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Justice (Vol. 7, Iss. 46)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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

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

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General Executive Board Holds Last Meeting Before Convention

G. E. B. Report to Convention Submitted for Approval by President Sigman — Secretary Baroff and Vice-Presidents Render Final Reports — Credential Committee Appointed to Pass on Eligibility of Delegates.

The last, eighth, regular quarterly meeting of the International Fur Workers' Executive Board opened its sessions on Saturday morning, November 7th, in the Chauncy Hotel, Boston, continuing until Wednesday evening, November 11th. The final sessions of the meeting were held in the Council Room of the L. G. W. U. Building. President Sigman read to the members of the Board the draft of the report to the convention delegates which covers in full every event and occurrence in the L. G. W. U. since the Boston convention. The report was discussed for several days and was finally approved after each section and subject dealt with in it had been thoroughly analyzed and sifted. Secretary Baroff read a statement concerning the financial situation of the Union and a set of recommendations looking at its improvement in the future.

Vice-presidents Balkinger, Goldman, Kuzofin, Heidelberg, Amund and Kyns also rendered reports on the condition of their departments or cities where they are in charge. Vice-presidents Dubinskis reported on conditions in the Cutters' Union of New York.

A credential committee for the L. G. W. U. has been appointed to examine the credentials of the delegates from the various locals.

Members of Local 10 Approve Action of Executive Board

The Cutters' Union of New York, Local 10, held a regular meeting last Monday evening in Arlington Hall and by an overwhelming majority approved the action of the executive board of this local with regard to its business agent controversy which arose recently between the cutters' organization and the Joint Board. The recent general elections for business agents held by the Joint Board a week ago, the cutters did not have any candidates on the ballot. This resulted in the cutters remaining without business agents to take care of their grievances for the time being. The executive board of Local 10, therefore, forwarded a letter to the last meeting of the Joint Board proposing that, until other arrangements are made, the old agents of the local act on cutters' grievances. The Joint Board, after a heated discussion, left the question undecided as it resulted in a tie vote. Local 10, therefore, called a special meeting of its members to frame its own attitude on this subject, and the local (Continued on Page 3)

Costumers of Metropolitan Opera House on Strike

Company Locks Out Workers Before Expiration of Agreement, Then Negotiates For Two Months, and Again Breaks Settlement

Local No. 28, the Ladies Tailors, Custom Dressmakers, Theatrical Costume and Alteration Workers' Union, was forced to declare a strike on November 6th against the Metropolitan Opera Company, after protracted negotiations were carried on for eight weeks between Boris Drasich, manager of Local 28 and Mr. Ziegler, the business manager of the company. A complete settlement was almost reached and a part of the force of the workers went back to work on November 6th. However, on Friday, November 6th, Mr. Ziegler of the Metropolitan went back on his word and the Union was forced to call the strike.

The Metropolitan Opera Company has been running its workrooms as a union shop for the past 5 years. Some of the workers have been employed by the Union for the past 15 years, and are specialized mechanics in the theatrical costume trade. It is therefore the workers who have been hit by the company to picket the opera house wearing signs to that effect.

Italian Dressmakers Elect Convention Delegates

Candidates Recommended by Local's Administration Given Big Majories

The election of convention delegates in Local 29, the Italian Dress and Alteration Workers' Union, will take place on Thursday, November 5th. The election was marked by unusual activity, notwithstanding the present slow sea-

Concert and Opening Night of Educational Season Tomorrow, Saturday, November 14th, In Washington Irving High School Auditorium

Sascha Jacobsen and Mme. Rita Breso, Boards, Officers and Directors, will preside, and the Fur Workers' convention in the name of the 1. G. W. U. on November 19, 1925.

International Fur Workers' Convention

Morris Katinbayer, President, American House, 54 Hanover St., Boston, Mass.

On behalf of the membership of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union we desire to convey to all friends and members of this country, in convention, our sincere greetings and felicitations. The Fur Workers' International Union has a proud record of splendid progress as a fighting trade union and as a body of workers imbued with constructive idealism.

We sincerely hope that the Fur Workers' International Union will continue on its path of unbroken achievement, always conscious of its role as the industrial organization of the fur workers of America, the exponent of their economic needs and the defender of their standards of work and living.

MORRIS SIGMAN,
President
ABRAHAM BAROFF,
Secretary-Treasurer

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Gala Will Participate in the Concert — Members of Local's Educational Movement Will Attend.

Friends interested in the Labor movement, get together to celebrate the success of Labor education in the United States. This year, our affair will be especially interesting as we are holding an anniversary of the establishment of our Educational Department.

In order that we may have arranged a fine musical program, in which will participate Sascha Jacobsen, violinist and Mme. Rita Breso, both celebrated artists. The evening will end with a dance—The Gymnasium. No time of effort has been spared to make this gathering a memorable one.

We would suggest that our members come early as the program will start on time.

Tickets were distributed among the local union. A few can still be had at the office of the Educational Department, 5 West 10th Street, No. tickets admittance.
Italian Dressmakers Elect Convention Delegates

(Continued from Page 1) Incidents despite the intense propaganda which seemed to promise a result was a vote of confidence given by a very large majority to the candidates recommended by the local's administration.

On the day before the election, there appeared in the New York paper of New York a statement in which the "chairmen and the chairpersons in dress orders" called upon to tell the Italian workmen in the shops to vote specifically for the Italian candidates. The paper of election day, many members of Local 22 were posted in the different polling places distributing leaflets which called upon the workers to vote for the candidates of a self-styled "progressive" group. Local 22 also disclaimed its support to have been held on a pre-

Members of Local 10 Approve Action of Their Executive Board

(Continued from Page 1) avid by more than 4 to 1 to fully uphold the action of the executive board.

The reader will find a full report of the meeting in the members' pages, of this issue. On that page there also appears a statement by

Vice-president Domenico DiBianco, the manager of Local 18, concerning some

slanders allegations made about him in a New York Communist sheet, allegations that are quite illustrative of the methods the "progressives" in the dress industry use in order to gain their points—a win power by hook, crook or calumny.

An Appeal To All Designers

Designers in Arrees May Regain Their Standing for $5.00

During the past year, the designer's organisation in the women's wear trades of New York has had great difficulties. Local No. 22. We had expected a great deal from the Joint Board, hoping that we might be put down as regular union workers under the protective wing of the contract with our employers. Our expectations have not, however, resulted in disappointment.

The manager of the local who was very "active" in spreading our money while we had an income, had quit us soon after this income had dwindled down toward the end of last year. He took his salary from it. In the last few months, we have been hammering at the doors of the Joint Board asking for relief. We obtained from them promises, but those promises have not been materialised in any degree.

We are now glad to report that ever since the recent election in the upturn of the union, there is new life and new enthusiasm in the ranks of the designer's local. It is felt that now we shall be able, by united effort, to put the organisation on a sound basis and gain something material for our membership. We must know that many of our members owe the local substantial sums in arrears which they cannot possibly pay up. For this purpose, the executive board of the local has voted that

SASCHA JACOBSEN AND Mme. CITA GLAZA will participate at the opening celebration of the Educational Season, in the auditorium of Washington Irving High School, Saturday, December 14, 7:30 P.M.

Tickets are free to members of the I. L. G. W. U. Apply at the office of the Educational Department, or at any local union.

Italian Youth of America will hold a conference next Tuesday evening, November 11th, at Bethnal Green School, 2 West 44th St. for a discussion of the expansion of the work of the organisation, and its values to the liberal and public.

Since its inauguration eighteen months ago, the Italian Youth has held an annual summer camp and the members of the local, in which it has accommo-

ated children in the temperature of the "progressive" group. The local has established the local's camp, which holds meetings on the shore of the city, and has the same quarters and public school buildings, and is now branching out to other sections of the country.

Besides the speeches and discussions, a two-week moving picture will be shown in giving a tour of the activities in a Pioneer Youth camp. Also, the Pioneer orchestra will play.

Norman Thomas, representing the local, and the liberal and radical pub-

lic, will speak on "The Needs of the Growing Generation."

Abraham L. Cowan, Chairman of the Educational Commission of the Central Trades and Labor Council, on

Review of October in Industry

The outlook seems to be favorable to labor in the immediate future, al-

though there are factors in the situation which may cause trouble to those engaged in basic industries has been rising, though it is not so high as in 1932 or at the beginning of 1933. The present movement up to 1933 or 1934, when wage earners has been in-

creasing and is from 8 to 16 per cent larger than a year ago. Wages have been held down, although the cost of living has rising a little the purchasing power of labor is not much reduced.

There is some indication of price inflation; wholesale prices have been falling slightly for the last few months. There have been main-

tained a large part of their improved condition of a year ago. Many expect-

ant more government spending on the average industry and consequently of our export trade as a result of the Locarno settlement.

It is not so darkly closed in sight.

There is always the possibility of infla-

tion on account of the large stock

of gold in this country and easy credit.

There is little doubt that these factors have stimulated speculation on the bond market, and that the rate of interest on the bonds has gone up,

ing the prices of many securities for a period of the time which the actual industrial situation warrants. This is not to say, however, that it is on the basis of some economists that the easy credit has been employed to manage capital stocks, so that either the supply or the demand on account of expected rebuilding and produc-

tive capacity of the business world reduces the price of these stocks, that are exaggerated expectations of profit.

In that event serious conflicts with wage-

ers' standard of living, social and political unrest will be thrown on the part of the losses through wage reductions.

The outlook is not in the for-

dized situation. The present financial straits of the French government are serious, and there is the fear that France will undergo the process of continual inflation and final collapse which occurred in Germany before the Dawes settlement. German finance, however, now seems to be in a fairly respectable condition, and German trade means more to this country than French.

We must also reckon with the pos-

sibility that the building boom may reach the end of its course, and a serious falling off of building opera-

tions in this country, which would affect the industry but many other supplies and basic industries as well. 

Economic recovery and other favourable possibilities should develop, however, they probably could not affect the gen-

eral standard of living for labor for several months at least.

Mexican workers and the large American investments there explain why this country manifests such an attachment to the warm interest in Mex-

ico's affairs.

The question — when it goes down on the basis of the situation. Who is going to control the policies and destinies of the Mexican nation? A good deal of work has been done to dovetail it by Mexican Wall Street newspapers, and an impression has been created that this is the case for government.

As a matter of fact, the Calles ad-

administration is showing statement-

ship of the highest order, in far-fetch-

ing vision, and practical execution. His government has been directed toward lifting up the mass of its people; to raise their standard of living and more widespread education. A share in this advancement has been taken by the National Workers' Union of Mexico. Brother Luis Morones, as Sec-

retary of Industry, Commerce and a farm, has brilliantly stated Mexico's attitude toward foreign powers. It is quite unfair to look at Mexico only as a precarious field in which to acquire wealth without expecting to give anything in return. * * * Mexico has a right just as any other country in the world to expect some respect. Nations are great and respected because of their material wealth and the means to de-

The future of Mexican dressmaking will be discussed at the conference which the posse, a spirit which dic-

tates their attitude toward the rest of world.
A meeting of the Joint Board of the Locals 2, 3, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23, 35, 45, 46, 64, 82 and 83 was held on Friday, October 29, 1925, at the headquarters of the International, 3 West 14th Street.

Communications:
Local No. 9 informs the Board that they have approved the nominations of Brother Louis Hyman as general manager of the Joint Board. Local No. 10 advises the Board that they have approved the minutes of the Joint Board of September 27, 28 and October 7 and the report of the Joint Board of October 15th.

Local No. 12 reports that the Joint Board of October 14th and the report of the Board of Directors of October 16th.
Local No. 45 reports that they have approved the minutes of the Joint Board of October 13th and have nominated Brother Louis Hyman as their choice for general manager of the Joint Board of October 16th.

Local No. 82 advises the Board that they have approved the nomination of Brother Louis Hyman as general manager of the Joint Board of October 16th.

Local No. 83 informs the Board that they have approved the nomination of Brother Louis Hyman as general manager of the Joint Board of October 16th.

The following Locals have not appeared on the official ballot for the reasons that they have less than 2,000 members.

Local No. 3—Harlem Bank of Commerce
Local No. 26—New York City

General Manager Hyman states that the newly elected business agents will be placed in the various offices of the Joint Board on Monday.

At a meeting of the Joint Board of the Locals 2, 3, 9, 10, 21, 22, 23, 35, 45, 46, 82 and 83 was held on Friday, November 12, 1925, at the headquarters of the International, 3 West 14th Street.

Committees:
A committee of the shop of Mary Lethwishes appears to be in a number of grievances, but since they had not seen the Joint Board, the Joint Board and instructed them to see the general manager about it.

Communications:
Local No. 2 informs the Board that Brother R. Reiner has been appointed to serve as representatives in the Joint Board in the place of W. K. W. who has been elected as business agent.

Brother Reiner is seated.

The next Local reports against the actions of the majority of the Examining Committee in depriving good standing members of the Union of their rights to run as business agents and maintains that this is in violation of the rules and as such plan adopted by the Joint Board and Joint Action Committee and which was approved, by the committee of the clock and dress industry.

Local No. 10 advises the Board that its Executive Board has decided to request the Joint Board, if approved by the Joint Board, that the names of the following be placed on the list of voting agents:

1. Herrmann, Berend
2. Cooper, Albert
3. Miller, Saul
4. Kaplan, Nathan
5. Kuhl, Philip
6. Wilensky, Philip
7. Shurkin, Harry

The above calls forth a lengthy discussion, after which it is taken to a vote by roll call resulting in a vote for and against, 25 for and 22 against.

Local No. 27 advises the Board that Brother Benjamin Moller and Sister Rose Wurtz, who are now serving the Joint Board as business agents, have been re-elected to serve.

The delegates are seated.

Local No. 35 informs the Board that the following names have been elected to represent them at the Joint Board for the coming term:

H. Groves, L. Davidson, J. Derick, K. Kles diret, and F. Greenberg.

The delegates are seated.

Local No. 45 advised the Board of their recommendation of the Joint Board of October 26th and the report of the Board of Directors of October 16th.

The same Local informs the Board that Brother Jack Proksch has been elected to replace Brother Bobek at the Joint Board.

The meeting is adjourned.

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With the New York Cloth and Dress Joint Board

BY JOSEPH FISH,
Secretary-Treasurer.
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CONVENTION PROBLEMS

It is probably not superficial to remind our readers, and the convention delegates in particular, that the program adopted by the General Executive Board in October 1924 to meet the demands of the local unions and the convention was one and the same, and that it was designed for the convention for the adoption of that program. Moreover, the active and intelligent element among our workers were just as fully informed at that time as they are now of the material facts and demands, the Union would have to resort to means and weapons entirely different from those used in any ordinary struggle for the improvement of work conditions or for the safeguarding of labor standards.

But it was then, as it is now, fully aware of the difficulties that would arise as they would begin the campaign for the adoption of that program. Moreover, the active and intelligent element among our workers were just as fully informed at that time as they are now of the material facts and demands, the Union would have to resort to means and weapons entirely different from those used in any ordinary struggle for the improvement of work conditions or for the safeguarding of labor standards.

It was thus, for instance, understood that in order to carry out this program, the Union would have, at least for a time, work hand in hand with the sub-manufacturers, who are no less the victims of the jobbing system than the workers. To put an end to the present system of jobbing, the “official” Committee and the “constituency” Committee of the sub-manufacturers, the Union would have to resort to means and weapons entirely different from those used in any ordinary struggle for the improvement of work conditions or for the safeguarding of labor standards.

Obviously, the Union’s program, an industrial plan so complex and far-reaching in its results, could not be made a reality by the simple process of a mere strike. A question of a raise in wages, of a shorter workday, or a similar demand may, season by season, be defeated by the overwhelming number of the mass of workers in the industry, and not be put on the agenda of the local unions. It would be impossible, for instance, for the Union to think of putting an end to the jobbing system of the clothing industry and the sub-manufacturers, the Union would have to resort to means and weapons entirely different from those used in any ordinary struggle for the improvement of work conditions or for the safeguarding of labor standards.

Furthermore, the leadership of the Union also knew that there is little love lost between the so-called “legitimate” manufacturers of the clothing industry and the jobbers, and it became important to find out what best means there may be employed to gain the support of that group in a line-up against the jobbers.

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Perhaps the most important and probably the most difficult question of all—how to gain the support of the local unions—is the answer to this question that has to be undertaken by the Executive Committee of the Union. The question of wages, of a shorter workday, or a similar demand may, season by season, be defeated by the overwhelming number of the mass of workers in the industry, and not be put on the agenda of the local unions. It would be impossible, for instance, for the Union to think of putting an end to the jobbing system of the clothing industry and the sub-manufacturers, the Union would have to resort to means and weapons entirely different from those used in any ordinary struggle for the improvement of work conditions or for the safeguarding of labor standards.

The leaders of the Union must remember that there is little love lost between the so-called “legitimate” manufacturers of the clothing industry and the jobbers, and it became important to find out what best means there may be employed to gain the support of that group in a line-up against the jobbers.

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Basic Industries in America

by STUART CHASE

8. Meat Packing

One of the most important industries of the United States is meat packing. The nation's cheap-wage earning consumers and to farmers and ranchers, is that called meat packing. The industry is important to the consumer, of course, because it furnishes him with some of his principal foodstuffs, and to the producer because it furnishes a market for his livestock. But all this might be said to any one of America's hundreds of millions of industries, and that is what makes meat packing stand out.

An excellent example of what can be done with few facts in what a generous sense meat packing has become a great manufacturing industry, typical of modern capitalism.

The total value of the products of those engaged in the business (excluding the growers, but wholly including the retail trade) was in 1912 $2,555,601,883 or about one-twelfth of the total national income. For its materials, including fuel, was $2,174,395,211. It is difficult to appreciate exactly what this means. Only a few facts can be given to indicate the difference between the two—the which was that it remained to be divided among the workers, the owners of the industry or to be paid out in overhead expenses—was $1,411,067,647. Out of this sum 61.4 per cent was paid in wages, 15.4 per cent as rent, and about half a billion dollars in interest of various kinds.

The "five big" packers have been enormously profitable almost ever since they were started, and over the years they have built up their businesses largely by reinvesting their surplus profits rather than by capitalizing them to the extent of their earnings. Stock dividends have followed stock dividends until the holdings of the owners are of very great magnitude. Many times during the war the rise in prices of meat gave them inflationary profits. In the period 1920-21 occurred they suffered correspondingly, having bought large quantities of cattle and hogs at peak prices and being forced to sell them at lower prices. These difficulties, however, have not caused them to have to restructure their organization. They have often been attacked as trusts but those who were deposed were the smaller middlemen. So they continued to be the representatives of consumers. A governmental prosecution at length was ended by a "consent decree" in 1920, by which they consented to divest themselves of cattle and hog slaughters altogether, but of those about one-fifth, each doing a business of a million dollars a year. This procedure involves them 90 per cent of the work of the industry, and it is evident that the weekly, as well as the daily, production is turned out in the five states of Illinois, Kansas, New York, Nebraska and Missouri. These firms engaged not only in the meat packing business as above outlined, but also control stockyards and sell meat at wholesale at retail.

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Some Course This Week

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY
By Alexander Pickard

Mr. Pickard's course in "Social Psychology" is being given every Wednesday evening, 6:30, in the L. L. G. W. Building, 3rd floor.

Classes in English at Unity Centers

Our members can still join the classes in English which have been arranged in our Unity Centers in various cities of the country. They are located at:

P. S. 25—251st Street.
P. S. 61—Crotona Park East and Charlotte Avenue.
P. S. 43—Brown Place and 135th Street.

A Social Study of Literature

by Emory Holloway

Introduction to Courses to Be Given at Workers' University through the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Saturday, November 14, 1:30 P.M.

Washington Irving High School, Room 530

Lesson I. Two fundamental concepts.

We refer to what a writer should attempt: one is that he should paint an ideal, and the other that he should tell the truth.

The present course of six lessons will present a study of representative writers: from colonial times down to vital books of our own day, as the simplest method of making comprehensible the great changes of thought and aspiration which have dominated American life. It will approach the subject from a social, political and intellectual condition which brought about these changes.

Franklin and Wordsworth will first be studied, supplementary exponentials of

The Philharmonic Concerts

This year, as usual, our Educational Department arranges concerts with the Philharmonic Society, where

Opening Excerpts of The Educational Activities of the I. L. G. W. U., will take place on Saturday evening, November 14, in the auditorium of Washington Irving High School.

This event will be celebrated with a concert and dance. Prominent artists will participate.

WEEKLY EDUCATIONAL CALENDAR

W. C. T. U. BUILDING, 3 WEST 16TH STREET

Wednesday, November 16

2:00 P. M. Alexander Pickard—Social Psychology.

This course will consist of ten lessons and will be continued on Wednesday evenings.

WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

Washington Irving High School, Irving Place and 16th Street, Room 530

November 14

1:30 P.M. Emory Holloway—A Social Study of American Literature.

This course will consist of six lessons, and will be followed by a course in English literature to be given by Mr. E. B. J. Hepler, 1:30 P.M. A. J. Muste—The Place of Workers in History.

Mr. Muste will give the introduction to his course on Saturday, November 14, but the remainder of the lessons will be given Sunday morning.

AUDITORIUM OF WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, November 14

7:30 P. M. Concert—Opening Celebration of Educational Season.

Saturday evening, Mr. Glennie and Mme. Gita Glaston, will participate in musical program.

After the Concert there will be a Dance in the Gymnasium.

UNITY CENTERS

English classes for beginners, intermediates and advanced students, have been organized for our members in the following Public Schools:

P. S. 25—251st Street.
P. S. 61—Crotona Park East and 135th Street.
P. S. 43—Brown Place and 135th Street.

Union Health Center Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

Large Throng Visits Opening of Two New Clinics

On Thursday, November 5th, the Union Health Center held an open house in celebration of its fifth anniversary—Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union are invited to this opening.

The Clinic is a general health clinic offering to members the services of a doctor, a nurse, and a public health nurse.

The Union Health Center has been open for five years and has served over 50,000 members.

Dr. Arthur M. Hunter of the Dental Department of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, spoke on the importance of dental prophylactic work.

Dr. Joseph Levey, the Union Health Center's chief dentist, spoke on the importance of dental health.

The Clinic has been in operation for five years and has served over 50,000 members.

Mrs. Patricia C. Cape, Vice-president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, spoke on the importance of the Clinic in the community.

Dr. Martin L. Lieb made a brief speech on the subject of visiting the Dental Clinic.

Among visitors present at this celebration were: Dr. James Workman of the Dental Department of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Dr. Gilbert, Dr. White and the entire staff of the Union Health Center.

GRASP THIS OPPORTUNITY!

The Office of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 3rd Floor, 5 West 16th Street, is open Monday through Thursday until 5 o'clock to enable members of the Union to pur-

"The Women's Garment Workers" at half price—$2.50.
The White Menace

By NORMAN THOMAS

The League of Nations as between European peoples seems to be becoming a useful agency of internationalism. But the spirit that has animated it is in many respects almost impotent for good, if not a positive agency of imperialism.

The best illustration of this fact is to be found in the utter failure of the League, up to the time of writing, to bring the French to book for their infamous conduct in Syria, which clouded the future of that mandate from the League. The French Commander-in-Chief, Barrat, has proven himself as incapable and inefficient in Syria by his blustering militarism, actually ordering the bombardment of Damascus.

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EUROPE.
CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 10

Special Miscellaneous Meeting...Monday, November 16th

Nomination: Candidates for Executive Board

At Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place
Meetings Begin Promptly at 7:30 P. M.