The Ladies' Garment Worker, Volume 9, Issue 7

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International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union
31 Union Square, New York

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**Do Not Buy Any Shoe**

Named shoes are frequently made in Non-Union factories. Do not accept any excuse for absence of the UNION STAMP. All shoes without the UNION STAMP are always Non-Union.
AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT INTERESTED
IN OUR EDUCATIONAL PLANS

At our recent convention in Boston our International Union took the second step in the question of education for our members. It is safe to say that our educational work will grow more practical and better adapted to our conditions as time goes on, while the instruction itself is destined to become more of the quality and character our members need to render them well-informed, convinced union men and conscious workers.

At the convention of the American Federation of Labor in St. Paul the question of education likewise received due attention. The need of proper education and enlightenment is felt in all trade unions and in the entire labor movement. As the Federation embraces in its view all the workers of the country the question of education was discussed by its convention from a very broad standpoint. The recommendations of the Executive Council cover the general matter of education, its state and federal aspects, the question of control, projected legislative proposals, vocational training, teachers' pensions and education of adult illiterates. But the Committee on Education amplified the recommendations of the Executive Council by adding also the following points:

1. The development of vocational guidance and industrial education in both urban and rural communities, in proper relation to each other and to the needs of our democracy.

2. The provision of increased facilities in public normal schools for men and women in the trades, who desire to prepare themselves for teaching industrial and vocational subjects; and the expansion of both state and federal educational facilities, so that we will be increasingly dependent on private endowments in the educational field. In this connection we call your attention to the movement in one state to introduce into the state university in co-operation with the State Federation of Labor a course designed to prepare young men and women of labor for intelligent and effective leadership in the labor movement.

3. The insistence that in all courses of study, and particularly in industrial and vocational courses, the privileges and obligations of intelligent citizenship must be taught vigorously and effectively, and that at least in all vocational and industrial courses an unemasculated industrial history must be taught, which shall include an accurate account of the organization of the workers and of the results thereof, and shall also include a summary of all legislation, both state and federal, affecting the industries taught.

4. The provision of adequate facilities for the teaching of English to non-English speaking people, and the utilization for this purpose of the foreign language press.
11. The establishment of a federal department of education headed by a Cabinet officer.

After Mollie Federman of our Local No. 25 had utilized the opportunity to call attention to the educational system of our International Union, a motion was carried that the Executive Council appoint a committee to study our educational methods among others, and report to the next convention some plan that can be applied to the unions in the United States and Canada.

Our members in general and the delegates of our union to the convention in St. Paul in particular may congratulate themselves upon this fact.

The recognition that our union was one of the very few, if not the first in the field, to care for the mental development of our members; the fact that we spare no effort and money to provide educational facilities for our membership, is enough to make us proud and enthusiastic for further useful educational efforts.

Our union is admittedly an exception in the trade union movement in caring systematically for the sanitary and safety arrangements in the shops of our two largest organized industries (the cloak and suit and waist and dress) of New York, as well as for the health of the workers, through the Joint Board of Sanitary Control. Now, our recent convention in Boston affords us an opportunity to place our educational system on a better foundation than it was in the first year of its existence.

In this respect so we hope soon to be an exception in that, although we support every movement for city and state provision of needed popular education, we have decided not to wait for the passage of the requisite legislation to give effect to it, but are ready to spend large sums of money for the education and enlightenment of our members.

At our Boston convention the Committee on Education brought in a clear-cut recommendation as to what this education should consist of, because the previous convention at Philadelphia had launched a program too comprehensive for a beginning. In Philadelphia our people had no previous experience to guide them in the choice of the kind of education calculated to reach the largest number of members and prepare them for the higher courses of art, science, literature and general knowledge. The convention in Boston, however, makes it possible for us to eliminate the errors and short-comings of the original plan. What is now required is that the work soon to be recommended shall be in the hands of practical, experienced workers, and we feel sure that when the committee of the American Federation of Labor comes to study our educational system they will find therein much that may be copied with advantage by other unions and the labor movement at large.

* * *

The resolution adopted by our recent convention defines in a few brief points the nature of our future educational work; although reading between the lines one might see much scope and many possibilities for broad educational plans. The recommendations of the Committee on Education, which met with unanimous approval, were as follows:

1st—The educational work be continued.
2nd—That the convention appropriate the sum of $10,000 yearly to conduct this work.

3rd—The $10,000 to be covered by an assessment of ten cents levied upon each and every member yearly.

The educational department to be conducted by a committee of five appointed by the president of the International. This committee is to be under the supervision and control of the G. E. B.

The educational work shall consist of:

1st—Popular education through lectures which shall be both instructive and interesting to our members. Special attention to be given to lectures on trade Unionism.

2nd—Group education shall consist of the study of the English language, public speaking, and all subjects pertaining to trade-unionism and the labor movement.

The committee further recommends that the incoming Educational Committee shall spread such literature which in their discretion, will serve the purpose of education for our members free of charge or at nominal cost as the committee will deem it advisable under the circumstances.

We also recommend to the incoming Educational Committee to organize local educational committees, especially outside of New York with whom they will communicate and with whom they will arrange educational activities in the different localities and cities.

In addition to these recommendations the following resolution brought in by the delegates from seven locals was also adopted:

Whereas, The problems of our industry are growing more and more complicated, and

Whereas, We are confronted with a dearth of organizers and business agents, properly equipped for the task, and

Whereas, The growth of our membership and our organization demands for its management officers trained in the best methods of business administration, and

Whereas, The activities of our Union will never expand and our movement will never progress unless it develops leadership within its own ranks, be it therefore

Resolved, That this Convention instructs the incoming General Executive Board to assist those of our members who are qualified for leadership, to acquire the necessary training and preparation for the task to which they are determined to devote their lives.

Thus our convention practically adopted in a somewhat altered form the recommendations of the Educational Committee of the last term, but the convention emphasized certain points which the future Educational Committee must always bear in mind. The report of the Committee on Education clearly specifies.

Lectures which shall be instructive and interesting to our members, especially lectures on trade unionism; the study of the English language, public speaking and other subjects pertaining to trade unionism and the labor movement, and to assist in training and bringing out officers and business agents.

True, trade unionism and the labor movement are deeply rooted in history, politics, industrial art and science. But in modern times it is deemed the most practical thing to specialize. Even men of learning and science cannot be proficient in everything. Their very fulness of knowledge and wisdom often renders them impractical in business affairs.

How many people realize, for instance, that when an ordinary working man desires to master the English language, if he is not endowed by nature with special ability, he must devote all his leisure time to attain his object.
Commercial Ethics and Labor Ideals
Address of Congressman Meyer London at our Recent Convention in Boston

Mr. Chairman and delegates: One of the things that I have not yet learned, in spite of nearly four years of service in one of the most important parliaments of the world—I have not learned to write out or to prepare a speech; for in these critical days it is essential that a public man, or one whose words are supposed to amount to something, should learn not only to think what he is going to say, but to actually dress his thoughts in proper form.

I have not learnt this, and it is quite a disadvantage at the proper time I will say the proper word. Sometimes I succeed.

The principal reason why I don't prepare a speech, and why I don't write it out, is that I trust myself; not that I trust my wisdom; not that I believe that I am omniscient—I trust that whatever I will say, on the floor of Congress of comrades in the strict, or before a convention, I shall speak, not with the idea of getting applause of the moment; but what is in the deepest corners of my heart all the time!

We Have Stood the Test Well. I trust myself to the moment, not because we are the best, not because we are the noblest, not because there are no greater movements somewhere else, but because we are the best that we can be under the circumstances that have surrounded us in the United States of America. We have done well. This was to us supposed to be the country of dominant commercialism, the country where the dollar was supposed to rule supreme. Many of us were cast into the ghetto, where only the dark side of America was seen—the gloomy side. In New York, in Chicago, in other large cities, we only saw the unclean part of American life: the petty, the small, the sordid, the uninteresting, the repulsive, which were the things that surrounded us. And the men who presumed to be the leaders of our life were the commercial men, the men who pointed to the successful manufacturer and said: "This is your ideal." We had to take the soul and

Let us not forget that the great mass of our workers do no possess so much energy to do both—work in the factory and engage in study. Only a small number of people are gifted with extraordinary mental qualities and will-power. It is for this reason that we strive to have week work and shorter hours of labor.

Our aim is to reach the masses and instill into their minds those particular convictions necessary to render them true union men and women, enlightened workers, good citizens, and to teach them personal hygiene and clean, sane habits of life in the factory as well as at home. If here and there we find exceptional natures—young workers who excel in energy and ability, capable of being developed into future officers, organizers and business agents, then, by all means, let us have special classes for them and help them as far as possible.

We feel that the fourteenth convention has given a practical turn to our educational work, and there is no doubt that when the committee of the American Federation of Labor comes to study our educational system they will find it in a condition which will enhance the honor and prestige of our International Union.
the psychology of the Socialist, the idealist, and apply them to the conditions as they confronted us. We had to try to modify conditions and not to lose ourselves, not to lose our soul, not to lose the man within us under the oppressive conditions we met.

And we have stood the test well. Here and there, now and then, we have repelled a good man. Here and there, now and then, we have lost a man. But in the main we have gone forward.

I have at every convention of Labor expressed the thought that the only power that can rebuild the world is the organized labor movement. I was elected to Congress primarily through the fact that in the ranks of the cloak-makers there were thousands of comrades, with whom my heart and soul was tied up, and who knew me and knew my work; and it is they primarily who elected me to Congress.

Don't you make any mistake about it. I want to give notice to any ambitious man in the Socialist movement, that the only way to be able to render service in the parliamentary field, is for a man to come into the trenches and work with and for the men and women who toil in the factories.

The Ethics of the Commercial World

If we only had that kind of men and women in Russia, if we had a few less of those—who know all about books and how to rebuild society and how to change it in twenty-four hours from the most abominable form of autocracy into a co-operative commonwealth! Of course, it is nobody's fault there, because they had no labor movement worth while. It was small, insignificant, and industrial progress amounted to nothing.

Why have I such confidence in the labor movement? Why do I put so much trust in it? I will tell you why. Let us reason it out coolly. What is the psychology of the business world? What virtues are necessary to succeed in commerce and what is necessary to succeed in the labor movement? Who succeeds in the business world? Is it the man who gives a care to the sorrows of others, or the man who is out for himself all the time? In the business world the man separates mankind into two parts—himself and the rest of the world. He is always ready to say: "No matter what happens to the rest of mankind, so long as I grow, I succeed." These are the ethics of the commercial world. These are the ethics of business.

And they find it out today, in war times, that these are the ethics of their commercial system. They find today in the city of Washington, right where the original reservoir of patriotism is supposed to furnish inspiration to the rest of the people. There, under the shadow of the capitol and within a few steps of the White House, our landlords are putting out a flag twice the size they ever had before, but are raising the rent six times the size it was before. Such is the commercial soul.

The world is on fire. The country is at war. All its man-power is to be called upon. For the first time in the history of this republic our men are going abroad to fight at the supreme crisis in the history of mankind. But the commercial man, the business man, knows only himself. And even if his own boy is at the front, he says: "Well, my boy is at the front anyway, and if I can make a little extra cash, why shouldn't I?" That is his philosophy. That is his theory.

Hundreds of years ago a law was passed in England known as the Statute of Frauds. That was supposed to be a law to protect men from fraud. But fraud has continued. For years they have been changing it, modifying it, improving it, so as to prevent violation. And every State of the Union has been changing that law to prevent fraud. And the Congress of the United States has been recently legislating on matters dealing with false weights and false measures, the very same things against which the Hebrew prophets spoke: "Thou shalt not do unrighteousness in judgment, in measure or weight."

Why can't they stop fraud? Because the very foundation of their lives is wrong. Because selfishness, at the ex-
pense of the rest, is the ideal of their lives. How can a world based upon that principle live? sooner or later it is bound to collapse, and the clash of the hatreds, the conflicts, the enmities and jealousies, is bound to bring them to destruction.

**Labor Ideals Aligned with Business Different.**

How different with ours and with our movement! How can a worker live and thrive unless his life and his dreams are tied together with the lives and the dreams of others? Where commercialism says, "Fight for yourself!" — Labor says, "Fight for all!" Where commercialism says, "Disregard the world!" — Labor says, "Stand for the world!" Where commercialism says, "Stand alone against mankind!" — Labor says, "May I perish, that mankind may live in a better world!" (Tremendous applause).

Disunion there, unity here; competition there, co-operation here. Hostility between man and man here, solidarity between man and man here. These are the plain truths of the labor movement.

A group of businessmen are bound to have secrets from one another. They will form an association, but there are certain things that they cannot afford their leaders should know. There are certain things that one has got to keep secret from the other, because he has his eye on some customer of his. He has his eye on a market for his. Perhaps the other fellow intends to take away from him a skilled employee. There is always something to hide.

What is there to hide in the labor movement? What is there that an honest laboring man cannot tell to the rest of the world? What is there that he has to conceal? Everything is in the open. Everything can be proclaimed from the housetops! And that is why there is no greater inspiration to a man than to be a part of the labor movement, and if there is any delegate or any man here who still dreams of becoming an employer, I want to tell him that his soul will find no satisfaction there, because the schooling that one goes through in the labor movement will never give him rest in the business world.

Some men who went away from us, or thought they were pushed away, could find no rest anywhere else. The truth is that a man worth while will never go away. If you cannot get a chance to work on top, work in a lower position in the labor movement. There is no such thing as an ignominious place in our movement, because we are all working for one common purpose.

**Labor Movement Must Be on the Lookout.**

Comrades, you have heard so many speeches at this convention that I really feel that it is an imposition to talk to you, except for a few plain things that I want you to remember. Don't you get yourselves to believe that everything is going to be smooth, and that the war will bring Socialism by itself, and that governments are adopting Socialism. This is an idea proclaimed so often from the Socialist platform, that people will soon begin to believe it. But nothing of the kind! The labor movement has to be on the lookout just for this very thing. The war has created a lot of new slogans, and one of these, told by some people, is that it is going to bring Socialism. When Schwab, of the steel trust, said that Socialism was coming, a reporter asked me, what I thought of it? I told him, "When the financial princes begin to talk about the coming of Socialism, I begin to look around to see if anything lies loose that they have not grabbed yet." (Laughter).

Be careful when they talk about the coming of Socialism, because so far as they are concerned, they will be doing everything in the world to prevent it. Just now they are trying to kill freedom of discussion; getting people used to being hypocrites, not to talk, not to express an opinion which is unpopular. The first method of destroying liberty is to prevent freedom of discussion. It is an elementary thing, and because it is so simple, people don't realize the importance of it.

The suppression of freedom of thought, freedom of speech and freedom of the press, which is today ad-
vocated as a temporary measure because of the necessities of the war. would be resorted to by the ruling interests to keep down everybody and everything, in order that labor may know its place, and that it may not ask too much.

There was a proposition in Congress to spend fifty million dollars for the building of homes for the working people in war industries. The Secretary of Labor was to take charge of it. As a Socialist member I tried at every opportunity to offer amendments that wherever possible these homes should be permanent. What was the thing that Congress did? The very contrary. They were so afraid that this idea of building homes for the working people might be undertaken as a permanent duty of the government, that they specially provided that these buildings shall be temporary in character; and they furthermore provided that at the conclusion of the war, the only power the Secretary of Labor shall be to sell them and dispose of them. What does that show? A trend toward Socialism, or to keep away from it?

The railroads were taken over by the government as a governmental necessity in war time. I offered an amendment that the railroads should not be returned to the private companies in less than 99 years. There were four votes for the proposition including mine. Does that show a desire to keep the railroads, with its billions of dollars of capital, by the government, or does it show a desire to give it back?

In other words, you must not fall asleep on your rights. Don't imagine that Socialism is coming of itself. Carlyle has said: “Reforms are made in time; but they are not made by time.” They are made by men, by strong men.—And there never was a time when we needed so much strength and so much courage, as we need now. Let every man who is useful be at his post. We are not going to do or attempt to do the impossible. But we shall utilize every opportunity to strengthen our position as a part of the labor movement of the world.

**Profiteers Shall Not Teach Us Patriotism**

We are at war, and we realize the significance of it. No profiteer shall come to us and teach us patriotism. No profiteer who picks the pockets of the poor and who puts up a big flag in order to conceal his rascality shall be our teacher. We have learned to love, the fundamental principles of democracy and republicanism in the school of suffering, in the school of martyrdom, in the school of the labor movement. We know our duty to the republic, and we know our duty towards the labor movement of the world.

Comrades, do not permit yourselves to be carried away by any false hopes that improvements and changes in the world are going to come of themselves. And don't forget another thing: All the dark forces, all the reactionary elements, everybody who has a message of despair for the masses, will be at the front. They will try to drown our voices. They will try to crush us. They will try to destroy us in the name of the very noblest ideals. Let us offer resistance.

Not only shall our ideal be to prevent anybody from taking away things from us, but our ideal and our slogan shall be, onward all the time!

Comrades, your convention is coming to a close. You will hear me again and again. My only wonder is how these men and women are not tired of hearing my speeches; I have delivered so many of them. But tell me, when did a man or a woman get tired of hearing words of love? You don't get tired of that.

I don't come to you with any new philosophies, with new schemes and new great ideas stolen from big books. I just come as I am, with all my faults, and with all my shortcomings, and I take you as you are, with all your faults, and with all your shortcomings.

Brothers in arms, with the light of love on our faces, the inspiration of an ideal in our hearts, a part of an army of emancipation leading the world onward, united in our enthusiasm and courage.—We defy! we defy all the powers of darkness!

(Vigorous applause.)
Light and Shade at the St. Paul Convention

By A. ROSEBURY

The thirty-eighth convention of the American Federation of Labor held in St. Paul, Minn., was not characterized by any distinguishing features. In the seven months that elapsed since the Buffalo convention no issues have been created, except one or two jurisdiction matters. But the debates at these annual conventions are always lively and interesting whatever the subject under discussion.

Last November, when the convention month was suddenly changed to June, many people thought that the Federation contemplated a change of policy in the direction of becoming a labor political power in the land. In these seven months organized labor in England acquired world prominence. That strengthened the opinion of those who would like to see the American Labor movement come a step nearer to Socialism. But everything remained as of old.

At previous conventions we at least had been privileged to hear inspiring addresses by fraternal delegates from other countries. In this convention month organizer labor in Great Britain had particularly distinguished themselves. At the recent convention we were deprived even of this privilege. The British delegates did not arrive. One of the chosen delegates was Miss Bathfield, an active Labor woman, broad minded and large hearted, who would especially enthuse the women in our labor movement. Why they were prevented from attending the convention is beyond understanding.

The Duffy Incident.

The delegates of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union contributed not a little to the lively interest of the convention. The incident which actuated Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters to show off as a hot patriot and thus give the impression that President Scheslinger of our International Union was not patriotic, placed Secretary Duffy in no good light.

A report of this incident appeared in the press; but I deem it necessary to give the readers a brief review of this occurrence as it strikes my thought.

On the second day of the convention the Labor Mission recently sent by the Federation to England and France to study the labor situation there and express the good will of American Labor reported at length on things seen and learned. The report in itself is very important, because it conveys first hand information. But in opinions it is not wholly impartial and not perfectly clear. Referring to labor organizations in England and France the report stresses the point that an International Federation of trade unions could deal with many urgent matters, and that it is necessary that such a Federation should be re-established.

It will be remembered that before the war there had existed an International Federation or Secretariat of trade unions, with headquarters in Berlin and that the well-known Carl Legien was its secretary. Our International Union had been directly affiliated with that Federation and paid dues for 1913. Owing to the war the Federation succumbed to its fate.

The report of the Labor Mission complains that "there exists an unfortunate dearth of official records of the several national trade union movements and owing to this it has been possible for politicians and the partisan and general press to spread much misinformation among the workers relative to the attitude of trade union leaders and official policies." The report states that "in Great Britain and upon the European Continent there exist today among the workers more or less joint industrial and political movements, the French workers having the joint committee of the Confederation General du Travail and the Socialist party, while the British workers in their Labor party include Socialist groups such as the Independent Labor Party, National Socialist Party, British Socialist Party and the Fabian Society. While these Socialist
groups work with the trade unions politically they maintain their separate affiliation with the International Socialist organization." The report concludes this point in the following words:

Our European trade union brothers are the best judges of what their political activities should be and what affiliations, political or otherwise, which this should include, but the existing condition tends nevertheless to emphasize the urgent necessity for a purely international trade union federation at which the industrial problems can be given ample consideration, apart from political movements or ideas. It is unsafe and unsound to passively contemplate the influences exerted upon the trade union movement in the great industrial nations of the world by political leaders, however sincere they may be, whose viewpoint and experiences are those of the theorist and politician. The policies and programs of the workers must be formulated by the workers themselves, acting through their industrial organizations, if their best interests are to be conserved.

The report is to some extent not quite clear, and it is easy to think that the words "theorist and politician" refer to the Socialists, President Schlesinger requested that these words be deleted from the report. Being under this impression, four delegates from our International Union had a perfect right to vote against the adoption of the report, because it might have implied that they were in accord with the remark reflecting upon Socialist leaders of European unions.

How this action of our delegates could have been construed as not being in harmony with the "fundamental principles of the American Federation of Labor," as occurred to Dobson of the Bricklayers, or that the objection to the words "theorist and politician" had any connection with patriotism, as appeared to Secretary Duffy, is indeed inexplicable. It is one of those psychological freaks, showing that in war time nerves are unstrung, and that some people of the type of Messers. Dobson and Duffy cannot see the common sense of a thing.

Both Dobson and Duffy met with a well-deserved rebuke from President Schlesinger; for Dobson's remark was inept and irrelevant to the issue when he asked: "whether or not the record of the organization whose delegates cast the negative vote was in harmony with the fundamental principles of the American Federation of Labor." While Duffy bordered on the ridiculous when he launched into a personal narrative, intolerantly declaring that he would not serve on the Committee on Organization with President Schlesinger. His entire speech had no relation to the subject under discussion.

However, the incident was one of those human irruptions tending to make a serious gathering lively and interesting.

The Resolutions as to Chicago and Cleveland.

Some people who look at every such incident through racial spectacles hastened to draw a conclusion of an "anti-semitic demonstration" against our and other Jewish delegates to the convention. The conclusion was quite unwarranted.

That Dobson's clumsy irruption had no effect, can be seen from the fact that the resolutions by our delegates relating to Chicago and Cleveland were unanimously concurred in. The support thus promised us by the convention of the A. F. of L. is a significant hint to the manufacturers of Cleveland and Chicago to settle with our union amicably rather than play with fire. The two resolutions are as follows:

**Relating to Chicago**

Resolution No. 4—By Delegates Benjamin Schlesinger, J. Heller, I. Feinberg, Max Gorenstein, Mollie Friedman, and Alfred LaPorta, of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union:

"WHEREAS, The ten weeks strike of the three thousand, men and women, conducted in 1917, by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in the skirt, waist, dress and kimono industry of the City of Chicago, was lost because of the present status of the law in the State of Illinois which enables employers to use Courts of Chancery as a weapon to prohibit organized labor from exercising its constitutional right to peacefully picket; and were it not for the injunctions that were issued to the strikers in this struggle, it would have resulted in a glorious victory for the Union, and would have established standards of wages and conditions of employment which would be an approxi-
mate approach to conditions in other organized industries; and

"WHEREAS, The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, at its convention held in Boston, Massachusetts, during May, 1918, adopted a resolution to again begin an energetic campaign in the City of Chicago for raising standards of wages and conditions of labor; be it

"RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled pledges its support to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in every effort it may make for accomplishing the purposes aforesaid, be they same, through amicable negotiations with employers, mediation by public-spirited men, or, as a last resort, by means of a strike, if the desired results can not be accomplished by any other method."

Your committee recommends that the Executive Council give its support and encouragement to the Lady Garment Workers of Chicago in organizing the trade of that city, and that an organizer be utilized to assist in that work.

The recommendation of the committee was concurred in.

Relating to Cleveland.

Resolution No. 8—By Delegates Benjamin Schlesinger, J. Halper, I. Feinberg, Max Gorenstein, Mollie Friedman, and Alfred LaPorta, of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

"WHEREAS, The low wages and inferior standards of work prevailing in the dress industry in the City of Cleveland, Ohio, is a constant menace to the organized workers of these trades all over the country; and

"WHEREAS, The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union at its Convention in Boston, Mass., during May, 1918, adopted a resolution to begin an energetic campaign in the City of Cleveland for raising the standards of wages and for improving the conditions of labor; be it

"RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled pledges its support to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in its negotiations with the employers of the City of Cleveland for a peaceful solution of the grievances of the workers, and likewise in case a strike is found necessary for the enforcement of the just demands of the workers in these trades in the City of Cleveland."

Your committee recommends same action to be taken as in the request of the Ladies' Garment Workers of Chicago.

Mollie Friedman's Apt Speech.

A second example of the prominence given our International Union in the St. Paul convention was the motion that the Executive Council appoint a committee to study the educational system of our International and similar systems and report to the next convention some plan that can be applied to laboring men and women generally in the United States and Canada.

The motion was made by Joseph D. Cannon of the Mill and Smelter Workers, after the convention had been touched by an apt speech of our delegate Mollie Friedman, an active member of Local No. 25. Mollie told the delegates of our educational activity in New York and concluded with these words, which made a powerful effect:

When you settle your jurisdiction questions don't come together like labor leaders but like workers. When everyone is intelligent and educated I feel the American Federation of Labor will be the greatest organization in the world, the best object in life the trade unionist ought to have.

Shade.

In other matters of interest to the members of our International Union a cloud passed and a shade fell. In the question of forming a Garment Trades Department, which our Boston convention instructed our delegates to urge on the convention in St. Paul the committee recommended the approval of the report of the Executive Council on the subject, and our delegates naturally found themselves in a minority. The report of the Executive Council reads:

Your Executive Council was directed to make an investigation as to the necessity or advisability for the formation of a Needle Trades Department.

An expression of opinion was requested from the executive officers of all affiliated national and international unions. Less than half replied. Of these, but eleven were
favorable, and of these eleven, but one was a needle trades organization.

It is therefore our best judgment that the organization of a Needle Trades Department is inexpedient and impractical at the present and certainly not desired by the workers in the trades.

The Program of the British Workers.

In this connection the convention disappointed many progressive spirits and friends of the Labor movement. It had been hoped that the revolution in Russia and the quickening hope animating the organized workers of Great Britain had similarly impressed the organized workers of America. Many people had sincerely believed that at the St. Paul convention American Labor would look on the future with a broader view and more or less come nearer to the Socialist ideal in similar manner as the British workers had done through the program of the British Labor party. They, however, who were familiar with the attitude of President Gompers on this question, knew that the convention would not thus commit itself. In the June issue of the Ladies' Garment Worker I quoted an editorial by President Gompers in the American Federationist, in which he belittled the program of the British Labor Party—the utterance that Morris Hillquit in his address at our Boston convention characterized as the “first definite charter” given to the world by the labor movement of England. Our delegates had been instructed by our convention to call for indorsement of this program by the American Federation of Labor, but the St. Paul convention did not take their view. One might have known the fate of our resolution on this subject, immediately on the second day, from the tone of the report of the Labor Mission and its reference to the British and French Labor movements.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE GAINS.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association reports that approximately 40,000,000 women have been enfranchised since the war began. Nine States and nations have extended suffrage to their women since 1915.

Leaving out of consideration Russia’s 25,000,000 women, first in importance comes the British suffrage victory which enfranchised 6,000,000 women; New York follows with practically 3,000,000 new citizens. Other great suffrage gains within the last three years have been: British Columbia, 61,727 women; Manitoba, 103,169; Alberta, 75,084; Saskatchewan, 96,751; Ontario, 718,543 Denmark, 803,986.

Within the last year partial suffrage ranging from presidential to municipal, has been granted to the women of the following States: Texas, 999,156; Michigan, 785,033; Arkansas, 351,994; Nebraska, 298,040; Rhode Island, 166,391; Vermont, 106,883; and North Dakota, 122,406.

SOCIALIST PARTY RENOMINATES MEYER LONDON IN THE TWELFTH DISTRICT.

By 509 votes against 19 Meyer London was last month again nominated for Congress in the Twelfth district.

The nomination did not run smoothly. London was summoned to a meeting to defend himself for his attitude to the war and to the Socialist party in general. He delivered a lengthy address, which was frequently interrupted by his opponent, but he answered all questions in his logical manner. One statement is worth reproducing in this column. He said:

We are citizens of a republic. I was sworn to protect the constitution of the United States. We may like it or not like it. If I could sit down and amend it I would do it from end to end—but as a Socialist I believe in standing by the law. That is the difference between Socialism and Anarchism. We stand by the law as we find it, until we can change the law.

Now, Congress has the power to declare war. I worked against war. I was in a minority. Now, there may be men still with the idiotic idea that the workingmen has no country. I want to say this is my home, this is my country, and I will fight for it and, if need be, die for it.

Dr. Scott Nearing is one of the candidates nominated for Congress in the Fourteenth Congressional district, and Chas. Ervin, editor of the New York Call was nominated as candidate for Governor of New York State.

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A Mass of Literature at Our Recent Convention

By a CORRESPONDENT

Local Reports, Controversial Statements and an Anniversary Number

A special feature of the fourteenth convention in Boston was the mass of literature prepared for the delegates. A population of 100,000 is bound to pass through a varied experience in the course of nineteen months. The union population of our International, scattered over the North American continent and beyond, coming in bodily touch with one another, naturally passed through many stirring experiences. At this convention the locals that presented printed reports have, mostly, pleasant and cheering information to impart.

Upon my memory are the proceedings and debates of all our conventions since 1910. But all the reports, together, from 1910 to 1916, had not seen such a mass of trade and local literature as was to be found at the recent Boston convention.

For the future historian of our unions much of this literature probably will be lost or forgotten; for some of our local organizations have not yet learned to appreciate the value of preserving printed or written official documents. Some of the pioneer labor organizations among the Jewish people regretably left no printed or written official records behind them; and if their activity was not correctly reported in the contemporary press they still have no place in the history of the movement.

This special local literature is important, first because of its historical information, secondly because of its historical importance for the locals concerned. It feels good to go over past records and contemplate with joy the pain and suffering from which one has emerged to a measure of prosperity.

And they who can read between the lines, and are interested in psychology, can glean much from these reports concerning the complex organized life of our workers. Thanks to free, tolerant America, our Jewish and Italian workers today can compare with the organized workers of any country. And the locals of our International Union have reason to be proud of the fact that their central body has been the torch-bearer and guide for labor organization among the immigrants to these shores.

Let us now glance at this special trade literature strewn over the tables of the convention hall.

THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

The report of the General Executive Board is especially interesting. Brief and to the point, its facts, phrases and general tone seemed to have been carefully weighed and measured. Sermonizing, redundant philosophy, argumentation, contention or vain glory—all these are conspicuous by their absence. Only the facts are related without poetic flight of fancy or exaggeration. Here is an excerpt for example:

The present membership and standing of our International Union is a living illustration of the healthy and thoroughly sound condition of our organization. We are happy to report that our good standing membership has increased during the past period about seven thousand, and our voting strength at the next Convention of the American Federation of Labor will approximate 90,000 instead of 82,500 in 1917 and 85,000 in 1916, which raises us to position of the fourth largest International Union in the American Federation of Labor. These figures gain special significance in view of the fact that according to the statistics of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control in the cloak and suit and waist trades of New York City, the actual number of persons engaged in the cloak trade in New York City, has diminished from 58,000 in 1913 to 42,000 in 1917, due to the fact that immigration has practically ceased since 1914.

It must be understood that the figures of our representation at the conventions of the American Federation of Labor are only an approximate criterion of our membership and strength, as they do not include the tens of thousands of our members, who, owing to the peculiar seasonal conditions of our industry are at the time of these computations not in good standing, and are thus barred from our lists. With these included our membership safely reaches the total of 125,000.

Such is the style throughout. The report reviews the activity of the International since the Philadelphia convention, and the most important events of every local find their place therein. Reference is also made to great events in the general labor move-
ment. Thus a page is devoted to the revolution in Russia, and the note concludes:

The members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union will follow the struggles of their brothers in Russia with intense interest and sympathy, not only because many are linked to them by ties of kinship and sentiment, but also because the fate of the first great working class republic in the world cannot but be a matter of prime concern to the organized and progressive workers of all countries.

The report does not omit mention of the great program of the British Labor party, "Labor and the New Social Order". Enough has not been said of this unique utterance, which is of world significance. It is worth while for all organized workers, and especially labor leaders, to study this program and master its details. The report of the G. E. B. refers to this as follows:

"The document has attracted universal attention for the lofty and enlightened viewpoint which characterizes the whole scheme and for the wisdom and statesmanship of all of its details. It has given dignity, importance and influence to the British labor movement and has made it a power of great political importance in the land. The English labor program has become the rallying point of the organized workers and Socialists of France, Belgium and Italy, and has been substantially adopted by an interallied Socialist and labor conference held in London last February."

The fact that our International Union is stirred by the events transpiring in the labor movement in all countries, illustrates how modern and alert the organization is. It is not only a trade union in the narrow sense of the term, but in its outlook and sympathies directly a part of the international labor movement.

THE REPORT OF THE NEW YORK JOINT BOARD

That the sense of responsibility and business-like methods is a growing factor in our local organizations can be seen from the direct, matter-of-fact style of the report to the convention of the Joint Board, Cloak and Skirtmakers' Union of New York. The report, compiled by Brother L. Langer, secretary of the Joint Board, was published in the "New Post" and separately in a booklet and circulated at the convention in Yiddish only. As it contains matter published in the "Ladies' Garment Worker" at the time the events occurred, we shall pass over certain passages to avoid repetition.

Of its sixty-six pages some forty pages deal with the occurrences in connection with Local No. 1, also Local No. 17, including certain official documents originally published in the "Ladies' Garment Worker." But in the main, the report is a historical document, particularly that part relating to last year's dispute between the former Local No. 1 and the Joint Board and International Union.

Of interest to us here are the concluding pages of the report, the chapter entitled, "The Social activity of the Joint Board," which brings out the fact that this delegated body (the largest in our International, controlling forty per cent of all the organized ladies' garment workers) takes an active part in general social and political matters not directly connected with the cloak trade.

The influence and significance of the Cloakmakers' Union of New York not only penetrates to the labor movement generally but extends to the community at large. In the work of relief for the war victims the Joint Board rendered signal service. First it contributed $500 from its treasury; secondly, the Joint Board by means of a tag day collected in the cloak shops $7,500 for the relief fund; thirdly, it was the Joint Board which suggested that the workers in our industry constitute the holiday on Washington's birthday, February 22, 1918, a day of mercy, come to work and donate their earnings to the relief fund. Of the $152,000 collected in our industry the cloak shops contributed $80,000. Brother S. Kaplowitz, financial secretary of the Joint Board, acted as treasurer of the fund and assisted the International Union in organizing the collections.

The Joint Board contributed $2,000 to the defense fund of the accused labor men in San Francisco—Tom Mooney, Mrs. Mooney and their colleagues. It donated a total sum of $7,000 to various outside organizations, and $500 to the last campaign of the Socialist party, in addition to devoting a good deal of work and energy in helping to elect a number of Socialist candidates in New York.

To complete this review the last two paragraphs of the report make a very apt conclusion:

"The occurrences in the last nineteen months have shown once more that no
malevolent power can destroy our union. Many times our union has put to a severe test and emerged safely to the surface. The recent dispute within our ranks has many friends cause to fear for the future of our organization. But the members remained true and devoted to the union.

"Today, as ever, our union is as solid as a rock and justly proud of its power. Its banner is raised high over the heads of the tens of thousands of members. The Cloak-makers’ Union has been and will remain the pride of the organized Jewish workers.”

THE REPORT OF LOCAL No. 25

Notwithstanding the fact that the Ladies’ Waist and Dressmakers Union, Local No. 25, is the largest local of our International Union, and its offices and various departments are buzzing with feverish activity, yet its report to the convention was the shortest of all. It covers only sixteen small pages of each English and Yiddish type, but like a sound nut it is full of inner substance, while as regards both literary form and contents nothing more could be desired.

Local No. 25 has always consisted not only of an intelligent membership of mostly women and girls with a deep craving for literature and poetry, but has always been the most “literary” local of our International, if we may so characterize it. In past years, when the local was struggling for existence, Brother Ab. Baroff, one of the pioneers in the labor union movement among the waist and dressmakers of New York, used to make the small local peculiar with his literary leaflets, articles in the Yiddish papers and shop stories. When the local grew and extended, S. Epstein (now back in Russia) spread the literary fame of the local through the union’s Yiddish weekly organ “Die Gleichheit,” which under his editorship became a real trade paper, a paper for working women and at the same time a literary publication. One might imagine how high this paper stood, in a literary sense, when Epstein returned to Russia about a year ago, that no suitable editor could be found other than our old comrade Wintchevsky—the first Yiddish literatir in the labor movement among the Jewish people—who has been the secretary-treasurer of Local No. 25 since 1911. Thus Local No. 25 has a literary tradition, and this is throughout reflected in the Yiddish pages of the report to the convention in Boston.

How the Local is Managed.

For readers of other locals it will be interesting to know how this extensive local, having a membership of 20,000 to 25,000, is managed. On this subject the report says as follows:

The affairs of our union are administered from the main office, located at 16 West 21st Street, and having the following branches: Down-town, Brooklyn, Brownsville, Long Island and Bronx. Each of the various branches is conducted by a staff of its own, acting under the supervision of the Main Office.

The administration of the union is divided into the following departments:

1) Finance Department,
2) Record Department,
3) Independent Department,
4) Association Department,
5) The Italian Department.

Each Department is conducted by a management of its own.

In regard to its membership, the union is divided into the following branches:

1) Jewish Downtown Branch,
2) Brooklyn Branch,
3) Brownsville Branch,
4) Tuckers’ and Hemstitchers’ Branch,
5) Pressers’ Branch,
6) Italian Branch.

The general administration of the union is under the control of the Executive Board, which is composed of 35 members, elected by the various branches, each sending a number of representatives, in proportion to its membership. The Executive Board holds weekly meetings, and all plans and recommendations accepted by the Board are subsequently laid before a meeting of the members for their approval. Members’ meetings are held bi-weekly.

Right in the first paragraph the report tells this important fact:

Our work proved to be successful to such an extent, that when we compare the conditions of our local at the present time with those of 1916 after the last general strike we are satisfied that our union is a strong, healthy organization and does not need to resort to general strikes every few years as a means of maintaining its existence.

This is really cheering information, as one of the causes of the oft-recurring general strikes is the fact that most of the newly organized workers of the shops called out on strike, gradually relapse into their former non-union condition and have to be organized afresh. But when such strikes are now rendered unnecessary it is a sign that the union idea has struck deep root into the thoughts of the waist and dressmakers.

One reason why Local No. 25 must not relax its activity, but continue its incessant work of agitation and organization, is pro-
vided by the frequent trade changes. The report informs us that in 1917 the union controlled not more than 550 shops compared with the 800 shops in 1916; that over 150 shops closed up and twenty odd employers formed a separate organization. Many of the shop owners, who had closed up, subsequently opened new establishments under new names. These changes, occurring every season, involve the task of organizing and re-organizing the old workers in the new shops.

In 1917 the union succeeded in thus re-organizing 165 new shops. But as the season was a short one and the workers impoverished, the employers took advantage of the workers’ sad condition and cut their wages. But Local No. 25 is such an old trained fighter that in 1917-1918 an energetic campaign was launched to organize the shops that are placed by the officers in the “C” class. (“A” shops are those whose owners continue good relations with the union; “B” shops stand for employers who listen to reason when called on to renew their agreements; shops in the “C” class stand for employers who evade their signed obligations, and the “C” also stands for non-union shops.) “In twenty days,” says the report, “we organized in Manhattan, Bronx, Harlem, Brooklyn and Long Island, 247 shops. This is a piece of work of which we may well be proud.”

That quiet victory and increase of wages awarded by the Board of Arbitration has advanced the prestige and increased the membership of the Waistmakers’ Union.

Summer Unity House—a Means of Strength.

In referring to Local No. 25, one cannot sufficiently praise the Summer Unity House enterprise, a summer home, where members can spend their vacation in the hot summer months. According to the report the union house last summer accommodated more than 2,000 members. This is now the third summer that the local is running such a house in the Catskills, providing room and board for many thousands of members at cost price. Local 25 was the first labor union to embark on such a beneficent enterprise, for which it deserves much credit. There can be no doubt that the Unity House is a means of strength.

Outside Activities.

Local No. 25 was assiduous in helping financially to rebuild the Brownsville Labor Lyceum. The local worked untiringly in the Socialist Party campaign of last year and contributed to the victory won. The waist and dressmakers contributed a days’ wages to the war-victims’ fund by working on February 22, and donating their savings which amounted to about $50,000. The union contributed money for the defence of Tom Mooney and his colleagues, for the defence of the workers in Chicago and for similar purposes.

The report concludes with these words:

From the foregoing report we see that we have the right to regard ourselves a healthy, wide-awake and active organization. When we bear in mind that five-sixths of our membership are girls who leave the trade in large numbers every year because of marriage; and when we add to this the number of men who yearly leave the Union because of going into business for themselves or because of going into another industry—we see how difficult and complicated is our problem to keep up and develop our organization, an organization consisting of so fluctuating an element. And yet, as the report shows, we have succeeded, and grandly succeeded, in dealing with this problem.

We deem it a duty to complete this review with a paragraph from the report of the General Executive Board to the convention, which runs:

Local No. 25 has during the past three years conducted very interesting educational work among its members, under the supervision of Miss Juliet S. Poyntz. Its Unity Center became a very attractive nucleus for the spread of education and sociability among a portion of the membership of this big local. It is, however, fair to state that the great majority of the members of Local No. 25 are not participating fully in the life of their organization and are, in fact, not taking advantage of the wonderful opportunities which their union offers them. The business of this very large organization is run by a comparatively small number of active workers, notwithstanding the fact that there are large numbers of intelligent and progressive men and women in the organization. These same members who rally so enthusiastically to the defense of their organization when it is threatened from without, become indifferent to its fate and activities in times of peace. This remarkable organization of the women workers of our International can least afford to tolerate this unhealthy state of affairs and it should apply all its efforts to the elimination of this internal disability.
Prepare for Immediate Educational Activity

An Appeal to Our Locals

By FANNIA H. COHN

The Cleveland Convention of our International union found it necessary to initiate educational activities, giving an opportunity to those of our members who are eager to acquire the history and principles of the labor movement and other objects of interest to them as workers and women.

The Philadelphia convention in 1916 instructed the General Executive Board to appoint an educational committee of five and to spend $500 creating educational opportunities. The convention was not definite as to an educational program, the Philadelphia convention was more specific in instructing the Executive Board and the Educational Committee to establish some kind of an educational department within the International.

The recent Boston convention worked out a definite program of education—not only for an academic course, but also for a practical course. The convention considered educational activities for our large membership of such great importance that it voted a ten cent assessment on our membership.

Significant is the fact that part of our educational system will be on the lines of the co-operative movement. Resolutions to that effect were adopted.

Our International is one of the biggest unions in this country and in the labor movement and in progressive organizations for its accomplishments in the economic field. It is almost unbelievable that within ten years such a powerful organization could be built up. But we are at a point where something more must be done by our organization. We are living in a time when great changes are expected; when enemies as well as friends of the labor movement admit that in the reconstruction period labor will come into its own. It therefore behooves our International Union as a progressive organization to make education a part of its activities.

Labor education as well as the labor movement as a whole must have its development. It is gratifying to every one of us to appreciate the fact that our delegates to the convention demonstrated their intelligence by a decision to continue this work.

At the next General Executive Board meeting arrangements for the educational department will be made in accordance with the instructions of the last convention. With the previous experiences that we had, we shall surely avoid the mistakes and benefit by them.

Our membership in the country as well as in New York should be prepared to cooperate with the Educational Department and help make the work a success. This work will give our members an opportunity to develop character and initiative and to utilize their energy and enterprising spirit for the good of the labor movement.

Our locals should proceed to appoint educational committees to cooperate with the International Educational Department. The Educational Department will encourage practical activities, and to be successful, the wives of our members will have to be organized and interested in these activities.

It is a tremendous task, but it is worth all the difficulties. Belief in the thing, endurance and vision are the best assurance of success.

CALMNESS A POWER.

The most potent and beneficent forces are the stillest. The strength of a sentence is not in its adjectives, but in its verbs and nouns, and the strength of union men and of unions is in their calm, sane, meditative moments. In a time of noise and hurry and materialism the gospel of the still, small voice is always seasonable.—Ex.
"LABOR" THE DOMINANT WORD.

Few people imagine how far Labor and the workers have become the dominant idea in present society. The government is very anxious that the workers should keep up the production of the needed war materials, and a stage has been reached where manufacturers in the war industries compete with each other for experienced labor.

And while employers and managers are raising the hue and cry that there is a shortage of labor and engage women workers at smaller wages, the fact is disclosed that there is not an actual shortage of labor, but rather a lack of human system, a system of treating the laborer as a human being and not as a piece of merchandise.

There is still a lack of system whereby the experienced worker should be remunerated in proportion to his value in the present day circumstances; that the standard of his labor conditions should be established on such a basis as to induce him to remain on the job and cease searching for better chances.

The government requires that production shall not be hindered; but manufacturers producing war materials act from habit. Their rule is that the cheap market is the best for their pockets. They act for themselves and not as producers of things which the country needs to carry on the war. One manufacturer pays more for labor and another less; and so the workers go from place to place in search of better pay losing much time; and production is impeded.

The federal Labor Department has been trying to arrive at some system of control over employees and employers with a view of placing labor where it is most needed and thus avoid compulsion or industrial conscription. Some time ago the Labor Department began opening employment bureaus in various localities under the name of "The United States Employment Service." Now there are already 350 such bureaus or branch offices, and the head director has appealed to all employers in the pressing war industries to apply to these bureaus for help.

But as appeals often evoke no response the War Labor Policies Board to which these bureaus are responsible had to introduce a plan giving the government full control over employment. According to the plan manufacturers requiring help and workers looking for employment will have to apply to the local bureaus. This will prevent competition among manufacturers for labor and will reduce the loss of time of the workers in search of better jobs. In addition to this the government has officially recognized the right of the workers to organize in order to avoid or settle strikes with dispatch.

Now it is necessary to establish a firm basis of labor standards to protect the workers' economic conditions, and the assurance is given that even this will be done.

The entire arrangement is a very important one, because it might lead to these government employment bureaus becoming permanent institutions even after the war.

CAPITALISTS REAP COLOSSAL PROFITS

In connection with the foregoing note it is interesting to mention the report of the Federal Trade Commission submitted at the end of last month to the President of the Senate. The report bristles with facts and figures as to the colossal profits reaped by the trust magnates from products essential to the war.

Until now the organized workers have continually called public attention to the fact that the patriotism of trusts and certain rich firms is only a cloak to cover their predatory instincts. But in high places the fact was hardly noticed. On the contrary, as Congressman Meyer London pointed out in his address at our convention (published in this issue) Congress is endeavoring to safeguard the system of private enterprise against the trend of the age that the means of production and life should become public property.

The report referred to above is indeed sensational. Not long ago President Wil-
son himself declared that the nation must pursue a vigorous course in restraining the rush for profits by taxation. President Wilson said:

An intense and pitiful light beats upon every action in the tragic plot of war that is now upon the scene. . . There is abundant fuel for the light in the records of the treasury with regard to profits of every sort that can not be got at by taxation. There is now and in the future it is available and indisputable.

Now the report of the Federal Trade Commission declares:

The commission has reason to know that profiteering exists. Much of it is due to advantages taken of the necessities of the war pressure for heavy production. Some of it is attributable to inordinate greed and barefaced fraud.

The commission cites number of guilty industries: but it is sufficient to mention here some of them and the rest can be imagined. Thus, for instance, the meat packers are referred to scathing terms, precisely they who for a long time held out against conceding the workers' just demands. These magnates and allied tradesmen have reaped $140,000,000 in the last three years. The Commission charges them with unconscionable pricing.

Who suffers thereby but the working population? Is not this the cause of dear meat?

Next to the packers, the millers—the flour trust—comes in for mention.

Prior to government intervention in 1917 the flour trust exacted 52 cents profit on every barrel of flour. The government fixed the profit at 25 cents. Even with this, their profits would have been enormous. But the flour magnates have contrived to increase the rate of profit by various underhanded methods.

Is it any wonder that bread and flour are so dear and the wages of labor do not cover the expenses of living?

A third item of necessaries is coal. But the profiteers are reaping a rich harvest, and in the meantime the laboring population is threatened with the prospect of again shivering next winter because of a shortage of coal—a very successful method of raising prices.

There are many more amazing facts in the report for which we have no space in this column.
JULY, 1918

Finally William B. Wilson, the Secretary of Labor, took the matter in hand and the dispute was referred to arbitration. Federal Judge Altschuler as arbitrator awarded the workers the eight-hour day. Thus, the agitation, which stirred the entire country, raised the union to a position of one of the largest unions in America.

THE DISPUTE WITH THE TELEGRAPHERS

For more than a month the country has been stirred by the agitation of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union for recognition of the union by the two rich companies—the Western Union and Postal Telegraph. The union has decided to call a strike on July 8. No effort on the part of impartial persons to settle the dispute has succeeded. The National War Labor Board proposed a compromise, but the president of the Western Union refused point blank to accept the compromise, and let the government seize the telegraph lines, if it will. At this writing it appears that in order to prevent a strike the government must take over the lines. The dispute turns around the one word "union."

The president of the company claims that the employees in their various offices enjoy the best conditions of wages and hours and therefore they need no union; and the company will not tolerate any union men. Any employee joining the union will be forthwith discharged. The union, on the other hand, maintains that alone the fact that the company assumes the right to discharge an employee for membership in the union gives the workers a right to be organized, and they are determined to establish this right by a strike. Both sides are firm in their contentions; neither will budge an inch.

A strike would paralyze the industry of the country and would thwart the government in its war work. In view of this danger the National War Labor Board intervened. By a majority of one the Board decided that, in prohibiting the organization of their employees they will cause labor unrest and agitation and the Board proposed the compromise that the Western Union may refuse to recognize the union, but must recognize the right of every employee to belong to the union. Even this compromise the president of the Western Union declines to accept. And so the union is preparing for a strike and the government—for taking over the telegraph lines. The government cannot prohibit the strike, because the company rejected the decision of the National War Labor Board.

SUPREME COURT KILLS CHILD LABOR LAW

Last month the Supreme Court again demonstrated that it is the real ruler of the land. It has declared the federal child labor law unconstitutional and invalid.

The court explains its standpoint in almost unintelligible phraseology; but it is the old, old standpoint—the sacredness of trade and commerce and private enterprise, even at the expense of young children. The said law did not abolish child labor throughout the country, but checked only the labor of about 150,000 children. There would still remain some two million children working in industry whom the federal laws could not reach. But as a beginning one could not complain of it.

The law had an indirect power. It prohibited the shipment in interstate commerce of the products of mills, mines, quarries, canneries, factories and workshops employing children under certain specified conditions. The act was passed owing to the influence of President Wilson, and came into effect on September 1, 1917. For many years the progressive forces tried hard to secure even this limited legislation. But the Supreme Court killed it in a few words.

Four Judges, including Justice Louis D. Brandeis, dissented from the old standpoint. Clearly the remedy lies in having more progressive judges.

A LEAGUE TO DEFEND ACCUSED RADICALS

Recently a number of prominent Socialists and radicals have been charged with transgressing the law of espionage. Among the accused are such persons as Kate Richards O'Hare, a well-known Socialist speaker and journalist; Dr. Scott Nearing, the celebrated lecturer and publicist, and only a few days ago Eugene V. Debs was placed under a similar charge.

According to the purest principles of justice every one is presumed innocent until proven guilty, and fairness demands that organized workers should help in the defense of the accused. Our recent conven-
A League composed of prominent people is in existence with the object of defending all the accused radicals. One of its members is Dr. J. L. Maders, a well-known public spirited man. Charles Ervin, editor of the New York Call is the chairman of its executive committee. The League appeals for financial support. Its treasurer, Frederick Blossom, is located at 138 West Thirteenth Street, New York.

LABOR PAPER'S NEW MISSION
Besides Printing Labor News, It Must Give the People's Side of Matters Going on in the World Which are Vital to Them

By C. M. Cook.

It is often erroneously supposed that all a labor paper is good for is to print a few articles of news concerning the local labor movement and other items of news of the labor world, get a few advertisements and let it go at that. However, this is a very serious mistake. The mission of a real progressive labor paper is more important than any other agency at the command of the organized workers.

To begin with, the labor paper has sprung into prominence, especially during the last few years, because of the manner in which the news of vital importance to the common people is being handled by an agency which is totally dominated by capital. The news as given to our corporate press is colored and censored to suit the taste of the big news syndicate, which represents organized capital, and the unorganized common people—made up principally of wage earners, organized and unorganized—are not getting the facts as they are. On the other hand, until the labor papers of America have taken a hand in public matters and have become the recognized mouthpiece of a sufficient number of readers to command respect, labor could get absolutely nothing in the way of fairness from the capitalist press filled with news (or rather so-called news) so colored and juggled that organized labor was held up before the people as a band of outlaws, thugs and dynamiters, while the facts might have shown just the reverse, as in the case of the Ludlow outrage, which was largely responsible for the creation of the industrial relations committee appointed by President Wilson, whose findings were the most far-reaching indictments of capitalistic outrages against the workers of America.

Organized labor has high ideals. We want equal rights, equal opportunities to enjoy some of the fruits of the workers' toil—all of which means better citizens and a better world to live in. And to realize these high aims the first consideration is a decent scale of wages and reasonable hours of work, as well as healthy conditions under which work is performed.

Organized labor is interested in everything that has a tendency to lift up the toiling masses, and while we keep an eye on our national congress and the state legislatures, we are by no means neglecting the city in which we live. In fact, that is a matter which should receive paramount attention. No class of citizens are more interested in the welfare of the city and country in which they live, because they are affected by everything that is being right to help do it—and see that it is done right.

ORGANIZED LABOR TO SAVE MOONEY.

Information from San Francisco is to the effect that the organized workers in all large cities are arranging monster meetings on July 28 to demand a new trial for Tom Mooney, and on July 29 a large delegation of trade unionists will appear before President Wilson to thank him for his interest in Mooney and to request compliance with the resolution adopted at the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor in St. Paul, which calls for the transferrence of the case from the California State courts to the federal courts.

Meanwhile Mooney's life is in the power of Governor Stephens of California. If he will grant a reprieve the lawyers for the defense may succeed in proving to Judge Griffin the necessity of fixing a new trial.
General Executive Board in Session
A Brief Review of the Proceedings

The first quarterly meeting of the General Executive Board was held in the general office, New York, Monday, June 3, 1918.

Present: Elmer Rosenberg, H. Schoolman, S. Koldofsky, J. Halpern, H. Wunder, S. Seidman, M. Perlstein, Fannia M. Cohn, A. Silver, Salvatore Ninfo, M. Sigman, S. Lefkowitz and Secretary Baroff.

Absent: Max Amdur.

President Schlesinger in the chair.

As most of the resolutions adopted at the convention in Boston or recommended for consideration were referred to the General Executive Board for action, it is easy to imagine the mass of work requiring the attention of the General Executive Board.

At the first meeting only a few pressing questions adopted at the convention were dealt with. These follow in detail here:

Cleveland—The resolution adopted by the convention regarding Cleveland is contained in the recommendation of the Committee on Officers' Report and is divided into four parts as follows:

1. That the General Executive Board inaugurates, immediately after the adjournment of this Convention, an energetic campaign to organize the workers in the cloak, suit and skirt industry of that city.

2. That the President of the I. L. G. W. U. should make every endeavor, by peaceful negotiations, with the employers of that city, to establish in their shops and factories collective bargaining and reasonable conditions of employment and labor.

3. Should the Cleveland manufacturers refuse to redress the just grievances of their workers, either through peaceful negotiation or arbitration, the General Executive Board shall call a general strike in the cloak, suit and skirt industry of that city, after the workers will have shown their readiness for such a strike through a vote.

4. That a tax of $1.00 be levied upon the members of the I. L. G. W. U. for the successful conduct of the strike, in case such a strike is decided upon.

One of the delegates from Cleveland attended the Board meeting and urged speedy action on the above resolution. President Schlesinger explained that the situation in Cleveland must be dealt with in the order outlined in the resolution, and that, being a delegate to the St. Paul convention, he was not in a position to undertake negotiations with the Cleveland manufacturers, or to interest public opinion in our movement during the next few weeks. He therefore suggested that this entire matter be left to the judgment of the General Executive Board.

After due discussion it was decided that Vice-President Perlstein leave for Cleveland, and that President Schlesinger be empowered to act on the Cleveland situation as he may deem necessary, and to engage as many organizers as practicable.

Montreal—It was decided that the organizing campaign in Montreal shall be proceeded with. Vice-President Lefkowitz was directed to return to Montreal, while the general direction of affairs was left to the discretion of President Schlesinger.

Philadelphia Waist and Dressmakers—Vice-President A. Silver called attention to the very low minimum scale of the cutters in the waist and dress industry in his city, and stated that the union had decided to request for the cutters a minimum scale of $30 per week and a 15 per cent increase for the other workers. It was decided that Vice-President Silver send out the demands to the employers of Philadelphia, and that the question of conferring with them be left with President Schlesinger.

Regarding the Cloak and Skirtmakers of New York—At the Convention in Boston, a resolution was adopted that the General Executive Board shall give all cooperation to the Joint Board of the New York Cloakmakers' Union to enable them to get the 30 per cent increase which they had decided to present to the manufacturers. The General Executive Board agreed to send the following letter to the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective Association.

Mr. Saul Singer, Chairman,
Cloak, Suit & Skirt Protective Ass'n,
New York City.

Dear Sir:
The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union, of the City of New York, hereby present to your Association their request for an increase of 30 per cent.
in the wages of all workers employed in the cloak industry by your members, an adjustment of the earnings of the piece workers in the cloak, suit and skirt industry.

The request is made after a most thorough examination of the situation and the two bodies above mentioned, and also after the Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, recently held in Boston. It represents an effort on the part of our members to approximate a bare living wage, in view of the present prices of goods, and is, in our opinion, entirely inadequate.

The respective increases of wages of the piece workers during the coming season is simply a matter of physical impossibility.

A similar situation has confronted practically all industries of the country within the last four years, and in all cases it has been adjusted by an increase of the wages of the workers more or less in keeping with the increased cost of living, and by a corresponding increase in the prices of the produce. The cloak and suit industry forms no exception to this general rule. As you are all well aware, the raw material required for the industry and all operating expenses have increased, and the manufacturers have met the increase by raising their sale prices. All we request now, is that the employers treat the item of labor in the same way they have treated the other items going to make up the cost of production, that they recognize that their employees cannot work if they are not enabled to maintain their physical subsistence, and that in the present prices of goods, the minimum wage rate established in New York, as fixed "in force," was as low:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>1914</th>
<th>Scale of wages</th>
<th>1915</th>
<th>1916</th>
<th>1917</th>
<th>Total Increase</th>
<th>Per cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cutters</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>27.50</td>
<td>29.00</td>
<td>31.00</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skirt Cutters</td>
<td>23.50</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>26.00</td>
<td>28.50</td>
<td>33.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacket &amp; reefer upper pressers</td>
<td>21.50</td>
<td>23.00</td>
<td>24.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skirt upper pressers</td>
<td>16.50</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skirt under pressers</td>
<td>19.50</td>
<td>21.00</td>
<td>22.00</td>
<td>24.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skirt under pressers</td>
<td>22.00</td>
<td>23.00</td>
<td>24.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>31.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample makers</td>
<td>15.50</td>
<td>16.50</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>19.50</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piece pressers</td>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>16.50</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drapers</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since that date, the workers have been increased July, 1915, by the acceptance of the Convention appointed in August, 1916, by agreement of the respective organizations: a long protracted strike had been necessary, and the voluntary agreement was a triumph for the parties. The respective increases of wages of all grades of workers have been as in the table above:

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The average wage of the piece workers has increased three times. In the early days of the strike, the Council of Mayors, of which Mayor Mitchell was a member, was unable to settle the wage question, and one year by one year, the parties have been as in the table above:

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Regarding the Weekly Paper—A discussion took place in reference to the resolution adopted at the last convention, to publish a weekly paper for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Benj. Schlesinger, President, Ab. Baroff, General Secretary. Joint Board Cloak and Skirtmakers' Union, I. Feinberg, President. Louis Langer, Secretary. Morris Sigman, Manager.

(22)

(22)
Regarding the Sanitarium.—A communication was read from the Board of Directors of the Union Sanitarium Association, in which they asked the General Executive Board to be present at their meeting. It was decided that Vice-Presidents Halpern, Wander, Elmer Rosenberg, and Secretary Baroff be present at the meeting of the Union Sanitarium Directors and discuss the question of transferring the sanitarium to the International.

Proposed Amalgamation of Locals 3 and 80.—It was decided that Vice-Presidents Ninfo, Halpern and Wander shall take up this question with the locals and proceed cautiously. Should they find that it would be more beneficial for the locals to remain as at present, with a joint council, the Ladies’ Tailors Local No. 3, affiliating with the Joint Board, they should not hesitate to come to such a decision.

Continuing Our Organizing Campaign in Chicago.—As the condition of the waist, skirt and dressmakers had been considered by the recent convention equally urgent with that of the workers of Cleveland and Montreal, President Schlesinger was empowered to visit Chicago and make whatever arrangements he might deem necessary to revive the organizing campaign in that city.

Miscellaneous Matters.—Upon the request of Secretary Tauber of Local No. 52 of Los Angeles it was decided to issue a charter to a group of waist and dressmakers recently organized in that city, as “Ladies’ Waist and Dressmakers’ Union, Local No. 103.”

Upon the invitation of the Philadelphia Waist and Dressmakers’ Union, Local 15, extended to the General Executive Board, to attend the opening of their Unity House on June 9, 1918, Vice-Presidents Fannia M. Cohn; S. Seidman; S. Ninfo and Secretary Baroff were appointed to represent the International Union.

Following a statement of Vice-President S. Koldofsky of Toronto in regard to the need of organizing the women workers in the shops of Toronto, President Schlesinger was empowered to appoint a woman organizer for that purpose.

Vice-President Lefkovits was elected organizer for Montreal, and Vice-President Pearlstein for Cleveland. It was decided to retain Brothers John F. Pierce and A. Laporès as organizers until further consideration at the next quarterly meeting.

President Schlesinger was empowered to appoint as many organizers as will be needed for the cities, where organizing campaigns are to be carried on.

As to the question of a statistical department and a membership ledger department to be established in our International, as decided at the convention, Secretary Baroff was instructed to bring in a detailed plan of the cost and operation of those departments to the next quarterly meeting for approval.

Ab. Baroff.
Gen. Secy.-Treasurer.

CLOAK, SKIRT AND REEFERMAKERS OF NEW YORK SECURE AN INCREASE OF WAGES.

Immediately after the Boston convention the International Union addressed a letter to the Coak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers’ Association requesting an increase of 30 per cent for all the workers. The letter in question appears in the minutes of the General Executive Board published in this issue.

Conferences were held with representatives of the association and after considerable bargaining the workers finally agreed to accept the following increase:

Cutters, Jacket and Reefer Pressers, cloak and reefer under pressers and skirt pressers, an increase of $4.00 a week; skirt cutters $3.50; sample makers and skirt under pressers, $3.00; skirt basters, skirt finishers and piece pressers, $2.50; operators and finishers on piecework, an increase of 10 cents in the minimum per hour; button hole makers an increase of 10 cents per 100 button holes.

The unions have decided to accept this increase and ask for more at another favorable opportunity.

Now that the cloakmakers have given the tone, it behooves our workers in other branches of trade to play the same music, as the cost of living is soaring.
Government Correcting Wrong Labor Conditions

Address of Mr. Stanley King at Our Boston Convention

It is a very great pleasure for me to come up from Washington to meet you. I have a peculiar feeling for the garment industry. I feel as if I had taken my first course in industry and in the relations between the different parties in industry through you. Two years ago, I was asked to be Chairman of the Board of Control in the garment industry in Boston. I did not want to accept the position because I did not feel I could do the job. I did not feel that I knew enough to do the job. But Mr. Jacobson, the union representative on the Board, and the manufacturers' representative on the Board, both urged me to take it and I took it. It was really my first experience. After I had been on the Board a little while, Mr. Jacobson invited me to speak before a union meeting. It was the first union meeting I had ever addressed. I went down to the union hall, expecting to see forty or fifty people with whom I could talk in a conversational way. And when I went upstairs I found a room almost as large as this, packed with people, all members of your union.

And so for the past few years I have been going through a course of education, which has been a very interesting course and I have had, I conceive, two of the best teachers in Mr. Schlesinger and Mr. Jacobson.

For the last year I have been putting my education to use in fields outside of your industry. Your thoughts, just as my thoughts today—whatever we may be doing—revert to the background, to the war that we are engaged in. For the past year I have been in Washington and for the past six months with Secretary Baker, advising him, working with him on the problems of labor in industry, which so vitally affect our prosecution of the war.

I assume that whatever we may have thought about the war in the past, we are today, since Germany went into Russia, all of us wholeheartedly behind the President in the prosecution of the war against Germany to a finish, and a successful finish. (Great applause). I am not sure that two or three years ago you and I would have differed very widely as to what the country should do, and I am just as sure that we don't differ today as to what our duty is and the job before us. The primary essential for you and for me today, those of us in civilian clothes in this country, is to put forth our maximum efforts to obtain the greatest possible production of war materials for our men on the other side. Every month hundreds of thousands of men, who a few months ago were like us, civilians, are going across in uniform to fight. For every man that goes over, there must be several men who remain here to produce the supplies he needs.

In the war labor administration at Washington, of which I am a part, our prime purpose is maximum production. But to obtain maximum production we know you know that right conditions of work are the primary essentials. If conditions of work are wrong, if the relations between management and men is wrong, if there is a lack of confidence existing, if the conditions of work, if the rates of pay are not what they should be, the plant will not produce and the Government will not get the materials it needs. Just as when a man is taken sick and goes to the physician, who makes an examination and finds that there are conditions radically wrong in his patient's organism that the latter did not suspect, so when this war came we began to find that there are conditions in the industrial organization not known before, which are wrong and which need correction. Some of the conditions were known, but many of them were not known and we are just discovering the maladjustments. The war labor administration at Washington is therefore focusing its attention to see that the conditions under which the goods are manufactured which our armies need are wise, are fair, are just. Where they are not, we are trying to correct them. We cannot correct them in a week or a month. We must correct them gradually. We must correct them gradually, with the purpose always in view of getting the conditions in such a position that the production of war supplies shall be adequate to take care of our fighting forces.

One of the first things that Secretary Baker did last summer was to investigate conditions in the garment industry, as it applied to our department. And the facts
which he found at that time led him to take steps to bring about a radical change. That work is in charge of a man who I know is a friend of your industry and has been a friend of it for a long time while in Boston and that is Professor Ripley of Harvard. I violate no confidence when I say that Professor Ripley is undertaking this work at considerable sacrifice to himself and to his work at Cambridge—but it is his ideal, no matter how serious a sacrifice it may entail on him on the other side of the river. And I am satisfied that he is bringing to it all the wisdom and the knowledge which he has gained in Cambridge, and the experience which he has gained with your union in Boston and New York.

We are improving conditions gradually here, we all have in mind that just as we are fighting in Europe for an ideal of democracy, just as we are fighting for no selfish purposes, but purely for an ideal, so you gentlemen here, and I here, are working for an ideal of democracy in industry. We are improving conditions gradually progress toward that during the war. We have made more progress toward it in the last six months in my opinion than we had in many years before.

We none of us know what conditions are going to be when the war is over, but the Government is about to establish an agency to work out in advance the ideals for reconstruction after the war, for reconstruction of industry on a basis more in keeping with the ideals of our country, and when that agency begins its work, it will have the help of men like you who have been living in this atmosphere for years.

Your industry had set the lead in the country in working out plans and principles of joint organization and joint management of industry, which would be followed as rapidly as possible by other industries, and which are now being followed in plans worked out by the Government.

WAR SUFFERERS RELIEF COLLECTIONS

Result of one day's work on Washington's Birthday instituted by the International Union: $152,979.93

INCOME:

New York Joint Board Cloakmakers Union .......................... $ 75,820.73
Local No. 25, New York Waist & Dress Makers ........................ 49,418.55
Local No. 62, New York White Goods Workers ....................... 4,093.52
Local No. 20, New York Raincoat Makers .......................... 3,955.03
Local No. 50, New York Children's Dressmakers .................... 2,628.41
Local No. 66, New York Bonnaz Embroidery Workers ................ 3,051.21
Local No. 41, New York Housedress Makers ........................ 902.50
Local No. 90, New York Custom Dressmakers ......................... 419.48
Local No. 80, New York Ladies' Tailors ................................ 276.69
Local No. 6, New York Swiss Embroiderers .......................... 337.30
Local No. 67, Toledo Cloakmakers .................................. 214.75
Local No. 4, Baltimore Cloakmakers ............................... 602.58
Local No. 7, Boston Raincoat Makers ............................... 1,795.70
Local No. 49, Boston Waist-makers ................................ 1,624.38
Local No. 78, St. Louis Cloakmakers .............................. 242.15
Local No. 100, Chicago Waist & White Goods Workers ............... 173.60
Boston Joint Board Cloakmakers Union ............................. 1,829.75
Philadelphia Joint Board Cloakmakers Union ....................... 4,256.63
Cincinnati Joint Board Cloakmakers Union ......................... 41,336.97

EXPENDITURE

Printing $ 636.75
Office Help ........................................ 568.17
Postage .......................................... 224.21
Advertisements .................................. 85.60
Rent, Meetings and Miscel. .................................. 304.40
Refunds .......................................... 10.34

Balance ......................................... $150,652.46

The money is deposited with the Harrison National Bank. It was understood that money collected from Italians and members of other nationalities should be given for the relief of their nationalities. We have accordingly forwarded a check for $12,000 to the Italian Relief Committee, and a check for $1,500 to the Russian-Polish Committee.

CLOAKMAKERS IN THE AMERICAN ARMY.

Last month the Joint Board of the Cloak, Skirt and Reevermakers' Union compiled figures which show that already 2,500 cloakmakers are serving in the American Army, and the number keeps growing. It should be mentioned by the way that William Bloom, the secretary of Local No. 1, who was a delegate to the Boston convention, was called into camp practically from the convention hall. Most of the drafted men are operators and cutters.
Immediate and Future Effects of Our Boston Convention

How Certain Resolutions will React on the Various Industries Throughout the Country

Events are now moving so rapidly and striking news occurs so often that it is easy to forget what has inspired only a few weeks ago. Yet our recent convention has woven a network of campaign that touches our workers all over the country. Its work is yet, barely felt except in Cleveland, Chicago, Montreal and other cities, where the shoe pinches most. The purpose of this article is to analyze certain resolutions and deduce the probable effects that may be expected from the labors of the convention.

The resolutions may be classified in three parts; namely, (1) Trade and Local resolutions; (2) resolutions for the good and welfare of our workers; (3) resolutions having reference to the trade movement in general, and (4) resolutions having an indirect bearing on our union as a part of the great labor movement. In considering this way one may see mirrored forth the psychology of the convention, or, in other words, the mind and condition of our union and its numerous membership. We shall pass over here resolutions on local affairs.

CALLS FOR ORGANIZING WORK.

In regard to resolutions for local improvement and for protection of the various trades, some of these were already briefly referred to in the editorial of the "Ladies' Garment Worker" for June. The request contained in these resolutions are not new; but we have to expect that they will be repeated at every convention so long as our industry will not be completely organized.

There are some twenty-five such local resolutions calling for organizers or organizing campaigns, aside from the resolutions relating to the cloak and skirtmakers and waistmakers of Cleveland, the waist, skirt, dress and white goods workers of Chicago and the custom dressmakers of New York. In these last mentioned trades it was decided to call general strikes if our officers should not succeed in effecting an amicable settlement. In this regard it is gratifying to hear that the convention of the American Federation of Labor held last month in St. Paul decided to throw its weight into our scale in the two first named cities and help us to achieve definite results.

At first blush the work that all these resolutions imply seems a gigantic task. It is difficult to imagine how the General Executive Board will tackle all this extensive organized work, which will require an immense amount of energy and money.

Yet everyone of the calls for organizing endeavor is well founded. True, each request aims at purely local or trade interest.

It would benefit the local and the workers in its branch of trade if the shops were brought under complete union control. But indirectly this involves the benefit of other branches of the ladies' garment industry, because it would curb competition between one worker and another and would improve the earnings all round.

Such a well organized state of affairs would render our International Union much more powerful.

RAINCOAT MAKERS.

One of the twenty-five resolutions is by the locals of waterproof garment workers of New York, Boston and Chicago calling for a general organizer for that branch of trade. The resolution declares that there are many open shops that constitute a menace to the present strong unions in the trade, and that thousands of raincoat makers are "working under the worst sweatshop system" in various parts of the country where the union has as yet not penetrated. In New York and Boston, Locals 20 and 7 are in good condition. In Chicago Local 54 is suffering from injunctions.

WHITE GOODS WORKERS.

A similar request was made by the White goods Workers, Local 62. Their resolution declares that there are unorganized whitegoods workers all over the country. The request is repeated at every convention, and quite a number of resolutions from various locals separately call for the organization of the whitegoods workers of the country.
AS TO BALTIMORE.

One of these is in regard to Baltimore where the whitegoods workers are included among the waist, dress and kimono workers. Not less than three resolutions were brought in in regard to organizing work in Baltimore; one of these signed by thirty-five delegates from ten locals in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Worcester. Yet all these resolutions were in a certain sense superfluous, because the General Executive Board had spared no effort and money to organize the ladies' garment workers of Baltimore.

NEW ENGLAND STATES.

Other resolutions closely connected with these requests relate to the unorganized shops in the New England States, in which many waistmakers and whitegoods workers are employed. A separate resolution calls for a general organizer to be appointed for the New England district, while Local 43, Waist and Whitegoods Workers of Worcester, Mass., ask for an organizer in a resolution of their own.

CORSET WORKERS.

The corset trades constitute a distinct field for organizing effort. Within the last four years much has been done to organize the corset workers in Connecticut State. But according to the resolution introduced by the delegates of several locals there are about 40,000 unorganized women workers in this industry all over the country. The question was referred to the General Executive Board.

BONNAZ EMBROIDERERS.

In the two separate embroidery trades much work remains to be done. One of these is the Bonnaez embroidery trade under the control of Local 66. Within the last few years Local 66 has grown and prospered, thanks to the diligent activity and good management of the local officers and executive board. The local is in good shape morally and financially, and the workers in the organized shops enjoy fairly good conditions compared with those of previous years. But a good deal yet remains to be accomplished.

The trade is in the hands of contractors who take the work from various manufacturers to be done outside. This embroidery work is wrought into cloaks, suits, skirts, waists and dresses. Local 66 has managed to organize many of the contractors' shops. But there are a number of cut-throat contractors who evade the union, and some manufacturers running union shops patronize them by giving them the work that should go to union contractors. In one resolution the General Executive Board is instructed to officially request the manufacturers' association, in the above trades, to help Local 66 maintain union standards in the contractors' shops by giving their work out to union contractors.

SWEAT SHOP CONDITIONS OF "HAND" EMBROIDERERS.

A second resolution directs attention to the fact that in the "Hand" embroidery trade there are more than 3,000 unorganized workers, mostly of Italian nationality, and the convention granted for this purpose the appointment of an Italian organizer. A third resolution declares that sixty per cent. of the "Hand" embroidery trade is produced by women and children in tenements, kitchens and bed rooms, and it was decided to agitate for the abolition of this detrimental practice of home work.

SWISS EMBROIDERERS.

The Swiss embroidery trade under the control of Local 6 stands in need of organizing work mostly in New Jersey. In New York Local 6 has an agreement with the manufacturers' association, but in New Jersey, ever since the strike of two and a half years ago, the workers have remained unorganized. The resolution on this subject states that the bulk of the trade is located in New Jersey, and as the workers are unorganized and working under non-union conditions they menace the union conditions of the embroiderers in New York under Local 6. The convention resolved that the International Union initiate a renewed organizing campaign in the Swiss embroidery trade in New Jersey at the first favorable opportunity.

NEWARK WAIST AND WHITEGOODS WORKERS.

In its report to the convention the General Executive Board urges the necessity of renewing the movement for bringing in line the waist, dress and whitegoods workers of Newark, N. J., where some 8,000 find employment. Since the lull in the agitation for a union in that city the manufacturers have been again reducing wages.
ORGANIZING THE SMALL TOWNS AROUND NEW YORK.

There are quite a number of small towns not far from New York City, where manufacturers of cloaks, suits, waists, dresses, raincoats, embroidery, whitegoods and children's dresses maintain contractors with the object of evading union conditions. Most of these contractors employ Italian workers; and the General Executive Board was instructed to take the matter into consideration.

TORONTO WAIST AND WHITEGOODS WORKERS.

The locals of Toronto, Canada, call for an organizer for the non-Jewish girls in the waist and whitegoods shops. The resolution states that 6,000 workers are employed in the trade and that ninety per cent. are Gentile women. It is well to remember, however, that the International has maintained a special organizer in that city for that purpose.

The smaller locals in more distant cities—Louisville, Ky.; the ladies' Tailors of Chicago; Los Angeles, Cal.; and other places likewise introduced resolutions calling for organizers.

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE

These resolutions are of two kinds: (1) those which pertain to groups of locals in similar trades. To carry them out means to create greater harmony and closer unity among the locals concerned; (2) resolutions involving the entire International Union and all its locals and members throughout the country.

IS A JOINT BOARD FOR LOCALS 10, 25, 41, 50, 58, 62 ADVISABLE.

To the first category belongs the question whether or not there shall be formed a joint board connecting the locals of waistmakers, kimono and house dress workers, children's dressmakers, waist buttonhole makers, whitegoods workers and the miscellaneous department of the cutters, Local 10. All these locals are entered in New York. Already at the Philadelphia convention in 1916 it was decided that the General Executive Board shall make an investigation to ascertain whether such a joint board is advisable. The adherents of the idea believe that an investigation would establish the necessity of such a central body in these trades.

In certain parts of their work these trades are very similar. It often happens that when slackness prevails in the waist trade and children's dress shops are busy, waist makers seek employment in the latter industry. Mostly, however, the better paid work attracts the workers from the cheaper lines. So that at times there are working side by side in one and the same shop men and women from two or more local unions. Often friction occurs and transfers are called for. Thus there originate jurisdiction disputes. If, however, they could be linked together by a joint board, a definite policy might be formulated on a common basis and friction avoided. The combination would, moreover, strengthen each local separately.

CHANGE OF CHARTER OF LOCAL 49

The request of the Waistmakers' Union of Boston for a change of charter to include dress and petticoat workers is presumed to be for the good and welfare of the workers in these trades. When a number of petticoat workers of Boston went on strike last year and wished to be organized the Waistmakers' Union, Local 49 rendered them every assistance. Also dresses are very largely made in their shops. For this reason Local 49 requests that its name shall be "Waist, Dress and Petticoat Workers' Union." The matter now rests with the General Executive Board.

EXAMINERS, BUSHELLERS AND BEGRADERS.

Under this name the International has chartered a local in New York in May, 1917, as Local 82. These workers are employed in the cloak, skirt and reefer shops and they claim the right of affiliation with the Joint Board of New York. In a resolution their delegates complained that the Joint Board had refused to admit them as a constituent local. The delegates of the Joint Board stated that the question was now being considered and that the local would, no doubt, soon be admitted. The convention, however, decided that the Joint Board shall accept their affiliation in course of thirty days.

LOCAL 11 MUST DROP ITS STATE CHARTER.

Now that harmony and unity prevails in all parts of the International Union there
is no reason why one local should retain outside safeguards in the form of a State charter of incorporation.

A year ago there were two incorporated locals, but with the reorganizing of Local 1, there now remains only Local 11 having such a separate charter and thereby being an exception to all other locals.

The convention declared that no such exception should be tolerated in the International Union. Much of the trouble with former Local 1 arose from that local having a State charter. It led its leaders to believe that they could defy the entire union. The constitution has now been changed in the sense that the General Executive Board shall revoke the charter of a local that will become incorporated, and the recommendation of the Committee on Officers' Report was concurred in, that Local 11 shall immediately drop its State charter. That this is for the good and welfare of Local 11 as well as for the organization as a whole no one will doubt.

ITALIAN WAIST AND DRESSMAKERS WISH A SEPARATE LOCAL.

A resolution was introduced by the Italian delegates of Local 25, calling for a separate local for the Italian waist and dressmakers. The argument that it would be easier to organize the Italian workers in a separate Italian local on account of language is just as logical as the argument that it is easier to organize Jewish workers in a separate language group. But the contention that the Italian workers will not join the organization because it is led by Jewish workers will surprise many sincere trade unionists and internationalists.

The resolution was referred to the General Executive Board for investigation.

A REQUEST BY THE BUTTONHOLE MAKERS

The two New York locals of Buttonhole Makers—Local 64 in the Cloak trade and Local 58 in the waist and dress trade introduced a resolution calling for the abolition of sub-contracting in the shops where military garments are made by non-union labor at miserable wages. The resolution further asks that the manufacturers and not the workers shall supply the machines.

The convention instructed the General Executive Board to bring about an amelioration in the said shops.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

One resolution complains that certain government contractors manufacturing military raincoats called "slickers" do not pay the stipulated union scale and the result is that many workers cannot earn a livelihood. The resolution calls for a provision to be embodied in every contract compelling the payment of the union scale of wages.

A second resolution complains that in government departments having charge over the giving out of contracts for military garments the managers and supervisors are drawn from the ranks of the employers, who are avowedly antagonistic to organized labor. The resolution requests that in every branch of the departments allotting contracts there shall be at least one competent person drawn from the ranks of labor.

A third resolution complains that large quantities of army shirts are produced by workers at home, specifically in Philadelphia and Louisville, Ky. The resolution states that "a careful investigation by the National Consumers' League reveals the fact that in Louisville alone about 20,000 women workers from a wide radius of towns take such work from the factory to their homes, where the same is performed under unsanitary conditions and at iniquitously low wages." The practice is not only a menace to the standards of the organized workers but also to the health of the army.

A fourth resolution declared that in certain large establishments, specifically that of the United States Rubber Company, manufacturing slickers for the government, no provision exists for regulating the hours of labor. Many such factories work even sixty-four hours a week. This has a deteriorating effect on the time standards of forty-eight hours a week established in the garment industries through the untiring efforts of the labor unions.

These resolutions were concurred in, and the President of the International Union was instructed "to bring this condition to the attention of the War Department and other proper authorities, to the end that the abuse be speedily remedied by the application of the principle of the forty-eight hours working week to the manufacture of slickers in the same way as in the manufacture of other articles of clothing for the government."

Other resolutions will be considered in future articles.
In Moscow
At the Time of the Russian Revolution

By MAXIM GORKY

Upon the day of rumors Moscow that a battle was in progress on the streets of Petrograd—75,000 people killed, the Czar's winter palace razed to the foundations and that piles and fire were rampant.

Like the child of Russian folk-lore the Russian loves to hear of the fanciful tales and is also capable of inventing them. He has often manifested this sort of genius. But this time even he attached no credence to the rumors from Petrograd.

Seventy-five thousand people? Surely this was too fanciful to be true. And so the average Russian refused to show any alarm.

Towards midnight the next day the first shots were heard in Moscow somewhere around the headquarters of the Workers Council. A rumor spread that some untold number of the municipal government had been shot down. It could not be ascertained who it was that shot them; probably those men hunters of the restless times in large numbers. Presently the same "sportsmen" dashed seven times at two cabmen on Nikitskaya Street. Notice of the fact was brought to the council, and the soldiers who were sent to investigate the affair arrested several of the gunmen.

The shooting continued through the night—the militiamen shot from fear, the hooligans for fun. In the morning Moscow resounded with the cracking noise. The reports of the guns mingled with all sorts of disagreeable sounds, and it seemed to suggest the tearing of rotten old textures.

Yet all this hardly interrupted the regular course of life. The high school students, both boys and girls, in uniform, promenaded the streets. Near the stores stood the usual queues waiting in line. Inquisitive spectators collected on the street corners trying to guess where the shooting was taking place. Really, as if the world was created for the sport of idlers. Near the monument of the "first book printer" stood a crowd of some 500 people, listening with composure to the shooting and carrying on a conversation:

"From the Strasnoy temple the top has been blown off," one casually observed. "They are bombarding the Metropol," said another. Such apathy, as if the most tragic occurrence did not concern them, as if they were there only to see the sight. One of them was hit with a bullet in the foot. Some 150 people surrounded him. He was conducted to the Prolomni gates. All looked into his face and asked:

"Any pain?"

"He walks; the bone is not broken."

Naturally, even this substratum of humanity manifested its activity, as usual, where it meets the least resistance. It has been so brought up. All Russian history has so developed.

A soldier, evidently maddened with fear, suddenly appears in front of the crowd. Espying an unarmed junker he kneels down and aims a shot at him. The crowd slow to restrain him from the act, furiously threw itself upon the soldier and mauled him rather badly. I am sure that the presence of three soldiers instead of one would have scattered the crowd in all directions.

Patrols appeared on the streets and anxiously beseeched the onlookers:

"We pray you, comrades, citizens, to disperse. You can see what is going on. Some of you might, God beware, be killed or wounded. 'A bullet has no sense'. Please, disperse."

The crowd disperses slowly and some of them inquire:

"Who do you belong to, the Duma or the Council?"

"The Duma at the time of the Revolution represented the middle classes, while the Council represented the soldiers and workmen."
We belong to neither. It is necessary to preserve order. Disperse, I pray you!

Subsequently these same soldiers, who belonged to neither, shot at people from the corner, unwillingly, perhaps, for the sake of a revolutionary duty, just to increase the number of corpses.

As the time passed it became increasingly clear that the uprising has no definite, strategic plan and that the insurgents act on their own initiative relying on chance and on God.

On Miasnitzka Street soldiers aim shots from a corner into another street. A civilian wends his way in that direction. But the soldiers try to turn him from his purpose:

"You are in danger of being hit, comrade. Someone is hiding there."

"But the entire quarter is in our hands," he protests.

"How do you know?"

The civilian is under imperative necessity of going into that street. The soldiers argue with him a long time and then decide to let him pass and request him, smiling naively: "When you get there, signal us with your fingers how many they are there."

The civilian declines to pledge himself and enters the other street, supposed to be the enemy trench. He found the "trench" in a courtyard behind a gate of iron railings. Nine soldiers were busy building a barricade out of boxes and barrels, while a comrade, the tenth, was sitting at the wall in a melancholy mood rebandaging his bleeding foot.

"Do you know who you are righting against?" said the civilian.

"Why, there, in the corner of the street are some junkers."

"But they are your comrades of the Councils!"

"That cannot be, for, here, they have just wounded one of our men."

The civilian persuades them to enter into communication with the enemy. He undertakes to conduct the parleys and goes with one of them to Miasnitzka Street. It turns out that the battle is waged between soldiers of the same brigade and the following typically Russian conversation ensues:

"Listen, you devils, have you become blind?"

"And you?"

"We thought you were junkers."

"So did we."

The battle was stopped to the joy of both sides. The civilian treats them with smokes and they escort him for some distance.

Many errors of this kind were undoubtedly committed and scores of soldiers paid for them with their lives. In the first days the chances were equally balanced between the rival combatants. One confronted a group of theirs, then a group of ours, and so on. In the streets of Moscow sniping from concealed places was frequent, particularly in the dark of night, when suspicion was rampant and friends were apt to mistake their own for enemies.

Around the Kremlin the army of the Councils was located, and in another quarter a group of junkers seized an automobile with rifles and some of the red guard. It was told that a group of men in civil uniform came to the staff of the insurgents and demanded to be furnished with weapons to help pick off the junkers. When rifles were handed to them they joined the junkers. This error naturally caused more bloodshed.

The kindly attitude of the soldiers to the average well-to-do citizen, who would now and then emerge into the street, was quite surprising.

It was also strange to see the hungry proletarian in the soiled winter uniform, who was in danger of his life every minute, anxiously trying to persuade the well-dressed and inquisitive bourgeois:

"Citizen, where are you going? Can't you hear them shooting there and you might be hurt? Remember that we cannot answer for you."

"But I have not seen the street for three days and three nights."

"That is of no consequence. This is not the time to stroll about."

If these people are so anxious to protect the lives of the class opposed to them it is right to ask them:
"Comrades, again whom is your war directed?"

"Against the Junkers who are against the people," they answer.

The same very wary, and good-hearted soldiers, besottedly smashed their heads in with the butt-ends of their rifles, and also shot into the crowd that plundered a store, killing some twenty hooligans. When they helped the owner of the store to board up the broken windows.

These people are terrible. They are capable of awful violence and also of noble deeds of sacrifice. One despises them and yet pities them, unable to grasp the conflicting passions of the dark soul of the Russian people.

The guns roar, but with shrapnel aiming high above the heads. Someone asks: "This kind of looting is both foolish and purposeless!"

"Perhaps they do this to spread terror rather than to kill a humanitarian way of doing it, you know," a citizen observes.

The turmoil increases. Armed men pass along in vehicles, discharging their revolvers in the air—doubt to raise the revolutionary spirit and emphasize the importance of action rather than of thought.

In some of the houses the walls were pierced by cannon balls. Within them scores of innocent people perished, no doubt. For the shooting went on indiscriminately and thoughtlessly. Thus for six days a process of desolation and massacre went on.

The entire affair was a slaughter of innocents, of children. On one hand, the youth of the Red Guard, untrained and unpracticed with the rifle, and soldiers who did not consider why they should kill or run the risk of being killed. On the other hand an insignificant number of Junkers who did their duty heroically as they had been instructed higher up.

Of course, the statement that all the Junkers were the children of the middle classes and of land owners and therefore they had to be slaughtered was an impudent falsehood—an invention of adventurers and crazy romanticists. If people's conduct were to be determined by the ideas of the class to which they belonged, then Ulianov Lenin ought to be ranged with the ranks of the Russian agrarian party, side by side with Purishkevitch, and Bronstein-Trotsky should be a commercial traveler.

Very sad is the condition of the Russian youth in the unhappy country. Beginning with the sixty's of the last century we kept up the effort to break down with our heads the wall of autocracy. For a period of fifty years the destruction of the Russian youth in the prisons and at hard labor in Siberia went on without a break, and here you have the tragic result of that suicidal policy. Russia has no talented people, people capable of sustaining work. Autocracy exhausted the moral and spiritual forces of the country. The war has destroyed the youth of the country physically in hundreds of thousands. The revolution, developing without enthusiasm, evidently cannot bring to the front men of mental force and repeats the process of destroying the youth.

I know that for crazy dogmatists the future of the people does not count. They regard the people as material for their social experiments.

Yet not all the democracy has lost its head. There are still people who may be brought to realize the present terrible state of affairs.
# Directory of Local Unions

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