



An Evicted Danville Striker and His Family

# The Cloak Trade in Canada

By MAX AMDUR, Vice-President

It was about a year ago that the International had started its organizing drive in the Canadian cloak markets.

For several years past, the cloak trade in Canada had been in a state of utter disorganization, and work conditions in the shops were the lowest to be found anywhere. The first city to be tackled was Toronto, and within a comparatively short time the International was successful in forming there a compact union and in signing agreements with the Toronto employers.

True, Toronto did have a semblance of a cloak union prior to the International's drive last winter. The existing group, however, had but little influence on local work conditions, and with Vice-president Kirzner at its head, had to contend itself for a long time with a bare existence hoping for better times to come. Their perseverance, nevertheless, had stood them in good stead when the right moment finally arrived. The headway they had made during the past year is really remarkable. Today, the Toronto cloakmakers not only have a strong organization in their own trade but are among the best organized workers in Toronto and occupy a place of honor in the local labor movement.

In Montreal the situation, however, is quite different.

The years of weakness and disorganization have left a deeper mark in Montreal than in Toronto. The fact is that even to this day Montreal has not been able to bring forth from its own material enough leadership that would guide the local cloakmakers in maintaining a properly balanced organization in the industry. And this, of course, constitutes a vital factor when we consider the prospects of an influential and lasting union among the Montreal cloakmakers.

## Winnipeg—A New Center

What concerns the industry itself, Montreal and Toronto are approximately both situated on the same level. Both cities for many years past were the only places where cloaks were being manufactured for the entire Canadian market. Only recently cloak shops began to open in Winnipeg and Vancouver, in the former city rather on a very rapid scale. So much so that at the last meeting of the C. E. B. it was decided to open an organizing drive in Winnipeg. Yet, it is quite certain that for a long time to come Montreal and Toronto will still remain the centers of cloakmaking in the Dominion. Both these cities employ approximately about 3,500 persons in the cloak shops, and the work conditions in both cities are the same. In fact, the agreements signed in both Montreal and Toronto with the manufacturers are identical with the single exception that in Toronto the contract is for one year while in Montreal it still has a year to run.

## The Intra-City Conference

An intra-city conference of the two existing union bodies in Montreal and Toronto was held recently in the latter city at which several features of the Toronto agreement shortly to be renewed were taken up for discussion. The conference has served, in addition, to bring both unions closer and at the same time to do away with some old friction accumulated from former years, when each city was wont to place upon the other responsibility for lack of organization and miserable work conditions. The conference, I may say, disposed for good of this local "patriotism" and pettiness, having reached the conclusion that at the bottom of disagreement in former years had been the fact that there was no strong union in either city to protect the interests of the cloakmakers. With the formation of real labor unions in the cloak trade both in Montreal and Toronto it is clearly in the interest of both to do away with the competitive spirit and to substitute for it the spirit of cooperation.

The conference, on the whole, proved of such vital interest to the Canadian cloakmakers that it was decided to hold such conferences as frequently as possible in the future. And in view of the fact that the problem of organizing the dressmakers is growing in importance in the Canadian market, especially in Toronto, it can be plainly seen that close cooperation between Toronto and Montreal is not only desirable but absolutely important as a measure that would strengthen the position of the Union in the planned organization drive.

# In This Corner

By M. D. DANISH

A CLEVELAND DISPATCH of last week announces that the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen is conferring with the leadership of the American Federation of Labor concerning terms of affiliation with the latter body.

While there is nothing startling in this news item, as talk of affiliation of the trainmen with the major body of American organized labor has been current for several years past, it would appear, nevertheless, that these discussions are making headway. Both President Green, of the A. F. of L., and President Whitney, of the Railway Trainmen, join in the hope that the question of jurisdiction, involving the railway unions already belonging to the A. F. of L., will be settled on a satisfactory basis, paving the way for the other railway brotherhoods, the conductors, the engineers and the firemen to enter the Federation.

It is safe to assume that the affiliation of the four railway union with the Federation of Labor will not be consummated overnight. The "Big Four" have led an independent existence for too many years to be expected to rush headlong into the A. F. of L. without first obtaining solid guarantees of a share of authority. The acquisition of 600,000 new members in one of the basic industries is, however, too much a prize for the Federation to allow the prospects of affiliation to fail once the old "psychological" barrier of free-lance existence had been lifted.

In the event of the "Big Four" joining the American Federation of Labor, the only large labor organization worth mentioning still remaining outside its fold would be the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. There has always, of course, been a distinct difference in the attitude of the Federation toward the railway brotherhoods and the Amalgamated. The former have been "unaffiliated" unions, while the latter, openly at least, has been regarded as a "dual" or "illegitimate" organization. In a certain sense the affiliation of the railway unions with the Federation would leave the Amalgamated on weaker ground, as the only union of importance playing a lone hand. On the other hand, the entrance of the "Big Four" into the A. F. of L. might even foreshadow the eventual affiliation of the Amalgamated with the Federation. As seen from the sidelines, in the light of recent industrial developments in the clothing industry, the jurisdictional lines should not prove such an insurmountable stumbling block as they had been until the last few years.

SENATOR NORRIS' "NO" to Dr. John Dewey's invitation to drop the Republican party and lead a third liberal party in the United States will surprise but few people.

Dr. Dewey's indictment of both old parties that "they are placing property rights above human rights" is not being disputed by the Senator from Nebraska. Norris, as may be inferred from his reply, would not object to leading a third—progressive—party that would have a chance for success. Under the circumstances, however, he feels that "in a practical sense Dr. Dewey's advice cannot be considered." Besides, "what are political parties except as instrumentalities of government anyway? No man or woman who is interested only in the good of the country or humanity can look on a political party as anything else."

Boiled down to a more concrete meaning, what Senator Norris appears to have in mind is that there is not yet in the United States enough progressive sentiment to form such an "instrumentality of government" that would warrant even a sporting chance. Obviously he has a good deal of doubt concerning Dr. Dewey's opinion that "millions of progressives over the United States are longing for a new political alignment." To a less optimistic observer it would seem that these "millions" somehow are not quite visible on the surface. At any rate, the American genius of the progressive is so peculiarly shy that he manages to keep his identity rather skillfully concealed.

It is probably the realization of this fact that keeps a Norris, much to his distaste, in the Republican fold. Or a Democratic progressive like Wheeler of Montana just as snugly within his party side by side with

# Speed the Parting Guest!



—Labor, Washington, D. C.

some hidebound reactionary from the South. The insurgent members of Congress are experienced enough politicians to realize that, just as the La Follette brothers could not have held Wisconsin without a powerful political machine, they could make no headway nationally without a substantial machinery based on self-interest. Roosevelt's Armageddon is still not so far off to have been entirely forgotten.

What most likely will come out of this embroglio is that Bad Boy Lucas will be made to walk the plank like many another scape goat before him. In politically frozen America it will take more than a ripple like the Norris-Lucas scrap to crack the old parties asunder so that a strong third party might appear more than a mere hope.

THE CONTROVERSY OVER convict labor in Soviet lumber camps appears to be dwarfed in interest as compared with the far more engaging question—Is free labor, in the sense it is understood the world over, existent at this moment in Russia?

The latest decrees from Sovietland seem to indicate that militarization of the workers, a pet scheme advanced by Trotsky as far back as 1922, has become a fact now. Workers, ostensibly, still have a right to quit jobs on seven days' notice but they are treated as deserters if they exercise this right and may thereafter obtain nothing but manual labor for six months. All skilled workers, besides, are subject to transfer to places away from their homes without their consent. Unemployed persons must also accept any work offered them or lose the right to be classed as such. And finally, the dolts handed out formerly to unemployed are abolished.

This militarization of labor, it is explained, is due, first, to the exigency of the Five-Year Plan, and, second, to a desire to instill "pep" and discipline among the proverbially lax Russian workers. But what, one may ask, has become of the great trade unions of Russia? Only not so long ago we were told that there were over 11 million men and women in these unions, nearly the entire adult industrial population of Russia. It would seem that in an emergency like the Five-Year Plan, instead of militarizing labor, these trade unions should have been the immediate and direct agency for "speeding up" production. Or is it true that these Russian Communist-controlled "trade unions" are even less than paper organizations, mere registration bureaus through which a stricter control may be

exercised over jobs and ration cards without which none may eat in Russia these days?

How much more work it will be possible to extract out of an undernourished and sullen Russian worker by this extreme measure that puts his on a soldier basis is not easy to guess. The Plan still has three more years to run, and is quite likely but a prelude to, or the first installment of, a "twenty-five year" plan. The initiators of forced labor in Russia obviously are not oblivious to these prospects. Forced labor in Sovietland, if they have their way, has come to stay indefinitely, or at least until it breaks down under the weight of its own brutality.

JUDGE WILLIAM CLARK'S decision that the 18th Amendment is invalid seems to have created but a tepid sensation. A half dozen years ago, such a dictum by a Federal judge might have precipitated a cyclone. Today, the question whether the Amendment should have been sponsored by State legislatures or by State constitutional conventions is largely academic. The dregs do not give a whoop in hades how the Amendment found its way into the national basic law, so long as it is there. The wets, at least the realists among them, know precious well that no matter how many technical flaws are found in the procedure of its adoption, the Supreme Court will iron such flaws out and will not disturb the Amendment.

It is clear that both sides—the dregs and the wets—realize now that the day of modification is not far off. Even the most ardent of dregs, if they are honest, are bound to admit that enforcement—with or without quotation marks—is, in the parlance of the street, not so hot. And those wets whose heads are not easily befogged by straw votes or even election returns, also appreciate that the job of extracting an amendment from the federal constitution is anything but easy.

A compromise is bound to come—very likely on beer and wines—the last as a concession to the vastly expanding grape-growing industry in the West and Southwest. There is lots of meaning to the recent news item that the Pabst firm of Milwaukee is busy installing a \$1,000,000 worth of perfected beer and ale brewing machinery in its old plant now being desecrated by the manufacture of synthetic cheese.



## Local 22 News

By J. SPIELMAN, Secretary-Manager

### Our Duty to the Unemployed

Much has been said on the subject of unemployment. Lamentation, however, gets the unemployed nowhere. While we are, unfortunately, unable to extend any direct financial aid to the large number of men and women who are bravely struggling against the many hardships consequent to prolonged idleness, there is something definite that we can and must do to ease their burdens. What we have in mind is that it must be the duty of every employed member to help secure jobs for the unemployed. Were our control in the shops more thorough, the office would have been able to place more people to work. As it is, the workers are able to secure jobs only with the help of their acquaintances.

It is unfortunately true that while the industry as a whole is slowly resuming operations for the spring season, there are quite a number of shops where the workers are already working overtime. The organization cannot justly prohibit overtime work provided all the machines are occupied. Unless this condition is met with, it is shameful of any individual or group of members to consent to work overtime.

Union members, men and women, with a conscience, cannot remain deaf to the appeals of those who are out of a job because their firm has gone out of business or has temporarily shut down its factory.

It is to be hoped that those of our members who read these lines will seriously consider this proposition, to the end that each one of our unemployed members will at least have the satisfaction of a job, even though the prospect of earning a full week's wages is, as yet, remote.

### Plans for the Coming Season

In connection with the approaching season, the Executive Board, at its last meeting, adopted the following recommendations which were submitted to the Joint Board:

#### 1. A JOINT MEETING OF ALL EXECUTIVE BOARDS.

We recommend the immediate calling of such a meeting at which the program now under consideration by general manager, Brother Hochman, will be submitted for discussion.

#### 2. A MEETING OF SHOP CHAIRMEN AND PRICE COMMITTEES.

Following the Joint Executive Board meeting, the plans adopted should immediately be thoroughly

explained to the shop chairmen and price committees, inasmuch as it is upon their active cooperation that the success of any program depends.

#### 3. GENERAL MASS MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF ALL LOCALS.

The program above referred to should be communicated directly to the vast majority of our members, so that they may know what the Union plans to do for the coming season, and what means are being taken to enforce the agreements.

#### 4. DISTRICT MEETINGS.

Simultaneously with the arrangement of the above meetings, the Joint Board should begin to call district meetings.

#### 5. SATURDAY DRIVE UNDER SUPERVISION OF ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE.

We feel that the Saturday Drive should be inaugurated immediately. It must also be the object of the Organization Committee to stop shops from working overtime while there isn't a full week's work, and particularly where there is room for additional workers.

#### 6. WE REITERATE OUR DECLARATION AGAINST SPECIAL PERMITS BEING GIVEN FOR SATURDAYS, PARTICULARLY IN THOSE SHOPS WHERE THERE IS ROOM FOR ADDITIONAL WORKERS.

#### 7. IMMEDIATE RELIEF.

As a matter of practical assistance to the vast army of unemployed members, particularly those whose shops have closed down, we recommend that every effort be made by the office to find jobs for these unemployed members. Even in such shops where the workers have not too much work.

#### 8. JOINT MEETING OF CONTRACTING SHOPS.

We recommend the effort that has been started by Brother Moskowitz in this direction, and suggest that the office continue calling joint meetings of contractors working for the same job-

bers and manufacturers. We are mindful of the difficulties involved, but are, nevertheless, appreciative of the benefits that can and will be derived from such meetings.

From the above recommendations, it is apparent that the organization is very much alive to the present situation and everything will be done to maintain union standards and conditions in the industry.

### The Fight Is Still On

The continued depression and its resultant idleness which has impoverished the union's treasury has, however, had no effect on its ever-present determination to maintain union conditions in the shops. We say this apropos the several strikes which are now being conducted by the organization department of the Joint Board and are being energetically prosecuted. Among them is one which deserves particular attention, and that is the strike against the "Lady ReJane Costume," 1359 Broadway.

We are fortunate in having there a group of militant workers who are determined to give the employer a battle for his life. Day in and day out, the strikers of the Lady ReJane are diligently picketing the shop. Whether it is cold or stormy, one is sure to find them marching up and down in front of both entrances to the Lefcourt Marlboro building. The organization is straining all its resources to keep up this fight and we are certain that before long, victory will be achieved.

### Get Your New Books and Cards

Commencing with the first of January, 1931, a new member card and new working card goes into effect. The color of the member card is red, and that of the quarterly working card is green. It is the intention of the Joint Board to insist that every member employed must be in possession of a new 1931 member card and a new quarterly working card. We suggest, therefore, that our members take advantage of the present inactivity in the shops to provide themselves with the official cards so that they will not have to lose any time later.

## With the N. Y. Cloak & Skirt Joint Board

By MORRIS J. ASHBES, Secretary-Treasurer

A regular meeting of the Joint Board Cloak, Skirt & Reefer Makers' Union, I. L. G. W. U., was held Wednesday, December 10, 1930, 8 p. m., at the International Auditorium, 3 West 16th Street.

Chairman—Phillip Ansel.

The Board of Directors submits the following report of its meeting of December 8:

Chairman—M. Silverman, Local No. 35.

### Committees

A committee, representing the workers of Hirsch, Bernstein & Steinberg, appears and states that about three weeks ago their firm closed its shop and declared itself bankrupt. Now the workers found their firm's work being cut in the shop of Bernstein & Co., 247 West 37th Street. Mr. Joseph Bernstein, a brother of one of the firm of Hirsch, Bernstein & Steinberg, admitted that he filled some orders for said firm. The committee requests, therefore, that the cutters of Bernstein & Co. be stopped off.

Brother Nagler states that as far as the money, which is due to the workers, is concerned, he filed a claim with the receiver, on behalf of the workers, as one of the firm's creditors and the matter is receiving the proper attention. He states also that the office is negotiating with the firm, in the hope of reaching an amicable adjustment of all pending disputes.

### Managers' Reports

Brother Lefkowitz, Manager of the Jobbers' Department, reports about the activities of his Department and states that during the past week his office disposed of a number of very important cases.

Brother Deat, Manager of the Downtown Office, submitted a report for the period covering September 27 to November 22, 1930.

### General Manager's Report

Brother Nagler reports that the situation of manufacturers going out of business or becoming jobbers is becoming more aggravated from day to day. The office is doing its utmost to meet the situation in the best possible manner. He cites the following two cases as typical of the situation, with which the offices are being confronted at the present time and requests the Board's opinion regarding them:

The Youthmaid Cloak Co. decided to become a jobber. He had a conference with the firm at his office and after going over the situation most thoroughly, the firm agreed to retain its shop, if the Union will agree to a temporary reorganization, with the understanding that should its volume of business increase, the entire set of workers would be reemployed. Brother Nagler feels that by accepting the

firm's proposition, the jobs of about thirty workers would be safeguarded. He believes, therefore, that this matter should be given most careful consideration.

The Banner Cloak Co. wanted to reorganize its factory by reducing the number of its operators from 23 to 14 and a corresponding number of workers of the other crafts. The firm employs at present about 70 workers, several of whom were engaged temporarily for the duration of the busy season only, and whom the firm has a right to discharge, in accordance with the understanding they had at the time of their engagement. The Union refused to permit the reorganization. After negotiating with the firm, a possibility of reaching an understanding was found by which all workers employed at present would be retained on the basis of a time guarantee. The firm requests, however, a slight readjustment of the prevailing wage scale, in lieu of the time guarantee.

After due deliberation, the question of the Youthmaid Cloak Co. and the Banner Cloak Co. is referred to the office to be taken up with the local managers.

### Communications

Brother Nagler further reports that he had a meeting with the Local Managers, at which it was decided that the quota of business agents for each local be apportioned on the same basis as last year, namely, one business agent for each 700 members. It was also agreed that the census, which is now being taken by the General Office, shall serve as a basis in determining the number of business agents each local is entitled to.

As soon as the elections are over, no time will be lost in organizing the new staff and making the district assignments, so that our machinery may be fully prepared at the beginning of the Spring season.

Brother Nagler then analyzes the Board of Directors' reports and dwells upon the many complicated cases which are brought to the attention of the Board of Directors lately, and the difficulties in handling them. He points out that in normal times such cases would not have been a problem but in this period of industrial depression we must treat such matters with extreme care so as to bring about right adjustments. He therefore wants the Joint Board delegates to be thoroughly acquainted with the situation, so that they may enlighten their respective Executive Boards and thus enable them to act intelligently in their deliberations on the Joint Board reports.

(Continued on page 7)

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# 2 WEEKS IN LOCAL 10

By SAMUEL PERLMUTTER

(Continued from page 8)

Fred Ratner, and Morris Wolinsky, were elected without opposition.

## Our Industries Hit Hard by Banking Crisis

As a result of the general economic depression, coupled with the recent closing of the Bank of United States, the toll of failures grows greater day by day, and others are going out of business by default. Amongst those who have given up their shops in our lines are the firms of S. A. Goldman, Rauffer-Greenfield, Hirsh, Bernstein & Steinberg, Miss Bobs Coats, and many others, most of whom employed as many as five cutters. This condition has become so chronic that the question in the market now has become "Who is next?"

Nevertheless, rumors and expectations of a good season are growing stronger daily. The larger cloak and dress houses are beginning to put on their full staff of cutters, and such houses as Florzheimer, Aaron Goldstein, Henry H. Flinder, and Carmel Brothers, are already working in full force. Indications are that in the next two weeks the spring season in the better line of houses will be well under way.

## Securing and Renewal of Working Cards

In connection with this, we wish to call the attention of all the cutters of all divisions to the fact that Local 10 will be more strict this season with regard to working cards than ever before. In view of the many firms that are going out of business, it becomes more important than ever for Local 10 to keep check of the whereabouts of all cutters. Cutters are, therefore, instructed to take out working cards immediately upon securing a new job, and those who remain working on their old jobs are instructed to appear at the office of Local 10, immediately after the first of the year, for the purpose of renewing their cards for the coming season. Failure to comply with these instructions constitutes a serious violation, and offenders will be summoned before the Executive Board where heavy punishment will be meted out to them. Already a few members had fines imposed upon them by the Executive Board for such violations.

## Meetings Being Called to Investigate Cutters Standards

As usual, at the beginning of the new season, comes the calling of shop meetings for the purpose of investigating conditions in the cutting departments.

Some employers are already beginning to take advantage of conditions in the cloak and dress industries by attempting to reduce the standards, either by exacting a reduction of wages, requesting extra hours of overtime, or reducing the rates for overtime. Thorough investigations will, therefore, be conducted in all shops to ascertain the exact situation with regard to the observance of union conditions. In these cases Local 10 will be adamant in enforcing union conditions, and wherever members will be discovered entering into collusion deals with employers they will be handled accordingly.

We, therefore, again issue warning to all cutters regardless of trade or calling, to inform the office of any attempt on the part of their employers to reduce standards, so that immediate steps can be taken to prevent it. In order to make sure that the

office will be informed with regard to the existing conditions in the shops, every member is urged to report to the office immediately upon securing a job and inform the officers as to the terms under which they are being engaged. By doing this, they will save themselves from being suspected by the Union of entering into illegal deals with the employers.

## Organization Activities To Be Resumed

While it is true that some employers in the cloak and dress industries are giving up their shops on account of the economic depression, nevertheless, the cutting-up system is becoming more effective every day. A recent investigation shows that the cheaper line of dresses, particularly the \$6.75, is attended by large cutting departments. Some of the employers manufacturing this type of merchandise are employing as many as 20 cutters and more. A few cutting departments of this order have been established during the past few months. Most of the cutters employed in these cutting departments are not receiving the scale of wages, nor do they enjoy any other union standards.

At the present time the office is busily engaged in sending out controllers to check up on conditions as they exist in these shops, and within the next two weeks or so Local 10 will have to renew its organization campaign for the purpose of organizing these shops. Local 10 must do this in order to check the onrushing competition which these shops will offer if not organized and kept under union control. All cutters, therefore, especially those who either work in these shops or know where these types of shops are located, are requested to give the office whatever information they possess in order to make it easier to organize such shops. Cutters need not fear about having their names divulged, as all information, as well as the name of the members who give such information, will be held strictly confidential.

## Installation Meeting Marked by Happy Holiday Spirit

The installation meeting which was held on Monday, December 29, in the large Arlington Hall, was exceedingly well attended. Amongst the speakers were included, Brother William Collins, organizer of the American Federation of Labor, David Dubinsky, Isidore Nagler, and Julius Hochman. The address delivered by Brother Collins was an intellectual treat, for not only was it a survey of the labor conditions as they prevail throughout the United States, but it was in addition a text on the many phases of the economic problems affecting the American workers.

Brother Isidore Nagler, among other things, said: "Let us resolve here to-night that we are going to extend all the necessary cooperation to the newly elected officers for the ensuing term of 1931. This is the time to stand solidified against the common enemy. By doing so, not only will we succeed in maintaining the standards that we have gained through so many years of struggle and sacrifice, but also fight for improved conditions as soon as the opportunity presents itself in our favor."

## The Paramount Problem

Brother David Dubinsky installed Brother Jacobs as the newly elected president. In the course of his address he pointed out that the only serious problem existing today is the present crisis throughout the country which affects us to a very great extent. No one can say, declared Brother Dubinsky, how long the present state of affairs will continue, but it certainly cannot go on forever, and as soon as the opportunity presents itself we shall once more have to make our power felt. We have but one adversary at the present time, the employers. There are no other enemies. As far as the Communists are concerned they are dead and buried and it is merely wasting time to speak of them. The only thing to bear in mind at this time, is that we must be constantly on the alert, ready to take advantage of the first opportunity that comes favorable to us. The remarks of Brother Dubinsky were very well received.

Brother Hochman, in the course of his remarks, stated that he always admired the spirit of organization and loyalty displayed by Local 10. "It was Local 10," Brother Hochman stated, "that helped the International to weather the storms through the most trying period, when all looked hopeless. I can't help but feel most warmly towards the members of Local 10, and I express my fervid desire that Local 10 will continue in its activities in the future as they did in the past, and continue to be the standard bearers for the International."

Brother David Fruhling was then introduced by Brother Maurice W. Jacobs, who stated that this is the last time that Brother Fruhling will address the meeting as a paid officer in view of the termination of his office.

Brother Fruhling in the course of his address thanked the membership at large for the loyalty and support shown him during his period of office in

Local 10. He also thanked Brother Perimutter, Oretsky, Dubinsky and Nagler, as the leaders of the Local, for their loyalty and the friendly interest they have shown him during the time of his stress. He expressed his regret that he will no longer be able to be here as an officer of the Union but he assured the membership, that officer or no officer, he will always do his utmost to assist the local, should his services ever be required for the purpose "stretch out" had been installed in the mills. The remarks of Brother Fruhling were very cordially received.

From President Schiesinger, who was unable to attend personally the installation, a telegram was received in which he conveyed to the administration of Local 10 his wishes for a successful term in office.

## N.Y. Cloak & Skirt Joint Board

(Continued from page 6)

The Board of Directors submit a report of meeting on December 15  
Chairman—Alex Student.

## Committees

A committee representing the workers of the Banner Cloak Co. appeared and stated that about three weeks ago their firm informed the shop chairman and a committee of the shop that they decided to reduce their plant to 14 machines, with a corresponding complement of workers of the other crafts.

The Secretary calls the attention of the Board to the fact that this case has already been reported up with the Local Manager, whose decision was approved by the Joint Board at its last meeting.

## General Manager's Report

Brother Nagler analyzes the Secretary's report and states that the office, in anticipation of a number of wage claims because of the recent crash of the Bank of United States, is preparing to meet the situation to the end that the earnings of the workers may be safeguarded.

About the industrial situation, Brother Nagler states that he has given considerable thought and study to the question of independent firms, which, under the pretext of dissolution of partnership, are trying to rid themselves of their workers in order to avoid meeting their obligations under the contract. He finally arrived at the conclusion that since our independent contract specifically provides that each individual member of a firm, whether a partnership or corporation, is directly responsible for the observance of the terms of the agreement, that we serve notice upon all members of firms which contemplate dissolutions that they will be held strictly responsible for their obligations under the agreement. Such notices have already been sent to members of the firm of Greenfield & R... and other firms. He feels that by following this procedure, the interests of our members will be safeguarded.

Brother Nagler calls the Board's attention to the fact that no meeting of the Joint Board will be held during the next two weeks, because of the Christmas and New Year holidays, which fall on Wednesdays. He also states that by the end of this week, all locals affiliated with the Joint Board, except Local No. 48, will be through with their elections. He believes, therefore, that it may be necessary to call a special meeting some time during the next two weeks, for the purpose of installing the new Joint Board and organizing the new machinery. It is thereupon decided to leave the calling of such meeting to the discretion of the office.

The meeting is then adjourned.

## DRESS SHOP GIVES GIFT TO CHAIRLADY

The workers employed in the shop of the Well Drees House, 27 West 21st Street, gave their shop chairlady, Sister Grace Delusia, last week a gift consisting of an exquisite cameo pin as a token of appreciation of her sterling service as the head of the shop.

In commenting on this Brother Luigi Antonial, manager of Local 89, said:

"Indeed, it is due to Sister DeLusia that this shop is now a real union shop, not mere on paper as it had been in the past. We congratulate both the shop members and Sister Delusia for the fine spirit now prevailing in that shop. Sister Delusia is one of the most active workers in our organization. She is not only the custodian of union rules in the shop but is always first on the picket line and has done excellent work in our last general strikes in New York and Boston. She is a member of the Executive Board of Local 89 and a delegate to the Dress and Waist Joint Board."

### CUTTERS OF LOCAL 10 ATTENTION

THE NEXT REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETING

will be held

Monday, January 12, 1931

at

ARLINGTON HALL

23 St. Marks Place

at 7:30 P. M. Sharp

Each and every member is urged to attend this meeting without fail, as some of the most important propositions are as yet undecided.

Books will be stamped signifying attendance, and the \$1.00 fine for non-attendance will be strictly enforced.

# Editorial Page of JUSTICE



IT IS IDLE to ask what the old year has been to the American workers. The millions of unemployed, the long bread lines, the bank failures, the misery overrunning the land, have given that answer. In forty years America has not witnessed so much dislocation, so much anguish and distress, even harder to endure because the working population of the country was caught psychologically unprepared for this sudden collapse of a much-vaunted prosperity.

## Looking Backward— And Ahead

There would not be a word of regret heard throughout America—in the cities, on the farms, in the mills and mines—over the passing of bleak and dreary 1930. But what of the coming year? What is 1931 bringing in its train? Silent are the prophets. The forecasters usually so vocal at this period of the calendar, are tight-lipped. The immediate horizon appears to be so cluttered with industrial debris that even the professional optimists are stumped. The best, perhaps, that may be said is that the peak of distress had been reached; it, certainly, could not be much worse.

What has the outgoing year meant for the ladies' garment workers, what have we won or lost during 1930? We cannot, of course, boast of many victories—it would have been next to miraculous to have made phenomenal gains in a year in which most industries had found it a herculean task to hold the old lines, to cling tenaciously to work-conditions achieved in the past few "normal" years. Yet, on the credit side of our ledger there stand out in unmistakable boldness several achievements that should not be overlooked.

First in importance we have scored, in the early months of the year, a signal accomplishment in the great dress industry of New York, when, after a general strike lasting but two weeks, we succeeded in bringing thousands of workers into the fold of the Union. Hundreds of shops until then non-union were finally organized and made to conform to union working standards. A new living force had been infused into the dress-makers' organization in New York, and, for the first time in eight or nine years, the dress workers today have a real union that is capable of looking after their interests. What is equally important, this strike has sounded the death-knell for the Communist clique which for years had made organizing activity next to impossible in the New York dress market. It has driven this fanatical gang to the outer fringe of the trade where they are just hanging on by the skin of their teeth in a baker's dozen of scab nests.

In August we had a strike in the New York raincoat shops, which won back for the workers the wage reduction they were forced to grant to the employers in 1929. The children's dress-makers, Local 91, also won notable gains through a walkout in the late Summer which resulted in a wage raise and in the acquisition of many new members in shops on an employers' association formed in the trade during the strike.

Outside of New York City, in the past year, we have made the finest gains in Toronto, where the cloak trade, better organized than ever before in local history, is now tightly unionized with uniform standards prevailing in all shops. In Montreal a singular campaign netted, for the first time in a half dozen years, a good trade union among the cloakmakers. A strike in Baltimore during July also brought about a compact local of cloakmakers that is, at last, overcoming the demoralizing influence which for years had paralyzed union activity in that city. In Boston, a strike of cloakmakers resulted in a revival of the local unions after a disheartening debauchery caused by a Communist outfit which for a time had made Boston the hub of its "industrial" thuggery. And in Cleveland the strike during last January produced an excellent showing reducing the work-hours in all shops from forty-four to forty-two and winning several new shops for the Union.

On the debit side, we have a deadlocked strike in ten ladies' tailor shops in New York now on for more than three months, the longest on record in this women's wear branch. The Fifth Avenue couturiers obviously are fighting to destroy union work conditions in their shops, while the workers are resolved to remain out all through the current slack season and longer if necessary to win back their places as union men and women. In Los Angeles, too, we have a stalemate conflict in some shops since early in September, after a majority of the firms in the local cloak trade had settled on union terms.

In our main market, New York City, there doubtless was less employment during the past year. The general depression quite naturally affected out trades too. Quite often the Union had to make use of every defensive weapon at its command to stave off attempts of individual employers to take advantage of the hard times to nullify union work-conditions in their shops. On the whole, it may, nevertheless, be said that in the women's garment industry the crisis did not assume in 1930 the acute proportions it reached in many other industries, and that our Union has succeeded in fighting off all open or covert efforts to bring down work-standards in the shops.

Only a few weeks separate us now from the Spring season, the main work-period of our industrial year. There are signs aplenty, we are told, of a good season in our markets. But will these prospects materialize? Long-range guessing and prophesy always has been a futile business in our swiftly-changing trades—it is all the more hazardous in a period of general uncertainty like the present.

A good Spring season to start the year, besides being a crying bread-and-butter need, would bolster up the morale of our workers and strengthen their organization immensely. More than a quarter of a million of human beings—breadwinners and their dependents in New York alone—are looking forward to a brisk resumption of activity in the cloak and dress shops. Let us hope that at last, we are turning the corner toward a vista of better, happier days.

## 2 WEEKS in LOCAL 10

By SAMUEL PERLMUTTER

The outstanding feature of our last annual local election, held on Saturday, December 20, was the tremendous vote cast notwithstanding the strict observance of the clause which provides that a member must be paid up to thirteen weeks of the date of election to be eligible to vote.

One thousand one hundred and six votes were cast which would be regarded as a large vote even in normal elections. In this election, however, practically all the major offices were uncontested, except that there were three more than the required number running for the Executive Board and for some of the other minor offices.

Notwithstanding the fact that the majority of our members are affected by the prevailing unemployment, hundreds of members were found standing in line at Arlington Hall for hours to pay up their obligations and put themselves in good standing, thus netting a total income of about \$3,000.00 in dues. It was, however, quite regrettable that a few hundred members who had come from different parts of the city to cast their vote were unable to do so because of their inability to meet their obligations.

Another, even more outstanding feature, was the general conduct and the moral aspect of this election, due largely to the installation of booths. Voting in booths is a new feature in the history of Local 10. The committee appointed to revise the constitution of Local 10, at this time, saw the wisdom of this innovation, and their recommendation met with the approval of the membership.

It was a gratifying thing to observe the manner in which the balloting went on. Even the most critical in our organization, those who are given to wisecracking and cynical observations, showed

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE Shenker-Michel lockout in Chicago on the basis of piece work for some crafts, is an unauthorized departure from the standard week-work policy of our International in vogue in all cloak markets for over ten years. It is all the more reprehensible in view of the fact that the General Executive Board, at its October meeting, discussed this subject and recorded itself as unalterably opposed to any modification of week-work.

## The Shenker-Michel Settlement

There are several pleas, we infer, that the Chicago Joint Board might interpose to justify its action. It will be said that it acted to prevent the Shenker-Michel firm moving to Gary. It will be further advanced that the Chicago cloakmakers are in favor of piece-work, and that they should, therefore, be permitted to arrange their work-system to suit their preference.

These pleas, whatever merit they lack of possess, however, lose sight completely of the fundamental fact that our International is not a loose group of local unions but a compact body governed by laws and policies molded at democratic conventions through the popular will of the membership. Chicago is not the only city where the volume of cloak production has slumped in recent years. There is evidence at hand to believe that the dress industry, the way it is rapidly developing of late, is making vast inroads into the cloak trade everywhere. With each season it is becoming increasingly difficult to determine where a cloak ends and where a dress begins. The idea that substitution of piece-work for week-work could adequately cope with the competitive chaos caused by this problem could only originate in panic-stricken minds. It is quite clear that this is not a local problem but an International problem which could only be solved through a rational, cool-headed approach based on full knowledge of facts.

Whatever form of censure or discipline the General Executive Board might adopt with regard to the action of the Chicago Joint Board at its next meeting, it should fully disassociate itself from it as an act entirely contradicting the International policy and calculated to encourage the protagonists of piece-work among cloak employers everywhere in their scheming to break down week-work.

satisfaction with the manner in which this part of the election was conducted. One of the candidates, Brother Harry Reichel, requested a watched to be present in order to ascertain that the vote is properly counted. Brother Reichel was permitted to participate in the counting himself in order to make sure that his count was absolutely perfect, a fact which he later acknowledged to the writer. Which goes to prove that this election may be considered one of the most successful held in the history of Local 10. The following are the results of the election:

Brother Maurice W. Jacobs, as president; Joel Abramowitz, vice-president; Samuel Perlmutter, secretary manager; Philip Oretsky, general business agent of Local 10, and Sam Massover, as inner guard, were all elected without any opposition. For delegates to the Central Trades and Labor Council—Brother Arthur Weinstein received 712 votes, Jack Kops, 671 votes, Joe Ades, 586 votes, and Sam Martin, 545 votes. The three receiving the highest number of votes were elected. For the office of business agents to the Cloakmakers Joint Board: Brothers Louis Stulberg, Max L. Gordon, and Samuel Lيدر were elected without opposition.

For the office of Business Agent to the Dress-makers' Joint Board: Brother Max Stoller received 597 votes, Morris Aloviz, 431 votes, and Jack Settle, 310 votes. The two receiving the highest number of votes were elected.

For Dress Members to the Executive Board: Brothers Joel Abramowitz, Morris Feller, Benjamin Evry, Louis Gilbert and Arthur Blumber, were elected without opposition.

For Cloak Members to the Executive Board, Brother Charles Beaver, received, 677 votes, Louis Pankin, 648, Nathan Saperstein, 638, Meyer Friedman, 591, Philip Ansel 590, Louis Forer, 539, Harry Zaslowsky, 521, Harry Reichel, 291, Isidore Goze, 292, and Milton Clivin, 175. The seven receiving the highest number of votes were elected.

The two members to the Executive Board of the Miscellaneous Division, namely, Brothers

(Continued on page 7)