The Ladies' Garment Worker, Volume 8, Issue 6

Description
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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU)
CONTENTS:

THE OUTSTANDING FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE ARE:

CLARENCE Darrow's GREAT SPEECH, Defending Our Chicago Strikers in Court, and

VERY INTERESTING REPORTS of Officers, Organizers and Local Secretaries.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
By the
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
32 Union Square, New York
## Directory of Local Unions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Union</th>
<th>Office Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. New York Cloak Operators</td>
<td>121 E. 18th St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. New York Piece Tailors</td>
<td>9 W. 21st St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Baltimore Cloakmakers</td>
<td>1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. New York Embroiderers</td>
<td>144 Bergeville Ave., Union Hill, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. New York Embroiderers</td>
<td>133 2nd Ave., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. San Francisco Ladies’ Garment Workers</td>
<td>7 W. 21st St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. New York Cloak and Suit Tailors</td>
<td>228 Second Ave., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. New York Amalgamated Ladies’ Garment Cutters</td>
<td>7 W. 21st St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Montreal Canada, Cloakmakers</td>
<td>37 Prince Arthur, E. Montreal, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Toronto Canada, Cloakmakers</td>
<td>104 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. New York Reformaters</td>
<td>53 Union Square, New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Chicago Cloak and Suit Pressers</td>
<td>1815 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Montreal Canada, Cloak Cutters</td>
<td>1178 Cadieux, Montreal, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. New York Waterproof Garment Workers</td>
<td>20 E. 13th St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. New York, Conn., Ladies’ Garment Workers</td>
<td>103 Montgomery St., Newark, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. New York Skirtmakers</td>
<td>231 E. 14th St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. New York Waist and Dressmakers</td>
<td>16 W. 21st St., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Cleveland Ladies’ Garment Workers</td>
<td>314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Cleveland Skirt Makers</td>
<td>314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Cleveland Cloak Finishers’ Union</td>
<td>314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. New York Pressers</td>
<td>229 Second Ave., New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Cleveland Lock Pressers’ Union</td>
<td>314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. New York Corset Cutters</td>
<td>12 Parnelo Ave., New Haven, Conn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on Inside Back Cover)

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

**BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS’ UNION**

246 Summer Street, Boston, Mass.

**JOHN TOBIN, Pres.**

**CHAS. L. BAIN, Sec’y-Treas.**
In an address to representatives of capital and labor on May 15 at the White House President Wilson said:

I have been very much alarmed at one or two things that have happened—at the apparent inclination of the Legislatures of one or two of our States to set aside even temporarily the laws which have safeguarded standards of labor and of life. I think nothing would be more deplorable than that. We are trying to fight in a cause which means the lifting of the standards of life, and we can fight in that cause best by voluntary co-operation. I do not doubt that any body of men representing labor in this country, speaking for their fellows, will be willing to make any sacrifice that is necessary in order to carry this contest to a successful issue, and I feel that it would be inexcusable if we deprived men and women of any of the existing safeguards of law. Therefore I shall exercise my influence so far as it goes to see that that does not happen, and that the sacrifices we make shall be made voluntarily and not under the compulsion which mistakenly is interpreted to mean a lowering of the standards which we have sought through so many generations to bring to their present level.

President Wilson's well-justified alarm would seem to indicate that the great American public is gradually losing sight of the fact that the greatness of this land of ours is based on the life and labor of the toiling masses.

There is a constant reference to a wide-spread belief that during the war no strikes would take place. The labor laws have been suspended in some states, and employers of labor everywhere are taking advantage of the situation, trying to reap large profits for themselves. In the meantime the cost of living is rising sky high—the middleman and food speculators are cutting another “pound of flesh” from the workers' diminished earnings.

What are we coming to in this great, and free and prosperous country of ours, when a large mass of seasonal workers in our highly prosperous industry are facing starvation as a result of low wages on the one hand and high prices of food on the other?

The war has given employers a pretext for attempts here and there to drive hard bargains with the workers and to frighten them into accepting lower wages. The war, likewise, has intoxicated that part of the public which already had its eyes open to many crying evils in our industry. There is danger that many friends and sympathizers with labor are going
back in the direction of permitting the abandonment of humane and equitable practices that took more than a decade to establish. The reactionaries, who, before America plunged into the war, already began to lose ground, would fain drag us back into dark industrial reaction of low wages and long hours.

THE WAR IS NO REASON FOR LOWER STANDARDS. We must permit no such thing. No one has a right to speak on our behalf—define for us the form of our activity for better conditions or prescribe our line of resistance to any attack on rights and liberties secured in the past.

We claim that our people are justly entitled to a further increase of wages in view of famine prices ruling in the food market and high charges for articles of wear.

In this direction the series of meetings started by the New York Joint Board in preparation for the season is a step in the right direction. As President Seligman pointed out at the meeting held in Cooper Union on May 19, the shoemakers are no worse off than the makers who secured an increase of wages before the expiry of their agreement.

Manufacturers are taking good care of their end of the business. It is a well-known fact that they rather gain when the price of commodities rules high. The workers should therefore come in for a share of the increased charges for the finished garment.

The war is no poor excuse for lowering standards and working conditions. The war will not be won any sooner if employers are set free to fleece their workers, or if the workers will suffer want. Rather will the nation suffer in every respect if the toiling masses should become devitalized as a result of poor wages and famine prices.

All have to bear the burden of the war in proportion to their ability. But it would be a crying injustice if the workers' burden were made intolerable in a double sense, while the employers' profits swelled in spite and because of the war.

The purchasing power of the dollar has now been reduced to almost one-half. What could be bought for 50 cents at one time can hardly be bought for a dollar at the present time.

The average wages of many of our full-fledged mechanics has been shown statistically to be no more than about $500 to $700 a year, and not even this in poor seasons. This is now reduced by one-half, owing to the high cost of living. Does the great American public realize what this means to the masses of the toilers, from whose life blood this great Republic derives its industry and prosperity? If the public is ready to take the President's advice in everything pertaining to the war, it should also act on his advice in the matter of labor. There should be no relaxing of labor laws and no lowering of standards, but rather an improvement, as there has been, for instance, in England.

The war abroad for the saving of Europe should not blind the public to the war at home—the industrial war, the war on helpless women and children struggling against great odds to make both ends meet.

As for us, it is now more than ever necessary to close up our ranks and keep our organization strong, efficient and fully equipped.

The manufacturers in our industry can show that they are an exception to the average run of employers. They should take into consideration the
workers' claims to such wages and conditions as will enable them to meet the present crisis, so as not to lose their efficiency by semi-starvation and worries of keeping the wolf from the door.

CONTINUING OUR LABORS IN CHICAGO

Our recent experience in the skirt, dress, kimono, waist and whitegoods industry of Chicago has left us with a strong determination to continue our labors in that field. We shall make every effort to hold the workers together until the time will be ripe to improve their conditions.

When that time comes we shall, first of all, in accordance with our fixed policy, appeal to methods of conciliation and arbitration; but we shall be prepared to force the employers' hands by any and every available trade union means.

It is not surprising to hear that the employers have already begun the next battle by the practise of undisguised, brutal discrimination. The calling off of the strike has given them a temporary advantage over the workers, and they are using compulsion which amounts to intimidation.

Of course, we know that sympathy and humane consideration are not in their line. They neither know nor care to appeal to the better side of human nature. Their immediate object is revenge, so as to crush the spirit of the workers and cow them into submission.

Thus, employers told the former strikers who returned to the shops that they will not employ Jewish workers because they had been the strike leaders. Yet these are Jewish employers, who in the strike were backed by Jewish philanthropists and well-known Jews interested in Jewish affairs. Truly, then, the employing class knows no brother, kindred or blood ties. There is only one thing it worships—the god of Mammon.

Then they tried to coerce the workers of other nationalities into signing so-called obligations that they would shun the union and its meetings; that they always have been satisfied with the shop conditions, and so forth. Do the employers really think that this would settle the matter? Force may succeed in some cases for the time being, but they will one day discover their mistake. It will be a day of reckoning.

EMPLOYERS' VICTORY SPLELT RUIN

Such are the methods pursued by these employers in Chicago. They see themselves flushed with victory; yet it was a victory that spelt ruin to some of them. In their heart they would be sorry to have another victory of the kind.

Concessions would have befriended the workers, while arrests, jail sentences and other ugly methods have sown bitterness and enmity in their hearts, and what the employers have sown that they shall also reap in the not far-off future. For by their present methods of discrimination and intimidation they have already fired the first shot of the next battle.

It is easy to imagine that the employers feel the damage that the determined strike of ten weeks' duration caused to their interests. But they
have only themselves to blame. They seemed to live in darkness all these years, while a country-wide movement for peaceful settlement of labor disputes has been going on.

Right in the city of Chicago conciliatory methods prevail in the cloak and skirt trade and in the Hart- Schaffner and Marx clothing factories, and the superiority of the peaceful methods to the methods of force and arbitrary rule have been demonstrated over and over again.

There will be no peace in the industry until the present arbitrary system is replaced by a system of order in the shops, based on the union principle of a square deal to the workers.

**THE LADIES’ GARMENT WORKER**

**THE SHOULDER BE A UNIFORM WEEKLY DUES**

It is gratifying that the higher dues proposition, advocated in these columns for nearly three years, has been carried out by some locals and has become a live question of the day in others. Necessity forced the increase of the weekly dues in the locals where it is an accomplished fact, and is forcing the issue for the slower and more easy-going local unions. The wolf of financial collapse is almost at the door of the latter unions, but ostrich-like, some people will hide their heads in the sand to avoid seeing the danger ahead. These locals surely must raise the dues at least at the beginning of next season.

But there is a tendency to acting separately in this as in other matters. Each local raises the dues as much or as little as its chance decision at a local meeting calls for. It is sure that such chance decisions are not based on what is good for the general interest but on mere individual desires and feelings, and the weekly dues now stand at 15, 20, 21 and 25 cents, respectively. In time the difference may be even more pronounced, ultimately causing confusion and inconvenience.

Even in the locals affiliated with the Joint Board of New York, where for many reasons uniformity ought to prevail, the dues vary, and several locals still run the organization on the ancient 16 cents dues.

Sometime ago a difficulty occurred in a shop where members paying 25 cents dues were working side by side with members paying 16 cents dues, and the former insisted that the latter should transfer to their local on this account. The difficulty was for the moment patched up, but it shows what must be expected if uniformity gives place to variety.

There should be uniform weekly dues in all the locals of the International, and particularly in all the locals affiliated with any joint board. Separate systems breed selfishness. They are dangerous to the principle of solidarity.

We call readers' attention to the article on the next page dealing with the official journal. Already it has been found advisable to separate the two languages. This is in English only. Write us whether you like the change. The editorial department will be glad to start a regular correspondence column. At the same time, if you are not a subscriber, send in your subscription at once. It is only 50 cents a year and it keeps you informed of what the union is doing all over the country.
Several years have passed since urgent appeals had been addressed to local officers and representatives for a satisfactory and useful trade press. Since 1914 the question has been discussed in these columns a number of times from many angles. It engaged the attention of our two last conventions. But the resolutions calling for unity have not been carried out. Our indisputable arguments for one trade organ conducted under the supervision of the International seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

More than one reason has been given why there should be only one organ for the International and all its locals. But there are so many difficulties in the way that the idea seems impossible of realization, and so the question now turns on making such changes in this journal—the official organ of the International Union—as to render the publication effective and beneficial to the entire membership.

At the recent sessions of the General Executive Board in Cincinnati Brother Baroff, our General Secretary-treasurer, again called attention to the urgency of placing the LADIES GARMENT WORKER on a basis of effectiveness, justifying the expense involved. The Board appointed First Vice-President Elmer Rosenberg to take charge of the business end of the publication and assist the editorial department in getting and compiling local reports for the English pages. Our readers will welcome the new interest aroused in the official magazine. Already this issue bears witness of a change in this direction.

As usual in such cases opinion differs widely on the question, what should be done to remedy the present defects and meet the wishes of the majority of our membership, but we welcome the movement to do something. The mere getting away from the old way of doing nothing, from indifference, is a guarantee that now nothing will be left undone to place the future of the official organ of our International union on a satisfactory basis.

Our readers will notice that the old form of English and Yiddish combined is being discontinued, and this issue appears separately in each language. We believe this to be a good change. No doubt our readers will welcome the change.

In the meantime our members must keep up and increase the awakened interest. Our local secretaries should continue to send in short reports of local life and activity every month, and these columns are open to correspondents on any question connected with the organization as a whole or with the locals individually.

THE CAPMAKERS’ BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Beginning with May 1 the United Cloth Hat and Capmakers’ Union held its eleventh biennial convention in New York. A word of encouragement is due to this union on account of the solid progress made in the last year. Even when the Capmakers’ Union was only some 4,000 strong it was in a
certain sense a model union. Its shops have always been organized on the closed shop system, and, as far as we know, it has always had a loyal and true membership.

In 1915 the union began an energetic and successful campaign among the millinery workers and has trebled its membership. Official figures show that 12 new locals have been organized and about 8,000 new members enrolled.

The fact is significant. It proves that a union can be much by plunging into the work with zest and concentrated effort. There is no doubt that the solid condition of the Capmakers' Union at all times has directly contributed to this success.

Of the questions before the recent convention, no matter may be particularly noted. One of these is the educational question. This probably means—the effort to turn the new members into true union men and women. In pre-union enrolment of the workmen, a time of strike is the main thing and then the new recruits are left to shift for themselves in the matter of getting the union habit of mind. The result is that a large number of the new members leave the ranks and a new campaign is necessary to re-enroll them.

With regard to the jurisdiction question between this union and the United Hatters of North America as to the control over the millinery workers, it is gratifying that the majority got its upper hand, and that the convention scouted the absurd notion to withdrawal from the American Federation of Labor. That would mean war to the malady and madness of our times. But it is possible to iron out the differences in conference by cool, sober discussion. Upon the suggestion of President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor the Capmakers' convention agreed to confer with the United Hatters upon the subject and try to reach an understanding.

We believe, the Capmakers' Union is likely to gain more by this method than by withdrawing from the Federation of Labor. Withdrawal would denote a resort to senselessness, while what is needed to adjust this dispute is common sense and mutual good will.

We congratulate the Capmakers' Union upon its record progress and its wise decision to confer with the United Hatters.

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General Executive Board in Session

Extracts from the Minutes

The third Quarterly Meeting of the General Executive Board was held at Hotel Havilin, Cincinnati, Ohio, beginning April 24, 1917.

President S. Halpern was in the chair, and there were present, Vice-Presidents Elmer Rosenburg, J. Halpern, S. Lefkovits, S. Metz, M. Abber, H. Wander, S. Nino. Miss Fannia Zohn, S. Koldofsky, M. Perlstein, H. Sholman, S. Seldman and Secretary Bar.

A discussion arose as to the organizing methods to be pursued in future organizing campaigns. Various suggestions were made, one of these had reference to the placing of the union label on the market with a view to maintaining union conditions in the shops and factories. In the end it was decided to use such methods as will appear advisable and practicable at the time and in the circumstances.

COMMUNICATIONS

A resignation from Brother Snyder, general organizer of the Boston local.
Agreed to accept his resignation with regret and to express thanks to Brother Snyder for the results which he accomplished. (From a later report it appears that Brother Snyder is to retain the office until September 1, 1917.—Ed.

In a communication from the Wrapper, Kimono, House Dress and Bathrobe Makers' Union, Local 41 of New York, it was stated that at a joint meeting of Locals 41 and 46, Petticoat Workers' Union, it had been decided that the members of Local 46 transfer their books to Local 41. This would give Local 41 jurisdiction over the petticoat trade in New York. They, therefore, request that the General Executive Board shall change their name on the charter to House-Dress, Kimono, Bathrobe and Petticoat Makers' Union. The matter was referred to the New York members of the Board.

Upon request of the Montreal Cloakmakers' Union, it was agreed to assign a Jewish speaker to their local for at least one week, and that the next quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board shall be held in Montreal.

A communication from the American Committee on War Finance, having reference to a resolution regarding methods of taxation and the raising of revenue for the purpose of carrying on the war, was referred to the General Office.

The resignation received from Brother A. Rosebury, managing editor of our monthly publication, "THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKER," was placed before the Board in conjunction with the question of the publication, and after a long discussion, it was decided, first, to prevail upon Brother Rosebury to remain editor of "THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKER," if possible. Secondly, to add to his staff First Vice-President Elmer Rosenberg, whose duty it shall be to get into close touch with all the locals of the International, and to see that the publication contains monthly reports from each local. It shall also be his duty to increase the circulation of the journal, and to take care of the business end of the publication.

It was decided to increase the salary of our auditor, Ben. M. Rabinovitch, $5 per week.

In a communication from the Joint Board of the Chicago Cloak and Skirt Makers' Union, Locals 18, 44 and 81, it was stated that the agreement between their Joint Board and the Chicago Cloak and Suit Manufacturers' Association provides that unless either side abrogated the agreement before May 1st, 1917, the agreement would remain in force for another year; that they had held a meeting of members at which the demands and grievances of the workers were taken up, and they were about to present to the employers a list of demands which include increases in pay, shortening of hours and changes in shop regulations. The General Executive Board was requested to endorse these demands. Agreed that President Schlesinger visit the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union of Chicago and go over these demands in detail.

Upon request of the Women's Trade Union League Vice-President Fannia M. Cohn was elected delegate to the sixth biennial convention of the National Women's Trade Union League of America, which is to be held on Monday, June 4th, 1917, in Kansas City.

In a communication from Local 90, Custom Dressmakers' Union, it was said that their present membership is about 500, who work in 120 shops controlled by the union. The Executive Board of the local had come to the conclusion that their trade could be organized only through a general strike, and they therefore asked the sanction of the General Executive Board for a general strike in their industry of New York and Brooklyn in the coming fall season. It was decided to grant their request and to refer the matter for final disposition to the General Office.

Upon request, a charter was granted to a new local in St. John, N. B., Canada.

Upon hearing the report of Vice-Presidents Fannia M. Cohn and Harry Wander on the proposed local of the bushlers, beaders and examiners of the cloak trade in New York, it was decided to grant them a charter.

Communication from Mrs. Stern, wife of the late Brother Max Stern, was read, in which she thanked the International for the testimonial given to her on behalf of her deceased husband, and invited the members of the Board to be present at the unveiling of the monument to the deceased
on Sunday, 20, 1917. All the members of the Board were asked to attend and express their thanks to our late Brother Stern.

In a communication from Mrs. Leader, wife of the late Brother M. G. Leader, thanks were expressed for the testimonial given to her deceased husband. The claim was referred to the New York members of the Board.

A communication from the Ladies' Waist and Besom makers' Union, Local 25, was read, in which it was stated that Magistrate Levy, at Jefferson Market Court, Tenth Street and Sixth Avenue, had imposed a fine of $10 on two strikers, Lena Growler and Lena Levy, for picketing in front of a store. The magistrate had said that in his opinion picketing was not permissible in his time, and he had threatened to send the workhouse any striker brought before him for that practice. A letter had been sent to Mayor Mitchell requesting his action. The matter was referred to President Schlesinger for action.

The resignation of Brother Amidor as manager of the Joint Board of Philadelphia was accepted.

Request of Local 78, Ladies' Tailors of Philadelphia, for an Italian organizer for a short while at the question of the Baltimore camp, were referred to the General Office.

It was decided that a communication be sent to the President and Secretary of the Cutters' Union, Local 10, in regard to the findings of the auditor, Ben M. Rabinovitch, asking him to act on the matter at once, and that the International office of their action.

The following telegram from Local 9, New York City, Tailors' Union, was ordered to be read on the minutes:

Local 9, York Cloak Tailors, is waging a strong campaign for week work. Joint Board and manufacturers for conference were presented. Leaders are unanimous for week work. In this matter, with the full power to make the necessary expenses, it is necessary to have the consent of the General Executive Board. Therefore, request you to appoint a sub-committee from the G. E. B. that this work in conjunction with us on the plan we are ready to submit.

Miss Juliet Stuart Poyntz, who is at present the Educational Director of Local 25, was invited to our meeting. We learned that Local 25 is now conducting extensive educational work at Public School No. 49. Miss Poyntz explained to us that they are holding courses and different lectures in Yiddish and English, that with the aid of the "Training School for Community Centers," it was possible for Local 25 to get the school free, and also teachers and lecturers paid by the Board of Education. Besides, a great many shop meetings are held in the same school and also a class for gymnasium work twice a week. Miss Poyntz further informed us that the work could be greatly extended if all the locals of the International, in conjunction with other labor organizations, jointly undertake it. The Allied Garmentated Clothing Workers and the Cap Makers' Union are ready to join us, and are willing to spend the necessary money. If such arrangements could be effected, the educational work could be started on a much bigger scale, and would greatly benefit our members.

A joint meeting of the above mentioned organizations will be held shortly to un-
JUNE, 1917

consider the feasibility of such a plan. We would, therefore, request you either to appoint a sub-committee to work in conjunction with us, or to empower us to make the necessary expenses. We furthermore recommend that district educational committees be organized consisting of three members of each local, and a series of lectures be arranged according to locations and elements required. Please realize that not having any power to make any expenses, we were not in a position to undertake specific work.

Trusting that this will meet with your approval, we are,

Very truly yours,

ELIAS LIBERMAN, Chairman,
MORRIS J. ASHPIS, Secretary.

Vice-Presidents Fannia M. Cohn, Elmer Rosenberg and Saul Metz were appointed a sub-committee of the General Executive Board to work in conjunction with the Educational Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Secretary Baroff informed the Board that in some shops of raincoat makers military garments are being made, and that some manufacturers have assumed the attitude that no strikes can be called because the work is on military garments, and that they can dictate any conditions they please to the workers. The General Office had sent letters to President Gompers asking that a committee be appointed to adjust matters, and that the manufacturers shall not be permitted to take advantage of the situation. A telegram received from President Gompers stated that he had communicated with Secretary of War Baker on the subject. It was decided that this matter shall be followed up by the Office.

A committee, consisting of Sister Rose Rothman and Brother Chas. Peters of the Ladies' Garment Workers' Unions of Cincinnati, asked that someone be assigned to Cincinnati to carry on the organizing work in two shops which the union has not yet succeeded in organizing. It was decided that the men in charge of the local unions should undertake this organization work.

The Finance Committee reported that they had made an audit for the period from the 15th of September to April and found everything in order. They will see to it that the audit of the books shall be held monthly.

The campaigns in Cleveland and St. Louis and the assignment of organizers to carry on the work was left in the hands of President Schlesinger.

It was decided that Vice-President Fannia M. Cohn should visit the locals of Worcester, Mass.

In regard to the Boston locals, Secretary Baroff thought that they were financially capable of taking care of the situation at present. In his opinion it would be advisable, as the locals in Boston have proved that they are loyal members and are taking care of their interests in an efficient manner, that the Board decided to return to them the autonomy which they enjoyed prior to the convention. Recommendations of Secretary Baroff were accepted.

It was decided to ask all organizers on the pay roll of the International to report at least once a month on the happenings in their locals. These reports should be received in the General Office not later than the 15th of each month, and inserted in the monthly journal.

President Schlesinger was empowered to appoint an Italian organizer for the International, if necessary.

Vice-Presidents Amdur, Koldofsky, and Seldman, were appointed a committee to work out a plan for bringing the union label into the market and to report to the next quarterly meeting.

Vice-Presidents Wander, Ninfo, Halpern and Secretary Baroff, were appointed a committee to investigate the insurance clause in the constitution of the International and report to the next quarterly meeting.

Vice-President Schoolman suggested that a stamp for initiation fees be printed by the International. Brother Schoolman was requested to send copies of his plan to all the members of the Board, and the New York Board was instructed to take up the matter for action.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

ABRAHAM BAROFF,
General Secretary-Treasurer.
THREE MONTHS OF STRENUOUS ACTIVITY

Part Report of Secretary-Treasurer Baroff to the General Executive Board in Cincinnati

Upon our return from the last Quarterly Meeting at Baltimore, the first matter which confronted us was the Local No. 1 affair. From previous reports and from the report of the sub-committee of five appointed at Baltimore, you have already learned that the new election in Local No. 1 was not an easy matter to carry out. While all the events that have followed are well known to all, I am convinced, however, that if the stand of the International had been firm and quick during the first weeks we would have succeeded in carrying out the decision of the Board.

WHY THE NEWARK STRIKE FAILED

On February 18th, 1917, a general strike was called in the waist, white goods and corset shops in Newark, N. J., pursuant to a decision of the New York members of the Board. I am sorry to state that notwithstanding the intense agitation that had been carried on in Newark for almost two years, first under the supervision of Miss Mabel Craig, and later under Organizer Julius Portnoy, the response of the workers was very poor. From the twenty-eight shops located in Newark only five responded, three small and two large shops. The total number of strikers was from 500 to 600. The reason why the other workers did not answer the call of the Union, we were reliably informed, was because the employers had an anticipation of the strike, increased the wages of the workers several dollars a week and granted the hours asked for. Consequently, when the committees went to the shops to call the workers down they were met with the answer that there had been no material reasons for striking, as the employers had given them even better conditions than the Union demanded.

The delegates of the Essex Trade Council and its secretary, Brother Henry Hilfers, who was directly instructed by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor to help us in this strike, worked loyally in conjunction with Brother Portnoy. On the eve of the strike the Essex Trade Council met with a committee of our strikers and all the Newark business agents and organized an efficient committee to assist the strikers. Soon, however, the few shops which they succeeded in calling out became discouraged, and after staying out three weeks it became evident that the strike could not be won.

We have since moved the office of Local No. 13 into a smaller place and we have left Miss Dunn in charge. There is an organization left with an executive committee, and they are having regular meetings.

THE PETTICOAT WORKERS' STRIKE

At the meeting of the New York Board on February 14th it was decided that a general strike in the petticoat shops of New York City shall be called on February 15th. We had a mass meeting on the 16th which was well attended, and early the following day the walk-out took place. The response, according to best information, was about fifty per cent., of the trade, which, for an industry which had never had a union or a strike, was quite encouraging.

Much to our regret, however, this strike lacked efficient organization. All of us at the General Office had our hands full with the strikes in Newark, Montreal and Cincinnati. These strikes proved a great drain on our financial resources. We were busy trying to get money to finance them, and in consequence I could not devote much of my time to the actual leading of the petticoat strike.

Vice-President Fannie Cohn was practically the only one who gave every minute of her time to the strike. Unfortunately she was alone, and the petticoat strikers themselves did not produce any efficient men or women to take care of the various committees during the strike. We could not even get an able hall chairman to
manage and encourage the strikers and to make the meetings attractive for them.

Vice-President Lefkovits at that time returned from Cincinnati where he had been leading a strike in the cloak shops, which he successfully settled. I assigned him to take charge of the petticoat strike, with the hope that he would bring new life into the ranks. After a trial of one week Brother Lefkovits reported that he could not accomplish very much. Meanwhile strike benefit was being paid regularly, and as our resources had already been considerably drained owing to the protracted and bitter strike of the waist and white goods workers in Chicago, then in the fifth week, we were compelled to give up the petticoat strike. We settled with eight small firms, and at present Local No. 46 has about 200 members. Very recently, in accordance with the advice of President Schlesinger, we have transferred them as a branch into Local No. 41, where their interests will be taken care of.

OUR EFFORTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHICAGO STRIKE.

The strikes in Montreal and Chicago have proved to be very expensive. You will not forget that we incurred during the cloakmakers’ strike last summer heavy obligations. Aside from the campaigns and strikes in Baltimore and Springfield which have cost us a lot of money, it devolved upon the locals to assist us financially, but much to my regret the response of the executive boards of the locals was very poor.

At a joint meeting of all the executive boards of the New York locals at Beethoven Hall President Schlesinger was present and explained the condition of the Chicago strike and the necessity of raising funds to finance it. It was decided at that meeting to inaugurate voluntary collections on subscription lists in all the ladies’ garment shops in the City of New York. We have carried on a strong publicity campaign, appealed to all the workers to help collect money for the strike, but our expectations were not realised. It is difficult to explain why this appeal has been so poorly answered. It seems to me that we have overestimated our strength and have discounted certain circumstances and conditions in undertaking so many campaigns at one time.

IN OTHER CENTERS AND TRADES

On February 22nd Brother Ninfo and I addressed a meeting in Hartford, Conn. The attendance was very good and the meeting was satisfactory. In Hartford there are about 800 people engaged in the different lines of ladies’ garment industry and the members of the local claim that if they were granted an organizer for a short time it would be possible to organize the entire city.

I attended a mass meeting of waist-makers in Philadelphia, which took up the question of the increase of dues in Local No. 15. I also visited Philadelphia to arrange for shop collections for the Chicago strike. We have received several hundred dollars from Philadelphia on that account, but the shop collections were not successful, chiefly because the Philadelphia cloak trade had a very poor season.

I attended conferences between the White Goods Workers’ Union, Local No. 62, and the Cotton Garment Manufacturers’ Association and also conferences between the Children’s Dress Association and the Children’s Dressmakers’ Union, Local No. 50. I was present at several meetings of the Waist and Dressmakers’ Union, Local No. 25, and on one occasion I called a special meeting of their Executive Board and the officers of that local.

I have received some urgent requests from the Waist and White Goods Workers’ Union, Local No. 43, of Worcester, Mass., for an organizer for a few weeks, in order to begin a lively campaign for improvement of conditions. The Cloakmakers’ Union, Local No. 75, of that city also asked us to send someone to take up their grievances against their employers and to improve conditions in the shops. I directed Brother Snyder of Boston to visit Worcester for that purpose.

Local No. 33, Corset Workers’ Union of Bridgeport, Conn., have been inactive for a long time owing to an unusually long period of slackness in their trade. Lately, however, work started in the shops and they are now showing more life and activity. The new very active secretary, Miss Mary Gould, is trying to get spirit into the ranks of the Hungarian women workers. Vice-President Lefkovits visited them on the 29th of March, and two more meetings were being arranged; one for the Hun-
We kept Mrs. MacDonald in the New Jersey field for several months. Recently, having sized up the situation, we concluded to conduct an aggressive campaign in that field, and Mrs. MacDonald made it clear to us that she would rather retire than stay in New Jersey without prospects of any active work or visible results, we accepted her resignation. Mrs. MacDonald was a very willing and enthusiastic worker, and she was of considerable service to us during the New Jersey strike in which she took a considerable part. I much regret our inability to use her services elsewhere.

Organising work in Baltimore has proved to be very costly. The situation, however, in that city appears to be wrought up with constant trouble and fights. Even in the initial stages of our campaign in Baltimore we had several shop strikes and injunctions which cost a lot of money. I commend this matter to the attention of the Board.

Vice-President Lefkovits is in charge of the ladies’ tailored and alteration tailors now combined in the new Local No. 80. From his reports, he is chiefly engaged in strengthening the local and bringing the workers back into the union. A thorough organization of this trade may involve the prospects of a general strike some time during the summer, and the Board will have to carefully consider this and formulate a plan of action.

The state of affairs in the Rain Makers’ Union, Local No. 20 of New York, has decidedly improved of late. A new manager, Brother Kolker of Boston, has been engaged and there seems to be a revival on a small scale in the trade at present. Big orders for military garments have been placed in some of their shops. The employers, availing themselves of the extraordinary situation, have assumed the attitude that they can fleece the workers at their pleasure and disregard all union conditions while they make these military garments. As a result, the workers of one big shop revolted and consulted us about going out on strike. We immediately got in touch with President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor and proposed that some sort of arbitration or mediation committee be organized at once to take up such matters arising between employers and workers in our lines engaged on military garments. At this writ...
We have not yet received any word from President Combes.

Regarding the Ladies' Neckwear Cutters' Union, Local No. 108, we could not gratify their requests for a strike in their trade. They understood the situation and have kept their organization in pretty good shape. At present this local has a room in the offices of Local No. 10 where they will keep up an independent existence until an opportune time for wider organization.

**OUR OFFICIAL JOURNAL**

The question of our official Journal, "THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKER," laid over to this meeting for decisive action, must be taken up without fail. During the last several weeks we have sent out a questionnaire to a number of our locals for the purpose of getting their opinion on the defects or merits of our journal. We have received several replies which I submit to you for examination and guidance. The trend of opinion is decidedly for a weekly journal published in English. The journal, as published now, is a waste of money and effort. The expense of its publication has considerably increased of late, and unless we get value for our money it is criminal waste to go on with this publication as it is. Its cost today is at least $6,000 per year.

**THE PRESENT OUTLOOK**

The Labor Movement of this country is at present undergoing very trying times. It behooves us, as representatives of our International, to weigh matters very carefully, laying out new plans for activity or organization. Our entire attention must now be centered on the strengthening of the organizations which we already have under our control. The future is full of uncertainties, and our sacred duty and obligation is to guard those men and women, who have enrolled themselves under the banner of our International, against the encroachments of those powers who have always fought us and who are always ready to take advantage of any opportunity to strike at us. When our resources will be strengthened, and the unusual times will have passed, we shall be in a better position to embark on the work of further extensive campaigning and organization.

Fraternally yours,

A.B. BAROFF,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

**IN PHILADELPHIA AND — MONTREAL**

Report of Vice-President Amund

You are aware that I was ready to resign my position with the Joint Board of Philadelphia soon after the October convention.

The last fall season in Philadelphia was an exceptionally bad one, and the Joint Board expected a lot of trouble soon after the season. They therefore asked me to remain and help them. I reconsidered and remained for another short period of time.

Right after the fall season was over, the manufacturers in the largest shops took advantage of the dullness in the trade and discriminated against our active members right and left.

In the opinion of the Joint Board it was necessary to declare strikes in all those shops. This would have involved from 500 to 600 people. Having noticed that the manufacturers were provoking all this trouble deliberately, I advised that we should not play into their hands calling strikes, but rather wait for the spring season. Meanwhile all those members, discharged or laid off, should be compensated by the union until they would be reinstated or find other jobs. It was not an easy matter to carry through, for the more radical element did not like the idea of waiving these strikes. But I succeeded in my determination and saved the union a serious situation.

**THE STRIKE IN MONTREAL**

On January 15 I was ordered by President Schlesinger to proceed to Montreal, Canada, to take charge of the strike which was to be declared there a few days later. President Schlesinger had communicated with some of the manufacturers of Montreal and arranged for a conference with the association. Two conferences were held, but failed to bring about any understanding. Naturally, the strike was declared.

That strike was the biggest surprise to me, for local people were unanimous in their opinion that we will beat the manufacturers because the workers were almost 100 per cent. organized, because of the shortage of labor and because the manufacturers being poor and small, with the exception of a few, could not stand a fight.
A TRYING TIME IN BALTIMORE

POLICE ANNOYANCE, INJUNCTION, AND COURT TRIALS—REPORT OF VICE-PRESIDENT JOHN F. PIERCE

The past few months have been very trying times for our organization in Baltimore, primarily due to the antagonistic attitude of a few of the larger manufacturers who have been running non-union shops for years. Baltimore, being situated in the South, is identical with other Southern cities as far as unionism is concerned. Union workers are in the minority, and the public knows absolutely nothing about the efforts continually being made by trade unions to establish a better standard of living for the working people. This condition had its bad effect upon our organizing campaign, as the workers were trying to reach mostly natives of Baltimore, gentiles—only about twenty per cent. of them being Jewish girls, and there are not enough Jewish girls in any one factory to have an influence on the rest of the workers in that shop. As for the gentiles, we have been able to interest a number of them in the movement, and they are doing exceptionally good work in conjunction with the Jewish girls.

Immediately after the last meeting of the Board, our trouble started with the police, who are under the control of the manufacturers of this city. When our men went out to distribute circulars, the police arrested some of them. So I had a committee appointed by the Central Labor Union to wait on the Police Board to have them define our rights. The Police Board treated us very courteously and informed us that there was no law prohibiting us from giving out circulars. They also sent me a copy of the decision from the Attorney for the Police Board in reference to the rights of the pickets. But the police continued to arrest our men.

When the cases came up in court, it was evident that the judges were on the side of the manufacturers and that we could expect few favors from the men sitting on the bench. We had about fifteen arrests, not one of them for a justifiable cause. A few of our men were fined, and in all cases
the magistrates always gave our men a lecture and a warning about obeying policemen, saying that the courts would always stand by the policemen, as they had very unpleasant duties to perform. Such is the sentiment in Baltimore in regard to the unions not only of the police and courts, but of the public in general.

At first, the men in the cutting departments of the different waist and white goods shops, showed a great deal of interest in our movement, and joined our ranks in goodly numbers, but the gentle girls were very backward. We have worked among them continually with the aid of Mrs. Haefley of the American Federation of Labor and Brother Hyman Levin of our staff. The Women's Trade Union League has rendered us valuable assistance in the way of furnishing committees to go around the factories whenever we called shop meetings. The League has also aided us by holding sociables for the girls in the homes of its members, but all these efforts seemed only to create a friendly feeling towards the union, without adding materially to our roll of membership.

About the time the organization began to shape itself, it was necessary for Mrs. Haefley to leave, as President Schlesinger wired me that she was needed to assist the gentle girls then on strike in Cincinnati. From there, she had to go to Chicago, and the girls in Baltimore have since been without a woman organizer. Among the gentle girls, especially in this city, one is absolutely necessary. I have rendered them every assistance, but there are always matters coming up that girls desire the advice and counsel of a woman.

I have made an effort to organize a local of colored operators and pressers. In this work I was obliged to engage the services of one, Sam Smith, who is acquainted with a number of colored people, and works in one of the dress factories. He is a preacher in a church, attended by colored people, and visits their homes in the evening and on Sundays. Some of the colored people show a very keen interest in the movement.

The Cutters' Local has over 200 members, but the employers have done everything to break up the local. About the first of February, in many of the shops where most of the men were organized, the firms called them into the office, and offered them increases in pay with a reduction of hours, on condition that they should quit the union. In many cases they were successful. In other instances they threatened the men with discharge, which threat they later carried out, as in the North Brothers' shop, where our men were given the alternative of quitting the union, or their jobs. They quit their jobs, and a few days later, the firm, by the aid of false affidavits swore out an injunction which deprived us of every right as strikers, and in addition tried to prohibit the International from doing business in the state of Maryland. We were successful in having this injunction set aside after a bitter fight of two weeks.

The same proposition was put up to the men working in four other plants, but the men refused to give up the union. This involved about forty cutters. I secured jobs for several of them in other lines of business. I still have twelve men out of work from these shops, and only one man of the forty turned his back on the union.

The firms secured cutters from Philadelphia, but we managed to ship most of them back again. One firm, Kramer & Sauer, secured an injunction against me but as it did not prohibit us from picketing, I did not try to have it dissolved.

Last Sunday three men from Philadelphia wanted me to help them get back to that city and I agreed to help them. When they returned to the shop the firm's lawyer prevailed upon one of the men to make a statement about how I had threatened and forced them to go back to Philadelphia. He then obtained an order from the court ordering me to show cause why I should not be adjudged in contempt. I do not fear the results, as I have a dozen witnesses to prove the falsity of the affidavit. When Attorney Cohen and I went over to Philadelphia to interview him, he, the scab, admitted that the firm had offered him $200 and a steady job at $30 a week, and that the affidavit was false. This shows the methods the manufacturers of Baltimore resort to in order to maintain scab shops.

We have formed a Joint Board consisting of the Cloakmakers', Local 4; the Ladies' Tailors, Local 101; the White-
Having been told and threatened to assume an association, still in the twenty-one years, I was compelled to remain in Baltimore Street.

With the consent of Mrs. Haefley and with the co-operation of the newly formed Joint Board, definite results can be obtained for the ensuing season.

I subsequently found that it was possible to appreciate the Baltimore situation with a view of it as possible. The antagonism of the manufacturers here has made me more than ever determined to organize our workers. I hope the Board will view it in the same light and decide to continue the campaign in Baltimore until it has been added to the list of organized cities under the banner of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

THE RECENT MOVEMENT IN MONTREAL

From the Report of First Vice-President

E. J. Rosenberg

At the request of Secretary Baron, I reluctantly left New York for Montreal on February 14th to take charge of what I believed to be a series of conferences with the Manufacturers' Association of Montreal, to settle the strike then in progress since January 26th.

Upon my arrival in Montreal I was held up by the authorities as a dangerous alien. I afterwards found out that I was not feared on account of my Austrian birth so much as because I had come to conduct the strike. However, the authorities were compelled to release me, as they had no proof of evil intentions on my part.

I found about 90 people, employed by the twenty-one shops connected with the association, still on strike. There was no possibility for calling a conference at the time. The manufacturers, outwardly at least, assumed an attitude of "no compromise" and threatened to keep their factories shut for the season in order to beat the strikers. My first task was to round individual members of the association concerning the possibility for a conference with them. Having been told that they were willing to arrange for a conference providing the invitation came from the union, I addressed an open letter to the manufacturers of Montreal inviting them to meet me in conference on a date convenient for them.

A couple of days afterwards a statement signed by the president of the association appeared in the papers of Montreal, refusing to accept our invitation for a conference, and suggesting that peace had prevailed prior to my arrival in the city and would again be restored when I leave. In that statement the association portrayed us as a band of hoodlums and gangsters in order to prejudice our case in the eyes of the public. Feeling that this strike could not soon be settled with the association as a body, I resorted to all means to get individual members to settle with the union. I succeeded with only two houses. Seeing no prospect of an early settlement, I sought to place as many workers as possible in the settled independent shops and also to encourage people leaving the city for other cloak centers.

The manufacturers were encouraged in their stubborn stand against the union by the clothing employers. The clothing workers under the jurisdiction of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America were out on strike. The association of the clothing manufacturers had taken the position of "nothing to arbitrate," which was imitated by our employers. The strike of the clothing men, involving 8,000 workers, completely over-shadowed our strike and enlisted all sympathies and attention to itself, to the detriment of our strike.

The clothing workers, having accepted a proposition of unconditional surrender with arbitration proceedings to be taken up in the month of May, our manufacturers made the same proposition to us. Having seen the effect upon the ranks of the clothing workers, I was reluctant to court such troubles. This prolonged the fight for some time.

In the meantime, an injunction forbidding picketing was secured against us by one of the firms in Montreal, which was later interpreted by the Chief of Police to mean that picketing was forbidden in all struck shops. It was only through the co-operation of the Labor Council, which kindly volunteered to send a committee to the mayor to ask for the revocation of the chief's order against picketing, which was
In the sixth week of the fight we finally agreed to submit our grievances to an Arbitration Board upon the basis of re-entering the shops under a forty-nine hour schedule; a promise of no discrimination against the workers; the dismissal of the strike breakers, and back pay for the time between the decision and the return of the workers. To our surprise, after we had succeeded in getting the consent of the strikers to that proposition, the manufacturers claimed that the individuals who made that offer had acted upon their own initiative and did not speak for the association. The week after our arbitration proposition was rejected by the manufacturers, they again re-opened negotiations for settlement. This was finally agreed upon on the basis mentioned.

At this time we were left with about 200 workers, who in no case constituted a set; in some shops we were left with the cutters; in others with the operators, etc. The workers were not at all enthusiastic about returning to work; first, because there was very little to do in the shops and they preferred being paid strike benefit. When we started to send back our strikers, the manufacturers, who had promised immunity from discrimination against the workers, acted entirely different. In many cases they plainly told the men that they would not re-employ them because of their activities in the strike; others were shrewder and simply claimed that they had no work, but they employed other people. It was only the fact that we faced a long slack season that prevented the Strike Committee from declaring the agreement off again. We frankly told the manufacturers at the time that the houses which practised discrimination would be called to account for it at the commencement of the next season.

One reason for not wanting to appear before an arbitration board was the fact that about 80 per cent. of our members were already working under union conditions with all demands granted. The nature of all arbitration proceedings being that demands are reduced by half, we did not care to endanger the standards attained by the 80 per cent. of our workers, as it was understood that such decisions would also cover the independent firms. Feeling that the majority of the employers had a good lesson and that they would never again invite the loss of a season, we dropped the arbitration proposition, promising the workers that the International would take up their fight again at the commencement of the next season. It is that promise that keeps them together today.

Credit should be given to the good and loyal fighters who stood ten weeks' starvation for the principles of unionism. This is not an empty phrase or an attempt to flatter the girls and boys of Montreal, because anyone who is acquainted with the Canadian winters will understand what it means to do picketing duty in the months of February and March in Montreal.

OUR LOCALS IN TORONTO IN GOOD SHAPE

From Report of Vice-Pres. S. Koldofsky

Since the settlement with the employers a number of complaints and disputes have arisen in the shops. We have in all instances succeeded in obtaining justice for the workers. Only last week the workers of the Model Dress Co. returned victoriously to work after a seven days' stoppage, which was caused by the attempt of the firm to discharge the shop chairman.

I wish to say this regarding the attitude of the Toronto locals toward the conflict in Montreal:

We were of the opinion that the calling of a general strike in Toronto to assist the Montreal strikers, as some had advised, was futile and inadvisable. We never contemplated that the Montreal manufacturers would be willing to lose a season's business in a fight with the union. Secondly, it seemed quite impossible that the Toronto shops would make work for the Montreal manufacturers, as the Toronto shops were swamped with work during the last few seasons and could not fill their own orders on time owing to a scarcity of workers. They could not, therefore, undertake this proposition for the Montreal manufacturers. Thirdly, the greater part of the Montreal strikers had, at that time, returned to work in settled shops, and it seemed quite unreasonable to have such a strike called in Toronto while most of the
Montreal piece workers were working. We did, however, after we could for Montreal. We made rigid inspections in all shops that made work for Montreal. One shop, the Clayson Co., has stopped from work because the firm refused to allow us to make such an inspection, and only after a week's stop did they consent to allow us to allay suspicions. We also levied a tax upon members for the benefit of the Montreal workers during the last weeks of the strike, and forwarded to them a thousand dollars on that account. Generally speaking, the present situation in Toronto is quite satisfactory. Our members have a good season, and for the first time in the history of the local organization, they feel that the union has accomplished a great deal for them. The week workers have benefited more than any others. The tailors, for instance, have obtained tangible benefits. The piece workers, who have not received such big concessions as the week workers, are also quite satisfied. We have now about five hundred members in the four locals, which means about 90 per cent of the entire trade. I am not including the sewing women in the trade, but even these are coming forward now, and their entrance into the organization, while a slow matter, is quite sure now. They have a branch of approximately 125 members, and Brother Thomas Black is still with us as their organizer.

We are not ready to assert, however, that the successful campaign that we have had in Toronto has converted all our piece makers into full-fledged trade unionists and that they could be left now to themselves. Now, after the season is over, we have undertaken to revive the work and put new life and energy into it, to solidify our organization and make preparations for the next season. We intend to retain the positions we have gained and will endeavor to win new gains for our workers in as successful a way as we have managed during the past season.

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**Lawrence Darrow's Great Speech**

In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Ill., In the Contempt Proceedings Arising Out of the Injunctions Issued Against the Union in the Strike of the Skirt, Dress, Waist, Whitegoods and Kimono Workers of Chicago.

Before discussing the evidence, I want to make a few general observations about the law as understood in this matter, and some of the broader facts. We believe that every person has the right to peacefully meet any person not to work. Or, in other words, peaceful picketing. And, I do not want that point to be considered vital.

Two cases have been read here, specifically to show that this strike was illegal in its conception, and I am fairly familiar with both of these cases: The Carlson case and the Keeling Switchboard case. So far as these cases are concerned, we have received from the organization an illegal order on account of an illegal conspiracy, they held that when an organization makes a demand upon the employer, that employer must sign a contract agreeing to employ only union men, they made an illegal demand. I think the Court was wrong on that proposition, and, I insisted that so far as that is concerned, it has been absolutely, and I hope, forever, overruled by the Keating case. But, if these people are to be held guilty because of an illegal conspiracy, it must be upon the ground that the demand itself was illegal in the beginning. These cases do hold that a demand for a closed shop is illegal in our case.

**NO DEMAND FOR CLOSED SHOP IN THIS CASE**

First, no such demand was made in this case. But, the Keating case, decided later, which your Honor has studied, I think it settles this case on all points excepting violations, of which there is nothing worth speaking about in this case. However, I am anxious to see a case go to the Supreme Court, and we will find out what it will make.
Their bill was filed, as I recall it, by an employee of the Street Railway Company against the manager and officers of the union, and enjoined from entering into a closed shop of the Street Railway Company. I think they had a perfect right to make such an agreement. Amongst those who dissented in that case were three judges who were responsible for the decisions in the Carlson case, the Kellogg Switchboard case and other cases that have been decided against the unions. That case clearly held that a contract between an employer and an organization that the employer would employ only union men was legal. I think the law in this State is now settled. Of course, when we have another shift in the Supreme Court, some day, it may go the other way. For, I know well enough that in a case of this kind, however honest a judge is, or however intelligent he is, he has his views upon these general propositions, and he could not be an intelligent man if he did not. Trying an individual in one of those labor cases, as I said in the beginning, is a good deal like trying to convert a man to a religion—nobody is converted, and nobody changes his mind. Whatever this Court makes in this case, I do not think your Honor thinks it will change anybody's conviction upon the law, or what the inherent rights ought to be. Something might change your Honor's judgment on it, but, so far as changing anybody's opinions, it is out of the question. All have opinions, and everyone thinks his opinions are just as good as anybody's else. When you get through, it is largely a question of the feelings in the matter, our instincts.

PERSONAL RIGHTS DEFINED

But, to come back to the law as it stands.

First, under the law as announced by the Supreme Court, the closed shop of itself is not illegal. I might put it so simply that I do not see how people disagree on it. If I am working for a man, have I not the right to say I will not work with what I call a scab? I do not like the word probably any better than the Court. It is a word of common acceptation when used in that way. I have a right to choose, if necessary, who I will invite to my house. I might not like a man, although he is a good man, I do not need to invite him or I do not need to go to his house. I might not like him because I do not like the looks of him, or because there is some little crazy notion in my head that makes me dislike him. But, I do not need to have him in my house. I have just as much right to say I will not work with him as I have that I will not visit with him—just exactly the same right.

I am not talking now about legal rights. My life, if I am a working man, consists in the time I am at home sleeping, and the time I am enjoying myself outside in such way as I see fit, and the time I am working. And, in any one of those positions, I have the right to choose my company, or, I should have. If I am a Democrat, I might not like working with Republicans. And, if I am a Wet, I wouldn't want to work with a Prohibitionist. (Laughter) Some Republicans wouldn't want to work with Socialists. Why should they if they do not want to? If I can see, rightfully or wrong fully, that my individual interests, or the interests of my fellow man would be better taken care of if we all belonged to one political party and stood together. I have a right to do it. And, when a Court says otherwise, it cannot convince me that it is not unnecessarily violating my individual rights.

INJUNCTIONS AGAINST LABOR ARE ONESIDED

Strange, how judges have gone wrong on this question. Here are these employers. They do not want a union. That is the trouble with them here. They tell about their wages. But the facts they have presented in this case are not true. Your Honor said he did not have any jurisdiction over that matter. We have made the offer in the Court room, in the newspapers, that if their statements are true, our men will go back to work. They are not true, and they know it. But, they didn't want a union. I think they are narrow and standing in their own light. But they do not think so. But I have no right to complain about their point of view. They say, they will not have a union; they are able to run their own business, they will not have an organization say whom they may hire and whom they may not hire, and how long the employees shall work and what the factory should be, and all those things.
I think an employer has a right to choose the man with whom he wishes to work. Is it not within his rights. None of the laws and statutes of the State deal with the amount of friction trying to be done. But the question of holding or enlisting the right of every contract is supposed to be verbal, and where to prevail, every employer can hire whom he pleases and refuse whom he pleases, theoretically. It could not be contended that is not the same thing. It is a criminal conspiracy. I never held that was the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania—that held that it was illegal for working men to insist upon a closed shop, but it was not an illegal conspiracy for the employer to insist upon a closed shop and say he would hire anybody but a union man. If we may expect almost anything from Pennsylvania. Then, the rule ought to have been the same on both. In this State, and I think in almost every other State, it is no offense, it is not a violation of the law for working men to say that they will only work with union men. It is pretty nearly a fundamental right for a person to assemble with or work with whom he pleases. If he cannot do that, why, he has not got much right left.

Of course, the demands of the employees contained no such thing. They did ask for a preferential shop. This has not, as far as I know, been well defined in the case. Of course, it means in fact, that where there are vacancies, the union shall be given preference for the given place. It is a kind of a half-way house between a closed and open shop. It is a very common contract. But, it is not a closed shop really.

PERFECT RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

What was there about this strike that was different from any other, or wrong that would have been the basis of anything illegal? Even if the law was that a demand for a closed shop could not be made lawfully, it has not been made here and there was not any basis for the argument. Counsel says these people came here without investigation, they had few members, their workmen were content, the employees were contented. They stirred up all this strife and confusion.

I don't care if they had no member whatever, and if they came here purely for the purpose of organizing a union and beginning a strike. That they had a perfect right to do. Men will perhaps always differ as to the utility of these things, and we have to make allowances for the differences of men anyway. Some men, and I confess I am one of them, believe that whatever the working man has, he has been gained by his own efforts, through organization and through striking, and many times in ways that were not legal: but that he has to look to himself, to his organization, and he has to be stirred up to do it, and has to go on a strike to get anywhere, I have no doubt. Some people disagree with me. But that is not the question. The question is: Is it the law
or the policy of government, or the policy of our institutions?

I imagine when the Christian missionaries go over to China to get converts to the religion of Jesus, that they are not very well received. They may have no organization at all, and they have not when they begin. But they go there because they see it as their duty to go there and tell people who are perfectly contented, that there is something better than they have known. In the same way, the Chinese missionary may come to us and we may not welcome him. But, he has got something which he thinks he should tell our people to make them better. He listens to the inner voice which moves all of us, sometimes right, and sometimes wrong. It is not necessary that he have any organization at all; he may go and start a union, as everybody has to start something in the first instance.

So, whether Mr. Schlesinger or Mr. Seidman had any organization here or not, is quite apart from any issue in this case. I am one of those who have been interested in this subject—I have tried to study the beginnings of these organizations and I have found that they date back in England more than a hundred years, when the first man went to an employee and solicited him to go on a strike. He simply said to him, "You are not getting enough; you ought to stop work." And then the man was found guilty and punished. Up to 1860, in England, it was a criminal offense to suggest to a working man that he ought to get better wages. The early English courts are filled with conspiracy cases, where some man who had some sympathy for his fellowman, went to him and urged him to quit his job, or to join him. Finally, about 1860, by a statute, England wiped all such laws off the books, and there has not been any other since.

**HAD A RIGHT TO ASK FOR HIGHER PAY**

Now, I know that a certain class of people, neither better nor worse than other people, but following their own interests, have been seeking to go back over that old road, until it would be a crime to disturb a man who is at work, and a crime to strike, to organize, even, to make demands. But, we found no judges in this country who seem to be willing to go back, although I think there are many of them who have gone very much further back than they ought to go in that direction.

It may be that these girls here were the happiest body of underpaid employees that ever lived until Mr. Schlesinger and Mr. Seidman came. I found out in this world that the more a person gets, the more discontented he is. The slaves were very happy; they got nothing and expected nothing. The lower the wages and the more people accept this condition, the poorer they are.

Then, along comes the agitator—the fellow who has another dream, another vision, and he tells them that something else is better, moves them along a bit. Because the slaves wanted to be free—because the working man wants more wages and shorter hours and better conditions—maybe they never would have asked for themselves. I doubt whether the slaves would have thought themselves of asking for their freedom. But, somebody did it for them. Now, forever, it has been the case with the working people. I presume these very girls would have been working twelve or fifteen hours, at lower wages—I do not mean that was the condition before this strike began—but, if there had not been this constant urging from the outside, preaching the gospel of discontent—it would not have come from the other side.

These organizers came to Chicago, and they addressed a perfectly respectful letter to the employers of girls who were getting small wages.

**In the first place, women work for smaller pay than men everywhere. In this case it is a labor of young girls, largely immigrants, who have been here but a short time and take the very first thing they can get to do. But, they receive small pay.**

**SCHLESINGER AND SEIDMAN ACTED WITHIN THEIR RIGHTS**

Mr. Schlesinger, who has been head of this international organization for three years, we will assume, came here for the purpose of making them discontented with their jobs. You cannot tell me that a lot of people like this, in this day and generation, haven't the feeling that they are getting too little. They have; they are eagerly watching for a chance to do better, and are ready, only waiting for an opportunity to join a union. But, if he came here and
Ail these out a person to him to come and help. He need not wait until working people sent out a person to him to come and help. All these organizations have been started the same way. It would be a very narrow-minded view, indeed, who would say they should go back to the condition in which they were before.

But, they have organized themselves for fighting. They are struggling for a chance to live. Those Schlesinger and Seidman came and addressed a decent, fair, courteous letter to the employers. They got no reply. The demands were decent. The employer said it was better for them if they did not answer it, if they did not permit an organization to carry on the business anyway they were. In this particular instance, as in most instances, the interest of the employers was contrary to the interest of the others. The more the girls get in wages less the employer has in profits. The less the girls get for wages, the more the profits. We cannot help that situation. Maybe some day we can. But, the interests were conflicting. It is not for me to condemn either side. But those girls had a right to ask for it, and anybody has a right to urge them to ask for it. I know I have done my full share of it, many times unwisely, but I have done it, and many other people have done the same thing, because I thought it would make for more equal justice amongst all.

There is not be any fault found with Benjamin Schlesinger or Solomon Seidman, hoping here to help organize this union. There was nothing illegal in their attempts, nothing illegal in their actions. And they had a right to call the strike and help conduct the strike.

CONSPIRACY—TO BETTER CONDITIONS

Then, what took place afterwards? I can summarize all this very briefly. This is the history of all the strikes, except that this strike was attended with almost no violence. When a good many hundreds or thousands of people living close to the life line and out of work, seeing others take their jobs, it is a situation that is hard to control, always has been and always will be. And that is the reason here and there, why a judge, who says all strikes are attended with violence, thinks the should be enjoined.

That does not follow at all. It might be assumed that all large strikes are attended with violence, but that does not prove they should be enjoined. You cannot put up a good building in a big city or build a road without causing death. The man who invented printing is probably responsible for more violence and more deaths than almost any other person who ever lived. But all of it has tended to make the world better and make more equality amongst men. Those are the incidental results to which no one is responsible and, the Court cannot act upon this.

They (the workers) called these people to a vote at a meeting and went out on strike. Now, I am not interested in how many hundred people were present at that meeting, or, how many people attended before they had been members of the union, or whether they were all workers or not. That has nothing to do with the issues in this case. They would have had a perfect right to strike without any meeting at all. But, a mass meeting was called at which a number of members were present, and they passed a resolution to make these demands, and if they were refused, to go on a strike.

Up to that time there is not a single thing upon which a Court could pass a judgment, and the talk about a conspiracy is idle and silly. A conspiracy to do what Better the condition of a lot of girls, that is all. A conspiracy to get better pay and shorter hours and better conditions in the shop, that is what it is. The old conspiracy to help somebody. And there is no conspiracy to help somebody, if it is carried out, that does not result in injury to somebody, and it is impossible for it not to result in injury to somebody. Those are the consequences which we cannot possibly avoid.

Now, this Court, if it should hold any body in this case, it must be upon a clear charge and specific proof as to the individual people charged. Nobody can be guilty here on account of any unlawful conspiracy in this strike. They could not be guilty if another entered into an unlawful conspiracy to do unlawful acts; each individual is responsible for what he did and nothing else. Neither can you enter a
conspiracy by merely seeing something going on. The criminal law and civil law are just the same on this. Silence does not do it. You must participate; you must do something, or else you cannot be a party to a conspiracy. Possibly not much, but you must actively do something yourself in order to get into it.

HEARSAY UNRELIABLE EVIDENCE

Let us see what is the case here: I want to briefly take up the different people exactly as they are and try to strip it of all the talk about the horror of it, the thing in which there was no horror. Your Honor has listened to the evidence here for upwards of ten days. The proof shows that a policeman was scratched on his arm with a hat-pin, and one girl kicked another. They are both alive, too, the policeman and the girls, and that is the extent of the violence that has been proven in this trial, which is simply an excuse.

We will first take up the defendants, in the line of their importance. I presume my brother Jacobson would rather get the bigger fellows first, and then if he can strangle them, the others would die a natural death, most likely. So, we will take the case of Benjamin Schlesinger.

What is there against Benjamin Schlesinger? One witness testified that on the 21st day of February, immediately after his return from New York, he attended a meeting and made a speech at the hall, and one Nathan D. Shafer said (Nathan D. Shafer said this) he came from New York and for the cause, to tell all the members of the union that "If we went and don't our picketing, doing our duty as required, we would win the strike, and that no injunction or police would make any waists or dresses; that it was rather an honor to be arrested and put in jail than stay in a shop and work with a scab; he'd like to see a thousand strikers arrested at one time."

Now, that is all the statement there is against Mr. Schlesinger. I am taking it from counsel on the other side, which I have no doubt is correct.

TRIFLING CHARGES

Next, take Mr. Seidman. Mr. Seidman has, I believe, told your Honor a true statement. He read this injunction on Sunday, that is as far as it was somewhere in the papers, and he knew it. On the 20th, after he had read it, he made a speech in which he advised them to picket. Technically, he violated this injunction. I will concede it. He said that he had had a number of years of experience in this business, but believed the injunction would be modified and that any injunction against picketing was unlawful.

He asked me about it and was advised that under the law of this State it was doubtless a violation of the injunction, and he has not made any such statement since.

Lawyers sometimes have hard work to know what the law is. I do not need to suggest to this Court, that it is not every injunction a Court makes, or order that a Court makes that people are bound to comply with. An order may be absolutely void. And, no doubt, he thought so, until he was advised differently. And, then he
followed it sanguinely, absolutely: nobody has testified against it.

As to Lebow. There is evidence in this case that on the 26th, she advised the picketing, Your Honor, that is violation of the order, but I know in that matter, your Honor will consider the question of her position in matters, her enthusiasm for a cause. I do not think even counsel would want any suspension visited on a girl under these circumstances. I don't think the Court would do it. Your Honor is not situated to wreak vengeance on anybody.

These questions of violence are trifling; it is not worth while to talk about them. Here is one girl who, they said, jabbed a hat pin into a policeman. Your Honor, she was walking the street and hadn’t done anything spoken to anybody. She was arrested. There are nine out of ten of the ordinary girls who those circumstances would have done. There is nothing serious about it at all. She scratched his arm. But, I don't think she did it. She has come here and told her own story, which seems to me absolutely straightforward, that she wore the hat pin that she wears now; had no hat pin that has not any where. I submit to your Honor, there is nothing to that case at all.

Here is another girl, Fanny Brodsky, who spoke somebody on a Blue Island Avenue car on Monday morning about eight-thirty o'clock. She said nothing of any serious consequence. I submit, your Honor, the evidence would not justify the finding that those circumstances would be charged with knowledge of the contents of the injunction. True, I had seen a paper at her house on Sunday, but she didn't examine it; she said she didn't know about it. I submit there is nothing whatever as to her case.

In the other two or three cases, three at the outside, which really amount to nothing, simply walking up and down the streets. I suggest, your Honor, that there is nothing left of them which would call for any serious question from any Court.

As to the young man who testified this morning, the evidence against him is almost nothing; it does not even call for a defense. Here is what the other side say: Respondent, Eugene Daley, with the others approached Mathias Oberbliit, an employee of Mitchell Bros. Co., on February 12th about five p. m., at the corner of North Avenue and Hudson Avenue and requested him to be a walking delegate. "Say, you know this injunction is no good. Don't go to work any more. I don't even know if he violated any provision in the injunction. It amounts to nothing.

Sumner did not testify in this case. He had charged that he made some statements which were extravagant, if they were true. Very likely they were not true. The specific statements he denies in his answer.

HARSH MEASURES WOULD EMBITTER FEELING

There is very little to this entire case. So far as Schlesinger is concerned, I submit, there is absolutely nothing to justify the Court in holding him. So far as Sodman is concerned, he doubtless did the best he could, as quick as he was advised respecting the order. So far as the girls are concerned, several of them, I think were not there and no charge has been sustained against them at all.

If this was one of those cases where we could convince anybody, or bring anybody out of it, it would be different. It is no possible. Everyone of these people and all their friends believe they ought to have a right to picket; that they ought to have a right to go out and ask somebody to join with them. The more stringent a court would be with them, the more they would feel they had been wronged. By plain brute force, of course, we can do nothing because the law is strong and the officer can execute the law, that does not touch the human heart in the least. It would do them no good. It would do their friends no good, it would not add to the administration of justice, but only tend to create a more bitter feeling where something else is needed. So, I urge your Honor to take these things into consideration. Personally, I would rather see all of these things wound up in a fair and friendly spirit toward all the parties concerned, as it is possible to do. I think it would be better for the future of this strike and for the general conditions of capital and labor than to do it by any measures of this sort.
Local Life and Activity Every Month

CLOAKMAKERS OF NEW YORK CITY CALL FOR HIGHER WAGES

A series of member meetings of cloak, skirt and reefer makers of New York is being held by the Joint Board comprising the various locals in the trade to discuss the present situation of insufficient wages and high prices of the means of life and prepare for the next season. The first meeting was held on Saturday, May 19, in Cooper Union.

The meeting was addressed by President Schlesinger of the International; Morris Sigman, manager of the Cloakmakers' Joint Board; Abraham Bisman, newly elected manager of the Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local No 25, and other speakers. International Vice-President Elmer Rosenberg, the newly-elected chairman of the Joint Board, presided.

President Schlesinger referred to the recent wage increase of 20 to 23 per cent for the miners by the United Mine Workers of America in view of the high cost of living.

"We must do the same," said President Schlesinger. "We will go before our employers, saying, 'We want more money because we have to pay high prices,' and we will ask a substantial increase. We will try to get it without a strike, if possible."

The workers justly believe that they are in this respect as deserving as the miners to live and maintain their efficiency as workers. These are extraordinary times and it is necessary to go beyond the cold letter of any agreement. Seeing that one dollar only buys 60 cents' worth of food; that the cost of living has risen 30 to 35 per cent, the cloakmakers' wages, for week workers as well as piece workers, should be increased so as to meet the deficiency.

The following resolution was adopted by acclamation:

Whereas, the cost of living has risen tremendously in recent times; and

Whereas, our industry is subject to seasons and the wages we earn in the season are not sufficient to meet our actual needs,

Resolved, that we, the Cloak, Skirt and Reefer Makers' Unions, assembled in general member meeting, this 19th of May, 1917, in Cooper Union, urge upon the Joint Board to request of the employers an increase in wages in all lines of our industry.

The plan of action was referred to the Joint Board.

CLOAK AND SUIT TAILORS' UNION LOCAL No. 9

CAMPAIGN FOR WEEK WORK AND SOUND FINANCIAL BASIS

The readers of this journal are no doubt aware of the gigantic campaign for the establishment of week work, at present being carried on by our local.

The agitation for abolishing the present system of piece work which has been in vogue in our trade for many years, is a result of a long and costly experience. Several of our members who were not blinded by the "seasonal prosperity" have foreseen the chaos and ruin which the "free bargaining" scheme or settling prices was bound to bring. But these people were very few in number. It required more than boldness to advocate any radical change. However, as the years went by and the condition of the finishers was gradually sinking, the idea of week work has found many adherents.

As far back as 1912 we started an agitation for the establishment of a 50c an hour standard. Since then this agitation was carried on vigorously. Year in and year out Local No. 9 has through various schemes of propaganda, agitated for the improvement of the conditions of the finishers. One of the most strenuous campaigns ever undertaken in our local was conducted in the fall of 1916. No stone was left unturned, nothing that a human mind is capable of devising was left undone, and the result - hardly compensated our efforts. Why? The answer is simple.

It is the system of work that is the evil of the situation. Insisting on a reasonable price is useless. The threat of "sending the work outside" is always made, and it is an effective threat. Observance of union working hours and abstinence from work on holidays is totally impossible, for strange as it may sound, the limitation of
The present rate of the Joint Board expense is ten and one-half cents per member. Together with the four cents to the International, it makes a total of fourteen and one-half cents out of sixteen cents. The remainder of one and one-half cents is hardly enough to cover the cost of strike benefits. In short, we are facing an annual deficit of over five thousand ($5,000.00) dollars. Hence, there is no question that the dues must be raised.

Two propositions have been submitted to the members. One calls for twenty-five cents a week and provides for the establishment of a sick benefit fund and the other for twenty-one cents without a fund. Either of the two will enable the local to meet its financial obligations and also put away a certain amount for reserve.

N. M. MINKOW, Secretary

CLOAKMAKERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 11
BROWNSVILLE

A UNIFORM WEEKLY DUES NEEDED

Our local union finds itself in a strange situation. The raising of the per capita to the International and the increased payments to the Joint Board have made our officers and active members anxious as to how to cover the expense bill with the present dues, and naturally they could find no way out. The question was submitted to our members, but, to our regret, the members do not grasp the seriousness of the situation, and the question is still undecided.

There is only one way out; we must have a higher dues. For the smaller locals it is simply a matter of existence. It is strange how our ten locals in the same industry, all affiliated with the same Joint Board, have lately developed a lack of unity and system in the payment of dues. In certain shops controlled by the Joint Board there work side by side members of the affiliated locals, whose weekly dues are respectively, 16, 20, 21, 22 cents or more. This lack of uniformity causes friction and jealousy among the members.

It would be advisable that the Joint Board or International should decide upon a uniform dues for all members of the same trade; for as it is now, some locals are in a peculiar situation.

It may seem to one or two locals that
they have settled the question. I think, however, that very soon the question must again rise to the surface. A higher dues will have to be determined by a higher authority.

H. BRODSKY, Secretary

A NEW MANAGEMENT IN LOCAL No. 25

At the recent elections in Local No. 25, the waist and dressmakers elected Brother Ab Bisno of Chicago as general manager of the union and chief clerk of the association department.

Until now, Brother E. Lieberman was the chief clerk of the association department and Brother Silverman continues as manager of the independent shops department. The Waistmakers' Union, however, has long since desired to find a good man who should organize the inner work of the union so as to create system and greater harmony and make all the parts of the union machinery fit into their proper places.

Until now the several departments pursued their tasks as they best knew how. Brother E. Lieberman, who became chief clerk of the association department some time ago, gave thorough satisfaction. He had many years' experience, natural ability and practical common sense — the right man in the right place. But he was compelled to resign for many private reasons. Local No. 25 regrets his departure.

In Brother Bisno the New York waist and dressmakers hope to find a leader who will undoubtedly solve many internal and external problems. We believe, they will not be disappointed.

As chief clerk of the Cloak and Skirtmakers' Union of Chicago Brother Bisno led that union in the proper paths with good results. The Chicago locals are firmly established and Brother Bisno can be relied upon to put his finger on weak spots in the inner administration of the biggest local of the International. In behalf of our readers we wish the Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 25, and Brother Bisno the best success.

M. E. R.

PHILADELPHIA LOCALS IN BEST SHAPE

The Cloak and Skirtmakers of Philadelphia, as well as our sister organization, the Waist and Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 15, are in the best shape. Our members are loyal and devoted to the union, harmony and the true spirit of unity exists among them.

The last spring season in the cloak trade of Philadelphia was not as good as in other cities. Before we had time to look around, it was over and hundreds of our members were compelled to look for employment in other trades.

At this moment it is quite slack in the cloak and skirt and waist and dress trades, and most of our people are idle.

WAIST AND DRESSMAKERS SECURED HIGHER WAGES

At the beginning of the spring season the waist and dressmakers presented demands to the manufacturers. One of these demands was for a general increase of wages. Brother Silver, the chief clerk of the union, tried to avert trouble in the trade and succeeded in securing a wage increase for all the workers in the trade.

The agreement in the waist and dress trade works very well. All shop disputes are straightened out by Brother Silver for the union and Mr. Stalne, manager of the association, to the satisfaction of both parties.

It might be mentioned by the way that the Honorable Thomas B. Smith, City Mayor of Philadelphia, is the chairman of the Board of Arbitration in the waist and dress industry of that city, while the members of the Board of Arbitration are Judge Patterson, Director of Public Safety Wilson, Mr. J. Hayney and H. Schlesinger, president of our International.

The Waist and Dressmakers' Union is undoubtedly, one of the best organized locals of our International. In the next issue we shall give a more detailed report of the different activities of this local.

ARBITRATION AGREEMENT EXPECTED IN CLOAK TRADE

During the last few weeks formal and informal conferences between the cloak manufacturers and the officers of our union have been held in reference to a new agreement in the cloak and skirt trade. The biggest manufacturers of Philadelphia have taken part in the conferences, and we expect that our committees will shortly reach an understanding with the manufacturers in regard to an arbitration agree-
ment, as both parties are tired of the frequent stoppages. Both see that it is much better for the industry and all concerned to have disputes adjusted without unnecessary loss of time and money.

BROTHER AMDUR RESIGNS, LEAVING PHILADELPHIA

We regret to announce that Brother Amdur, who had been the leader and manager of our Joint Board for the last ten years, sharing our joys and sorrows, decided to leave Philadelphia and has resigned from his office as manager of the Joint Board. We have accepted his resignation with much regret because we doubt whether we can find anyone who will understand Philadelphia cloakmakers so well and will manage our industry business as Brother Amdur has done.

On April 3 the Joint Board held a big farewell meeting in Arch Street Theatre and gave a banquet in his honor. Brother Amdur was greeted by our locals with handsome gifts as an expression of respect and friendship. General Secretary Baroff came specially from Philadelphia to attend the meeting and banquet.

IS. S. FEIT REPLACES BRO. AMDUR

Upon the recommendation of the International we have appointed Brother Israel S. Feit of Cleveland as manager in Brother Amdur's place. Brother Feit is one of the oldest members and past officers of our International. He conducted many big strikes for the organization. He was the leader of the Cleveland strike of 1911, and although that strike ended not as we had wished, still, it was one of the most important and heroic strikes in the history of our industry in America.

Brother Feit is vice-president of our International for a number of years. We are hopeful that he will not take him long to become familiar with our Philadelphia organization and that he will manage it with great success.

P. S. B.

NEWS FROM BOSTON

Brother Baroff, Secretary-Treasurer of the International, was present at a joint meeting of the Executive Board of Locals Nos. 12, 24, 58, and the Joint Board of Boston, held last month. He announced that Brother Snyder, who had been sent to take charge of the Boston locals at the time the committee of the International had reorganized the local executives and the local Joint Board, had sent in his resignation to the last quarterly meeting of the G. E. B. In view of the fact that Brother Snyder had resigned for private reasons, the Board had accepted the resignation with regret.

Secretary Baroff explained that the Board had immediately decided to send to Boston the best and ablest representative to take charge of their affairs and that Vice-President Amdur of Philadelphia had been chosen for the task.

The General Executive Board, said Brother Baroff, had also considered the question of restoring to the Boston locals their autonomy, taken from them by the last convention.

A long discussion ensued, and the meeting expressed its unanimous disapproval of Bro. Snyder's resignation. They feared that his leaving would have a depressing effect on the locals and his good work would be lost, and insisted that he must complete the work of building and crystallizing, without fail.

A committee from a meeting of shop chairmen informed the meeting that they were strongly opposed to Brother Snyder leaving the union at that moment, and had adopted a resolution to that effect.

It was decided to request Brother Baroff to use his influence with Brother Snyder and get him to change his decision. We are now glad to hear that Brother Baroff succeeded in his effort and that Brother Snyder has consented to remain manager of the Boston Joint Board until September 1, 1917.

Upon the question of having their local autonomy restored to them, the meeting manifested difference of opinion.

We thank the International for its good work in our behalf and for sending us Brother Snyder, who in the brief time of seven months has won the esteem and confidence of our members.

S. R. A.

WAISTMAKERS OF WORCESTER, MASS., LOCAL No. 43

The Waistmakers' Union, Local 43, of Worcester, Mass., is going through a crisis. This is due to the dullness in the trade. Because of this about fifty per cent. of the workers were compelled to look for em-
June, I hit

It seemed as if the active members were discouraged. But the Executive Board decided to do everything to keep the local alive during the dull season; a leaflet will be sent to every member explaining the situation, and a speaker will be invited to address their meetings.

It is to be hoped that the Executive Board together with all the intelligent members of the union will realize that it requires much more energy and devotion to keep up a union during the dull season than during the busy time, and they will get enough inspiration to carry through safely the work of their union during these trying days.

P. M. C.

Bridgewater, Conn., Local No. 33

The Corset Workers of Bridgewater, Local No. 33, hoped that before the summer arrived many other locals of corset workers in other cities would be organized, but we have not given up hope yet that before long some of our organizers will come into the field and relieve our minds.

I appreciate the fact that there are many organizers in other cities doing fine work, for which they deserve much credit, but the members of Local No. 33, Corset Workers' Union, feel that it is necessary to have the corset industry throughout the country enjoy the privileges we have gained through our organization. Many thought, when Local No. 33 started their fight, that they would not exist long, but, after nearly two years, we are stronger than ever. In the last three months we have increased our membership over 100 from one factory alone.

Our lodge numbers now over 3,400. We held a social affair in the last meeting night of each month and recently gave a banquet.

Our Hungarian branch, which numbers about one-half of our membership, held their annual dance on May 4th and it was greatly enjoyed by the members and their friends.

I hope that in the next issue we may be able to tell more of the happenings of our local and that before our second birthday arrives there will be other locals of corset workers.

With best wishes,

Mary Gould, Secretary.

News from Baltimore

Vice-President Pierce Not Guilty of Contempt of Court

In his report to the General Executive Board, published elsewhere in this issue, Vice-President John F. Pierce relates the story of the struggle of our union with the ladies' garment employers in Baltimore and how this struggle led up to the charge of contempt of court against him. Upon reading the report first, the reader will realize the meaning of the decision of the Circuit Court of Baltimore on the motion by the employers' attorney to adjudge Vice-President Pierce in contempt in the case of Kramer & Sauber vs. our International Union. The decision was rendered on April 26 and a few telling phrases therefrom follow herewith. The judge said:

I have heard the testimony, and in endeavoring to keep in my mind clearly that a man is presumed to be innocent until he is established by the evidence, beyond any reasonable doubt, to be guilty, I feel that he should be acquitted.

Bro. Pierce went on the stand at the order of the court and answered questions stressing the point that the injunction in this case restrained the union from "interfering, intimidating, threatening, using vile language and violence." These were unlawful acts which the representatives of the union are always trying their utmost to avoid. The decision proceeds:

I think that a union has the right, if it can draw the line and do it without creating intimidation, to persuade a man to leave the employment that he is in and take another employment. That, I understand, is the rule that exists between employers themselves. If they choose to offer more money than somebody is giving, that is an indirect way of taking another employer's men away from him. The only risk of stigma is any suspicion that the men who take the money are doing it under duress. That is where I draw the line, and naturally, if there is any violence, any disorder... and there is room for the proper inference that they countenance such acts, then I think that with the proper evidence they would have to shoulder that responsibility...

After hearing all the testimony I do not think that the person charged is guilty.

Promising Outlook in Cincinnati

There is every hope that Cincinnati will continue to have a strong cloakmakers' union. Of course, it depends if the active
members of the different locals will keep up their vigilance with the same vigor as when they started.

The Cincinnati Joint Board consists of the Cioek and Skirt Operators' Union, Cutters' Union, and Pressers' Union.

The Operators' Local No. 63 has among its members fifty per cent. women, and among them about 33 per cent. Gentiles, American born.

A LADIES' BRANCH WITH FULL AUTONOMY

From experience the women have learned that it is more practicable to have their business conducted apart from the men, not as a matter of disagreement, but because of the belief that the activity of the men makes the women inactive, because they have always relied too much on the men's activities, expecting that the men will do all the work.

For this reason the women members of the Cioekmachine's Union have now organized a separate Ladies' Branch with full autonomy, with an equal representation on the Joint Board and they have their own treasury.

A $5.00 ASSESSMENT FOR A DEFENCE FUND

The active members of the locals realize the necessity of having an emergency fund, and have started an agitation for an assessment of $5.00. Every local has decided to call special meetings for this purpose. If approved, the Joint Board will levy the assessment.

At the meeting of the Ladies' Branch the desire was expressed that this branch be the initiator of the fund.

It is not necessary to point out the importance of a defence fund. The workers are willing to undergo sufferings for the right to be organized; they are willing to undergo starvation, imprisonment and even to die for their right. But they are somehow negligent when it comes to the question of maintaining the union. No matter how good the workers are, they should go to the strain of taxing themselves with a few dollars for the establishment of a defence fund. If they really appreciate the value of the union as a protector of their rights then they must see that every suction of $5.00 put aside for an emergency, will assure the member and his family against weeks of suffering and distress in any movement for bettering conditions. The question deserves earnest thought and discussion.

THE NECESSITY OF ATTENDING MEETINGS

How to make the members attend meetings is another question discussed by the locals in Cincinnati.

A union is a democratic organization, and to make democracy a success we must have all the members participate in its management. By meeting and discussing with their fellow-workers the different questions that confront them, they develop a sense of fellowship among them. Therefore, it has been decided to make it a rule (with a penalty clause) that every member must attend a meeting, at least once a month.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING IN GOOD STANDING

A union button is issued by the Joint Board, and every member whose dues are paid up for a month gets such a button; the button has a different color every month. The button on the member's coat tells that he or she is in good standing. The importance of creating such a sentiment among members is fully realized. It should be considered a disgrace not to be a member in good standing.

ARRANGING FOR PLEASANT SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Then came the question how the union should entertain its members socially. It is realized that the union can be an instrument for arranging pleasant social intercourse managed by the members themselves, and not by outsiders. Why not entertain our members, as well as educate them? When we think of what a small community of about 1,000 inhabitants does for its citizens on the social, educational, charitable and sanitary fields, we can realize what the union might become, if the energy of every member were properly utilized. The union should answer all the needs of our members.

To begin with, the Ladies' Branch gave a dance (at which refreshments were served), on Saturday, May 12, at the Jewish Settlement. It was a good start, and let us hope that they will continue all these activities.

Our women members also decided to do something for the education of their mem-
The Joint Board is interested in establishing a sick benefit fund in all its locals. So far it exists in one local only—the Pressers' Union.

From present indications the Cloak and Skirtmakers' Union of Cincinnati is destined to become one of the best unions of our International.

FANNIA M. COHN.
International Vice-President.

CHICAGO CLOAKMAKERS NEGOTIATE RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT

The agreement between the Joint Board of the cloakmakers of Chicago and the two manufacturers' associations expires on July 1, 1917. It is based upon the awards granted by the Arbitration Board, headed by Judge Julian Mack, chairman. Samuel J. Klein and Wm. O. Thompson, members of the Board. The instrument, the first of its kind in the cloakmaking trade of Chicago, has worked to the satisfaction of both sides for the past two years, and the renewal of it is being negotiated for by the union, with such changes as the last two years' experience suggested and made necessary.

The agreement embodies a clause directing the parties to serve notice on each other on the 15th of May, 1917, of their intention to re-enter or discontinue it. Accordingly the union notified the two manufacturers' associations of their intentions to renew the agreement, and invited a conference to discuss proposed changes.

The association responded to the invitation of the union, and a conference between the parties took place on the 15th of May at the Grand Pacific Hotel. At the conference the union was represented by President Schlesinger of the International and Counsellor Sissman. Mr. Pflaum acted as the adviser for the association. The best of spirit prevailed at the meeting, which indicates that the outcome will be favorable. The conclusions reached will be placed before the memberships of both sides for approval, and all points in dispute will be submitted to the Arbitration Board for decision.

The union is arranging for a meeting of all members to be held on May 29. This meeting will be attended by President Schlesinger.

The Chicago cloakmakers at the present time can boast of a compact organization. Fully ninety-five per cent. of the workers engaged in the cloakmaking industry are under the control of the union, which understood how to inject a firm discipline into the ranks of its members. Devotion and loyalty, essential for a labor organization, prevail in the ranks. It is that which makes the union strong and well able to take care of itself.

The spirit that now pervades the organization is in no small measure due to the able leadership and magnetic personality of Abraham Bisno, who has been with the cloakmakers of Chicago for the past two years. Brother Bisno has recently left the Chicago cloakmakers to assume charge of the Ladies' Waistmakers Local 25, but he left, satisfied that those who remained behind will be fully capable of maintaining that high standard of unionism which he helped to raise among them.

The issue of the present negotiations with the employers is causing no uneasiness to anyone. Judging by the spirit manifested by the employers at the conference, there is every reason to believe that the agreement will be renewed without any need for a disturbance in the trade.

EMBROIDERY WORKERS' LOCAL 26

Recently the newspapers reported at length on the request of the miners for an increase in wages. 'As we all know, the agreement between the United Mine Workers of America and the coal operators had not expired, yet the miners requested a conference to consider the shrinking of the workers' pay envelope owing to the high cost of living. The United Mine Workers called for an increase of wages to take effect right now.

The arguments of the coal operators about the sanctity of agreements, and so forth, seemed powerless against the just contentions of the miners' representatives, and they granted the workers an increase amounting in the aggregate to some $36,000,000.

It was not really a question of violating the agreement, but rather a question of
The workers could not live on the wages they were receiving and the coal operators recognized that circumstances altered cases, and willingly or unwillingly granted the workers' request.

Our Local 66, Bonnaz Embroiderers' Union, feels it necessary to follow the example of the workers. 

Our agreement, containing the old scale of wages, expired on July 15. But the high prices of food compelled us to invite our employers to a conference and request an increase of wages. We explained that we have no desire to break the agreement. Since the last agreement was signed, the situation has changed so much as to require us to raise our wages. We have been affected so badly by the rising cost of living that a change in the scale of wages must be made to meet the new conditions, or else we will be perilously near losing control over our workers.

The last season was a very prosperous one for the embroidery manufacturers. There is also a scarcity of labor. These reasons, together with the famine prices of foodstuffs, moved the employers at the conference to grant an increase of about 20 percent, in order to avoid friction and trouble in the trade.

Now, however, is the slack time and the employers are trying advantage of this and cutting wages they raised some time ago. The workers are employed only for about two or three days in the week, so that 10 cents monthly in the present hard times. So far our union has successfully resisted all such attacks and our members are quite satisfied with the result.

There are a few "smart" employers who threaten that they will not renew the agreement with the union, pretending that we have not stuck to the letter of the old agreement. If we do not take them seriously.

Yet we have made all due preparations for a possible struggle. Our local has settled the opposition proposals of $3 and $5. respectively, for every member. We have in our small local a membership of 600, and our local treasury nearly $4,500.

OSSIP WOLINSKY, Manager

THE THINKER

By Berton Braley

Back of the beating hammer By which the steel is wrought,
Back of the workshop's clamor
The seeker may find the Thought
The Thought that is ever master
Of iron and steam and steel.
That rises above disaster
And tramples it under heel! -

The drudge may fret and tinker,
Or labor with lusty blows,
But back of him stands the Thinker.
The clear-eyed man who knows;
For into each plow or sabre,
Each piece and part and whole,
Must go the Brains if Labor
Which gives the work a soul!

Back of the motor's humming,
Back of the belts that sing,
Back of the hammer's drumming,
Back of the cranes that swing,
There is the eye which scans them,
Watching through stress and strain
There is the Mind which plans them,
Back of the brawn, the Brain!

Might of the roaring boiler,
Force of the engine's thrust,
Strength of the sweating toiler,
Greatly in these we trust.
But back of them stands the Schemer,
The Thinker who drives things through,
Back of the Job—the Dreamer.
Who's making the dream come true?
—From the "Sphinx Talks"

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Directory of Local Unions

40. New Haven Corset Workers ........................................ 12 Parremele Ave., New Haven, Conn.
41. New York Wrapping and Kimono Makers .................. 22 W. 14th St., New York City
42. Cleveland Cloak and Suit Cutters' Union .......... 314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
44. Chicago, III., Cloakmakers .................................. 1815 W. Division St., Chicago, Ill.
45. Symmes, N. Y., Dressmakers .................. 913 Almond St., Syracuse, N. Y.
46. Pettigrew Workers' Union .................................. 322 W. 17th St., New York City
47. Denver, Colo., Ladies' Tailors .................. 244 Champa St., Denver, Colo.
48. Italian Cloak, Suit and Skirt Makers' Union ....... 231 E. 14th St., New York City
50. New York Children's Dressmakers ................ 22 W. 14th St., New York City
51. Montreal, Canada, Custom Ladies' Tailors .......... 387 City Hall Ave., Montreal, Canada
52. Los Angeles Ladies' Garment Workers ...... 218 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.
54. Chicago Raincoat Makers .................................. 409 S. Halsted St., Chicago, Ill.
55. Springfield Corset Workers .................. 643½ Main St., Springfield, Mass.
56. Boston Cloakmakers ........................................ 241 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.
57. Cleveland Waist and Dressmakers .......... 314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
58. New York White Goods Workers .......... 218 S. Broadway, New York City
59. Cincinnati Cloakmakers ...................................... 53rd St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
60. New York Buttonhole Makers .................. 57 W. 21st St., New York City
61. New York Bonnanz Embroiderers .................. 103 E. 11th St., New York City
62. Toledo Cloakmakers ........................................ 120 W. Bannister St., Toledo, Ohio
63. Hartford Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ...... 39 Cannon St., Hartford, Conn.
65. Toronto Skirt and Dressmakers ............ 194 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Canada
66. Chicago Ladies' Tailors .................................. 2726 Crystal St., Chicago, Ill.
68. Boston Amalgamated Cutters ............. 8 Levering St., Boston, Mass.
69. Vineland Cloakmakers' Union ............. 11 Miller St., Vineland Avenue
72. Waterbury Ladies' Garment Workers .... 54 Burton St., Waterbury, Conn.
73. St. Louis Cloak Operators .................. Fraternal Bldg., 11th and Franklin Aves.
74. Ladies' Tailors, Alteration and Special Order Union .... 725 Lexington Ave., N. Y. City
75. Chicago Cloak and Suit Cutters .......... 251 Augusta Ave., Chicago, Ill.
76. X. Y. Cloak Examiners, Spinners and Bushelers Union .......... 79 Cannon St., New York City
77. Toronto, Canada, Cutters ................ 251 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada
78. Cincinnati Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union ...... 217 Worthington St., Toledo, Ohio
79. Cincinnati Skirtmakers' Union .......... 34th St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
80. St. John Ladies' Garment Workers' Union .......... 34th St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
81. Custom Dressmakers' Union .... Forward Bldg., 175 E. B'way, N. Y. City
82. Toronto, Canada, Cloak Pressers .......... 251 Augusta Ave., Toronto, Canada
83. Cincinnati Skirt Pressers' Union .......... 53rd St. and Central Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio
85. Baltimore Ladies' Tailors ............ 1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
86. Montreal, Canada, Raincoat Makers .... 244 S. Halsted St., Chicago, Ill.
88. Ladies' Neckwear Cutters .......... 56 E. 17th St., New York City
89. Baltimore Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union .... 1023 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md.
90. Cleveland Raincoat Makers .......... 314 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
91. Montreal, Canada, Ladies' Waist Makers .... 147 Colonial Ave., Montreal, Canada
92. Newark Waist and White Goods Workers .... 118 Market St., Newark, N. J.
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