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Comments
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May Day—Convention Number

A Message to the 21st Convention

From Pres. Ben. Schlesinger

Greeting:

Our convention has before it a great deal of pressing business, and it is difficult to judge which of the problems facing it is the most important. All of them, however, have one purpose—to make our Union greater and stronger and to improve the living conditions of our members.

The International Union is confronted with difficult tasks. There are thousands upon thousands of unorganized men and women in our industries who still have to be organized. In some places the International has already begun organizing drives and these have to be carried on with increased vigor. In other centers, where we have strong unions, we are forced to exert every possible effort to fight off the attacks which are being made upon us and to maintain intact the positions won at great cost.

The stronger and greater our Union will be, the more successful shall we be in carrying out our plans. This convention must take measures to make our International stronger financially. Unity is the cornerstone of a trade union, but in addition to unity, a trade union must also be on a sound financial basis.

May the spirit of unity and the sentiment of fraternity rule this convention, and may all the delegates be guided but by one thought: To make this International a bulwark of strength and the invincible guardian of the rights of our great membership.

BENJ. SCHLESINGER,
President

From Sec'y David Dubinsky

Greetings:

The last two and a half years were years of severe trial for our International. We came to the Cleveland Convention, in 1930, with a newly rebuilt organization, re-established on the ruins of the Communist debacle.

We have since restored the fighting morale of our workers and brought back union work conditions in the shops. Our chief obstacle, however, was, and still remains, the insecure financial status of the Union.

The Cleveland Convention, by voting a $10 tax for the International, has helped materially in easing up this situation. The withering crisis, however, has since descended upon the land and has laid its heavy hand upon all our activities.

We are, nevertheless, proud to state that our International, with the aid of a loyal and courageous membership, has carried on during this devastating depression continuous organizing work all over the country. And now, as we begin our convention in the City of Philadelphia, on the morrow of the First of May, let us hope that the spirit of unity and solidarity which this great holiday of Labor symbolizes, will continue to inspire and guide you in all your planning and working for the future prosperity and greatness of our Union.

DAVID DUBINSKY,
General Secretary-Treasurer

Editorial Notes

May Day has a lure that is irresistible. Its appeal, like the appeal of Spring, is all-human. It was conceived in the daring fantasy of Labor seers of a generation ago, and it received its baptism in a fire of persecution that covered it with the warm glow of martyrdom.

Originally an American idea, it crossed the ocean and was adopted by continental Labor as its own great rallying slogan, while in the United States it receded and gave way before a localized concept of a “labor day.” There, however, still remains a considerable section of American Labor, which, year in and out, observes this international holiday of the workers as its own holiday, which identifies itself with the toiling masses of the world, and, together with them, dreams the stirring dream of a world rid of brutal sordidness and of a mankind
redeemed of its ills by cooperation, unity of purpose and a profound, genuine brotherhood.

The First of May thought stands today as fully prophetic of Labor's message to mankind as it was forty-three years ago when it was first promulgated. True, it has undergone a tremendous change as a fighting slogan for practical attainments. In most lands, the early challenge of the First of May—the demands for universal suffrage and for an eight-hour day—have been either satisfied or shunted aside by the compelling events of the past fifteen years. It is also true that the working masses of the world, let us be frank about it, are not fully united today. Solidarity, Labor's priceless possession, is in most lands a hollow, meaningless word, and brotherhood, the keystone of the workers' program, is being sacrificed for party domination and intolerance.

But the First of May idea, aside from its meaning as a weapon for practical working class achievement, has another great potent. It is a piercing cry of protest, the articulate expression of the workers' burning indignation over the damnable inequalities of a crazy economic system which condemns millions of them to unemployment, starvation and disease. And in 1928, with tens of millions of workers idle and other millions working part time, there is enough to protest about, enough misery, ugliness and pain to demonstrate against!

That's why the First of May was never as real, as poignant and as full of meaning to the workers—in the United States and all over the world—as this year. We need the revivifying, health-giving message of May Day. Its call for solidarity and loyalty, and its mighty protest against the inhuman sacrifices which the tottering capitalist system is still exacting from the working class, should receive this year, at our First of May meetings and festivals, a thunderous response and acclaim. And on this first of May let us, besides, resolve again to dedicate ourselves to the task of preserving and safeguarding our organizations against all attacks. Let us redeem the losses—material and spiritual—which we have suffered. We can serve our cause and the cause of the toiling masses the world over no better.

THE I.L.G.W.U. CONVENTION this month—in Philadelphia—will meet under circumstances decidedly different from those which attended the 20th Convention in Cleveland, two and a half years ago.

The Twenty-First Convention

In December, 1929, we met just a few months after the successful general strike in the cloak industry of New York, a strike which brought back into the ranks of the cloakmakers' organization thousands of estranged workers and reestablished union work conditions in the cloak shops. We were, besides, at that time on the eve of a promising general strike in the New York dress industry and in the midst of an aggressive organizing drive among the dressmakers. The situation everywhere looked very bright, indeed, for our International Union and even the stock market crash which affected badly a great many of our employers did not appear to us as more than a passing storm that would soon vanish.

We cannot say that much for our situation at the present time. The two and a half years of depression has upset many of our ambitious organizing plans; it has made inroads into our membership, has drained our financial resources, and, above all, has affected distressingly our industries and the well-being of our workers.

In brief, instead of advancing along our entire industrial front as we were in 1929, the crisis has reversed our position, compelling us to dig in and assume a defensive stand all along the line. Our entire history for the past thirty months, has, therefore, been changed into an account of incessant fighting in practically every market of our industry for the preservation of work conditions—to compel employers to live up to agreements, to stop wholesale attempts at wage reductions, and to maintain contractual relations wherever manufacturers, single or in groups, have shown a desire to get rid of union control of work conditions in their shops.

Such a report, full of the hard and sober realities of the days we are living in, the General Executive Board will present to the delegates of the 21st Convention in Philadelphia. In that report no attempt is made to minimize the setbacks to our Union as a whole, or any of its subdivisions in particular, have offered during the past term; the report puts neither whitewash nor black point on events or situations; it rather lets facts speak for themselves and allows the reader to draw conclusions from them. The next convention, by the logic of the current moment—because we still are in the midst of a staggering industrial crisis—will have to devote most of its time and thoughts to plans and ways of defense, to seeking out means of protecting our workers and our Union against the aggression of the employers in every corner of our industry. For it is clear that, unless the industrial situation changes drastically to the better, our employers will continue to harass and to attack us in the next two years in our weakest spots in order to wrest from us every gain and acquisition we have made in our industry since 1910.

This is the fundamental idea our delegates should have in mind as they gather together within a few days in Philadelphia to take stock of the past two and a half years and to legislate for the future. Out of the 21st Convention the I.L.G.W.U. should emerge a stronger trade union, prepared to meet every emergency that is likely to confront it during the next two years. It must come out of this convention with its decks cleared of the financial burden which have so hemmed in the outgoing administration at each and every element in our midst which honestly strives to make the I. L. G. W. U. a powerful and invincible trade union.

THE FIRST SERIES OF CONFERENCES—With the three employers' associations—the New York cloak industry have brought out sharply the position of the Union on the question of piece-work. Speaking through President Schlesinger, the Cloakmakers' organization of New York has bluntly told the employers at these parleys that "piece-work cannot and will not be accepted by the Union."

Elsewhere, the reader will find the full text of the Union's demands presented at these conferences to each of the three associations and President Schlesinger's statements which preceded the reading of these demands. We sincerely recommend a careful perusal of Bro. Schlesinger's remarks. It is a labor document rarely matched for conciseness, clarity and completeness. Its tone is
calm, objective, yet there is a world of strength and conviction in each of its lines.

The Union does not deny that “labor conditions in the inside shop are considerably higher than in the contractor shop.” The contractor shop is no new phenomenon in the cloak industry, and the Union has made more than one attempt since 1910 to wipe out the inequality of labor conditions between the outside and the inside shop, an inequality of which the Industrial Council so strongly complains. Yet, President Schlesinger remarks, “each such move met with stubborn resistance on the part of the manufacturers and jobbers.”

For, it cannot be denied that the manufacturers and the jobbers “are vitally interested that the labor conditions in the contractor shops should be far below the level of the inside shops so that it would pay them to send out their work to contractors rather than to produce it on their own premises.”

Of course, it is absurd to blame the Union for the fact that the “agreement has not brought the benefits expected from it.” The devastating industrial depression which set in the Fall of 1929, a few months after the agreement was signed, has demoralized and upset all industry, and we, among others, were the sufferers. Those who expect that piece-work would be a cure-all for every evil in the industry and that it would abolish unequal labor conditions, should turn their attention to production conditions in the dress industry, a piece-work industry. They will find that it is even harder to maintain equal labor standards in a piece-work industry than in a week-work industry, and that “if it is true that wage scales can be violated in the smaller outside shops and thereby create a ruthless competition against the inside shops, surely piece-work rates, which could be juggled with, would make competition even more destructive.”

The Union’s chief measure for stabilization of labor conditions in the cloak industry is limitation of contractors for manufacturers and jobbers.

The reason why the workers in the outside shops are less eager to stand up for their rights and fight for observance of union conditions as the workers in the inside shops, is not because they are not as anxious to make an honest and decent living of his work as the others. It is because they are less protected than the inside workers that they are frequently forced to overlook or even to become a party to such violations. The workers in the inside shops deal directly with the manufacturers. In case of a grievance, they may take up their complaint through the Association or the Impartial Chairman and have their complaint adjusted. In the case of the contractor shop, the result of a complaint is very often that the jobber, or manufacturer, is ordered to withdraw the work from the contractor and that virtually means the loss of jobs for the workers in the given outside shop. Under such circumstances, the workers in the outside shop are loath to complain; they lack the essential element which would give them the spirit to stand up and fight for observance of union conditions—the protection that they would not lose their jobs if they raised a protest.

“Limitation of jobbers and manufacturers,” President Schlesinger’s statement goes on, “to as many contracting shops as their production requirements would make them accountable for the working conditions in their outside shops. If the jobbers would be limited to an adequate number of contractors, they would not so lightly-hearty discharge their contractors and in this manner play loose and fast with the jobs of the workers in their contractor shops. Limitation of contractors would give the workers employed in the contractor shops a measure of protection of their livelihood.”

The question of piece-work as against week-work and the question of limitation of contractors are thus brought forth to the front as the chief points of contention in the industrial drama that is fast developing before us in the cloak industry of New York. Only a few weeks remain now before the present collective agreements in the cloak industry come to an end. And while one does not like to prophesy, it is difficult to foresee what the differences between the Union and the organized employers may be bridged in this instance without a conflict.

And when that conflict comes, the manufacturers, jobbers, and contractors alike, will not be long in learning that, depression or no depression, the cloakmakers of New York have not forgotten how to stand up and fight for their human rights. Piece-work discarded thirteen years ago as an outworn and a sweating system of production will not return to the cloak industry, if the cloakmakers have anything to say concerning it. And if the conditions in the outside shops are eventually be brought up to the level of inside shops, the workers in these contractor shops must be given a measure of protection—in other words—limitation of contractors must become the law in the New York cloak trade.

THE LAST SIX WEEKS, since the New York dressmakers have returned to their shops after the general strike, have not been particularly cheerful ones for them.

In The New York Dress Industry

The season in the dress industry is a poor one, an unseasonable and the outside shops are usually poor one, and that explains it nearly all. It is an oppressive, disheartening fact that one cannot argue away, and when there is little work in the shops, especially after workers come back to the machines from a strike, the atmosphere in the shops is chilly and bleak.

This sudden slack at a time when one might have expected the dress shops to be humming with work, is, needless to say, a staggering blow to the dressmakers. There is, of course, depression everywhere and production lags in all industries. But even in bad times, the Spring season in the dress industry—is most important season—should have a considerable amount of work. The only hope that remains now is that May and June may bring some belated work to the shops and that the dressmakers may yet get a chance to make a few weeks of earnings before they lapse into the prolonged “regular” slack of the summer months.

THIS FROM PRESIDENT Schlesinger and Secretary-Treasurer Dubinsky to the 35th Anniversary of the Jewish Daily Forward:

The ‘Forward’ Is 35 Years Old

"In the name of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union we greet the ‘Forward’ from the depth of our hearts on its thirty-fifth anniversary.

"The ‘Forward’ has played the most important part in the upbuilding and the life of our International. The ‘Forward’ has made it possible for our International to carry out its great and historic struggles which have placed it in the front rank of the largest and most progressive unions in the world. Our members will never forget what the ‘Forward’ has done for our International Union, not only editorially but in a material sense as well."
The victory of the millinery workers establishes in their industry a 5-day, 40-hour week, minimum wage scales that provide a decent living, time and a half for overtime, seven legal holidays, and an impartial machinery for the settlement of disputes. It has also brought 4,000 new members and 300 shops under union control. But this campaign of the millinery workers is even more significant because of the fact that it has finally cleansed the millinery trade of a dangerous "racket" which operated in it in the guise of an "opposition union" but actually was a nest of gangsters supported by bootleg employees. A volunteer organization committee of 1,000 millinery workers enlisted in the battle against these gangsters and virtually chased them out of the shops.

Let us hope that the millinery workers, now that they have unionized their industry and secured control of labor conditions in it, will jealously guard and defend it against all attacks from without and within. In times of depression especially eternal vigilance is the price of healthy and vigorous trade unionism.

I.L.G.W.U. Members in May Day Demonstration

A ringing call to take part in the First of May demonstration and parade of trade unions and fraternal labor organizations, on Saturday, April 29, has been issued by a committee representing all the locals of the I.L.G.W.U. in New York. The call was issued upon the initiative of President Schlesinger, who attended the meeting of the committee, and of General-Secretary Dubinsky, who presided.

Others present at the meeting were: Isidor Nagler, general manager of the cloak joint board; Julius Hochman, general manager of the dress joint board; Joseph Breslaw, manager of local 55; Samuel Fisch, manager of local 10; Louis Levy, manager of local 15; Nicholas Kirtman, manager of local 20; Leif Antonini, manager of local 36; Harry Greenberg, manager of local 38; Jacob Heller, manager of local 17; Max Bluestein, manager of local 22; Samuel Shore, supervisor of local 62; Morris J. Ashdon, secretary-treasurer of the cloak joint board, and Ab. Weinberg and Julius Gerber of the general first of May conference.

A special committee on arrangements for the international locals, consisting of Joseph Breslaw, chairman; Harry Greenberg, vice-chairman, and Louis Levy, sec., was elected. The committee at once proceeded to make arrangements to stir up sentiment among the cloakmakers, the dressmakers and the other workers in our trades, for the first of May parade. A series of circulators will be distributed through all local offices, union officers and shop chairmen throughout the cloak and dress market within the next few days calling upon the members of the I.L.G.W.U. to take part in the demonstration.

It is planned to have all the members of the international locals assemble at 11 o'clock in the morning on 16th Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues, near the headquarters of the International, march from there through the garment district, and join up later with the other sections of the parade, at 2 o'clock, on Union Square.

Only One Mourn

BOO-HOO!! I WAS MY BEST FRIEND!!

DEAD
YELLOW DOG
DIES IN PEACE

MINE WORKERS' JOURNAL
President Schlesinger Presents Union's Side

Statements Read at Conferences on Terms of Renewal of Collective Agreements in New York Cloak Industry, with Industrial Council on March 17, with Merchants' Ladies Garment Association on March 24, and with American Cloak Manufacturers' Association on March 31, 1932

—Lists of Union's Demands and Modifications Presented to Each Association.

1. To the Industrial Council:

The Industrial Council complains of "unequal labor conditions in the coat and suit industry."

There are two kinds of shops in the coat and suit industry: the inside shop and the contractor shop. We admit that the labor conditions in the inside shop, where the workers work directly for the manufacturer, are considerably higher than in the contractor shop. Our Union, during its long existence, has made many attempts to bring up the labor conditions in the contractor shops to the level of the inside shops. But each time we meet with stubborn resistance on the part of the manufacturers and jobbers.

These contractor shops have not been created by the Union but by the employers. The manufacturers (and, of course, the jobbers), who have their garments produced in contractor shops, are vitally interested that the labor conditions in the contractor shops should be far below the level of the inside shops, so that it pays them to send out their work to contractor shops rather than to produce it on their own premises.

The Industrial Council complains that "the present agreement has fallen far short of the admirable objectives" at which it aimed and which were incorporated in the collective agreement with the aid of Governor Roosevelt and Lieutenant-Governor Lehman.

We admit that: the agreement has not brought the benefits we expected from it, surely not to our workers, but it is absurd to blame the Union for it. It is a matter of common knowledge that in October, 1929, three months after the agreement was signed, the depression set in, bringing along with it demoralization and chaos for workers and employers alike. We admit that we were unable to fight off the chaos that the crisis brought with it, but to say, as the Industrial Council does, that the Union is to be blamed for it, is loose talk.

The Industrial Council sets the completion of the small outside shop against the inside shop has in any way been encouraged or aided by the Union through what they choose to call "self-evident discrimination," is ridiculous. It is self-understood that if the outside shops could successfully compete with the inside shops during normal times, that in time of a crisis their competition should be even more effective.

The Industrial Council complaints of "a marked increase in the number of manufacturers and jobbers not in contractual relations with the Union," and of "the existence of many skeleton factories on the premises of firms operating under the jobbers' contract."

I am not prepared at this moment to argue this point, but we hope to be able, at our future conferences, to go into this matter as deeply as only possible in order to establish the facts. If such a condition exists, it must, of course, be remedied.

As to the complaint by the Industrial Council that our Union has "granted an optional system of production to the dress manufacturers," we are making claims only upon our premises, we wish to say that it is not correct that our Union has "granted" any such right to dress manufacturers. As our discussions continue, this subject will also be fully clarified.

As to the point raised by the Industrial Council that the jobbers enjoy greater reorganization rights than the inside manufacturers, in the sense that jobbers have a right to dismiss their contractors at all times, this wish to state that we are even more concerned and interested in this condition than you, gentlemen of the Industrial Council. We have come here prepared with proposals that would put a stop to it, as it very gravely affects the condition of our workers in the contractor shops.

The allegation that the Union is permitting firms that belong to the category of inside shops to be admitted to membership in either the contractors' or jobbers' associations will certainly receive full consideration. If such a condition exists, it should be remedied.

The Industrial Council proposes three remedies as a cure for the bad situation in the cloak and suit industry. Its chief proposal is that the agreement include a provision for an elective system of production to supplant the week-work system, meaning piece-work.

To this we want to say that during the four months, since we have received your communication, we have given this proposal for "an elective system of production to supplant the week-work system," thorough and earnest consideration.

And we must tell you that the more we considered your proposal, the more we weighed your arguments, the more we became convinced that piece-work will not solve or do away with the evils of which your Association complains. Piece-work will not abolish production cost inequalities which exist in the industry and will not make the smaller shop less of a competitor to the bigger shop, as far as production costs are concerned.

A study of production conditions in the two industries—cloaks and suits, and dresses—the latter a piece-work industry, has convinced us that it is harder to maintain equal labor conditions in a piece-work industry than in a week-work industry; that it is true that wage scales can be secretly violated in the smaller outside shops and there create a ruinous competition against the inside shops, surely piece-work rates, which could be juggled with, would make the competition even more destructive.

That much for piece-work as a remedy for the evils of the industry. As far as the workers are concerned, piece-work would bring down their earnings and living conditions to the lowest level.

And our answer to you on your proposal for an elective system of production to supplant the week-work system, therefore, is that it cannot and will not be accepted by our Union.

We admit that the week-work system has not been fully observed, particularly in the contractor shops, and we are here to present modifications, changes and amendments to our present agreement which would make for strict observance of week-work in all shops.

Among the modifications which we are submitting to you, there is one which provides for limitation of contractors, i.e., that the manufacturers and jobbers be limited to as many contracting shops as are necessary to their production requires in order that they might be held strictly accountable for their working conditions prevailing in their outside shops. The limitation of outside shops would also make it impossible for a jobber or manufacturer to diminish contractors as at any time for any reason and thereby place the jobs of the workers employed by those contractors in jeopardy.

We believe that this change would produce a beneficial and stabilizing influence in the relations between jobbers and
contractors; it would place a responsibility upon the jobbers for the work conditions of craftsmen employed in their contractor shops and would put them, in this respect, on a more equal basis with the manufacturers of the inside shops.

2. To the Jobbers' Association:

A week ago we met in conference, in this same hotel, with the Industrial Council of Cloak, Suit & Skirt Manufacturers, Inc., to discuss the terms for the renewal of our collective agreement.

The Industrial Council complained that the present agreement has fallen far short of the admirable objectives at which it aimed; that the week-work system is not observed in the contractor shops, and that this makes it possible for the manufacturer, or rather for his jobber who employs him, to force the inside manufacturer out of business. For all this the Industrial Council blamed our Union, and among other remedies which they offered to "cure" the industry, their main one was a change in the system of work to piece-work.

In our reply to the Industrial Council, we admitted that the agreement has not brought the results we expected from it—certainly not to our workers. We admitted that the week-work system has not been properly observed in the contractor shops, (the shops in which you, gentlemen of the Jobbers' Association, and other Jobbers produce your work) and that labor conditions in general are much lower in those shops than in the shops of the inside manufacturers. But we told the Industrial Council that with reference to the conditions to the depression which set in in October, 1919, three months after the present agreement was signed, and which brought with it demoralization and chaos. In the face of this crisis we were unsuccessful in our attempts to cope with the growth of violations of union work standards in the contractor shops and to check adequately the detrimental effects upon our workers and the industry as a whole.

To you, gentlemen representing the Jobbers' Association, we may also add the following:

It is unquestionably true that had conditions been normal during the past three years, had the crisis not so greatly affected every industry, including ours, our agreement would have worked out better and conditions would not have been as deplorable. Yet it would be wrong to put all the blame on the industrial crisis. The breakdown of week-work and of all other work standards in the contractor shops, and the practical helplessness of our workers to defend themselves was not caused by the crisis only. There was another cause, and of equal weight.

The inability of a jobber to discharge a contractor at will would also meet materially the complaint of the inside manufacturer, that the jobbers enjoy greater reorganization rights than the inside manufacturers.

Just think of it! The men and women working in the inside shops and in the outside shops are members of the same union; each is as eager to make an honest and decent living at his work as the other. Why is it then that the workers in the inside shops, as a rule, observe union work conditions and stand up for their rights whenever they are violated, while in contractor-shop work conditions are being frequently ignored and the resistance of the workers to such violations is not nearly as strong?

Our answer is as follows:

The workers in the inside shops deal directly with the manufacturers. In case of a just complaint, these workers know that either the Association or the Imperial Chairman would order their employer to rectify the effects of the violation. The workers in the inside shops have no fear that because they would resist violations of union work rules they would be deprived of their means of livelihood.

In the case of the contractor shop, the picture is entirely different. When a contractor violates work rules and a complaint is filed against him, the immediate result might be that the jobber would be ordered to withdraw the work from him, and this withdrawal of work would, of course, be accompanied by the withdrawal of the means of livelihood from the workers employed by him. And when you add to this that the jobber may at any time withdraw the work from the contractor at will, you can easily understand that under such circumstances the workers are afraid to complain; they are afraid that they might lose their jobs on account of their complaint.

In other words: it is protection against arbitrary loss of their jobs which makes the workers in the inside shops to stand up for their rights and to observe union standards, and it is the lack of such protection in the contractor shops which makes the workers in contractor shops often accept conditions which they would not tolerate otherwise.

Another very common form of squeezing down the conditions in the contractor shops is the case of a jobber forcing his numerous contractors to accept work at prices below the minimum standards established by the Imperial Chairman.

The first thing that happens in such a case is that the individual contractor brings back this proposal to the workers in his shop as an ultimatum to either work in violation of union standards so that he might be able to get the order from the jobber, or to be left without work, and the demoralizing results of such a proposal can easily be imagined. And the rest of the contractor shops working for that jobber go as that shop goes.

This leads to secret piece-work, to long overtime hours, and to the other inequities of labor conditions from which the industry suffers so badly.

The changing of the work system from week-work to piece-work will not remedy this evil, and we so informed last week our committees of the Industrial Council. To remedy this condition we propose a change in our agreement, providing for limitation of contractors. We ask that the jobbers and manufacturers who employ contractors, shall employ only as many contractor shops as their production requires.

We do not ask for a limitation that would restrict the production facilities of the jobbers and the manufacturers, but for a limitation that would confine the use of contractors to such amounts as the particular manufacturing industry is capable of producing. We have met the problem of contractors in our own industry, and have found that the contractor shops in the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Industry are economically and morally unsound.

We believe the changes will produce a wholesome and stabilizing influence on the entire industry. Limitation to as many contractors as business actually requires would, in our opinion, make the jobber responsible for his outside shops. We are convinced that if the jobbers are limited to an adequate number of contractors, they will not so lightly discharge their contractors and in this manner play loose and fast with the jobs of the workers in their contractor shops. Limitation of contractors would give the workers employed in the contracting shops a measure of protection of their livelihood. It would also meet materially the just complaint of the inside manufacturers and the jobbers enjoy greater reorganization rights than the inside manufacturers.

Our second demand is for the reestablishment of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, which functioned for several years in our industry, but that it be maintained by contributions from the employers exclusively.

This request is dictated not only by the present critical condition in industry in general, but also by the duty which our seasonal industry owes to thousands of our workers who are not able to earn a full season's wages and are left helpless during the slack periods.

The cloak and suit industry, nearly a half billion dollar industry, should be able to take care of its workers in time of extreme unemployment. And in order to place this Unemployment Insurance Fund on a firm foundation, we propose that just as the inside manufacturer...
would be required to contribute to the
Fund on the basis of 3 per cent of his
weekly payroll for the inside workers,
and in case he is employing outside con-
tactors, to contribute on the basis of
3 per cent reductions from the weekly
payrolls of his contractors, so must the
jobber also contribute directly to the
Fund, on the basis of 2% deducted from
the weekly payroll of his contractors.

3. To the American Association:

This is the third conference that our
Union has held in the past two weeks
with representatives of the associations
in the cloak and suit industry, for the
renewal of our agreements which expire
on June 1st. Our first conference was
held on Thursday, March 17, with the
Industrial Council; the second took place
Thursday, March 24, with the Merchants' 
Association, and today we are meeting
with you, members of the American Cloak
& Suit Manufacturers' Association, rep- 
resenting the contractors in the industry.

In your letter, dated February 29, you
state that "the provisions of the present
agreement have not been to the advan-
tage and benefit of our members or your
members or the industry generally." You
believe, you say in your letter, "that the
contrary is true. That is, that your
members and our members and the indus-
try in general have suffered in a great
measure due to some of the provisions
in the agreement."

The same complaint was made by the
Industrial Council, but the Industrial
Council is more specific. It has ad-
vanced several reasons why the agree-
ment has not worked out well, two of
which have directly to do with you, con-
tactors.

Their first reason is that your con-
tactors' association and also the jobbers'
association are taking in and are retain-
ing in your organizations firms that prop-
ero and definitely belong to the Indus-
trial Council, and the Industrial Coun-
cil insists that a good deal of the cause
is due to the fact that not all of the in-
side manufacturers are controlled by the
organization to which they properly be-
long, that is, the organization of the in-
side manufacturers; secondly, that in a
large number of contracting shops work is
done by the piece in violation of the
week-work system which is prescribed
in our collective agreement.

To their first complaint we replied that
we will investigate it and will do every-
thing possible to bring about that the
manufacturers, contractors and jobbers
shall belong each to their proper or-
ganization. On the second complaint,
that a large number of contracting shops
are operated on a piece-work system and
below the working standards established
in our agreements, we declared that it is,
first, the crisis which has affected our
industry, together with all other indus-
tries in the country, that is responsible
for it; and secondly, that the responsi-
bility for it should be placed on the
chaotic system which exists in our indus-
try with reference to the employment
of contractors.

We pointed out to the representa-
tives of the Industrial Council and to the
representatives of the jobbers' association
that the reason why week-work and the
other provisions of the agreement are
not being observed in the contractor
shops, is because the workers in those
shops are afraid that if they would in-
sist on week-work and on the other work
conditions provided for in our collective
agreement, their contractors would stop
working for the jobbers, and they,
the workers would, as a result, lose their
jobs. It is the fear which the worker
in the contracting shop has of losing his
livelihood through the dismissal of his
contractor by the jobber, which compels
him to accept inferior work conditions. The
jobbers, having hundreds of contractors
to choose from and employing many
more contractors than he really needs
for his business, uses this advantage, and
very successfully, a a means to terror-
ize the contractors into accepting the
prices he offers them.

In order that the jobbers and manu-
facturers may not treat their contractors
as play-balls and the workers should have
more or less security of their jobs, we
have presented to them a demand for
limitation of contractors, namely that:
"No jobber and no manufacturer shall
employ or deal with a larger number of
contractors than he can supply with full
time work."

We are convinced that when the job-
ners and the manufacturers will employ
only as many contractors as they need
for their business, they will not so light-
heartedly discharge their contractors,
and the workers employed in the con-
tacting shops will then not feel as un-
protected in the shops as they feel now,
and they will insist on the observance
of the conditions, provided for in our
agreement, in these shops as they do in
the inside shop.

The severe crisis in our industry, on
one side, and the unlimited number of
contractors each jobber or manufacturer
employs, on the other, are unquestion-
ably responsible for the lowering of union
work standards in the shops of the mem-
bers of your association, but there is an
other very grave cause. We cannot re-
frain from telling you that the contrac-
tors, in whose shops work has broken
down, are to a very great ex-
tent themselves responsible for it. We
know a large number of contractors
in whose shops work standards have
violated, not because of the hard times
or because of non-limitation of contrac-
tors, but because these members of yours
have found it more comfortable to grind
their workers, rather than to stand up
manfully against their jobbers and manu-
facturers.

It is easy to become a contractor; it
does not require substantial capital. The
contractor's profit consists solely of the
difference between the price paid to him
by the jobber or manufacturer and the
price paid by him to his workers. A
large number of members of your asso-
ciation, instead of insisting that job-
bers or manufacturers pay them the mini-
imum prices fixed by the impartial
chairman, and thus "live themselves and
let their workers live," have preferred the
policy of "least resistance" and, instead of
standing up against their employers—
the jobbers and the manufacturers—they
would rather force down the wages and
conditions of their workers.

Our stand with regard to piece-work
was made clear two weeks ago at our
conference with the Industrial Council,
and you surely are familiar with it, but
in order that your organization might
also get our answer to this matter in an
official manner, we herewith repeat the
statement we made at that conference.

"We have given this proposal for an
'selective system of production to
supplant the week work system' thor-
ough and earnest consideration. And
the more we considered your pro-
posal the more we became convinced
that piece-work will not solve or do
away with the evils of which your
association complains. Piece-work
will not abolish production cost in-
equalities which exist in the indus-
try and will not make the smaller
shop less of a competitor to the in-
side shops.

"A study of the production condi-
tions in the two industries—cloaks
and suits, and dresses—the latter a
piece-work industry, has convinced us
that it is harder to maintain equal
labor conditions in a piece-work in-
dustry than in a week-work industry;
and that if it is true that wage scales
can be violated in the smaller outside
shops and thereby create a ruinous
competition against the inside shops,
surely piece-work rates, which could
be jumbled with, would make the com-
petition even more destructive."
Changes for Industrial Council Agreement

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL OF CLOAK AND SUIT MANUFACTURERS, INC., AND THE UNION, SUBMITTED BY THE UNION.

1. If a member of the Council, employs contractors and, or, sub-manufacturers, such contractors and, or, sub-manufacturers shall work for him exclusively and the Council member shall be liable for the maintenance of labor conditions and the performance of this agreement by such contractors and, or, sub-manufacturers in the same way as for his inside shop.

No Council member shall deal with a larger number of contractors and, or, sub-manufacturers than he can supply with full time work and no work shall be sent out by a Council member to a new contractor or sub-manufacturer until all other contractors and sub-manufacturers with whom he is dealing are fully provided with work.

The number of contractors and, or, sub-manufacturer to be employed by each Council member shall be determined in accordance with the general principles of recommendations of the Governor's Commission in the industry, dated May 20, 1928.

A contractor within the meaning of the provisions is one who makes up garments from material delivered to him by a member of the Council in cut form.

A sub-manufacturer is one who makes up garments from uncut material.

No member of the Council shall send out work to contractors or sub-manufacturers unless he employs a minimum of fourteen (14) machine operators with a full complement of workers in other crafts and unless his inside workers are working full time.

Members of the Council found sending out work in violation of the above provision shall compensate their inside workers for all losses of wages resulting from such violation.

2. The "THIRTY-SIXTH" clause of the present agreement between the parties shall be eliminated.

3. Wages of any worker who receives more than the minimum rate provided for in the agreement between the parties shall be reduced and wage increases obtained during the life of the proposed new agreement shall remain in force and effect until the termination of the said agreement.

4. All workers employed by members of the Council at the time of the execution of the renewed agreement and all workers engaged after the said date shall, after a trial period of one week be considered regular employees of such members of the Council.

5. In the adjustment of disputes between the parties hereto complaints of improper discharge of workers shall have precedence over all other cases, and decisions on such complaints shall be rendered within forty-eight (48) hours after the same have been submitted in writing, unless the time is extended by mutual written consent. Should such decision be delayed beyond such time, a worker discharged for any reason other than misconduct shall be compensated for his full loss of time regardless of the ultimate decision.

6. Should a member of the Council be found to have violated the provisions of the agreement with respect to week work, dealing with non-Union shops, or in any other respect, he shall, upon conviction of the first offense, be adjudged to pay damages in an amount sufficient to offset the pecuniary advantage gained by him through such violation, together with an appropriate penalty. The amount of such damages shall be fixed in the manner herein provided for adjustment of disputes and such damages shall be paid to the workers of the offending member or shall be paid into the fund maintained in the industry for making investigations under the terms of this agreement, as Justice may require in each case.

The second offense shall be punished by expulsion from the Council unless the Union agrees to another penalty.

7. All decisions reached by the managers of the parties hereto or their deputies or rendered by the Impartial Chairman shall be compiled with within twenty-four (24) hours. Should any member of the Council fail to comply with such decision within such time, he shall automatically lose all rights and privileges under the agreement between the parties hereto and the Union shall be free to take action to enforce the rights of the workers against such member.

8. No work shall be permitted on Saturdays at any time.

In periods of extended unemployment the Union may suspend overtime work in the period when such overtime work is allowed in normal times by the provisions of this agreement.

9. Upon the request of the Union the Impartial Chairman or his accountants shall examine the books of any designated Council member for the purpose of investigating the condition of the shop and for the purpose of ascertaining whether the provisions of this agreement are fully complied with.

10. Amend the "THIRTY-SEVENTH" clause of the present agreement by extending the time of the Union to object to the admission of a new member to the Council from five (5) days to ten (10) days.

11. No member of the Council shall discontinue operating his inside shop or factory and continue in the cloak and suit industry as jobber during the term of this agreement. Any Council member violating the above provision shall be liable to his employees for wages until the expiration of this agreement at the weekly rates fixed for such workers.

12. Immediately upon the execution of the renewed agreement an Unemployment Insurance Fund for the benefit of the workers shall be re-established in the industry. Such Fund shall be operated and maintained in the form of organization and under the rules under which the Unemployment Insurance is the cloak and suit Industry operated while it was in existence, except that the contributions to the same shall be paid exclusively by the employers and shall amount to Three (3%) Per Cent. of the total weekly payroll in each shop or establishment.

13. A uniform set of books and records relating to payrolls, labor, cost and outside production shall be adopted by all members of the Council and by the entire industry. The form of such records and books shall be prescribed by the Impartial Chairman. Such records and books shall be open to the examination of the Impartial Chairman or his accountants at all reasonable times.

14. If a member of the Council is found to have underpaid his workers on regular work, overtime work or work on holidays, he shall repay the full amount of underpayment for the entire period of such underpayment, such payment to be made to the Union for distribution among the workers entitled thereto.

15. Any employee of a Council member may, with the written consent of the parties hereto, be temporarily released during the dull season. In such event the employer shall not substitute the worker so released unless and before a reasonable time has been given him by the Council through the Union to return to the shop of the employer.

16. No member of the Council shall enter into partnership or consolidate or merge with another person, firm or concern in the industry unless the new firm assumes all accrued obligations to the workers of the constituent concerns.

Upon the formation of such a partnership or such consolidation or merger, the
Workers of the constituent firms or concerns shall be given preference in employment by the new concern over other workers.

17. Legal holidays shall be paid for in full whether or not the employees work during the week in which such holidays occur.

18. Sample-makers who work exclusively for such shall, in all instances, be employed from among the members of Locals Nos. 3 and 48.

19. If a member of the Council or his foreman shall be found doing its own cutting, such member shall, upon the first offense, pay to the Union a sum equal to the minimum weekly wage scale of cutters, i.e., $5; upon the second offense he shall pay the equivalent of two weeks' minimum wages, i.e., $104, and for the third offense he shall be expelled from the Council.

Each member of the Council shall employ at least one cutter.

20. In shops where blanket machines or other labor-saving devices for finishing are in use, the wages and hours of work of employees operating with such machines or devices shall be established by agreement between the Council and the Union on a basis calculated to preserve the earnings of such workers.

21. In all shops of Council members in which pressing machines are in use, the work on such machines shall be divided into two shifts so that each presser shall work thereon one-half of the time and shall be paid for his work the full weekly wages provided herein for a hand presser.

The work of a machine presser shall be confined to the pressing machine.

Changes for Jobbers' Association Agreement

Proposed Modification of the Agreement Between the Merchants' Ladies' Garment Association and the Union, Submitted by the Union.

1. All sub-manufacturers doing work for any member of the Association shall work exclusively for such member and each member of the Association shall be liable for the maintenance of labor conditions in the shops of such sub-manufacturers so employed by him and for the performance of the agreement between such sub-manufacturer and the Union.

2. All sub-manufacturers to be employed by each Association member shall be determined in accordance with the general principles laid down in the recommendations of the Governor's Commission in the Industry, dated May 16, 1926.

2. Upon the request of the Union, the impartial Chairman or his accountants shall examine the books of any designated Association member for the purpose of ascertaining whether he fully complies with the provisions of this agreement.

3. It is understood that the Merchants' Ladies' Garment Association is composed exclusively of Jobbers, i.e., persons engaged in the cloak and suit industry, who do not produce garments upon their own premises but who have them made by "manufacturers" or "sub-manufacturers," as defined in this agreement.

Should any member of the Association during the life of this agreement establish an inside shop he shall cease to be a member of the Association and shall enter into an agreement with the Union, collective or individual, as an inside manufacturer.

4. No member of the Association shall directly or indirectly, operate an inside shop or have a sub-manufacturer or contractor operate for him on his premises, or maintain an office or sales room in conjunction with a contracting or sub-manufacturing shop.

5. No member of the Association shall employ sample makers or cutters. All examiners employed by Association members shall be members in good standing of the Union.

6. Section "Fourteenth" of the present agreement between the parties shall be amended so as to give the Union ten (10) days for informing the Association of any dispute between it and an applicant for membership in the Association.

7. A uniform set of books and records relating to all dealings between jobbers and manufacturers and sub-manufacturers shall be adapted by all members of the Association and shall, as far as possible, be extended to the entire industry. The books of such books and records shall be prescribed by the impartial Chairman, and such books and records shall be open to the examination of the impartial Chairman or his accountants at all reasonable times.

8. Should a member of the Association be found to have violated the provisions of the agreement on any point he shall, upon conviction of the first offense, be adjudged to pay damages in an amount sufficient to offset the pecuniary advantages gained by him through such violation, together with an appropriate penalty. The amount of such damages and penalties shall be fixed in the manner herein provided for adjustment of disputes, and such damages and penalties shall be paid into the organization fund of the Union or into the fund maintained in the Industry for making investigations under the terms of this agreement, as justice may require in each case.

A repeated offense shall be punished by expulsion from the Association unless the Union agrees to another penalty.

9. All decisions reached by the managers of the parties hereto or their deputies or rendered by the impartial Chairman shall be compiled with within twenty-four (24) hours. Should any member of the Association fail to comply with such decision within such time, he shall automatically lose all rights and privileges under the agreement between the parties hereto and the Union shall be free to take action to enforce the rights of the workers against such member.

10. Immediately upon the execution of the renewed agreement an Unemployment Insurance Fund for the benefit of the workers shall be re-established in the Industry. Such Fund shall be operated and maintained in the form of organization and under the rules under which the Unemployment Insurance in the cloak and suit industry operated while it was in existence, except that the contributions to the same shall be paid exclusively by the employers including the Jobbers and shall amount to Three (3%) Per Cent, of the total weekly payroll in each shop or establishment.

The contributions and obligations of Association members to the Unemployment Insurance Fund shall be such as may be established by agreement between all parties to the collective arrangement in the industry or, failing such agreement, by decision of the impartial Chairman.

Readers of Justice

In case you move from your present quarters, please notify your local office of your new address. We shall then forthwith put your new address on our mailing list.
Changes for American Association Agreement

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS OF THE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
AMERICAN CLOAK AND SUIT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION AND THE
UNION SUBMITTED BY THE

1. The Union believes that the interests of our industry will be best served if every association of employees will confine its membership to a definite type of employers or dealers and that the American Association should accordingly be composed wholly of contractors and sub-manufacturers.

So long, however, as the Association includes in its membership inside manufacturers the Union requests that if a member of the Association employs contractors and, or, sub-manufacturers, such contractors and, or, sub-manufacturers shall work for him exclusively and the Association member shall be liable for the maintenance of labor conditions and the performance of this agreement by such contractors and, or, sub-manufacturers in the same way as for his inside shop.

No Association member shall deal with a larger number of contractors and, or, sub-manufacturers than he can supply with full time work and no work shall be sent out by an Association member to a new or Association sub-manufacturer until all other contractors and sub-manufacturers with whom he is dealing are fully provided with work.

The number of contractors and, or, sub-manufacturers to be employed by each Association member shall be determined in accordance with the general principles of recommendations of the Governor's Commission in the industry, dated May 30, 1932.

2. The "THIRTY-SECOND" clause of the present agreement between the parties shall be eliminated.

3. All workers employed by members of the Association at the time of the execution of the renewed agreement and all workers who are engaged after the said date, and have been retained after a trial period of one week, shall be considered regular employees of such members of the Association.

4. Should a member of the Association be found to have violated the provisions of the agreement with respect to week-work, dealing with non-union shops, or in any other respect, he shall, upon conviction of the first offense, be adjudged to pay damages in an amount to effect the pecuniary advantages gained by him through such violation, together with an appropriate penalty. The amount of such damages shall be fixed in the manner herein provided for adjustment of disputes.

The second offense shall be punished by expulsion from the Association unless the Union agrees to another penalty. All damages and penalties thus collected for violation of the provisions of this agreement against non-Union production shall be paid into the fund maintained in the industry for making investigations under the terms of this agreement. All other damages and penalties shall be paid over to the Union. As security for the payment of such damages and penalties by its members, if and when such members are adjudged to pay the same, the Association agrees to collect from each of its members a deposit of Two Hundred and Fifty ($250) Dollars, and the Association shall be liable to the Union for the payment of such damages and penalties by each of its members to the extent of Two Hundred and Fifty ($250) Dollars.

5. All decisions reached by the managers of the parties hereto or their deputies or rendered by the Impartial Chairman shall be complied with within twenty-four (24) hours. Should any member of the Association fail to comply with such decision within such time, he shall automatically lose all rights and privileges under the agreement between the parties hereto and the Union shall be free to take action to enforce the rights of the workers against such member.

6. No work shall be permitted on Saturdays at any time.

In periods of extended unemployment the Union may suspend overtime work in the period when such overtime work is allowed in normal times by the provisions of this agreement.

7. No member of the Association shall discharge operating his inside shop or factory and continue in the cloak and suit industry as an employer during the term of this agreement. Any Association member violating the above provision shall be liable to his employees for wages until the expiration of this agreement at the weekly rates fixed for such workers.

8. Immediately upon the execution of the renewed agreement an Unemployment Insurance Fund for the benefit of the workers shall be re-established in the industry. Such Fund shall be operated and maintained in the form of organization and under the rules under which the Unemployment Insurance in the cloak and suit industry operated while it was in existence, except that the contributions to the same shall be paid exclusively by the employers and shall amount to Three (3%) Per Cent. of the total weekly payroll in each shop or establishment.

9. A uniform set of books and records relating to payrolls, labor cost and outside production shall be adopted by all members of the Association and by the entire industry. The form of such records and books shall be prescribed by the Impartial Chairman. Such records and books shall be open to the examination of the Impartial Chairman or his accountants at all reasonable times.

10. If a member of the Association is found to have underpaid his workers on regular work, overtime work or work on holidays, he shall repay the full amount of underpayment for the entire period of such underpayment, such payment to be made to the Union for distribution among the workers entitled thereto.

11. No member of the Association shall enter into partnership or consolidate or merge with another person, firm or concern in the industry unless the new firm assumes all accrued obligations to the workers of the constituent concerns. Upon the formation of such a partnership or such consolidation or merger, the workers of the constituent firm or concern shall be given preference in employment by the new concern over other workers.

12. Legal holidays shall be paid for in full whether or not the employees work during the week in which such holidays occur.

13. If a member of the Association or his foreman shall be found doing its own cutting, such member shall, upon the first offense, pay to the Union a sum equal to the minimum weekly wage scale of cutters, i.e., $52; upon the second offense he shall pay the equivalent of two weeks' minimum wages, i.e., $104, and for the third he shall be expelled from the Association.

Each member of the Association who operates as a sub-manufacturer or inside manufacturer shall employ at least one cutter.

14. In shops where basting machines
or other labor-saving devices for finishing are in use, the wages and hours of work of employees operating with such machines or devices shall be established by agreement between the Association and the Union on a basis calculated to preserve the earnings of such workers.

In all shops of Association members in which press machines are in use the work on such machines shall be divided into shifts so that each presser shall work thereon one-half of the time and shall be paid for his work the full weekly wages provided herein for a hand presser.

The work of a machine presser shall be confined to the pressing machine.

15. Before admitting a new member, the Association shall inform the Union in writing of the application for membership, and no such application shall be admitted to membership in the Association unless the Union approves of the applicant and consents to his admission to membership.

16. Before admitting a new member, the Association shall inform the Union in writing of the application for membership, and no such application shall be admitted to membership in the Association unless the Union approves of the applicant and consents to his admission to membership.

In the Chicago Organization

By Morris Bialis,
Manager, Chicago Joint Board

Let us start with the cloakmakers.
The season, as usual, started here in January, and actually the amount of work in the shops was very meagre.

A few of the larger shops did work, but the majority of the smaller units were idle and the workers were not earning a cent.

The Joint Board at once began to seek ways and means of placing the unemployed on jobs. We succeeded in putting in a considerable number of operators in the busy shops, and in some factories we even were able to induce the employers to add to their machines, and that, of course, meant that more pressers, finishers and cutters were taken on along with the operators. The latter, besides, fixed themselves a dollar a week each for a relief fund for such of their fellow workers who were unable, notwithstanding all efforts, to get work. The pressers kept a sharp lookout in all the shops against overtime, placing men wherever there was an opening or a chance for a job. The finishers solved their problems by taking off from their jobs all married women whose husbands were employed.

This process, of course, has caused a lot of unpleasant experiences to all the officers of the organization. The executive board of Local 59 is even now kept busy settle complaints of some of the women who had been removed from the shops, and some of them have been permitted to go back to work. The cutters, too, have been busy in trying to find work for their idle members, and the executive board of Local 81 has an energetic committee which is taking special care of this problem.

Late Season Arrives

The season, as noted already, was very slow in arriving. It finally came along a few weeks ago, and there is hope that it will stay around until after Passover.

Most of the work made in our shops now is of the cheaper kind, the garment sold to the retailer at $10.50 and $12.50. Of the better grade of work, which our cloakmakers in Chicago used to make years ago, is seen little nowadays. Right now, all our operators are employed, though there are some jobless in the other branches of the trade, especially among the fur sewn, as there is little fur sewing this season on the garments made in our shops.

We have just passed through quite a stormy election in our organization. Ordinarily, these elections take place in January, but this year the balloting was postponed for March as the Joint Board could not unite with our budget committee on the number of paid officers required to do the Union's business in Chicago. The question was eventually settled, and the election took place.

The writer was reelected as manager of the Joint Board, and Harry Reiner and Max Nowack were elected business agents.

The installation was a very impressive occasion, as most of the shops sent committees with flowers. The Shenker, Michel and Wenslow workers and the Marion Garment shop sent unusually large and beautiful bouquets. Bro. A. Rabino-witz, business agent for the past four and a half years, was defeated in the last election. His speech at the last meeting of the Joint Board, in which he assured the delegates that he would continue to give of his services to the organization as before, was, therefore, all the more gratifying. Local 59, the finishers' local, presented to Bro. Rabino-witz a valuable watch as a token of gratitude for his loyal work.

Pre-Convention Stirrings

Like in all other cities where the I.L.G.W.U. has locals, the coming convention is arousing interest among our workers. And like in all other cities, we are busy with elections for convention delegates, and we are not deprived of a surplusage of candidates and of lists and slates. Yet, on one thing all our candidates and groups have agreed beforehand, and that is, that the election be conducted in a clean and peaceful way. It is quite likely that on account of the hard times, our locals might not send this year a full delegation. The writer has been elected to represent the Joint Board in Philadelphia.

Among The Dressmakers

The dress organizing drive is continuing in the meantime with considerable vigor, particularly among the cutters. Under the leadership of Bro. Shans, who is being actively assisted by our office staff, a number of cutters in the non-union shops were enrolled into the organization, and this led to a successful movement to resist wage reductions in all dress cutting rooms. The example of the cutters is having a wholesome effect not only among the workers in this branch of the dress trade but in all the departments of the affected shops.

Let us hope that the time is near when a widespread organizing movement is launched in Chicago that will awaken the thousands of dressmakers employed in the local non-union shops. The unionized workers in the dress industry of Chicago—cutters, operators, pressers—are now beginning to realize that this is not an impossible thing. Let them continue the missionary work, until a strong dressmakers' union becomes a reality in Chicago!

Resolution

The Joint Board Dress & Waistmakers' Union, assembled at its regular meeting of March 23, 1932, expresses its great grief over the passing of Brother Morris Winchewsky.

The devotion of this noble figure to the Labor Cause was an inspiration to the Dressmakers who will never forget the time when he, as an officer of their Union, had greatly contributed, by his deeds and enthusiasm, toward the advancement and strengthening of the glorious old Local No. 26.

The Labor Movement and the Dressmakers' Union owe Morris Winchewsky a great debt of gratitude.

Joint Board Dress & Waistmakers' Union

ANTONINO CRIVELLO,
Secretary-Treasurer.
Run O' The Month

By MAX D. DANISH

IN THE SECOND BALLOTING for the German presidency Hitler appears to have gained nearly as many votes as the Communist candidate has lost. The inevitable conclusion reached by most of the American correspondents in Germany was, therefore, that a great many German voters had switched their allegiance on the second balloting to the Fascist chief.

Today, this is being openly admitted in both the German Communist and Fascist press. Some of the more far-sighted foreign observers in Germany are even inclined to believe that if the Fascists should win in the coming German provincial or local elections, they would owe their victory to "turncoat Communists." It stands, of course, to reason that the Communists who are flocking today to Hitler have never been real Communists. They joined the Communist crowd not from conviction but because they were awed by the wild phrases of the Communist agitators and their unbridled promises. And now that the Communist bandwagon has proved to be too weak a vehicle for an immediate "revolution," these fellows are ready to switch to another party, similar in its tactics and wild emotionalism to the Communist party, but with greater promises of immediate success.

The old rule that extremes meet seems to be working out tellingly in this instance. The extreme left has met the extreme right and they find themselves quite congenial bedfellows. The extremist requires no logic, no careful thinking; his driving force is passion, fanaticism. He is only seeking an outlet for his passions, and the party or movement that would give him such an outlet at the given moment naturally becomes his chosen party.

AL CAPONE, Chicago's "public enemy, No. 1," now a temporary insane asylum patient, declared a few weeks ago in an interview with Arthur Brisbane that "If it is at all possible to find Lindbergh's baby, be, Capone, and not the police, could recover it."

The man in the street is likely to take Capone's word for it, and for good and sound reason. The man in the street is convinced that, had it not been for the gigantic publicity given this tragic incident, the Lindbergh baby might have been restored to its parents long ago.

As it is, the police—village, city, state and federal—stand today humiliated and abjectly helpless, before gangdom. The police, if they feel as all the humiliation, are reaping a harvest they have sown for years. They have been winking at the deprivations of the underworld for so long—and not on account of sheer humanism—that they had been in the end conquered by it.

Whether Lindberg's baby will ever be found and restored alive to its home, no one, of course, can say. What is dead certain, however, is—the world of crime will come out of this horrible affair stronger than ever before. For the fact remains: Lindbergh, America's most popular hero, having failed in the hour of his agonizing distress to obtain any relief from the entire body of America's police, is compelled, in the end, to ask this police to stand aside while he is pitifully, and perhaps futilely, bargaining with the lawbreakers for the return of his child.

THE DISARMAMENT Conference in Geneva seems to be heading nowhere. Its three months of parleying, thus far, have produced no common ground on which to base even a moderate plan of disarmament reduction.

The aid for the maintenance of the militaristic status quo, variedly phrased, is that the "natives" of the world would not disarm. A lot of people, we are told, do not mind talking about disarmament, but when it comes to acting, no big nation is ready for it.

Of course, if under the term of "nation" we are to understand the governments of the big nations, the truth is on the side of the pessimists. The rulers of the nations are dead set against disarmament. But what about the masses of these nations—what would they say if called upon to vote on measures of real disarmament? Would they support a policy of universal peace?

In all frankness, we are quite in doubt about it. The militarists and the ruling classes in every land have for so long fed the masses of the people with panicky sermons of "national defense" that we are not at all certain that even the common people, though staggering under the burden of military costs, would vote to discard armaments. The fact is that the strongest, the wealthiest and the most unscrupulous social forces today are still working with might and main for bigger arms, air fleets and navies, while the forces of peace everywhere are comparatively weak and timid.

Let it be admitted; The state of mind the world over at the moment is far from pacific—it is rather turbulent and warlike. The Hitlerites in Germany, Plutocrats in Poland, Mussolini in Italy and the chauvinists in France may proudly boast that their agitation has not been fruitless. The Geneva Conference, and other peace conferences, may therefore argue about and pray for peace and disarmament.

While these peace parleys go on, armaments keep on increasing and new military combinations are being formed—not to avoid wars but to win wars.

A FEW YEARS AGO, harrowing tales were told of the "armies of wild children in Russian cities. These wails, orphaned by the war and the breakup of the social order, swarmed in the largest towns, and lived like human jungle cats.

They needed no law and obeyed no rules. They slept where they could find shelter. They ate when they could steal, beg or scavenge food or something to trade for food. Scores of murders were laid to their charge, and the Soviets were bitterly blamed for tolerating such a waste of youth.

A few weeks ago, Dr. John H. Finley, of the "New York Times," speaking over the radio, said that 30,000 boys between 15 and 20 years of age are living like wild animals in the city of New York alone.

They, too, are outside the law. They, too, sleep where they can, pick up a living as they can—and hunger does not breed a lot of orphans.

Except for the lack of children under 15, this New York "army of wild boys" might almost have been brought in from Moscow or Leningrad of ten years ago.

If the Soviets were blamed for the child outlaws of Russia, who should be blamed for those of New York and other American cities?

THE MOVEMENT AGAINST Prohibition is gaining in volume and force the country over. The wet parliaments are defying the economic dislocation to bolster up their cause, and they are making a good job of it.

It is not thirst for liquor, of course, that is accelerating the drive of the opponents of Prohibition. America is neither arid nor does it have to go thirsty. Liquor, not always good liquor, may be bad in this "dry" land literally for the sake—and for the price. Certainly, Prohibition has not made America a more temperate land; it has taught countless millions who never cared for liquor how to drink and how to "enjoy" it.

No unbiased person can deny that the dry laws have also made America the most crime-ridden country in the world. There has grown up, within the past dozen years, around the bootlegging business an
underworld force with unlimited wealth at its command free to finance crime on a scale unheard of before the days of Prohibition. And the real beneficiaries of the 18th Amendment, the rum-runners and the bootleg barons, besides, go untaxed as a rule, while the masses of the American people groan under tax burdens and are called upon to give up more and more to balance the national, state and city budgets.

Yet it would be premature to assume that relief from Prohibition is near at hand. The Dry-clerical machine which maneuvered the United States into prohibition a little more than a decade ago, is still too powerful in Congress and in most of the States legislatures to permit even the hope for real beer for some years to come.

The latest report compiled by the American Federation of Labor on conditions of unemployment brings no evidence of improvement. To the contrary, as compared with 1921, the number of workers who have regained work with advent of the Spring season this year is much smaller.

Last year, about 300,000 workers found jobs in February and March; in 1932 only 200,000 are reported to have been placed at work. The unions, also, report 32 percent of their members unemployed for the past three months. Not less than eight million wage earners are totally unemployed in the United States at this moment.

The cry for help, for relief, is also growing. President Green of the A. F. of L. is again appealing to the employers to make room for more workers in their factories, to shorten the work-hours in order to accommodate more men, and not to cut wages so as not to cripple the buying power of those who still have work.

But, may we ask, will this appeal help? For the past two years, the leaders of American industry have remained deaf to such requests. They have made no room for additional workers in their shops; they have not shortened labor hours to spread out employment, and they have kept on cutting wages far out of proportion to the demands of their business.

Meanwhile, the condition of the jobless and the half-jobless is getting worse and worse. The government still refuses to make unemployment relief its direct business. We are still being told that private enterprise is to be looked to as the principal source of unemployment relief. No state “dole”—perish the thought—for the proud American workers, but charity doles, black ales, soup kitchens, not to mention that other venerable American institution—the breadline.

When the debate on the sales tax was at its highest in Congress, its advocates argued that, if defeated, the income tax would have to be raised in its higher brackets to meet the budget deficit and that the American “poor rich man” would be “soaked” entirely out of proportion with his shrunken income.

Quite recently, the Secretary of the Canadian Treasury has published an interesting chart which discloses the amount in taxes paid by persons with similar incomes in various countries. In the United States, a married person with but one child, who earns two thousand dollars a year, pays no income tax at all. In Germany such a person would have to contribute to the national treasury $315 annually. In Italy—$216, in France—$194, and in England only $61.

In England all classes pay higher income taxes than in the United States and Canada, but the wealthier groups pay far more in taxation than anywhere else.

An American who earns $10,000 a year pays only $126 into the federal treasury; in Britain he would have to pay $4,600, nearly seven times as much. A person with an annual income of $100,000 would have to pay in the United States $18,245 annually, but in England his tax would amount to $48,900, almost three times as much. An Englishman pays $438,487 in taxes on an income of a million dollars; a Canadian, with a similar income, would have to pay $476,658, but an American’s contribution to the national exchequer would be only $49,621.

Yet, our rich keep up the clama that they are being robbed by the tax collectors. The truth is that, if America’s millionaires will be paying as much in income tax as the wealthy of other countries are paying, we would have no deficit. Our treasury would have enough left to provide handsomely for the unemployed and to keep up the purchasing power of the masses of the population, besides.
New "Prosperity" in English Cloak Industry

London, April 16.

England has finally introduced a tariff. Her old tradition of free trade, in.vogue for about a hundred years, has broken down. The present Coalition Government, or rather some Tories in the present cabinet, have now attained their long-sought objective, and have built around Britain a high wall of customs duties on practically every importable commodity. The protests of the small Labour group, augmented by the opposition of the few Liberals in the cabinet and the strong anti-tariff agitation in many sections of the country, were left unheeded. British "Big Business" wanted a tariff and finally got it.

It would, however, be unjust to state that all British workers are dissatisfied with the new tariff policy. While such labor groups as transport workers, shop assistants and "casual laborers" see in the tariff and in the inevitable shrinkage of imports that it is bound to produce a positive threat to their earnings, workers in many other industries are, for the moment, hoping that the introduction of a protective tariff will be of definite benefit to them. And among these workers I should like to mention the tailors and such groups employed in the women's garments industry as seem to anticipate the most favorable results from this break-up of England's traditional economic policy.

To what extent the British woman's apparel industry has been affected by foreign competition may be adduced from the following official data on this subject.

England imported in 1929 readymade mantles and suits for the sum of 3,242,449 pound sterling, in addition to blouses and coats for 174,251 pounds. In 1930, the import of these articles amounted to 2,166,456 pounds for mantles and suits and 159,759 for coats and blouses. A partial report for the first nine months of 1931 shows that the cost of these imported readymade articles for that period reached about three million pounds sterling. From which may be seen that during the past three years only, Germany and France had exported to England about twenty million dollars' worth of readymade women's garments. On the other hand, during the same period English women's garment makers had been affected by unprecedented unemployment, as the following figures show:

In July, 1931, the number of "insured" tailors (those on the Government insurance lists) in all of England was recorded as 69,580 males and 143,410 fe-
male, a total of 213,120, not including other needle trades workers such as dress-makers, milliners, hat and cap makers and shirt makers. The same report reveals that by the end of December, 1931, there were registered as unemployed in the Labor Exchanges (State unemployment bureaus) no less than 20,859 men and 36,721 women employed in the tailoring industry.

In other words, according to these official figures, about twenty per cent of all the English garment workers were idle by the end of last year. And as about sixty-five per cent of these listed as tailors in England are employed in the women's garment industry, a further analysis would bring us to the irresistible conclusion that nearly a half of all these workers—mantle, suit and coat makers—were idle by the end of 1931.

A few deductions may be made from these dry figures. First, the majority of English tailors are employed in the women's garment trades, and, second, that this industry is relatively the biggest importer of foreign-made articles into England. For, while other industries such as coal, iron and steel also import from abroad, they do a considerable export business as well, while the women's apparel industry sends nothing from England to foreign countries.

Small wonder, therefore, that both the manufacturers and the workers in the women's tailoring trade are content with the new tariff. They anticipate that the new duties on cloaks, suits and coats, on one side, and the deflation of the pound sterling, on the other, will weaken materially the sharp competition of foreign garment makers against English producers. If the domestic manufacturers, they believe, could not wrest from the foreign makers the entire three and one-half millions' worth of imported production in one year, they should capture at least half of this trade. To illustrate how firmly this anticipation is grounded among the leaders of the English garment industry, I may point to the fact that the textile manufacturers of Yorkshire and in the Midlands are already working day and night to meet the enlarged orders from the women's garment industry. As yet, however, the signs of returning prosperity have not begun to affect the workers in the factories.

The summer season, it is true, has started this year earlier than in former years. A "busy" work-period is expected, but it is not difficult to foresee already that there is going to be a "lot of thunder but little rain" for the workers. The employers, running true to form, are using this pretext of "better times" in the women's garment industry as an argument for cutting wages. On the other hand, the tariff has boosted the cost of living in England. According to official figures, made public by the Ministry of Labor this month, wages in the tailoring industry have decreased ten per cent since last year for week workers and not less than fifteen per cent for piece workers. The more work in the factories, the sharper, so it would seem, become the appetites of the employers for wage cutting.

Another evil which has come to plague the English women's tailors this year is the tendency to abolish the hand tailors, or the "basters" as they are called here, and to do all the work on garments by machine. The English manufacturers are eager to copy the foreign methods of garment production in order to be able to best meet competition from abroad, and the hand workers, accordingly, are now being pushed out from the workrooms by the thousand. Some manufacturers have even come over here from Germany and France to open up and operate factories under a system in which young and inexperienced boys and girls could be trained to turn out practically the same kind of work that was formerly made by competent, full-fledged tailors. The Trade Board Minimum Wage, established to protect workers nationally from sweating, has now become the high mark in the factories. Thus, if a manufacturer can prove that his workers earn a minimum of 35 cents an hour, for men, and 25 cents an hour, for women, he is being looked upon as a "decent employer."

The tailor unions are facing a difficult set of problems in England at this hour: Should they resist the wage reductions and demand a share in the "coming prosperity" to which they are legitimately entitled—or should they remain patient until the foreign import trade has been actually "captured" and the English tailoring industry has returned to normalcy, before forcing demands? There is a strong belief among the leadership that the policy of watchful waiting and preparing for the future is the more pref-
able; on the other hand, an equally strong sentiment prevalent largely among the rank and file of the workers, is supporting a policy of immediate demands, of a strong front right now, against any attempt to lower conditions in the factories.

The tailor unions, in fact, have recently made a few attempts to strike for higher prices and shorter hours in several factories, but these attempts have produced poor results. No sooner were the workers in these individual shops called out when the "comrades" from the local Communist "red union" rushed forth with strikebreakers to replace the strikers at longer hours and smaller pay than the union members had been getting in these shops before the strike. The executives of the unions are of the opinion, therefore, that only a general strike covering the whole industry and the entire country could hope for any success.

In a word, the English employers are looking forward today to better business and a profitable work-season in the women's garment trades, while the workers in this industry are hoping for the day soon to dawn when their patience would burst the bonds and they would confront their employers with the demand not only for more work but for better paid labor.

Children's Dressmakers, Loc. 91

By HARRY GREENBERG, Manager

Slack, both in the children's dress and house dress shops, is again compelling us to cease organizing activity begun about three months ago and continued all along since the general strike in February.

When we started our organizing work last December, it must be kept in mind, we didn't have a dollar in our treasury. We carried on the work, nevertheless, and we have reason to feel happy over the fact that we have today nearly twice as many members in Local 91 as we had before February 16, when the strike was declared. Had there been more work in the shops during the past two months, we would have, beyond any doubt, won an even greater degree of success.

However, it is a real satisfaction to know that even with conditions as they are today, our members are alive to the situation and are doing all they can to make their union an effective weapon in the shops.

Day's Wage Assessment

As an indication of this willingness of the members of Local 91 to co-operate with their union in times of need, we may cite the fact that only recently they voted almost unanimously to give the Local a day's work so as to be able to carry on un-ionizing work and to pay back some of the debts that were incurred during the strike.

On Saturday evening, April 9, over 150 members of Local 91 came together at the Women's Trade Union League to a party arranged to celebrate the success of our last strike. Most of the girls who came to this affair were from the newly organized shops. The spirit was wonderful. All those present pledged themselves not only to continue their membership in the Union as union-book holders but to assist actively in the work of Local 91.

Girls Present Gift To Sadie Reisch

The occasion was also marked by the presentation of a gift, a diamond pin, by the executive board of Local 91 to Sister Sadie Reisch, organizer of the Women's Trade Union League, for her splendid work during our last strike. Sisters Besie Weiss, May Glipp and Evelyn Delaguardia, members of Local 93, who so devotedly helped Local 91 during its organizing activity and strike, also received gifts, in the form of wrist watches.

The audience responded enthusiastically to the talks delivered by Rose Schnieder, president of the League, Fannie M. Cohn, Sadie Reisch, Morris Berkowitz, of Local 91, Besie Weiss and Evelyn Delaguardia. The writer of these lines was the chairman of the evening.

The party came to an end late after midnight, all those assembled, singing labor songs and unanimously agreeing to keep the active spirits in the Local close together during the coming outdoor season by arranging hikes, open-air debates and lectures for the members.

It is the aim of Local 91 to organize the workers in our shops not only for the purpose of improving their economic conditions but also to give them an opportunity to understand the problems of Labor and to broaden their outlook and thereby make them more intelligent and useful men and women—to themselves and to their fellow workers in the shops.

Convention Call

To All Affiliated Locals and Joint Boards:

Greetings:

You are hereby notified that the twenty-first convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union will be held in the city of Philadelphia on and beginning Monday, the 2nd of May, 1932, and you are urged to call at once a special meeting of your organization to nominate and to elect delegates and alternates to this convention.

Since our last convention in Cleveland, in December, 1929, two and a half years ago, a great many events have occurred in the life of our International organization. During this period, our country has been in the grip of a violent economic crisis which has left a damaging effect upon every group, every organization, every individual in every walk of life. Like every other labor organization, we have been forced during this time to fight desperately with our backs to the wall for the very existence of our Union and for the preservation of the living standards of our members.

A tremendous number of vital problems have accumulated before us that the next convention will have to solve, problems of industry, problems of organizational policy and problems of internal harmony. These questions will require constructive solution, and we will have to summon all the best there is in us as class-conscious trade unionists and as loyal members of our International Union to meet these problems squarely, earnestly and sincerely.

Your Local is entitled, on the basis of the latest census, to (...) delegates and (...) alternates to the 1932 Philadelphia Convention.

We are enclosing herewith an official return ballot on which you will mark, under the signature of the proper officers of your local or joint board, the names of the delegates and alternates, their addresses and ledger numbers and the number of votes each of them has received. Upon receipt of the same from you, we shall forward to these delegates and alternates their special credentials to the convention.

Please act upon this communication without delay. The official return ballot must be in the hands of the General Secretary-Treasurer of the I.L.G.W.U. not later than April 4, 1932.

General Executive Board, I.L.G.W.U.

BENJ. SCHLESINGER, President.

DAVID DUBINSKY, General Secretary-Treasurer.
Chicago Dress Cutters and Pressers Organized

By BERNARD SHANE,
General Organizer, I.L.G.W.U.

When the organization campaign of the dressmakers was started in Chicago, we realized that it would be impossible to organize all the branches of the trade in one season. We, therefore, laid out plans to organize the cutters and the pressers first, considering that if these two key branches of the industry were united, we should eventually get the operators and the finishers, the girls, into the Union with less difficulty.

We faced a special problem in the presser situation. In the absence of an effective union in the trade to help the workers, some pressers, under the guidance of some disgruntled former members and of a few Communists, had organized, a few months before I got to Chicago, a so-called independent pressers’ club. We tried to persuade these people to join the Union, but without much success. Even the neutral pressers, or those who did not belong to the club, kept away from our organization.

So we centered all our attention on the cutters. And here, too, we met with a lot of difficulties. A large number of cutters had joined the Union about a year and a half ago during an organization drive in the expectation that they would derive some immediate benefits. But that campaign brought little results, and the cutters dropped out of the Union. So it was natural that, when we renewed our drive last Fall, that we should encounter a number of disappointed cutters who were reluctant in being persuaded that we really meant this time to organize the trade. We did convince them, however, that if enough of them came into the Union, we would try and do something for them even during the current year, in the face of the prevailing depression. However, we were careful not to promise too much.

Cutters Stop Wage Cuts

The cutters responded to our approach splendidly. A group of old timers joined the drive, working day and night, and trying to bring in as many cutters as they could possibly reach. At the present, we have not less than fifty cutting rooms in the Chicago dress trade solidly organized, among them the largest shops. Only a few of the smaller shops have been left untouched. The employers at first ignored our activity, on the theory, no doubt, that we would fail anyway, and when they finally woke up to the fact that we meant business, it was too late for them to interfere with our campaign as the cutters were already beginning to put up demands to them.

Within the past three years, the wages of all dress workers in Chicago, including the cutters, had been drastically cut; the reductions ranging in some shops from $11 to $25 a week. The first move of the cutters, naturally, therefore, was to stop wage reductions. And to enforce this demand, we decided to strike the first firm that had ordered a reduction, the Janet Taylor Frock Co. It took a stoppage of three days to persuade the employer not only to withdraw the wage cut but to extract a promise from him that none but union cutters would henceforth be employed in that shop.

The next strike against a $2.50 reduction, in the shop of the Alvea Dress Co., involving five cutters, took a week. Again the cutters won out, and when they returned to work and the firm had to engage another cutter, a member of the Union was sent up directly, from the office. Encouraged by their success, the cutters put up another demand to this firm that same week, namely, that no overtime be worked without pay. Originally, the Chicago cutters used to be paid time and a half for overtime, but when the depression came, they stopped paying the extra rate, and eventually ceased paying for overtime entirely, and the men were being forced to work overtime and on Saturday afternoons without a cent in pay.

Free Overtime Eliminated Dress Pressers

By now, we may safely assert, this business of free overtime has been abolished by us in all the Chicago dress cutting rooms, and without strikes, too. Then, encouraged by our success in doing away with overtime without pay, we picked out a few shops where the wages had been slashed without mercy, and demanded an increase. The result was an increase in wages in several shops amounting to $2.50 per week, and in only one case were we forced to take the men down for a few hours before the raise was obtained.

We wish to state right here: we have continually discouraged excessive demands. We feel that, under the present circumstances, if we could stop the wage cuts, eliminate free overtime and establish a minimum wage for all newly engaged cutters, we would accomplish a great deal for this season. The prescribed minimum for cutters here is fixed by the Union at $49 a week, and it has taken a lot of effort to keep the unemployed cutters away from the factories accepting jobs for any amount. We have succeeded so well in this respect that, instead of hampering us, the unemployed cutters are aiding us in picketing wherever we are forced to take down some men. And this in itself is proof of the fine sentiment prevailing in all the cutting rooms with regard to the Union.

Dress Pressers’ Branch Formed

The workers in the other branches of the industry are, naturally, becoming somewhat jealous of the cutters, and we are glad of it. They evidently are beginning to realize that, if they, too, had joined the Union, they could have, by now, had a large number of unionized shops with improved work conditions.

The first to realize this were the pressers, and, strange to say, the very “club” that was organized to keep them away from the Union is now negotiating with our office about joining the Union as a group. The Joint Board will, of course, be glad to receive them into our midst. Our object is to organize all the workers in the trade, and the enrolling of the pressers will also strengthen the position of the cutters in the shops.

(The letter was received from Bro. Shane, a telegram from him reached the General Office in which it is stated that “a dress pressers’ branch was organized in Chicago on April 5 at a meeting to which more than seventy-five pressers came; great enthusiasm shown for International; elected officers and executive board; meeting addressed by Shane, Hails and Goldstein.”—Ed.)

The girls, operators, and finishers, are also becoming restless in the shops. The employers, by continuing their ruthless policy of wage cutting, are helping us materially; they, obviously, do not realize that by forcing the operators to work for $12 or $14 a week they are literally driving them into the Union. During the last few weeks, several committees of operators appeared in our office asking us to help organize them. What the Chicago dress cutters have achieved in such a short time should and will be duplicated in all the other branches of the trade as soon as the organization activity is widened out and made felt in every section of industry.

TEACHERS PAID LESS THAN WAGE EARNERS

A majority of teachers in city school systems in the United States are paid salaries lower than the average annual income of all gainfully employed persons, according to a survey conducted by the National Education Association. This low pay basic outline despite the fact that educational salaries have risen during the past two years.
We did not have a general strike this Spring in Toronto because we were very well prepared for such a movement and the General Office was not in a position to finance it for us.

The meeting at which we apprised our members of this decision, was one of the biggest we had here in years. More than a thousand cloakmakers came to the gathering which was addressed by Vice-Presidents Kreindler of Cleveland and Fellberg of Montreal. Both sharply opposed a strike at this moment. Despite an attempt to create some trouble at this meeting, the resolution of confidence in the Joint Board and in its leadership was adopted by a huge majority.

Next day, Brothers Kreindler and Fellberg attended a special meeting of the Joint Board. It was a “warm” meeting, as it concerned itself largely with the resignation of the two paid officers of the Joint Board—Brother Kralensem and myself. Kreindler and Fellberg declared to us that such action on our part would be treason to the Union and ordered us to withdraw our resignations, to which we, in the end, agreed. At the same meeting we decided to adopt a new policy with regard to our employers. In view of the fact that our old agreement with the manufacturers had expired and was not renewed, the arrangements which existed formerly concerning stoppages and settlement of complaints were therefore not in force any longer.

The Joint Board, therefore, instructed its officers and the members in general to take individual action against any firm that would attempt to reduce wages or violate any other form union rules.

**Fighting Back In All Shops**

Within the past few weeks, we, indeed, have had plenty of trouble in many shops. It would seem that in several shops the employers decided to “convince” their workers that the Union is a matter of the past in the Toronto cloak industry, and that they, the employers, were therefore, at liberty to do what they wanted with them. The Joint Board, however, in every case succeeded in proving to these firms that, in effect, or no contract, the Union was quite alive and capable of defending the cloakmakers. And we intend to carry on this policy with regard to the employers until they become truly convinced that the Union has come to stay in this market and that it would be better business for them to reach an understanding with it.

Our plan is to mobilise our forces for a general strike the next spring season and we are already organizing ourselves for this step. At the Philadelphia convention, we propose to ask for the endorsement of a local assessment for a general strike and we have no doubt that the convention will approve such a resolution.

**A Peculiar Season**

Our present season is a very peculiar one. In some shops there is work aplenty, while in others, there is hardly any work at all. This anomalous condition affects our income very much, especially in view of the fact that we are heavily in debt thanks to the many single shop strikes we were compelled to wage recently. The members who are employed in the busy shops should, therefore, bestir themselves and pay up their obligations to the Union as soon as possible.

We have had here a very stubborn strike in the Bell Garment shop, a strike, as you remember, that cost us a lot of money and which even brought about the imprisonment of four of our workers. After striking for nine months, we were compelled to give up the fight. To all intents and purposes, this was a victory for the employer, yet it would seem that it was quite an empty victory which this firm had scored over our Union. For, right now, this firm is making every effort to obtain a settlement from the Union and to install a union shop.

This instance might well serve as a warning to other employers in the Toronto cloak industry. A fight to a finish against the Union in most cases actually means a finish for the employers, and the Bell Garment case is an eloquent piece of evidence to prove it.

And in concluding may I say to our members that, although we are passing through very difficult times now, loyal union men and women should not despair. Better times must come, and no matter how bad times might be, they still could be worse without a union. Let us, therefore, continue gathering our strength for our next great move in Toronto, and, in the meantime, let us do everything we can to preserve our Union at all cost.
Memories of English May Days

By JAMES E. GORMAN

In the early hours of that day, men and women went their way to parks, market places, movies, and enclosed spaces, and patiently wait for the speakers to appear. As the time approaches, a thrill of expectancy moves the vast crowds for a message of hope is to be delivered. For the moment, the drab weariness of life fades away. Mines, mills, and workshops have vanished, and in the few hours remaining the spirit of freedom will be paramount.

In the early days of the Independent Labor Party, an illiterate Irish laborer applied to the Blackburn branch for admission to membership. Apparently, he was very poor material to help in building the movement, but strange to relate, Tom Hurley, want mostly instrumental in breaking down this stronghold of conservatism, and thus made it possible for Philip Snowden to be elected as its first Labor Member of Parliament.

As I have estimated, Tom Hurley, could barely read or write, and yet he had a remarkable gift of eloquence, and possessed of a deep sense of humor, which made his work very effective. In 1894, I was invited to attend a May day demonstration to be held in Blackburn. There were about ten thousand people present. Tom Hurley was the first speaker and was followed by Philip Snowden. Commenting upon the evils of capitalism as he saw them, Tom Hurley rudely shook the multitude out of its apathetic state of mind. It was during this speech that I learned of the Irishman's remedy for unemployment. As well as I can recall the story runs as follows:

The boss walks up to Murphy one day and says:

"I am sorry, Murphy, but I will have to lay you off."

"Why, sorry?"

"Well, I am getting rather slack at present."

"Rather slack are ye, and are ye goin' to kape Planagan?"

"Yes, I will kape Planagan on a little longer."

Pat was puzzled, and scratching his head, he finally blurted out: "Arrah now boss, yez know that Planagan can do as much work in one week as I can do in three, and I'll tell yez what to do, fire Planagan and kape me and yez won't be slack."

Snowden's Speech

The evangelist of the movement then spoke. In singing words of denunciation he shone the system. "The Christ that is to be" was not to be a personal Messiah, but an ethical reconstruction of society wherein brotherhood would be the guiding principle of human relationships. From the time that he commenced to speak, the humor of the crowd changed, a deep and sober earnestness fastened upon all, an exultation of hope that wage-slavery could be abolished, could easily be seen in their faces lined with care and toil. The climax of Snowden's speech was tremendous. Men and women broke into weeping, for he had the ability to reach their hearts as well as their minds.

A number of my old comrades may bitterly deplore the treachery of Snowden in his later years, but they must not forget the magnificent service he gave in the early days. Many May-Day demonstrations I attended, and at a number...
ber I was privileged to speak. At these gatherings I met the most distinguished organizers of the movement, aristocrats and commoners alike, for class distinctions were laid aside. Cunningham Graham, a lineal descendant of the Scottish kings, spoke alongside of Tom Harley, Henry Hyndman, a London banker and stockbroker, occupying the same platform with Dan Irving, a railroad switchman, and the Countess of Warwick speaking with Will Thorne, a gas works laborer.

Reminiscence of Hyndman is the camaraderie which made him popular with those who came in direct contact with him. At a May-Day celebration held in Birmingham, he replied to a question seeking information as to why he remained a stock broker while he fought the battle for the working-class, in this wise: "Yes, I am a stock broker. As such I gamble in human lives and human blood, but I will continue to remain a stock broker until you people tell me to stop. I mean rise every morning, one to be exploited, and the other to do the exploiting. Won't you think I would be a fool if I consented to be one of the exploited!"

Vision of a Young Agitator

Hyndman was the founder and leader of the Social-Democratic Federation, the Marxist branch of the Socialist movement. In the first years of the present century, women became actively interested in a movement to abolish the anomalous half-time system. One of the principal characters was a young school teacher named Emil Stacy. I just met Miss Stacy at a May-Day meeting in the North of England. Small in appearance, she moved as if made up by a vigorous personality. She was a sincere and earnest advocate on behalf of the children. At the meeting referred to, she made a tremendous impression, and before the end of her speech had converted the audience to her point of view. Not satisfied with this she urged her listeners to "work with might and main" to end the capitalist system for ever. Thirty years have passed away, and yet through the mist of time I can still see her with arm outstretched in appeal, quoting this verse from William Morris:

Oh why and for what are we waiting While our brothers drop and die And on every wind of the heavens A wasted life goes by.

New May Days Coming

Many figures familiar in the old days pass before me, but most of them, including Eleanor Marx, Edward Aveling, Keir Hardie, H. M. Hyndman, Tom Hur- ley, Emil Stacy, Peter Kropotkin, and Dan Irving have left the stage for ever.

Since the ousting of the middle class leadership, the Labor Party, however, will undoubtedly use the May-Day demonstrations as instruments to cement the bonds of solidarity.

Memory fondly lingers over the old days, and in its musings a voice rings out loud and clear, "Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains," and almost immediately a strain of music is heard, and the people are triumphantly chanting "The Red Flag." Perhaps it is but a dream, or it may be an anticipation of reality.

Hints from the Union Health Center

BY PAULINE M. NEWMAN

Hay Fever:

People who suffer from hay fever should register for tests now. Early testing may help to relieve the patient's discomfort.

Hay fever has not always been taken seriously. Red eyes and swollen noses have made the victim a source of amusement rather than an object of pity. Numerous studies by the hundred have been circulated about the peculiar etiology that goes with this ailment.

But to the sufferer, hay fever is not a joke. It is a calamity. Starting in the latter part of the summer and running usually until late fall, it causes untold misery and is a very successful destroyer of efficiency. The worker who suffers from hay fever must drag through many weeks laboring in which his vitality is lowered and his capacity for work is seriously impaired.

In the last few years, medical science has made real progress in the prevention of this disease. Hay fever is caused by the pollen from various weeds which flower in the fall. Some individuals are subject to the pollen of one weed, some to that of another. It is possible by certain tests, which do not cause the patient any inconvenience, to determine just which weeds produce the disease in a particular individual. When this is discovered, it is a simple matter to give a series of inoculations which helps to prevent the appearance of the former symptoms. In this manner, with a few treatments, hay fever sufferers can be protected and go through the fall season without this very disagreeable and harmful malady.

Varicose Veins:

Varicose veins is a painful and nerve-wrecking disease. Numberless people suffer from it in silence. They bear the pain patiently—as if there were no cure or relief for it! The Union Health Center has now established a Varicose Vein Department with a specialist in charge. If you suffer from this painful ailment, this is the time to attend to it.

A Fully Equipped Testing Laboratory:

Our new laboratory is now ready to do all sorts of tests on the premises. Patients need no longer be sent to outside laboratories for blood and other tests. All this is now done at the Union Health Center at the lowest possible rates.

10 Years of Our Dental Dept.

In May of this year the Dental Department will be fifteen years old—fifteen years of service to union members and their families! This is an inspiring record for our institution. It is a source of satisfaction to those who undertook the undertaking. Looking back over these years we can truly say that we have done our utmost to justify our existence. We have kept faith with the men, women and children who come to us for treatment and advice.

Our Patients Have Faith in Us:

We were able to render this kind of service because our patients had faith in us. They took our advice. They trusted our judgment. Our chief aim was, and is, and will be to hold to that faith, to cherish that trust above all else. Only in so doing can we look forward to a future of hope and promise.

We Look Forward:

And we do look forward to a future which, we hope, will in many respects be an improvement upon the past. During the fifteen years of experience we have learned a great deal. We shall use the knowledge we have gained for the benefit of our patients. We are no longer an experiment but an established fact, an indispensable practical need.
Effects of Crisis on Employment and Wages

By WILLIAM M. LEISERON,
Prof. of Economics, Antioch College
(With the permission of University of Chicago Press)

They pay not only wages and salaries to employees, but also interest to investors, dividends to stockholders, rent to landlords. If we examine what happens in times of depression to these different kinds of income, it becomes plain that somehow our paymasters have managed to guard those who invest money in industry against losses of income such as the labor inventors suffer.

Dividends Increase; Earnings Drop

In 1930, for example, while the workmen’s earnings were reduced $16,000,000, the payments made by business corporations in interest and dividends on stock actually increased by $800,000,000. Interest payments were $200,000,000 greater and dividends $100,000,000 greater than in the preceding prosperous year. We are now in the third year of the depression, and while our paymasters have found it necessary to reduce wage payments forty per cent, they have managed to increase interest payments for the first nine months of the year almost $156,000,000 over the corresponding months of last year, and $158,000,000 over the same months in 1929. Dividend payments have declined this year to some extent. Up to and including September total dividends paid were $100,000,000 less than for the same period in 1930; but they were still $320,000,000 more than the dividends paid at the height of prosperity in 1929.

The Depression of 1921

Ten years ago we had a similar depression. It did not last as long as the present one, but the effects were pretty much the same. The total wages paid were lower by more than six billion dollars in 1921 than in 1920; a reduction of 21 per cent, while employment dropped 16 per cent. For the major industrial depressions prior to 1921 we have but few reliable figures on which to base estimates. We know, however, that wages paid in manufacturing, transportation and mining in 1903 were 16 per cent below 1907, and in 1914 they were 24 per cent below 1912.

Now if we are to do anything to prevent or to reduce these losses and to safeguard the means of livelihood for the vast majority of the families of the nation, we must know whether these reductions in income are inevitable decrees of economic law, with which we must not “monkey,” as the business experts put it; or whether our economic arrangements can be so controlled as to eliminate the poverty and suffering that depressions bring upon us?

Economists often say that business executives, captains of industry, or in the terminology of economics, the entrepreneurs, are the paymasters of the nation.
quire that wages be drastically reduced in times of depression, while interest and dividends must be increased, or maintained as closely as possible to the levels of the years of prosperity. Bear in mind that dividends are profits, and the system of private enterprise assumes that the profit maker will bear the inevitable risks of business. The wage-earner is supposed to take no business risks.

Wages Cut Out of Measure

It is in this connection that the misleading nature of our wage statistics becomes most evident. In order to save money on the wage bill so that interest and dividends may be paid, many employers compare wages with commodity prices and tell us that wages must be adjusted to reductions in prices. But the wages of the working people are already close to 60 per cent. below 1929, whereas the cost of living has declined less than 15 per cent.

To a worker whose earnings have been cut in half by unemployment and part-time work it must seem like a grim joke to be told that additional wage reductions are necessary because the cost of living has declined. Wage-cutting in past depressions never adjusted wages to cost of living. Always the result was to push wages down lower than living costs decline; in other words, to reduce standards of living. This may have been necessary when interest and dividends were cut as drastically as wages. But today, it is important to note, that wage-earners’ incomes are cut it is done in order that the incomes of bondholders and stockholders may be paid.

It is evident, therefore, that the effects of depression on employment and wages are not brought about by any unseen force or natural law, but by human beings in the form of employers and directors of corporations, who wish to accomplish certain, definite, business purposes. They choose to maintain the incomes of those who invest money in industry because they think that the maintenance of property, investment is more important than the maintenance of the human investment. When they come to feel, or when they are forced by government action to consider, that the income of wage-earners and the maintenance of the families dependent on them, are as important as dividends and interest, then they will stabilize wages too.

Not Last of Depressions

Already we have had two such depressions in the present century; and one must be blind, indeed, to conditions of modern economic life to believe that this is the last of the depressions. It is well to talk about making work steady, but who believes that efforts in this direction will provide a job in the future for every bread-winner that is able and willing to work? We shall emerge from the depression, of course; but just as surely as prosperity is bound to return so also are depression, unemployment and loss of livelihood for millions of wage-earners bound to return.

It is necessary, therefore, that the citizens and taxpayers of the country serve notice on American business and its managers that they do not propose in future depressions to subdivide industry by supporting its employees from private and public charity funds. Our government must make it the duty of all employers of labor to carry insurance against the disasters that recurring depressions bring to their working forces. When employers can no longer depend on the community to maintain their employees in times of depression, they will find a way of providing unemployment reserves and insurance funds to put wage payments on at least as stable a basis as they put interest and dividends.

FILIBO TURATI

In the end of March there died in Paris, at the age of 75, in exile, the famous leader of the Italian Socialists, Filippo Turati. Not only the Italian labor movement but the world-wide movement of class-conscious workers has lost in Turati an outstanding personality. He was among the founders of the Italian workers’ movement and he exercised a definite influence upon its development. For about 30 years, until 1926, Turati represented the Italian working class in Parliament. Shortly after the war, during the early stages of the Fascist movement, Turati defeated Mussolini in a parliamentary contest in a Milan district.

After Mussolini became the dictator of Italy, he subjected Turati to merciless persecution, and, after Turati had finally realized that it was impossible for him to carry on Socialist activity in Italy any longer, he made his escape in 1927 in silt together with a comrade, and after a night of stormy toasting finally reached the shores of France.

In Paris, Filippo Turati became the leader of the great Italian Socialist and labor colony of political exiles in that city, and from there conducted an energetic campaign against Mussolini through subterranean party channels. Turati was considered as one of the greatest Italian orators of his generation; he was a brilliant writer, editor and legislator. He was also highly regarded in the councils of the Socialist and Labor International and served as one of its chairman.

OUTGOING GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD, I.L.G.W.U.
DECEMBER 1929-MAY 1932
Austrian Trade Unions Check Fascism

A Letter from Vienna
By I. F. Liebson

For a time the movement seemed to be a success. Money flowed into its coffers from the banks and the heavy industry, and the bureaucrats, who are mostly reactionary, gave their support to the new institution. Moreover the Christian-Social Government, seeing in the new formation a means of retaining on their side the young people who would otherwise, they feared, slip out of their grasp, since they had nothing to offer them, ranged itself on the side of the Heimwehr, which soon grew to be a serious danger to the internal peace of the Republic, and a threat to democracy. The armed bands became more and more dangerous and the collisions between them and the workers more and more frequent, while the reactionary parties, growing more and more audacious, sought to win concessions from the working class by working on their fears of civil war and to crush their party, the Social Democracy.

Workers Victimized In Heavy Industry

Side by side with this political activity of the Heimwehr movement, there was another and less important movement in the factories, to crush the "free" unions and substitute for them "Heimwehr" unions. In the more important factories, especially in those of the heavy industry, every imaginable terrorist method was used to force the workers into the so-called "independent" unions of the Heimwehr: official representatives and members of the "free" unions were persecuted or discharged and every possible effort was made to break the resistance of Labor.

This movement reached its climax in the summer of 1930, when the government was cooperating quite openly with the illegal Heimwehr and Prince Starn- hemberg, their leader, was appointed Home Secretary, while another leader of the bands became Minister of Justice and the state machine was used to play into the hands of Fascism.

But the clarifying influence of Social Democracy and the trade unions and their organised and disciplined resistance have already borne fruit; the workers closed their ranks against the attempt and even exceeded in carrying forward middle class ranks and intentions of the madness of civil war and the impossibility of pursuing the course marked out by the Fascists, so that large numbers of the rural and urban populations were awakened to the danger of a Heimwehr regime. The elections of the October 9, 1930, showed that the adherents of what Seipel (one of their chief leaders) had called "an irresistible popular movement" were hardly sufficient to secure 8 of the 165 seats of parliament.

The Last Flicker Of Life

From that moment the crumbling process set in which has, within a short time, completely disrupted the Heimwehr organization. Side by side with this came the exposure of the Heimwehr trade unions in the factories, where they were recognized as the allies of the employers, with the result that at the recent works council elections there were many factions in which the Heimwehr unions did not even venture to put forward a candidate.

The last flicker of life of this once dangerous movement was the theatrical 12-hour attempt at a "Putsch." This episode showed beyond all doubt that Austrian Fascism is at an end and all the trouble and money expended in building it up have been poured out in vain.

The manifest weakness of Fascism and the equally manifest strength and discipline of the Austrian working class give good ground for hope that the Austrian working class will continue to advance undisturbed by any interference from Fascism.

52 Applicants Seek Each White-Collar Job

The rigors of unemployment are causing distress for rapidly-increasing numbers of white-collar workers in New York, according to data made public by Harvey D. Gibson, chairman of the Emergency Relief Committee.

Figures on registrations in commercial employment agencies indicated that in August, 1931, an average of fifty-two men registered for every position listed.

Mr. Gibson's conclusion, based on reports from the commercial employment agencies, was that want is increasing not only in the lower strata of the clerical workers, but that it has ensnared many competent, well-trained and reliable men and even executives.

Meanwhile, family welfare agencies report that white collar persons constitute 30 to 50 per cent of the applicants for direct relief. Virtually all of them were said to be first-time applicants or persons hitherto unknown to welfare workers.
Convention Delegates Selected

In compliance with the communication received on March 9, 1932, requesting that a special meeting be called for the purpose of nominating delegates to the 21st Convention, such a meeting was held on Monday, March 14. Owing to the interest of the call, it was impossible to advertise this special meeting in our monthly publication; so instead, throwaways were distributed throughout the cloak and dress market, especially between 38th and 39th Sts, where cutters gather daily.

After disposing of the minutes of the Executive Board at this meeting, the special order of business, nomination of delegates to the Convention, was placed before the membership.

To Discipline Violators.

Among the various cases acted upon by the Executive Board and submitted to the membership for approval were those of Brothers Jacob Tobias, Ledger No. 2807, Isidore Fine, No. 2092, Isidore Sfas, 2119 and Robert Farber, 4602-a.

Brother Isidore Sfas, 1239, was summoned before the Executive Board on February 25, 1932, and charged by Manager Samuel Perlmutter with being active in the Communist "strike" conducted by the "industrial union," a seb organization which came into existence in recent years for the purpose of breaking down the International and the work conditions of the tens of thousands of cloak and dressmakers affiliated with it. Brother Louis Brown, No. 13, appeared as a witness and stated that on February 19, 1932, he saw and heard Brother Sfas actively agitating against the Union, at 58th St. and 8th Ave. He further stated that he was amused to see Brother Sfas, who is a member of Local 10, a local which is affiliated with the International, parading together with the Communists and displaying placards denouncing the International Union and the general dress strike conducted under its auspices. He therefore felt himself duty bound to present these charges to Brother Perlmutter and to testify before the Executive Board.

Brother Sfas, after being examined by the Executive Board, pleaded guilty to the charge and stated that there was no use in questioning him any further as he is a firm believer in the policies of the "industrial union and is sympathetic with them. After due deliberation, the Executive Board, upon motion, decided to expel Brother Isidore Sfas from Local 10.

Brother Robert Farber, No. 4602-a, was summoned before the Executive Board on February 25, 1932, charged with having assisted the "industrial union" in propagandizing the "left strike" called by it. Brother Farber denied the charge and stated that he has no connections whatsoever with the above mentioned organization. He further stated that since he has resigned sometime ago from the "industrial union," he is diametrically opposed to their policies and principles, and that he has in any way sided or abstained the Communist "strike" are absurd. Upon motion, the charge against Brother Farber was dismissed.

Leniency Shown

Brother Sfas, however, again appeared before the Executive Board on March 5, 1932, and requested that the decision rendered in his case be reconsidered. This time he pleaded with the Board for leniency inasmuch as he did not realize the seriousness of his conduct in joining with the Communists against the general dress strike and the International. He admits that the Executive Board was justified in its previous decision that he had rebelled, but assures the Board that from now on he would not enter any relations with the seb outfit and would remain loyal to Local 10. Under these conditions, the Executive Board reconsidered its previous decision and decided to recommend that Brother Sfas be censured before the body. Both decisions of the Executive Board were unanimously approved by the membership.

President Maurice W. Jacobs, in the course of reprimanding Brother Sfas, told the members by Local 10 that there can be no greater offense or injury committed against the Union and the workers than the act committed by Brother Sfas during the general dress strike. Every cutter, Brother Jacobs' continued, when obligated as a member of this Union takes an oath that he would carry out the objects of this Union and would be truly just in all his dealings with the members of this Union, with the full knowledge that to violate this pledge is to be stigmatized as a man "devoted to principle and disregard of honor." Brother Sfas made this pledge but broke it in a most Shameful manner.

The Executive Board, Brother Jacobs added, could have just as well decided to place a heavy fine upon this brother, but this is not the object of the Union.

The organization expects from every member, is to be loyal and devoted to the interests of the workers and since Brother Sfas violated this pledge he stands censured before the body.

Brother Jacob Tobias, No. 2807 and Isidore Fine, No. 2092, working for the firm of Dwoštay Bros., were summoned before the Executive Board on February 25, charged by Manager Samuel Perlmutter with having worked on Saturday, January 29. Both members stated in their defense, that they were under the impression permission was granted to them by the office to work on the Saturday in question. During the course of the questioning, however, both admitted having worked at single pay. The office immediately filed a complaint to the Industrial Council, of which Association, every firm is a member, demanding back pay for overtime. Business Agent Max L. Gordon, called upon this firm together with the clerk of the Industrial Council to collect the back pay. The two members, however, when called on to testify regarding the pay for overtime they received, confirmed the firm's testimony to the effect that they were paid double pay for the same, thus making it impossible for Brother Gordon to proceed with the case. They were, therefore, again called before the Executive Board, charged with having perjured themselves in favor of the employer and with blinding Business Agent Gordon in enforcing work rules.

This time Brothers Tobias and Fine insisted before the Executive Board that they received double pay for overtime, claiming that the actual reason for their testimony that they got single pay for overtime at the previous meeting of the Board, was because they were nervous. The Executive Board, however, relying upon the record of the members in question, coupled with additional information received from Brother Moe Baron, who was formerly employed in this firm, decided to fine each of them $50.00 and instructed them not to work overtime any more.

Office Enforces Conditions in Newly Organized Dress Cutting Departments

As a result of the strike in the dress industry, more than 20 new dress cutting departments were organized and substantial improvements made in them. In most of these shops the cutters used to work 48 and more hours a week. Upon the conclusion of the strike, however, Local 10 was able to reduce their hours to 40 per week and obtained increases in wages of 85 and more in a number of cases.

A great deal of credit for the success of this work is due to the young recruits (Continued on next page)
The Month in Local 10

(Continued from preceding page)

who joined our ranks in this strike. Thanks to their persistent and enthusiastic picketing, under the supervision of Brother Philip Oretsky, chairman of the picketing committee, they were helpful in unionizing close to thirty firms, which conceded substantial reduction of hours and increases of wages to their cutters.

Very valuable help in setting these firms was also rendered by Brothers Louis Stulberg, Moe Falkman, Morris Alovish and Max Stoller. It is now the job of the Local to properly control and maintain union standards in those newly organized cutting departments and, in due time, also to obtain increases of wages for such cutters employed in these shops as are still paid below the scale. Among these shops we wish to mention the following:

Geraldine Dress, 210 West 35th St., employing 4 cutters; Max Greemberg, 110 Broadway, 4 cutters; Halberin & Wasserman, 148 West 97th St. 7 cutters; M. Rosen, 255 West 35th St., 14 cutters; Larry Dress, 253 West 35th St., 7 cutters; Wallace Dress, 501 7th Ave., 13 cutters, etc.

No Contest in the Election of Delegates To the Convention

The special meeting on March 14 nominated the following members as delegates to the convention: David Dubinsky, Samuel Perlmutter, Philip Oretsky, Maurice W. Jacobs, Max Stoller, Joel Abramowits, Philip Ansel, Benjamin Ewy, Max L. Gordon, Louis Faiken, Nathan Saperstein, Meyer Friedman, Louis Stulberg, Morris Alovish, Moe Falkman, Irving Horowitz, No. 2689, Abe Cohen, Ledger No. 9611, Samuel Greemberg, No. 762. The following members accepted the nomination: David Dubinsky, Samuel Perlmutter, Philip Oretsky, Joel Abramowits, Philip Ansel, Nathan Saperstein and Maurice W. Jacobs.

Local 10 is entitled to seven convention delegates, and, inasmuch as there is no "yes" or "no" vote in Local 10, in the event of no contest, the seven delegates are virtually elected. The Executive Board at its last meeting held on March 19, therefore, decided to recommend to the body that the Secretary be instructed to cast one vote for the election of the seven delegates.

Union Submits Demands to the Industrial Council

Now that the dress strike is over the General Office of the International, together with the Cloakmaker's Joint Board, have begun preparing for the developments in the cloak industry.

The first conference on the renewal of the collective agreement with the Industrial Council was held on March 17, at the Hotel New Yorker. Brother David Dubinsky, secretary-treasurer of the International, was chairman. The Industrial Council was represented by Samuel Klein, George Jablow, Leo Delsome and Saul Straussman, Jr. The Council submitted a demand for a number of modifications to the agreement, as follows:

1. That the meeting be held on March 14.
2. That the union be given the right to strike in the event of non-compliance, a clause which was incorporated in the Dress agreement at the termination of the recent strike.
3. That in the event of a worker being discharged, that they be compensated for time lost between the discharge and reinstatement upon the decision of the impartial chairman.
4. That Saturday work be abolished completely.
5. That in the event a firm is found doing its own cutting, said firm be fined two weeks' pay and upon the repetition of this violation the firm shall automatically be expelled from the Association.

The modifications contained in this communication are the result of careful deliberation and the analysis of the conditions prevailing in the cloak industry, in the face of which we feel fully justified in presenting them.

The demand for reduction of hours, at this time, is more appropriate that ever before in view of the present unemployment situation which is assuming more serious proportions daily and the most effective means to alleviate this problem is by reducing hours.

Our Executive Board is, therefore, of the opinion that the demand for reduction of hours is indispensable and worth striving for.

As regards proposition number two, in connection with cutters on jobbers' premises, a thorough investigation of the jobbing situation reveals a problem which can no longer be brushed aside for demands intermediate solution lest the evils gradually develop thereby into a situation existing in the dress industry today.

We submit that, should cutters or sample-makers be permitted to work on the jobbers' premises for the profit of a contractor, the Union in addition to the regular procedure of the agreement, would have a nucleus of workers through whom it can enforce decisions and immediate action, for it stands to reason that such cutters, sample-makers and such other workers as the jobbers must have to operate their shop, would be compelled to live up to Union rules and standards lest they be called out on strike.

There are many more sound reasons for legalizing the cutting departments of the jobbers, which can be set forth in favor of this recommendation, but suffice it to say that we are certain a thorough and unbiased discussion and consideration of this important matter on the part of the Board of Directors, should throw a different light on this subject which has so long been misunderstood and misinterpreted.

In presenting these demands we hope that in considering the subject you will all divest ourselves from the thought that this is a demand to benefit cutters only, but rather look at it in the light of a measure from which all the workers in our industry will ultimately derive benefits.

Fraternally yours,

SAMUEL PERLMUTTER.