

"My children
used to be
fast, and will
not let it go."
— Feb. 27, 1913

JUSTICE

"We ought to
be just even to
our enemies."
— Pres. Wilson.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

VOL. II, No. 18.

New York, Friday, April 30, 1920.

Price 2 Cents

Pres. Schlesinger Welcomes Delegates to the 15th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U.

The Fifteenth Convention of our International begins next Monday, May 3rd. It is a jubilee Convention. It will be twenty years next month since the International came into being.

The idea of founding an International from all the different unions existing at the time in the ladies' garment industry was quite clear. It was to the disadvantage of every union and local to act for itself. Such a union was always bound to remain weak and could never accomplish anything of importance for its membership. The unions must all be united. They must be organized into a great power so that they could each realize their great objectives.

This was the fundamental idea out of which the International emerged.

But the idea has not so readily been incorporated in the flesh and blood of the different unions.

Although, officially they belonged to the International, to most of them it was only a form. The full significance of the International was hardly appreciated. It must be admitted, however, that even today this thought is far from having imbued all our unions. This accounts for the vexatious period during the first years of the existence of the International. There was plenty of trouble and anxiety but very little joy.

And yet, under the most distressing conditions, it grew more and more powerful. Every year witnessed a marked growth in the spirit and number of the unions. This, of course, was reflected on the International as a whole.

The International developed greater resources for conducting a broader and more intensive educational campaign tending to more energetic and more carefully planned organization work, and every year witnessed a rapid development of both the older locals and the new ones.

But the most effective and potent period in the life of the International begins about eleven years ago at the time of the first memorable strike of the ladies' wastemakers in 1909, which may be truly designated as the beginning of the Renaissance period for the entire labor movement in New York. And soon after, in 1910, there followed the great victorious strike of the cloak-makers.

Since then, the progress of the International continued to be steady and unflinching.

Many strikes occurred which under previous circumstances would be of great danger to the life of the International. There were also bitter struggles between sister organizations which threatened to destroy the labors of many years, but the International emerged from all these unimpaired and with renewed vigor.

The large membership is thoroughly familiar with the eventful history of the past few years and we need not go into it at length.

Our report to this Convention speaks for itself.

The International comes to its jubilee Convention with a membership of 150 thousand organized workers.

The unions in New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Boston and other cities joined in the International are 100 per cent organized and strong. And, although there are some unions which are not so strong, they are moving in that direction.

All the aims that the International has thus far presented itself have been achieved. The system of week work prevails practically in the entire cloak industry. The working week has been reduced to forty-four hours in all our trades. The conditions in most shops are far better than they were a few years ago. There can be no talk now of a sweating system. And, so far as the earnings of the workers are concerned, they cannot always be deplored. But, much as we have achieved, we do not mean to stop here but forge constantly ahead to higher goals.

This Convention, we expect, will adopt the necessary resolutions for the realization of further aims. They are great aims,

aims that should evoke our enthusiasm and energy. And just as everything toward which we have hitherto striven, hoped and dreamed became a reality, so are we certain will be with those aims that the Convention and the time are now presenting to us.

Let but every one of our large membership lend a helping hand and the decisions of our Convention, our jubilee Convention, will be realized. Above all, one must remember that the problem of all problems is more unity, greater solidarity, devotion and loyalty among our members in the locals individually and collectively.

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

INTERNATIONAL SUES TO REMOVE JUDGE AARON J. LEVY FROM BENCH

The trial of the suit of the International, asking the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to remove Judge Aaron J. Levy from office because he was engaged in mercantile business outside of his judicial duties created a stir in the press.

Judge Levy, as is well known, is one of the largest stockholders in the firm of Milgrim Brothers against which the Ladies Tailors' Union, Local 80, is conducting a strike. The Judge is actively engaged in the manufacture of ladies' garments. He negotiates and confers with the workers of the firm regarding wages and working conditions. He bitterly combats the strikers. He is constantly planning and scheming to undermine the Union. Indeed, it is often difficult to separate the Judge from the manufacturer in him. The International is now asking the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to inquire into this case, and if the court finds this to be true, as the august Judge himself admits to "have an interest in the Milgrim business as a stockholder," and remove him from his position.

The judge-manufacturer, of course, is indignant, and he gave vent to his injured feelings in a remarkably mediocre tirade against the Union. The pompous judge makes use of the lingo that is so popular nowadays. Here is some of his poised, judicial language: "These 'reds' are obviously mad, not without reason, because my open and public activities against their treason, sedition, anarchy and insincerity gives rise to their attempt to wreak vengeance. . . . I have fought their disloyalty to America, and broke up, for the time being anyway, their Bolsheviki Tenants' League," etc. ad nauseum.

In answer to the charges of the Union that he is engaged in the manufacture of ladies' garments besides being a justice of municipal court, he unctuously poses as

a patriot in constant war with the Bolsheviki, Reds, Traitors, Anarchists, and what not. Regarding his share in the firm of Milgrim Brothers, Judge Levy points to the fact that there are many judges who own stock in various corporations. He does not point out, however, that share holders are not usually engaged in such a ruthless war on organized labor as is the case with the judge in question.

The case against Judge Levy will come up before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court this week. The court will then be asked to investigate the truth of the Union's charge. In case the court finds this to be true, the Union's lawyer, Leonard M. Wallstein, will move that Judge Levy be impeached and removed from office of Municipal Court Justice.

The statement of Leonard M. Wallstein, the Union's counsel in this case is as follows:

"I had hoped it would not be necessary to discuss this matter in the press. Mr. Levy's statement, however, makes it necessary to inform him that the papers served upon him and returnable next Friday before the Appellate Division constituted charges looking toward his impeachment and removal from office.

"The law wisely prohibits a justice of the Municipal court from engaging in business, in order to prevent his making connections or entering into relations which may raise a question as to propriety of his judicial actions.

"The evidence, which will be produced at the proper time, will disclose the scandalous conduct which furnishes overwhelming reason for the removal of Justice Levy."

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

Sweet and Co. Triumphant

At two o'clock, Sunday morning, April 25, the curtain descended over the 143rd session of the Legislature at Albany. This session was the most epoch-making of all the preceding sessions of the Legislature. Its proceedings very often overshadowed the workings of Congress and the electioneering of our presidential aspirants.

The Albany lawmakers doubtless deserve their fame. They passed several hundred bills. The most important among them, of course, is the expulsion of the Socialist Assemblymen and the passage of bills designed to deny political recognition to the Socialist Party and barring its candidates from the official ballot and its members from appointment to public office. Other "important legislation" is the passage of the Lusk bills to curb and stem out radical activities generally. Among these bills are the following: The appropriation of 100,000 dollars for the establishment of a spy bureau in the Attorney General's office. The appropriation of 200,000 dollars for conducting special courses in its peculiar brand of "Americanism" in day and night schools and 40,000 dollars for the training of teachers for these subjects. Another bill is aimed directly at the Rand School and other Social and labor educational undertakings. A special resolution was passed ordering the State to print 20,000 copies of the Lusk Committee's attack on Socialists and radicals and will distribute them broadcast. Such mild and altogether respectable measures, which have already been achieved by the workers and proposed by the Governor's Reconstruction Committee were defeated in the Assembly. These were the social bills, including the bills establishing a minimum wage and the eight-hour day for women and minors in industry.

Significant also the passage of the Walker bill legalizing the sale of 2.75 beer. The Albany legislators are poignantly aware of the immense power behind a drink. Many of the "most important bills" would not have been passed if not for the drinks.

A few days ago Speaker Sweet gave a farewell address where he prided himself upon the achievements of this session of the Assembly. He in part said:

"During all these years, with their wonderful friendships and legislative battles well fought, or following the dull but more peaceful routine of the Legislature, I have never known a day when I have been so proud to be an American as I was on that glorious morning, April 1, when we took part in making legislative history."

Soon after the close of the session the Governor Smith issued a statement which is in part as follows:

"The Legislature of 1920, just adjourned, adds no lustre to our history. The utter disregard by the members of the majority for what meant progress and welfare constitutes a formidable challenge to democratic representative government. Not only did they defeat measures that meant a gain for humanity, but they attempted to move back the hands on the clock of progress."

"They left the State, at least for this year, without hope of any remedy to check the ever-increasing cost of government, a burden which is pressing upon the shoulders

of every member of the Commonwealth. Temporary expedients, calculated to allay, but not cure, were in high favor. Measures intended to bring about permanent improvement for the future were brushed aside. The disciples of Bourbonism and reaction action. The problems of the day remain unsolved and few measures of State-wide importance were considered. Political expediency overshadowed public necessity."

"The party caucus was used to stifle measures that have no political significance. The welfare bills were not defeated; they were smothered. The entire program of reconstruction not only met defeat, but nothing was suggested in its place. Measures of sane and enlightened progress were met by a policy of repression."

"What there was of leadership was political and calculated only to serve the ends of selfishness. The great forum of public discussion was darkened, and the decisions that meant so much to the people of this State were made in a side room behind closed doors. These decisions came from the few, and the many charged with responsibility either acquiesced or were helpless."

"The progressive measures in the interest of humanity were decided by the party lash and the caucus gag rather than by open discussion in the forum provided by the Constitution. That the human appeal contained in measures for the relief of women and children should be stifled surprises understanding. A well thought out, constructive program was sacrificed on the altar of politics."

Some Decisions of the Supreme Council.

THE conference of the Supreme Council at San Remo was enveloped in the usual mist of diplomatic secrecy. The newspaper correspondents could only send to their papers descriptions of the beautiful Italian cities, of the hotels, the weather, etc. Only after the close of the Conference were some of the decisions made known.

The Allies have fixed the indemnity to be paid by Germany in annual installments extending over thirty years. Germany will be informed that she must fulfill at once the disarmament clauses of the treaty.

Regarding Russia the Supreme Council has taken the same position as in the past, that is, waiting. Premier Nitti's statement favoring the resumption of relations with Russia is not the position of the Supreme Council. It was perhaps chiefly intended for home consumption. It is a way of serving favor with the Socialists in Italy. And even if Italy will officially recognize Russia it will not offer immediate economic relief. Russia is still calling upon the workers of the Allied countries to urge their Governments to lift the blockade against Russia and resume relations with her. The capitalists of the Allied countries are frequently reminded of the wealth of economic resources and the huge sums of money awaiting them in Russia. But so far the situation with regard to Russia remains unchanged.

The Supreme Council has turned its attention at the San Remo Conference to Minor Asia. It has decided to send to the American Government a formal offer of the mandate for Armenia. Mesopotamia goes to Great Britain, Syria to France in accordance

with plans of King standing. With regard to Palestine, it is announced that it will be known as "The National Home for the Jews." It is also announced that the creation of a Jewish nation in Palestine will not affect the nationality of Jews in other countries, and that it will not change the status of the Arabs in Palestine. England, of course, will exert mandatory power for Palestine.

At this writing it is not clear what England means by "The National Home." One thing, however, is clear and that is that Palestine, Mesopotamia, the oil fields of Baku and Batum, the Dardanelles, the Suez Canal the Turkish part of the Bagdad railway, and Arabia are under the control of England. The racial and national feuds which festered Asia Minor for a long time are, according to some reports, encouraged by the British Government. It is at any rate doubtful whether England will permit a strong national movement to develop in Palestine.

The Conference is also marked by its significant omissions. It has failed to declare itself on Russia, on Hungary, on the Adriatic question. It has left things very much as they were before the Conference.

May Day, 1920.

FOR the last few years May Day was celebrated with a feeling that we are on the threshold of a new world. This May Day is met by the workers with less confidence in their own strength and with doubts that the end of the capitalist regime is at hand. For the American workers this was a year full of bitter experiences, disappointments and defeats. The Steel Strike, the Miners' Strike, the Railroad Strike, the injunctions, the arrests, the raids, the persecutions, the deportations, the expulsion of the Socialist Assemblymen, the outlawing of the Socialist Party are some of the experiences of the American workers. And what about Europe? Outside of Russia the workers have suffered terrible

THE PUBLIC SPEAKING CLASS

By GUSTAVE R. SCHULZ.

To "express oneself" is to reveal oneself—to show how much one knows, how truly one feels, how clear and sound one's thoughts are. Iben had this truth in mind when he wrote that **everytime we try to create, to express ourselves, we summon ourselves to a court in which we sit as judges.** If we are just and incorruptible judges, we cannot fail to find the trial painful; if we are capable of learning, we cannot fail to find it instructive, as well.

Now, Iben had his eye on the poet, the dramatist, when he said this on the author at work in the privacy of his own study. And yet his remark is no less true for the speaker who "expresses himself" in public. In fact, the speaker has to face not merely himself as judge, but his whole audience, too.

It is for these reasons that I think it fair to say there is no better measure of the quality of the work that has been accomplished by the Workers' University than the public speaking class. As it happens, it is in this class only that our students have had almost unlimited opportunities for self-expression—for "giving themselves away." And it is truly remarkable to consider how well they have stood the test—to

defeat. Germany, Hungary, England, France—all these countries contributed their share toward the destruction of the faith in the power and vision of the workers. Hungary of May Day, 1919, was one of the brightest spots in the world. Although Germany was yet fresh from the blood of Liebknecht and Luxemburg, the hope that the workers would finally gain control was not yet crushed. The labor movement in England a year ago represented a revolutionary force. To-day, the character of the British labor movement is clearer to us. All the resolutions in favor of a general strike against the blockade in Russia, for the nationalization of the mines were merely rhetorical gestures. The same resolutions were defeated this year by the Trades Union Congress. The same holds true with the French labor movement. The imperialist Government is still pursuing its policies of oppression and agrardism without the interference of the workers.

But if the workers had undergone defeats and disappointments, their experiences were infinitely enriched by events which have burned themselves into their brains. May Day, 1920, therefore, should be celebrated for the added knowledge and wisdom that the workers have received at such a high price. It should be celebrated as the third May Day since the birth of Soviet Russia.

Reports in the press show that the workers in Europe plan to celebrate the International Holiday in the customary way. A general 24 hour strike will be declared by the French and Italian workers. The strike is also called with a view to call attention to some concrete objectives. Recognition of Russia will be one of the chief things the workers will demand.

In our country May Day promises to be an uneventful, silent, dumb day. To judge by the trend of events, there will be no demonstrations, no red flags, no impassioned speeches. Workers will gather in some halls and will listen to the music of Chopin, Wagner, and Tchaikovsky.

realize how much they know, how truly they feel, how clear and sound their thinking is.

To be sure, I speak as their teacher, as one who has been privileged to be their friend; and it may therefore be thought that I am not a just and incorruptible judge. But I am not alone in my opinion. Strangers who have come to the public speaking class as visitors, with no preconceptions, no prejudices, no axes to grind, have sustained this opinion without exception.

As their teacher I have, indeed, an advantage, for I have been a judge for these years. I am able to compare this year's work with the work of other years. I am in a position to measure progress. I wish to testify to this progress; to state that by their work in the public speaking class these students have grown, that their growth has never before been so rapid, so healthy as during the season just ended. And this growth is directly due to the fact that this year the courses have been better organized than ever before, richer and more varied, more expertly taught, more fully and fully attended. The Workers' University has arrived.

It will move on to even finer things.

Our Workers' University

By FANNIA M. COHN
(Secretary Educational Committee I. L. G. W. U.)

(Continued from Last Week)
The object of our educational activities is two-fold: individual and social. It is our aim that the individual be given an opportunity for self-expression and a chance to develop character and gain personality; and to get a fuller understanding of the great social, economic and philosophic problems with which he is confronted. We therefore plan to give our members a clear knowledge of the entire workings of the industry in which they are engaged. We are trying to give them the facts of production and distribution in all the stages, from the growing of cotton to the textile mills, and finally to the manufactured product in their shops and factories.

We desire, finally, to develop a sense of responsibility in the individual to his organization, in particular, and to the Labor Movement, in general.

Our Educational Department is not following up the well defined course of study, the accepted curriculum and the routine method of teaching. These are worked out within the class by the teacher and the student together. This is necessary, considering that adult labor education within the trade union movement is experimental; therefore it is necessary to develop it along new lines. Our public speaking class is in reality a clearing house of ideas. Our students express their opinions and exchange views.

Another phase of our educational work is the Extension Division, which combines art and education, arranges special lectures and concerts for the local centers, and reaches the homes and the families of our members. Many of the lectures are given at the business meetings of the organization. These activities are planned and directed by the G. E. B. of our International, together with an Educational Director, who is an educator himself.

To prevent the Administrative Committee from becoming too centralized and out of touch with the needs of the Local Unions, we have established a Permanent Joint Conference of the Educational Committees of our Local Unions. This Conference meets from time to time, together with the Educational Director, and the Chairman and Secretary of the Educational Committee. They discuss our educational activities and make suggestions to the Educational Department.

Classes and concerts have not been the only type of educational activity of our International. Plans have been worked out for traveling libraries: educational books and pamphlets on important subjects. But one of the greatest achievements was the Unity Home of the Waistmakers' Union that has been purchased by the Union at the cost of about \$100,000. This is the Forest Park House, in Pennsylvania, that formerly was a summer resort for millionaires. Among the names in the registration book found there were Mr. and Mrs. Guggenheim. During the last summer 500 of our workers lived there each week in an atmosphere of perfect democracy and fellowship. In this Unity Village are twelve beautiful houses

equipped with all the conveniences that one could imagine. The beautiful lake with its swimming pool and boats, billiard room and bowling alley, the tennis courts and the baseball ground, and the 750 acres of woodland and mountain—all these do not any longer belong exclusively to the well-to-do who spend their summer vacation there, but to the 30,000 Waist and Dress Makers of New York City.

But this is not the only organization that acquired its own home in the country. The Philadelphia Waistmakers, an organization of 5000 young women, purchased their Unity House and spent about \$50,000 upon it so far, although the organization is so small. In addition to this, the Philadelphia Waist and Dress-Makers' Union have their own lunch room which is located in an artistically built building in the heart of the business section of the city. There, our members are served pure, wholesome, delicious food at the lowest possible price. They, like many of our other local unions, have an extensive library containing almost 3000 books on various subjects of interest. It will not be long before the Waist Makers of Boston will follow them.

If a Unity Home is good for 2 weeks vacation, it is still better for 52 weeks to live in. Following this thought, a group of Waist Makers in New York City, with the assistance of their Union, opened a Unity House where 40 young women live during the year and manage it on a real cooperative basis. Our Italian sisters and brothers in the City of New York made a good start by opening two

cooperative grocery stores, and the last dream of the tens of thousands of our members in the City of New York is to have our own building, that will become the center of the Cooperative Movement, of education and of fellowship. We mean to have an auditorium with thousands of seats, where our members with their families will assemble at various times to listen to good concerts, see educational films, and discuss political and economic questions. But the one dream of our organization includes more than the 150,000 people. It includes the entire labor movement. We all feel that the experiment we are making will not be for the benefit of ourselves only, but for all workers of the entire country.

Some evening at one and the same time, our members assemble in the Unity Center, where in one of them, for instance, they spend the evening listening to a lecture on music, with demonstrations on the piano, where they are taught how to understand the difficult language of music. They respond to it emotionally, but wish to approach it intellectually.

In another Unity Center a group of our members listen to a lecture on the Drama, with reading of it by a well-known teacher and literature, where it is explained to them how to understand dramatic art, how to appreciate its beautiful and understand the emotions and problems that are expressed there.

In another Unity Center they listen to a lecture on the Labor Union, its problems, and discuss the place of the worker in modern society, and compare it with the place the same worker occupied in

the ancient world, and they try to define the status of those different periods in human history.

In another Unity Center they listen to a lecture on Health, and learn how to take care of their bodies, and to begin to appreciate the influence that the body has on the mind, and they agree with the lecturer that they wish while to devote one hour a week to the Gymnasium for the development of the body in order to have a good mind.

In still another Unity Center they listen to a lecture on the economic history of the United States, and one on getting acquainted with the country which they adopted as their own; and by studying history, they begin to understand better its institutions, and they decide to cherish everything that is good in it, and change those things which they think bad.

In another place in a big auditorium of a public school are assembled about 1500 of our members with their families, listening to a concert performed by artists and a talk given by a prominent speaker on a topic of the day.

All these activities are transferred from one Unity Center to another, so that persons attending classes may derive benefit from each of the lecturers. We realize that the trade unionist today, as a citizen in a new industrial democracy needs to be equipped for his responsible position. We believe that the labor movement needs not merely general education, but a particular type of education adapted to its own needs—education fit for adults, and one of its aims should be the development of intelligent leadership.

I take the opportunity to express our appreciation to the Board of Education of the City of New York for their co-operation, especially to the heads of the Department of Evening Schools and the Department of Recreation; also to the Boards of Education of Philadelphia and Newark.

War Profits of the Patrioteers

By BASIL M. MANLY

(Continued from last week)
He stated that if they were obliged to make a truthful and accurate statement of such profits and if these reports were made public by the commission it would result in a great increase in the taxes which the companies would have to pay in South America, and further that it would reveal unreported income amounting to millions on which Armour & Company would have to pay income and excess profits taxes here. Commissioner Fort indignantly spurned this attempt to use him as a tool of Armour & Company, and ordered the lawyer to leave his office. The facts were reported to the Treasury Department, but so far as I have been able to ascertain no successful attempt has yet been made to punish J. Ogden Armour or any other official of Armour & Company for this confessed attempt to defraud the United States Treasury of taxes or for this bare-faced effort to induce government officials to defeat the ends of justice. A written statement signed by Governor Fort detailing every circumstance of this transaction is on file with the Senate Committee on Agriculture, where it is effectively buried under a wagonload of documents obtained from the Federal Trade Commission at the same time, which serve effectively to conceal

it from the knowledge of the public. The Treasury Department reports give the returns of 45 woolen and worsted mills, one of which earned 1,770 per cent on its capital stock. Out of the forty-five, seventeen reported profits of more than 100 per cent on their capital stock. Among the woolen mills we also have a case similar to that of the meat packers, of concealment of income from the eyes of the public. On page 380 of the Treasury report is shown the income of a woolen company capitalized at \$60,000,000. So far as I have been able to ascertain, there is only one woolen company in the United States capitalized at that amount—the American Woolen Company. The Treasury Department's report shows that in 1917 this sixty-million-dollar woolen company reported a net income of \$28,569,842. The annual report of the American Woolen Company for 1917 shows a net income before taxes were deducted of only \$13,883,155. If this sixty-million-dollar woolen company is in fact the American Woolen Company—and the evidence seems to be conclusive—it is clear that the American Woolen Company in 1917 concealed from its stockholders and from the public its profits of nearly \$15,000,000. In other words, the actual profits of the Ameri-

can Woolen Company in 1917 appear from this comparison to have been more than twice as great as the company acknowledged in its annual report and in its statements to the American people. The stockholders of the American Woolen Company have every reason to demand an accounting from the officers of that corporation to ascertain whether or not \$15,000,000 of profits were actually concealed, as these facts seem to indicate, and if so what disposition was made of that enormous sum of money.

It must not be imagined that manufacturers were the only ones who reaped enormous profits while the nation was at war. The report of the Treasury Department shows 2,068 clothing and dry goods stores, one of which earned 9,826 per cent on its capital stock, and nearly 10 per cent of the entire number earned more than 100 per cent on their capital stock. Out of 313 department stores, one earned 757 per cent on its capital stock, and 26 earned more than 100 per cent. There are 577 furniture stores reported, of which seventy-eight, or nearly 15 per cent, earned more than 100 per cent on capital stock, and one earned 781 per cent. These have been a mere deal about the high cost of building in the last few

(Continued on Page 8)

JUSTICE

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EDITORIALS

CONVENTION THOUGHTS

What is a convention? Where does it differ from any other meeting? Why will the sessions of our Convention attract more attention than any other meeting held during the last two years? Why is a Convention regarded as an extraordinary event in the life of every organization? Why does it evoke so much expectation and hope? Why is it so soul-stirring?

A Convention is primarily a meeting. And meetings are of course no novelty in the life of an organization. We are used to stirring our opinions collectively. But at ordinary meetings of our locals we deal mostly with questions of a local and temporary character. What interests us above all, at the meetings of our locals is to find an immediate remedy for some evil or to remove some obstacle that appeared suddenly in our way. The remoter consequences involved in these solutions can under such circumstances hardly be taken into account. At the Convention, on the other hand, we are concerned precisely with these remoter consequences, as well as with the influence a given decision may have on the life of the International as a whole. At a convention we deal out not so much with questions of expediency as with principles.

In going to a convention, a delegate has to keep in mind the fact that he is to represent not only the interests of the local by which he was sent but also the interests of the International as a whole. He is to defend the interests of his local only in so far as they are compatible with the interests of the whole organization. A delegate is a representative of a local only in so far as it is a part of the International and he is thus an exponent of the interests and aims of our organization. The Convention, as the sum total of all the delegates can with justice be said to be the mouthpiece of the ideals and aspirations of the International.

It is because the delegates act and decide at the Convention not exclusively in their own name and on their own responsibility that they must be imbued with a vivid consciousness of what they are going to do. They have especially to be careful with their decisions. Every wrong step taken by the Convention will be charged to the credit of the International as a whole. A mistake committed by the Convention will not be considered as an unfortunate accident, due to the negligence or carelessness on the part of some individual delegate, but it will be interpreted as characteristic of the whole organization.

Circumstances on the part of our delegates is also highly important for another reason. The decisions of an ordinary meeting can be immediately recalled in case they prove to be impracticable or unwise, but the decisions of a

convention are valid and remain in power until the next convention, that is to say, for two years. Only a subsequent convention can abrogate the decisions arrived at by a former convention.

The Convention is also the place where our most important officials and leaders are elected. It is the Convention that decides who our President, our General Secretary, our General Executive Board members, our delegates to the American Federation of Labor, shall be. We may like or dislike the idea of making the fate of an organization depend upon delegates, upon those who have a right to act and speak in its name. But no one can deny that real representatives, devoted and honest leaders, are of utmost importance in the life of a labor organization.

The present convention will be distinguished by a special and remarkable feature. It will be a jubilee convention marking the lapse of twenty years since the foundation of the International were laid.

Such an occasion naturally stimulates one to make a comparison between what we are and what we were. It is true that even a comparison between what we are now and what we were two years ago is sufficient to inspire us with joy and hope. To take a single fact, for instance, the question of membership. According to the report of the President, the General Secretary and the General Executive Board our membership has risen from 85,000, as it was in 1917, to 102,000. In this number are included only good standing members. If we were to take into account also those that were backward with their dues, the number would probably reach 150,000. This increase is all the more significant as the stream of immigration during these two years was at its lowest ebb.

It would of course be highly interesting to compare our situation as it is at present with what it was twenty years ago. And it is with this aim in mind and also with the intention of dwelling for a while on the sentiment of deep reverence on the memory of the pioneers who were instrumental in calling our organization to life that we tried to get hold of the report of the first convention of the International. Unfortunately, we did not find such a report. It may be that the report has been lost during these many years. But it may also be that there never was such a report, either because there was nothing to be reported, or because the few cents which the publication of such a report required were lacking. We cannot tell. We were not more fortunate when our attempt to find the report of the Second Convention. But we were lucky enough to strike upon the report of the third convention. We have thus a chance to see at least how the In-

ternational looked two years after it had been founded.

The Convention of 1902 consisted of 45 delegates who represented 21 locals. The names of the delegates are not given. But from various hints in the report we were able to gather the names of about 33 delegates. We have thus a chance to make good the omission of the third convention and rescue from oblivion the names of the 33 delegates picked up by us.

The President of the International was at that time Herman Grossman, the Secretary, Bruff. The names of the delegates are as follows: J. Schwartz, Alex Bloek, B. Schleinger, L. Levin, M. W. Shoen, J. Solomon, J. Selim, M. Lieder, N. Ross, J. McKinley, E. Bergman, J. Mielstion, M. Hager, K. Greig, G. S. Robinson, Abe Rosenberg, L. Beder, S. Frank, M. Fried, Ben Girafsky, S. Goldstein, H. Gold, B. Vitashkin, N. Gruber, J. Gelevitz, Reitman, H. Mogilevsky.

Among the guests and speakers were Joseph Barondes, and McHugh, of the C. P. U.

The number of the members of the locals mentioned by the delegates is not mentioned in the reports. We can easily guess the cause of this. On the other hand, it is stated in the report that during the last year, that is to say during 1901, there occurred 150 strikes in which 4595 persons took part, a formidable number in those days.

Of special interest is the financial report of the Convention. The sum collected by the International for 1901 from stamps, special assessments, charter money, per capita tax, labels, amounted to \$1,960.40. This sum included also a balance of \$123 left from the preceding year as well as a loan of \$100 given by the A. F. of L. to an organizer for current expenses.

One has to put aside with this the report for 1920 to realize what immense strides the International has made during these 18 years. Our membership amounts now to 150,000. The delegation to the Convention consists of more than 250 persons. Our income for the last two years reached the sum of nearly \$700,000. The expenses alone connected with the Convention will be 40 or 50 times as much as was the whole income of the International for 1902. It is only with its 150 strikes in one year that the International was then richer than it is today.

Twenty years do not ordinarily mean much in the life of an organization. But the significance of these years is momentous enough to inspire us with hope for our future. No one can deny that in steering not only safely but also triumphantly through all these years we left behind the most critical period of our lives. And this fact itself is an obvious and convincing inference. If we were able to accomplish so much in such a short and such a difficult period, and moreover, in an industry consisting mostly of women who were formerly considered as utterly incapable of being organized, how much more have we reason to expect from the next 20 years!

The significance of the anniversary no less than of everything else connected with the present Convention lies primarily in the hopeful vistas which open for the future. We hope that the thoughts of a brighter and more beautiful future, of a future of solidarity, brotherhood, freedom, the thought of marching triumphantly forward, until the ideal of general internationalism has become a fact, will be the guiding thread

which will determine every step of the Convention that meets on the third of May in Chicago. In the confidence that our present convention is fully worthy to its task and that its work will mark a beginning of the realization of our great goal, of liberating the workers from the yoke of the employers, and of making them their own masters, we wish it success.

INSPECTIVE REPORTS

The members of the International have now an excellent opportunity to get a good insight into the life of our organization by reading the various reports that have been or are being prepared for the Convention. Our delegates have above all to bestow careful attention upon these reports. And if they have not sufficient time to read them during the convention they can do it later. It would be a pity not to utilize these reports in view of the money, time, and energy that has been spent upon them.

Of special interest are the reports of the General Executive Board, and also the financial report of General Secretary Ab. Baroff. Of no less importance are the various reports of the separate locals, which deal with special questions and which could have no place in the general report of the General Executive Board of the International. Local 23, for instance, comes to the convention with a report of its own as well as with an address on the occasion of the third of Local 35 as well as of Local 17. We presume that no one will fail to avail himself of the reports of the Joint Board, the Ladies' Waist Makers' Union as well as of several other reports.

MAY DAY

The economic ruin and devastation that have followed in the Old World in the wake of the War are hardly apt to reconcile the European workers with things as they are. We have all reasons to believe that the number of malcontents, of those who dream of a more just and better world, has enormously increased. We may therefore expect that the workers of Europe will this year celebrate the first of May as enthusiastically and as solemnly as they did in the pre-war years.

We cannot predict what may take place in Europe on the first of May. But it is quite possible that something may happen on that day. The first of May may kindle the spark by which the barrel of powder will be exploded. The fact is that Europe is at present in a state of extreme nervous tension and that the authorities are watching with extreme apprehension at the approach of this ominous day. In France, according to some reports, the workers are already in preparation for a general strike. The workers of England are also greatly agitated. In Spain the workers have been for a long time in a state of revolt.

As far as this country is concerned, there is little evidence to show that our workers intend this year to change their traditional policy. The workers of this country have never set great store by the first of May. If the American workers have a special holiday, it is not the first of May but the first Monday of September.

It is upon us now to take the first of May seriously, we were always the immigrants. And these will doubtless not change their policy this year. Our unions will celebrate this year as usual the first of May as a symbol of solidarity among the nations of the world.

A Review of the General Executive Board Meeting

By S. YANOFKY

After being present at three meetings of the General Executive Board I did not anticipate any surprises at its last meeting, seem to know our vice presidents so well; I was more or less familiar with the questions that may be brought up before the Board. What was there that could make my report best faster at the meeting? Yet this is what I frequently felt.

Contrary to all my expectations resolutions of singular importance were adopted. What was of special interest were the debates which some questions called out. It was often difficult to believe that the discussions were conducted by cloakmakers. One felt as if he listened to the careful and many-sided examination of learned academicians. I am certain that the economic questions which came up before the last meeting of the General Executive Board could not be handled in a more thorough fashion by professors of economics.

There were seven sessions, each of them lasted about 3 or 4 hours, and each of them was marked by achievements which will be of lasting effect on the life of the International.

The first session which began Tuesday, April 6, was at first not promising to be of special interest as it is taken up by reading of reports, and as President Schlesinger left to address the Convention of the bakers in New York. Still there were highly interesting moments.

Secretary Baroff briefly reported of all the activities in the world of the International. He touched upon the injunction epidemic that is spreading so rapidly, and which the separate locals are hardly prepared to combat, in which the entire International must undertake. Morris Sigman reported of the activities of the Cloakmakers' Union in New York. Lefkowitz reported of what he has accomplished in Local 62, and later in the strike of the petticoat makers. Schoolman of Chicago and Koldofsky of Toronto then gave their reports. Paul M. Cohn told of the strike in Trenton where a judge has issued an injunction.

We of course do not share the illusion that our celebration will prove to be this year more eventful in the life of this country than in the past. The large masses of American workers are still keeping aloof from everything that is internationalism. And as long as we will not be joined by these large masses, our May Day celebration will bear testimony to our helplessness and weakness.

By saying this, we do not mean to discourage or dissuade our unions from celebrating the International Holiday. Quite the contrary, the memory alone of the blood shed and of the lives of our fellow workers sacrificed for this day is sufficient to inspire us with awe and reverence. And it is precisely because we want to make of the first of May something more than a matter of sentimental expression of piety, more than a matter of a personal satisfaction to a few scores of enthusiasts, it is because we are so anxious to have May Day mean the same thing in this country as it does in Europe that we are insisting on our weakness. For it is only the consciousness of our weakness that will lead us to look for the sympathy and help of the large masses of American workers.

against the strikers as guilty of the conspiracy to shorten their working hours. Committees of the Cloak Button Makers of New York and the Retail Ladies Garment Sales People Union request to be admitted to the International, which request was granted.

Following these reports one of the most important questions not only for the International but for the entire labor movement was raised by Morris Sigman.

At this meeting of the G. E. B. three vice presidents were absent. Two of them are now engaged in an altogether different field. A third is now active in another union. None of them, however, considered it necessary to resign. A peculiar situation arises. Officially they are still vice presidents of the International.

Such a situation, Sigman argued, is entirely abnormal and the General Executive Board must take measures to remedy it. There were two proposals. First, that the Secretary should write to the persons in question asking their resignation. Second, that in case General Executive Board members undertake a new venture their offices should be declared vacant, and other members must be selected in their place. After a long discussion the second proposal was adopted.

It would perhaps be more correct to say that the sessions of the General Executive Board began on Monday instead of Tuesday. A brief session took place, Monday afternoon when a committee of the Ladies' Waist Makers' Union of Philadelphia, together with a committee of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union of that city, appeared before the General Executive Board inviting its members and President Schlesinger to a banquet arranged in their honor on Wednesday evening, in the Unity Center of the Ladies' Waist Makers' Union.

The invitation was cheerfully accepted, and after a day crowded with important events, the entire General Executive Board with President Schlesinger at its head came to the splendid banquet in the Unity House where a few hundred cloakmakers and waistmakers awaited them.

Besides the delicious things there were to eat and drink, there were brilliant speeches made by Audur, former vice president, General Secretary A. Baroff, Comrade Held, former manager of the Forward, S. Yanofsky, H. Weinberg, and President Schlesinger himself.

It was a spirited, entertaining and impressive evening. About 1 o'clock, the guests left to smatch a few hours rest in order to resume the work the next day.

A considerable part of the time of the General Executive Board was devoted to the various committees. There were various appeals, grievances, complaints, demands and pleas for help for various causes. But due to the fact that the Convention is so close the number of letters and committees before the Board was slightly reduced.

I shall only mention the most important resolution that came before the Board. Of the committees that came to ask for assistance

the one representing the Hebrew Sheltering and Aid Society a particularly deserving, Adolph Held, who headed the committee, requested the G. E. B. to submit its request for assistance to the Convention. The committee left full of confidence that their request will be granted.

Of the numerous letters that the Board received two are of particular interest. One is from the Labor Party of New York, asking for financial aid. The second letter is from the Executive Committee of the American Federation of Labor calling upon the International to participate in the political campaign of the A. F. of L.

The request of the Labor Party was readily granted without much discussion. It was made clear, however, that this does not at all mean that the International is in agreement with this political venture, and that it does not in any way identify itself with the Labor Party.

The request of the A. F. of L. evoked considerable discussion. It was finally decided that General Secretary A. Baroff should write to the Executive Committee of the A. F. of L. expressing full recognition of the just motives of the A. F. of L. but completely disagreeing as to its principles and methods on the political field. In fact, the International regards the political activities of the A. F. of L. as harmful for the entire American labor movement.

This decision is of the utmost significance because the International has thereby expressed its complete independence on the political field. Although the International is part of the A. F. of L. it has made it luminously clear that it will do nothing in the way of helping the A. F. of L. political campaign.

It would take too much space to report in detail, as I had intended, the long and lively debate regarding the new plans in the cloak industry in Cleveland. I intend to write several articles on the subject of this debate. Here I will only record the decision of the General Executive Board.

Brother Perstein is having the support of the Board in his activities and plans for the cloak industry and organization in Cleveland. It is of the opinion, however, that the plans and practices to be introduced in the cloak industry of Cleveland cannot hold good as a rule or example to be followed in other cities where the working conditions are different.

The introduction, therefore, of week work in cities like New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Toledo, Cincinnati and St. Louis must not be postponed under the pretext of waiting for the Cleveland experiment. Then, it is not at all certain whether the "scientific" explanation will even work in Cleveland. So far the wisdom of the Cleveland venture is far from being an accomplished fact. It is for the future to decide whether this plan is feasible. Meanwhile the movement for week-work in the other cities must go on with the same energy and determination.

According to the report of Vice President Perstein the Cloakmak-

ers' Union of Cleveland has made remarkable progress. The organization is powerful. The members, most of them American girls, are enthusiastically and wholeheartedly devoted to the Union. The Union is planning to introduce an Insurance Fund. It is going to build a home to house its activities, toward which the members have already contributed quite a bulky sum. In short, the Union in Cleveland has come to stay.

The remaining sessions of the General Executive Board were chiefly occupied with the report of the International to the Convention. This report will prove of the highest value to the delegates to familiarize themselves with the problems that will come up before the Convention.

After the reading of the report was completed, President Schlesinger submitted several recommendations, which he urged should be adopted by the Board as its recommendations.

After a thorough discussion these recommendations were unanimously adopted. They are in short as follows:

1. The formation of an alliance of all the needle trades.
2. The International should make a strong effort to open a cloak factory which should in every respect be a model as far as its work, sanitary conditions, working hours are concerned. It will also demonstrate that for the first time the workers will have complete control over the industry in which they are employed.
3. The closer relations between the workers in the needle industries in America and Europe.

4. A. A. and C. determined stand against profiteering. Particularly must the charges and impositions that the workers are responsible for the high cost of living be repudiated.
5. In view of the increased expenses and the sky-high cost of living, it is proposed that the per capita tax for the International should be not less than 10 cents.

After these recommendations were adopted the last meeting of the General Executive Board which was selected two years ago at the Boston Convention closed.

ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN OF OFFICE WORKERS

Several recent strikes that have occurred have brought to the fore a serious problem that confronts organized labor. In the present strikes of the railroad workers and elevator operators and in the strike of longshoremen a short-time ago, organized labor found the office workers as a group prepared to help the employers in every way possible to break strikes.

Various estimates have been made as to the number of office workers in New York City. They range from 100,000 to 250,000. With the exception of a very small proportion they are unorganized and in many instances unsympathetic with the aims of labor because of their environment. This army of potential strike-breakers is a menace to organized labor.

For their own protection as well as in the interests of fellow-workers equally exploited, union men and women must co-operate with the office workers' unions in organizing them, active, and using every possible advantage gained in strike to further the organization of office employees.

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By I. LEWIN

The following are extracts from the Executive Board Minutes, week ending Saturday, April 24, 1920.

Max Derish, No. 9779 appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Lipchitz with being a member of the firm of Sylvester Albert, 35 W. 8th St. Brother Lipchitz claims that in going over the books of the firm, he discovered that outside of the regular wages of Brother Derish, he received a check for \$500 in the month of October, 1919, and that at different periods he received certain sums of money for expenses which corresponded with the sums reported by Mr. Albert of the firm, which led Brother Lipchitz to believe that Brother Derish is part owner of the concern. Brother M. Elkin, Business Agent of the Joint Board, testified to the same effect and explained to the Executive Board that he had signed up with the American Association and that Brother Derish is a member of the firm. Brother Derish claims that the moneys that he had received from the firm were for a house that he had bought in partnership with Mr. Albert. Upon motion, Brother Derish was informed that he will have to resign by Tuesday, April 24, 1920, or he will be expelled from the Union.

Herman Bloom, No. 1482 appeared on summons, charged with acting in a manner unbecoming a Union man in the shop of M. Bandler, 137 Madison Ave., towards Miss Ida Baxt, No. 10233, member of Local No. 9. Miss Baxt stated that at the end of the season she asked the firm to have a coat cut for her. When the firm, in turn, asked Brother Bloom to cut the coat he refused, while at the same time cutting coats for almost every girl in the shop. Miss Baxt felt that he was discriminating against her because of her being one of the most active union workers in the shop. Brother Bloom was informed by the chairman that while from a legal point of view, the Union has no jurisdiction over this case as he had a right to refuse to cut the coat, still as a Union man, he should have acted differently, and Brother Bloom was requested to act in a more brotherly way in the future. Upon motion the case was dismissed.

Joe Stern, No. 712 appeared on summons, charged by Brothers Ben Pinkin, No. 2205, Jacob Schlozman, No. 1550, and Joe Leiner, No. 2983, with having worked on Saturday, afternoons and also with working overtime on week days without compensation at the house of Horowitz & Bader, 33 E. 29th St. Brother Stern denies that he ever worked overtime during the week and stated that as foreman he may have stayed in a few minutes after five to straighten out matters in the cutting department, and admits to have worked a few Saturday afternoons to cut garments for the people in the shop. This case was left in the hands of the office for further investigation.

Jacob Lukin, No. 9099 appeared. This brother was discharged from the shop of Phil Machlowitz & Son, 19 W. 34th St., where he acted in the capacity of foreman. He filed a complaint with the Union and Business Agent Scharp with the deputy clerk of the Protective Association went up on the case. The firm claimed that Brother Lukin is not the proper man for them as a hat cutter and that they

wish to hire someone else as a head cutter. It was finally agreed that the next man to be hired after the head man by the above firm would be Brother Lukin. The latter believes that the Union should take action against the firm and force them to place him back on the job with his previous standing as a foreman. After thorough discussion this question, the Executive Board decided to concur in the course left for the Union would be to take the matter to an impartial Chairman and since we do not stand any chance of winning the case when the discharge of a foreman is involved, this would be inadvisable.

Louis Margolis, No. 22, Local No. 46, Petticoat Workers' Union, appeared. Brother Margolis requested the Executive Board to grant him permission to work for the house of Schweitzer & Maltz, 129 W. 22nd St. In accordance with the decision of the Executive Board of Tuesday, April 20, 1920, with reference to the striking cutters of the Petticoat Industry, the office was instructed to give temporary working privileges to Brother Margolis.

Sidney Shallot, No. 5282A appeared. Brother Shallot was sent up to work on Tuesday morning, April 20, 1920, by Business Agent Stoller, to the Daisy Waist Co., at 138 W. 22nd St., and after working there half a day he was laid off for lack of work. Business Agent Stoller instructed him to collect \$10 for a half a day, in as much as the firm had made it its own matter. Upon informing the firm, that he expected \$10 for the four hours' work, one of the firm assaulted him with a yardstick and with his fist. He filed a complaint with the Union and a check of \$7.50 was collected for him, but as to his charge against the firm for assaulting him, the case was dismissed. He now requests the Executive Board to take action against the above named firm. Business Agent Settle, who was out on the case, explained that he, in conjunction with a clerk from the Association, investigated the matter, but not having witnesses to the assault, no action could be made in favor of the Union. Upon motion, the office was instructed to file charges with the Association against said firm for assaulting Brother Shallot.

Frank Weiss, No. 5175, appeared on summons, charged with having made private arrangements with the firm of Wendome Costume Co., 141 W. 36th St. Business Agent Sosen stated that while having a working card for \$50 per week, Brother Weiss only received \$40, and that he had agreed with the firm that \$10 a week should be laid aside as a bonus at the end of the season. Brother Sosen also stated that four weeks prior to the discharge of Brother Weiss from the house of the Wendome Costume Co., he informed Brother Weiss, when investigating the above house, that he is to receive an additional \$5 increase. He continued receiving \$40 per week. When finally Brother Weiss was discharged in the middle of the week he complained to the Union and asked that his bonus be collected for him. A collection of \$150 was made. Brother Weiss admitted to the charge, but claimed that he did not work below the scale, as he received \$40 a week which was \$2 more than the then prevailing scale, and that at

the expiration of the previous season he received \$700 as a bonus from this firm and that as a matter of fact he left the house of Jesse Schalamon, where he received \$50 per week and went up to the Wendome Costume Co., and surely would not go to work for lower wages than what he received formerly. Upon motion a fine of \$25 was imposed.

Henry Bernstein, No. 6961 appeared on summons charged by Brother Sam Blau, No. 5296 with having assaulted him in the street. Brother Bernstein stated that during an argument in the shop Brother Blau threw a weight at him and if he had not jumped in time he would have been injured. As it was, the weight dropped on his shoe and tore part of it. He asked Brother Blau to compensate him for a pair of shoes. Upon his refusal to pay him for the shoes, he had a fight with him.

Cutter Herman Caro, No. 6959 appeared as a witness for Bernstein and substantiated his statements. Miss Oussie Juliaty, a member of Local No. 25, Shop Chairlady of the shop of the Cambridge Waist Co., 30 E. 33rd St., where these cutters are employed, appeared and stated that Brother Bernstein always hounded Brother Blau and that therefore Brother Blau threw the weight at him, and that the girls in the shop would not like to have Brother Bernstein work there as he is always threatening the cutters in the shop. Brother Bernstein stated that the morning after he had the fight with Blau in the street, when he came into the shop, the girls stopped working so as to force him out of the shop. He stopped for two and a half days and then the

office instructed him to go up to work. He further stated that Brother Blau has taken out a summons against him in court, where the case was postponed for Monday, April 26, 1920, and he requests the Executive Board to leave this matter in the hands of the court as he does not wish to be punished three times for the same offense.

Brother Blau informed the Executive Board that he is willing to withdraw the case from court and would leave it in the hands of the Executive Board to decide the case. On motion the office was instructed to remove Brother Bernstein from the job and that sentence be suspended in the case.

Nat Kaufman, No. 5094 appeared on summons. This brother was summoned on charges by the Executive Board for having tried to make the Union a party to extorting money from the firm of the Century Costume Co., by claiming that he had received single time for overtime, which he finally admitted was merely a frame-up so as to get some work out of the firm in case of his discharge. At that time the Executive Board decided that his working card be withdrawn from the Century Costume Co. However, at the Waist and Dress meeting on April 12, 1920, the body was not satisfied with the decision of the Executive Board, as being too mild, and referred it back to the Executive Board for reconsideration. After again taking up this matter, the Executive Board decided that Brother Kaufman's working card be withdrawn from this house and that he is to be censured at the General Meeting on May 24th, 1920, for his act.

IN OUR EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

SECOND RECREATION CLASS STARTED AT THE UNITY CENTER

Students Busy Preparing for Closing Celebration

Folk-dancing has proved so popular at the Waitmakers' Unity Center, that there has been a second class formed, to meet at 6 o'clock Tuesdays. Interpretive exercises will be given, and the folk-dancing will probably be in the form of rehearsals for the exhibition dancing to be given at the closing celebration of the Center. This will take place Saturday evening, May 15th, at 8 o'clock. There will be a Concert of vocal and instrumental music in the Auditorium, beginning at 8 o'clock. This will be followed by general dancing in the Gymnasium. There will also be a program of exhibition dancing by the members of the Thursday evening recreation class. This will probably include the well-known, and popular Japanese Dance, origina-

ted at the Unity House on Overlook Mountain. All members of the Union are cordially invited to come and bring their friends.

Classes in English, swimming, and mandolin are going on as usual. The latter class again meets on Friday evenings at seven o'clock, in the assembly room on the second floor. Those who know something about the mandolin, can still join the class.

Dr. Sarah Gernberg will give a lecture on Health at the Center next Thursday evening, at 8:45. This is almost the last lecture at the Center, and everyone is urged to attend. After the last lecture are over, the students plan to have at least one moonlight picnic, meeting directly after work and eating supper on the Palisades. The evening will be spent around a camp fire as the Unity Comrades have learned to do at the Unity House, singing the Unity songs in happy comradeship. Announcement of the date will be made later.

LABOR LAWS OF SOVIET RUSSIA

These laws have been reprinted, with an explanatory introduction, from "Soviet Russia," and are sold to the public at 10c per copy. Other laws and official documents will be reprinted later in similar pamphlet form. Special rates in quantities.

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Are you reading the weekly "SOVIET RUSSIA"?

CONDITIONS IN LADIES TAILORS' TRADE

The Ladies Tailors' Union had many occasions to discuss the numerous problems of the organization with the shop representatives at shop-chairmen meetings and with the members in general at the mass meetings, still the Executive Board of Local 80 deems it important to inform the membership as to the conditions prevailing in your Union at the present.

It is a well known fact that it was through the initiative of the organization that the forty-four hour week and a substantial raise in the scale of wages has been secured. The raise which has been granted last September was 10 cents and 16 dollars a week. Of course all these have been obtained not by the good will of the bosses but because the workers fought for it, because they have demonstrated to the employers their power of endurance and determination.

The bosses have been sharpening their teeth and they are still doing it at every opportunity with a view to destroy the Union.

Their greed and advance will not deter the workers from struggle. The Union has been forced into the strikes against Milgrim, Hickson and other firms. The Hickson strike has been won. The Union has brought it about that the hostile firm has been forced to dissolve and reorganize its business. This firm is now under a new management which is more favorably disposed to the Union, and with whom it has now signed an agreement.

The Milgrim strike would have ended successfully were it not for the order of a judge forbidding the Union to picket the shop by which means the biggest weapon for the present has been snatched out of the Union's hand. But it is only for a short while. It is awaiting the decision of the higher court as to whether the workers are allowed to picket the shop.

This should not weaken us for a minute but on the contrary strengthen us to struggle on for better working conditions. The members have done their share in helping the strikers. They sacrificed a part of their pay which they could hardly afford but the strikes had to be financed and the members demonstrated their spirit of solidarity and helped the Union in its most critical moment.

It is self-evident that the stronger our ranks will become the weaker will be the opposition from the bosses. They will have to reckon with your demands when backed up by a powerful organization.

There may be a few members who are dissatisfied. We should expect such recalcitrant people in

such a vast organization. These members belong to that element which would have the organization revert to the old days.

The general membership will not permit such destructive methods and unjustifiable complaints on the part of a few members.

The dissatisfaction may have arisen out of the fact that the members had to pay a special tax in order to help the Union in the various strikes. It is clear that the workers pay them in their own interests and for their own self-protection. Were it not for your strong Union your wages would have been cut and all your achievements would have been lost and wasted. Let these recalcitrant members rather help in building up and not to destroy your Union. Let them build it up by adding brick to brick, in order to obtain still better conditions in the future.

We appeal to you. Be on the alert. Watch. Come to the Union meetings which are held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Laurel Garden, 75 E. 116th Street, and take part in all transactions in the Union affairs. In this way, you will be well informed of what is happening in your Union. It is your Union. Only then will you better your conditions.

EXECUTIVE BOARD,
Local No. 80.



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CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

Special Order of Business: Case of Bro. Jos. E. Schifala.

CLOAK & SUIT	Monday, May 3rd.
WAIST & DRESS	Monday, May 10th.
MISCELLANEOUS;	Monday, May 17th.
GENERAL:	Monday, May 24th.

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.
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EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 80.
HARRY HILFMAN, Secretary.

War Profits and the Patriots

(Continued from Page 3)

years. In nearly every case an attempt is made to attribute the high cost to the wages paid building labor, but this report shows that out of 809 contractors and construction companies, 154 or more than 15 per cent, earned profits of over 100 per cent on their capital stock, and one of them earned 1,390 per cent, or nearly fourteen times its total capital in a single year.

In a recent speech before the Senate, Senator Capper of Kansas made the statement that during the war the American people paid, for the coal mines, the steel mills, the textile factories, and every other essential branch of industry, Senator Capper did not give the facts upon which his statement rested, and I doubt if he knew how literally true that sensational statement was, but the fact is—and this report of the Treasury Department proves it beyond and doubt—that the American people during the war did pay in net profits for the entire capital stock of the corporations in the essential lines of industry and trade.

In other words, it is clear that if the national government at the beginning of the war had taken over the essential lines of industry and the American people had been required to pay the prices which private manufacturers and merchants have charged them, there would have been sufficient profit to pay for every dollar's worth of capital stock, and leave the nation today in possession and control of practically all its manufacturing plants.

If this had been done, and the manufacturing officials and employees had performed their duties as efficiently for the government as for the private corporations—and every citizen has a right to assume that neither the manufacturing officials nor the other employees would deliberately sabotage their government—we should have today, instead of a debt of \$26,000,000,000, a large part of which went to pay for the products of three industries, a debt of only the billions necessary to cover the expenses of our government, the pay of our soldiers, and the loans to our allies. In addition we should have vested in the federal government the ownership of billions of dollars worth of manufacturing and commercial property. This opportunity now seems to be lost, but the picture of American profiteering revealed by this official document of the Treasury Department should be indelibly fixed in the mind of every American citizen.

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