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Justice (Vol. 16, Iss. 5)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments
May/June Edition

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of Justice were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of Justice shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of Justice.
35th Anniversary Convention Number

From Boston's gloomy alleys,
From the canyons of New York,
Jersey flatlands, Penn state valleys,
Trenchant rises the Song of Work.

Coatmakers, dress and gown,
Grown old and grown young,
To the mighty Windy Town,
Streams the I.L.G.W.U throng.

"We've won a place in sunlight
After thirty-five long years;
Gone are fears and gone the twilight,
Gone the garments drenched in tears!

"Our drama, our saga
Thirty-five years old—nay, young;
We are marching on Chicago
Twice one hundred thousand—strong!"
...Morris Hillquit and Our International...

By DAVID DUBINSKY
President, I.L.G.W.U.

Two Socialist lawyers played a dominant part in the case of the Chicago hosiery workers. One was Meyer London and Morris Hillquit. London represented the famous union of the children in the Chicago labor struggle. He was the designer of our industrial policies, the pathfinder in our struggles, and the spiritual leader of our masses. All of us who in these past few years have held posts of responsibility in the Union, found in him a devoted comrades and a wise, dependable, clear-thinking spokesman.

Hillquit One of Us
For, despite his great gifts, erudition and high authority in his profession, and in the community as a whole, Morris Hillquit was one of us. As a young student, when he came from the Hab- tic College, he worked on a small collective maker, struggling to make a living, yet, every free hour he could, wrote. He was one of the founders of the labor movement in our midst, the United Hebrew Trades, which has helped organize in 1893.

Hillquit’s principal weapon on the platform, and at the conference table, was his perspicacity, his sharp logic, unusual oratorical powers, and ability to marshal facts in defense of the issues he espoused.

Hillquit was the master debater in industrial conferences, and the spiritual father of our collective agreements in the past generation. His attitude, as he came to the head of a class. Our opponents feared him, yet respected profoundly. He would lend dignity and orderliness to any party, no matter how rough going or provoking were the issues at stake. The moral force behind his pleading was colored by ethics of the highest order, the irreparable refection of the social ideals which he preached and practiced.

The Architect Of Our Plans
While Hillquit was the architect of our aims and plans, we never attempted to burden him with details and problems of technique. But Hillquit was even more than an industrial advisor to our Union.

...from the Chicago hosiery workers...

He was our counsel in internal organ- ization affairs as well as, and to him we would appeal in times of inner conflict or trouble, for a word of calm and judicious advice. Inevitably, his direction was sound and constructive. In fact, he was the very spirit that found and direction in those times with the employers of the hosiery and allied industries of New York for the purpose of mutual agreements. I am indebted, for this personal and for the leadership and the large mass of membership of our New York hosiery workers’ organization, to tell you as sincerely and as strongly as I can convey it, how deeply appreciate, and ever will, the work that he has done for the National Recovery Administration during his service to Washington.

Our gratitude is all the greater because we all know how difficult, hard, morally impossible, it has been for you and for the past six months of your struggle with the work which this task required. Here of us as we have witnessed your appearance at the Washington hearings, despite your physi- cian’s instruction, has had ample opportuni- ty to demonstrate on the depth of your attachment to our organization, a cause to which you have so unselfishly given of your great gifts for more than two decades.

And with this expression of deep-felt gratitude, believe me, Comrade Hillquit, that this is the prayer of hope and the petition of the workers of the United States to the aid of the workers of the world. This, and that this prayer may bring you back to the helm of our movement which is so badly in need of your precious guidance and wise counsel. Accept my kindest greetings to yourself and to all of you.

August 15, 1933

DAVID DUBINSKY
President.
The future of the American labor movement must be judged by its past. Its future is bedded in the past. Its past difficulties and achievements, its past problems and policies are a point of departure for any judgment that can be suggested for the future—the past largely determines the program for the future.

Our First Problem

The first and outstanding problem that the American labor movement faces in organization. We are committed to organizing the unorganized. There are millions of men and women all over the land that need organization, that need the helping hand, the influence for good, the power to help determine the interests of those who are working in mine and mill, in factory and forest. Organization is the instrument and the only instrument that will give the worker the proper place in the community and in the industry, that will give him the means to protect himself and that will provide him with power to protect himself against injustice, against low wages, against unemployment. Organization is the instrument to self-respect and to decency.

The worker, however, must be organized not only for his own good but for the good of the community, for the good of the American people, for the good of the workers themselves. It is true today, as it was in the day when Lincoln said that "America cannot exist half slave and half free." So the United States cannot remain half organized and half unorganized. We must and we will organize the workers—and we will not stop. Time is on our side. In the years to come—to few years or many—we will as workers gather together to face and solve our problem as a common problem. We will do that because they cannot be solved in any other way—because the workers must no longer be divided, because there can be no truly free and prosperous America unless and until the workers of the United States come together in one powerful labor movement. The nations of Europe have already learned the lesson of the unorganized is to be the slave, the organized is to be the master. The unorganized is to be the worker, the organized is to be the employer. It is the task of the American workers to take the lesson of our European brothers and to act upon it.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union began its work by fighting the sweatshop evil with all that the term implies. It was organized in the form of a union that, under the leadership of Potluk, went to New York, then in Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago. After a long series of brave strikes, covering a period of some fifteen years and accompanied by striking examples of loyalty and self-sacrifice, the campaign was brought to a triumphant conclusion. The shameful system was practically consigned to oblivion. The organization continued to crush other sweatshop conditions and instilled in the minds of women everywhere a desire for peace and union. The organization committee for membership of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is entitled to a special place in the front rank of organized labor.

What President Roosevelt is trying to do with the NRA implies a recognition of the fact that the capitalist state of our society is on the verge of a general economic depression, that it is the task of the workers to ensure that the economic depression will not lead to a catastrophe, and to bring about a new economic order. What President Roosevelt is trying to do is to make the workers and employers work together to avert a national economic disaster. The essence of his program is an endorsement of the idealism that has always vitalized the Labor Movement in Europe and is rapidly coming to play a similar part in the Labor Movement of the United States.

The Labor movement of the United States is in a state of flux. The labor movement of Europe is on the move. The labor movement in the United States is not wide enough to keep them separated any longer.
Welcome To Chicago, Convention Delegates!

By MORRIS BALUS, V.P.
Manager, Chicago Joint Board

Each passing day brings nearer to us the well-publicized, well-advertised Convention of the I.L.G.W.U., which is coming to Chicago by the end of May.

There is a holiday spirit abroad among the widest circles of our membership, to say nothing of the special committee which is in charge of convention arrangements. We have just recently gone through, in connection with these preparations, a veritable epidemic of picture-taking. First came the Joint Board, while President Debinsky was in Chicago, and put itself photographed together with him. Followed the convention arrangement committee, the executive committee, the local executive boards are expected to fall in line with their photographs. And on top of all this, we are surprised to find that shall have, on the opening day of the convention, regular motion pictures, something that will immortalize in a "talkie," let's hope.

Pictures, Hall, Music

Aside from picture taking, we were busy here-for over weeks with making a suitable hall for the convention. The differences of opinion on this matter were wide apart. Now that the building in the center of the town, near the finest boulevards, large, light, accessible, and harmonious in its parts, the last word was settled to everybody's satisfaction. We got a convention hall that is both the inspiration for the decorators, the boulevard, light and large, and equipment beside,—hold your breath,—with a golf course and a swimming bath! Bring along your bathing suits, dearest.

We were also discussing a membership parade to precede the opening of the convening. Now this is settled, and we are at present worrying about the route of the parade, the musical arrangements, and we are surprised to find that musical experts and connoisseurs we have here in our ranks. There is danger of the achievement of their chosen leaders over the past two years of stress and storm, and to legislate for the future life of the leaders of our organization. For, it is this Union which took us out of the sweatshops and set us free from sweat and women. And stories come to mind of great stories which I have heard from old clockmakers of the days when operations worked immensely later hours until their hands would fall exhausted over their machines; when presses stop in the shops on rag hours, and binders would stay for their 15 hours of rest; when seaters were being treated in the shops as so much dirt but their money, their fees, hardly as human beings at all.

I recall my own experiences, about 20 years ago, I was a small lad, became clock operators helper. My hours were from 7:30 in the morning until 6 in the evening, and then some overtime—until 9 o'clock. All I would bear, from my "teacher" and from everybody else in the shop, was—speed, speed and more speed—15 hours of driving labor daily was demanded from us kids for a miserable 6 dollars weekly. The boss would exploit my "teacher" without mercy, and the latter, in turn, would fleece me for all I would stand.

Story of Six Coats

I recall my first job as an independent operator, it was in a small neighborhood shop—I could not aspire to work in a big shop then as I had neither the money nor the inclination for braving the big shop foreman without which a job in the shop was unobtainable, in those days. After my first garment had been approved by the boss, I was assigned, I recall, to make up a bundle of six white coats. I still remember the style of that coat. It was being made for Sears-Roebuck Co. I started first to make up the shoulders, which I regarded as the most difficult part of the garment, sewed them up and gathered the parts out on paper in the floor. Then I proceeded to the other parts, and by the time I got through with it, I discovered that the "shoulders" were gone and that on the "floor," instead, were other "raw" shoulder pieces which replaced my finished parts. Then I heard a round, loud laughter, and I noticed that my neighbor, who was making the same garments, had stolen my "shoulders" and shoved his freshly cut parts in place. With a bitter heart and being afraid even to protest, I managed to finish my six garments, and demanded from the boss the pay off at once, but he informed me that I would have to wait a week for my pay. Next week I got all of those dollars for my labor. This employer is still in business downtown, but the operator, bless his soul, is no more amidst us. He apparently saved his garments so fast that he came to a speedy end.

Past and Present

Such are the stories and the reminiscences of old, before we had a union in our trade, when the rule in the shop was: every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost. Today, such incidents seem unbelievable. True, neither clockmakers nor the dreamers are acquiring wealth in the shops today, but, at least, they are being treated decently, and are treating one another as friends and fellow workers: they are working 32 hours a week and are earning a living wage. And it all came about as a result of persistent, driving educational and organizational work, as a result of the pioneer work of the founders and builders of our Union.

I wonder if the younger element that is now entering the ranks of the International appreciates all this. But those who remember the bitter days of old, the slavery and miseries of the past—they can best appreciate the chances that have come over our industry and our work conditions since the I.L.G.W.U. has become a factor and a power in our industry and in our own lives.

In the name of our Joint Board and all our members, in the name of the Convention Arrangement Committee, I welcome the delegates to the Twenty-second Convention, the chosen representatives of their localities, to our city. Hundreds of thousands of workers are looking forward to you with hope and expectation. You have a great responsibility resting on you, but we know that you will fully measure up to it. We have two unity in our ranks and this unity is bound to lead us to ever greater achievements in the future.

Sacred Tradition

By MORRIS C. FEINSTONE
Secretary United Hebrew Trades

There are great numbers of new members of the I.L.G.W.U. who do not share in the intimate knowledge of their Union's great past. But those new members may soon learn that their Union has had a difficult and glorious history. Sacred traditions have been established by the pioneers, traditions of sacrifice and struggle. Those who enter now the portals of trade unionism and benefit by the labors of forgotten workers, may share in these sacred traditions by upholding and respecting them, and, above all, by answering the present call for loyalty and support. This is a justifiable year in the International and its thirty-five years of struggle are crowned not only with holiday-making, but with prospects of much greater achievements in the years to come.

The ideal of a socialized mankind as yet has not been realized. We still have the privileged and oppressed. But for those alive today, some share in the world's products has been gained, and, though this is not enough, it is a great thing, above it opens the possibilities of new gains for the individual worker and new hopes for the masses. From this point of view, the achievements of the I.L.G.W.U. are to be viewed with respect, with enthusiasm, and with that greatest of all human virtues—loyalty.
On the Way to Self-Government in the Cloak Industry

by GEORGE W. ALGER

Imperial Chairman, New York Coat and Suit Industry

Protesting Books, Records

I contrast this with what is happening in the industry today. Since the NRA label of the Code and Suit Code, the advantages of the self-governing industry are all too apparent.

We are having distinct cooperation of the retailers who insist on finding the Code and Suit Label on the garments they buy and which they believe require them to have. Today, the Code office is spending its time on enforcing the Code, and records of concerns whose books and records were never examined before, who are for the first time trying to pay down wages to their workers, whose previous operations have depressed standards which decent industry must maintain in self-respect and with fair regard to the rights of its workers.

We are refusing labels to concern who do not comply. We are collecting thousands of dollars of wages which should have been paid to workers and which through the operation of the Code they are now receiving. This work is hard work. It is very important work. It is not a job to be done once and not at this time speak of the long hours and intense efforts of the Secretary of the Code, Mr. W. H. Yudkin, who is so largely responsible for the organization of this work and the success of its operation. We are rerouting today the heavy cooperation of the great chain store organizations and the retailers, great and small, who consequently cannot do business without the legitimate and dependable merchant and merchant who has suffered from this cutthroat competition for years.

Two Years Ago

The difference between the conditions as they concern us now and the conditions of a few years ago is so well illustrated. The few industries that have been made so efficient by competition, by fair-minded, able and tremendously industrious leaders. Our growth has been almost incredible. The changes which have occurred even in the few years in which I have been definitely connected with the industry have been noteworthy.

The National Recovery program has been of great significance and value to our industry, workers and honest employers, although with competition, fair consideration of the problems of the industry, we may lay the foundations for not only industrial peace but industrial prosperity in the years to come.

Chances for Self-Rule

There are many other things which also remain to be done in the successful organization of this great industry. It is now, under national law, given the opportunity to function as a self-governing industry, enforcing standards which that industry adopts. These standards must be fair to all branches of the industry and just complaints must be met and honestly answered. I can only say in closing that I trust that under its Code, the Cloak and Suit Industry, which has had the benefit of years of experience as an organized industry, may carry forward the benefits of the past experience which has been years and ours, and may, by its action, evidence such wisdom in its own direction that the Code may prove a blessing to all its workers and to all the manufacturers and contractors who form part of the body of the industry and those who have had to maintain and defend the conditions of competition which the Code prescribes and which this difficult and highly seasonal industry so greatly needs.

Knowledge—First Step Toward Better Understanding

By ADOLPH FELDMAN

Imperial Chairman, Dress Industry

The adjustment and decision of disputes in various industries, through the procedure outlined "impartial machinery" set up by the various factors in the industry, have recently been widely advocated and adopted. But in the women's wear industry, it is seen that the industry long ago recognized its value, and made use of it rather than the cumbersome and expensive procedure of "trial by combat" quite generally in vogue at the time.

Two years ago, the dress industry—worker, manufacturer, contractor and jobber—bound themselves through their respective organizations, by collective agreements, to have all grievances and disputes adjusted and decided by a "Trial Board," consisting of representatives of the groups in dispute, either directly or, if necessary, added to by a disinterested person designated as "Imperial Chairman." The decisions of this Board are final and are accepted without demur.

For the last three years, I have had the honor of being the Imperial Chairman of the Dress Industry, and hundreds of cases have been heard by Trial Boards over which I presided.

Better Understanding

No one unassociated with the work can possibly imagine the infinite variety of the problems presented. Just when one thought the problem possible of solution, it has been exhausted, something new comes along, giving fresh food for thought and frequently stimulating valuable suggestions for improvement of conditions.

Meeting the various groups be-
The Spirit of Comradeship in a Common Struggle

By MAX ZABITSKY
President, Cap and Millinery Department, United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers' International Union

The spirit of comradeship which the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has in an event as near to the heart of every worker as the struggle for existence generally, is as to those who have dire need of laudatory destinations and to the members whose loyalty and courage have enabled it to triumph over the many obstacles with which it had to contend through the years.

Our International union, particularly in the garment and millinery field, and whose ideals have brought us together in so many occasions, renders the 55th anniversary as virtually its own.

From very humble beginnings, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has risen to a power and money and influence in the American labor movement. Its growth, and its achievements, as an international union, have demonstrated the value of the laboratory conditions, mass leaders, have challenged the admiration of all who are familiar with the conditions that prevailed. First, entered the field and the many struggles it has had to wage to abolish some and remedy others.

Progress: Nothing Short of Phenomenal

By MATTHEW WOLL
Vice President, American Federation of Labor
United Labor Life Insurance Company

To those who have plenty, a little more means only a change in figures. To those who have little, a little more means better things to eat and to wear, more comfortable surroundings of home, relief from worry, improved health—ln a word, a change for greater happiness and a more abundant life.

The coming of the organized labor movement meant much to the workers in the garment trade. Long hours of toil, hard work, and little profit left the workers garnishing the proverbial crumbs.

Phenomenal Growth

The remarkable progress made during the past year has been nothing short of phenomenal. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, with its 35,660, barely a year ago, to a present numerical strength of over 157,069, is an epochal event in the annals of the garment industry, for it has been the result of a regular period of growth. To me, who has for years watched the rising and ebbing fate of the garment industry, this astonishing rise contains a revelation of a spirit of resiliency that is inspiring and exciting.

A true spirit of wonderful deeds, if the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union could not have taken place unless there were within the masses and the leadership of this labor organization abundant sources of vitality—dormant and suppressed for a time, it is true—but already ready to rise to the front at the first available and favorable opportunity.

As I look back with the synx of a friend at the record of your achievements since the summer of 1921, I see a task that has been the envy of other unions and compared with theirs, of which you have the privilege of being intimately associated, the same spirit and association, and with its activities. The life of demonstration between thesis efforts and ours was never once drawn down. The spirit of comradeship, the knowledge that we were engaged in a common cause and striving toward a common goal, have been the life line that has sustained us. We have all, to me reason to believe the officers of the International and the members of our organization are one, in spirit, in purpose, in ideals. This feeling, I know, is shared by the officers and the members of our organization.

We rejoice with the members and fellow workers' International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in the celebration that marks this event and on behalf of our membership, scattered throughout the North American continent, I send fraternal greetings. In the future, as in the past, I wish the officers and members to realize the ideals we share and employ the influence that our past efforts now enable us to attain for the furthered effectiveness of the causes of labor.
The Toronto clacksmen’s union was the most thorough and best organized and have an rich and interesting history. My con-

nection with the Union dates back fifteen

years so that I, personally, have grown up in our organization, times which have brought out the best that was in all of us—despite of our—
desperate efforts to maintain the Union.

Union Goes Under

I recall the activity prior to the Janu-

ary strike of 1925, when the membership of the clacksmen was a small group which was making efforts to organize the trade. At that time, the “left” and “right” move-

ments were still in operation, and our organiza-
tion work was being conducted in the face of the most severe opposition. Nevertheless, the work went on, a gen-

eral strike was called and the trade was organized, and prospects pointed to a complete organization of the trade. The outcome of 1925 is a matter of history.

The campaign was a landslide. When the strike was called, every clacksmen left the factory and the trade was com-

pletely organized. The strike naturally had brought about an unexpected situation, and the whole clacksmen were completely at the mercy of the employers.

Now for the clacksmen, because we boast of al-

ways having a loyal group of trade unionists who, in and out of season, were and always are ready to stand up and keep the flag of the clacksmen’s union flying in the face of adversity. This group remained true to the Union during the strike, no matter how long it lasted. It was, as a matter of fact, the achievement of the Toronto clacksmen organization; Brother H. Wise, who at all times was a bulwark of strength, and such old timers as J. Gallaher, B. Havelock, H. Beaudin, Weingart, H. Smith, J. Cash, J. Clifton, L. Jacobs and a host of others, too numerous to mention, who, by their will-

lessness to sacrifice and suffer in order to maintain the Union intact, served as an inspiration to the younger men and or-
ganization, the entire clacksmen union. During those years, we faced numerous strik-

ects and lockouts with meager re-

sources, and, after the strike, we were re-

set and yet again, we forced the weight of the clacksmen towards the support of the Union. During the course of the strike the ranks that it had increased were kept. Surprisingly, there were no deaths nor any.

In 1923, the Winter of 1930

It was then that the late Brother Langer, another of our organizers, Brother Langer, gen-

eral secretary-treasurer. Things began moving in Toronto rapidly and dramati-

cally. It seems that the clacksmen of Toronto suddenly became electrified into action, and the desire for a strong union became so urgent that it swept all before it. I recall an incident during a con-

vention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Toronto in the Fall of 1929, when the International delegation, which was made up of such men as Brother Dabakosky, Brother Katkovsky and Brother Manny Cohn, were present in Toronto. We had then under discussion the question of organizing the close shops, and we were given a general strike for the Spring season of 1930. We utilized the presence of the International delegation by calling a meeting of clacksmen who constituted the active group. I must confess that we were not quite sure then that the meeting would be very impressive for the International delega-
tion. Nevertheless, the meeting was a success. It was the first time that the clacksmen of Toronto had the oppor-
tunity to become acquainted with Brother Dabakosky, and the impression made by him and the other delegates on the Toronto people was so great that our organ-
zation work from that on was on a new level. Shortly thereafter, Brother Bernard Rhame was appointed by Brother Dabakosky to conduct an organ-

ization drive in Toronto.

The strike was called, every clacksmen left the factory and the trade was com-

pletely organized. The strike naturally had brought about an unexpected situation, and the whole clacksmen were completely at the mercy of the employers.

Another Red Spill

From there on, our Union went through another stages that was in itself histori-

cal. It seems that the Toronto clacksmen were now ready to embark on a strike and fighting than for conducting an organization in time, for with the establishment of our Union in 1930, there developed internal dissension and petty personal political ambitions on the part of a few individuals and there, which, in turn, to the credit of our organization and brought disastrous results. The breakdown of the clacksmen organization were forced to organize the clacksmen of Toronto, which culminated in a general strike of clacksmen to be conducted in January. The strike was the most vigorous, the most deter-

mined and the hardest any union ever faced in Toronto. During the course of the strike the ranks that it had increased were fighting and sacrificing in an un-

precedented manner. Two hundred dress-

makers were arrested and either fined or jailed. The clacksmen’s union was completely involved and it was a fore-

gone conclusion that the outcome of the strike was going to be a defeat for the Union. But they did not seem to notice the existence of the dressmakers’ union. The dressmakers’ strike was not a success. The subsequent strike was called, and the employers were not slow to seize the psychological moment for an on-

slaught.

Of course, internal friction became more pronounced. So-called “revolution-

aries’ helped to fan the flames of division and discord; and finally the result was that the Union sim-

ply fell to pieces. We approached the question of organizing again, and this time, our former organization, and for the next two years, the Toronto clacksmen had the experience of being completely at the mercy of the employers. The wages dropped to the lowest level within the recollection of our members and the unions fell apart. Old-timers were

thrown out of jobs and helpers were tak-

en in to replace them. Everyone strove

with all his might to maintain some-

thing. We worked day and night in the scrumble no one was secure.

Old Guard Sticks

And here, once more, the old group stuck to its post. The writer of these lines went into office at that time and within a short while the old-timers, with the aid of the younger workers who has recently come in, huddled back to work. It was a movement of one step by step. We were faced not only with in-

ternal and organizational problems, but also with a dual opposition movement which tried its utmost to completely an-

nullate our clacksmen’s union. Never-

theless, it is to the credit of the vast majority of the clacksmen that union-

ism is maintained in them and with all their shortcomings and mistakes they re-
sisted the opposition movement, which of 1932 was carried on under circum-

stances that belies description. I remem-

ber that Brother Langer, who was ap-

pointed to conduct the campaign. Upon his arrival, he found a condition of the office, the officers and the members existing in the most frenzied manner of trying from day to day to borrow sufficient money to pay a
different face. This, of course, meant for ourselves. Brother Krendler found them all very close to the starva-
tion line. However, he was able to keep the group from being down-hearted and I can safely say—and Brother Krendler will bear me out—that he has never en-

tered a place more devoted to the self-sacrificing group of union people as he found in Toronto. The International office was a place of refuge to any great extent, and we conducted an organization campaign, and then called a general strike in the Spring of 1932, purely on our nerves. The strike was about fifty per cent effective. We suc-

ceeded in settling it, obtaining small im-

provements, which were established in about eight hundred unions which were to build and carry on.

The Year 1933

The Summer of 1933 will be remem-

bered by the clacksmen as the most

difficult time that this union has ever yet experienced. Brother Langer and the writer of these lines jointly conduc-
ted the union in this difficult time. It was a time of sacrifice and cooperation of the loyal and active group of our people. Stoppage and strike became the order of the day. But we remained firm, and we were able to feel the weight of the Union and it was in the air, that it was only a ques-
tion of time before the opposition movement that the Toronto Un-

ion would regain complete control in the trade. The Fall of 1933 saw the in-

sertion of the Z.E.C. into the strike in the Spring season of 1934, which swept everything before it. For the first time in our history, the campaign was conducted by local politics and produced a complete success. The strike was called January 16, the entire trade was shut down for six weeks of in-

tensive striking, an agreement was reached with the employers containing the original features. One feature is the abolition of overtime until all unemployed are absorbed. To date, we have placed nearly all of our unemployed in jobs. All in all, there are about three hundred unemployed clacksmen who were unemployed for years were placed on jobs since the able admired.

We are proud and happy that we can approach the coming convention of our International as one of our strong and efficient organ-
ization. Our office staff at this time consist of Brother Langer, Brother Me-

ners, Brother Deiniger, Brother Havelock who have been with us over a long period of years, and myself. Our work is conducted in a manner that we believe in conduct in the best results. This year we are meeting their obligations to the Union, in the 1931 conventions. Those conventions are not only needed, but in our opinion, the best convention that has ever been made and will be the most important part in the work of our Union.

I wish to avail myself of this oppor-
tunity to express my appreciation to the General Office of the International for the fine cooperation and assistance which it has extended to us at all times. Since I took over the duties of the Local leader, the bond between our Union and the General Office has become more and more intimate and we can always depend upon full guidance and sympa-
thy.

On its Own Power

BY NORMAN THOMAS

It is with unusual pleasure that I write a letter of greeting to JUSTICE for its special Jubilee Convention number.

The I.L.O.G.W.U. has set an example to the nation that no other organization has ever been able to do in a time of crisis and oppor-
tunity. It took advantage of whatever op-

portunities N.R.N. presented, but did not fall into a sycophantic and dangerous subserviency to the political government at Washington, which, unfortunately, is 

The Union has always known that it must depend upon its own strength and that no other organization can stand on the day when they seek is not a gift but, a right, a right to be won by their own effective organization. That effective organization more than ever today must be political as well as industrial. To fight Fascism we need labor organized industrially, militantly fighting for the organization of all the unorganized, whether black collar workers or factory workers.

Also, we need labor organized politically. If labor does not capture the power of the political state, that power is bound to be used by the capitalists in a last resort about Fascism. The Fascism is much more likely to be a permanent scale nationally. We have no time to lose. We have the greatest cause in the world. It is the defense of the free institution of the workers, the sharing of abun-

dance and of leisure, the conquest of the war, the establishment of the new social order of mankind.

It is a fight that must be carried on in the fight that must be carried on in a shop, in industries in the state—yes, in the nation and the world. It is not a battle for better things in the industry where we work or for peace, plenty and freedom throughout the world. I trust that this letter will be a contribution to the cause of Fascism and of Fascism, that it will be better than the last.
...Early Conventions of the International...

By SOL POLAKOFF
Former Vice-President, I.L.O.W.U.

The history of the international unions has already been told many times in books and numerous periodicals. Still, when wonder if there ever will be found an artist who will take the oppor- tunity to depict to our tens of thousands of members the ideals and tribulations of "The Tangled Web," who will dramatize their grim determination to steer the trail back and to keep it shaft in the traditions of the progressive labor movement until it reached the haven of 1919.

Who will ever describe the harrowing conditions under which the workers in our industry had then labored, where the foreman was the sole boss not only over the bodies but also over the souls of our workers!

Back in 1890

When I came to New York at the beginning of 1897, the aftereffects of the Scissors of the general strike of 1884 was still felt. The United Brotherhood of Claymakers of New York, to use its full official title, became a shadow of its former self. The executive board, which had been formed, was still being carried on at union meetings as well as in the shops. The depression in San Francisco, California, also increased its membership from 2,910 to 2,916, an increase of 706 members for the first year. The report also revealed that the finances of our International was in a very bad shape, and that the trades of our International had a total income of $100,000 for the first year.

From the report to that convention we learned that the International had spread its wings as far as the West, reaching to the city of Cleveland, Ohio, and increasing its membership from 3,000 to 3,000, an increase of 1,000 members for the first year. The report also revealed that the finances of our International was in a very bad shape, and that the trades of our International had a total income of $100,000 for the first year.

At that convention we also noted, however, that the situation of our International was improving, and that we were making better progress in building up the strongest labor organization in the country. We thought that, perhaps, by becoming a part of the great labor movement of America, we would be able to carry on the work of the American Federation of Labor, and we might be better able to carry on. Thus the International Garment Workers' Union was born.

The First Convention

It was the first Monday in June, in the year of 1898, when the convention was held in a little hall in Philadelphia. Only seven local unions responded to the call. The delegates present at the convention, however, had made remarkable progress. They realized the historic significance of that convention and acted in a methodical and well-organized manner. With the birth of this International a new dawn dawned for the workers in the industry.

The leaders of the delegates who led the way to the well and seal of the founders of our International and a better life was about to begin.

The sessions of that convention were concluded, in Philadelphia, which made the delegates feel that the work of the convention was not complete. The delegates of the convention were busy with preparing a constitution for the International and with adopting a multitude of resolutions, calling for the eight-hour workday and for the abolition of the sweat-shop system and also for the introduction of a union label in the ladies' garment industry.

A preamble to the constitution was adopted, which was copied from the Broadway Workers' International Union, and which contained the most radical reforma- tion in the American labor movement. In fact, the preamble of the Constitution of the United States is a living document and it is the question of the convention to determine and to recognize its principles and to adopt the principles of the local unions.

In the recent convention of 1919, the I.W.W. swept the labor movement in the country and also affected the membership of our locals, especially in New York, threatening membership in all the locals throughout the country, as well as the International itself. It was a bitter struggle, and the old guard of the International came again to the rescue of their organization.

Many of us were not only blacklisted and discriminated against by the manufacturers and could not find work to support our families, but were treated in the same manner by the I.W.W.

At that time of convention there was no labor movement in the country, and the question of the convention was how to keep the locals from going over to the I.W.W.

While we were carrying on that fight with the I.W.W. unions after union was beginning to fall out of the ranks of the inter- national, the I.W.W. started spreading in the cities of America, and in this dis- persion we kept on until 1917.

The 1907 Crisis

At that time the country fell into the grip of a great crisis, the greatest that has ever occurred in the country. Conditions were going from bad to worse, and thousands of factories were closed; hun- dreds of workers were seen everywhere.

The organized labor movement in America had been in a bitter struggle to keep going. Wages were at a low ebb, and the condition of the workers was worse than ever. Our bosses took advantage of this situation in barbican fashion. The wages they paid their workers, however, were the same as before.

But the convention was not to be defeated. The convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Cleveland in 1919, as shown in the report of that convention.

Baroness Schlesinger

When the Cleveland convention was opened, we were faced with a very seri- ous problem. Fritz & Hiederman, one of the most powerful cloth manufacturers in that city, had locked out its gatherers, members of the International, and re- fused to recognize and to negotiate with the representatives of the local unions. The convention then decided to elect a committee to intervene in behalf of the strikers. The committee, composed of Joseph Baroness, Ben Schlesinger, and a few others, was successful in settling the dispute and the International was victorious.

Crisis Renewed

That same year, the convention was held in Philadelphia, with about the same number of delegates as when the International was organized in 1884. Not a bit of hope, not a spark of light, was shining before us. Many of the dele- gates from New York walked out of the convention because the locals did not have sufficient funds to pay their rail- fare.

That was the smallest, the poorest, and the most hopeless convention that I have ever witnessed since the founding of our International. The courage that helped us all at times seemed to have disappeared. The International was about to fall apart.

At that moment of despair, a voice came calling to us, reminding us of the great, noble, and beneficent I.W.W., to stand with our International, and we reached out and took upon ourselves a new oath, and with renewed courage we began a cam- paign of organization among the clay- makers of New York, which resulted in a great general strike in 1915, in which 10,000 claymakers took part for several weeks. The strike was won and resulted in a great, powerful union.

Now, in the year 1930, as well as in the coming years of the life of our International Union, the International was not to be defeated. We have, at the first convention of the International, and in the recognition of the International as a power, with a membership of nearly 100,000; in 1934, our International has reached its strength, its membership, and its prestige. Let us hope that the les- sons we have learned during these 30 years will not be in vain, and that we shall strive to keep the faith till the day that our International shall have organized all the women's garment workers throughout the country under its banner and help create a better world to live in.

ON THE PLATFORM: Abraham Draper, manager, of the local, and Samuel Shore, executive secretary of Local 32.

On the platform: Abraham Draper, manager, of the local, and Samuel Shore, executive secretary of Local 32.
New York Dressmakers’ Section

Local 22 Installs New Officers

Looking back through the nearly fifty years we have been in existence, it is evident that the DRESSMAKERS are a force to be reckoned with. In our history, the DRESSMAKERS have been a strong and militant force in the labor movement.

The meeting opened to the strains of the International and Solidaritv played by the Union Brass Band recently established by Local 22. Arrangements were made by the executive board and officers, headed by Chas. S. Zimmerman, the manager, in the midst of a forest of flowers, a tremendous oration occurred. Louis Nelson spoke first, commenting on the great importance of the occasion.

The installation of officers took place at the hands of David Dunsky, President of the International, who, in his opening address, outlined the great progress made by the International in the last year as well as the very grave and difficult problems ahead. Like all other speakers of the evening, President Dunsky referred to the contractors’ lock-out against the workers when going on, sharply condemning it as a provocation against the Union and an attack upon the workers.

Music, Speeches, Flowers

Then came a very splendid program presented by the Union Mandolin Orchestra, organized from members of the Union. The program was highly approved. The program was a great success, and the audience was delighted. The entertainment was of the highest order.

About 13,000 Dressmakers took part in the elections of Local 22, held March 27. These elections resulted in a sweeping victory for the supporters of the program. The candidates recommended by the executive board, including Chas. S. Zimmerman, progressive candidate, received 72 percent of the vote, leaving 28 percent for the opponents. The results were confirmed by Morris Stamper, All progressive candidates for business agent, for the executive board and for convention delegates were elected.

35 Years and the Dressmakers

What a glorious role the DRESSMAKERS played in building our INTERNATIONAL so great and strong!

We, the workers of Rostan and Hoffman, 263 West 36 Street, and it is necessary to relate the following happenings. The Dressmakers, under the leadership of Brother Helander, visited our shop and discovered that a colored worker by the name of Sam Brown was working here as an examiner, but was not receiving the minimum wage. When the employer refused to raise the wages of our colored sister, Brother Helander called a stoppage. After a one-day strike, the employer agreed to the demand, and the girl’s wage was raised from $1.60 to $1.65, which is the minimum.

The incident once again proves that the DRESSMAKERS are a force to be reckoned with. The action of the Dressmakers was strongly supported by the workers.

COMING TO THE LAST ROUNDUP

About 15,000 Dressmakers took part in the elections of Local 22. The elections were held March 27. These elections resulted in a sweeping victory for the supporters of the program. The candidates recommended by the executive board, including Chas. S. Zimmerman, progressive candidate, received 72 percent of the vote, leaving 28 percent for the opponents. The results were confirmed by Morris Stamper, All progressive candidates for business agent, for the executive board and for convention delegates were elected.

A LETTER THAT NEEDS NO COMMENT

Julius Hochman

We, the workers of Rosenheck and Hoffman, 263 West 36 Street, and it is necessary to relate the following happenings. The Dressmakers, under the leadership of Brother Helander, visited our shop and discovered that a colored worker by the name of Sam Brown was working here as an examiner, but was not receiving the minimum wage. When the employer refused to raise the wages of our colored sister, Brother Helander called a stoppage. After a one-day strike, the employer agreed to the demand, and the girl’s wage was raised from $1.60 to $1.65, which is the minimum.

The incident once again proves that the DRESSMAKERS are a force to be reckoned with. The action of the Dressmakers was strongly supported by the workers.

The New York Joint Board of the Dress and Waist Makers’ Unions is spending the last few days of the election period organizing new shops. Through its Organization Department, C. Chirok, Manager, a vigorous campaign is being staged against the few remaining non-union employers and manufacturers in its territory.

During the week of April 15th, for example, ten such shops were completely organized. These are now union shops. Their workers are union workers, working under union conditions and receiving union wages. And they work only thirty-five hours a week without any overtime.

These new union shops employ directly, or through their contractors, several thousand workers, all of whom will benefit by their newly acquired union status. The shops include:


Good work, Brother Chekeres. More power to the Progressive Administration for putting up a man like Helander as business agent. We hereby promise to give our hearty cooperation to the Progressive Administration.

Chaldfried Lulke Blank
D. Friedman
Jean Sierra
Herman Popkin
Herman Leiber
A Tale of Two Payrolls

On this page there is a story of two payrolls. They are payrolls from the same company. Only they are dated one year apart. One is from April 1932, the other is a record of March 1934.

These payrolls tell a very dramatic and horrible story of the "payroll of April 1932" and the "payroll of March 1934". The former was the payroll for the workers who were left at the rate of less than 17c an hour. The latter was the payroll for the workers who were left at the rate of 11c an hour.

The general strike of last August, the strike for the betterment of the industry and development until the unions capitalized, was the Union's answer to the industrial slavery under which the workers laboured. It is now almost seven years since the historic general strike of last August. We are all familiar with the story of that strike and with the glorious victory won by our Union for the dressmakers. And we all know of the strength of our Union, today, in the dress industry.

But it is only by looking backward and comparing present conditions with those existing before the strike, that we can measure our achievements. And so we come to an examination of the second payroll which pays us for work done five days ago. A story will be spoken already at the top of this article; told us of wages and hours as they were a year ago, and of the work taken from the same shop and for the same workers, tales of conditions as they are today.

Figuring out the total of the payrolls, we see that the workers today are paid only thirty-five hours work for five days of work, as against the 42 hours paid last year. This is not an overstatement. For those forty-five hours the lowest amount made by any of our girls was $12.75. That is a sad story.

A little figuring with pencil and paper indicates that as the result of the general strike which assisted the dress industry, these girls have won an average pay increase of over 100 per cent.

Today, in Connecticut, and this is a Connecticut shop whose figures are being studied, the minimum rate for operators is 16c an hour. Operators in Connecticut must make at least that much per hour, or $22.05 for a thirty-five hour week. If they are working in a shop where they receive wages a complaint to the "Unite" will set motion machinery to secure for them the minimums to which they are entitled. In fact, the Union investigates all complaints promptly and fights for the workers' rights.

Today there is a minimum for every worker of a living wage as long as she is able to work. The minimum range from 45c an hour for fillers to $1.10 per hour for operators on the better designs in New York City.

There is still other security for the worker. Today, dressmakers are not dependent on the reliability of the contractor for their wages. The worker shares a joint responsibility for the payment of labor's wages. The worker cannot be discharged by continuous absence. She can be away for one night or who seek to evade the payment of their debts by changing their firm titles from one fancy name to another. The jobber who provides the contractor with work is responsible for the contractor's workers getting the minimums guaranteed in the agreements.

Pay in Cents

One, because of this and other guarantees, that the Union urges all workers who do not receive their weekly wages promptly, in cash, and for the full amount due up to two days before payday, to report immediately. The Union will see to it that the workers collect every penny that is due them.

The terms of the collective agreements must be strictly adhered in. The Union lives up to its agreements and it is determined that the employers shall live up to their end of the bargain. It is a solemn duty of every worker to report every violation of the agreement on the part of any who fail to comply.

Machinery has been set up to handle all complaints. First a business agent investigates the situation, dealing with the "representative of the employers' associations. And if it is not successful, the complaint comes to the attention of the Joint Board, who will press the claim before the Imperial Chairmen, whose decision is final and must be adhered to by the bosses. Every day, claims come before the Imperial Chairmen and awards are made to the workers. Every day the work is won for complaining workers. Minutely, the good work of the Unite has been magnified. Every day the Union battles for the impartial chairmen for the right of the workers to their wages on time.

In the years of the depression of our firm insistence on our rights, the lot of the workers is really different from the present conditions of a year ago.

The dressmakers today are assured of a new deal, of a S.O.S. call deal, because many of the members of the Union are employed by them. Dressmakers have learned that they own own best security lies in a powerful Union which will fight for their rights.

Swapsheath Gone

The swapping of last year has vanished. And with the swapping has gone the fifty and sixty, and seventy-hour week. And gone, too, is the pay for Sunday and holidays and dime wages seem incredible. It is best that we should not forget them. For they are reminders of our struggle upward.

The record lies open, before us. And it is a warning to us, in the tale of a truly heroic battle for the right, the worker, to live in the sun.

Educational Activities in Local 22

By WILL HERBERG
Educational Director, Dressmakers Union Local 22, I.L.G.W.U.

It is now just a little over four months since Dressmakers' Union Local 22, I.L.G.W.U., established its Educational Department and initiated a far-reaching program of educational work. True enough, the period of four months is a short one and yet, it is long enough to note the conclusions, but I feel that, since those months constitute the first term of our activity, so to speak, a brief review of what we have undertaken and accomplished would be useful to those interested in labor education.

Our Educational Department was established with the realization that the real strength of a union lies in the consciousness, loyalty and militancy of its membership. For Local 22, which had its membership membership manly and mainly from the general strike of August, 1933, the problem was an acute one. It primarily was a task of developing class-consciousness and loyalty among the thousands of new members, many almost entirely unacquainted with the labor movement and its traditions. The creation of leading groups of union-conscious and effective workers among those workers, helping to develop some understanding of the problems and tasks of the American labor movement and of their union, then became one of our immediate aims.

Main Elements

After we had laid out our plans originally, we strove to approach our objective from many angles. The main elements of our program for the first period consisted of:

1. Elementary classes in unison to be given primarily in schools located in the residential districts.

2. Classes in English and public speaking, adapted to the needs and requirements of the union members.

3. More advanced classes in the theories of the labor movement, economics and problems, in labor history and American history generally, in civic activities, philosophy and sociology.

4. Occasional lectures, in series or individually.

5. Cultural and educational groups and classes.

6. Dances, socials and entertainments of various sorts.

7. Publications of an educational and propaganda character, the spread of labor literature generally.

We can say with some satisfaction that, in the first four months, we were able to make considerable progress along all of these lines. Besides the study groups, we have produced exactly what we were able to do in this period.

Central School

A central school was organized at the Union Hall, where there were nine classes—three English classes, one public speaking class, one American history class and one labor history class, one in labor economics and prob-
A Trial, A Strike and A Reinstatement

The R. J. Costum Co., Finds New Excuse for Discharge Workers—Union Calls Protest Strike—Employer Forced to Bow to Union

Employers invent all kinds of reasons for laying off workers. The most ingenious excuse was that offered by the R. J. Costum Company, of 125 Seventh Avenue, in discharge of several workers.

Madeleine Quagliani was employed for twelve years by the R. J. dress house. And then—without notice—she was discharged. The reason given was that she was a Nazi. The New York court found that she was a Nazi. There were mutterings from the girls with whom she worked. The boss was lying. It was ridiculous. They, her friends, knew better. What was there to be done about it? Go to the Union and file a complaint?

The Union heard her story and a business agent took up the case. The discharge was challenged in the association that she was a Nazi. The next step was to place the case before Imperial Chairman Adolph Feldman. The New York chapter executive board determined to fight for her reinstatement. The worker, who spoke, was taken on by the union.

A Boss’ Admission

But the workers of the Imperial Chapter, who had heard her story, went to the boss and declared that although she had been known “the worker for twenty years he had never had anything against her until her remarks concerning the war came to my attention and I just could not tolerate that.”

To offset his ambiguous and unprepared testimony, appeared the friends and fellow-workers of the discharged girl, testifyng to their belief in her intactness. It was also discredited that Sister Quagliani had been married to a Jew and that she had used her married name of Madeleine Heyman when she worked for the R. J. Costum Co. Even following the death of her husband, she was still friendly towards the girls of Jewish descent.

Before the imperial chairman, Sister Quagliani produced from her pocket a needlecase, the gift of her deceased husband, on whom it was inscribed: “To the world, Jew.” And this she has always carried as a sacred kepsake, strange keepace for a Jew?

“Surely,” said Mr. Feldman, “this is more than enough to offset the words of idle gossip and talk between the employees in the shop.”

He also commented that the employer gave little Quagliani “no opportunity in face her accusers or self. I do not believe the representative of the Joint Board was entirely beyond fault, and probably it is true that the discharge was due to certain prudences voiced by the worker to the Union rather than to the reason given by her employer for her discharge.

“While the workers were still on strike, a union investigation disclosed that a number of them had been working below the minimum scale. So the Union, before sending the workers back to the shop, collected $1,000 back pay for them—workers who had not received their minimum. For refusing to comply with the decision of the imperial chairman and the enforcement of the collective agreement, a strike against the dress house. The workers responded in a body.

Madeleine Quagliani, remaining steady, closed her sard. A picket line was formed. The strike was on. The Union thrust its full strength against a boss who broke his agreement. And because there is strength in unity, force to a militant labor organization, the Union won.

Local 60 Busy As A Bee-Hive

By HERMAN SINGER

While the officers of the new Dress Pressers’ Local 60, are busy establishing in the daily routine of administering union affairs, I feel that the membership of our international should be made acquainted with the work that is being accomplished by this very young local.

Local 60 was given a charter only a few weeks before the general dress strike last Summer, and already it has won for itself an enviable position. In the labor movement of New York today, it would be difficult for any local to gain in such a short time the loyalty and respect of its membership.

One has only to visit the local offices or observe the various meetings, to find the answer. Here are some of the reasons:

A Clearing House for All

The local offices are open daily from 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M., and often later than that, also, on Saturday 4:30 P.M. to 5 P.M., and on holidays. Offices are in charge of the joint board manager, who goes out daily to attend personally to complaints. Shop meetings are attended to daily, and those cover not only members of Local No. 60, but also the pressers belonging to Local No. 60.

As a result of this practice and strict attention, the dress pressers, instead of bringing complaints to the joint board, where such complaints are often belittled, insist on coming with their complaints di-rectly to the local. The consequence of this attitude is that the local office att-ends to 50 per cent of the pressures in the dress trades.

Besides Local No. 60, as often as time allows, is calling regular membership meetings, in New York, in Brooklyn, and in Harlem, where Local No. 60 has ac-cepted a request to come and is constantly encouraged to activity. The Negro group is actively and constantly working, with local officers and delegates representing them on the executive board.

Our Negro Branch

Only recently did the Negro branch hold a dance in Harlem, where our color-ordered members were addressed by Presi-dent Dubinsky. Another dance and victory ball of Negro pressure, members of Local 60, was held in Brooklyn, where until recently, the worst exploitation ex-isted in the trade. These celebrations were organized by our local in connection with the joint board meetings, and were constantly attended by active Negroes from the surrounding local unions.

The local, together with the Pressers’ Club, which is loyal and vigorously sup-porting the work of the administration, cooperates in the work of organizing lectures, touring, singeing, a pressers’ branch of the Workmen’s Circle, stimulating and developing dramatic talent, organ-izing an orchestra and issuing a period-ical paper—“The Pressers”—prepared, conducted and distributed by the pres-ers. The general tendency is to raise the membership mentally and culturally.

The ambition of Local No. 60 is to be come the model local of our internati-onal.
Among the inhabitants of a town in the Holy Land there is a little store which passes from generation to generation.

Two very thin, very tall, very old men were resting under a tree in Galile.

The one who was sitting there was 92 years old, the other 97. We are resting in the shade of a tree; we did not plan...

Answered, "Our thoughts are dedicated to the Creator of this tree above us and we are therefore no strangers here."

The first one spoke again: "When we walk our feet tear up the grass that was watered by the sweat of strangers.

The second one answered again: "The sight of the Creator of the grass under our feet is upon us and therefore we are not strangers in this land.

In this distance there appeared the figure of an unfamiliar man. He stood for a moment; then he walked slowly, with difficulty, through the sand. He was broken and bent by a heavy burden. He carried a pack on his shoulders. He drew near.

"Who are you and what is the pack on your shoulders?"

"I carry garments from town to town."

"I see them myself." So answered the other.

"Are you from Galile?" queried the second.

"Of the air, means, whether I was born in Galile, I must answer, No."

"Then did the maker of garments with the pack on his shoulders quickly speak.

"You are a member of the Sadducees?"

"Strange? repeated the, deputy as gas they were upon the ground."

"Strange?" he exclaimed. "Once my wife and children would pass by here with only a few loaves, and I, a poor man."

The difficult journey brought them to the death, their garments lie under the stones before your eyes.

"The two mystics lay down, one at another. They understood what he had said and a thought came upon them like a flood of light: that the words of the wandering thief was a message from God, a word for all future generations:"

"There, Madam, one who left a grave, no matter where, the place is never strange. This land is his forever.

I heard this story while travelling last summer over the long stretches of Galile, and was thinking how full of legend and history the land was for all generations.

The "Ladies' Garment Workers Hall of Fame" was established in Washington to obtain 'odes' which would inscribe a better livelihood for its members, and the event was indeed dramatic.

And the news continues:

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BY CHARLES H. GREEN

Director, Codes Observation Bureau

Two textile finishing cases which are noted below, will probably have the ef-
fect of checking the work of the Code Enforcement Authority, too, may be expected to take a stand against illegal

The first of these encouraging cases was in the F.O. Zine, Inc. where

printing firm was fined $1,500 for work-

time over three days, or at the rate of $500 a day, which is the maximum

paid by law, following a plea of

In Patterson, N. J., the Radiance Pine Drx Works, paid $5,000 for

some of its employees eleven or twelve hours a day, whereas the Code limit is

eight hours. In one case, the firm was fined $750 after pleading guilty, the small

amount of the fine being conditioned on the firm’s promise to live up to the Code

in the future.

The Federal Judge in the Patterson case told the firm’s counsel that he is

notified of the occurrence at once by the head of the ship who reported

a personal interview with the head of that Code Authority, he was told that

the company was most favorably disposed to the union and there was no

threat of any kind. The officials of the Code have not yet decided what

action will be taken against the firm, which is practically identical to the

same.

This type of complaint pass through this office. One is particularly

interesting, and is worth telling here about. Several companies have been

complaining that union members are using the company’s facilities to

make work for themselves. The company’s policy is to refuse to make ships

from the company’s materials.

Even the workers in the unorganized branches of the industry are the bene-

natiors of the union’s strength. For ex-

ample, the latest Code Amendment in Washington last month, President

Dunsky, made a stern de-

nunciation of the Code and its amendments which he said, as far as it affected non-manufacturing em-

ployees, such as shipping clerks, despites the fact that the Code is in favor of the union has no shipping

clerks as members.

Following the agreement reached in the shipyard industry on the question of collective bargaining, considerable con-

fusion was evident in various parts of the country as to the status of a union when it has been chosen by a majority of the employees within a given plant or department, are the sole colle-

ctions of the bargaining agency for the plant or department.

Another significant statement of prin-

cipals laid down by the National Labor Board in its opinion. The workers

have the right in an election to choose a union (rather than individuals) to

represent them, which is their collective bargaining right. The statement is: ‘The employees may select a repre-

sentative whom they may select a union as their representa-

tive.”

The Union is the name of the ship on which the workers on the

same is used in its generic sense, employees


during the International Pan-Continental’s Convention in Washington.

The employer may not select his own ‘representative’ but the

word ‘representatives’ in Section 1 (a)
A Year of New York Cloak Union History

By LOUIS E. LANGER
Secretary of Joint Board Cloakmakers
Union of New York

The Joint Board had a tradition of revising its activities from one convention to another. Therefore the Joint Board saw its job as one of dealing with problems, and in the past these problems had been well handled. No doubt the reason this tradition continued, and the joint board dealt with many of the problems that faced the industry.

The reports contained a review not only of the many trade problems which threatened the joint board meetings, but also of the various internal problems which often troubled the organization, in addition to the various external problems that the trade was facing at the time.

The joint board had started to consider the issue of labor costs and the need for greater efficiency in the trade. The need for labor costs was a common issue that all businesses faced at the time.

In conclusion, the joint board had been successful in its efforts to solve the problems it faced and had made the necessary changes to ensure the well-being of the industry.

The joint board had also been successful in developing new strategies to deal with the challenges it faced. The joint board was able to make the necessary changes to ensure the well-being of the industry.

The joint board had also been successful in developing new strategies to deal with the challenges it faced. The joint board was able to make the necessary changes to ensure the well-being of the industry.
immediately dissolved the central adjusting department, and transferred this function to that department which has the general supervision and control over this work. This move was introduced in an amendment in the method of settling prices according to which the earnings of the workers are insured.

Slack Time

On the question of limitation of contracts for labor, the Union contested a victorious battle over before the Code was adopted. Brother Nagler argued then that the jobber manufacturers do not make sales that are in any way connected with the question of price settlement that they could not be turned profit. He pointed out that the utilization of the number of contractors who a jobber or manufacturer is justified in employing in accordance with his production it would be impossible to maintain our established "wage standards." In the settlement of prices we first realized how correct was the contention of Brother Nagler that both points were so closely connected that they might honestly be called twins.

Several of the manufacturers found it impossible to accept themselves to the thought that the workers were going to be allowed to make a profit and that they ought to cut down the wage standards which were agreed upon. But the method of settling prices through experts and the standardization of the wage rates proved to be the opportunity to cheat the worker, they began to use different means. They tried to get the workers to sign a contract which was in their interest, or if not, to be extremely slack in their contracting shops, hoping that by withholding work they would force the hungry workers to lower the prices. But when this method failed, they began to send their work to unregistered contractors and thereby create a new competition. The result was, the contractor and another, a competition which would have ultimately victimized the workers.

The Union at first met this and brought charges against the jobbers and the code authority on the ground that the action threatened to break the very point of the Code which states definitely that no jobber or manufacturer may send his work to any but registered contractors. The workers began to see that the jobber or manufacturer must divide his work justly among all his contractors. The Code and its adherents in the present condition in this matter and severely punished every firm which was found guilty of violating this point.

Schemes Defeated

Seeing that this was a devil's game, that none of the attempted schemes was successful, certain manufacturer's associations decided to liberate themselves entirely from the control of the Union and the Code authority and become free factors, as in the "good old days." They resigned from their association and incorporated their firms to avoid the jurisdiction for violations of the agreement. They opened shops in cities outside of New York and procured a temporary injunction, preventing the United Code, the Code Authority, the NRA, and all other parties from enforcing the conditions of the Code and collective agreement upon them.

But they were quickly convinced that they made an error even in this calculation. The Code Authority refused the NRA label on the ground that their garments were not being made under the conditions of the Code. Inasmuch as they could not manufacture clothes without this label and since the large department stores refused to purchase their wares,

St. Peter and the Scab

For the Angel guide to the Throne of Grace—
It might gain for me a higher place.
You will find I was always content to live
On whatever the company cared to give,
And I ought to get a larger reward
For never owning a Union card.
I have never grumbled; I have never struck.
I have never mixed with Union truck,
But I must be going my way to win.
So open, St. Peter, and let me in.

St. Peter sat and stroked his staff,
Despite his high office he had to laugh.
Said he with a fiend gleam in his eye,
"Who is tending this gate, Sir, you or I?"
I have heard of you and your gift of gab,
You are what is known on earth as a scab.

Thereupon he rose in his stature tall
And presented a button upon the wall,
And said to the Imp who answered the bell
"Escort this fellow around to hell.
"Tell Satan to give him a seat alone
On a red-hot griddle up near the fire.
But, say, the Devil can't stand the smell
Of a cooking scab on a griddle in hell"
It would cause a revolt and a strike.
If I sent you down to him below,
So back to your master on earth, and tell
That they don't even want a scab in Hell"

CRAWFORD GOTHERS
A Kansas City Member.
Socially conscious men and women who are aware that unfair labor is in play, and who believe that the wearing of the Little League uniform is symbolic of healthful, clean, safe, fair working conditions and standards, issued in 1935, which is still in effect today, was passed in 1938, had the backing of the National Consumers' League, the Women's Trade Union League, and many other groups of nation-wide importance.

But the label, despite the good it will bring, fails because voluntary efforts to maintain higher labor standards were brought down to defeat before cutthroat competition. The label was not mandatory. It was passed, and was unenforced, and did not satisfy wide consumer backing for it, and had no other means of enforcing it.

Single Family Garment

The NRA garment label came into the picture under paler auspices. Since Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt inaugurated the National Recovery Administration in March of last year, the Coast and Suit Code Authority into her winter coat on last October ninth, the coast and suit codes, which multiplied beyond the wondertee hops of its proponents, is proving the impossible, possible. It is proving not only the banner, but the avenue of an effective fight against the sweatshop, and in favor of fair wages, a short workday, and a safe working place.

The NRA garment label is succeeding when other attempts at labeling have failed, for a number of reasons. It came at the psychological moment. We were all becoming increasingly aware that to gain a decent living for our children, we must help others to gain a decent mode of living for themselves. We were discovering the fact that selling power and a badge of honor on the reverse side of the same dollar, that you can't have your selling power unless you have buying power. Manufacturers, workers and consumers had all learned something from the depression. Many of the meteors that marked the fierce competition of the depression.

Manufacturers with the will to be fair to their employees were finding themselves unable to compete with ruthless price-cutting. Workers, driven by money to make ends meet, kept down wages and their families on the breadlines, were fighting a losing fight. Even those consumers who favored a better group were beginning to realize that there is a social and an anti-social price for everything.

Anti-Social Price

The sweatshop wage is an anti-social price. The sweatshop wage is the base of all social ills. Workers, disempowered, and children crying for bread, charity, disease, destitution—these make a familiar scene in American industry, a costly sequela for which the whole social order must pay.

The Coast and Suit Code makers was to determine the social price in every given industry, and set about devising a way to put it into effect. The NRA label was developed and put into clothing made in conformity with this price.

The eagle in the needlework industry brand stamps to shelter all who con

Symbol for Workers' Education

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

An artist, at the request of our Educational Department, prepared a special drawing symbolizing workers' education. This will be used on posters that will be displayed in all our locals throughout the country. This will also be used as a cover for our literature.
"Out-of-Town" Territory Now Solid Union Ground

By HARRY WANDER
Manager, Out-of-Town Department
I.L.O.Wu.

In the report of the General Executive Board of the Convention, most likely the only activities of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department have been discussed, more than once a chapter. As this department is one of the most important branches of our organization, from the viewpoint of membership and also of the large territory which it covers, the general membership of the I.L.O.W.u. might be interested in learning what the Eastern Out-of-Town Department has achieved during the past year, the number of members it organized in each trade, and the conditions under which these members are working.

A Glimpse of the Past

Before the campaign of last Summer, this Department had about 3,000 members, and eighty per cent of them were the members of the Dressmakers, Dress, who were in the majority in the department and who had organized to protect themselves and to keep up the standards of work. When we did succeed, once in a while, in organizing a few dress shops, they were always of the type which we call "in town," because they were the only ones of that sort which we could have in our chapter. In most cases, when we came around the following season to those dress shops, we would find new sets of workers consisting of young girls who were afraid to talk to us as that frequently meant to them the loss of their jobs. In these dress shops, hours of labor were practically unlimited, and in fact, being pleased with the wages they were getting for the price of a garment, these workers themselves were interested in work long hours in order to earn something. Such was the situation practically everywhere, but in Connecticut conditions were especially bad. It was not at all unusual for workers to receive $1 for a full week's work. Who does not remember, just a year and a half ago, when the newspaper and leading journals printed names of Connecticut dress shops where workers were receiving $1.70 for 50 hours' work? Those who are familiar with conditions in Connecticut, and to some extent also in New York, can realize what a revolution took place in those out-of-town dress shops and what difficulties we encountered before we succeeded in uniting these workers and in establishing the working conditions they now have.

We Start on New Footing

We started the campaign without any financial resources. The organizers whom we engaged were promised from $20 to $30 a week, and even that sum they were paid very irregularly. Only the tremendous determination of President Deansky to go through with an organization campaign gave us encouragement to continue our work. The preliminary campaign lasted seven weeks, and when the general strike was called in the dress industry on August 16, 1922, we saw that our cause prospered greatly on the purchasing power of the many. It is most important of all to the workers to be united. It is the feeling of the union to protect against exploitation by the greedy employer who would sacrifice the workers' interests for the purpose of increasing the cost of labor, market for, a little extra money in his pocket. The NRA garment label should be not only misleading but also harmful to the worker.

First Executive Board, Local 161, Paterson, N. J.


Standing: Josie Chomplini, Mary Ventura—Molly Cohen—Anna Kublick—Naftie Rotterman—Maurice Damiano—Thelma Peacock.

Singing in the Shop

By ROSE PESOTTA

It is early in the season and everything is at its best. The December afternoon is an Ohio Christmas. Outside snow is coming down in heavy, wet flakes which turn to slush as they strike the pavement. Inside, the bright yellowish, tinted sunglasses cast a ghostly reflection on the white walls, the dress factory. On such afternoons songs sound good and helps to dispel the monotony, the white whiteness of the "iron horse." "Hannah, my club!" Ismail turns to his wife. The club is his own, and he sits the chair of the intimate intimations of a man whom she once had seen. "Yes, yes. I'll be there. I'll be there." Hannah, without even a turn of her head, begins Ismail's favorite chant. She has a fine voice and the shop, the man with the intimate intimations of a woman whom she once had seen, all combine to raise it into a fine oriental lamento.

"My club! My club!" Ismail rises, and at the same time, both read a jest. He suddenly raises his voice and swings into the Consolata Fletcher.

The spontaneous outburst of song comes from Ismail, and not from the shop. The songs are not uncommon for the shop. Good music, folk songs of all nationalities, European, American, Mexican, Indian, are sung. But the shop, the man with the intimate intimations of a woman whom she once had seen, all combine to raise it into a fine oriental lamento.

Tangos, Mexican and Argentinian, fol-

low. Then the mighty baritone of An-
drew, the presser, is heard.

"The songs that are sung are the songs of the workers, sounds really pleasant."

Next to the songs and operas, come the folk-songs, and here the inter-
nationalism of the shop is revealed. Jos-
eph, the first worker, sings Colom-
tura sopranino. Her native romantic songs "almost carry your heart away," as David says. She begins.

"Nie el sol, Marcov!" It is a song of the red light district, of women who lose their hopes in the sun's path. It is sung by a man with the intimate intimations of his own woman whom he once had seen. The song is sung, as do the women on the Venus river. Andrew already knows it is forgotten and the iron is completely forgotten by memories of his youth on this very river.

To the song, however, a "tailor from home," sings workers-songs traditionally given over from generation to generation.

"Hemmerlits, hemmerlits klip! Of picher skil kip such skil klip!" In the camp they sing on dis foin hungler get de hell.

He then really gives the impression of the sound of a hammer each time he hits it into the trombone. Hannah has no voice to follow; the others are more rhythmical than song. He spent his apprenticeship at the tailor's shop at home in Hungary. He was the best of the best, but only because he lives in Ohio the members of the tailors' union, and the shop, the man with the intimate intimations of a woman whom she once had seen, are.

The doors swing, revolutionary songs calling to action, sung in a language old, yet young in spirit. Ismail has lost some lines but memory brings the last lines almost as good as the first ones and he goes on.

As he finishes, Sarah sings:

"Vaterland, bitte warte. You are still true."

This song is appropriate, as the wind outside is really growing stronger and so the chorus joins in many languages.

Then someone takes up the "good-

music," the Fifth Symphony, the Un-

ished, or the Patriotic. It is remark-
able how untutored garment workers can not only sing a symphony almost without any help, "altst" altst by mcscl.-esrting extern. Zelle canzle, or with a word of encouragement the strings on strings, particularly in the third movement of Beethoven's Fifth.

Vorsts, the examiner, quietly sings:

"Take me back to old Virginia. That's where the cotton and the corn and "lamb's grow."

She sings almost to herself. She knows the negro spirituals, but she is shy and does not dare to show off a lot of coming over to her songs. She sings:

"Deep river my home is over Jordan. Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into camp ground. Don't you want to go to the gospel bean? Where all is joy and all is peace? Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into the camp ground."

Someone begins "Way down upon the Swanee River" is followed by "Hit is Juanita." This song by an international, international songs of workers, sounds really pleasant.

"Vogues, vogue, vogue, vogue!"

"Morgen duent Sun will turn, si sun will giv." Scotland, Scottish, is sung by a man with the intimate intimations of a woman whom he once had seen. The song is sung, as do the women on the Venus river. Andrew already knows it is forgotten and the iron is completely forgotten by memories of his youth on this very river.

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A Year Ago and Today

By ELIAS REISBERG, V.P.
Manager, Philadelphia Dress Joint Board

It is fitting and proper, on the eve of Labor Convention, which is essentially a workers' meeting, to call attention to what has taken place in our city and industry in the past year.

Long before the NIRA came into being, its march toward recovery and upbuilding labor standards under the leadership of President Dubinsky, starting its crusade in Philadelphia, where the term "New Deal"—the Declaration of Independence—was established. At the end of January, 1933, a meeting was held in New York. It is impossible at this time, when the Union is in its full glory, to describe in detail the mood and the spirit in which the present and the entire General Executive Board found themselves at that meeting. It was a meeting of high-minded men, who saw no reason for pessimism, disillusionment, and discouragement. Yet, as trade unionists and good socialists, we were able to shake off that mood, and toward the end of the meeting, a decision was made to start on the upward road at any cost. The Philadelphia, the New York, and dress market was chosen as the first ground upon which to build the line of defense in the battle for a stronger union.

We Start in February

After plans were fully worked out, the campaign was started in February. It was a drive of intensity, enthusiasm, and optimism. On February 28, a mass meeting was held in the Auditorium, at which President Dubinsky and the writer called upon the waist and dressmakers to put aside their fear and stand ready for a fight against sweatshop conditions and for collective bargaining. The strike was planned for March 7, but right after the inauguration of President Roosevelt, the bank holiday was declared, and we were unable to call the strike. We have to realize that the rulers of "Justice" will scarcely be able to imagine the difficulty in which we found ourselves. The bank holiday vote was taken overwhelmingly endorsing a strike. Also, the strike was endorsed by the Labor Committee of President Roosevelt to carry it through. We held on to our courage and decided to watch carefully and in confidence.

Because of the conviction that we were doing the right thing, and because of the splendid strategy and the proper judgment displayed in deciding to strike at the proper moment, we decided to call the strike at a most unusual time. It was unprecedented in the history of our International Union, for, never before was a general strike of waist and dressmakers been called in the month of March.

A Forewarn Strike

The strike was called on May 9, and its remarkable results are known to every unionist. The entire industry was shut down, and that memorable day will never be erased from the memory of those with the men of the waist and dressmakers of Philadelphia from the shops to the designation hall. The strike was started on the call of the Union to battle for shorter hours, higher wages—for battle for industrial reform, for recognition. Because of this, the call to refuse, the manufacturers were forced to settle with the Union in three days time. The agreement concluded was subsequently used as a model for other agreements effected by the International in various markets.

HANDBS WANTED

Hands wanted, says an "ad," And nothing, nothing more.
And they come to the master's door; And he hires only hands; nor nothing, nothing more.

The hands weep, spin and sew, And they think they do nothing more, But they love and dream, hope and sigh.
Though they hear only the loom's creaking cry
And nothing, nothing more.

The master spawns those jaded hands away, And hangs a sign outside the door.

"Hands wanted," it says, And nothing, nothing more.

Justice Isrin

Pre-Conference Thoughts from Boston

By PHILIP KRAMER, V.P.
Manager, Boston Joint Board

Our Jubilee Convention is soon at hand. Though far away from Chicago, and a mislocated distance from New York, where a convention atmosphere is permeating every nook and corner, we, in Boston, too, feel the approach of our great union holiday. Boston, this year, will be represented by a greater number of delegates than at any previous convention. The Boston membership of the International is equally excited about the coming historic event.

In July 1933

Last July found us in miserable conditions; the situation actually was a lot better, and for that we were very much looked up to. Then we tackled our job vigorously—we stood off shops, carried through a big settlement, raised scales up to the 1933 and kept all energies in the direction of preserving work-week. This is the task we set for ourselves in February, 1934, with the cloak employers call for strict-week work-week in which we, the dressmakers of Philadelphia, will celebrate the first anniversary of the revival of their organization in the form of a banquet to be held on May 19, at the Elks Club. As these lines are being written, preparations are being got on to make the best of the function. Several speeches and the guests expected at this gala affair, at which President Dubinsky and members of the General Executive Board are the guests of honor.

In this moment of joy and celebration, there recite one thought in the hearts of thousands of our members, that our international will go further and further on the road of triumph.

Next Concession Meetings should be addressed: Medinah Michigan Avenue Club, Chicago, Ill.
That Great Evening at the Hippodrome

By S. ROMUALDI of the I.L.G.W.U. Staff

Monday evening, April 30, 1934, will long be remembered by the organised Italian dressmakers of New York. It was a date marking the climax of their fifteen years of struggle to build up a strong and influential organisation. On that evening the new administration of Local 85, chosen in an election in which more than 17,000 members took part, was installed in office, at the Hippodrome. Over 5,000 members of Local 85 filled every available seat in the theatre, and with them were representatives of all the sister locals of the International from New York City and nearby localities, as well as representatives of other labour organisations.

Artistically decorated, with the banners of the unions flying from the boxes of the tiers and on the stages; the platform basked high with flowers, tributes from dozens of dress shops; with thousands of men and women cheering and waving little red flags bearing the legend of the local and converting the theatre into a sea of red hunting; with the new officers of the local standing at attention as President Dubinsky was administering to them the oath of office under the glare of many cameras, with the strains of labor songs stirring the enthusiasm of the audience to a high pitch—the Hippodrome on that night presented impresario and inspiring a spectacle, as never was witnessed in the labor movement of New York City.

Dubinsky Installs

The great meeting began promptly at 4 o'clock. After an introduction by John Gilio, chairman of the old board of Local 85, the assembly was addressed by Julius Heichman, general manager of the Discount Joint Board and by Sadie Wagner, manager of the Cloth Joint Board, President Dubinsky, who came up on the platform when the meeting opened at the call of the entire board-elect of the local and its general secretary Vice-President Local Antonini, then administered the oath of office to the members of the new administration of Local 85. President Dubinsky's talk was greeted by an outburst of enthusiasm from the audience, which rose to its feet, shouting and waving flags while the orchestra broke out into a martial labor tune.

Next came the election, right there on the platform, of a chairman of the new executive board, and Bro. Giuseppe Pro- videnti was elected to the post without opposition. This was followed by a stirring address by Lui Antonini, the leader of the Italian dressmakers. Antonini's speech, greeted by a prolonged ovation, rounding the keynote of the evening. He paid tribute to the International and to President Dubinsky, in particular, for the part the present administration of Local 85 was playing in the great success achieved by the Italian dressmakers, and concluded his remarks by pledging himself and the administration of Local 85 to "serve efficiently, with loyalty and honor." (Extra)-Women's Wear Daily and other newspapers printed the entire address of the family of our illustrious organization.

Le Guardia Speaks

After the installation meeting, the audience remained to listen to the rendition of the two operas—Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci—by the Hippodrome Opera Co. During the intermission of Cavalleria, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia and Mrs. La- Guardia arrived at the Hippodrome from their presence was observed, the entire audience leaped to its feet and gave them a resounding reception. Mayor LaGuardia, in a few words, congratulated Vice-Presi- dent Luigi Antonini and President Dub-insky on the remarkable results achieved by the I.L.G.W.U. in raising the working and living standards of the Italian dressmak- ers, rendering it possible to the workers to earn a living wage and live and comfortable. Mayor LaGuardia added: "This is something that we should be proud of."

The installation ceremony and the opera performances were broadcasted by stations WXYD and WHN.

Twenty Years in the Underwear Industry

BY SAMUEL SHORE
Manager, Local 62

As we think, in terms of decades, of conditions of life and labor in many of our industries, we are forced to reach one conclusion: we have marched away from the past such a great distance that the past seems hardly believable and the old design of our living appears but a faint memory.

It was 21 years ago when I first began associated with the white goods workers' organisation, a small group of men and women toiling in an industry where long hours were the invariable law, where the lives of poor immigrant girls were being snatched and mutilated by the sacred old trinity of mill work and poorness in conditions of labor. A year later, in the Winter of 1913, came the great strike in the white goods industry, it was a battle not only against the employers, but against our own pos- sibilities, against hopelessness, a struggle of sheer despair.

A Breakthrough

Yes, to our own advancement—and I in- clude in this the leadership of the In- ternational at that time and the group of loyal and courageous souls who were battling for the very lives of the in- treated and down-trodden white goods workers—the strike of 1913 turned out a real success. It gave us a union, Local 62, which endures and weathered in the next two decades all the storms and the richness of the innumerable existence of a seasonal industry.

From 1913 to 1919, the union carried on vigorously and performed its mission as a bulwark for the white goods work- ers as best it could. We struck for 44 hours in that year and we gained it. Then a new situation arose to torment our workers. It was a definite switch from the old muslin, batiste and cotton line of work to a silk line of production. For several years, the trade was in the grip of a chronic slump; less underwear was being consumed and less produced; unemployment was rampant and the strength of the union along with this production in this industry began to dwindle.

In the '20's. In the mid-1920's, the transformation in the underwear industry finally took definite shape. We were becoming pre- dominantly silk underwear workers. Big silk underwear shops had appeared in the trade and the great majority of the factories moved from the downtown dis- tricts uptown towards Madison Avenue. Along with this change, however, came an index of new elements of workers into the shops; Italian, Syrian, Jewish- American girls, groups to whom unionism was a strange word and dislike of labor a meaningless phrase. It was next to impossible to interest these girls in the Union, especially with the mores of the shops where Local 61 at that time possessed.

So when I came back to Local 63 in 1931, I faced a gloomy picture before me. Even the old Cotton Garment As- sociation, the employers' organization in the industry, all but fell apart. It re- quired herculean efforts, indeed, to make headway under such conditions, but we went to work with zeal and energy. Shop after shop was approached and struck; a. Lingerie Manufacturers' Association was forced. It became a point of pride in America's industrial life. And along with it rose the hopes of the underwears workers and plants for a great drive were beginning to take shape.

Recent History

A basis for further organisation was thus laid. We tackled many other shops, but the industrial crisis that was con- tinuing was still against us. We ex- perienced one setback after another while the international was doing all it could to help us keep afloat. Then came the Spring and Summer of 1933. The NRA became a potent reality in American industrial life. And along with it rose the hopes of the underwears workers and plants for a great drive were beginning to take shape.

The rest is recent history. We had our great strike in the Fall of 1934, and we won control of work conditions in a large industry, a magnificent victory which brought millions of members into Local 63 and established livable earnings and decency of employment terms for the vast majority of the under- wear shops.

Within a few days we shall be on our way to Chicago to the Jubilee Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. Personally, I prefer to term it "Victory Convention." This builds up the remarkable fact that the city of New York will bring together delegates of a great new army of workers who only a year ago were looked upon as the dregs of the earth, steeped in gloom and apathy. Today the wings of hope flutter high in our midst.

FROM ST. LOUIS
By Ben Gilbert

St. Louis members of the I. L. G. W. U., for the past few weeks, were quite busy with elections. Local officers were elected in all branches, and in addition, we picked our convention delegates in the same balloting. The meetings were attended by about 500 members. Sister Mary Marks, the wife of an outstanding union man, was elected as local president of Local 100. Miss Virginia Nichols is secretary of the national local, Bro. Sam Goldberg is president of the Joint Board and chair- man of the President's Local 100, and Sister Clara Kaiser is secretary of the Joint Board. As chairman of her shop at Elly-Walker, the Janet Walker shop, she has been very active and her work is appreciated by the workers. A beauty of the times was offered by the gifts she received from them on that occasion. The rest of the elected officers are all excellent union members. The installation of the officers was impressive and all the women officers received bouquets of beautiful flowers from the locals and the Joint Board. The executive boards and the Joint Board have adopted a decision that each shop must have a meeting at least once a month.
The Women's Trade Union League and the I.L.G.W.U.

By ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
President, Women's Trade Union League, Member NRA Labor Advisory Board.

When one looks back at the early days of the organization, one wonders if it is possible to change in the whole women's apparel industry from the condition in which the workers were found in these thirty-five years.

My first thought that there was such an organization came when I started my work as a part-time organizer for the New York Women's Trade Union League, until then I had had no experience of owning or organizing, the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers' Union. Its struggles against the open shop, against the victorious outcome of the 1912 strike which had lasted for thirteen weeks, and the subsequent reorganization of the union, took all the spare time of the active members.

Part-Time Organizer

Because there were always many thousands of women engaged in the needle trades, the National Women's Trade Union League was, naturally, interested in and gave unreserved support to the upbuilding of the union in New York. The Women's Trade Union League became, therefore, one of the most active of the many unions in this industry.

It was, I am told, the Women's Trade Union League which sponsored the first Women's Trade Union League, members of the Socialist Party, and many others did a very effective work. One figure who was prominent among these leaders was W. H. Sanford, who later became the secretary of the League, and was a founder of the League.

My first work was to visit the local unions which had women members and to offer them the assistance of the Women's Trade Union League, and so, in turn, I visited the workers and organized them into local unions.

Local 62 Strike

During this time I was engaged in meeting and helping a group of women working at the women's washroom services. This was the result of a strike of about 100 girls in a shop then located on Grand Avenue and 10th Street.

Molly Lipschitz came in. She was a girl in her teens at the time, but had come to the union after many years of experience. She had worked for most of the members of the League, and I immediately made her secretary of the League. She gave her all for the League and she was a member of the League for many years.

Now, I called the meeting and said to the girls, "Now, girls, let's work for the League. We are going to have a meeting of the girls to discuss the conditions which are so bad for women who work in the needle trades.

The League helped the organization to pick up very quickly and a request was made to the League to send a delegate to the meeting for the early part of 1912. This meeting was given in the early Spring of 1912, and it was held in one of the halls in the Garment district, the League of Women's Trade Union League took a large part in the meeting, and the girls were all very enthusiastic. At the meeting, the girls were all very enthusiastic. They were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. The girls were all very enthusiastic. 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JUSTICE

I. L. G. W. U. Problems in Los Angeles

By PAUL BERG, Secretary
Los Angeles, Calif., Joint Board of Coast and Oolockmakers

In the Bobbin Room

Our last general dress strike, called on October 12, 1933, has not settled our problems with the employers, and the award of the Arbitration Board expired on August 1, 1934. Unsatisfactory as this Board’s decision is to the Union, the manufacturers, nevertheless, lose no opportunity to vilify it with a well-calculated policy of defeating the efforts of the workers to organize.

Right after the settlement of the strike, the manufacturers, proved through their shrewd and dishonorable tactics, that they are out for a bloody war to a finish. Black-listing of active union members, assigning of promises to strike leaders, or demands that the workers give up union membership as a price for obtaining employment—these are some of the tactics which the manufacturers use in their dealings with the workers.

Sabotaging Code

At the bottom of the bosses’ fear stragglers have noted the gutty, moral determination not to live up to the labor provisions of the code. Most manufacturers have published their requirements and we have on record the payment of wages as low as $5 per week. So prevalent is the underpayment of wages, that the Industrial Adjustment Agency finds it impossible, in the absence of a strong union, to cope with them. Furthermore, workers who are forced to pay back pay is not sufficient to prevent them from repeating the violation. In addition, most workers are penalized for violations, fear the loss of their jobs. Something drastic must be done to discipline these hard-nosed strikers.

The strike was a shocking surprise to the bosses. Not until the last minute did they realize that what they had in the strike or that the workers would respond. The years of brutal abuses which the dressmakers have undergone, the reliance, led the employers to believe that they were devoid of a spirit of protest, but the strike proved otherwise. For several weeks, the half-starved dressmakers kept the garment district in an uproar, demonstrating to open-shop Los Angeles society.

This city does not remember another strike so militantly and so bitterly fought. However, these hard-nosed bosses are of a variety which does not learn anything nor forget anything. They cannot, for the unjustified rule which they hold over the workers and cannot learn that the workers have some rights. To organize, to unionize, to strike, bosses, however, the workers are enthusiastically building the Union. The disfranchisement on the part of the bosses makes them more determined than ever which are bound to explode with greater strength than in the first strike. Our dreams, our ideals, our determination, and are preparing to match their strength again, remembering all the experiences of the last strike.

The opinion is current that the manufacturers might capitulate without a struggle, a show of their past experience. The last strike drove a score of them out of business, and those remaining lost heart. But the strike will continue, the price is diminished orders. Probably this is just the beginning of the Los Angeles experience, the San Francisco experience. The employers have concluded an agreement with the Union on the closed-shop basis without a strike. But this is not likely to occur in Los Angeles, judging by their war-like attitude. The Union, in any agreement, will require the complete job at any price when the opportunity time arrives. The International, at a meeting, denied a small flock of groupies "get away with it", in the face of the 30 percent differential.

Cloakmakers’ Situation

Our relations with the cloak manufacturers may be termed as satisfactory. We have a collective agreement with the Association, and a number of agreements, a number of independent agreements, leaving a few "dry-sharks" with whom we have no agreements. The workers are nearly 100 percent unionized, giving us complete union control in the Industry. Our relations with the manufacturers is, very poor, but we managed to maintain union conditions in the shops. One can easily realize that without the Union, during such a season, wage would have sunk to probably the lowest in the history of the trade.

The "left" opposition in the cloakmakers’ union are having a hard time finding issues for discrediting the leadership—not because there is no opposition, but so far, no major difference of policy has been established. shop bosses and account against unprincipled opposition. Criticism should always be welcome; difference is the key to success. These who slander their opponents without cause express themselves as unreasonable "stickers" only.

The Cutters’ Situation

In the cutters’ local, the situation is very critical, inspired and led by a couple of members of the dual union. The local today is in very poor shape. These "stickers" find it more convenient to discuss the virtues and additions of the Joint Board officers at their membership and committee meetings rather than to take up the solution of the problems that beset their union. All this is because of their use for the non-union cutters. By no means, are all the cutters to blame for this situation in the local. A number of them have been impressed with the view that the aims of the Union can be reached by the means of tricks for faults in the Joint Board officers.

The cutters must realize that not by such means will they organize their local, they must organize their union. The employers of the Local 96 can well illustrate that, in spite of all their efforts, their organizing committee is carrying on the work begun during the strike.

PORTLAND CLOTH SOPS ALL ORGANIZED

By ERNEST LEONETI
Secretary-Sales Business
Cloakmakers Local No. 70, I.L.G.W.U.

Will wonders never cease!

On March 6th, the Associated Cost and Best Manufacturers of Portland, who recently formed a party of contractual relationship with the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union, have signed a contract. A few weeks later, the Independent Manufacturers followed in their footsteps, thereby closing a chapter in the workers’ efforts to obtain recognition.

Yes. It happened.

For the first time in the history of the cloth trade in Portland, the Industry is united 100 percent. The signing of these agreements culminated years of fighting efforts on the part of many loyal supporters of unionism. Two determined attempts in the years 1927 and 1928 were defeated in the last bid, and it was, but in the Summer of 1933, a small group, including some workers who had been victimized in the previous trials and who, nevertheless, refused to relax in their policies, again laid plans for an effort. Each by itself proceeded to build the battlefront of the present organization.

This February, the International dispatched members from New York to the front. It was this battering ram, together with the many supporters who, by now, were rallying in great numbers, that succeeded in smashing the fortress of employer domination.

We are now engaged in the work of reconstruction. Towards this end, we are devoting many hours of conscientious effort. The 400 members actively engaged in the cloth industry here in Portland, Oregon, feel that they are a progressive link in the great chain of workers’ solidarity, which is our parent organization—the I.L.G.W.U.

From the Chicago Convention our voice will go out to reach every corner of the world. Wherever men and women are living for the living our achievements will be an inspiration and an aim.

KNITTED GARMENT WORKERS HAIL CONVENTION

By J. L. GOLDBERG
Manager Local 165, I.L.G.W.U.

The Knitted Garment Workers’ Union, Local 165, one of the youngest members of the International, is a product of the great organizing movement sponsored by the General Executive Board in the historic Summer of 1933. We have had a hard beginning, but have, nevertheless, succeeded in establishing a lively, fighting, and important trade. "Knockout condition is already prevailing in a large number of former sweatshop mills and factories. We have, from time to time, been helped by the General Office, we feel confident that we are moving fast ahead.

The tireless work of President Dubinsky in our behalf, however, is winning the day for our cause. This dispute. Therefore, our main goal of forcing on this brutalized industry this great change in the course of matters, and the Executive Council of the A.F. of L. had called meetings of both parties to the dispute. It took plenty of time and effort on our part to prove to the Council that the jurisdiction of the Knitted Garment Industry rightfully belongs to the I.L.G.W.U. The unfavorable decision of Hugh Prayce was set aside and we won the jurisdiction. Now, it is a matter of arrangement, which should be disposed of in brief time.

A general strike is now looming over our horizon. It may be a stubborn strike, but with the solidarity of the workers in the knit garment industry can be assured, victory is practically certain. We shall sweep out the remnants of oppression from the knitted mills and armor ourselves as a proud division in the great army of our Union.

From the Chicago Convention our voice will go out to reach every corner of the world. Wherever men and women are living for the living our achievements will be an inspiration and an aim.
Chicago-Astir With Convention Plans

By M. A. GOLDSTEIN
Secretary-Treasurer, Chicago Joint Board

The 32nd Biennial Convention of the L.L.O.W.U., to be held in the City of Chi-

cago, May 24-26, will go

down in our annals as a Jubilee Conven-
tion.

The Convention will be a festival to celebrate the revival of our Union's for-
might and growth in the movement. We are today in the renais-
sance period of our existence. Our huge strength, our prestige and our position in the world have received a material point of view, has surprised our best friends and confounded our enemies.

Not So Long Ago

It was not so very long ago, just ten months, in fact, when our country was lying prostrate in the midst of the worst disaster in her history. In the business, the labor movement was almost crushed as a re-

sult of that crisis. Our organization, too, felt the full force of the economic up-

swing and paid its full measure of suf-

fering in consequence. Weakened fi-
nancially, the organization nationally and its locals kept up a desper-

ate struggle to preserve the Union. The Union was forced to make re-

strictive cuts in our gains and positions. Its very existence was in danger. Our members endured great sacrifice and suffering with the sole purpose in mind of keeping up the Union.

Just as a ray of hope for better timesr dawned on the horizon and fresh winds began to blow away the black clouds of depression and heralded the coming of better times, our International was the

first organization in the labor movement to take advantage of the opportunity and demonstrate the timely action which its members' sacrifices regis-
ted its lost position, but, with daring courage, marched forward to utilize its

strength to encourage and speed up the mobilization of our workers and to strengthen the ties of our membership. The warn-
ings of our members were, to a great extent, heeded. The summer labor strikes have been obtained. Tens of thousands of new members have joined the ranks of our organization.

Chicago is in its own right.

The Chicago membership of our Interna-
tional is proud to be a part of the great militant organization whose leader-

ship has been demonstrated by its membership and enthusiasm among the workers of every village, town and hamlet. Chicago is honored at hav-

ing been selected the banner city of this historical convention. We of Chicago are also proud of the fact that our own Un-

ion, in coordination with the Interna-
tional, has been able to distribute the improvement of the conditions of our membership and towards the strengthen-

ing of our organization morally and eco-

nomically.

Our success in organizing the dress industry in this locality is an outstand-

ing example of our history. The dress industry of Chicago, a notoriously nom-

union stronghold, which for many years has been in the black, in the last two years, has seen a thirty-five hour week, the improve-

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The Rise of Local 91

By HARRY GREENBERG
Manager Local 91

Seven months ago, Local 91 was one of the smaller locals of the I.L.G.W.U. Through its strenuous period of arduous work and strong efforts, we are proud and happy to report to the 2nd Convention of our Union as one of the largest locals in the miscellaneous women's garment trade in the United States.

We have on our rolls over six thousand members in good standing, paid up to date. The element of our work is of a kind which the International may justly be proud. We draw no distinction of color, race or nationality. The chairladies, chairmen and executive board members in our local consist almost equally of Afro-American, Italian, Spanish and Jewish members. The enthusiasm for their union shown by these groups is remarkable. They participate in nearly every activity of the union; they are eager to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the local, such as using the books from the library which we have established for them; they come to the classes on trade unionism which we have arranged for them; they take part in the rallies and visits to museums periodically organized for them, etc.

Keep On Growing

We have grown since the strike, and keep on growing daily. Since last Fall, we have organized several additional shops, and the work still goes on. To accommodate the increased activities of our local, we have had to hire additional office space, meeting rooms and other facilities. The most encouraging feature of this awakening among the workers in the children's dress shops is the fact that our present membership comes from groups which, until the last general strike, had had neither knowledge of nor experience in trade union matters. The

Italian and colored members, indeed, are among our most devoted and active chairmen and executive board members, and whenever the Union calls upon them they are ready to respond.

We will celebrate our resignation as a trade union and the progress we have achieved in the past seven months of Saturday, June 28th, at a river boat excursion, for which occasion, our Local has chartered a special steamer large enough to accommodate our members and their friends and families and to give them a glorious day of outdoor fun.

Our members took a conspicuous part in the May First celebration under the banner of Local 91 and the I.L.G.W.U.

Bathrobe Trade

Next We admit that our task is not yet fully completed. While a great portion of the children's dress industry is organized, there is still a number of shops that have not yet been brought under the control of work conditions. We are preparing for a general strike in the bathrobe industry. In the bathrobe shops there is a great many of the women are still exploited, working unlimited hours and earning very low wages; the codes in those shops are not yet fully enforced. As a result, women are striking for a higher wage and for a 48-hour week, but these regulations are flagrantly being violated.

If we are to take as a criterion the gains and advances made by us in the past half-year, we may safely predict that, by the end of this summer, our local numbers will come to the front with a membership of 15,000. This is the convention of our local, and we wish to dedicate it to all our fellow trade unionists in the I.L.G.W.U. We have a solid, healthy and united organization and we are looking forward to unbroken progress and achievement.

Mother Union

By DAVID S. SCHICK

March 4th is in May

The fowl sing her lay
The knights love the tourney
Maidsen dance with gay.

"Foolish Sardonic Ballad"

The admirable practice of celebrating May Day dates back to the almost pre-historic festivals of Egypt and India, in which the victors of the soil and the warriors who consumed the fruit of the soil rejoiced upon the cooperative efforts of the Sun and Earth that so generously supplied all man's needs.

These ancient peoples were simple folk and grateful, with a polite habit of recognizing good things and thanking those responsible for them. They did not believe, simple as they were, that they alone, individually, could get what they wanted nor did they think that all things, including corn and cabbages, come to him who sits and dreams in the shade.

Therefore, they acknowledged annually their debt to Mother Earth, took part to treat her well, never spoke against her and made her feel like one of the tribe.

In the course of a few centuries, however, life became more complicated in the hustle and bustle of adjusting themselves in the changes from tribal living to feudalism and later, industrial life, the custom of celebrating May Day has lost its original meaning and is celebrated by the youth as a day of debt and creditor and the celebration of May Day changed accordingly.

It is so very long since the following customs might have been witnessed on May Day even so far south as Persia.

All the youths of a village or township met on the nearest moor. They cut a circle around the altar and it was there that they kindled a fire and dressed a 'veil' on top of the altar of the constancy of a priest. At the same time, they kicked a cake of salt in honor of the bishop that they nail to the trees.

After the custom was eaten they divided the cake into as many portions as there were persons in the company. One of these portions was blackened over with charcoal. Then all the pieces were thrown into a bonfire. The company, blindfolded, drew out each a piece, the holder of the bonnet that took the last bit, and the drawer of the back bit was considered the one who would be the king or queen of the woods. 'Foolish Sardonic Ballad'

In the ceremony as originally performed by worshippers and the persons who took the blackened piece were literally sacrificed as a prophylactic offering to Baal for the productivity of the ensuing Autumn.

The Irish still retain the Phoenician custom of lighting fires at short distances and making the cattle pass between them. Fathers, too, taking their children on their arms, gazing through, them, thus passing the latter, as it were, through the flames. The custom appears to have been only instituted for the atrocious sacrifices of children practised by the elder Phoenicians, that "abomination of the heathen" denounced by St. John the Baptist.

The god Saturn—that is, Moloch—was represented by a statute bent slightly forward and placed so that the head's weight was sufficient to alter its position. Into the arms of this idol the priest gave the child to be sacrificed, and was an enemy of Baal, being burnt in the fire. If the fire did not consume the victim he was thrown into a fiery furnace that blazed below.

Hitherto, this practice has been perpetuated through the ages in memorial of the May Day the celebrants in the Anglo-Saxon region. There the occa- sion is a feast of flowers than of sacrifices, a reminiscence of Florus rather than of Baal and Moloch.

President Dubinsky, Vice-Presidents Breslav and Nagler in Van of First of May Parade in New York

The First of May

By Nahum Teod

Live sweeping storms bold and free,
From land to land, from sea to sea,
We carry lord and serf away,
To celebrate the Workers' Day.

We come.

With pangs of hunger in the eye,
With heavy heart and stifled cry,
From city and from countryside,
In vigorous and measured stride,
We come.

And shouldering the glorious strife
For higher peaks of human life,
We heaven down to earth will bring,
In one interlaced mighty swing.

We come.

Other observances were gradually added. The Maypole was invented and held one day's away, over their court, consisting of morris-dancers, of Robin Hood and his band, and generally of the rustic pageant or townsmen's bonfire. Robin Hood was a hobby-horse ridden by a man who was sent around among the spectators to collect contributions to the bonfire. Everybody who wished might dance around.

The Maypole, was usually made of branch and decorated with flowers and ribbons. In the villages it was often set up for the occasion on May Day Eve, but in London and elsewhere there were Maypoles permanently standing in the streets. It was only natural that the nursery rhyme, "Sing a song of Robin Hood," still echoes through the pages of the Puritan. Stitches in his "Anatomy of Abuses" amusingly characte- rizes the "Hobby-horse" as "a strutting idiot" which the people bring from the woods, "following it with great devotion." And when they have set it up, they "leaps and dances about it, as the heathen people did at the dedication of their idoles." The Maypole was forbidden to be erected by the Roundheads Parliament in 1644, but they were returned on the restoration of Charles II and in 1661 the famous Maypole in the Strand was so magnificently mounted and so ceremoniously dedicated that it was twice renewed in successive years and was raised by twelve seamen, commanded by the Duke of York who was then Lord High Admiral of England.

It has remained for labor all over the world to restore to the celebration of May Day its original charm, dignity and meaning—a listing of benefits received, an acknowledged of their source and a prayful determination for their undamaged and undiminished continuance.

True, organized labor does not celebrate May Day as a thank-you party to Mother Earth and her bumper crops. The spirit of the occasion, however, has been restored.

This May Day and for many May Days to come, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and members of other unions gathered joy- fully to pay homage to Mother Union, and to grandly display from her flow—higher wages, shorter hours, greater leisure, security of job and life and the assurance of the pledge that Mother Union, well tended and cared for and assisted by her appreciate, will continue to shower her fruitful bounty on the world of the working men.
In Connecticut and Westchester Towns

TWO MORE DRESS LOCALS INAUGURATED IN CONNECTICUT

by a Staff Reporter

Eight months after the conclusion of the general strike, we still had in Obstetrical Labor, which had not yet been officially installed. This is accounted for by the fact that the Union was to be held the following Wednesday, at which time there was no time left to complete all installations.

Installation Meeting in Bridgeport

On Wednesday, March 8, over 200 dressmakers of Local No. 152, assembled in Moon Temple, Bridgeport, Conn., to inaugurate their local and install the members of the executive committee.

The meeting was crowded to overflow with members, and was presided over by Brother Bernard Wein, State organizer. The meeting was addressed by Margaret M. Davis, of Local 159, B. R. Riez orally, and Mrs. Grace G. Koehn, president of the International office, Mrs. Fred Cudahy, president of the Bridgeport Central Trades and Labor Council, John Egan, secretary of the State Federation of Labor, Jasper McLevy, Socialist mayor of Bridgeport, and Vice-President Liag, Aitkin, who installed the officers and presented the charter on behalf of President David Dubinsky, who was prevented from attending by urgent conference in Washington.

The executive board installed by Brother Antonia consists of: Tosee Castoreno, chairman, A. M. Bove, secretary, and Friends Sunday, secretary. A Gala Night in Stamford

Very elaborate and successful was the installation ceremony of Local 166 of Stamford, which was held on Easter, April 11, at the Masonic Temple. The auditorium was literally packed to capacity, and the attendance was so large that it was announced that a one continuous succession of singers and players, all of them workers in dressmaking.

Manager Harry Wunder of the Out-of-Town Department presented the charter and officially installed the executive board of the local. Various speakers were: B. Riez orally, Sadie Cath, William Biren, Miss Der Caporali, William G. Morst, secretary of the Stamford Central Trades and Labor Council, and the Mayor of the City, Joseph Boyle, who made an impassioned appeal for the adoption of the 30-hour week as a means to reduce unemployment. Two hundred speeches were received from President David Dubinsky, Parnia C. Chen of the Stamford Federation of Labor, and Abe Staun of the Out-of-Town Department.

Contributing to the musical program of the evening was a little girl of promising ability, Rose Steinitz, soprano, and Mary Bocchi, pianist, both members of the local; Jennie Bri, also a union member, who sang from the classics, accompanied by Professor V. Di Vito at the piano; Vincenzo Bocchi, bari, Mary Narem, of New York, and Martha Valentine, active member of our Bridgeport local. Dance numbers were rendered by four young girls, Marietta Longo, Janet Cesar, Rosie Benito, and Dorothy Benito, who sang "The Night the Organizers Came," a cut number for the International, served as master of ceremonies.

The following are the members of the local: Chairmen: Brother Antonia, chairman; Mrs. Minnie Anun Saskia, vice-chairman; Susie Stock, secretary; Brother Bruno, Bally Arakawa, Jennie Riz, Sarah Riz, and Helen Riz, executive committee; Mrs. Ito, treasurer; Mrs. Corrado, secretary; Mrs. Tarter, treasurer; Mrs. Parlet, treasurer.

A Good Lesson on a Dull Day

The situation in the dress and corset locals of Connecticut is very good. The workers are showing a remarkable spirit and are appreciative of the work that the Union is accomplishing. We still have some non-union cloak shops in Connecticut, which claim that they live up to code. When agitation was fully organized and properly conducted, it is sure that any trust can be placed in some of these employers and how they take advantage of the workers in shops where the code is not enforced.

Sorokin & Weisbrock of New Britan, Conn., was one of the five manufacturers who were glad to see the code. Following settlement of the local dispute, this firm promised to observe all code provisions. However, the case of the Dressmakers Labor Department visited this shop one day and examined the pay envelopes they found that there were no records of the pay envelopes. While that while wages recorded in the book were up to the code minimums, the actual dollars determined in the pay envelope was worse. The firm was in the arrest of the owned who were later sentenced to a $100 fine for keeping inaccurate records, plus the cost of the trial.

INTENSIVE EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED BY MT. VERNON LOCAL

By Rosco Longagucchio,
Corresponding Secretary, Local 143

In my first correspondence, I wish to call the attention of all our local and branch workers and workers of Westchester County.

Before the advent of the Union, it was the old story; long hours, small pay and unfavorable working conditions. Many of the workers had the builders believing that the Union was an "big bad wolf," primarily interested in their dues. Naturally, they did not want to participate in the organizing of the workers of the county, the leaders of the Union met with difficulty in communicating point, from door to door, at various engagements. But small meetings did not discourage Brother Harry Wunder, manager of the Out-of-Town Department, and Sister Marie O'Malley. They kept on organizing and working till the Union was fully organized in Westchester.

Today, under the able guidance of Brother Harry Wunder, Lasell, and Brother Vendar, business agent, we have, I can say without hesitation, one of the most outstanding locals in the county.

Our membership is making rapid strides, considering the short time it has been in the Union, and is fast learning the meaning of unionism. Our membership, learning that the "big bad wolf" is not a bad wolf at all; they realize that since the coming of the Union, they have actually been treated better than they ever have been. In the past, they have been taken advantage of, not being able to make any complaints, and have been treated like second-class citizens. Today they are a thing of the past and beggary wages have followed suit. In the last stoppage, the workers were able to witness this progress, without question of hesitation, the membership stopped work in an experienced and disciplined manner, which would have seemed impossible only eight months ago.

Additional Shops Organized

Some time after the strike when the office began functioning normally again, the Organization was quick to notice the opening of new shops which so far had succeeded in escaping organization. One of these was in Port Chester, where a small group of 20 workers had already been organized. We have at the present time but two shops which are proving stubborn. However, steps are being taken towards organizing them, too.

The fact that Yonkers has taken some very quick steps under the new organization has given the office the opening of a branch office after working hours in that city. This office is superintended by Esther Gordon, who collects dues and receives complaints.

Surprise Service in Honor of Local Manager

Two notable events have taken place in our Mt. Vernon Union: one was the mass-meeting held for the presentation of our charter; the other was a mass meeting of the workers of Westchester. This event took place on Saturday, May 10. Among the guests present were: Brother Harry Wunder, manager of the Out-of-Town Department; Sister M. N. John, Brothers A. Stein, William Altman, Frank Liberti, Jack Grossman and B. Indemini, who delivered addresses, and Madeleine Garofalo, of the local organization, Brother Anthony Richard acted as toastmaster. Messages were received from International President David Dubinsky and Vice-President Julius Hochman.

Several Educational Meetings

We have already held several educational meetings, all of which turned out very successfully. The first was held on Tuesday, March 6, at the Socialists Hall, Yonkers, where a discussion was held, which included the fact that only a limited number could be invited due to small accommodations, but all those who were invited, repaid the enthusiasm. Two hundred fifty sisters and brothers filled the hall to capacity. Brother Liberti presided and Brother Wunder and Brother Vendar, with the help of Mrs. M. N. John, presided over the gathering on the importance of these meetings. She promised to send several of the meetings to different meetings, which were held immediately after work.

A similar meeting was held in Yonkers on Tuesday, March 15, at the Jewish Community Center. One hundred fifty members attended. Brother Liberti was in charge and the meeting was translated into Italian. A similar third meeting was held in White Plains on March 23 at the Mt. Carmel Church, west of the town, and attended by 250 persons. Refreshments were served at these meetings and a fine spirit pervades the assemblies.

OUT-OF-TOWN CLOTHMAKERS ORGANIZE COMMITTEES

All the members of Clothworkers Union, Local No. 143, working in the shops of Mr. Vernon and Yonkers, were summoned to a meeting, held on Tuesday, March 15, to discuss ways and means of enforcing the boycott on out of town shops.

The meeting was attended by Brother Harry Wunder, manager of the Out-of-Town Department, and Brother Mayer, who represents the three Yonkers out of town shops. He explained that most of the workers would be given the opportunity of voting on whether or not to have a boycott. The workers were divided in this part of the meeting and then the first task agreed upon was the policing of the shops on Saturdays and after regular working hours on weekdays, to prevent violation of union hours in those of the workers seem to have induced.

A meeting of the clothworkers of Westchester County had previously taken place in Mt. Vernon, where it was attempted to form a Joint Advisory Committee, representing all the shops of Yonkers, Mt. Vernon, and New Rochelle. However, it was impossible to reach an agreement. The meeting was poorly attended and, therefore, Yongers and Mt. Vernon are now conducting their business separately.

Clothmakers of Passaic Meet

In order to discuss with the members the existing conditions in the cloths and in view of the necessity of creating an efficient committee to police the shops and prevent working overtime and on Saturdays, the Out-of-Town Department called a meeting of all the clothmakers working in Passaic, N. J., on Tuesday, March 21, at the Polish Club House.

The meeting well attended, over 100 members being present. Brothers Frank Liberti and Antonio Crivelle, managers of the Passaic and Newark, respectively, addressed the audience and were followed by the Out-of-Town Department, managed by Harry Wunder, manager of the Out-of-Town Department, presided at the meeting and called the discussion on the matter of working overtime. A number of members participated in the discussion and offered suggestions which were very helpful. It was then decided to elect a control committee, composed of two members from each shop, with definite instructions as to what the shops should do.

The meeting closed.

Community Center, 135 Harrison Street, New York, provide insula

The office is performing its work by interviewing the public on the day by day basis and bringing the public the news that always is of the highest interest.

The office is performing its work by interviewing the public on the day by day basis and bringing the public the news that always is of the highest interest.
The House of Health

By GEORGE M. PRICE, M.D.
Director Union Health Center

Have you ever been to the House of Health on 17th Street, are you aware of its records? Have you seen the four-story building with the red brick front and the stately columns of the entrance? It is a building that you would not notice if you were passing by it. It is one of the most beautiful buildings in the city, and it is the home of the Union Health Center.

Why Do They Come?

Let us stop inside and see what these people are searching for. As you enter the vestibule on the right and left, there are two large plaques of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. In the large registration room there are half a dozen registrars and nurses, and dozens of people registering their names and anxiously inquiring where they can get assistance and attention.

"Where shall I go to be operated upon?" "How shall I dispose of my mentally ill son?" "What sanitation should a housewife go to?" "Where must I make an application for an operation?" "Who is the best man to operate on gall bladder?" "I want a doctor to tell me how my blood pressure is." "I want an X-ray." "I want a test for my heart." "What shall I do for my indigestion?" These are some of the questions anxiously asked of and courteously answered by a competent staff.

One of its Kind

But why a Health Center? What need is there for a special health institution among workers? Why are medical and dental clinics for workers necessary, and what good are they expected to do?

The sick we always have with us. It is a fact that on an average, the workers and every member of his family is sick at least one week during each year, with the ailment of about four weeks of sickness annually. The worker is totally ignorant of health and medical matters. He does not know what good medicines or dentists cost, or even what physician to call. A visit to the doctor is often too expensive and too uncomfortable for the worker to make it a practice.

Chinese Dressmaker Girls on Work to Work

Chinese Dressmaker Girls on Work to Work

Sweatsheets Flourish in 'Friaco Chinese Town'
Garment Union Comes to Negro Worker

Gan_nent Union Comes
to Nevo

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JUSTICE
Page Twenty-Seven

in the garment shops who were being exploited to a breaking-point—tens of thousands of white dress workers—Jews, Italians, Hungarians, Poles and natives—had been expelled to aесповешт е plod in nearly every market the country over. And at that time, the Negro workers union had started driving the union out of New York City, out of the 90,000 dress shops workers, not more than 30,000 were on the roll of the Union at that time. In New York City, out of the 90,000 dress shop workers, not more than 30,000 were on the roll of the Union at that time. In New York City, out of the 90,000 dress shop workers, not more than 30,000 were on the roll of the Union at that time.

An aside should not be ignored in considering the NRA potentialities of the Negro workers, especially during the early stages.

The New York Garment Workers Union, to join in general strikes tactics to make an impression on the Negro workers in the dress shops in Chicago, Philadelphia and elsewhere where Negro workers are employed in dress shops. Yet, the softside Negro women and men came down from their shops literally by the thousands in August, 1922, and joined the Union, and have since joined the Garment Workers Union.

This movement, which has come about so quietly that it is difficult to ascribe it to any one factor. The fact, nevertheless, that Negro workers are no longer a factor in the needle trades industry is the result, we believe, of the concerted effort of the Negro workers, excited and enthusiastic.

The spontaneous responses of the Negro workers to the strike call has been a result of their own efforts. Their wages have been doubled, with more and better hours. Their strike was the result of the workers' efforts to improve their condition. They are no longer content to be exploited, to be worked to death, but as a group, they are no longer content to be exploited, to be worked to death.

The Garment Workers Union has been a factor in the improvement of the condition of the Negro worker. The Garment Workers Union has been a factor in the improvement of the condition of the Negro worker.

Edith Ransom, Elidica Riley, Lillian Gaskin, Violet Williams

When during that memorable week, a phenomenon from the deep South emerged, was longed for by the Negro workers in the Garment Workers Union. They have been working together ever since then, and the Negro workers in the Garment Workers Union were looking forward to the Garment Workers Union's

New Negro

Recruits

These new Negro recruits in Local 22 are employed mostly as "Strikers in the Garment Workers Union." They are organized in large numbers, although mainly in unskilled jobs. Even in those golden days they were concentrated in unskilled occupations, and were victims of economic exploitation and discrimination which resulted in unequal pay despite a satisfactory standard of efficiency.

In the natural course of events, Negro women began trickling into the dress making industry, but even in these trades they were regarded with suspicion, and distrust by the white workers. The Negro women were not a part of the dressmaking industry, and in each case they were sharply underpaid. On the whole, Negro women were considered incapable of factory work and other skilled work, and were not accepted as skilled workers. As a result of the strike and the Union's affiliations, their earnings have been doubled. Today they start with $2.50 a week, as a guaranteed minimum wage for 35 hours of work, and the majority earn more than that. Negro women workers in the dress industry are among the best paid of their race in Harlem, where they have a Union branch of their own. They take a leading part in the executive activity of the dressmakers' organization and have four delegates on the Executive Board.

The Dress Pressers' Union, Local 62 of the I. L. O. W. U., has 500 colored members who are ironers of dresses, most of whom are women. To them, the Union has been a Cinderella tale come true. Fortunately exploited, militant, they are now the highest wage earners among the women of Negro Harlem. A recent investigation showed that the wages of the dress pressers' union members have increased in the past eight months. Where once $15 was considered a good week's wages, now $25 with $30 a week, is a normal—and this for a 35 hour week! Dress pressers is a difficult trade and requires considerable speed and skill, and the greater the speed the greater the amount earned.

These Negro women are extremely enthusiastic about the recent meeting in Renaissance Casino, 121st Street and 7th Avenue, this enthusiasm was obvious on every face and was expressed in shouts and applause for the speakers who were both black and white.

The Country Over

A few more facts.

One thousand colored women have joined the "dress presser's workers' organization, Local 62 of the I. L. O. W. U., since last August. These girls are mostly quite young. They are pressers and earn
JUSTICE
Thirty-five Years Ago—And Before

by ABRAHAM ROSENBERG
President I.L.G.W.U. 1908-1914

With all of you—old and young—I was privileged to see the I.L.G.W.U. Executive Board have decided to make this forthcoming convention of the International Garrett Bankers Union, marking its 35 years as a part of the general labor movement of America.

To me, however, who remember the early days of the movement which precipitated the formation of the local, most of them are ironers, and a few are operators. Eight of them are change-makers. Three of them are on the executive board of the local union.

The embryonic workers’ organization, Local 64, reports that they have 100 Negro men and women in the machine and finishing departments where they receive equal pay with the white workers.

The same story comes from Chicago and Philadelphia of standardized and improved work levels. In the dress work department, there are 500 Negro girls, all dependable union workers, and most of them are new members. They joined the Union on the wave of the great strike to the dress industry last August.

The Negro women in Chicago are working not on fancy goods dress shops, but they are still unorganized. Although they are working under the Cotton Garment Code regulations, they enjoy small benefits from them, for in those shop code rules are implemented. The I.L.G.W.U. has no union control of conditions in those shops, the 48-hour week is stretched to 48 and the cost of living is systematically whittled down with or without protest.

In Chicago is now conducting an organized drive among these workers and is employing the pulpits of the Negro Churches in the fast growing districts among other educational devices for interesting these workers in a trade union.

The Negroes have not hesitated to raise the rank of the Negro by organizing by telling the Negro workers that they will lose their jobs if the Union does not agree to let them join the union so that they can replace them with white workers.

In New York, nearly 1,800 Negro girls belong to the well-organized dress dusters of that city, and they, too, enjoy complete equality of pay and working conditions with the white employees.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

The organized group of women in the garment industry, of course, is but a small section of the Negro workers in the United States, still unorganized and working largely under codes which are the result of long suppressed and exploitation.

There can, nevertheless, be hardly two opinions concerning the significance of the achievements of this group not only for themselves but for the Negro worker as a whole. The fact that this Negro organization movement among the Negro workers is not confined to one city, but extends to the larger centers of St. Louis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, offers proof that the trade union appeal is reaching the Negro’s heart and mind regardless of race.

The overwhelming consensus of opinion appears to be that the Negro garment workers are back on their feet, better off than ever, and that the coming convention will attend.

Their fellow white members in the

nothing else is connected with the lives of our workers had until that time.

The strike for work in 1934 came after years of preparation and planning for dealing with the bitter crisis of 1919-1923. By July of that year, our organization found itself confronted with a task of organizing a new group of workers. We entered the field with enthusiasm, I believe, with a membership of nearly 25,000. We began improving conditions in all factories. The results were being felt by the workers.

The employers, however, soon began to retaliate by closing plants, substituting lower-priced garments for cheaper labor. We met this with an even more determined effort to organize the workers in the trade union. From that time on, the strike continued with renewed vigor, and we began to see the results of our work.

The strike ended in 1934, but the I.L.G.W.U. continued to fight for the rights of workers. We continued to organize new factories and improve conditions for our members. We fought for better wages, shorter hours, and safer working conditions. We fought for recognition of our union in all factories.

The result of our work was that we were able to win contracts for our members which improved their working conditions.

And now a few years of fighting the social and political sides of the I.L.G.W.U., in those early years.

Herman Grossman, President

Herman Grossman was president of the I.L.G.W.U. from 1924 to 1932, when he died, at the Cleveland convention, by Benjamin Schlesinger. The latter was succeeded in 1934, at the Boston convention, by James MacKinley of the Cutters’ Union, also at that convention John A. Dyche was elected general secretary-treasurer, and A. O. Sullivan was not Dyche who was elected, but a Boston delegate. Mr. Dyche, however, was raised against that man, and the New York delegates at the 1932 convention and refused to pay for capitulation to the organization, based on associations which were used by the United Garment Workers of America. The Birth

Of I.L.G.W.U.

We got together, in December, 1929, our first convention, to which came delegations from Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and from a group in Brownsville, Brooklyn. That convention decided to organize an international union and to join the American Federation of Labor. It was also decided to take into our ranks old Executive officers who had been the leaders in the trade union movement. We elected Herman Grossman, a New York cloth operator, as president, and Bernard Katz, a presser, as secretary, and applied to the A. F. of L. for incorporation.

This charter was granted to us and we held our first convention in June, 1930. It took place in Philadelphia and was attended by two hundred delegates from New York, two from Philadelphia, one from Baltimore, one from New Jersey, and a number of local representatives from various parts of the country. The officers were to serve without pay, the international per capita was fixed at 1 cent and was later increased to 1 1/2 cents, and when the next convention which was held in New York the following year our treasurer reported that our executive held the staggering sum of $13,400, the delegate reaped him with a dancing club of corn.

The Union Crew

During that interval, however, our union grew very fast. We had a number of chapters in local unions in Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, and San Francisco—indeed, to the New York cutters, local 6. During the following two years, we took a lead in the New York sweatshops, a local of wrapper makers and a Philadelphia organization of garment workers. We couldn’t have escaped the depression and the strike—shop strikes which used to exhaust us, lack of funds and of organizing material, etc. But we went on as best we could, for the first time, the whip of a court injunction.

Our second convention was held in Cleveland in 1932, and we began to feel like a regular international. But the clock was ticking back on us. In 1938, two years later, in 1934, about a thousand reformers joined our body, and things began to live up. Followed the successful strikes of reformers in 1935, interspersed with defeat in Boston and other factories. We had to return to the locals to whom we could not render any assistance in time of need, and, in this situation, we reached 1935, the year of the great revolt of the sweatmakers, which brought us to this point, our International Union finally came into its own and started upon a new era of growth.

And now a few facts concerning the social and political sides of the I.L.G.W.U., in those early years.

A New Era Dawns

This brings us to the next, historic period of the I.L.G.W.U. from 1934 to 1941, the period in which the sweatmakers in 1939 and of the clock makers in 1931. But I shall not touch upon the details of the history, or sketch briefly the early phases of our union, its formative days, I only desire to say to our younger men and women that the days of the pioneers are unknown. Remember, it takes untold sacrifice, blood and sweat to build up a union, and what the pioneers in this great International Union we have today in the women’s garment industry is the result of the struggle of the I.L.G.W.U. to the great into our lap—it took generations of ground-laying, of tireless work, to make it possible.

Draw your own conclusions from these brief notes.
One Year's Work in Union City, N.Y.

Neckwear Workers Show Vigor

By WILLIAM ALTMAN
Manager, Local 148

It was exactly one year ago, in May, that I was assigned by the Out-of-Town Department of the International to take charge of the local folder campaign among the dressmakers of Union City, N. J., and nearby localities. It was a peculiar organization campaign, for I had no headquarters at all, but even a telephone at which to be reached in case of necessity. And, the dressmakers, whom I tried to approach for help, were, with the purpose of interesting them in our Union, were even afraid to be seen with me or to talk to me.

The Communists had previously started some sort of a movement here, but as happened in other localities, they left behind only disillusionment and distrust. The most active workers in their following soon joined with us, with the result that most of them are today good and useful members of our local.

The Memorable August 16

During the month of July, 1932, we were engaged in two drives-strikes in Bayonne, a fact that helped a great deal to build up the necessary morale among the dressmakers for the completion of the drive for union work. As in every other locality of the Out-of-Town territory, the month of August saw a lot of activity in Bayonne, Jersey City, etc., a demonstration that was not dreamed of by even the most optimistic.

Over three thousand dressmakers, working in 92 shops, scattered in Union City, West New York, Tenafly, Englewood, Dumont, Englewood Cliffs, Jersey City, etc., many localities were organized. While the members may still have something to learn about trade unionism, yet, they have done a great deal, and all they have accomplished deserves the highest praise. We have a group of members who are extremely alert and always ready to help other workers to organize. I wish to mention, in this connection, the dressmakers of Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Local 148. Close to 1,100 came to the polls and elected a complete administrative staff for the current year.

The following were elected: Joseph Tuvin, manager; Murray Hoffman, pres.; Anna Weigman, recording secretary; Max K. Pollock, financial secretary; William Newman, vice-president.

Our Daily Work

Our Executive Board, of which John Mocell is chairman, and Nancy Pollicino, secretary, meets every Monday night. Branch meetings in different localities are held every two months, and shop chairmen as well as shop meetings take place frequently. Other committees essential for the proper functioning and administration of the local are constantly at work. Our educational activities are well under way. Almost every week, we conduct meetings with English and Italian-speaking audiences. Recreational activities are not forgotten, either. After the installation meeting, previously reported in these columns, Local 148 held a "victory dance" and celebration on the night of May 4, at the Elks Auditorium in Union City, attended by close to two thousand people, and the affair was so successful that it is still talked of in the town.

Credit is due to our business agents, Brothers J. Balint and Charles Carrin, for their untiring efforts, as well as to May Gippa and Jack Nieburg, complaint clerks of our Union City and Bayonne offices, respectively.

All in all, Local 148 is a local to which our parent body, the International, may point with pride.

St. Louis Joint Board Thanks G.E.B.

At a special meeting of all executive board and joint boards of the International Garment Workers' Union of St. Louis, Missouri, held on Wednes- day, March 21, 1934, to bid Brother Halpern goodbye, a resolution was adopted that we send to the General Executive Board our fullest appreciation and thanks for sending to us at this time so needed a valuable leader.

The valuable work he has done here and the advices, he has given us for our Union will long be remembered. We regret very much that the General Executive Board has called him for other duties. We do, however, pledge our loyalty and support in carrying out his program for bigger and stronger unions. We hope that if the time ever comes when we will the need of a general organizer, again, Brother Halpern will be here to help us.

R. G. BURCHEN
President, Joint Board.

CLARA KAHNEN
Secretary, Joint Board.

JOSEPH SCHUVER
President, Cutters' Local No. 116.

OLIVE COHEN
Secretary, Pressers' Local No. 103.

ZELDA LEFKOWITZ
Press, Jacquemakers' Local No. 104.

UNITY HOUSE, the Summer Rest and Vacation Home of the I. L. G. W. U. will be Open for Business and Ready to Receive Guests on Saturday, May 26, 1934.

The Official Opening of the House will Take Place on Saturday, June 13, over a Week End Replete with Extraordinary Amusement Features. Watch for Announcements in the Daily Press. Reservations Are Already Being Made. Apply to Unity House Office, 3 West 16th Street, New York City. Telephone, CHeca 3-2146.

JACOB HALPERN,
Manager, Unity House.

Cohen & Litz Subsidiary

UNIONIZED

Strike Brings Wage Increase

Cohen and Litz, union dress jobbers, were operating a dress shop in Allentown, Pa., under the name of the Well Made Dress Company. This subsidiary, ostensibly having no connection with the Cohen and Litz store, was not unionized and operated under the Cotton Code. They were paying their workers from $0.75 to a maximum of $12 a week regardless of craft. And they worked a 40-hour week.

1. Moro, of the out-town department, has related to the job of bringing the Allentown shop into the Union. A strike was called on April 13, and by the 29th it was all over. The Well Made Dress Company had become a union shop. Now, the workers are earning $16 a week, and although they have had a raise, they are not happy. They have lowered their wages, they have had a raise, they are not happy. They have lowered their wages, they have had a raise, they are not happy.
The Cutters’ Union: Sixty-Five Years Old

A Brief Factual History of Local 10

On Thanksgiving Day, 1945, Uriah R. Stephens, a Philadelphia cutter, called the first unit of a labor organization, Stephens & Co., a Philadelphia firm, which had been organized in 1832 or 1833, but had reached the conclusion that this was a failure and that secret organization was necessary. That organization was the Eleventh Ward of the Knights of Labor.

In January, 1884, the Gomah Knife Cutters’ Association of New York was chartered by the Knights of Labor at Local Assembly 2058. It was a mixed local and the parent organization of what is now the Amalgamated Ladies’ Garment Cutters’ Union, Local 10. The Gomah cutters’ assembly, however, was founded in the period of open organization in the garment industry and is, therefore, not well known. The initial ceremony was a compound of religious ritual, mysticism, and failure.

During its first year, 1884, this local was weak in membership and funds. A report of the local in 1885 notes an income of a little over $50 a month. Among the trade matters considered at this meeting were the use of the six-inch knife, the question of the cost of quantity of work and closer cooperation, with the clothing cutters.

During the following year, 1885, the entire cloth trade was convulsed by a general strike. Jewish immigrants had already entered the industry as time and participated in the strike which lasted two weeks. The bosses were organized and the strike was broken. An association and an agreement was reached by arbitration. The Gomah Knife Cutters, however, was still a weak organization and by the end of 1887 there were only 127 members in good standing in that local.

In the last four years of the 1890’s strikes of clothworkers were frequent. Unions fighting for recognition and striking assembly, to present the case of better wages and shorter hours, the eight-hour day and better conditions in the garment industry before the court and the Socialists. The Gomah Knife Cutters Association, however, maintained continuous organization during that period. The Gomah Association, it is interesting to note, made an attempt. In August, 1890, to organize a women’s auxiliary group to be known as “Lady Gomah.”

During the summer of 1895, the group began displaying its community of interests with the other groups in the cloth industry. The Gomah Knife Cutters, in fact, was one of the first to strike clothworkers, involved in a cutter-strike-lockout which lasted nine weeks, and, as the result of this strike, by helping to organize shirt cutters. The support given by the cutters to each strike helped much towards its success. The agreement reached at that time was a new agreement which reached recognition to the union by the cloth manufacturers’ association. Cutters’ wages were $1.40. Joseph Baroudien, later known as “The King of the Clothmakers,” was among the strikers.

This group began, however, to suffer from the recession of 1896. The depression caused many factories to close and many workers to lose their jobs. Some workers were forced to accept lower wages to keep their jobs. The depression continued throughout the 1890s, with wages declining and unemployment increasing. However, the Gomah Knife Cutters Association continued to organize and fight for better working conditions.

In 1899, the union experienced a turning point when it merged with the American Federation of Labor. This merger allowed the union to gain more resources and support, and it continued to grow and expand. The union became more organized and effective in its work, and it continued to fight for better wages, shorter hours, and safer working conditions.

In 1900, the union gained recognition as a bargaining agent for the garment workers, and it began to negotiate contracts with employers. The union also began to establish a fund to help its members in times of need. This fund was a significant step forward for the union, as it helped to provide financial assistance to its members.

In 1901, the union began to organize women workers in the garment industry. This was a significant step forward, as it allowed the union to expand its membership and to fight for better working conditions for both men and women workers.

In 1902, the union continued to fight for better wages and shorter hours. It continued to negotiate contracts with employers and to establish a fund to help its members in times of need.

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In 1918, the union continued to fight for better wages and shorter hours. It continued to negotiate contracts with employers and to establish a fund to help its members in times of need.
A Designer Union Comes Into Being

By F. KOTTLE
Manager, Local No. 10

Comparatively nothing has been heard of late from the designer's local, though it has taken an active part in all the conflicts, stoppages and conferences between the cloakmakers' and allied trades during the N.R.A. period, when over the truck drivers were recognized as part of the industry, the designers remained neglected and for the most part, at least, were at the mercy of the designer always was and will be one of the most vital factors in the cloak industry, for his design serves as a condition and his problems during that period will explain the situation.

Old Local Crumpled

At one time, not so long ago, the designers were strongly united—they had their own local in the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. When they were affiliated with the Joint Board, and they enjoyed all the privileges and benefits that the International extended to its members, the designers' local was among the first to fall victim to the insidious, poisonous propaganda of the N.R.A., which, in less than two years against the cloakmakers' union, and it crumbled and fell and on its ruins three opposing factions.

While the designer's local, under the Joint Board, there existed a group of designers who blindly stuck to the old ways and refused any new institutions. They organized a club and never joined the Union. Some of them, individually or in small groups, joined the designers' local, but they remained opposed to the idea of unionization, and with the destruction of the International local, their position strengthened. The union higher wages was gainful and systematic.

Shortly thereafter, Local 10 became properly affiliated with the Joint Board in the cloak industry, with its recognition, and its business had been directed from Local 10. Under the new arrangement, the cutters, like all other crafts, were to have their shop business aligned with the general office of the Joint Board. This meant that all other craft problems were disposed of, but it also meant greater cohesion and more uniform control of work conditions.

1927 marked another struggle in the waist and dress industry resulting from an insistence by the employers upon wages reduction of 20 per cent. By February of that year, the strife took place and came to an end by the end of the month, with a settlement at 2d over 1,300 shops. The cutters responded in a very active part in this strike, and contributed greatly to its success.

During the N.R.A. period, Local 10 took an active part in the drive against the "corporation" or "social" shops which became quite a problem in the industry. Shortly thereafter, in 1923, the Joint Board in both the cloak and dress trades were amalgamated and Local 10 was transferred to the jurisdiction of the formation of garment industries within a number of L.L.G.W.U. locals and also to new management which eventually led to the trade events of 1926 and 1927.

During the next two years that followed, the Union was rocked to its very foundations by the sectional war which was stirred up by the Community and the Joint Action Committee. This was in part of the general history of the Union, but during that period, Local 10 stood out as the rock of Gibraltar against all attempts of disruptive elements to convert the drive of the Union to the point of its work. Even during the dark days of the N.R.A. period when the Joint Board actually fell under the control of the new National Board, Local 10 maintained its position as a loyal organization of the L.L.G.W.U.

Now in the current reorganization period, when the L.L.G.W.U. assumed full control of the cloak and dress organization in New York City and strengthened its authority over them, Local 10 contributed more than its share of material resources towards this great objective. The entire strength of the cutters' union in the shops, at meetings, and as a solid unit in the industry stood back of the rehabilitation efforts of the International.

During the years which followed, 1927, Local 10 managed to preserve its strength in the shops despite the general deplorable situation into which these industries had fallen. And in the 1929 strikewhen the cloakmakers' union was unable to maintain an organization in the shops—Local 10 was found among the first on the firing line and rescued the position of the locals which strike brought to the cloistered cloakmakers' organization as a whole.

Then came the period of depression, which threw thousands of the craftsworkers out of work. Within the garment industry, the cutters were affected by the crisis. There was unemployment on a large scale and desperate efforts were made to break down conditions in the shops. The cruel contractors doing their usual outwitting was spreading to alarming proportions. And together with all the other locals of the cloak and dress organization, Local 10 kept on fighting off the advances of the contractors and was already upon the工作岗位 standards of its members and waiting and biding its time to come when to work to the industry at the opportune time.

When that time came in 1933, Local 10 again played a prominent part. This brief review of the history of the Cutters' Union leaves no room for a detailed account of the achievements of Local 10 in the past year. Suffice it to say that the cutters' organization has today more than twice the number of members it had, at any time during the past prosperous periods of its long existence. With the thousands of new members who have come about, the cutters' organization in the dress industry, naturally, in 1933, new problems of consumption, education and organization, which have come upon them as a result of the depression. The local, however, has met these problems with foresight and planning which are meant to make the membership of the newcomers and train them in the school of traditional loyalty to labor principle and give them in their struggle for adequate wages and conditions, a start more than united even before in its history and looks forward to the future with unlimited optimism, determination, unbroken progress and expansion.

In these last years of the existence of Local 10, a great many men of vision, foresight, courage and loyalty, have come to the front as leaders and generals of the cutters' army. It would be difficult within this limited space, to even attempt to mention all those men whose memory is dear to the heart of every loyal member of Local 10. Some of them, however, have left such a deep imprint upon the future of Local 10 and the fighting and working conditions of the cutters, that their names should not be omitted.

Outstanding among these were:

DAVID PUBSHKIN, manager-secretary, Local 10, who, after many years, was resigned to become general secretary-treasurer of the L.L.G.W.U.

SANDER PREMMER, who joined Local 10 in 1919 and has since been very active in the organization and has, since 1929, been manager-secretary of Local 10.

ELMER ROSENBURG, who served as president, general-secretary and editor of the "Cutting-Out Garment Cutter," from 1915 to 1919.

JOHN H. RYAN, who served for several terms as president of the local's executive council, from 1915 to 1919, and is an innumerable times United States senate delegate, delegate to conventions, and member of important committees in a number of strikes.

ERSE P. COHEN, one of the most outstanding men in the cutting-out trade, has been a strong union. He served the Union in many responsible positions, including business manager, president, vice-president and president.

ISIDOR NAGLER, who served the Union from 1929 and as executive board member, president, vice-president and president of the International Council Department, and subsequently as general manager of the Joint Board of Cloaksmakers' Union.
THE TWENTY-SECOND CONVENTION of the I. L. G. W. U. is here.

It is a jubilee convention marking the 35th anniversary of the existence of the ‘Justice’s Garment’ organization as an autonomous affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, a milestone upon a winding, tortuous road leading from feebly, pathetic beginnings toward the wider expanse of collective human achievement.

Behind this milestone, other markers—over a span of three and a half decades—attest to the stormy career of the women’s garment workers’ union. Victories, failures, the Hoover crisis. The economic collapse was then carrying us, together with all bodies of organized labor, downward with catastrophic speed. Stricken with uncertainty, dazzled South and even in the East. A stronger, richer in resources I. L. G. W. U. will reach out after these workers—after the convention is over—and will try to bring to them the benefits of trade union organization. There are also the immensely vital problems of consolidating the masses of the newly affiliated workers which the convention will have earnestly to consider. We must likewise coordinate our rules and ways of democratic trade union management and adapt them to our newly won numerical strength.

These problems the Convention will approach in a spirit of buoyant confidence born of recent experience. Can there be a doubt that the difficulties connected with the solution of these problems, real and formidable as some of them are, will be swept out of the way by the driving force of our Union’s present leadership?

Justice salutes the Jubilee Convention!

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WE ARE NOT AT ALL CERTAIN that the abortive lockout of the New York dress contractors, last April, has taught a lesson or pounded home a moral to its precipitators. Some people just naturally can neither learn new things nor forget old ways. To the Union, however, that disturbing incident has furnished invaluable added proof that the work of assimilating the countless thousands of new members it gained during the blazing strike of last summer and of imbuing them with trade union morale and discipline, has been a thorough success.

The Dressmakers’ organization proved to the entire industry that it was not, and refused to be, the tool of either the jobbers or the contractors in their guerilla warfare. The Union declined to permit its members to be used as a club by either group of employers. As Vice-president Julius Hoffman tersely stated it during the heat of the clash, “The jobbers are the big chisellers and the contractors are the little chisellers and that is the only difference between them. The workers cannot be on one side against the other. The interests of the workers demand that they be opposed to both.”

Throughout that struggle, the contractors tried to play the role of “friend” to the dressmakers. They went so far as to issue a circular which they distributed around the shops asking for the sympathy of the workers and urging them to force the Union to call a general strike. But the workers and their Union would do nothing of the kind. If the Union had thought it advisable to call a strike, and certainly it would never have called one at the tail-end of a bad season, it would call the strike on its own initiative and would not be maneuvered into it by the contractors.

The events which followed proved conclusively that only the Union has the right to speak and to act for the dress workers. The dress workers are the Union.

LAST YEAR WAS A RED-LETTER YEAR for most of our organizations, from one end of the land to the other.

Cleveland’s Renaissance

In no other city, however, not excepting Philadelphia, was the overturn as complete as in Cleveland. In Philadelphia, at least, the cloakmakers’ locals were holding on to some agreements with the employers and to control in the shops. In Cleveland, it seemed, the organization was definitely exhausted and fighting for its last gasp.

The splendid comeback which the Cleveland division of the I. L. G. W. U. staged, the signing of collective agreements in both cloak and dress lines and the Union’s reassertion of its position of control over conditions in the shops, is a fine tribute to the indomitable courage of the rank and file of our Cleveland organization and to the vision and sagacity of its leadership.

THE RADIO BROADCAST PROGRAMS, initiated on April 6 by President Dubinsky in New York over Station WEVD and a network of Eastern stations, are a sensation.

On the Air

If we are to judge by the volume of favorable publicity these I. L. G. W. U. air programs receive in the public press, we should reach the inescapable conclusion that the “Union Assembly,” with its guest speakers, its choice musical organizations and contributing stage stars, is one of the most select hours of the current radio season. Its educational and publicizing value, for our international, can hardly be overestimated.

The “Union Assembly,” let us hope, will remain a permanent feature of our educational activity. It already has a great audience and this audience keeps constantly growing. The “I. L. G. W. U. On the Air” has proved its worth fully.