The Ladies' Garment Worker, Volume 8, Issue 7

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU)

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The Ladies' Garment Worker, Volume 8, Issue 7

**Description**
First published in April 1910, *The Ladies' Garment Worker* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) through 1918. The journal appeared monthly and included sections in English, Italian, and Yiddish. *The Ladies' Garment Worker* was discontinued at the end of 1918 and replaced in January of 1919 by the new weekly journal of the ILGWU, *Justice*.

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**Publisher**
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU)
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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

By the

International Ladies, Garment Workers, Union

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**Directory of Local Unions**

**Named shoes are frequently made in Non-Union factories**

**DO NOT BUY ANY SHOE**

no matter what its name, unless it bears a plain and readable impression of this UNION STAMP

All shoes without the UNION STAMP are always Non-Union

Do not accept any excuse for absence of the UNION STAMP

**BOO AND SHOE WORKERS' UNION**

246 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.

**JOHN OBIN, Pres.**  **CHAS. L. BAINES, Sec'y-Treas.**
Our cloak, skirt and reefer makers of New York have addressed to the manufacturers a request for an increase in wages.

Elsewhere in this issue of the LADIES' GARMENT WORKER we publish the text of the letter addressed to the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers’ Protective Association by our International Union and the Joint Board of New York, on June 16th.

Not for pleasure or because of any wish to seek “trouble” do the cloakmakers ask for an increase of 20 per cent. in wages. Making trouble does not pay them. Not for any mere desire to worry the manufacturers and cause them aggravation have the cloakmakers made this request. They are only too eager to work, but they insist that their work shall afford them a living. They have felt compelled to make this move because the unprecedented rise in the cost of living has made it almost impossible for them to exist with the earnings determined a year ago.

Were cloakmakers mere machines and were prices advanced on electric power, lubricants and other requisites necessary to keep the machines in good order, the manufacturers would not hesitate to pay the bill of increased charges. They would not wait until the machines were worn out and ruined.

The cloakmakers are not machines but human beings with living, throbbing hearts. While the manufacturers understand the dumb requirements of the lifeless machines they should have no difficulty in understanding the loud and intelligently uttered requests of the cloakmakers. Their requests are loud and insistent because in their homes poverty prevails and their wives and children cry aloud for relief. The cloakmakers want the manufacturers to listen to and understand these cries no less than the dumb requirements of their machines.

Last year the cloakmakers of New York obtained a wage increase of six per cent. after a strike of fourteen weeks duration. They are not eager now for another strike; but when they hand over their earnings to their housewives and the latter try to exchange them for bread, meat and other necessaries, the supply is only about one-half the quantity and quality of
that could be bought last year for 70 cents, costs one dollar this year, even though neither of the parties are to blame.

At the time the agreement with the Association was drawn up last summer, neither we nor the manufacturers dreamt that our people would find themselves in their present critical position. Who could foresee the great change that has come over the life of this country? Had we known it we should have entered upon a three-year agreement. We don't believe that the manufacturers would have insisted on it.

While including the agreement of 1916 the manufacturers agreed that the cloakmakers were entitled to an increase of wages corresponding to the then cost of living. The agreement was being framed with the condition in view that the workers should enjoy a certain standard of living. But the increase of last year has now turned practically into a decrease of wages, and the standard of living has been greatly reduced. That means that the condition which was in view has changed, requiring a corresponding change in the provision of the agreement relating to wages.

We hope that the manufacturers will respond to our request in the spirit in which it has been presented to them and that the matter will be adjusted satisfactorily to both parties.

The agreement of 1916 does not provide for arbitration. Our members will recollect the opposition of the manufacturers to the principle of arbitration. They seemed to imagine that by agreeing to arbitration they would betray a weakness. We hope, however, that as there has been a change in the personnel of the management of the Association, there has been likewise a change in the attitude of the Association to arbitration. Should both parties be unable to agree in conference, we hope that the question will be submitted to arbitration.

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**NEXT SEASON'S PROSPECTS OF OUR INDUSTRY**

Opinions differ in regard to the prospects of our trade for the coming season. It is difficult to foresee exactly how a war we are conducting on the other side of the Atlantic, thousands of miles away, will affect the economic life of the country, and particularly our industry.

There are, two leading opinions. One—that there will be a very good season. Our country is rich and prosperous. The Allies spend here hundreds of millions of dollars. The millions we have given and are giving them in loans are mostly left here in exchange for our merchandise, for our work. The millions of our own Liberty Loan will practically remain in our country. All this must fertilize our economic soil. Industry will swing upward to a higher level of prosperity. A great deal of free money will be di-
verted into the pockets of our teeming population. When money circulates freely, stinginess disappears. The enlarged purchasing power of the population will absorb more manufacturing products, including ladies' garments, than heretofore.

Opposed to this is the opinion that war generally acts like a damper, having a depressing effect on the intellectual and economic life. The population grows downhearted and restrained, afraid to part with its earnings. This must be so, particularly in view of the present high cost of living, which has depreciated the value of the dollar by about one-third. The population will economize and restrict its necessities in response to the flood of appeals and proclamations calling for economy. This will, first of all, affect articles of luxury, which, of course, includes many kinds of ladies' garments. In their effort for household economy the ladies will restrict their bill of wear. If this opinion counts for something, then we cannot expect a good season.

Which of these opinions is the correct one? Let us stop guessing and turn to facts. Let us note the condition of the ladies' garment trade in the countries which have borne the brunt of the war for three years. Facts are more pointed and wiser than our theories.

News of extensive strikes in the waist and cloak industries has reached us from France. The ladies' garment workers of that war-ridden country have been the first to strike and strike with energy. As a rule, strikes take place when work is plentiful: When there is no work, there is nothing to strike for. Elsewhere in this issue of the LADIES' GARMENT WORKER we publish a correspondence from France containing details of the strikes and resulting gains of our sisters in Paris.

Glancing over a file of papers published in London, we note facts which speak louder than words. We open the columns of the Times, a Yiddish London daily, and at once we note on the "help wanted" page that the demand for ladies' tailors and mantlemakers is twice and three times as great as the demand for "help" in other trades. What does this mean? It means that the war and its consequences hard times do not prevent the ladies from wearing stylish dress. It is the same with the theater. In the last three years the theatrical business in London has flourished. Theater-going and stylish dress, however much they may be regarded as luxuries, seem to be necessities which cannot be dispensed with even in the most melancholy times.

But why should we look so far afield for facts? Let us take our next-door neighbor—Canada, which is prosecuting the war in the same way as our country intends to prosecute it. There for a long time our cloak and waist makers have not had such good seasons as the last two seasons have been. Information from Toronto (which is not new to us) is to the effect that the last two seasons have been exceptionally good ones. The recent nine weeks strike in Montreal was not prolonged because of dull business in our industry, but because of the stubbornness of the upstart employers, many of whom have, indeed, been ruined by the strike. They now, too late, regret their foolish obstinacy. The employers of Montreal will beware of again letting their employees walk out in general strike. All these facts point to the conclusion that in the United States, too, we may expect a good season in our industry.
We must, therefore, prepare for a good season, because often a good season does not mean good for the workers. Unfortunately our people are apt to neglect good seasons and so suffer more than in a bad season, owing to ineffective organization. We want to remind our members that being organized does not only mean holding a union card and paying dues more or less regularly, but that it means firmly maintaining all gains and achievements and never yielding any improvement secured by the union for its members. The workers outside of the ranks injure the cause, but those within the ranks, who cheat themselves by stealthily allowing the employer to cut down wages, or by conniving with him to work longer hours, inflict on the organization a more serious injury. They defraud the union, making thereby the burden harder to bear.

Local officers and experienced union men will confirm the fact that the work against the union within are a positive danger. Thousands of scabs cannot cause the union more harm than this dangerous element. The inside “scab” not only robs the union of the fruit of victory, but wrecks the apparatus by which the struggle was conducted and the victory won.

The present is a difficult time, a time of war. Therefore it is the duty of every union man to increase his allegiance to the union ten-fold. Many of our members have registered on June 5, and a number of them may have to pour out their blood in this war for which they are not in the least responsible. They have not been consulted. The war has been undertaken without their consent, but they will nevertheless have to go when called. Many of our best, most loyal and most tried union men will be called. We shall not dispose the personal energetic part they have contributed to our struggles, for we shall have to support their families. In Germany the support rendered by some of the unions to the families of the soldiers has reached almost one-half of their total expenditure.

Those who remain behind will have to make good the loss. We shall have fought the union battle also for those who will be on the European battle fields. Therefore let us arm ourselves for the struggle with all the experience we have gathered since the strike of 1910 and stand watch. The main thing - we must not neglect or yield one solitary gain secured in the past. Whatever we have gained must not remain merely on paper, but must be lived up to in every detail.

The manufacturers of the country will try to turn the war to their advantage. In the New York State legislature a bill by Senator Brown had been passed to suspend all the labor laws pending the duration of the war. Governor Van Wyck vetoed the bill. That the entire employing class has been planning an attack of this kind on the workers of the country can be seen from the fact that President Wilson found it necessary to utter a timely warning that he would exert his influence to prevent it. Possibly the manufacturers will not succeed in fleecing the workers by political means, and they will succeed in carrying out their sinister plans on the economic field, by driving up the prices of commodities and cost of food. They have already started on the road career. They want to turn the war into a paying busi-
ness proposition, and if the war will be a source of profit to them they will see to it that it becomes a long-drawn-out affair.

We, the workers, must frustrate this game of theirs. We must strenuously resist the attempt of turning the war into a business. It will be our patriotic duty to demand such improvements as will become urgent owing to the distress of the war and famine prices of the means of life. When the war will cease to pay, there will arise in the camp of the employers a strong yearning for peace.

LESSONS FROM THE DRAFT REGISTRATION

While referring to the war we are constantly keeping in mind matters connected with our union. We have seen how the Federal registration proceeded; nearly 10,000,000 men registered in one day. The freest, most democratic country in the world submitted to an operation which cuts deeply into its liberty and democracy. Some ten million men stood in line in the best order in front of the registration places. It was sufficient to place nearby a couple of policemen, who are known to carry clubs under their coats, and the operation passed through without a hitch. Upon turning to our own form of democracy; upon observing how the orders of our union are carried out by our members, a feeling of sadness creeps upon us. We feel like asking: Cannot a democracy work properly without policemen armed with clubs?

Several weeks ago our Local No. 9 of New York, called a meeting at Cooper Union Hall, to consider very important trade problems. Local No. 9 has about 10,000 members. Cooper Union Hall has accommodations for some 2,400 persons. But only about 300 members attended the meeting and evinced an interest in the burning questions agitating the local.

Just think: ten million men went to the registration places knowing that they might have to offer up their lives. In our case the workers were called to consider propositions for raising them to a higher level of labor and life. Is it really necessary to employ policemen with clubs to remind our people that they ought to desire better conditions?

Let us take another case: Our Local No. 1, as we all know, is a fiery upholder of democracy. The local leaders have always assured us so, and we eagerly take them at their word. What, however, is the real situation? There was a matter which our good friends of Local No. 1 held as being a question of life and death for the local—the question of separate local management and the right of the local to elect and control its own business agents. The number of members who attended the section meetings to deliberate and vote on this weighty matter was, in the Brownsville section, nineteen votes of the twenty-odd attending the meeting. Imagine: the proposition insisting on this urgent local autonomy was carried by twelve against seven in a section embracing not less than 1,000 members. Such was the indifference shown toward a burning question.

This is a sample of our democracy. If democracy in a union fails to
come up to a mark, the root of the failure is to be found in the indifference of the membership. It is idle to put the blame on the leaders. The leaders are just such as the membership permits them to be. We feel firmly convinced that had the membership of Local No. 1 shown a keener interest in and a better knowledge of the trade and organization matters pertaining to all the locals affiliated with the New York Joint Board, the question of a separate management for Local No. 1 would not have arisen, as it certainly should not have arisen.

Every government, including a union government, is exactly what the people want it to be. Every people has the kind of government it deserves. Ferdinand I is said to have said in effect that a constitution is not what is written on it but what the power behind the constitution reads into it. The more conscious the masses, the more democratic the constitution.

Look at the glorious event that has been like a refreshing balm to the wounded soul of civilization—the recent Russian Revolution. Are Kerensky, Tchechaidze or Tseretelli the provisional government? Oh no; the workers, peasants and soldiers who ranged themselves on the side of the revolution in large numbers are the real government. The new Russian Revolution is more successful than the first revolution of 1905, because then it was backed by the upper ten per cent by the small groups of leaders rather than by the mass of workers, peasants and soldiers.

The indifference and apathy of the masses is the real stumbling block to true democracy.

**UNION MEMBERS NOT DOING THEIR DUTY ARE THE SOURCE OF OUR EVILS**

The indifference of our members is not only responsible for the needless controversy as to what is and what is not democratic in our organization, it is likewise responsible for certain demands being loudly proclaimed as great reforms.

We do not wish to discuss here the pros and cons of week work versus piece work. It is quite certain that piece work would not constitute a danger were it not our members to relax their vigilance after great victories.

The last general strike gave us 75 cents an hour for operators and piece tailors and 50 cents for finishers. Our members recollect how we labored after the strike question of the employers; how much time and breath we spent before we secured this base rate, which we had been demanding for many years previously.

The enthusiasm shown during the strike, there would be no necessity for operators, piece tailors and finishers to complain of not receiving the 75 and 55 cents.

In Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Toronto, Cincinnati, Montreal and other cities, our cloakmakers are fully well organized, the operators and finishers do not see any misfortune in the piece work system. The trouble with New York cloakmakers is that enthusiastic as they are
while on strike, so cold and indifferent they become as soon as the strike is over. The evil is not inherent in the system but in the operators, piece tailors and finishers themselves, who permit 75 cents to be reduced to 60 cents and 55 cents to 40 cents. Our enthusiastic striker when at the machine deludes himself with the false notion that the more he will yield to the employer at price fixing, the better for him. Seeing that our own operators, piece tailors and finishers do not watch over their prices, how is it to be expected that the employers will do it for them?

Therefore, before we decide to put forward new demands we must try to discover whether the evil does not come from our own sinning against the settled standards we have won at various times, and ask ourselves, "Is it better to fight for new reforms or effect reforms within ourselves, arouse ourselves from indifference and keep up at least in part the loyalty and devotion to the union so characteristic of us while fighting for our just demands under conditions of starvation and self-sacrifice?"

Indifference—that is the evil that kills our gains and achievements. That is the chief cause of trouble in the unions.

The conscious union spirit possessing us when on strike should not be relaxed when at the machine, when wielding the press-iron or standing at the cutting table. We detest scabbing in time of strike, why overlook the persistent scabbing within the shops when the strikers take their places at the machines? We impose penalties on the scab in time of strike. We place all manner of difficulties in his way of re-entering the union, but we are lenient to those who connive at a reduction in wages, which is a worse and more dangerous form of scabbing, and is the cause of all our evils.

When a discharged worker comes to the office of the Joint Board complaining that his employer paid him below the scale all the time he was in his employ the office does its duty and collects back-pay. But has this worker, accepting lower pay, acted like a union man? Why not inform him that he has acted like a scab all the time and penalize him accordingly? Or when it is a case of an entire price committee, who from cowardice, or downright meanness, from motives of flattery to the employer or because of having sold out to him settle the price of garments at a lower rate than provided for in the agreement—do we stamp such a committee as a scab committee and impose penalties to suit the offense? We let such a committee go scot free, and the workers form the notion that to sin against union prices, while holding a union card is no offense. It is a strange play of fancy to think that membership in the union is a sort of permit for scabbing against the union.

All this is due to the apathy and indifference of our members.

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The text of the official communication to the Manufacturers' Protective Association requesting an increase of wages follows on next page:
Gentlemen,—

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the New York Joint Board of the Cloak, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Unions, have determined to submit to your Association a request for a wage increase of twenty per cent for all members of the Union, week workers and piece workers, employed by members of your Association. A similar increase will go into effect in the establishments of all non-Association houses in the industry.

Our Union has decided on this action upon the urgent request of the workers and after a thorough and careful consideration of the situation. The request is made as a measure of absolute necessity.

Since the date of the last agreement between our respective organizations, August 1st, 1916, the cost of food and other necessities of life has grown to such an extent that the earning power of the workers on the basis of our agreement are entirely inadequate for the support of themselves and their families, even upon the most modest standard. Measured by its purchasing power, the dollar of August, 1916 hardly represents more than seventy cents at this time. When the wages and earnings of the workers in our industry were last fixed, the figures were based upon the assumption that they would enable the workers to live in comparative decency, and this assumption must form the basis of all agreements between employers and workers. If such agreements are to be expected by the latter.

The request hereby submitted to your Association is a request for an increase in substance. With a raise of about thirty per cent on all necessaries of life, the wage increase will not even restore the workers to living conditions which prevailed at the date of the present agreement, but will leave them considerably below that level, particularly as we have every reason to expect that living expenses will continue increasing.

The employers, as well as the workers, in practically all industries of the United States, have recognized the necessity of adjusting their wage scales to meet the new conditions, and in a vast number of cases employers have voluntarily made substantial wage increases, regardless of existing contracts and before any demands were made by the workers.

The situation presents a contingency which neither your Association nor our Union could foresee or deal with when we entered into our agreement, and calls for broadminded and reasonable action on the part of both of us. The Union therefore respectfully requests your Association to meet our representatives in conference on this subject at a time and place which you may choose with reference to your convenience.

Very truly yours,

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION,

Benj. Schlesinger, President.
Abraham Baroff, Secretary.

JOINT BOARD OF CLOAK, SKIRT, AND REEFERMakers' UNIONS.

Elmer Rosenberg, President.
Louis Langer, Secretary.
Morris Sigman, Manager.

(It was arranged that the conference should take place on Thursday, June 28th. The Union will be represented by fifteen delegates from the locals, Joint Board and International, including Morris Hillquit, counsel for the Union.—Ed.)
That condition, however, is past and gone. The war has ushered in a new state of affairs. Almost a revolutionary spirit among the French women workers. While now hardly of any account as a sex, they have become scarce and precious otherwise. One might say that there are twenty women instead of one to love, but only one instead of twenty to work. They are conscious of the fact. The war has given the French women a deeper insight into the grim realities of life and they seem to realize their position.

Formerly they drank abundantly from the cup of love; this gave zest and keen interest to their lives. Work and wages was less important. The pursuit of love and happiness filled them with pleasant dreams day and night. In other countries this was called French looseness and even "degeneracy," but in France it was poetry, romance, art, female grace and good taste. To-day, the majority of French women, especially working women, have lost the sweetness of this life of pleasure. Should they also become slaves in the workshops, toiling for a miserable wage and enriching their entrepreneurs (employers)? A bas la Bastille! (Down with the Bastille!)* In the language of to-day this would mean: Down with the employers! Strike for higher wages and shorter hours!

This, then, is the meaning of the recent revolt of the needle workers of Paris. The midinettes (makers of afternoon women's silk cloaks and dresses), furriers, embroiderers, corset-workers and millinery workers came out on strike because they could not get along with their pay in the present high cost of living. Most of them asked for an increase of a franc a day, and a Saturday half holiday, La Semaine Anglais (the English week of working hours).

The agitation even spread to bank clerks and office workers whose demands for higher wages were promptly recognized. In every case the workers paraded the streets in large groups singing, and shouting "Down with the exploiters." The police seemed to have orders not to interfere with them.

*) In the historic French revolution women equally with men, had a hand in the destruction of the Bastille, a famous prison, which was the symbol of despotism.
The strike in the needle industry was conducted with such vigor that the employers and style creators became alarmed and met the workers more than halfway. The midinettes were conceded an increase of 75 centimes a day and two hours less work on Saturdays. The matter was referred for adjustment to a committee of employers and workers, and the girls returned to work.

Embroiders were conceded the same wages for a full four week instead of sixty and half a day on Saturdays. Piece workers, including apprentices, were granted an increase of 10 per cent. This will amount to an increase of 50 centimes a day for apprentices and from 50 centimes to one franc a day for full-fledged workers. A committee of employers and workers will henceforth adjust all disputes on prices and wages.

Corset workers won an increase of 65 centimes to one franc a day, shorter hours and half a day off on Saturdays.

Fur workers had a speedy victory, securing an increase of 50 centimes a day for experienced girls at the same rate for apprentices; work on Saturdays until 4 p.m.; the working week reduced from 54 to 49 hours.

The union principle of equal pay for equal work for women was recognized for the first time.

Feather workers in millinery secured a raise of 35 per cent.

Sympathizers with labor view this victory as very significant. These young women have now realized the self-help principle of unity and organization. The war has brought them to see what the syndicates in peace time could not persuade them to look at. They now understand the meaning of the motto: "Workers of all countries unite!" Now that they have tasted of the tree of knowledge they will not fail to become organized and united.

Thus the French labor movement is entering upon a new era. The women are everywhere becoming conscious workers, alive to their new role in society, free from sex egotism and the prejudices of centuries.

The revolution in Russia is not the only great change brought about by the war. A revolution in the thoughts and feelings of women concerning themselves and in the estimation of society concerning them, is being daily effected before our very eyes.

Paris, June 7, 1917.

**AMERICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN PRESENT CRISIS**

**WAGE INCREASES REPORTED IN U.S. STATES**

There is a widespread movement for increasing wages throughout the length and breadth of the land. The manufacturers in many industries are forced to admit that their employers cannot make both ends meet under the present rates of wages adopted before the present crisis and they are freely conceding demands of the organized workers for higher pay.

The Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners last month published long lists of cities where their unions gained wage increases without strikes. This Brotherhood is the second largest union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Many locals also report a gain of a shorter work day by one hour a day.

The railway clerks of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railway report an increase of from 8 to 10 per cent. in wages, two Saturdays a month off with pay, a week's vacation with pay and other improvements. The clerks of the Boston and Maine railway report similar gains. In both cases the improvements were brought about by the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.

Here are a few other instances: The boiler makers of Superior, Wis., obtained a 23 per cent. increase. The horse-shoers of Seattle, Wash., secured a raise of $1 a day. The tapestry carpet weavers of Philadelphia received an increase of 10 to 20 per cent. The Master Dyers' Association of the same city raised wages, ignoring the existing contract. In a letter to the officers of the union they say:

"Due to the changed conditions, brought about by an extraordinary group of circum-

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"Due to the changed conditions, brought about by an extraordinary group of circum-
stances which influenced the high cost of living, it is agreed by the master dyers that wages of experienced dyers will be increased regardless of the existence of an agreement between the union officials and the master dyers."

Other workers who had their wages raised were—painters and paper hangers in Missouri, iron molders in Canada, machinists in Denver, Colo., longshoremen in New York, bakers in California, electrical workers in Illinois, car men in Rochester, metal workers in Kansas City, car men and telephone operators in Manitoba, potash workers in Albany, teamsters in Toledo, Ohio, and Newark, N. J., and workers in other trades too numerous to mention. These increases amount from $3 to $6 a week.

A large number of New York tailors, controlled by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America also obtained a wage increase.

How about our own cloak and skirt makers and other ladies' garment workers?

STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS PREVAIL

Notwithstanding the patriotic attempt to suspend the conflict between capital and labor on account of the war, and in spite of the fact that President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor is quoted to the effect that there must be no strikes, strikes and lockouts are reported in various places. Speeches at conferences sound very fine, but they cannot change the spots of the leopard, or check the greed of the profiteer. In such cases the workers, if they realize their position and value, insist on at least a small share of what is coming to them. In other words, the class struggle is as inevitable as the thunder clap upon the clash of black clouds.

An interesting case is reported from Salt Lake City, Utah. The street car men were about to suspend work upon the company's failure to sign a contract with the union providing higher pay. Thereupon a certain Lafayette Hanchett, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of that city, threatened them with arrest as prisoners of war, without bail.

The unionists refused to be bluffed and telegraphed their international executive, Wm. D. Mahon, at Detroit. That official wired A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison, who complained to the governor of Utah. The governor was very angry when he learned that Hanchett had made this threat.

If a rule of taking prisoners of war in industrial wars could be for a moment imagined, it should rather be applied to unreasonable employers. Making prisoners of war some stubborn employers and putting them to some hard toil to earn their daily bread, would soon bring them to reason. Something very nearly of this kind happened recently in Russia. It is satisfactory that in the strikes and lockouts which have taken place, labor, for the most part, got off with the laurels of victory.

A FAR-REACHING DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

A long fight against the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of New York City ended last month in favor of the union and to the chagrin of the American Anti-Boycott Association, who, for some years, have tried to make of this case another Danbury Hatters affair. The story deserves to be told in detail to our readers.

The Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners have long imposed a duty on their members to refuse to work with non-union trim, and the union contractors of New York City agreed to handle only union mill work. This meant that non-union concerns, doing an annual business of $8,000,000 were shut out of New York City.

Six years ago the Paine Lumber Company of Oshkosh, Wis., and several associates asked that the carpenters be enjoined from striking on any job where non-union trim was used; from permitting officers of the union from telling members when the non-union trim was being used; from fining members for working on non-union trim, or from entering into agreements with contractors.

The anti-unionists also made the very modest request that the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners be enjoined from publishing or circulating that portion of its by-laws which provides that "it is the duty of all district councils and local unions to promote the use of union-made trim and to prevent and discourage the use of non-union trim, by refusing to handle same."

In April, 1914, the United States court of appeals decided against the anti-unionists, who have appealed in vain to the United States Supreme Court.
The decision of the Supreme Court is very interesting. The Court ruled that injunctions under the anti-trust law can only be obtained by private persons and not by the government and not by private persons.

This is a victory for labor. It now remains to place a check on the issue of injunction writs in the state supreme courts. This can be done by the workers electing judges pledged not to sign any injunctions against unions or strikes.

GREAT WORK OF FUR WORKERS' CONVENTION

The convention of the International Fur Workers' Union in the United States and Canada, held last month in Boston, Mass., accomplished a vast work. There were represented thirteen unions with a membership of nearly 12,000 in many centers of the United States and the result will be the consolidation of its forces and the perfecting of its organization.

Great progress has been made in the last two years. At the 1915 convention only membership of 2,532 was represented. In 1915 its treasury did not exceed $2,500. At this convention the balance in its treasury totals $15,922.85.

This International has an energetic set of officers who make no effort to reach all the workers still outside of the ranks. In the last two years $9,000 and on national work connected with its organization—$2,600.

The convention adopted resolutions, urging the repeal of the draft law and demanding that production and distribution of food shall be placed under government control. The freedom and safety of speech and the freedom of expression in another resolution.

The convention adjourned to cable greetings to the Councils of Workers' and Soldiers' and the Socialist Peace Arm.

Albert W. Wenneis, general president and Frank P. Walsh, general secretary-treasurer.

It is well to remember that this International is in securing for its members of New Jersey, a substantial increase of wages through the last agreement had not expired.

FOOD CONTROL BILL MUST PASS

If the bill, which President Wilson has been urging Congress to adopt without delay is passed, the organized workers through the efforts of the American Federation of Labor will have had no small share in its becoming law. Last month a committee from organized labor, headed by President Gompers, called on President Wilson and submitted cogent reasons for the bill becoming law before July 1. Failing this the food speculators might be enabled to secure grain and other food contracts that would fasten the rope of famine prices around the necks of the American people.

Representative Lever, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture uttered a timely warning that if this piece of useful legislation is allowed to drag, there will be hunger riots and bloodshed in the streets of American cities.

LAWSON NOT A MURDERER

Denver, June 9.—The state supreme court has reversed the action of Judge Granby Hillyer in the conviction of John R. Lawson, former executive board member of the United Mine Workers, who was found guilty of murdering a strike guard during the strike of coal miners in the southern Colorado fields, three years ago.

State Attorney General Hubbard acknowledged recently to the supreme court that former Attorney General Farrar committed an error at the Lawson trial and asked that the verdict be set aside "because of the invalidity of the entire proceedings."

Judge Hillyer, who presided at the trial, is an ex-attorney for the coal operators. Hundreds of miners were indicted on charges growing out of the strike but after the Lawson conviction the supreme court ordered that Judge Hillyer could not preside at other trials.

A NATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE COUNCIL

Frank P. Walsh, the chairman of the former Industrial Relations Commission that did so much two years ago to disclose to the public the servile state of labor in many American industries, is the chairman of the organization named above. Its function is "voluntarily to serve the best interests of
such men and women and local unions who may be in legal difficulties as the result of the tremendous economic pressure brought to bear on them in the eternal conflict between labor and capital."

The council has a legal staff of attorneys who have agreed to give their services to the workers without fee in an advisory capacity. It means to establish a national bureau of publicity to investigate important strikes or lockouts and gather all the physical and legal facts connected with labor disputes.

Such names as Clarence S. Darrow and Amos Pinchot figure on the legal staff, while the names of Lincoln Steffens, John Reed, Helen Marot and Gertrude Barnum figure on the editorial staff. Anton Johannsen of San Francisco has been appointed organizer. Contributions to the funds of this council may be remitted to William P. Harvey, Secretary-Treasurer, 307 Massachusetts Building, Kansas City, Mo.

CONVENTION OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE VOICES LABOR'S ASPIRATIONS

From the meagre reports at hand of the X. W. T. U. L. convention held at Kansas City, last month, the fighting women of this league are seen to be abreast of the times in all resolutions adopted.

The convention urged the nationalization of railroads, telegraphs and telephones and the adoption of proper means to reduce the cost of living. It called on all men and women workers of the United States to curb the efforts of employers to break down labor standards with the aim of swelling the profits of private greed.

At the instance of Fannie M. Cohen, vice-president and delegate of our International Union and Dora Lipshitz, a cablegram of congratulations was sent to the grandmother of the Russian Revolution, Catherine Breshkovskaya, and the Workers' and Soldiers' Council of Russia, expressing joy at the success of the revolution, which promises equal rights to all men and women irrespective of religion or race.

EMPLOYERS WANT CHEAP WOMEN'S LABOR

Manufacturers in various industries have become busy spreading the rumor of a scarcity of labor, and urging that women should replace men as car men, conductors and in similar occupations, at lower rates.

Organized labor is strongly opposed to the employment of women at lower wages on men's jobs and will insist that wherever women must take men's places, owing to the war, they shall be paid equal wages for equal work.

A GLANCE AT PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER'S REPORT

On Our Recent Campaign in Montreal, Toronto, Cincinnati and Chicago.

In this article brief reference is made to President Schlesinger's report at the last meeting of the General Executive Board in Cincinnati. Space does not permit the printing of the report in full, and as it deals with recent activities in Toronto, Montreal, Cincinnati, Chicago and other centers which were fully reported in previous issues of the Ladies' Garment Worker, we shall here confine ourselves to some of the most important matters not fully known to our readers. There is much to learn from those organizing campaigns and their results. None of these campaigns could be postponed. It would have been wrong to do so.

Our active members recollect well that our last convention resolved to start cam-
The Results in Toronto

President Schlesinger refers in detail to the campaign and its good results in Toronto. From this it follows that to have postponed the campaign in that city would have been seriously.

For years our people in Toronto have urged the International to assist them in organizing the trade and improving conditions. As yet in 1919, the convention had decided to fulfill these wishes, but the unfortunate outbreak of the world war brought the ladies' garment industry in Canada to almost a standstill and turned cloakmakers into military tailors. The Toronto cloakmakers thus waited sufficiently long, and now that a good opportunity came, would it have been wise to let it slip through our fingers?

Our gain in Toronto show that the campaign was timely. The manufacturers were besieged in orders, and there was a scarcity of labor in the city. The workers were in a state of unrest and determined to win. Victory was certain.

President Schlesinger refers to the different conditions in Montreal and Toronto as follows:

In Montreal, the trade is scattered, employing some 2,800 workers in almost forty shops, and the largest firm employs not more than 350 workers in the height of the season. In Toronto, on the other hand, the trade is concentrated; some 2,300 workers are employed in only twenty shops. The T. Eaton company alone employs 1,200 men and women.

Such conditions are often unfavorable for the workmen where the trade is concentrated. The manufacturers are powerful and in a position to offer strong resistance. It was therefore necessary to pursue in Toronto a cautious policy—to conduct strikes separately in every shop. Here is a brief list of gains in Toronto, mentioned in President Schlesinger's report.

Workmen were reduced to 48; in most shops to 46½, and in seven shops to only 44. A minimum scale for week workers was awarded, which raised their pay from $1 to $1.50 a week, and a satisfactory scale for piece work was conceded. In some shops where the workers were dissatisfied with the week work we abolished it altogether. We also made a fair beginning in the big Eaton shop, where the firm had made a number of improvements and has recently submitted to the demand of the union, abolished piece work to the satisfaction of the workers. The Toronto locals now have a membership of 1,500 as compared with 400 before our campaign began, and a growing branch of Gentile women workers.

The Results in Montreal

The campaign in Montreal certainly could not be postponed. The workers there have waited for relief since some years; and even though the strike continued for nine weeks the operation had to be made. Of course it could not be foreseen that the Montreal manufacturers would resist us so long. On the contrary, we had believed that they would not risk the ruin of their business which had taken them years to build up.

But in spite of the protracted struggle and the many sacrifices of the workers the strike in Montreal accomplished good results. As President Schlesinger states in his report the International taught the manufacturers there a good lesson. They now see the folly of plunging into a fight with the union at any future time. In future the union in Montreal, composed of nearly all the workers in the trade, will be in a position to settle its differences with the employers without strikes.

The Victory in Cincinnati

We have already several times referred in the Ladies' Garment Workers, to the strike and victory in Cincinnati, and it is not necessary to repeat the details. It is however worth while observing this:

No one would say that we should have omitted the cloakmakers of Cincinnati from our program, or that we could have postponed the campaign. Not only in Cincinnati but in all our locals there was joy on hearing of the victory and the good results achieved. All the workers won a forty-eight hour week. Only union men are now employed in the shops and the union was placed on a firm foundation.

The Struggle in Chicago

Although we have not won the struggle in Chicago it does not follow that we could have postponed the campaign or that we could have pursued a different course of action.

Perhaps if we had foreseen such a chain of circumstances as—a lawyer acting as a strike breaker and a heartless judge issuing injunctions and dealing out jail sentences to innocent workers we might have altered our course.
But now that the struggle is over, instead of shedding tears over the past we should rather extract the sweet from the bitter—analyze the results and await the next favorable opportunity.

There is sweet comfort for us in the extraordinary enthusiasm displayed by the workers, not only during the strike but even after the strike was called off.

Every union must expect to lose a fight now and then. But there is a great difference between a crushing and irreparable defeat and a temporary set-back which imparts new strength and determination, making it possible to prepare for a new struggle. In Chicago the unsuccessful attempt was of the latter sort. In spite of the hard struggle, brutal persecution of the police, injunctions and court trials; in spite of the fact that some of the richest people in Chicago backed the manufacturers, and in spite of the wholesale discriminations and persecutions now practiced by the employers in the shops, the waist, skirt, white goods and kimono workers of Chicago have a local of good size and standing. If not for the campaign and hard struggle we could not now boast of such a strong union as our Local No. 100.

In reviewing all the facts we come to the conclusion that the strike, costly as it has been, accomplished results that will be of great value to us in the near future.

Herein consists the greatness of our International Union: its set-backs are only temporary and it quickly recovers its strength and prestige. Very often a temporary defeat has rendered our union stronger than ever.

Even the petticoat workers' strike in New York was a bitter pill which brought much good. The future prospects of the petticoat workers are very bright. The recent unsuccessful strike was, in reality, a moral victory for the union.

We must not conclude these notes without pointing out the lessons that these struggles teach us.

It would not have come to such hard and bitter conflicts as that in Chicago and Montreal were the International provided with ample financial resources and the employers aware of the fact. We anticipate now good, prosperous seasons to come in our industry. Should this expectation be realized, our members must get into the habit of thinking not only of their own local but of the entire organization, its possibilities and prospects all over the country. While our members must always think of their local affairs and interests, they must by no means neglect to think of the general welfare at the same time; for the good of all means the good of each.

**WHAT WE SHOULD DO AT PRESENT**

By Ab. Baroff
Secretary-Treasurer of the International

The situation in our local unions and in our industry is of interest to us at this moment.

Our International office is a sort of barometer that indicates the situation. It is the central point where all the activities of our locals meet together, like the heart from which the blood flows into the various parts of the body. When the pulse-beat is normal the body is in perfect health.

The books of our International Union indicate the activities of our locals. Certain expenditures on their behalf represent the measure of their life and activity.

If the industries are busy there is a corresponding good income. When our members are at work they pay their dues regularly and even in advance, if necessary. Just now, however, to our great regret, the various branches of our industry are practically at a standstill; extreme slackness everywhere.

It is true that work is always scarce at this time of the year, and our people are already accustomed to the bitter experience. The present outlook, however, comes with a particular shock to us.

Ever since our country has entered into the war the future has become shrouded in deep mystery.

Everyone who has the interests of labor at heart seeks to penetrate into the mystery and bring forth an answer to the great ques-
tion: how our poor workers meet the hard time.

It seems that aside from the fact that thousands of the workers' families will be hit hard by being deprived, here of a son, there of a daughter, who will be sent to the battle, those remaining behind will be confronted with the great question how to maintain themselves and their little ones.

Even before the declaration of war the cost of living had mounted unusually high; and now our land has obligated itself to supply the exhausted allies with food-stuffs, it may come to a condition where the means to live will become scantier and dearer.

The immediate prospects for our industries are very uncertain. To carry on the war with success the Government requires men, ammunition, food and clothing for the army. That is why the women's garment industry is in no sense a factor on which the war depends in any way.

In addition to this, appeals for patriotism and economy constantly issue from high places, scaring the people and reacting on trade and commerce. Among those who feel called upon to help the country are the women folk, who are urged to practice economy and thus show their patriotism. These frantic appeals and scares produce a depressing effect on the market of women's dress of all kinds and will affect our industry to a large extent.

If spending should be largely restricted, widespread slackness and unemployment will follow. Earnings will shrink. Money will not circulate so freely. Business will feel the pinch, which may result in panic.

It is impossible to foretell the character of our next seasons in our industry. At this abnormal time it is difficult to say with certainty whether the ladies' garment industry will pass through a crisis or whether we may expect good seasons.

In any case we must see that our members shall through the power of our organization get increased wages for their work. Our union must watch over the workers' interests. We must with the whole strength of our organization prevent any attempt to take away from us rights and liberties secured in the past.

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

This department, which will be a regular feature of this Journal every month, will report for the information of our members and readers.—Editor.

Compiled by M. H. Danish

CLOAK M A K E R S ' UNION LOCAL 9

Secretary T. Minkoff writes:

“Our fight for week work is still on, though the conditions are that for the approaching season the piece work system will continue. We are, however, done the next best thing and have launched a campaign for an increase in the wages.

“We are making much headway and expect our members to make a decent living this season by continuing our campaign for week work.

"After several weeks of discussing the proposition of raising our weekly dues in our local have been raised to 25c. This will provide us with surplus funds to go on with our work and a reserve fund.

“"The attitude of the members is called to the fact that all books left at our office must be taken out, else they will be cancelled.

“"Those who are over six months in arrears will be placed on the suspension list, and if arrears are not paid within a reasonable time after work has been resumed, suspension will follow."

BOSTON CLOAK & SKIRT MAKERS' PREPARING FOR NEXT SEASON

Brother Abraham Snyder, manager of the Boston Joint Board, reports as follows:

"Matters are lively again in our local, and the workers are getting ready for the coming season. During the slack months, our Boston cloakmakers, who live largely in the suburbs, come rarely to meetings."
There is little to do in the shops, and attending meetings means waste of time and carfares. With the coming work on samples and of the season's price-settlements everyone woke up and has got busy. The Executive Board of Local 56 has decided to ask twenty-seven dollars per week for sample makers and a minimum of one dollar per garment for the finishers. The Joint Board has decided to agitate among the members for a general twenty per cent increase on piece and week work throughout the trade.

"Meetings are being called and the response of the workers is highly encouraging. The recommendations of the Joint Board and of the Local Executive Boards are at present being discussed with an earnestness that has never been witnessed in the Boston organization heretofore."

"One of the important questions before us is the raising of dues in Local 56, the Operators' Union. The members of this local are still paying only seventeen cents per week. Several attempts in the past to raise the dues were always voted down. The Executive Board has recommended a higher dues and it is to be expected that the recommendation will be adopted.

A Talk with President Schlesinger

"We talked over matters with President Schlesinger on June 2nd, and he fully endorsed our plans to ask for a 20% increase in wages for the next season. Brother Schlesinger also promised to come to Boston to assist us in putting through this demand, and our Joint Board feels greatly encouraged by the promised aid of President Schlesinger. We forthwith issued and distributed a leaflet among all our workers, setting forth clearly the reasons for our demands, and decided to send these demands to the manufacturers before the beginning of the season. This season we shall have to deal with the Boston employers individually, as they have no association at present. The association disbanded officially last March.

Week Work or Piece Work

"We had a special meeting to discuss this problem with the Skirtmakers Union, Local 2. This local is wide-awake and always on guard for the interests of its members. The last season was very unfavorable for the Boston skirtmakers. In some cloak shops only long coats were made; in others only novelties, and these sold very poorly. The skirtmakers suffered heavily, and in some shops the skirtmakers, in a fraternal spirit, saw to it that the skirtmakers were given some work on coats. This season the skirtmakers are determined to introduce safeguards into their trade which will make a repetition of the past season impossible. Some are proposing in earnest a change from the piece system to week work. But this meeting voted down these proposals, for it became clear that this reform would make matters worse in some cases, instead of improving them, as it would mean the loss of jobs to a number of skirtmakers. It was decided to pay closer attention to price-settlements and to endorse all the other demands of the Joint Board.

"We feel that we shall be able to gain all our demands without a fight. Should, however, any of our employers prove obstinate, we are ready to take up the contest for the improvement of the conditions of our workers."

AMONG THE PHILADELPHIA CLOAKMAKERS

Locals 2, 53, 69

I. S. Feit, manager of the Philadelphia Joint Board, writes:

"I believe it is the first time that the principle of equal distribution of work in dull seasons, is being fully applied now in the Philadelphia cloak shops. The workers, in the majority of the shops, are working collectively, and on pay day the shop chairman divides the money among them equally and without discrimination against the slower and less efficient men.

"During my short stay here I have been called upon on two occasions to deliver to shop chairmen presents from their fellow-workers. The workers of Perlberg and Cooper gave a gold watch and chain to their chairman, L. Litman; another shop chairman, Samuel Lessner, received a present of books as an expression of appreciation and gratitude for faithful work.

"Our Joint Board has been holding conferences with the manufacturers for renewing our collective agreement and getting concessions for the workers. President Schlesinger has been with us at these conferences. We expect to sign the agreement
very soon, meetings are being held energetically by our members for the next season. We are instructing the prices of seventy-five cents per hour for the average operator, seventy cents per hour for the average presser, and seventy cents per hour for the average skirt-maker and finisher. These people, who are benefitting from the gains of the union and skilled mechanics, are not yet fully aware of the general situation. We have an unusual trade dullness due to the detention of cloakmakers are working for manufacturers and contractors on military uniforms for the government for the average wages for do not exceed $2.00 per day for nine hours. In some places, however, even worse, as for instance in the Race Street, average more per day for nine or ten working hours. A committee of these workers appeared before our Joint Board asking for assistance in the improvement of their conditions. We decided to call the attention of the War Department to the existence of these miserable conditions, expecting that the government will do its duty to protect the workers from the exploitation of the unscrupulous employers, before we resort to our own means of self-defense.

CINCINNATI CLOAKMAKERS
Locals 30, 63, 98

Brother S. J. Kaufman, manager of the Cincinnati organization, writes:

"Since the strike last March we have had a long slack season, and our workers are still out of work. Notwithstanding this, our members are all paid up to date; they are attending meetings regularly and taking an interest in the business.

"As you well know we have individual agreements with the employers, and working conditions, in minor details, are not all alike in all shops. We experience occasional trouble on this account, but are doing our best to straighten out these matters, as well as the friction between the workers of the smaller shops and the big Bishop shop to the satisfaction of all sides concerned.

"Last week we had a special meeting of
the Joint Board to try the case of Louis Uufcr, who was charged during the last strike with conduct detrimental to the success of the strike. We decided, 'that although his actions were not in conformity with the rules of the organization, he nevertheless be restored to the rights of membership and the fine imposed upon him rescinded in view of his good behavior. He tried in every way possible to clear himself of the charges preferred against him. He is, however, not to hold office in the union for the next six months.'

JOINT BOARD OF CINCINNATI

The trade is at a stand-still, but the outlook is bright. The firm of Rosenthaler Bros. and Zwillingcr are about ready to manufacture cloaks and suits and will employ union help. The strike is still on at the Sudhoff, Egger Co. and the Queen Mig. Co. which we expect to settle the coming season.

Local No. 30 Ladies' Garment Cutters had a very large meeting followed by a social. President Hart spoke on what it means to be organized and Brother Peters spoke on socialability. They were well received.

Local No. 63 had a well attended meeting, and endorsed the Sick Benefit Fund, as well as the Emergency Fund. This local will give a picnic for the benefit of the organization.

Ladies' Branch, Local No. 63 had a good and well attended meeting. We are agitating for an Emergency Fund and hope to adopt it at our next meeting. We had a very successful dance for the benefit of the Emergency Fund.

ROSE ROTHMAN.

TORONTO CLOAKMAKERS

Locals 14, 70, 83, 92

Vice-President Koldofsky writes:

"On Saturday, June 9th, the Union called a strike in the skirt and dress department of the Thompson Manufacturing Company.

"This company is a branch of the big, rich department store, known as the Robert Simpson Company. The shop consists of four departments, two for cloaks and suits and two for skirts and dresses. The cloak departments were organized some time ago, and notwithstanding the fact that this firm is just as antagonistic to the union as the T. Eaton Co., they were compelled last spring to recognize these departments as union shops, with shop chairmen, price and adjusting committee, and all the other concessions gained during last spring in all other shops in the city were granted us in these shops as well.

"The skirt and dress departments, where a majority of gentile Canadian women are employed, were lagging behind. Right after the spring campaign, we succeeded in enrolling most of them as members of the English Ladies' Branch of our organization. The conditions under which these women worked in the skirt and dress department were quite unbearable indeed. They have had a dual system of work in the shop—by the week and by piece. The weekly wages and the piece prices were alike, very poor, and the week workers were, as a rule, being allotted the easier kind of work. No price committees were allowed and no one even dared to complain about the low prices. They had no prices for single garments, but were given bundles of dresses and told the price for the entire lot, which they had to accept without protest.

"By the end of March we placed before the manager of the dress department demands that a uniform piece-work system be introduced in the shop, that a price committee be recognized, and that the workers should not be expected to make any garments before the price was adjusted by the price committees and the firm.

"The head manager refused to receive the committee of the workers that was to present the demands and the Joint Board addressed these demands to the firm with the ultimatum that if they did not reply within four days a strike would be declared. This proved effective and our demands were granted on the fifth day. Matters were running smoothly until the end of May, when the foreman tried to force twenty-seven women workers to make a garment, the price on which was not settled. They refused and went home. The next day they were discharged, and after all attempts to settle the matter amicably proved of no avail, we called down the shop in strike.

"The strike involves over one hundred women, except the cutters and pressers, most of whom are native Canadians. On June 13 a special member meeting of the locals instructed the Joint Board to call out the workers of the cloak and suit depart-
ments of this union, if the demands of the union for the reinstatement of the twenty-seven women and the full recognition of the price committees will not be granted. In that event the strike may involve over 250 men and women.

"We had two successful strikes during last month, one at the Hutner shop, which lasted over two weeks, and another in the Model Dress Factory for almost a week. This is the second strike we have had in this shop during the last two months for unjustifiable discharges of workers.

"Our cutters went out on a new schedule of wages that includes a number of improvements in the working conditions. There are some firms in the city who will not pay their cutters below the scale which was put in operation during last spring. These will now have to give up this practice. The demands are to go into force on July 15th."

(We take pleasure in informing our readers that Vice-President Samson Koldofsky, the representative of the International in Toronto, who is now with a serious trolley car accident several weeks ago, in consequence of which he was confined to his bed for more than 10 weeks, has fully recovered now, and is again attending to his duties, as manager, of the Toronto Joint Board.)

TOLEDO CLOTH AND SKIRTMAKERS UNION

L. E. 67, 84

L. E. 67, 84

Secretary S. R. K. writes:

"In response to your request for a brief report on conditions in our Toledo locals, I will endeavor to give you some facts:

"Local 67 is still 45 years old, and there have been lean as well as fat times. But the local was always alert. We do not owe our existence to a strike, as is the case with many other locals, nor are such high-minded idealists either. We had a few devoted and loyal friends who steered the local through all past hard times, such as the disastrous strikes in the near-by cities of Cleveland and St. Louis in 1911 and 1913. During the seven years of our existence we have a number of tilts with our employers, but owing to the tact and loyalty of our active members, wc avoided strikes. Yet we have gained for ourselves conditions that compare favorably with conditions in other cities. We have a fifty-three hour week work, shop chairmen and price committees and a number of other union conditions.

"We have about $1,200.00 in our treasury and have always contributed generously to strikes in other cities and supported other organizations whenever we were called upon. Our dues are fifteen cents per week, and we used to pay $5.00 per week sick benefit until the per capita dues were raised last year. We have no paid officers.—our local is not big enough for it; all our affairs are being taken care of by voluntary committee workers. The only thing of importance during the last months in our midst was the organization of the cutters into a local union. The cutters are very promising material, and they have enrolled into their new local, No. 84, practically every man working at the trade in Toledo. We expect to hear from them at the beginning of the new fall season.

"We are disappointed that President Schlesinger, who had promised to visit us on more than one occasion, could not come. We prepared for the meetings and at the eleventh hour had to call them off. We hope one of our general officers will visit us in the near future."

ITALIAN CLOAK, SUIT AND SKIRTMAKERS' UNION, LOCAL 48

Alfredo La Porta, manager of the local, writes:

"It was only at the beginning of the year 1910 that the Italian cloak tailor began to appear in the union. Before the general strike of that year only a handful of our people entered the organization, and they were our leaders in that first great battle, which is written down in capital letters in the history of our trade.

"The Italians were distributed among the different locals forming the Joint Board of New York. The idea prevailing then was that the international character of the organization made superfluous the institution of an Italian local, and also that the Italians did not have men sufficiently trained to conduct an organization of their own.

"Those who thought so were wrong in both cases. In fact, our constitution provides for the creation of special locals, sub-
locals or branches according to nationalities of sex. On the other hand, although in a general way the local Italians are not too much acquainted with the labor movement, there are a good many of them that are well endowed with common sense, capable of directing the organization in a satisfactory manner.

"This conflict of opinions and the tenacious opposition to the self-government of the Italians in our union by those who did not understand the character and the possibilities of our people, caused distrust and in a short time the desertions from the union were so numerous that our ranks thinned down from twelve thousand to less than five thousand.

"For three years things were going that way and the falling-off in number went on without interruption, until a group of men, alarmed by this state of affairs, decided to start a movement for the reorganization of the Italians in the industry. About the month of July, 1913, a large committee came to me in the office of the International, where I was serving as general organizer, and offered me the candidacy for general secretary of the then existing Italian Branch, urging that my platform should be the creation of an Italian local and the recruiting of all deserters back into the union. I accepted the offer, recognizing the impossibility of giving satisfaction to the reasonable desires of the Italian workers in any other way.

"Soon after I had been elected to the position of general secretary, I began my work assisted by several friends, and by patience and persistence we gained the sympathy and the co-operation of several representatives of those locals with which the Italians were not affiliated. A special committee was then appointed by the Joint Board, and, in conjunction with representatives of the International General Executive Board, this committee went to the meetings of the Italian Advisory Board to get a clear idea of the purposes which caused the unrest among the Italians. The results were that on the second day of February, 1916, the Italian local was established and regularly chartered by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union under the title, "Italian Cloak, Suit and Skirt Makers Union, Local 48."

"It was the general opinion then that the new institution would be a complete failure, but we had reason to think otherwise. In spite of the fact that we had to face a general strike only three months after we began our existence as an independent local, and notwithstanding all the petty politics that afflicted our life as they do the lives of all labor organizations, we stood the test and we hope to be able to continue on the straight road for the good of all our workers. To-day the Italian local is one of the largest of our International. The number of members has doubled since we became a separate local, and the confidence in the union has been almost totally restored.

"Our task has been very hard. Our people come almost exclusively from small towns of Italy and they have no knowledge of the meaning and purposes of the labor movement. Besides, ours has been a struggle with red-hot extremists on one hand, and the "indifferent" on the other hand. But we are not the kind of men who are easily dismayed and discouraged. We had faith in the honesty of our purpose and we pursued our aims without paying attention to difficulties. We firmly believe that the Italian cloakmakers may be proud of what we have accomplished already; and will tender their co-operation for the further progress and welfare of our class."

PROBLEMS CONFRONTING LOCAL 49, BOSTON WAISTMAKERS' UNION

Manager S. Jacobson of Local 49, writes as follows:

"On February 3, 1910, the International granted a charter to Local 49, under the name, 'Ladies Waistmakers' Union.' At that time the ready-to-wear dressmaking industry was undeveloped in Boston, and the chief sources of membership for this local were the numerous large waist shops, and the name, 'Ladies Waistmakers' Union,' naturally fitted the local.

"Local 49 made no headway, and up to 1910 we practically had a charter without a union. In the meantime the dressmaking industry kept on increasing in the waist shops. While in 1910, eighty per cent. of the industry consisted of waist establishments, and the transformation is still going on. All this time, while the industry has been changing, our name has remained the same. Our troubles, however,
THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKER

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which has under its jurisdic

tion the waist and dress shops, is working under a prov

agreement with the manufac

urers. The plan of Local 24 to get con

rol over the dressmakers would lead to

confusion and violation. To some extent

there is friction already.

"Local 49" was the largest local of the In

ternational strike in February, 1916, the local had about

50 or 75 mem

ers, and no control over any

of the waist or dress shops in the city. When the Inter

national came to Boston in

1916 and called these workers out on strike, the mem

ers of Local 49 immediately rose to 900. Within the past year, through the

activity of its members, the local has suc

ceeded in gaining about 500 new members, thus making

this jurisdiction the most of our

questions the source of

most of our troubles, hindering the development of the organization and creating confusion in our ranks.

"The local has been running to establish a central union activity for the center, where a library, lectures and so on will be provided for the open new fi

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ent conditions prov

the festivities. Among the speakers and

visitors were Abraham Baroff, Secretary of

the International from New York, and A Silver, Manager of Local 15.

The Unity House is under the management of Mrs. Margolis. A detailed descrip

tion of this affair will appear in the next number of this Journal, written by Brother A. Baroff.

CHICAGO WAIST, DRESS AND WHITE GOODS WORKERS' UNION

Local 10

Vice-President Seidman writes.

"Since the close of the tenacious struggle of the Chicago waist, dress, skirt and white goods workers, there is hardly any work in the shops. Many factories are completely shut down and the rest work only on part time. The entire spring season was lost during the strike, and when the end of the year came, the slack period was at hand already.

"Chicago suffered less in past slack periods in the skirt and white goods trades than New York, and many Chicago shops were busy working all year around. Today everything is at a standstill. Some ascribe it to the war economy scare, which is keeping a great many people from buying things and clothes; others contend that the unusual cold and rainy spring has affected the store sales but the biggest factor was the strike. The employers are now taking some petty revenge from the strikers for the money and the season they have lost through their own willful stubbornness. They advertise in the daily papers for help, and as the number of the unemployed is still very large, dozens of workers respond to the advertisements. Then these employers lecture to the applicants, refusing to take back any people who were involved in the strike. Some of them candidly admit that they were ruined through the strike and that their business went to New York, etc.

You may well understand that our local is going through a critical time now. It was barely four months old when it went through the throes of a general strike, and the effects of that struggle are still here. Fortunately, this organization is based on such a healthy foundation that even the unholy trinity of the injunction judges, the underworld gangsters and the shyster lawyers could not break it down.
Since the strike had been given up, seven weeks ago, we already had three very well attended member meetings. Each meeting is attended by 300-400 men and women and business is transacted in an earnest way, particularly the problems of the coming season. Those employed in the open shops are plainly risking their jobs by coming to these meetings. Naturally we are elated at the results. Our income already covers our expenses, and we feel that with the advent of the new season matters will improve greatly, as there will surely be a scarcity of workers in Chicago.

"We have arranged a pic-nic on July 29, and we are confident that it will be a huge success. To our workers the strike was not lost, only temporarily given up. Even some manufacturers acknowledge this fact. When an ex-striker comes up to look for a job in a shop they greet her or him with this remark: 'What do you want work for anyway? You people are going to strike next August again!' The truth of the situation is penetrating into the thick skulls of the Chicago manufacturers that it is next to the impossible to win out against our International. Our temporary check did not affect our spirits; the organization is firm and steady now, and nothing will shake our healthy young local."

LOCAL NO. 50 IN SPLENDID SHAPE
But the Workers in the Children's Dress Industry Cannot Make Ends Meet, Owing to the High Cost of Living.

The children's dress trade consists of 90 per cent. women workers of the age of 16 to 22 years, and 10 per cent. are men of various ages.

The earnings of the workers are far from what they really should be. Only after a general strike of six weeks in 1916 we first succeeded in establishing a minimum wage of six dollars for learners, reducing the hours of labor to 49 per week, and increasing the earnings of the workers in general to about 20 per cent.

But what is 20 per cent. to be compared with the present conditions of the high cost of living? Now that the cost of living has increased from 40 to 50 per cent. you can imagine how hard it is for the children's dressmakers to make ends meet. It was hard for them to make ends meet at the time when the workers were working steady without a lay-off, which was a regular practice in this trade. On an average the workers were then employed from 45 to 48 weeks during the year, and due to this fact the manufacturers always claimed that the earnings in this craft were in proportion higher than in similar trades because of its long season.

We find today in the middle of May, when it is supposed to be the height of the season, hardly enough workers. For the last five or six weeks only 50 to 60 per cent. of the workers have been employed and only part time.

Imagine what the workers in this industry must contend with when the average earnings of the workers range from $6.00 to $12.00 per week on a basis of $2 weeks per year, and now when the workers are laid off for almost four months during the year, the average earnings of the workers fall down to two-thirds, making an average of from $4.00 to $8.00 per week.

Think of the condition of the man and woman worker in this trade, when they have to live on an income from $4.00 to $8.00 per week with the present high cost of living. The workers suffer severely. Still our manufacturers think that the union is driving them out of business by insisting that the workers should receive at least a little of the big profits due to present prosperous conditions. The present slackness in the trade may be due to the weather or to the war and other such reasons, but the workers know only one thing; that they cannot get along with their present earnings.

Naturally nothing can be done at present due to the slack season, but the workers realize the value of an organization, that only due to this fact the conditions of the trade have been raised to the present level.

The workers in this trade and other trades must begin an active campaign of preparedness, so that when the proper time comes they shall be in a position to demand of their manufacturers just what is due them, and not have to depend upon their mercy or good nature.

The majority of the children's dressmakers see this thing clear, and they consider the union their only real support.

In the short time since the reorganization of the Children's Dressmakers' Union, the local has made wonderful progress, in
the sense of the union and I feel that the future will be as pros-

cceeded during this time to organize five new shops, in which forty people are work-
ing. I only had one strike in the firm of Roth & Carnegie, Broadway and 86th St., who employ eighteen people. After a stop-

page of one day, I succeeded in settling with the firm and receiving an increase for all finishers employed in the shop.

I have renewed all the agreements with the sixteen employers in Brooklyn, Local 65, under whose jurisdiction they had been previously, had not renewed the agree-

ments with them. Agreements were signed on the same conditions as in New York. All my time was devoted to bring this union to a normal condition, and at present we have in all 120 shops under full control. I have also succeeded in strengthening our local financially.

In order to maintain this organization something must be done to organize the industry for the coming season. The pre-

sent number of members and shops under the control of our local union is about one-
sixth of the trade throughout the city. In a letter to the General Executive Board I requested for sanction of a general move-

ment for the coming season, as I am con-

vinced that this is the only way to organize this trade.

Our agreements with all our employers expire at the end of October, 1917.

A. BENENSON, Manager.

BRIDGEPORT CORSET WORKERS' UNION, LOCAL 33

Miss Mary Gould, secretary of the local, writes as follows:

"The corset trade in Bridgeport at present is dull, but we are looking for brighter times very soon. We are urging our mem-

bers to remain in the factories, as we expect that soon there will be enough work for all. There may not be an abundance of corset-

making; but we expect that some other arti-
cles will come under our trade which will keep us busy.

"About two months ago there was passed in the City of Bridgeport an ordinance forbid-
ing public meetings or assemblies without special permits from the chief of police. In consequence of this ordinance we were compelled, whenever we had speakers at our meetings, to obtain a per-

mit from the authorities. Yet we continue
JULY, 1917

Ufolding meetings every Friday, having a fair attendance. Some of our most active members are very busy advertising these meetings and are offering our members all the encouragement to keep up the good work. We expect very soon to ask our International for another speaker.

“We are making arrangements for an outing for our members to take place in July. There is a large committee now working on this affair and we expect to make it a huge success. We are also making arrangements to take part in our State Parade on Labor Day in Danbury.”

LOCALS 4, 72, 101 AND 110, BALTIMORE, MD.

Brother David Cohen writes:

“The entire industry in Baltimore is affected by unemployment as a result of the slack season, and the majority of the members of our four locals are idle. We hope, however, that when the season begins our members will be ready to defend their interests and to demand prices and working conditions that will enable them to maintain an existence under the prevailing high cost of living.

“Several weeks ago Vice-President Pierce organized a Joint Board of our four locals. The cloakmakers, waistmakers, ladies' tailors and the cutters' local are now located in one big office, at 1023 E. Baltimore Street, and all our work is being co-ordinated jointly and in harmony.

“There are about 10,000 workers employed in the waist, skirt and while goods trades in Baltimore, ninety per cent, of whom are women. There are a considerable number of colored workers among the women, who work for two-three dollars per week.

“We are confident that the International will organize these trades as soon as the first opportunity presents itself. The employers here are anticipating a good season, and we are sure that the General Officers will utilize the season in the best interests of the Baltimore workers, which in the long run means the welfare of the workers in our entire industry.”

LOCALS 65 AND 75, ST. LOUIS, MO.

A local correspondent writes:

“Since our general strike in 1913, St. Louis became a big and important center of the manufacture of ladies’ wear. Very large factories of skirts and dresses, where thousands of women are employed, have been opened during recent years. Wages in these shops are very low, and we are trying, lately, to organize them with the aid of the International.

“Much to our regret we have not as yet succeeded to make any considerable headway among these workers. These girls are for the most part gentle girls who have not the slightest conception of unionism, and the agitation among them has heretofore been conducted on a small scale. In order to make progress and organize the industry, the International would have to bring into the field a number of organizers, men and women, and begin a big movement for a general strike.

“Local 65 is the local of the women workers, and Local 78 is the old cloakmakers’ local of St. Louis. Until recently we had two organizers, Brother B. Kaplan and Mrs. Anna Crane. Last week, our Joint Board decided to dispense with the services of Mrs. Crane, until the International will be ready to take up the St. Louis agitation in real earnest, as it was realized that she could not make much headway among the girls single-handed.

“Our business agent, Brother Kaplan, resigned last week and Brother Ben Gilbert was appointed in his place. Our Joint Board which consists of a number of energetic and loyal union men, will assist Brother Gilbert in his work, and we hope that before the next season begins our union will be strong enough to gain for our workers better working conditions.”

MONTREAL, CANADA

From a correspondent:

“Our local unions are in good condition notwithstanding the nine weeks of bitter fighting that we have gone through this winter owing to the obstinacy of some of our manufacturers. Our income is somewhat smaller but that is due only to the general slack conditions in the trade. The majority of our men are idle; but we have confidence that with the beginning of work in the shops, every worker in the trade will straighten out his standing in the union.

“Our meetings are well attended. During the last four weeks Montreal was visited by Vice-Presidents Lefkavits and Rosenberg. They addressed shop and member
meetings and the meetings were crowded on every occasion.

"The court cases were all dismissed, and thus the hopes of local employers that they would succeed in jailing some of our members came to nothing.

"For the coming season we expect either a collective agreement with all the manufacturers in Montreal, or separate agreements with each individual manufacturer. We are perfectly confident that the last general strike in Montreal was a sufficiently costly lesson for the local manufacturers, and that they will not involve the trade in another strike.

"Our members are getting ready to receive the members of the General Executive Board which decided to have its fourth quarterly meeting in Montreal. We hope that the Board will not change its decision, and we are quite sure that they will rejoice to find that the locals in Montreal are now well organized and in good shape in spite of our recent struggle.

Vice-President Amdur our Manager

"Brother Amdur's acceptance of the position of manager of our Joint Board has put still more life and enthusiasm in our ranks. Brother Lanch, our business agent, who has served us loyally and faithfully until now and helped to make our work successful, declined to accept a re-nomination for the position. Brother Lanch is one of the best workers in the trade and one of the best men in our ranks. We regret very much that he has found it impossible to render further services to our organization.

"Vice-President Amdur needs no introduction. Everyone knows him as one of the ablest central figures in our movement. Brother Amdur has already devised some plans of work together with our Joint Board, and each of us is pledged to help him along to enact these plans.

"Montreal is all right! We'll make you proud of our town, and pretty soon, too."

LOCAL 32, WINNIPEG, CANADA

Brother Wm. Baum, the secretary of the local, writes as follows:

"Our local has been going through hard times of late. During the two years of our existence, we have won several fights for our members. Now, for the first time, we are threatened with a lockout. Let me explain to you the situation in a few clear words.

"We have about 400 cloakmakers here, some of them working in small shops, and about 300 of them in two large shops, the Eaton Company and the Faultless Company. We have only recently begun to organize the Eaton shop, but the Faultless was organized last year, after a successful strike for the recognition of the union. The management of this firm, however, schemed to make our gains ineffective, and after the spring season was over, began to execute their plans. They chose the method of a quiet lockout; at first they attempted to convince the workers that the shop was changing hands, and that the new bosses would pick their own help as they pleased. Then they said that the shop was to close down altogether.

"The workers, however, were too well organized to be fooled by their statements. We investigated them and found these claims to be without any foundation. Apparently being afraid to wage an open fight against us, they thought that they could beat us by a scare. We immediately opened a campaign against them through the press and otherwise, and now, after a fight of four weeks, we may say, confidently that our lockout is nearing an end, with victory practically assured to us. Most of the obstacles are out of the way, and as the firm could not get any workers from other cities, the entire lockout has collapsed.

NEW LOCALS NOS. 30, 82, 84 and 86

During the last few months the following locals have been chartered:

Cincinnati Cutters, Local 30, an organization for the cloak cutters of Cincinnati.

Examiners, Squarers and Bushelers of New York, No. 82. There are thousands of workers in this trade in the cloak shops in New York City, and the local has enrolled a considerable number of men already.

Toledo Cutters, No. 84. They have also initiated a number of shirt waist cutters into their local.

Local 86, Ladies' Tailors of St. John, Can.
Hessie Helfman, a Garment Worker. She Died a Martyr's Death Defying the Russian Tyrants.

The Remarkable Russian Revolution have become a topic of talk and discussion all the world over. Few people, however, realize that the revolution was prepared many, many years ago and that it had very many pioneers among the poorest people, workers and peasants. Hessie Helfman was one of them. The story of her life makes very interesting reading.—Editor.

Although a poor Jewish tailoress, Hessie Helfman played a great part in the struggle for Russia's freedom. Her parents were pious, God-fearing old-fashioned Jews, who would rather that Hessie were dead than be one of the nihilists. She could not endure her father's surroundings and went to Kieff, where she worked as a tailoress.

In 1873 the revolutionary movement already had followers almost all over Russia, and Hessie readily joined them. She at once came into contact with radical, revolutionary women who had returned from Switzerland. These admitted her into their intimate secret circle.

At first she helped the movement in her own quiet, unassuming way, thus her modest dwelling became a kind of "general delivery" for many revolutionists who had reason to escape their whereabouts, and she was helping in other ways. Finally her "crime" was discovered by the police and she was sentenced to two years in prison.

There she met several women revolutionists who belonged to the educated classes. These conversations in trouble enlightened Hessie upon the meaning of Socialism. She was much distressed and decided to devote herself to the service of Socialism with her whole heart and soul. Unfortunately, as soon as she completed her prison term the police handed her to Northern Siberia, where she remained until 1879.

In the middle of that year this courageous girl escaped from Siberia, not to save her own skin, but to live an active life for her new ideal. She returned to the very zone of danger, St. Petersburg, (now Petrograd) and plunged into the revolutionary struggle for all she was worth.

The movement then required a lot of spade work and Hessie willingly and the hardest work falling to her lot. She acted as letter carrier and messenger going on any and every errand to promote the cause. She worked even sixteen hours a day, tramping the streets of St. Petersburg posting letters, circulars and proclamations of the revolutionist executive in every nook and corner. Hessie often reached her room in the evening utterly worn out, but the next morning she was again "on the job" with fresh vigor and enthusiasm. In addition to this she was always ready to help all fellow revolutionists in a material sense to the point of denying herself many things.

The moral force and boundless devotion of this uneducated woman can best be seen from the last months of her life and activity in the movement.

She married a well known revolutionary, Nicholas Kolotkewitch, who was highly esteemed in the ranks of the revolutionary party. Soon after that he was arrested and although a death sentence hung over his head, Hessie determined to brave all danger to herself and stay in the ranks. Further more, though she felt herself becoming a mother, Hessie nevertheless undertook to be the housekeeper of the premises where the famous revolutionist Kibalchitch made his bombs to terrify the despots and tyrants of Russia. She remained in that house till she was arrested for the last time.

On the day of her trial she boldly faced her executioners. They, uniformed and armed, cruelty and rigor depicted on their faces; she, a helpless woman, with her off spring under her breast, smiling and breathing defiance to her cruel persecutors. And of course, she was sentenced to death. The tyrants tried hard to make her divulge revolutionary secrets and delayed carrying out the death sentence for four months. But Hessie stood the long torture and proved adamant to all their tricks and threats. She went to her death with her lips sealed, brave in her last hours as during her life. She was executed a few weeks before she would have become a mother.

One of the most famous revolutionists, Sergius Stepinak, author of "Underground Russia," says that in the history of the revolutionary movement there were unknown
brave girls who sacrificed everything on the altar of their ideal, and asking for nothing in return. Theirs was the most thankless task. They risked their liberty and life by performing petty services, such as receiving letters for political refugees, giving them shelter overnight, delivering packages without enquiring as to their contents, and so forth. This was a most important work in the revolutionary movement. These devoted souls were not known and never mentioned in print, but the movement could not have gone forward without their aid.

Hessie Helfman was one of these. She was referred to as a "common soldier." Yet her name will never be forgotten. To the student of the past she will again and again appear as the best example of womanly courage, singleness of purpose and devotion to the great ideal of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Hessie Helfman, an uneducated, poor Jewish garment worker—a pioneer of the Russian revolution. Such devoted Hessies helped prepare the ground for the Russian freedom which has recently become an established fact.

OUR JUST PLEA FOR AN INCREASE IN WAGES

This national crisis we are now facing is fraught with troubles from within and without. President Wilson in his message to the American nation, pleaded with our loyal citizens to put their hands to the wheel and help steer the ship of state through the danger zone. In compliance with this request, it would seem that it is the duty of every good citizen to avoid all domestic strife and discrimination as far as possible. This aim and attitude has prevailed amongst our people to the present day.

But we must charge a certain group of individuals with disloyalty in this respect. The food speculators and dealers have waged a successful campaign of exactionate food prices against the people at large and the laboring people in particular. The existence of the war in Europe and our participation in the war may perhaps explain, but it doesn't justify matters. It is not our aim to argue with the food trust, any more than with the wind. The high prices of food are here and we must prepare to meet them.

The problem at present occupies the mind of the laborer and, of course, of the cloak maker. The cloak maker finds himself now between two moral forces, duty and honor. It is his duty to support his family, to see that his physical efficiency is not impaired, so that he may carry on the work and continue to be a force in the nation's industry. On the other hand, we have an agreement for a scale which does not expire until August, 1919. We would not like to abide by the original contract. But there is a time when certain moral and ethical issues must be waived. The United States Government now finds it necessary to revoke certain laws and customs in order to insure the preservation of the nation. The parallel of the cloak makers to this is very obvious. The employer is well aware of the constant staggering rise in prices of food products, which are indispensable to the worker and his family.

Our employers are also awake to the realization that the rise in wages of last year has by far not been commensurate with the rise in prices.

When we consider the increase in wages that the week workers in our industry then obtained, we find that the cutter who received $27.50 prior to August, 1916, receives at present $29.00. This increase is about 6
per cent. The sample maker received $23.00 during $24.00. This increase is 4 per cent. The pressers' inner week is exactly 6 per cent. more than prior to August, 1916. In moderate in

But have workers been as prices on the States Gov that the base have

Bute, in and in 1917, was 4½c per ta totes, in March, 1916, and in 1917, 12½c; Po1916, was 36c per bushel per bushel.

Clearly, the necessities we all use have risen in price about five times received by some.

Let us not skirt prices who are engaged in our industry and in the year the same as the upper, presser and live more than $22.00 and respectively.

We do not only another. I suppose to consider beings with manufacturers to be what theories made it possible with the pretties have got and we might act on the principle for the contract must be possible press not move in also compel our normal p meet.

The United wage-earners situation. T mineralized that it contract that water involved a As a result a granted them

P. White of the United Mine Workers, says in reference to the demand for an increase in wages: "Good business practice is opposed to enforcing the terms of a contract to ruin one of the parties through the operation of conditions that could not be foreseen when the contract was entered into." This truth, I hope, will be recognized by the leaders of our industry and that negotiations will be entered upon to attempt to alleviate suffering and misery amongst the cloak makers and to insure a smooth sailing of affairs and maintain good relations between employer and employee.

LOUIS LANGER, Secretary, Joint Board of New York

THE BUTTON SPEAKS FOR ITSELF—ELIMINATES COWARDS

See this button? Ever seen it before? If not, look at it and follow me for a few minutes. It is the button showing the up-to-date paid member of the Cloakmakers Union of Chicago.

There is much talk about this button just now. Like every other question the "monthly-button-talk" has its friends and enemies. I, for one, am for the button and will try to show you why you should be for it.

The button tells you at a moment's glance whether the member has paid his dues on time or not. The button displayed on your coat or waist shows the next fellow whom you meet that you are not afraid to tell the employer who you are and that you will not take his place in time of strike. But what is most important, the button rule, if enforced in every union shop of our industry, will not permit the so-called "union scab" to pay the "devil" his dues and pray in presence of unionists for economical betterment. There are plenty of union members who, being paid up to date in their local, are leading the employer to believe that they are not members of the organization.
I am not interested in the employer, but I AM, AND YOU MUST BE INTERESTED IN OUR MEMBERS.

Here is what might happen:

The C. H. K. O. shop is a union shop. The agreement is to be renewed. The employer prepares to beat the union, and here is where the fellow without the button comes in. He tells the employer: "I belong to the union, but believe me, Mr. Kaplan, I have not paid my dues for the last three months. I have joined the union because I had to, but I do not go to their meetings." The employer believes him, and refuses to sign the agreement if he has only but ten fellows like him in his shop. Consequently, the strike is called. Still, the fellow-traitor is a paid up member, but in order to become the employer's friend, he will betray his fellow workers. It has been done and will be done, unless you prevent it.

Many strikes and lockouts can be avoided if you show your color, and if the next fellow by wearing the monthly button shows his color. Strikes are lost because of the professional, amateur and the "Union Scab." The button eliminates two kinds of scabs. The button prevents the fellow who does not pay his dues to flash an old union book in the face of strikers and become their "friend" in time of strike. The button makes away with cowards who, belonging to the union, are telling their employer that they do not and so become a sort of "union scabs."

It is very essential that a labor organization should protect its members—as far as possible against all pernicious influence and everything that is subversive of good unionism. If this is admitted, it indicates the position we must take in regard to cowards and their influence in our movement.

The trade union movement is a broad, practical movement of men and women, law abiding, and self-respecting. If you respect yourself, tell who you are. WEAR THE BUTTON AND DO ALL YOU CAN TO HAVE THE OTHER FELLOW WEAR IT, TOO.

The trade union movement strives for civic righteousness and social justice. It works for the upbuilding and progress and permanency of society on the basis of JUSTICE, but there is NO justice, if John Cattle wearing the button makes his boss an enemy and Pat Sholl who does not wear the button gets an undue advantage from the employer while he works, and also gets the benefit during strikes, and assistance from the union while in distress.

Let's do away with the 'I-am-afraid-Johnnies.' Show your button, and you will eliminate cowards begotten by ignorance, born of imbecility and nourished by infamy.

Scabbing is not only wrong, when practiced by a non-union man—a member who hides his color is a scab in the making. Don't scab by putting your button in your pockets! Wear your button! You will have to do it sooner or later. DO IT NOW AND DO IT RIGHT!

H. SCHOOLMAN, Secretary.
Joint Board of Chicago

FAREWELL TO S. EPSTEIN (Editor of "The Gleichheit")

Resolution by The Unity Circle, Ladies' Waist and Dressmakers' Unions, Local 25

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Unity House, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the Unity House of our union proved a big success, thanks to the efforts of Comrade Epstein, who, as editor of "The Gleichheit", gave this institution great prominence in our organ,

Whereas, Comrade Epstein has departed for Russia when our Unity House was being reopened for the Summer, and we shall miss his services in the columns of "The Gleichheit", while expressing our deepest regrets at Comrade Epstein's leaving us at this most needy moment, we console ourselves with the hope that Comrade Epstein will bring our heartiest regards to our Russian co-workers. We expect to hear that Brother Epstein, after he has reached Russia, has started a movement for a Unity House in Russia on the style we have here,

Therefore, We wish him great success in his future work for the Russian Labor Movement.

The Unity Committee:
H. Terk, Rose Herriet, Mollie Friedman,
Mr. Windy, Bessie Switzky, Sarah Shapiro, Jennie Block.

Resolution by the Operators', Tuckers', and Pressers' Branches of Local 25

Unanimously adopted at a general meeting on Thursday, June 7th, at Beethoven Hall:

Whereas, it is generally recognized that our official Organ, "The Gleichheit," has
helped very much in the upbuilding and strengthening of our union; whereas, Comrade Epstein as the editor of "The Gleichheit" from the very beginning has, by his abilities, and devotion to the cause of our union, made "The Gleichheit" the pride of our organization and a model trade-union paper, we, the members of the Ladies' Waist & Dressmakers Union, Local 25, resolve to express our utmost thanks and appreciation of Comrade Epstein's services, rendered to our organization for the past three and one-half years.

We wish him a bon-voyage and success in his future enterprises in Russia.

Be it also resolved that a special committee be appointed to appear with flowers at the pier on Comrade Epstein's departure for Russia.

Resolved, that this resolution be published in our labor publications.

Sarah Shapiro, Elia Reisberg, Julius Portnoy, Nathan Pogran, Elia Felixman, A. Waislfsky.

THE SUCCESS OF OUR DENTAL CLINIC

Joint Board

Sanitary Control Opens a New Department (Communicated.)

The Joint Board of Sanitary Control has established a Dental Clinic, and with the co-operation of Local 25, although scarcely two months old the new department is already a decided success.

The idea of a co-operative Dental Clinic where union workers can have their teeth treated and repaired at reasonable cost and be sure that they are treated well and honestly seen to have taken deep hold of the union members as is evidenced by their generous support of the clinic.

During the first week, beginning May 7th, the clinic treated 66 patients; during the second week 111; during the third 151; and during the fourth week 106 patients. Altogether the clinic has taken in during the twenty-two days in May $347.25. As the clinic has an expense of $120.00 a week, we are only about $8.00 short each week to meet the expenses. There is no doubt that when the union members will find out about the clinic and attend regularly the clinic will be well patronized and meet its expenses.

There is some misunderstanding on the part of the workers as to the purposes and methods of the clinic. The main purpose of the clinic is not to do cheap work or cheap work, but to do honest, good, modern, scientific work, on a co-operative cost basis. The basis of our charges is the cost of materials plus about $1.50 an hour for the work. For instance, if a job needs three hours of work and a plate that costs us $300, we charge to the patient $3.00 plus $4.50, or a total of $7.50. This is at least 50% less than would be charged in any other dental place. Besides that, the patient is sure of having honest work done and done well.

Moreover, whenever a dentist estimates to the patient the cost of work to be done for him, he naturally tries to increase that cost,—persuades him to put in gold crowns, bridges, etc., all of which are expensive and are not always necessary, so that the cost sometimes becomes prohibitive to the worker. The dentists in our Dental Clinic being paid by the hour, month, or week do not care whether there is one patient or one hundred, have no financial interest in the clinic or in the specific job, and therefore have no incentive whatever to increase the charge for the job to the patient.

The dentists who are employed by our clinic are all experienced and up-to-date members of the profession and are under the supervision of a Dental Advisory Board, so that all the work is being done in a proper and scientific manner.

Another misconception that some of the workers have is that the clinic does work without any charge whatever. Some say, if the union has a clinic why can't I get the work done for nothing? They do not seem to understand that you cannot get service without paying for it. However, the majority have full confidence in our work and follow the advice of our dentists.

A great many of the leaders of all locals have taken advantage of our clinic and are having their teeth fixed. It is hoped that more of our union workers will learn the benefits of this clinic and will take advantage of our work.
## Directory of Local Unions (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Union</th>
<th>Office Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Haven Corset Workers</td>
<td>12 Parmelee Ave., New Haven, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Wrapper and Kimono Makers</td>
<td>22 W. 17th St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Cloak and Suit Cutters' Union</td>
<td>314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago, Ill., Cloakmakers</td>
<td>1415 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syracuse, N.Y., Dressmakers</td>
<td>913 Monroe St., Syracuse, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petticoat Workers' Union</td>
<td>22 W. 17th St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver, Colo., Ladies' Tailors</td>
<td>241 Chaple St., Denver, Colo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian Cloak, Suit and Skirt Makers' Union</td>
<td>231 E. 11th St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston Waistmakers</td>
<td>721 Washington St., Boston, Mass.</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York Children's Dressmakers</td>
<td>22 W. 17th St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal, Canada, Custom Dressmakers' and Tailors'</td>
<td>567 City Hall Ave., Montreal, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Ladies' Garment Workers</td>
<td>218 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Raincoat Makers</td>
<td>410 S. Halstead St., Chicago, Ill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springfield Corset Workers</td>
<td>6133 S. Main St., Springfield, Mass.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston Cloakmakers</td>
<td>201 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Waist and Dressmakers</td>
<td>314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York Waist Buttonhole Makers</td>
<td>80 E. 10th St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal, Canada, Cloak and Skirt Pressers</td>
<td>287 Prince Arthur E., Montreal, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York White Goods Workers</td>
<td>33 Second St., New York City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cincinnati Cloakmakers</td>
<td>35th St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York Buttonhole Makers</td>
<td>57 W. 21st St., New York City</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York Bonnaz Embroiderers</td>
<td>103 E. 11th St., New York City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toledo Cloakmakers</td>
<td>129 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartford Ladies' Garment Workers' Union</td>
<td>40 Cannon St., Hartford, Conn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toronto Skirt and Dressmakers</td>
<td>191 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago Ladies' Tailors</td>
<td>2726 Crystal St., Chicago, Ill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore Dress and White Goods Workers</td>
<td>1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston Amalgamated Cutters</td>
<td>8 Lowering St., Boston, Mass.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vineyard Cloakmakers' Union</td>
<td>11 Miller, 601 Landis Avenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waterbury Ladies' Garment Workers</td>
<td>54 Burton St., Waterbury, Conn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Louis Cloak Operators</td>
<td>Fraternal Bldg., 11th and Franklin Aves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies' Tailors, Alteration and Special Order Union</td>
<td>725 Lexington Ave., N.Y. City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Cloak and Suit Cutters</td>
<td>900 N. Womon Ave., Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Y. Cloak Examiners, Squares and Bushels Union</td>
<td>79 Cannon St., New York City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toronto, Canada, Cutters</td>
<td>251 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toledo Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union</td>
<td>217 Worthington St., Toledo, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati Skirtmakers</td>
<td>5th St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. John Ladies' Garment Workers' Union</td>
<td>St. John, N.B. Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Custom Dressmakers' Union</td>
<td>Forward Bldg., 175 E. B'way, N.Y. City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toronto, Canada, Cloth Pressers</td>
<td>251 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati Skirt Pressers' Union</td>
<td>5th St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Ladies' Tailors</td>
<td>192 Waverley St., Pittsburgh, Pa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore Ladies' Tailors</td>
<td>1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montreal, Canada, Raincoat Makers</td>
<td>1181 Clark St., Montreal, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis Ladies' Tailors</td>
<td>Fraternal Bldg., 11th and Franklin Aves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies' Neckwear Cutters</td>
<td>6 E. 17th St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union</td>
<td>1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Raincoat Makers</td>
<td>314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreal, Canada, Ladies' Waist Makers</td>
<td>117 Colonial Ave., Montreal, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newark Waist and White Goods Workers</td>
<td>118 Market St., Newark, N.J.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The General Office Has Removed
From 32 to 31 Union Square

Our members and readers will please note that the General Office of the International and Editorial Room of the "Ladies' Garment Workers' Union are now located at

31 Union Square

All letters and communications to the International, President Schlesinger and Secretary-Treasurer Baroff, should be addressed: International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 31 Union Square, New York.

All letters and correspondence to the Ladies' Garment Worker should be addressed: The Ladies' Garment Worker, 31 Union Square, New York.