10-1931

Justice (Vol. 13, Iss. 12)

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.
Editorial Notes

THE EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT levied by the special meeting of the General Executive Board two weeks ago upon each member of the International is, at the present writing, being ratified by all locals of the I. L. G. W. U. at special meetings summoned for that purpose. There is little reason to doubt that the assessment will be overwhelmingly sanctioned.

We probably do not have to inform our members that the General Executive Board was not particularly happy in levying this tax upon membership of the Union. But the administration of the I. L. G. W. U. actually has no other alternative in this situation. The emergency which the closing of the International-Madison Bank by the New York State Banking Department had created for us was like a bolt of thunder from a clear sky. The reputation, the prestige, may, the very existence of our International and of our locals and Joint Boards who are all parties to the obligation is at stake.

The fact that the G. E. B. had contrived to bring the amount of this assessment down to $3.75—the smallest levy ever made by the International for one of the gravest financial emergencies in its history—is, in more than one sense, a tribute to its keen appreciation of the material condition of our workers at this hour. The Union is confronted at this time with two debts—one of $143,000 to the International-Madison Bank, the balance of a loan dating back to the disastrous Cloak strike in 1926, and another of $40,000, an obligation assumed in the issuance of the historic three-year Reconstruction Bond Loan in the winter of 1926 to which our locals, Joint boards, many thousands of our members and a large number of other labor organizations and individuals sympathetic to the cause of labor, have subscribed. The $3.75 assessment will enable the Union to make two payments of 25 per cent each on the debt to the Bank now being liquidated by the banking authorities, and two payments of 25 per cent each on the Reconstruction Bond Loan which matures next December.

We repeat: There are no two ways out of this situation which is facing the International. Surely, no loyal member of the Union would like to see the State Banking Department install receivers in the International, local and Joint Board offices, which, under the law, it has the power to do. Surely, no devoted member of our organization would like to see the Union default in paying back to our own men and women and to thousands of friends in and outside the labor movement at least a part of the bond money to which they had so generously subscribed. And if both these pressing obligations could be met half-way within the next few months through the payment of a comparatively small tax of $3.75, we are inclined to believe, our membership will vote for it without a grudge or hesitation.

What is most important, as the message of the G. E. B. to all locals, clearly emphasizes, is speedy action. This tax, in order to be effective, must be collected during this month. That's why the final date for all special meetings to ratify this emergency assessment has been fixed for October 1st. We are confident that not only will the locals of the I. L. G. W. U. in every part of the country rally without delay to the support of the International by ratifying this $3.75 levy but that its collection will be achieved in record time.

A DECISION OF ARRESTING interest has been rendered in Boston by a Superior Court referee in favor of our Joint Board in that city in a case growing out of a deliberate breach of a union agreement by a dress firm.

The firm had resigned from the manufacturers' association in order to escape the obligations of the collective contract, this new decision in the Factor & Friedman case, however, makes a new and radical departure inasmuch as it declares that the acts of the defendant firm have caused damages in the way of loss of wages to locked out union men and assesses these damages at $30,000. Moreover, the referee in his official opinion declares that "there is also evidence of damages sustained by the union concerning its reputation in the Boston labor market and the amount of dues lost by it, but although I find that the defendants' acts were the efficient cause thereof, I am unable to find with any degree of certainty what those damages are."

A characteristic feature of this case is that, like in many another instance of contract-dodging employers—in New York and in other places—this firm, too, had hit on the bright idea of giving up its old firm name and incorporating its "new" business under two different charters. The referee, however, minces no words in declaring that these "corporations are mere cloaks or veils and are the defendants in another form." He follows these new affiliations to their source of origin and decides that the corporations were formed to conceal the breach of the defendants' agreement obligations.

The Factor & Friedman decision should have a wholesome effect on all future relations between employers and our unions not only in Boston but everywhere. It is a valuable judicial precedent that should be quoted in every case where employers lightly choose to convert a
union agreement into a scrap of paper. The Boston cloak and dress makers, in particular, we hope, should find that their position as a factor in the local labor market has been immeasurably strengthened by this decision.

THE NEW YORK RAINCOAT MAKERS have renewed their trade agreement for another year. Their new agreement calls for the restoration of the wage schedule of a year ago, wiping out the fifteen per cent reduction which was forced upon them last winter.

The restoration of the old union wage scale in the waterproof garment shops means an actual gain for each employed worker of about seven or eight dollars a week. It means, nevertheless, much more than this. It implies an admission on the part of an industry that wage cuts cannot restore prosperity and that a curtailed purchasing power of the workers can lead only to further depression, unemployment and misery.

Of course, the raincoat trade is as much affected by the general economic slump as other trades in and outside the garment industry. There is still little work in the waterproof garment shops and the workers are hard hit. But the members of Local 66 have every reason to feel proud of their organization, of its influence in the raincoat shops, and of its level-headed and sound leadership. Despite the harassing situation, they have succeeded in retaining an effective, solid union which guards their interests vigilantly, tirelessly, day in and out.

THE THIRTEENTH UNITY HOUSE season has closed in a proverbial “blaze of glory” last week after a hectic run of fourteen weeks.

Despite pessimistic predictions and head shaking the summer house of the I. L. G. W. U. in the Pennsylvania Pocono Mountains has catalogued this summer to a larger host of guests than at any other season in its history. It is estimated that not less than six thousand persons have availed themselves of the hospitality of Unity this summer. But it was not only the largest crowd in its history but it was also the most contented and happiest army of guests and visitors.

For Unity House this summer was a “greater and better” house of rest and recreation in every conceivable sense of the term. It had better and more extensive housing facilities, wider opportunities for amusement and play, both physical and spiritual, and, what is most important, it had a vastly improved commissary—kitchen, food and dining room service. And it goes without special emphasizing that this very much improved feature at Unity had a lot to do with enhancing its popularity this summer among its thousands of guests.

We are not certain whether the Unity House has made money this season or not. It should be borne in mind that the Unity House always has lived up to its slogan that it is being run for “use and not for profit.” We are aware of the fact that there exists an opinion among some of our own folks that too great a percentage of Unity guests are not members of the I. L. G. W. U. and that its rates, probably the lowest in the field for the class of recreation it provides, should be raised. This, however, is a purely managerial problem with which the Unity House Committee might have to reckon in the future. What is, nevertheless, conceded on all sides is that the Unity House, always striving to give satisfaction and happiness to all who enter its gates, has this summer outdone itself in winning the good will and the gratitude of its guests.

THE STRIKE OF THE BONNAZ embroiderers this month has had a wholesome effect on the workers and has helped to clear up the atmosphere in this industry.

The Bonnaz Embroiderers’ Strike

The fact is that the Bonnaz embroidery trade, aside from bad conditions in industry in general, has suffered in the past three years a serious decline. The fashions in the women’s apparel industry upon which this trade depends, have for many a season run unfavorably for the Bonnaz embroiderers. Many of their shops have closed down altogether, while many others were working on part time or with diminished staffs. Only thanks to the fact that they were a group of staunch and devoted union men were the Bonnaz embroiderers able to preserve their union and work conditions.

The strike, which was called for the purpose of carrying through the renewal of the agreement in the trade, turned out very well. With the exception of a few firms which did not sign up because they still have no work, Local 66 renewed the agreement with every employer. It also signed up a group agreement with the Piecers’ Association, covering such pleating shops where a good deal of embroidery is being made. The contract retains all the standards of work which prevailed in the trade for the past half-dozen years, namely, the 40-hour week, the $45 minimum wage for the eight regular holidays with pay and a time-and-a-half pay for overtime.

The Bonnaz embroiderers have reason to be proud of their organization. Local 66 is not a big local but it is a real trade union which knows that its mission is to protect its members and to guard their interests. The best we can wish them now is good seasons and plenty of work in their shops. They will take care of the rest.

EARLY THIS MONTH, the American Federation of Labor will convene again in annual session, this time in Vancouver, B.C.

The A. F. of L. Convention

The Federation will meet in time of one of the greatest crises that ever confronted this nation. Let us hope that the leadership of American labor will, in this emergency, drop the use of polite phrases and will talk to the workers and to the country at large, straight from the shoulder. We rather liked President Green’s declaration at the convention of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor last month in which he demanded that President Hoover either call a conference of economists to remedy unemployment conditions or admit that “the present economic structure of the country is an absolute failure.”

Organized labor should not remain content with merely proposing academic, long-range remedies for the tragic situation that is afflicting millions of idle wage-earners and their families in the United States. In the face of approaching winter immediate federal aid is imperative. Congress must be summoned at once to deal with the catastrophe. The great reservoirs of hoarded wealth should be tapped and put to work for the good of the people.

Let us hope that the convention of the Federation will supply the need of a courageous voice that would stir America from coast to coast. Let us hope that the Federation will offer the country a sane, practical program of immediate action that would bring relief to the unemployed millions and mobilize them under intelligent leadership.
OCTOBER, 1931

Local 89 First to Ratify $3.75 Emergency Assessment

At a member meeting attended by more than 400 workers, held on Thursday, September 10, at Christ Church House on West 36th Street, the Italian Dressmakers' Union, Local 89, of New York, voted unanimously to ratify the recently levied International Emergency Assessment of $3.75 to pay off pressing debts which threaten the existence of the organization.

Among those who spoke in favor of the assessment, besides Vice President Lelio Antenfeli, were Angelina Bambaci, Charles Rizzuto, John Gelo, Stefano Jovino, Raffaele Jannanton, Peter Bonanno, Joe. Providenti and Gaetano Cammarere. The only one who spoke against it was Giuseppe Costa, but even he did not vote against it.

Letter Sent by C. E. B.

To All Locals

The following is the official communication forwarded by the General Executive Board to all subdivisions of the international urging immediate action on and endorsement of the Emergency $3.75 Tax:

TO ALL LOCALS AND JOINT BOARDS AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION:

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

At a special meeting of the General Executive Board of our International held on September 9, 1931, it was unanimously decided to levy an emergency assessment of $3.75 upon each member of the International for the purpose of enabling us:

1. To make two payments of 25 per cent each on our debt of $143,960 to the International Madison Bank; and

2. To make two payment of 25 per cent each on the $14,000 bonds which were issued by our International three years ago and which mature December 31, 1931.

It is absolutely imperative for the maintenance of the Union, its reputation and standing that two payments of 25 per cent each of these two debts be made within the next eight months, the first within three and one-half months from now and the second within eight months. The payment of the balances of these two debts will have to be provided for by the biennial convention of our International, which will be held this coming May.

The debt to the International Madison Bank dates back to the unfortunate general strike of the New York Cloakmakers of 1926. At the beginning of that disastrous strike, a loan of about $400,000 was made by the bank. Since then we have reduced the loan to $143,960. We had hoped that in the course of another three years, this debt would be paid up in full. Unfortunately, the International-Madison Bank was closed by the New York State Banking Department, and we have been ordered to pay off the loan in the shortest time.

As regards the $14,000 bonds, you will recall that in the winter of 1929, the International, in order to rebuild the Union, issued a three-year Reconstruction Bond Loan to which our locals, joint boards, many thousands of our members and a large number of other labor organizations and individuals sympathetic to the cause of labor, have subscribed.

In order to secure the requisite sum at once, you are hereby instructed to call, without delay, a special meeting of your Local to ratify the proposed assessment. Meetings must be held and their action reported to the General Office not later than October 1, 1931.

The General Executive Board has implicit faith in the loyalty and devotion of our membership. The Board is confident that every one of our organizations will rally wholeheartedly to the support of our International in this great emergency situation. Speedy action, however, is essential, and we count upon you to do your duty without delay.

Fraternally yours,

Benj. Schlesinger,
President

David Dubinsky,
General Sec'y-Treas.

A Letter from Los Angeles

By B. Surasky

Chairman, Local 52

There is an effort on foot here again to organize the cloak makers in our city.

The last strike was followed by a period of soul-deadening quiet and apathy. The reaction of the defeat and the evil effect of the crisis have wrought havoc among our workers. There was no work in the shops, and this slackness had been utilized by the employers to catch the last spark of spirit among the men and women in the cloak factories. Wages have been cut to the bone, so much so that it is absolutely impossible for a cloak maker to earn a living.

"How Long?"

Today, however, many local cloak workers are beginning to ask themselves the question: How long can this continue? What if the last strike was lost, could we not make an attempt to reorganize our shattered forces? Many another strike has been lost by other workers in other trades, yet they succeeded later in coming back and regaining their positions—why not the Los Angeles cloakmakers? Fortunately, we have here in Los Angeles men whose minds are not completely demoralized, who still believe that we can have here a union that would come to their defense.

And this group of loyal men are now beginning to translate their hopes into action. They firmly believe that their mother organization, the International, would come to their assistance, if help should be necessary. A few meetings had been held recently, the first with meager results, but the second showed a far better attendance. And believe me, there was sincere enthusiasm at that meeting! Of a sudden we began to realize that not all is lost to Los Angeles, that we still may have here in the near future an organization that would mean a great deal to all of us.

New Officers Elected

We talked at that meeting about our conditions in the shops and about the general situation in our local trade. And we came to the conclusion that as long as we can find the will to work we shall find a way out of the present despondent condition. We elected at that meeting new officers and a new executive board. We decided that all dropped members may be admitted until October 1st by paying up two dollars and a month's dues, for a man, and a dollar and a month's dues, for each woman. If anyone wants to retain unbroken his or her membership in the International they would have to pay up back dues at the rate of a quarter a week for all the time they had been in arrears.

The elected officers are: B. Surasky, chairman, Local 52; Louis Helz, secretary; J. Goldberg, treasurer; J. Greenberg, vice president; Morris Finkel, M. Karwicker, Philip Newman, H. Rubinstein and M. Silverman members of the executive board.
Management Changes in Toronto Union

By BERNARD SHANE
General Organizer

Sisters and Brothers:

"I speak in Toronto exactly 21 months. During this time we succeeded in organizing a powerful cloak union. We established union conditions in the shops, increased materially prices of labor, regained the lost standing and prestige of the workers and of the union in the trade and won back the guarantee of the job for the cloakmakers. In the dress trade we have gone through a bitter strike that lasted ten weeks and was partly successful. The bad seasons since the end of that strike hasn’t given us a chance to reap the fruits of the partial victory, and we have since suffered losses in this trade. Nevertheless, we did establish a good foundation for a future union in the Toronto dress industry, and I am certain that at the first opportune moment the International will be on the job again to organize a complete dress be made impossible without your generous union in this city.

"The above achievement would have been impossible without your generous cooperation, cloakmakers and dressmakers. I could mention hundreds of names among you whom I have really learned to love for their loyalty and sincerity. Space, however, forbids me to give individual credit to all who so well earned it.

I wish to assure you, sisters and brothers, that I shall always cherish the friendship, and the affection you have shown me. I am leaving you to continue the work of our International Union in another city, but I shall always retain the finest of memories of my stay in Toronto, and I hope that you will, by continuing organizing effort, create a solid and influential organization of the excellent human material found in your shops."

President Schlesinger

Visits Canadian City

President Schlesinger was in Toronto a few weeks ago primarily to adjust some managerial difficulties in the office of the Joint Board. His visit here was made the occasion for taking up important problems affecting the local cloak and dress organizations. In brief, these tasks, as outlined by Brother Schlesinger, are:

1. Steps must be taken to strengthen union sentiment among the workers in general.

2. Measures must be taken to improve the financial situation of the Joint Board.

3. Relations between the Union and the employers must be improved and, if possible, contracts should be signed with employers who recently resigned from the Association—while Bro. Shane still remains in charge of the Joint Board office.

It was also understood that Bro. Shane is to leave Toronto as soon as these plans are carried out.

Naturally, the successful carrying out of these plans depends on conditions in the trade. If there should be no work in the shops there can be little action against the employers. The same applies with regard to improvement of union sentiment among the members. It is difficult to have members feel good about a union when they are workless and without a prospect of a season’s work.

Two Officers to Run Cloth Union

President Schlesinger spent two days in Toronto, September 4 and 5. During this short stay he interviewed a number of committees and discussed trade matters with them. On September 4, he had a meeting with the Cloth Joint Board which lasted until late hours. After a hectic discussion Brother Schlesinger finally convinced the delegates of the Board that: Brother Shane’s leaving Toronto is a logical step, and he assured them that the General Office will do everything possible to help the Toronto cloakmakers and will, should it prove necessary, send a representative to help out for two or three weeks. In the meantime, Toronto must try out the plan of conducting the office with two paid officers only. It may work, and if it does not, it might be changed later.

Brother Schlesinger clearly stated his opinion in this matter when he said that, if two officers were to conduct the business of the Toronto organization it is essential that they both be experienced and capable men. "I do know Brother Kienert," he said, "but I don’t know the second man. If they work out to be all right, we shall only be too glad to help them and to cooperate with the Joint Board. If, however, one of them should turn out a failure, which I hope will not be the case, you may have a new election for paid officers. We shall watch the situation in Toronto and do our best to retain the Union in proper shape.

Dress Workers Pledge to Carry on

Brother Schlesinger also had a meeting on the afternoon of September 5 with the Executive Board of Local 72, the dressmakers. He listened to a report of the local times which have been taken in the trade and the workers since the conclusion of their strike last winter. There was practically no work during the summer season and still less work this fall season. The employers are taking advantage of the bad times, cutting down prices and underminingunion conditions in the shops. And the workers are too hungry and tired from the efforts of the last struggle to offer resistance. The result is a gripping battle on our hands to keep up the organization in the Toronto dress trade.

Brother Schlesinger, after having given the executive board some sound advice concerning the management of their local, encouraged them by promising aid from the International. He assured them that if they succeeded in keeping the organization, he would be ready to come down to Toronto personally at the opportune moment, stay there for three or four weeks and help conduct a campaign and establish proper relations with the employers.

The executive board of Local 72 felt greatly elated over this meeting with President Schlesinger. They are now continuing their work with increased vigor. His visit to Toronto has made a fine impression on the Toronto cloak and dress workers in general and we all expect good results from it.

Shane Bids Good-Bye to Toronto Workers

Prior to leaving for Chicago, where he will take charge of an organizing campaign among the dressmakers, Brother Bernard Shane, I.L.G.W.U. general organizer for nearly two years in Toronto, has addressed the following letter to the local workers, members of the cloak and dress unions:

"Sisters and Brothers:

"I speak in Toronto exactly 21 months. During this time we succeeded in organizing a powerful cloak union. We established union conditions in the shops, increased materially prices of labor, regained the lost standing and prestige of the workers and of the union in the trade and won back the guarantee of the job for the cloakmakers. In the dress trade we have gone through a bitter strike that lasted ten weeks and was partly successful. The bad seasons since the end of that strike hasn’t given us a chance to reap the fruits of the partial victory, and we have since suffered losses in this trade. Nevertheless, we did establish a good foundation for a future union in the Toronto dress industry, and I am certain that at the first opportune moment the International will be on the job again to organize a complete dress be made impossible without your generous union in this city.

"The above achievement would have been impossible without your generous cooperation, cloakmakers and dressmakers. I could mention hundreds of names among you whom I have really learned to love for their loyalty and sincerity. Space, however, forbids me to give individual credit to all who so well earned it.

"I wish to assure you, sisters and brothers, that I shall always cherish the friendship, and the affection you have shown me. I am leaving you to continue the work of our International Union in another city, but I shall always retain the finest of memories of my stay in Toronto, and I hope that you will, by continuing organizing effort, create a solid and influential organization of the excellent human material found in your shops."

JUSTICE

A Labor Journal

Published every month by the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union

Office of Publication:
76 Montgomery St., Jersey City, N. J.
General Office (1908)
2 W. 18th St., N. Y. C. Tel. Chelsea 3-213

BENJAMIN SCHLEISINGER, President
DAVID DUBINSKY, Secretary-Treasurer
MAX D. DAVENPORT, Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, $1.00 per year.

Vol. XIII, No. 12 Oct. 1921

Boston Referee Awards $30,000 to Workers

Full Account of Record-Setting Case

By MAX AMDUR
Vice-President, I. L. G. W. U.

On Oct. 13, 1931, the firm communicated with and hired some of their former employees who, although members of the Union, entered into individual agreements with the firm. The firm also hired certain persons who were not members of the union.

Union Renewed Offer

The master says that on Oct. 14, 1930, the union renewed its offer to furnish help to the firm, which offer the latter rejected, refusing to employ help through the Union; that on Oct. 16, 1930, the firm elected to break its part of the collective agreement with the Union, to that end sending notice to the association of their desire to resign and notifying the Union it would not deal with it under the collective agreement; and, it being willing to make a new agreement with the firm, that firm sought to have the Union break its agreement with the association and deal directly with it; that on Oct. 16, 1930, the Union refused to enter into a new agreement with the firm, insisting that it abide by the decision of the impartial chairman; that thereafter the firm continued to hire help without applying to the firm, thereby repudiating the collective agreement, repudiated authority of the impartial chairman and denied its membership in the association.

In consequence of the Union's refusal to breach the collective agreement, the master says, the firm planned to injure and destroy the Union, to weaken its strength with the association and generally to establish open shop conditions in Boston. In pursuance, says the master, the firm did, by threats and other unlawful means, induce some members to leave the Union and endeavor and is still endeavoring to persuade members of the association from continuing to employ labor furnished by the Union.

On Oct. 16, 1930, the firm declared a strike on firm and picketed its shop to compel the workers to continue to employ the firm. The picketing ceased Nov. 6. As a result of the firm's acts many resigned from the Union, many were suspended, the Union lost much in dues, and generally lost its standing among labor organizations and in the eyes of employers because of its inability to enforce the collective agreement. The association lost some of its members and spent money to preserve its existence and to persuade members to carry out the collective agreement, the master finds.

Conspiracy Charged

The master also says: "On July 1, 1931, the firm conspired to get around the collective agreement and avoid any or further liability on account of the same. To this end, wages combined with others to evade the agreement so that they could hire workers without regard to it. In pursuance thereof, the firm and these other persons caused the firm's business to be incorporated. Two corporations were organized and chartered under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bearing the name "Friedman-Lerner Co" on June 30, 1931, and "Factor & Finer, Inc. on July 3, 1931.

"These corporations are mere cloaks or veils and were in firm in another form. The corporations were organized to conceal the breach of the firm's agreements with the Union and with the further view the new corporations would not be bound by the terms of the collective agreement, since these corporations were not members of the association.

"After Oct. 14, 1930, the firm did not employ any members in good standing of the Union.

Finds Union Injured

On damages the master finds: "I find that the Union has suffered injury and sustained damage as the result of the conduct of the firm. The firm knew, or reasonably believed that this loss would be inflicted upon the Union and intended it to be so. The immediate and consequent result of the firm's action has been a loss in wages to the idle members of the Union from Oct. 4, 1930, to the date of the filing of this report of thirty thousand ($39,900) dollars, the same being wages which said idle members of the union would have received from the firm during that period if the collective agreement had been performed by the firm.

"There is also evidence of damages sustained by the Union concerning its reputation in the Boston labor market and the amount of dues lost by it, but although I find that the union has sustained loss and damages to its reputation and from its inability to collect dues, the firm's acts being the efficient cause thereof, I am unable to find with any degree of certainty what these damages are.

"I do not find that the Union has been guilty of unclean hands."
Run O' The Month

By MAX D. DANISH

"BRITISH SEAMEN WIN pay cut concession," runs a headline topping as startling an account of an incipient mutiny in the British navy as ever crossed the cables within man's memory. And still farther: "No punishment ordered; maneuvers abandoned." Not even the remotest sign of a court-martial for the nine thousand sailors who refused to weigh anchor until they received assurances that the drastic wage cut running from ten to twenty-five per cent of their daily allowance would not be put through.

Again we read: "Navy disorders seen as example for army, air force, police and teachers." In other words, the men of the land, air and police forces and the great army of school teachers are likely to take similar measures to show their resentment against the wage reductions undertaken by the "Economy Cabinet" for all these groups.

Further rough sailing marks the start for the budget-balancing wizards of the British "Coalition-Nationalist" Government. What a pretty kettle of fish for MacDonald and Snowden to be involved in! Not only the trade unionists of Great Britain fail to see eye to eye with the silk-topped gentlemen who cut the "dole" to prop up sterling but even the military and the civil services refuse in most convincing fashion to endorse an "economy" program at their own expense.

Their argument is rather simple, too: if British currency is to be saved, let those who have most of it do the saving. * * *

"NO ONE IN THE PRESENT CRISIS shall have cake until one is assured of bread," John Dewey writes to President Hoover. To place a piece of bread within reach of every one who is deprived of the opportunity of earning it now, Professor Dewey demands in his letter that Congress be summoned at once in special session and vote a fund of three billion dollars for an unemployment relief program—so build homes for workers, to construct new roads, to develop waters and water power, to electrify the backward countryside.

President Butler of Columbia University in a recent address is quoted, too, as stating that the present crisis is the "final test of capitalism." He advocates employment insurance, a five-day workweek and national control of the main industries in the country. Dewey and Butler today are the leaders of the liberal intelligentsia in America. But every day we hear senators, governors, mayors, industrial leaders—even bankers—declaring that the fate of the capitalist sys-

tem hinges upon finding a prompt remedy for the devastating economic conditions. Statesmen and capitalists marvel at the patience of the workers half starved in a country whose banks are fairly bursting with money and whose storehouses overflow with food. If the workers weren't so patient, statesmen and capitalists would be in more of a hurry to find remedies for the situation.

"No one shall have cake until every one has bread," is still far removed from the true social ideal of "bread for all and cake for all as well." The Deweys and the Butlers may some day get to this point. For, the moment, however, their sincere and courageous stand is in itself a ray of light in the darkness that surrounds us on all sides.

IT IS BUT NATURAL that every friend of the problems and of the gougers should at this time whoop it up for a sales tax upon the masses of the American people.

The next session of Congress will be confronted with a huge deficit, and will, doubtless, seek new sources of revenue to cover it. In any other country on the face of the earth, the burden of such a deficit would be shifted upon those who receive the greatest benefits from our economic and social system, upon accumulated wealth, or upon swollen incomes derived from inheritance.

Not so in these United States of ours. Our theory obviously is to place the cost of government most heavily upon those least able to stand it, upon those who ought to be relieved, as far as possible, from any burden of taxation.

We are just wondering to what extent an aroused public opinion could make itself sufficiently felt to make the sponsors of this monstrous scheme abandon their efforts for a sales tax. Such a tax would indeed be an added tax on every loaf of bread, on every pair of shoes bought for the baby, on every pound of meat purchased for the Sunday meal—nothing short of a diabolical mockery in the face of the misery and privation that has already engulfed millions of American homes in the past two years.

IT IS BECOMING DAILY more and more certain that the funds handled by the Mayor's Unemployment Committee in New York, months running into millions of dollars, are being used by Tammany Hall for political purposes. The Seabury investigators already have es-

tablished the fact that only faithful Tammany adherents had been given jobs and relief in the Borough of Richmond.

Seabury hit on the trail of this newest Tammany "honest" graft after the Tammany-controlled Board of Aldermen had passed an ordinance that only such unemployes as had voted in the last election should be given aid. But what has been discovered in Staten Island is doubtless being practiced on an even larger scale in other districts of Greater New York. The Seabury investigators are therefore now proceeding to pry into Tammany's altruistic activities in other boroughs.

There will be tens of millions of dollars, State and private money, spent during the coming winter in unemployment relief in New York. If left in the hands of the Mayor's Committees, or, in plainer words, in Tammany's hands alone, the relief money will probably be utilized by Tammany largely to strengthen its political machine. To begin with, the ordinance limiting relief to "last election voters" should be repealed at once. The next thing, the distribution of the funds and of the jobs should be placed under the supervision of non-partisan groups of men and women who would see to it that it is distributed without bias to political affiliation and to such persons as mostly are in need of relief.

ANOTHER LURID LIGHT upon the mid-European scene is thrown by the abortive Fascist "putsch" in Austria.

Many times predicted and just as many times delayed, this feeble attempt to establish a dictatorship in the shrunken former Hapsburg kingdom appears not to have caused a great surprise either in Austria or in her neighboring countries. The Heimwehr "ravishd has, therefore, found the Republican and Socialist forces in Austria well prepared and able to break down the "putsch" in the record time of twenty-four hours.

It is more than likely that this Fascist attempt to introduce an anti-Semitic dictatorship on Austria was stimulated by the recent decision of the World Court on the "illegality" of the proposal of a customs union between Germany and Austria. There are multitudes in Austria who have nothing to do with Fascism who still believe that such a union with Germany alone is capable of pulling out Austria of her economic and financial plight. Apparently the Fascist leaders had hoped that this decision which nipped in the bud Austria's hope for rehabilitation in the near future would line up on their side the support of these masses
News From Cleveland Market

By VICE-PRES. CHARLES KREINDLER
Secretary Cleveland Joint Board

We are still in the midst of negotiating our agreement for the coming year, and at the hour of this writing, the outcome of these parleys is still a good deal in doubt.

We had our first conference with the employers' association on August 20. After some preliminary talking we learned that our manufacturers had come to the conference with a set thought that they could force upon us a wage reduction. They laid before us the bad situation in the industry and the compression in the country, stressing the point that they just couldn't go on unless our wages were cut. Besides that, they proposed single time for overtime, the abolition of pay for legal holidays, the abolition of the time guarantee and of the 2 per cent unemployment fund which has been in operation in our industry since 1917.

Employers Seek To Scrape Standards

We listened patiently to what they had to tell us, and in rebuttal informed them that we quite fully understand the hard times that have fallen upon each and every one of us. There is no use in denying that conditions are bad. But, we pointed out to them, while we admit all that and while we are willing to cooperate with them in every reasonable way, we fail to see the logic or the industrial justice of their suggestion to scrap all the work standards we have had in the women's garment shops for the past ten years as a means of bringing back prosperity. Certainly, wage cuts that would even further decrease the ability of our workers to make ends meet, will not restore prosperity and happiness in the Cleveland cloak industry.

Besides, we made it clear to them that our men and women have suffered enough already from the depression during the past two years of bad seasons. To give up the few guarantees in the shops, or to allow a wage reduction to take place, would be equal to depriving them from making even the most meagre sort of living from their labor.

To be sure, we told them, the Union came to the conference with no demands of its own because, it had hoped, in a spirit of cooperation and willingness to help the industry, that the employers would also refrain from making demands upon the workers. But if the manufacturers persist in forcing demands on the cloakmakers, the Union, in its turn, would come to the next meeting with the employers prepared to present and argue for a number of improvements and additions to the contract which it deems vital to the interests of the workers.

Cloakmakers Are Stirred

The conference adjourned to meet again within four weeks. Under the collective agreement both sides have time until October 1 to notify the Board of Referrees of any additions or changes in the new contract they might be inclined to propose. We expect to be ready by that time with our list of changes and modifications.

The news that the employers had come to the first conference with demands of a wage reduction and of the abrogation of several work standards in the shops has, in the meantime, created a stir among the cloak and dress workers in Cleveland. Shortly after the session with the employers we had a special meeting of the Joint Board and meetings of each of the fire Cleveland locals. Our members unanimously decided to stand behind the Union in every one of its moves and to be ready to defend our shop conditions from the attack of the employers.

From the spirit shown at these meetings we have become stronger confirmed in our conviction that the Cleveland women's garment workers will not recede a step from their positions, no matter what happens.

The Task Ahead

Our first line of work, as we generally call here the work done in the shops on the first line of orders—from July 1 to September 1—was rather poor. The second line, the most important of the season, however, is beginning to show up now, and there is a substantial hope expressed on all sides that production will now start in earnest.

We take this occasion to say a few words to our members with regard to the regular obligations which they owe to their Union. This is the time to pay up your back dues and assessments to the organization. It is time for deeds, for action and not merely for words. A good and loyal union man, or woman will not fall behind in his or her dues while there is work in the shops. Remember, besides, we all have a lot of important work ahead of us, we have a lot of ground to cover and we must be prepared.
With The N. Y. Dressmakers' Union, Local 22

 Plenty of Work—But No Money

The dress industry is, at this time, in the midst of its busiest season. So much so that we have actually reached the stage where firms are calling up the office for help—an indubitable barometer that there is work aplenty.

The natural inference should, therefore, be that the dressmakers, having plenty of work, are happy and contented. In truth, however, it must be said that never in the history of the organization have our members been so miserably exploited as they are now. Never before have dressmakers been obliged—in this, the busiest part of the season—to travel from shop to shop in search of a piece of bread.

True enough, we are still protected in name at least—by the minimum scales in our industry. We have many other favorable clauses in our agreements. In practice, however, the employers have thrown down the gauntlet to the workers to “take it or leave it.” The workers must choose between sitting idle in the factory while their work is being sent outside or accept the terms of the employer. Conditions being what they are, they invariably choose the latter course.

Employers Responsible For Present Chaos

We are not unmindful of the general depression prevailing throughout the land. We are not unmindful of the many difficulties confronting the dress industry. Yet, we cannot escape the conclusion that the present deplorable condition in which our members and our industry find themselves, is directly attributable to the avarice and stupidity of the employers who have deliberately and continuously done everything to undermine the workers’ organization and, in so doing, are also ruining themselves.

General Dress Strike in the Offing

No wonder, then, that we find so much dissatisfaction and grumbling among the dressmakers. While nothing so far has been officially said on the question of our expiring agreements and the possibility of a general strike next season the word “general strike” is frequently and loudly heard at the various places where our members assemble. The prevailing opinion is that when the time comes for the renewal of the agreements and a strike is called, as we hope it will, the response to it will be greater than ever before.

And why should it not be? After 20

odd years of unionism in the dress industry the workers are working today at—proportionately speaking—the same rates that they did 10 and 12 years ago. Conditions of employment are not much better. The workers have nothing to lose in striking against such conditions. The $4.00 a day which they earn in the shops now they would be able to earn at any form of manual labor.

President Schlesinger Summon Manufacturing Manufacturers to Conference

While on this subject it will not be amiss to report of a very important conference which has recently taken place at President Schlesinger’s headquarters at which, the entire dress situation was broadly discussed. As a result of this conference, President Schlesinger has already invited the various manufacturing groups to a general conference. We hope to be able to report something more definite about it in the next issue of “Justice.”

Communists Back at Their Old Game

The events in the Furriers’ Union have found an echo in some of our sections. We refer our readers to the following statement of the Executive Board, which is self-explanatory:

STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD DRESSMAKERS UNION LOCAL 22, I.L.G.W.U.

At our last General Member meeting, held by Bryant Hall, Thursday, August 27, considerable time was devoted to the discussion of the position taken by the Executive Board, with reference to the following resolution sponsored by the East New York and Brownsville section:

July 8, 1931.

“We, the members of Local 22, being assembled at a section meeting in East New York, and having discussed our desperate position, have come to the conclusion that to be able to organize the Dress trade so that all the workers may be able to make a living, we must first see to unite ourselves with the ‘left’ union.

And we, the workers assembled at this meeting, decided to demand of the Executive Board of Local 22, that it exert its influence upon the Joint Board and other bodies with which the Joint Board is connected, to call the Industrial Union to a conference so that we may come to an understanding. Then, and only will we, with united efforts, improve our tragic and deplorable conditions.”

Prior to the adoption of the above resolution, the Executive Board, at its meeting held July 14, expressed its opinion that this is not an appropriate subject for discussion at section meetings, inasmuch as the policies of our Union are shaped by Conventions and by the General Executive Board of the International and not by the individual locals.

The members of the East New York section question the authority and wisdom of the Executive Board in making the above declaration, by a majority vote of those present, adopted the resolution with the request that it be submitted to the other sections.

At the subsequent meeting of the Board, no further action was taken upon the resolution. It was deemed advisable, however, to mention it in our report to the General Member meeting. At its session, held Tuesday, September 1, 1931, the Executive Board—In accordance with the instructions of the General Member meeting—considered the entire question, with the result that a motion was adopted that an official statement be made to the members of the privations and hardships which our members are experiencing today as a result of the conditions prevailing in our industry. We are working with them, side by side, in the shops. Their distress and sufferings are no more keen than ours. We differ, however, with those who think the Communists similarly desire a genuine peace in our Industry. In fact, we are certain, from our past experiences, that their recent entry for a united front, is but another scheme of further muddling the hands of the Dressmakers.

Have those who have recently spoken in behalf of the Communists given any thought to the many opportunities which were offered to them to come into our ranks, and, hands with us in our efforts to better the conditions of the Dressmakers? Have they already forgotten the numerous manifestos which were issued by the International and our own Executive Board, in which all Dressmakers who are genuinely interested in the welfare of the workers, were urged to come into the Union and work for one powerful organization?

Have they forgotten the fact that the International Convention has reiterated their stand taken by the Executive Board, removing all possible bars against present or future members of the Organization on account of his or her political, industrial, or social position?

What, if anything, is stopping the Communist elements from coming into our Organization and exerting all their energies to further their revolutionary aims upon the majority of the workers in the industry? Have we not facilitated
the admission of their recent leaders and spokesmen—the Lovestonites—as members of the I. L. G. W. U. Have we not been won over to our own door wide open to them? And have we not token them in on our Volunteer Organization Committee?

There is hardly an answer to all these questions, and that is that our Communist "friends" are totally unscholarly in their protestations; that they are still and here to-day a "rule or ruin" which, in other words, means that where they cannot obtain complete control they will never wreck a union completely rather than permit others to continue working in its behalf.

The last five years have conclusively proven even to the most skeptical minds that the I. L. G. W. U. is the only official spokesman for the thousands of men and women working in our industry. Even in these hard days of severe economic depression, when some of the strongest labor organizations have been obliterated from the field, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union still enjoys the prestige, impaired though it may be, that it has held up for years ago.

Witness the response the International Union has met with during the last general strike of the Dressmakers industry and compare it with the response the Communists received when they last called their general strike. This being the case, what sense or reason would there be to any organization, be it large or small, to invite them to peace negotiations when we know beforehand that it isn't what they want? What better proof does one need to substantiate our charge that it isn't peace that the Communists want than the rebuke which was administered to the Furriers Union when that organization issued a call for peace in the Fur Industry.

Only as late as last Thursday, September 3, I.L.G.W.U. acknowledged leader of the so-called Industrial Union—announced from the platform of Cooper Union, that there was no peace with the present recognized Labor movement.

It is best that we recognize—once and for all—that the Communist program is an economic program. They are decided at war with all Labor organizations who are not part and parcel of their party. They cannot and will not, as do the workers, make peace with individual labor groups, even thought the interest of the workers would be substantially enhanced thereby.

Yes, we want peace. Now, more than ever before, the reason that we are in the midst of the most acute phase of the present industrial crisis; for the reason that our agreements are soon expiring, and we will have to meet the employers on the industrial battlefield. We need peace to bring hope and courage into the hearts and homes of our members, and the only way we can arrive at such peace is by solidifying our ranks; by keeping our doors as wide open as we had heretofore; and by giving battle to the employers in every instance where our rights are being violated.

We take this opportunity to call upon the thousands of members within our Union and upon numbers who are outside of our ranks, to join hands with us in our genuine struggle for the advancement of the conditions of the working classes to the ends that the life of the Dressmakers may be made more bearable. While this in itself is insufficient to earn for the worker the full product of his toil, it, nevertheless, is, for the time being, the only reasonable way of achieving concrete results.

We Must Reach Our Minority Groups

In the last issue of "Justice," we referred to meetings of Spanish-speaking and Negro members which were arranged for Thursday, September 10. We regret to have to say that neither of the two meetings was well-attended. It is both surprising and disappointing, after the publicity we have given these meetings, that the response was so small. Nevertheless, we do not give up hope. On the contrary, it simply means that we will intensify our efforts to reach these members. There is no doubt that they are the most exploited elements within our ranks. Unscrupulous employers seem to pick these minority groups as their favorable targets and it is in the interest of these groups as well as the entire membership of the organization, that their affiliation with our union become closer and more evident than before.

Once we can convince our colored members and other groups of our genuine desire to help them and to have them share the duties and responsibilities with us all, there is no reason why they should not play an important part in our organization.

The New Tax

In common with all other locals of our international, we received, several days ago, a communication from the general office advising us that the General Executive Board has levied a tax of $3.75 upon all members.

We do not desire to pre-judge the decision that will be made by our members. Many of us have not yet finished paying the $10 Convention assessment, and this new levy has taken them by complete surprise. The Executive Board is now discussing the communication, and a general member meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, September 29, at Bryant Hall, where the question will be acted upon by the general membership.

Our Relief Fund Is Busy

As is commonly known to the members, our local union has, for the past eight or ten years maintained a special Sick and Tuberculosis Benefit Fund which is known as the "Relief Fund." Never before have our members appreciated the advantages of this fund as they did in the last two years. Ours is largely a women's organization, and girls are known to be very particular about appealing for financial assistance. They are too proud, in most instances, to ask for benefit from the organization, notwithstanding the fact that our office has continually informed them that the fund is theirs and that they have as much right to ask for benefits when due as they would if they carried regular insurance with any insurance company.

Times and conditions, however, change one's point of view. The number of cases handled by our Relief Committee during the past five months and the amount paid out in sick benefits, tuberculosis benefits, and emergency relief has exceeded by far sums paid out during any of the past five years.

The money of the Relief Fund is kept separate and apart from the funds of the organization so that, notwithstanding the unfavorable financial position of the Union, the Relief Fund has been able to meet its obligations, and generously, too.

We urge, therefore, all our members to maintain their membership, see that they are in good standing, and to report to our office at once when illness befalls them. Benefits are paid without any red tape and they are paid promptly, too.

IN UNION HEALTH CENTER

Dr. Geo. M. Price returns—Dr. Price, the director of the Union Health Center, returned to his duties about two weeks ago, having spent the summer abroad. Dr. Price went to Europe to rest and to add to his health. I know that the members of the International will be glad to know that Dr. Price came back feeling better and that his health has greatly improved.

A question arose at the International Executive Board meeting, and with the closing of the local health centers temporarily, there was some concern as to where the money received from the local health centers will be used. They are indifferent toward the Health Center's financial struggle.

PAULINE M. NEWMAN

PRES. SCHLESINGER WILL REPRESENT I. L. G. W. U. AT VANCOUVER CONVENTION

The Fifty-First Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor will be called to order on Monday, October 5, by President William Green, at Convention Hall, Vancouver, British Columbia.

The convention is scheduled to last two weeks, until October 16. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union will be represented by Pres. Benjamin Schlesinger, who is leaving for Vancouver by the end of September.
President Schlesinger Visits Chicago

By MORRIS BALIS
Manager Chicago Joint Board

That same evening, President Schlesinger also paid a visit to the meeting of the executive board of Local 10, cloak finishers. The introduction of special machinery and hand embroidery is making heavy inroads into the finishing craft in the cloak shops, and the finishers are greatly disturbed about it. President Schlesinger took part in the debate on this subject, and helped to direct its discussion along rational channels.

Cloak Workers Ready to Help

He also visited a meeting of Local 5, cloak operators, and, after listening to reports from many shop chairmen on conditions in their respective shops, addressed the operators on the purpose of his coming to Chicago and asked for their cooperation in the campaign in the dress industry. The chairman of the local, Brother Feitelson, assured President Schlesinger that, like in former years, the cloakmakers would throw in their entire support to the fight of their fellow dress workers of the I.L.G.W.U. in Chicago.

Bro. Schlesinger's last meeting in Chicago was with the delegates of the Joint Board, summoned specially on account of his visit to that city. He declared to the delegates that he came in response to the repeated appeals received by the International for aid and direction in the organization of the Chicago cloakmakers; mentioned the fact that a general organizer had already been appointed and will soon be here; discussed plans and policies which, in his judgment, should be applied to the Chicago dress situation, and touched, in brief, also upon recent developments in the Chicago cloakmakers' organization, and reiterated his opposition to piecework, now as before. Several delegates and officers, including the writer of these lines, took a lively part in the general discussion which followed President Schlesinger's address.

You may easily see from this account that Brother Schlesinger's short stay in Chicago was crowded with activity. We didn't give him a moment's rest from the hour he came to the final parting minute.

Advance Activity Started

As Brother Shane is not due here until October 1, we are meanwhile making here some advance preparations, clearing the ground, as it were, for his arrival. We held here a few meetings with some dress workers who had joined the Union last year in anticipation of a drive that did not materialize at that time. We also had several committee meetings to pave the way for Brother Shane by the time he reaches our city.

A few words, in passing, about the Communists. We haven't heard from them here for a long time—until they got wind that the International has begun in earnest to direct a local dress campaign. Now, they are beginning to distribute their regular "literature" in the market, calling the Union and our leaders "racketeers" and gangsters, and inviting the "working class" to join them as the only "honest" union.

There is, however, no bite in their bark, and the Chicago cloakmakers, who are familiar with the antics of these bally fanatics in Chicago, New York and elsewhere, will pay very little attention to their filthy mountings.

Philadelphia Items

Dubinsky in Philadelphia

General Secretary Dubinsky visited Philadelphia on Wednesday, September 2, and addressed the Joint Board for the first time since he returned from abroad, on his European impressions.

It was a very interesting discourse, and the delegates, at the end, expressed their thanks to him for the fine presentation of the various situations in Europe which he had had an opportunity to study, especially conditions in the garment shops in Soviet Russia.

Phila. Joint Board Endorses $3.75 Tax

The Philadelphia Joint Board was among the first in the I.L.G.W.U. to ratify the Emergency 3.75 tax levied on September 9 by the General Executive Board at a special meeting held in New York City. A meeting of the whole membership is being called for this purpose in the early future to explain the urgent need of this assessment, after which the organization will proceed with the collection of the tax.

Harry Gold Dies

Bro. Harry Gold, a veteran union member and one of the founders of the Philadelphia cloak organization, died two weeks ago at the age of 63. Over a hundred members, representatives of nearly all shops, attended the funeral...
The Month in Local 10

By Samuel Perlmutter

Capacity Crowd Attends
Meeting Addressed by
Sec'y-Treas. David Dubinsky

As was expected, cutters turned out in large numbers at the meeting on Monday, August 31, where Brother David Dubinsky delivered a two-hour talk on the present economic conditions in Europe. The meeting started at 8 p.m. sharp as usual. Immediately after the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, a motion was carried to postpone all Executive Board meetings and other business until the next meeting.

Manager Samuel Perlmutter then gave a detailed report regarding conditions in the cloak, dress and miscellaneous trades, and dwelt at length upon the present financial emergency encountered by the International Union due to the closing of the International-Madison Bank.

Russian Masses Suffering
In Hope of Building Nation,
Declares Dubinsky

Brother Dubinsky's address on conditions abroad was a revelation to the vast majority of members present, as his speech largely touched upon industrial conditions in Soviet Russia. To the surprise of many, who for some reason expected Brother Dubinsky to portray the Soviets in dark colors, his talk, as was afterwards admitted even by some fervent adherents of Soviet Russia, was as impartial and fair as could be expected from any one.

Brother Dubinsky declared that he had no hardship in visiting most of the institutions in which he was interested, and that, in his judgment, Soviet Russia does not hamper or cause any inconvenience to tourists from foreign lands. On the contrary, the Russian Government does all it can to encourage them in every possible way to visit the country.

He kept his audience almost spellbound when he spoke about the standards of living of the Russian workers, stating that he could not conceive of any American worker who might possibly adapt himself to such standards as prevail over there and pointing out the fact that food, including bread, is restricted or rationed per day and could be purchased only at State stores at fixed government prices. Should any worker want to purchase more than the prescribed ration, he is compelled to go out into the "open market" where the prices are as high as 300 per cent above those charged in the government stores.

Under such circumstances, Brother Dubinsky continued, one can readily see what the Russian worker is up against. He marvels, however, that, notwithstanding these terrible privations, the workers appear to be ready to undergo all kinds of misery as a necessary sacrifice for the attainment of the ideal communist state, which they believe, is on the way now. That, Brother Dubinsky concluded, is the spirit which pervades the Russian masses.

Space does not permit us to give here a complete account of the very interesting observations made by Brother Dubinsky on conditions abroad. Suffice it to say that the remarks of Brother Dubinsky were listened to with absorbing interest, and at the conclusion of his talk, Manager Perlmutter, on behalf of the large gathering present, thanked Brother Dubinsky for his highly interesting address, stressing the point that Local 10 was the only organization to which Brother Dubinsky came to tell of his travel impressions abroad.

The expression of thanks to Brother Dubinsky was accompanied by vigorous applause.

Joint Board Preparedness
Meeting Postponed

On several prior occasions Manager Perlmutter reported at membership meetings that conferences were being held in the past few weeks to prepare plans affecting future moves in the cloak industry. A decision was recently adopted that a joint executive board meeting for this purpose be held on Wednesday, Aug. 19. This meeting, however, was adjourned due to a special emergency, namely, the closing of the International-Madison Bank, an institution with which the International and all locals affiliated with it have their major banking in the past seven years.

Immediately after the closing of the bank, President Schlesinger and Secretary Dubinsky, the latter having just returned from Europe, were summoned by the State Banking Department and ordered to remit approximately $145,000.00 due to the bank. The balance on a loan of nearly $100,000,000, borrowed by the Community in the strike of 1928, over $250,000,000 had already been paid on that debt by the International during the past five years, since the Cloak Joint Board had been reorganized.

It appeared that the State Banking Department would not agree to continue the installment payment arrangement as heretofore, and instead issued an order that the balance must be paid up in short order, hinting that unless the International complied with their demands, they would proceed with court action. This threat caused the International to summon a meeting for Wednesday, Sept. 9, to which all local managers were invited. At that meeting, President Schlesinger and Secretary Dubinsky gave an account of the grave financial situation created by the closing of the bank, stating that, in view of the fact that every local affiliated with the International, as well as the membership as a whole, might be held responsible for this indebtedness, steps must be taken immediately to raise a fund to meet the obligations. Attention was also called by the International officers to the fact that the bond loan issue floated by the General Office prior to the general strike of 1929 and subscribed to the sum of $145,000.00, falls due next December. These bonds were purchased largely by members of our organization, and the International must provide that at least 50 per cent of the principal be paid within the next six months.

Faced with this double emergency the G. E. B. decided to levy a tax of $375 upon all the members of the International Union.

Hundreds of Local 10
Members Bought $27,000 Worth of Bonds

Local 10 figures prominently in the purchase of bonds of the International Reconstruction Loan of 1928, its members having purchased close to $30,000.00 worth of them. A good many cutters bought bonds, costing from $25 to $100 each, in groups, and from this it could be fairly seen that quite a large number of our members have taken part in bond subscriptions.

The tax of $375, as stated before, will make it possible for the International to pay at least 10 per cent on both debts within the next seven or eight months.

Special Meeting on
Monday, Sept. 28

In accordance with the by-laws of the International, all taxes levied by the General Executive Board are to be submitted to the locals for approval. A special meeting will, therefore, be held on Monday, Sept. 28 for this purpose. A big attendance is expected. All members are requested to come down to this meeting without fail.

Cloak and Dress Market
Controlled During
Labor Day Week-end

As usual, the active members of the local were busy on Sunday morning preceding and on Labor Day with committee work.

(Continued on next page)
The Month in Local 10

(Continued from preceding page)

committeemen, having been assigned from the office to different points of the cloak and dress market, between 23rd and 42nd streets, west of Broadway. It is interesting to note that this time there were few if any cloak cutters among the Labor Day violators. Several cutters were summoned to appear before the next meeting of the Executive Board on charges of having violated the rules regarding holiday work. These will be classified in two groups: those who actually went to work and such as were stopped in the market.

It is expected that some of those under charges will present the usual alibi, that they had come down to the market to visit a hospital, to go to New Jersey, or similar fantastic reasons. The Executive Board will this time be strict with every one who was, found in the market on that day, for Labor Day is one of the six and a half holidays conceded to the workers in the cloak and dress industry as a day of rest for which they are supposed to be paid.

Action of Harris Bro. & Mann, Cutters Excites Discussion

Among cases submitted by the Executive Board to the member meeting was that of Harris Bro. & Mann, involving five cutters summoned before the Executive Board on charges of having worked illegal hours, including Saturday, Aug. 22.

The cutters admitted having worked on the Saturday in question, but claimed that they had done so upon the insistence of the shop chairmen and shop committeemen, having been advised that unless they would come in to work on that Saturday, there would be no work for the operators on the following Monday. They also stated that they attempted to get in touch with Manager Perlmutter but could not locate him. Feeling that they would deprive the rest of the workers in the shop of their livelihood if they did not come in on that Saturday, they took it upon themselves to go up to work.

The shop chairman appeared as witness for the cutters and corroborated their statements. The Board, however, aware of the caliber of some of the cutters of that shop, decided to impose a fine of $25 upon each of those who were found guilty of violating the Saturday rule.

A discussion followed, in which a number of members participated, the consensus of opinion being to the effect that the behavior of the cutters of Harris Bros. & Mann is rather well known in the market as being detrimental to the workers in the trade as a whole, and that a fine of $25 is, therefore, entirely too lenient.

Manager Perlmutter informed the members that the chairman of Harris Bros. & Mann had called upon Secretary Dubinsky, as well as at the office of Local 10, pleading for leniency in view of the fact that it was upon the insistence of the operators that the cutters had worked. He further stated that the fine imposed by the Executive Board would be paid by the operators.

It was decided to approve the decision of the Executive Board and also to request the office to keep a constant watch over this shop.

Heat Wave Casus Lull

As a result of the terrific heat wave last week, many manufacturers in the cheap line of work and the pleat fabric producers were compelled to stop cutting.

An investigation in a number of these shops during this period reveals a great deal of cancellations. The heaviest cancellations were reported from the chain store corporation of J. C. Penny. It is, therefore, not surprising that practically every legitimate manufacturer in the market expresses dissatisfaction with this concern as one never knows when they might file the goods back at him.

The better line of work has made marked improvement in the past two weeks. This is due apparently to the fact that the finer line of garments may be worn even in the warm weather. It is the prevailing opinion, however, that just as soon as the cool weather sets in the peak of the season will arrive.

Conferences in Underwear Trade Still Going On

As reported in a previous issue of "Justice," Local 10 submitted its demands to the underwear manufacturers for the cutters including a five-day week, a regular scale of wages, etc. Up to date, nothing definite can be reported on this matter.

A meeting of about 75 prominent underwear employers took place on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at which the demands of the Union were discussed. Some of the hosiery employers have recently shown antagonism to the Union, but plans are, nevertheless, being prepared to meet any situation that might arise in the future.

200,000 ON PERMANENT FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK

Six hundred and seventy-three establishments, employing approximately 26,000 persons, are now on a permanent five-day week basis, according to a survey just completed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This does not include the building trades, the unions in which led in the movement toward the five-day week. Building trades workers are not grouped in "establishments"; but in 44 cities, all crafts in the building trades were working on a five-day basis in June.

ATTENTION

Cutters of Local 10
A Special Meeting for The Adoption of the Tax of $3.75, Levied by the General Executive Board
Will Be Held
Monday, September 28
at
Arlington Hall
23 St. Marks Place at 8:30 P. M.

Every member must attend this meeting without fail.

Books will be stamped signifying attendance and the $1.00 fine for non-attendance will be strictly enforced.