1905

ILGWU Convention Reports and Proceedings, 1905

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ILGWU Convention Reports and Proceedings, 1905

Keywords
International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, industrial relations, conventions

Comments
The International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union founding convention in 1900 included 11 local delegates representing roughly 2000 members. Reports and Proceedings of the Conventions of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union was published annually from 1900-1908, biennially from 1908-1924, then sporadically until 1937 from which time the convention was held every three years until the union's merger with the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in 1995 to form UNITE, the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees. In addition to election of officers and committee reports, topics discussed include the working conditions, sweatshops, labor unity, organizing, wages and hours, union labels, boycotts, strikes, women's garment industry, labor relations, internationalism, labor legislation, labor education, women's rights, member benefits, and union health centers. The best available original was selected for digitization. Occasionally the original is difficult to read, missing pages, or partially cut off.

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6TH CONV.
JUNE 5-9, 1905
Report and Proceedings
of
SIXTH ANNUAL
CONVENTION
of the
Int. Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

New York, N. Y.

June Fifth to Ninth, 1905
PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE

.. INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION..

Union Square Hall, New York, N. Y.

FIRST DAY, MORNING SESSION, JUNE 5, 1905.

Convention called to order by President James McCauley, at 10:30 A. M.
Mr. Charles Oberwager, ex-President of the New York Central Federated Union was the first speaker introduced. On behalf of organized labor he welcomed the delegates to this convention. In his speech he referred to the absolute necessity of harmony which must prevail at the convention if good results are to be accomplished. Mr. Oberwager said in part: "Many conventions have been held during the past few weeks in the City of New York, and to my mind there is no convention which is of greater importance to organized labor than your convention. I say this because of the importance of your work which I have not overestimated. Let me refer particularly to the Manufacturers' Association in this city which has been organized for the bettering your conditions—in the manufacturers' own way. Your convention is therefore of the greatest importance to us. The prosperity of your organization does not mean simply the prosperity of those who are working under the banner of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, but it means the prosperity of thousands of men and women, and the well-being of thousands of children engaged in the ladies' garment industries.

"Delegates, do not imagine that there is nothing for you to do but to listen to reports and then to go home and rejoice in your results. I know that organized labor represented in the Central Federated Union would like to see your convention a great success and no one would be more joyful in the good results accomplished by you than organized labor of this city.

"Your work will therefore require the minutest attention and all the rulers of this city will watch your activities in the hopes that your sacrifices in the cause of labor, and the attempt of bettering your conditions will be fruitful. Gentlemen, I welcome you on behalf of organized labor of this city."

The following Credential Committee was appointed by the President:
S. Policoft, Local 9; John Ryan, Local 6; Ch. J. Jacobson, Local 26;
L. Etkin, Local 4, and H. Levin, Local 35.

The Credential Committee recommend that the following delegates be seated, their credentials having been presented:
Local 1, New York, Herman Grossman, B. Schlesinger.
Local 4, Baltimore, Md., N. Caplan, L. Etkin.
Local 6, New York, N. Jagoe, John Ryan.
Local 11, New York, H. Gilewitz, A. Salkowitz.
Local 15, New York, C. Bingenheimer, John F. Pierce.
Local 18, New York, L. Bolz, Otto Pick.
Local 26, Boston, Mass., Charles J. Jacobson, Jacob Goldstein.
Local 35, New York, H. Levin.
Local 36, Boston, Mass., F. Trenka.

Objection was made against the seating of Bro. B. Braff of Local 35.
Delegates of Local 9 stating that Bro. Braff is a contractor and that their
local instructed them that in case a contractor will be seated as a delegate
they should withdraw from the convention.

Delegate Braff denies the accusation that he is a contractor and
contends that he employs no help but works with a partner and
share their earnings equally. Agreed that Bro. Braff be
seated and that the protesting delegates should submit their objection in
writing to the Grievance Committee.

Objection made against Del. J. Goldstein on the ground that he is not a
ladies garment worker. Agreed that Bro. Goldstein be seated without a
vote.

On the motion of Del. H. Grossman it was agreed that the convention
should be in session from 9 A. M. until 12 and from 1:30 until 5 P. M.

MONDAY, FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

Roll Call—Absentees—B. Schlesinger, John Pierce, L. Bolz.

The following telegram was read and filed:

Baltimore, June 5th, 1905.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,

25 Third Avenue, New York

We wish you every success in your work and hope for a speedy realiza-
tion of your prospect.

Local 4, Baltimore, Md.

The following committees were appointed by the President
Press Committee—B. Braff, H. Grossman.
Report of Officers Committee—John F. Pierce, Ch. J. Jacobson, N. Jagoe,
H. Grossman and Louis Etkin.
Resolution Committee—C. Bingenheimer, H. Gilewitch, M. Kirshenbaum,
Ch. J. Jacobson, N. Caplan.
Law Committee—S. Policoff, H. Grossman, N. Kaplan, B. Schlesinger,
F. Trenka.
Finance Committee—R. Sperling, N. Jagoe, C. Bingenheimer, H. Levin,
N. Kaplan.
Organizing Committee—B. Schlesinger, H. Grossman, L. Etkin, R. Sper-
ling, N. Caplan.
Label Committee—H. Grossman, L. Bolz, B. Schlesinger, R. Sperling,
H. Kerman.
Grievance Committee—C. Bingenheimer, L. Bolz, M. Kirshenbaum, N.
Jagoe.

The General Secretary-Treasurer read his report which was referred
to the Committee on Report of Officers.

President James McCauley stated that he did not consider it necessary
to draw up a special report since the General Secretary-Treasurer's report
covers all points of interest to the organization and with which he entirely
agrees except the part dealing with the composition of the General Executive
Board. His work for the past year consisted chiefly as adviser to the Gen-
eral Secretary-Treasurer.

The minutes of the General Executive Board for the past year was
read and approved.

TUESDAY, SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Credential Committee recommended that the following delegates
be seated:

A. Kerman Local 7, Philadelphia.
Miss Frances Clifford, Local 32, Peekskill, N. Y.
Miss Catherine Finegan, Local 32, Peekskill, N. Y.
Recommendation of the committee concurred in.
Roll Call—Absentees—N. Jagoe, J. Pierce, Ch. J. Jacobson.
Minutes of the last convention were read and approved.
The following telegram was received from the United Hebrew Trades of
New York.

"May your Sixth Annual Convention lead you to unity and success."
The following were the charges presented by delegates of Local 9 against
Del. B. Braff:

Bro. B. Braff representing Local 35 is charged with being a contractor
and by doing so he violated Section 6, Article XIV. of the constitution of
the I. L. G. W. U. which read as follows:

"No person working under a contract with an employer is eligible to
membership in the International Union or any local union or S. L. U. and
any member signing or accepting such a contract shall be expelled from mem-
bership of the International and its affiliated L. U. or S. L. U."

Bro. Braff undertook to do all the pressing for his employer and fur-
nished a bond which insures the manufacturer that Bro. Braff would not
leave the shop at any time, therefore be it

Resolved, That Bro. B. Braff be unseated as delegate to this convention.

Signed,

MAX KIRSHENBOUM,
SOL POLIKOFF,
RUBIN SPERLING.

Delegates Local 9.

The above charges were submitted to a special committee to which the
following delegates were appointed:

B. Schlesinger, Local 1.
C. Bingenheimer, Local 15.
N. Caplan, Local 4.
H. Levin, Local 35.

Upon motion the morning session was adjourned until 1:30 P. M.

SECOND DAY, TUESDAY AFTERNOON—EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Roll Call—Absentees—H. Grossman, N. Jagoe, John Ryan, L. Boltz, O.
Pick and J. Goldstein.
Upon motion the reading of Monday's session was dispensed with.

The committee on the charges against Del. Braff report that four members are in favor of seating him without a vote and one in favor of not seating him at all.

The recommendation to seat Bro. Braff without a vote was lost by ten votes to eleven.

After much discussion it was moved and seconded that Bro. B. Braff be unseated as delegate to this convention.

The motion was carried by 11 votes against it.

The following are the reports of the different local unions:

Local Union No. 1,

Del. H. Grossman:

Local Union No. 1 had a very hard time last year, as they had to deal with manufacturers who made up their minds to fight the organization. This time last year there was no money in the treasury and the local was hardly in a position to keep up the organization. To-day they have about $600 in the treasury. The local adopted a Sick Benefit Fund and the sum of $400 was appropriated for that purpose. They have about 300 members in good standing, and about 500 or 600 are in arrears at the present time.

Upon motion the Rev. Francis J. Clay Moran, Chairman of the Sweatshop Committee of the Church Association for the Advancement of the Interest of Labor was granted the privilege of the floor, who spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman and Delegates:

Knowing that the I. L. G. W. U. were in session, I felt it my duty to be present with them for a few moments at their annual convention.

I am in entire sympathy with you, and I believe that the battle that you are now fighting must go on and lead to success. I am a staunch believer of the closed shop, and I believe it is possible in the clothing trades to carry it out.

This is my message and my greeting.

Of course, there are all sorts of difficulties with which we have to contend, especially in the City of New York where the emigration is so enormous. There are people coming into this country who have no trade, and they do not know the value of money. They receive perhaps one-tenth of what they should earn. They come here and they have to live.

The other day I went to Brownsville and I was astonished at some of the conditions there. I visited a very large factory on the corner of Liberty Avenue and Christopher Street I believe. This is a large building five stories high. In the lower part of the building I found a saloon, but I failed to find the entrance to the house at first. I inquired at the saloon and they told me where to go. The stairs leading to the first floor were very rickety, and the timbers of the ceiling were just hung together and looked as if they would fall at any moment. There is a notice hung on the wall telling you to look out for the elevator.

This is a place where hundreds of women go up and down every day. All these people are employed in doing or making up bundles for the people who carry them off to the tailoring houses.

This place was very dirty, and there was a Pole in charge.

After looking about I saw there was no use remaining here as I failed in
my main object which was to find the factory where Mr. Wanamaker was having his garments made and his label stitched in them.

Well, I discovered a very serious case. The entrance to this building is very wide, but this wretched stair case. I notified the new Commissioner, Mr. Sherman, and he was most anxious to examine things for himself. I posted him as well as I could, and he seemed very much obliged for the information, as he wrote to me that he would have the matter entirely investigated. He asked me to keep him informed on anything I knew, and said that any complaint brought before him would be investigated thoroughly.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very much obliged to you for listening to me, and I wish to tell you that our association is willing to do anything they can to bring about better conditions for the working people.

Local Union No. 1.

Del. B. Schlesinger:

I do not know the exact membership of the local. To my knowledge there are about 250 to 300 members in good standing. About 500 have not paid any dues. Local No. 1 has in its treasury to-day about $800. The dues of the local are $1.00 per member per month. The initiation fee has been reduced to $1.00. The cloak makers spent about $1,500.00 for agitation during the last year.

Local Union No. 4.

Del. N. Caplan:

This time last year a strike took place at the Weinberg Cloak Co. The strike lasted two or three weeks. Our finances were very low, and it exhausted nearly all the money the local had.

When Secretary Dycbe came to Baltimore he settled the strike and the people went back to work.

About six weeks ago another firm by the name of the Parisian Cloak Co., locked out their men. The firm said they wanted no more union men in their employ. Several union men were working there, and they were discharged and other people given their places. Local No. 4 has paid the men $3.00 per week strike benefits until the finances were almost exhausted. Bro. Caplan states that they have tried very hard to keep up the local and they mean to try still harder.

The clothing manufacturers of Baltimore are trying to form a manufacturers' association, and we are trying our best to prevent this. Should this go into effect, we could positively do nothing against it because our financial condition is so very poor. The constitution states that no less than $100 should be in the treasury as a reserve fund, but owing to this strike, and on account of our financial condition, we were compelled to break this law.

I hope through the assistance of the I. L. G. W. U. we will be able to come to some settlement with the firm.

Local Union No. 6.

Del. John Ryan:

Local Union No. 6 has neither gone forward nor has it gone backward. They still retain about the same membership. We are in pretty good financial standing. We know that we have a manufacturers' association in the field, and we are glad that we have something to battle with. It will actually make members where you have no members. The men must either be manufacturer's men, or be with us.
Local Union No. 6,
Bro. N. Jagoe:
Local No. 6 has not made much progress, but they are a little better off than they were this time last year. The various cutters' organization in this city are working more in harmony. They have formed a joint conference board. There was never so much harmony existing in the cutters' local as there is at the present time.

Local Union No. 7,
Bro. A. Kerman:
Local Union No. 7 formerly had about 200 members, but now their membership dwindled down to about 80 members. The entire trouble is the people receive no education in trade unionism. They pay their dues but they remain ignorant. The International is doing nothing for the local, and if they would, the progress of the Philadelphia locals would be very much greater than it is at the present time.

Local Union No. 9,
Del. Max Kirschenbaum:
January, 1905, Local Union No. 9 had a membership of over 600. Up to date there are nearly 400 members in good standing. We have a sick benefit fund. For that purpose we have over $500 in cash. In all Local No. 9 has nearly $1,000. The members of the local were very unfortunate last season on account of many strikes. We have to deal principally with the East Side shops. We had more trouble with the East Side shops last year than we did for many years.

We had several court fines to pay amounting to $40 and $50 at a time. If this would not have been the case, we would have more money in our treasury now. Quite a sum of money was expended for agitation.

One of the firms by the name of Julius Stein & Co. had a union shop. At the end of the Fall season they hung up "open shop" notices.

Nearly all the members left the shop, but a few who could not help themselves remained.

We spent about $2,500 for organizing purposes. Our dues are $0.60 per member per month. About 85 per cent. of the tailors are idle now, and those who are working are down in the East Side shops. He thinks that the General Office should undertake the organizing of Locals Nos. 23 and 35 because these locals are in a very precarious condition.

Local Union No. 9,
Del. Sol. Polikoff:
Local No. 9 has paid over $500 into the International this year, and in return they received nothing for it.

Local Union No. 9,
Del. Rubin Sperling:
The members of Local Union No. 9 do not attend the meetings regularly. There are about 20,000 cloak tailors in the city of New York, out of which only 400 are members, and when they open meeting in slack season, there are only about 10 members present at the meetings.

Local Union No. 11,
Bro. H. Gilewitch:
Local No. 11 was organized by the General Secretary-Treasurer, but
they need an organizer in Brownsville to attend to their business. They would have a strong organization if they had someone to look after their interests. He was therefore instructed to ask that the New York organizations lend some assistance by sending an organizer to Brownsville.

Local Union No. 11.
Del. A. Salkowitch:
Local No. 11 has about 140 members. About 50 or 60 are in good standing. At one time our membership numbered 400.
Brownsville has gone through many strikes, and it is necessary that an organizer be sent in order to get the people together again.
Local Union No. 15.
Del. John F. Pierce:
This is the best season that the cutters have had during the past eight or ten years. When I went into office the local did not have $1.00 in its treasury, and they had debts amounting to $250 or $300. A great many of the members were in the arrears, and there seemed no possible chance of reviving them. During the first month of my term we were unable to pay the officers' salaries and the debts, but we have made wonderful progress since. The members seem to be working more in harmony. We keep our men together by continually following them up. At the present time there are about 150 members in our organization.
Local Union No. 15.
Del. C. Bingheimer:
I think Bro. Pierce has given you a full report, and I have nothing more to add.
Local Union No. 18.
Del. Louis Bolz:
Our local stands about in the same position as all the other locals do, as far as finances are concerned.
We have been going through a great deal of trouble. In our efforts to organize we have been going deeper into trouble.
Local Union No. 18.
Del. Otto Pick:
Local No. 18 has gone through three strikes, and have had a very hard time. The three strikes were all lost, and I express a desire that the International take some steps in order to organize Local No. 18.
Local Union No. 23.
Del. John A. Dyche:
I have heard all the reports of the different locals, and I think I have about the worst report last year than we are in this year. Unfortunately, last season was about as bad as any season we had in our trade. Instead of the trade reviving, in the Fall season there seemed to be nothing doing at all. During the slack season, I do not think there were three members in our organization at work. The skirt makers have been so starved out that they are afraid to make any demands because of the very hard times they have gone through. Some of the best craftsmen worked every day until 9 o'clock at night and Sundays and made $15 per week. Those who did not work over-time made about $8 per week. During last year the average skirt maker did not make more than $6 per week.
Local Union No. 26,
Del. Charles Jacobson:

Local No. 26 has about 300 members. Two hundred are in good standing, and there are about four shops organized.

We had three strikes in Boston which ended successfully. There is one thing about Boston, nearly 30 per cent. of the trade are organized, but in case of a strike, the other 70 per cent. will always strike with the union people. This is the chief cause of Local No. 26 being victorious in their strikes.

At the present time the local is entirely out of funds, but at the same time we have succeeded in paying three-fourths of our debts.

There are two things which should be done in order to thoroughly organize the trade. A strike fund should be created and a fund for the agitation of the label. The International should control the strike fund. With these two things accomplished, I think that we could again completely organize the trade in the City of Boston.

Local Union No. 26,
Del. J. Goldstein:

I wish to state that the delegates to this convention make a great mistake when they criticise the International. It is locals and the delegates that should be criticised as they spend their time in nonsense, and do no work that is of any importance to the organization. Let us decide to do something to help along our fellow workers. If the locals fail to do anything they cannot expect the International to do anything for them.

Local Union No. 32,
Miss Frances Clifford:

Local Union No. 32 has decreased in membership. The whole trouble is that the girls do not keep up their union.

As far as work is concerned, during the past year we have had good work. There is not a week that passes that we have not some work. Our employers are fair and reasonable. The entire trouble is that some girls think they are better than others and will therefore stay away from the union. We have about 40 members in our local. The treasury is low, and many of the members are in arrears. The scale of wages remains about the same.

Local Union No. 35,
Bro. H. Levin:

Local No. 35 has about 95 members in good standing, and there is $23 in the treasury.

Bro. Levin complains that the International has done nothing toward organizing Local No. 35. The General Secretary never attended a meeting of the local.

Local Union No. 36,
Bro. J. F. Trenka:

Local No. 36 has 36 members in good standing. One hundred and eighty members are on the books of the local. Local 26 has not had very much trouble during the past year. The finances are very low. We expect a number of new members to come into the local.

I hope the International will take some action in behalf of our local.
Upon motion Miss Barnum, organizer of the Women's Trade Union League was given the floor.

The following is Miss Barnum's address.

Mr. Chairman and Delegates:

I came to your meeting to say a few words about the Women's Trade Union League and its hard work in trying to organize the women. I wish to say here, that Mrs. Davis has recently organized the finishers and basters in Boston, and the ladies' waist makers have lately been organized. There are various problems coming up right along, and it would help us and union labor if the trade union movement would be more general, and not confined to men only.

It is unnecessary for me to say how important it is for women to be organized. In time of strike, the women do not know that they are biting off their own noses. They do not realize that if they could stay out a few more months, they will have better chances to save the rest of the year.

The Women's Trade Union League thinks the best way to do is to educate the girls in the trade. Even if they do not stay in that particular trade, they will have the union principle. A woman, once a unionist, is always a unionist. As married women they will do their part and buy clothing bearing the union label.

I wish to say one word to the delegates to keep the women in mind and endeavor to have more women come as delegates to the next convention of the ladies' garment workers.

The women are aroused now and are forming different leagues in the various cities. In New York, the Women's Trade Union League have headquarters in the Florence Building. We have open meetings once a month.

The women encourage each other, and instruct each other.

I thank you for this opportunity of seeing you all, and to remind you of the women. You men are getting strong. The women are just beginning and need all the help you possibly can give them.

THIRD DAY, WEDNESDAY—MORNING SESSION.

Roll Call.—Absentees: B. Schlesinger, R. Sperling, F. Clifford, C. Finegan.

Upon motion the minutes of Tuesday's session were dispensed with.

Del. Polocoff recommended that the convention send a telegram to the striking teamsters of Chicago together with a check for $25.

Moved and seconded that a telegram and a check for $25 be sent to the teamsters of Chicago. Carried.

The following is the report of the Resolution Committee:

RESOLUTION NO. 1.

To the Delegates of the Sixth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U.

Whereas, That instead of having a General Secretary-Treasurer whose duty it is to take charge of the General Office, communicating and answering such communications as he deems necessary, but when it is necessary to have someone to do organizing work an outsider has to be sent as organizer on the expense of the I. L. G. W. U., therefore be it

Resolved, That an organizer should be elected who should have charge of the General Office and who should have power to hire a clerk if necessary. The Organizer to do the utmost for the local unions, especially pay attention
to the organization of the New York locals. The wages of the organizer and clerk should be fixed by the Convention.

Signed,

MAX KISHENBOUM,
RUBIN SPERLING,
S. POLICOFF.

Delegates Local 9, I. L. G. W. U.

Committee recommends the rejection of the resolution.
Recommendation of the Committee concurred in.
Motion carried that all debates be limited to five minutes for each speaker and that each delegate is to have the privilege of the floor for once only on each question.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Roll Call.—Absenetees: F. Clifford, C. Finegan.

Upon motion Miss Anna C. Paterson, Chairman Committee on Auxiliaries, Womens' Trade Union League of New York, was granted the floor.

Miss Paterson spoke in part as follows:

Mr. President and Delegates—This committee and myself are from the Womens' Trade Union League of New York. We are glad to have the floor for a few minutes and will try to be brief.

We want to speak about the union label, and in particular the Ladies' Garment Workers label, and bring to your attention the necessity of extending the use of the label where you have it on the market, and where you have it not to get it on the market. Our Committee would be very glad to help you in New York in doing this work. The situation is about this. All unionists have some idea of what can be done for the label. If the members of organized labor would demand that label, every union that has a label knows what the result would be. There would be no strikes and no boycotts, and the manufacturers would have to concede union conditions. Grievances would be overcome by fair means, and by rational means. The question is, "Can members of organized labor be gotten to demand label goods?" How can this be obtained?

In many places the label is not on the market. In New York even it is not on the market. The women are the buyers of the family. In some way you have to get at them. They buy for themselves, for the children, and buy for the family in general. If you can get the women of your families organized, if the women from the families of the members of the Ladies' Garment Workers could be gotten into little bodies, and let them take up the use of the label, you have a systematic way of getting the label on the market.

Form the women into auxiliaries to your locals. A few women can do a great deal of work. These committees can go to some one or two department stores in the city that do not use the label, and they could persuade that department store to use the label if it was guaranteed that that department store would receive the patronage of organized labor.

This work can be done by the Womens' Auxiliaries in New York City. Once you get the trade drawn to those dealers, other department stores will follow suit. We must get the demand. If this was done in New York, it could be done throughout the entire country.

What our Committee is here for is to urge that each local of the Ladies' Garment Workers form an auxiliary to that local for the purpose of extend-
ing the use of the Garment Workers' label. We are ready to assist Mr. Dyche in forming these auxiliaries.

If a person wants to buy label goods he must know where to get it, and what the label is. What our committee asks is that this Convention go on record as urging and recommending each local to form a women's auxiliary to take the first step to have your label on the market and extend its use. Our committee in New York stands ready and will be glad to help the auxiliaries of New York City to get the label on the market.

This is all we have to say, and we thank you for giving us the floor.

Upon motion Miss Paterson's suggestion was referred to the incoming Executive Board.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2.**

Whereas, The Locals under the control of the I. L. G. W. U. have been struggling along for a number of years without making any definite progress, and

Whereas, The Ladies' and Men's garment trades are closely allied, therefore

Resolved, That the I. L. G. W. U. takes up the task of bringing about an amalgamation of the National Unions controlling the ladies' and men's garment trades, and that a Committee be appointed for this purpose.

(Signed)

F. TRENKA. J. GOLDSMITH. OTTO PICK. H. LEVIN.

Committee reports the resolution unconstitutional. Moved and seconded that Committee's report be not concurred in. Motion carried.

The following were appointed a committee to carry out Resolution No. 2: J. Dyche, B. Schlesinger, James McCauley.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3.**

Whereas, The G. E. B. of the I. L. G. W. U. holds monthly sessions, and

Whereas, All local bodies affiliated have no knowledge of the proceedings of said meetings, be it therefore

Resolved, That a copy of the minutes of the G. E. B. be issued after each session.

(Signed)

J. JACOBSON. S. POLAKOFF.

Committee reports favorable. Report concurred in.

**RESOLUTION NO. 4.**

Whereas, The locals of the I. L. G. W. U. have suffered defeat after defeat during the past year, and

Whereas, Recent events in the labor world proved conclusively that those organizations have any chance of success who have ample means to support their members while on strike, be it therefore

Resolved, That the I. L. G. W. U. at its Sixth Annual Convention devises ways and means of establishing a separate strike fund, either through an assessment or by raising the per capita tax.

(Signed)

CHAS. JACOBSON. FRANCIS TRENKA

Committee reports favorably on above resolution. Resolution tabled by Convention.
RESOLUTION NO. 5.

Whereas, The lockout at the Parisian Clock Company of Baltimore has jeopardized the existence of Local 4. and

Whereas, The lock-out has lasted several weeks and has entirely exhausted the financial resources of the local, be it therefore

Resolved by this Convention, that an organizer be sent to Baltimore to advise the local and lead the strike.

(Signed)

NATHAN CAPLAN,  J. GOLDSTEIN,  C. JACOBSON.

Committee reported favorably. Upon motion, resolution 5 referred to incoming G. E. B. for immediate action.

RESOLUTION NO. 6.

Resolved, That an attempt be made by the General Office, immediately after the adjournment of the convention to enforce section 6 of Article XII of the constitution, which reads as follows:

"Where there are two or more local unions in one locality affiliated with the International engaged in the same trade they must form a Joint Executive Board for the transaction of their joint business, and that it shall be obligatory upon all locals to become affiliated with such Joint Executive Board."

And further be it

Resolved, That any local guilty of violating said section shall be suspended from the I. L. G. W. U.

(Signed)

APROVED BY COMMITTEE. CARRIED.

BEN SCHLESINGER.

RESOLUTION NO. 7.

In order that the members of affiliated locals may become familiar with the trend of events in our organization, be it

Resolved, That the International shall adopt a certain New York paper in which the most important matters transacted by the International shall be published, and every local shall subscribe to such paper according to its membership. The paper to be connected with a Socialist Party which is engaged in the emancipation of the proletariat.

(Signed)

J. F. TRENKA.

Committee reports favorably. Resolution adopted with the substitution of the word "Labor" before party, instead of the word "Socialist."

Miss Harriette A. Keyser, Secretary and Organizer of the Church Association for the Advancement of the Interests of Labor, was granted the floor and spoke as follows:

Chairman and Delegates—I am not a stranger to a great many of you. Last summer in June, I was with you a week and had a very good time. I was in Boston and away from my duties here. I would like to be with you every minute I can, but I am so busy and it would keep me away from many other duties. I am glad you are here in New York and I mean to run in whenever I have a chance.

I don't think it is worth while to talk to you for a long time about my organization. We stand for the union label, and all those things which goes with it. I want to greet you in the name of our Association and give you to understand that just now, as ever before, we are with you whenever you are trying to advance the conditions of labor and to fight against the swatshop system.
I was responsible for a resolution which was passed upon, and which I think did a great deal of good. Whenever I come before a labor organization I relate my woes about getting union label shoes. The only kind of label shoes I can get is to have them made to order. You cannot get women's shoes with the label on.

A resolution was adopted by the resolution committee calling upon the manufacturers who are entitled to use the label to place the label on women's shoes. The resolution was passed, and I got a list of the shoe manufacturers who were entitled to the label. I am sending letters to these manufacturers, asking them in the name of our Association to put on the ready made shoes the union label. We have received quite a number of letters in reply, and one man who never used the label said he would use it in the future. Others told us that it is already on women's and children's shoes. I don't think those shops are here in New York. We want our organizations in Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago to enforce this demand, and see if we cannot increase the demand for the use of the union label on shoes. The more we increase the demand for the label, the sooner we will get rid of sweating. I for my part believe the time is not far distant when the sweating system will be done away with. I am sorry that the employers at the present time are so short-sighted. They do not see the folly of contending as they do for the open shop.

When you can once make employers understand that it is for their business interest, then you will have no more talk about such foolishness as open shops, especially in the trade which you represent.

I thank you for your permission to be with you, and wish you success in your Convention and in all the work that you may lay your hands on in the coming year.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

Resolved, That this Sixth Annual Convention declares itself in favor of sympathetic strikes and sends brotherly greetings to the Brotherhood of Teamsters for the stand they have taken on behalf of the striking Garment Workers in Chicago.

(Signed) S. POLAKOFF

Committee reports favorably. Report concurred in.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, The State of Massachusetts offers a good market for Union Label goods, and

Whereas, enormous sums of money were vainly spent for the introduction of the label of the International, be it therefore

Resolved, That the I. L. G. W. U. at its Sixth Annual Convention appoints a resident of Massachusetts State to do the organizing work and label agitation and that the expense of this agitation be paid by the General office.

(Signed) CHAS. JACOBSON

Committee reports favorably. Resolution referred to the incoming G. F. B.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

Whereas The Union Label is the most effective weapon the working classes of this country possess in their struggle for better conditions of labor, and

Whereas, The principles of the Union Label are unfortunately little under-
stood and practiced among the members of our affiliated locals, be it therefore

Resolved, That the incoming General Executive Board be instructed to
devise ways and means of educating our members in the principles of the
Union Label, which is the best means of emancipation of the working classes
from the oppression of capitalism.

(Signed) J. A. DYCHE, Del. Local 23.
Commitee reports favorable. Report of the committee concurred in.
Upon motion, privilege of the floor was granted to Bro. M. Salt peter of
Local 12, Ladies' Waist Makers' Union of New York. Bro Salt peter re-
quested that some assistance be granted to his organization which is on the
point of dissolution.
Request referred to incoming G. E. B.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.
Committee reports that the books and accounts of the General Office
are in the very best order. The finances are the same as given by the Gen-
eral Secretary-Treasurer on the first day of the session.
Upon motion, the report of the Finance Committee was received and
placed on file.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS REPORTS.
Referring to that portion of the G. S. T. report relative to the difficulties
encountered in introducing the label of the International, Committee re-
commends that affiliated locals shall use every effort to promote the use of
the label, and induce the ladies to buy only such goods as bear the label.
Recommendation of Committee concurred in.
Committee recommends that any local failing to report to the G. S. T.
every quarter shall be suspended.
Upon motion this recommendation was referred to the Law Committee.
Referring to the recommendation of the G. S. T. for a Universal Label
Committee reports unfavorable. Committee's report rejected. Moved, sec-
onded and carried that our delegate to the A. F. of L. convention be in-
structed to urge the adoption of the Universal Label and vote for it.
Referring to the recommendation of the G. S. T. that the per capita tax
be divided equally, one part to be devoted to a General Defense Fund and the
other to carry on the business of the General Office the committee re-
commends that three (3) cents be devoted to a General Defense Fund and the-
rest to be used for carrying on the business of the International.
Recommendation of the committee rejected.
Resolution No. 4 relative to the creation of a general defense fund was
here again taken up for discussion, and after a long and animated discussion
it was finally resolved that it was the sense of this convention that the Inter-
national should have a General Defense Fund and the G. E. B. be instructed
to devise ways and means to create such a fund.
The committee does not agree with the suggestion of the G. S. T. that
the whole of the members of the G. E. B. should be residents of the city of
New York and recommend that only five of them be members of New York
locals, the rest to be from near-by cities.
Recommendation of the committee concurred in.
The only way of abolishing the contract system in the pressing branch
of the cloak trade the committee thinks is only by abolishing the system of piece work and by substituting in its place week work.

As to the failure of the cutters to work in harmony with the tailors' locals the delegates of the local (6) contend that it is due to the failure on the part of the General Office to give them proper notice of the existence of the Joint Executive Board among the tailors and to invite them to join it. The General Secretary contends that he has written twice to Local 6 about it, but received no reply.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION.

Roll Call.—Absentees: F. Clifford, C. Finegan.

REPORT OF LAW COMMITTEE.

Amendment 1.—Delegate Schlesinger offered an amendment to change the word “annually” on line 2, Sec. 3, Art. XIII, to “bi-annually.” Committee recommends rejection of amendment. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

Following amendments offered by Delegate J. Dyche:

Amendment 2.—Add to Section 4, Art. XI, “On the vote of five local unions in good standing, no three unions to be in one city, the place of holding the convention can be changed by the general vote of the members of the organization. A special convention can be called in the same manner.” Committee reports favorably. Recommendation concurred in.

Amendment 3.—Section 4, Art. XII, Line 3, substitute the word “local” for the word “they.” Committee recommends adoption. Concluded in.

Amendment 4.—Section 3, Art. XIII, line 5, substitute the word “any” for the word “major.” Committee recommends adoption. Concluded in.

Amendment 5.—Sec. 10 to be added to Art. XII. Recording Secretary shall send a list of names and addresses of all officers of his or her local union. Amend, rejected on ground that Section 4 already provides for obtaining this information.

Amendment 6.—Section 3, to be added to Art. IX, “If at any time a local union shall dissolve, lapse or withdraw all property, funds, books and charters held by, or in the name, or on behalf of the said local union, shall be forwarded to the General Secretary-Treasurer, to be held by him in safe keeping. The officers and members of local unions shall be held responsible for compliance with this section under penalty of being prosecuted by law and the forfeiture of membership in the International.” Amendment adopted with the exception that the word “withdraw” to be stricken therefrom.

Amendment 7.—Add Section 10 to Art. V. The General Executive Board shall be empowered to commission as organizer any member of the International who possesses the necessary qualifications, for such length of time as they may deem fit and pay him such salary as they may decide upon, same not to exceed four dollars per day and travelling allowance.” Committee reports favorable. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

Amendment 8.—Add Section 6 to Art. X. “No strike shall be declared by any local union at any shop or against any firm with which a settlement
has been made through the help of the General Office, without the sanction of the G. E. B.

Committee reports favorably. Concurred in.

Amendment 9.—Art. III, Sec. 5. Strike out the whole paragraph on the 11th line beginning with the words “No person” and ending with the words “expected” on the 20th line. Start with new Section (6) which should read as follows: No member should be eligible as delegate to the convention unless he or she is a practical ladies’ garment worker and has joined his or her local union in compliance with Art. XIV, Sec. 1. A delegate must be engaged in the manufacture of ladies’ garments at least six months prior to the date of the convention. Walking delegates, business agents and those members who may have been working under cards issued as per agreement with any other local of the I. L. G. W. U. expected from this section.

DEATH AND TOTAL DISABILITY BENEFITS.

Amendment 10.—Add Art. XVIII, Sec. 1. Any member of the International union who joins his local union at the age of fifty or less and who has been a member for one year and upward in continuous good standing with his local and is not in arrears with his dues, fines and assessments for more than three months, in case of his or her death be paid to his or her estate the sum of fifty dollars; after being a member for two years and upwards $75, and after three years $100.

Sec. 2. There shall be a total disability fund, which shall be paid to those members who through illness or accident have been permanently and totally incapacitated to follow their employment. The disability benefit shall be $100 on two years good standing membership, $150 on three years good standing membership and $200 on five years and over good standing membership.

Sec. 3. The death and accident benefit shall be raised by the General Office by levying an assessment on the general membership of the International Union sufficient to cover the amount of the claim. No Death and Disability Benefit shall be paid unless the claim has been submitted and approved by the General Executive Board.

Sec. 4. Claims for benefit against the International Union shall be filed with the G. S. T. within thirty days after the same accrue otherwise they will not be paid.

Sec. 5. The G. S. T. may at any time demand of the local financial secretary the ledger and other document of the local of which the claimant was a member, and if the same be not forwarded within thirty days the claim shall not be paid.

Committee approved and recommendation concurred in.

REPORT OF DELEGATE TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE A. F. OF LABOR.

San Francisco, Cal., April 18, 1905

To the Officers and Delegates to the Sixth Annual Convention of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union.

Dear Sirs and Brothers:—

During the month of October, 1904, I was informed by your General Secretary, Bro. J. A. Dyche, that Bro. Pierce who had been elected at your Boston convention to represent the I. L. G. W. U. at the Twenty-fourth An-
annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, had resigned his position, and that the General Executive Board had selected me to fill the vacancy thus existing.

I eagerly accepted the position and attended the Twenty-fourth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor as a representative of your honorable body, endeavoring to the best of my ability to serve the interests of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the labor movement at large.

In accordance with instructions from your General Secretary, I introduced the following resolutions.

RESOLUTION NO. 126.

Whereas, A large number of local unions affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union have been attacked by organized employers' associations during the past year, and,

Whereas, In consequence of lack of demand for the union label on ladies' wear several locals of the I. L. G. W. U. have been unsuccessful in bettering the conditions of their members or in resisting attacks of organized employers; and,

Whereas, The I. L. G. W. U. is affiliated with the A. F. of L. and thereby entitled to the full support of organized labor; therefore be it

Resolved, By the American Federation of Labor assembled in Twenty-fourth Annual Convention at San Francisco, Cal., that all resolutions of endorsement and in support of the union label of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union adopted by previous conventions of the A. F. of L. be reaffirmed, and further

Resolved, That we urge upon all wage-workers the necessity of demanding the union label of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union on ladies' cloaks, suits, skirts, capes, waists and underwear whenever purchasing the same.

RESOLUTION NO. 127.

Whereas, At the last convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, held in Boston, Mass., on June 6, 1894, the General President of the I. L. G. W. U. reported that the best interests of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union are being injured by the National Consumers' League, the latter organization placing its label on products jurisdiction over which has been granted to the I. L. G. W. U. by the A. F. of L., and

Whereas, The I. L. G. W. U. Convention decided to refer this grievance against the National Consumers' League to the American Federation of Labor for adjustment, and

Whereas, It is the duty of the A. F. of L. to protect the interests of its affiliated unions to the fullest extent, therefore be it

Resolved, By the American Federation of Labor, assembled in Twenty-fourth Annual Convention in San Francisco, Cal., that the incoming Executive Council be instructed to investigate this matter thoroughly and take all necessary steps to preserve the interests of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.
RESOLUTION NO. 161.

Whereas, Continuous attacks of organized employers have greatly embarrassed the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and have weakened a number of its locals, especially so the locals situated in Chicago, Ill., and in Cleveland, Ohio, during the past year; and,

Whereas, It is imperative for the future welfare of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union that its locals in Chicago, Ill., and in Cleveland, Ohio, be placed on a better footing and receive the full support of organized labor to that end, and

Whereas, For the reasons aforementioned the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is unable to render its locals in Chicago, Ill., and Cleveland, Ohio, the necessary assistance required in reorganizing and strengthening the same, therefore be it

Resolved, By the American Federation of Labor assembled in Twenty-fourth Annual Convention in San Francisco, Cal., that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to render the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union such assistance as may be necessary and as may be agreed upon between the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor and the General Officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, to carry out the objects herein set forth.

Resolutions Nos. 126 and 127 were adopted by the convention; Resolution No. 161 was referred to the Executive Council.

Respectfully submitted,

ISIDOR JACOBY.

Moved and seconded that report of A. F. of L. delegate be concurred.

Carried.

On motion of Del. Schlesinger, resolved that the Secretary be instructed to inquire of the A. F. of L., how our delegate voted on all questions brought before that body.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Roll Call—Absentees—F. Clifford, C. Finnegan.

Reading of minutes of previous session dispensed with.

Following report of Local 8, San Francisco read and placed on file.

Mr. J. A. Dyche, General Secretary I. L. G. W. U., New York, N. Y.

ANNUAL REPORT, MAY 1, 1904-MAY 1, 1905.

On May 1, 1904, our organization had a membership of about 60. At that time we were in a very precarious condition. The employers were completely disregarding the agreement, which they had signed but a few months previous, and had through various blacklisting schemes and other forms of persecution caused a large number of our members to leave this city. The Spring season of 1904 also was a very bad one, and for some time matters looked rather serious.

We managed, however, to keep above water by borrowing money in order to meet the most necessary expenses and kept up appearances as best we could.

With the beginning of the Fall season, 1904, things began to change for the better. During September our members working for M. Weinstein struck against a non-union man, and won out. This had a good effect on the
other employers. They immediately changed their former attitude toward our organization and in the main were careful to observe the trade regulations of our union. Generally speaking they have since then continued in that policy. The strike in M. Weinstein's shop was the only one during the year. It lasted but four days and directly involved twelve men, but the entire membership reaped the benefits derived therefrom.

We have now about 90 members, 85 per cent. of which are in good standing. We have preserved the nine-hour day, the week work system and the employment of union men exclusively in all factories of any consequence, excepting M. Siminoff's.

The latter has been discriminating against union men and has been conducting his shop on the piece work system ever since the settlement of the lockout of 1904; but his inability to secure skilled mechanics has forced even him to adopt the week work system as far as the pressers are concerned. In conjunction with the Labor Council of this city we have taken all necessary measures to bring M. Siminoff's conduct toward organized labor to the attention of the people of this city, with the result that a large number of his patrons have ceased to purchase garments from him. We are confident that sooner or later M. Siminoff will run his factory in accordance with the rules of our union.

The only legal complications in which we are involved at present, is a damage suit for $5,000 brought by M. Siminoff for alleged loss of trade. Excellent legal talent has been engaged by Labor Council to attend to the case.

Our financial conditions are improving slowly but steadily. The income of our local goes into one fund at present, from which all expenditures are met. It is likely that in the near future we will divide our income and establish a beneficial system for our members.

We are taking an active part in the union label agitation, which is being carried on under the direction of the S. F. Labor Council and are expecting good results therefrom.

Chinese and especially Japanese immigration is the greatest danger we are confronted with and we would urgently suggest that Resolution No. 22 adopted by the last convention of the American Federation of Labor be indorsed by the I. L. G. W. U. and that all necessary steps be taken to carry into effect the intents and purposes of that resolution.

With best wishes for the success of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and with fraternal greetings to the delegates assembled in Sixth Annual Convention, we are,

Yours truly,

CLOAKMAKERS' UNION NO. 8 OF SAN FRANCISCO,
ISIDOR JACOBY,
Secretary.

Following communication from Lacol No. 16, read and placed on file:

J. A. Dyche,

Dear Sir:—I wish to inform you that Local Unino No. 16, garment cutters, will not be able to send a delegate to the convention as said local is not able to meet the expense. Will state that our local started with cutters and tailors in the year 1902, and we had then only about fifteen cutters the rest were tailors. After the season was over the tailors were drop-
ping out one by one and in the opening season there were only a few tailors left and they dropped out, and the cutters held the charter.

At present with the exception of about ten cutters we have them all in the union. When the fall season starts we will work hard to get the rest in. We have about forty members and some members who were back in their dues are paying up more readily since we started the Sick Fund. We will state the Sick Fund is a good thing in all unions as it takes effect on all members and they pay their dues more regularly.

As our rule is that any member, who falls sick shall not receive any sick benefits if he is in arrears in dues for three months, and since we started the Sick Fund in March and will not pay any benefits until July, and as the benefits are only three dollars up to the first of the year, 1906, we do not think any member will fall sick to draw the small benefit. Beginning 1906 the sick benefits will be five dollars according to our constitution.

Our dues were only forty cents before we started the Sick Fund and now we raised it to fifty cents per month. Half of the receipts go to the Sick Fund and the other half to the Local Fund. Will state that we have about $25.00 in our Sick Fund and about $43.00 in our Local Fund.

This Local is prospering, and as you know there are only three cloak firms, and one employs about twelve cutters, and the other two firms about six cutters each, and the rest are working in firms which employ only one or two cutters, so that we have nearly all the cutters in our Local, and when the season begins we will get them all in line.

We hope the Convention is well attended and will elect as good officers for the coming year as we had in the past year. Will be very glad to hear that next Convention will be held in the city of St. Louis, Mo.

I remain, Yours fraternally,

F. M. GASE, Sec'y Local 16.

The following report from Local 10, Toronto, Can., was read and placed on file:

John A. Dyche, Esq., General Secretary-Treasurer I. L. G. W. U., N. Y. City.

Dear Sir,—In response to your request we send herewith a few lines concerning the cloakmaking industry locally, regretting very much the impossibility of sending a delegate to represent us at the convention to be held in New York next month.

The cloak-making industry in Canada is confined principally to two cities, namely Montreal and Toronto. In the latter place there are seven wholesale houses, two large department stores, manufacturing for their own trade, and numerous smaller concerns doing mostly custom work. These employ about eleven hundred and fifty girls and six hundred men. The piece work system prevails, except with regard to cutters, who are paid by the week.

Our Local, No. 10, received its charter in November, 1904, commencing with fifteen members; we have now one hundred and five names on the roll, all men, but we are still working for and hope in the near future to have the co-operation of the women and girls, who form such a large percentage of the craft here.

The principal output comprises Fall and Winter stock, cutting and operating commencing in the Spring. As a rule April, May, June and July are busy months, which accounts for a great influx of operators from the
United States to take advantage of the busy season here, and return for the Fall season again to the United States.

In April, 1904, a great conflagration which unfortunately visited this city, wiped out a number of the cloak factories, thereby throwing a lot of cloakmakers out of work, and it was found necessary to come to the assistance of some of these, who were thus unexpectedly placed in an embarrassed position financially, as a result of the unfortunate catastrophe.

Although the trade seems to have pretty well recovered from the shock of the fire referred to, and manufacturing was resumed as soon as possible, the merchants generally throughout the country do not seem disposed to buy as freely in the early part of the year as they have done in the past, which causes the manufacturers to refrain from cutting in large quantities as early in the season as formerly. This again will have its effect upon the cloakmakers who are probably pouring into Toronto now expecting to get lots of work.

Prices for work seem to be deteriorating and there is at present a strike on in one shop, owing to the failure of employer and employees to arrive at an understanding regarding the prices of some new samples, the outcome of which is as yet a matter of conjecture.

This country is at present very prosperous commercially and industrially, and it is natural to suppose the cloak-making industry will be benefited beneficially in common with others, and with the advent of a strong organization in the cloak trade, which we are anticipating, the prospects are that the conditions of the wage-earners in the cloak-making industry will be greatly improved. Yours fraternally,

GEO. B. FUDGER, Vice-President.
HARRY STERN, Secretary.

Del. B. Schlesinger's organizing report was received and placed on file.

A check issued by a New York cloak manufacturer for the I. L. G. W. U. and endorsed by an unknown person was produced by the President, who made a strong denial of the person who endorsed it and the manufacturer who issued it. He suggest that a committee be appointed to visit the manufacturer to deny any knowledge of the check and the person who signed it.

Delegates H. Grossman, N. Jagoe and S. Polieoff were appointed a committee to the manufacturer to repudiate all knowledge of the check and try to obtain information of the person who obtained it.

Communication received from Actors' Union, stating that the Ladies' Garment Workers of Peekskill have hired a non-union park for a picnic, and asks to correspond with these Local and persuade them to hire a union park with union help.

Moved and seconded that we notify L. U. 32 of Peekskill that they are holding their picnic in an unfair park, and, if possible, transfer it over to a union park, and that the General Office will stand any expense in regard to change. Carried.

Moved and seconded that G. E. B. take action in regard to the two stenographers who have helped during convention. Carried.

Report from manufacturer in regard to check for $2. Manufacturer could identify the man, but refuses to do so if we intend to prosecuted him. Advises International to call upon West Side Bank to get further information.
Moved and seconded that the General Office take active steps to trace the check. Carried.

Upon motion the Parisian Cloak Co. of Baltimore was placed on the unfair list.

Nomination of officers next proceeded with.

The following were nominated for the office of President:—B. Schlesinger, H. Grossman, M. Kirshenboum, J. Pierce.

Kirshenboum and Pierce declined.

Vice-President:—J. Ryan, J. Pierce, C. Bingenheimer, S. Policoff, C. Jacobson, R. Sperling.

All declined but Pierce.

Nomination for Delegate to the A. F. of L convention was then proceeded with. The following were nominated: John F. Pierce, B. Schlesinger, H. Grossman, James McCauley. All declined but Pierce.

For the office of General Secretary-Treasurer:—J. A. Dyche, Max Kirshenboum.

FIFTH DAY—MORNING SESSION.

Roll Call.—Absentees: F. Clifford, C. Finegan, J. Pierce.

The General Secretary gave a review of the position of the Locals which are not represented at this Convention, and stated that in his opinion the Locals in Cleveland are ripe for reorganizing, and if an appeal was made to the Executive Council of the A. F. of L, which meets at Scranton on the 12th inst., for a special organizer for Cleveland from his correspondence on the subject with Secretary Morrison of the A. F. of L, in his opinion it would be granted.

Upon motion it was agreed that the incoming Secretary-Treasurer be a committee of one to appear before the Executive Council at Scranton and request the assistance of that body.

Upon motion it was agreed to send an organizer to Baltimore immediately after this convention.

Election of officers next proceeded with.


The tellers declared the result of the ballot as follows:—H. Grossman 10 votes and B. Schlesinger 8 votes. President declared Bro. H. Grossman elected President for the ensuing year.

There being only one candidate for the office of Vice-President, the General Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the convention for Del. Pierce. The Secretary complied with the instruction and the President declared Bro. Pierce elected as Vice-President for the ensuing year.

Election of General Secretar-Treasurer was then proceeded with. The tellers declared the result of the ballot was as follows: 12 for J. A. Dyche and 6 for Kirshenboum. The President declared Bro. John A. Dyche General Secretary-Treasurer for the ensuing year.

There being only one candidate for Delegate to the A. F. of L convention, the General Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to cast one ballot for the convention for Bro. Pierce. The Secretary complied with the instruction and the President declared Bro. Pierce elected delegate to the next convention of the A. F. of L.


DEL. A. KERMAN, OF LOCAL 7, PHILADELPHIA, DECLINED NOMINATION FOR MEMBERS OF G. E. B.


Kirshenbaum, McCauley, Jagoe, Sperling, Bingenheimer and Polikoff declined.

The tellers declared the result of the ballot as follows A. Salkowitch, 10 votes; L Bolz, 15; J Ryan, 15; Otto Pick, 11 votes. The President declared the Bros. Salkowitch, Bolz, Ryan and Pick elected as members or the G. E. B. from the city of New York.

President James McCauley then installed and administered the oath to the newly elected officers.

The place for holding the next convention was decided by 13 votes in favor of Baltimore against 6 for Philadelphia.

The convention then adjourned to reconvene in the city of Baltimore beginning the first Monday in June, 1906.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. DYCHE,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

Omission FROM PAYMENTS BY LOCALS OF General Sec'y-Treas Report:

Local 32. Ladies Underwear Workers, Peekskill, N. Y
Per capita tax ............... $43.00
Supplies ..................... 4.10

$47.10
REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER.

TO THE OFFICERS AND DELEGATES OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION:

The serious apprehensions and anxiety felt by those who were conversant with the inner workings of our body during the year preceding the Boston convention, the year of its apparent prosperity, concerning its future progress, have proved themselves by subsequent events to be only too well founded. The report which I have to submit for this year is not a history of growth and expansion, but of a desperate struggle against the wave of reaction against the trade union movement which at one time seemed to threaten our very existence.

Having assumed office when a deficit existed in our accounts and outstanding bills were being pressed for payment, my energies were at first mainly directed towards keeping the office from liquidation. The approach of the Fall season, instead of bringing relief only accentuated the crisis.

Early in July Local 5, Cloak and Skirt Makers; 21, Cutters, and 24, Pressers, of Chicago, were involved in a struggle with the manufacturers which ended in defeat and annihilation of the unions. The agreement with the Chicago manufacturers expired at the end of June, and as trade was very slack at the end of the contract period, the intention was to wait until the middle of September, which would be in the height of the Fall season, before renewal of the contracts was requested. Local 21, Cutters, without consulting the other organizations presented a separate agreement providing for the closed shop and the right to strike in sympathy with the tailors. The employers as a reply to these demands posted in their cutting rooms notices to the effect that thereafter the open shop and an increase in the working hours from 50½ to 54 per week would go into effect; no restriction on the number of apprentices and no minimum wage. The cutters walked out on strike, and to the other locals was left the alternative either of remaining at work and aiding the manufacturers to defeat the cutters or to strike in sympathy with the latter. They chose to strike.

Trade being slack the slender resources of the local were soon swallowed up by legal proceedings, over forty members having been arrested. The men after six weeks of starvation had to return to work and surrender unconditionally.

The attempt made in February to re-organize the Chicago tailors was frustrated by the manufacturers who blacklisted our men.

The example of Chicago was soon followed by the Cleveland locals. Cut-
tars' Local 10, soon after the convention gave up their organization and divided the funds. Cloak Tailors' Local 13, and Pressers' Local 14, being greatly enfeebled through mutual distrust, petty quarrels and entire lack of leadership, it was planned to stir the waning interest of the members by calling a general strike. A strike against the combined forces of the manufacturers of Cleveland was called in the middle of the month of August. The cutters and outside tailors refused to respond to the call of the other two locals, which were without funds, discipline, leadership or organization. It became necessary to maintain the strike by the artificial stimulation of oratorical display and street processions; the manufacturers, therefore, had little difficulty in winning a decisive victory.

The result is, that although Local 14, still carries on some sort of existence, the whereabouts of Local 13 cannot be located.

Our locals in Philadelphia have not recovered from the loss of the strike at Strawbridge & Clothier which began in the latter part of 1903. The Cutters' Local 61, most of whose members were employed by this firm, dropped out of existence, and the Tailors' Local kept loosing ground.

In Boston our only remaining local, Cloak and Skirt Makers' Union, No. 26, had, through a series of ill advised and unsuccessful strikes kept dwindling down in membership until in September, when we entirely lost trace of them.

In Montreal, through the misconduct of the local President, the members lost faith in their organization and disbanded.

Turning to New York City we find the situation anything but satisfactory. Local, Manhattan Knife Cutters' Association, refused to accept the decision of the Boston convention which called for their re-organization into a sub-local under the control of Locals 6 and 15, withdrew from our body and joined the American Labor Union. Local 52, Wrappers Makers, withdrew from the International, declaring their inability to pay per capita tax to the General Office. Local 12, through a series of unsuccessful and ill-advised strikes, bad leadership and mismanagement in their internal affairs has been reduced to impotence; and all the attempts of the few loyal members to bring it to life again, have so far proved unsuccessful.

Our Locals in Pittston, 33, and Wilkesbarre, 42, after a strike against the Galland Manufacturing Company, which lasted four months, succeeded, thanks to the moral and financial assistance of the Wilkes Barre Trade and Labor Council, in reaching a settlement last July, on the basis of a compromise. But the firm did not at once open all its departments in Wilkes Barre, and the factory at Pittston did not re-open until September, and as a consequence the locals have suffered in membership and finances.

In Baltimore, Local 61, Ladies' Garment Workers, and Local 65, Cloak and Suit trimmers, both dropped out of existence. Local 4, Cloak and Skirt Makers, however, thanks to the successful termination of a strike at the Weinberg Cloak Company, the leading firm in the city, have made considerable progress during the year.

In September the G. E. B. finding themselves unable to cope with the financial difficulties of the General Office issued an appeal to the locals to rally around the International body and save it from threatening dissolution. The appeal instead of having the desired effect brought to the surface the latent opposition of the unfriendly elements among our own members. On September 25th the New York members of the G. E. B. decided to submit to the rest of the members of the Board a proposal for closing the General Office and handing over the business to Bro. Herman Robinson, A. F. of L. Organizer, who should act as G. S. T. until our financial condition would improve. Just
about this time a decided improvement in the affairs of the General Office became noticeable. The receipts for September showed a considerable excess over the expenditures, and in October the accounts showed a balance, and the proposition to close the offices was therefore abandoned.

In Brownsville, after some hard work, we succeeded in forming an organization of cloak and skirt makers. The Ladies' Tailors Union, of New York, who had hitherto kept aloof, threw their lot in with the International and were soon followed by the Ladies' Tailors Union, of Buffalo. Charters were also issued to the Toronto cloakmakers and the Montreal white goods workers.

Thanks to the strenuous efforts of Bro. A. E. Randall, President of the Kalamazoo Trades and Labor Council, and the timely intervention of the officers of the U. G. W. of A., the members of our Local 40, Kalamazoo Skirt-makers, were successful in resisting the attempt of the firm of Sam Rosenthal & Company to reduce the earnings of their piece workers.

In St. Louis, Local 51, Cloakmakers, are losing ground and are in a bad way. The Cutters' Local 18, however, have introduced a system of friendly benefits into their organization with most gratifying results.

At Cincinnati the only remaining Local (48, Ladies' Garment Cutters) is in a poor way and is on the verge of dissolution while the other two locals, 34, Cloakmakers, and 45, Cloak Pressers, disbanded soon after their being chartered.

In January, Local 26, Cloak and Skirt Makers, and 36, Tailors of Boston, began to show signs of life. Through the aid of the A. F. of L. we were enabled to send Bro. Braff to Boston, who was singularly successful in rallying the skirt and cloak makers of the city to the standard of trade unionism. Bo. Jacob Goldstein, the very able Business Agent of the Hebrew Bakers' Union, has supplemented this work by zealously and devotedly lending his services whenever required. The result is, that Boston bids fair to be the best organized city in our jurisdiction.

Through the same assistance we were enabled to send Bro. Rosenberg to Philadelphia, and he succeeded in gathering the members around their locals standards and stirring them into activity. Unfortunately, however, a relapse has occurred since his departure.

By judicious economy we have been enabled to pay our indebtedness and accumulate a balance which will enable us to meet all the extra expenditures which the convention will entail and still have a balance to help tide us over the slack season.

There is every reason to believe that the worst has passed, and although the wave of reaction against the trade union movement has not spent its force and we do expect any great revival of unionism in our trades, we have every reason to anticipate for the coming year a steady, if slow, improvement.

OUR LABEL.

Since I entered office the Kalamazoo Skirt Company still remains the only firm using our label. The difficulty is not as some people think in finding manufacturers to adopt the label. Manufacturers will adopt any label demanded by the retailers, who in turn are guided by the demands of the consumers. Within the past two years we have succeeded in inducing a number of manufacturers to adopt our label, but one by one they dropped it. It is in the work of popularizing our label and inducing the consumers to demand it from the retailers that we have encountered much greater difficulties than have other organizations with their label. This is due to the fact that
the consumers of our products are exclusively women, who as a rule are
guided in their purchases more by the considerations of economy and the
demands of fashion than principles. And the instinct of striking a “bargain”
appeals to them with greater force than the ethical considerations involved
in making their purchases. The average man concentrates most of his abilities
in earning the largest sum possible, while at the same time he is freer in
spending his money. The wife, on the other hand concentrates her energies
in getting the most out of those earnings and does not therefore take kindly
to the idea of being restricted in her purchases by the union label.

In the more expensive articles of woman’s attire, such as cloaks and suits,
this difficulty is enhanced by the fact that unlike a man’s suit, which is
primarily an article for use, the like of which can be procured in any store,
in woman’s garments the chief consideration is the style which is rarely dupli-
cated by competing stores.

Yet there is hardly any class of industries where there is a greater need
for the label in order to protect the workers engaged in it. Less ladies’ gar-
ments are today made at the homes of the consumers than ever. The trade is
rapidly leaving its domestic and entering into the manufacturing stage. From
being until recently concentrated within the City of New York, we now find new
factories for making ladies’ garments springing up in every direction; and
the daughters and often wives of our laboring classes are flocking to them
by the hundreds, and there they are entirely at the mercy of the profit grind-
ing manufacturer. But the task of organizing them and above all of making
the organization effective is much harder than in the industries where men
are employed, for men as a rule are better able to wring concessions from the
manufacturers unaided than women are, and therefore the need of the label
is more felt here than in other trades.

In the white goods trades the rapid oscillation of the needle, driven by
electric power at the rate of several thousand per minute, has this effect
on the optic nerve: that after a short stay in the trade the eye-sight becomes so
defective that it is necessary to abandon the trade. But how are such evils
going to be remedied if not by the help of a strong union protected by the label.
Legislation is a very slow and tedious process, with a possible Supreme Court
decision looming like a Sword of Damocles above you.

But to take up the difficult task of calling the attention of the public,
who are after all the real employers of labor, the manufacturer being only the
go-between the producer and consumer, to the enormity of the situation, no
spasmodic attempts, however, well directed, will do. To undertake, however,
unsystematic and strenuous agitation in favor of the label, requires an expendi-
ture which is much above the means of an organization as of small as ours.

THE LABEL OF THE NATIONAL CONSUMERS’ LEAGUE.

Acting in accordance with the decision of the Boston convention of the
International, Bro. I. Jacoby, our delegate to the San Francisco convention
of the A. F. of L. carried a resolution which called for the intervention of the
Executive Council of the A. F. of L. in our dispute with the National Con-
sumers’ League; and as a result President Goempers arranged a conference
which took place January 19th, between the President of the League, Mr.
John Graham Brooks, Mrs. F. Kelly, the Secretary and our President, Bro.
James McCauley and myself. After having stated our case, Mr. Brooks in
reply contended that their label is in no way entering in competition with ours,
since the class of people to whom their label appeals do not believe in the trade
union label. On the other hand since we have no firm using our label on white
goods, the class of garments to which their label is restricted, he did not
see how their label injured our organization. Their final contention was, that to entirely withdraw their label would be to give up their league, which they were not prepared to do. They agreed, however, to withdraw their label from any firm we might indicate which acted injuriously to the interests of organized labor.

THE DEFECTS IN THE ORGANIZATION OF OUR INTERNATIONAL UNION.

Although we may console ourselves with the thought that our organization is not the only one which this year received a set back in its progress, and that older and much stronger organizations than ours have suffered greatly from the opposition of such employers to whom the working conditions in their factories is a matter of their private concern, to which the worker has only to submit and be thankful; still when we realize that at the critical period in the contest with our employers the International body found itself in the position of a mere helpless onlooker to the deadly struggle of the locals, it must be confessed that something is radically wrong with the system of our International union.

The measure of success we achieved in the first few years of our existence was chiefly due to the fact that we had been borne on the crest of the wave of trade unionism which was then sweeping this country. We did not, however, in its years of growth and prosperity develop within it a force which should enable it to withstand the tide of reaction. At best, our International has never been more to the locals than a figure head. Some belonged to it from a mere sentimental desire of seeing at some future time a strong central organization embracing all branches of of the ladies' garment trades; others again, paid their per capita to the General Office, as otherwise they would have been cut off from the American Trade Union movement and the American Federation of Labor.

None of the locals expect any substantial help in time of need. The adherence to the International has always been of the most loose character and the payment of the per capita depends upon the caprice and good will of the local leaders. It appears to me that all this is chiefly due to the fact that in order to build up our organization we depended too much on what—for the want of a better term—I would call the OUTSIDE WORK of the organization, i.e., the work of pushing the label and boycotts. The INSIDE WORK of the locals, the work of guiding and perfecting our locals and making them effective units for securing better terms from their employers, is left entirely to the locals themselves and does not come within the range of the work of the International.

Now for reasons explained above the label and boycotts cannot be as effective in our trades as they are in others. It seems to me that the whole of the OUTSIDE WORK could be more effectively and economically done through the agency of the A. F. of L. than by each particular union. The work of interviewing buyers and store-keepers is more congenial to the drummer and salesman than to the mechanic and trade unionist. The idea of the organizers of the various National and International bodies peddling with their particular label after the fashion of the salesman who tries to push his particular brand of goods to the exclusion of all rivals, is to me quiet incomprehensible, since the principle underlying all union labels is one and the same. This, however, is not a matter of our choice. At several conventions of the A. F. of L. the proposition for a UNIVERSAL LABEL has been voted down.

THE NEED OF INSIDE WORK IN OUR LOCALS.

Our policy must be reversed evidently. We must once for all cease imitat-
ing blindly those unions to whom the label is the only means of defense. We should concentrate our attention and so remodel our constitution as to enable our International body to render the locals material and moral support in their daily task of securing for their members better conditions of employment.

Compared with other industries the ladies' garment trades are still very young; outside of that city they are but in their infancy. Our locals therefore suffer from the weakness common to all young and inexperienced organizations. The members who invariably are new recruits expect great results at the very beginning and are in a hurry for the union to "do something." They assume a bellicose and warlike attitude in their dealings with their employers. The result is, that as soon as a local is organized it enters upon a series of strikes and disputes with the employers. The members soon tire of the continuous strife and struggle, and the organization goes to pieces. Instead of constantly harrassing the "sweater" and unfair employer the reverse is often the case. The sweater is left scot free, but as soon as a shop is unionized the members begin to find all sorts of grievances and the result is constant turmoil and strife. Instead of following the policy of the older and stronger unions and adopting a system of "Victimized Pay," entitling a member discharged from his employment for his fidelity to the union to compensation, our locals too often insist upon the employer having no right to discharge any of his employees, and compelling him to keep all his hands no matter what objections he may have against any of them. By pursuing such a policy the union soon becomes an instrument not for raising the wages and standard of living for the whole craft, but a means of satisfying the caprices of its least desirable members. A union is like a sharp instrument. In the hands of the cautious and experienced unionist it attains its object; the hasty and inexperienced are often injured by it.

The lack of diplomatic skill in negotiating terms with the manufacturers is another great cause of many useless and avoidable strikes. In too many cases the demands of the work people are put before the employer in the form of an ultimatum. The strength of a union does not lie in the number of strikes it can call. We are very apt to talk glibly of the unreasoning and uncompromising hostility of the employers and to attribute to their opposition the cause of all our failures. But denouncing the employers will not alter matters, even it calls forth the applause of the multitude and covers all sorts of errors. We will never overcome the opposition of the employers by denouncing them, and the policy of subduing them by means of endless strikes must be ruinous to the unions.

And yet while our locals so often indulge in the use of this highly dangerous weapon, they entirely forget to make any sort of preparations for strikes. To many the word "union" seems to have such occult power that they entirely neglect the business part of the movement, not realizing that a union is after all a business undertaking from which no returns can be had unless adequate investments are made and time given for its bearing revenue.

It is evident that we must introduce a system whereby we can minimize the number of strikes and at the same time prepare ourselves for such eventualities. Under our present constitution not only do the locals find it useless to consult the G. E. I, in cases of calling strikes, they even fail to inform the General Office of such occurrences. Of the general strikes in Chicago and Cleveland the office became aware through outside channels, accidentally, several days after they had taken place.

Quite different would have been the case if the International body had a GENERAL DEFENCE FUND and the locals would be aware that the treasury
of the General Office is at their disposal in any strike they may contemplate provided the sanction of the G. E. B. has been obtained.

The existence of such a fund would have a restraining effect both on our locals and the manufacturers. Fewer strikes would occur. This in itself would do more towards building up our International than all other means taken together.

Whenever an employer contemplates resisting the demands of his workpeople the first question he asks himself is undoubtedly, "what is the financial backing of the organization I am going to fight?" The Cloak Manufacturers' Association of Chicago might have renewed their agreement with our locals had they known, as they knew the contrary, that our locals could have financial backing from the International union.

How shall we raise such a fund? Not by raising the per capita. Our locals are not at present in the mood or in the position to do it. I would also not favor a tax on initiation fees. Such a tax will fall most heavily on the locals in New York, whose income, owing to the instability of their membership is chiefly derived from initiation fees. We can, however, establish the nucleus of such a fund by dividing our present per capita in half; one part for carrying on the current business of the General Office, the other half to be devoted to this fund. The idea of being able to build up our International by leading a hand to mouth existence and spending every penny of our income must once for all be abandoned.

ORGANIZING WORK OF THE YEAR.

Owing to financial reasons not much organizing work has been done during the year. A statement of Bro. Schlesinger's organizing work will be found elsewhere in this report. Bro. Brass's trip to Boston and Bro. Rosenberg's have already been referred to.

My own organizing was as follows:—On July the 14th I received a request from Local 7, Philadelphia Skirtmakers, to be present at a meeting of the local called for the purpose of considering the recommendation of their Executive Board to call the members out on a general strike. I accordingly went to Philadelphia and after examining the situation dissuaded them from calling such a strike. On the following day a conference was held by the representatives of the locals of Philadelphia whereat after a long discussion it was decided to form a Joint Board to transact the business of the locals in common.

On Saturday, August 29th, I received a call from Local 4, of Baltimore, which was in trouble with the Wineberg Cloak Company. I answered the call and after several interviews with the head of the firm succeeded in settling the dispute to the entire satisfaction of the union.

During the Fall season I organized Local 11, Brownsville Cloak and Skirtmakers' Union, and did some organizing work for Local 18, Ladies' Tailors of New York, and aided them in some of their disputes.

On Saturday, May 13th, I left for Worcester, Mass., and in the evening I met the Executive Board of Local 20, White Goods Workers, to discuss with them the needs of their local. On Sunday, the 14th, I addressed the meeting of the Executive Board of the Central Labor Union of Worcester, and solicited their aid in behalf of the white goods workers, and a resolution was passed instructing their Organizing Committee to organize the non-Jewish speaking girls in the white goods trade. On Sunday night I addressed a meeting of the members of Local 20, and also a meeting of the cloak and skirt makers of the city at which it was decided to form a union and affiliate with our International. Monday morning I left for Boston, where during the afternoon I addressed the Third Annual Convention of the Church Associa-
tion for the Advancement of the Interest of Labor. On Monday night I attended some shop meetings of Local 26. Tuesday forenoon I interviewed several manufacturers with the view of inducing them to adopt our label. Three of them expressed their willingness to do so. Tuesday night I addressed a meeting of the members of Locals 26 and 28. On Wednesday morning I interviewed the head of the firm of Filene & Sons, one of the leading department stores in Boston, who agreed to take in a line of ladies' garments bearing our label, and gave me a letter to the same effect. During the day I interviewed several cutters with the object of forming a local of that craft in the city, but I found that there are not enough cutters in the city to form a union. Most of the manufacturers in the cloak and skirt trade doing their own cutting with the aid of a helper. On Wednesday night I addressed a meeting of the Brockton Central Labor Union asking their aid in placing our labels with the local store keepers. The Council resolved to instruct their label committee to take this matter up. Same night I returned to Boston and addressed a meeting of Local 36, Ladies' Tailors and Dressmakers, then took train for New York. The prospects for placing our label in the Massachusetts market are very bright and I am of opinion that a fortnight's work will do it.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD.

At every convention there has been a tendency to select the members of the G. E. B. from as wide an area as possible, the object being to give the locals outside of New York a share in the administration of the General Office. Experience, however, has shown that the correspondence of the G. E. B. members located outside of the City of New York can and does have little or no influence on the work of the General Office. The result has been to concentrate in the hands of a few New York members the entire work of administration; a contingency which should under no circumstances be permitted. Until such time as the locals outside of New York show more stability and the financial condition of the International will permit frequent conferences of the G. E. B., I would suggest that all the members thereof be selected from this city and to attach some remuneration to this office so as to ensure better attendance.

THE CONTRACT SYSTEM IN THE PRESSING TRADE.

The contract system which began in the pressing trade a few years back has spread so rapidly that there are but few pressers at present employed directly by the firms. The worst feature of this system is, that there is neither a permanent number of contractors or of wage workers. Every presser is an actual or potential contractor. The contractor of to-day may be only a hired man to-morrow, and to-morrow the hired hand may be the contractor. In the slack season there are no contractors. Each firm directly employs one or two pressers on samples. During the season these pressers hire hands and before the season is over become large employers of labor. This evil is now gradually spreading outside of the city of New York, and if nothing is done to check it will completely ruin the pressing branch of the cloak trade.

THE CUTTERS AND TAILORS' LOCALLS.

Mutual distrust and suspicion between the workers of one branch of the trade and the other have always been the greatest foe of organized labor. Wherever the leaders stand above the rank and file and exert their influence these tendencies are kept in check. The leaders in our locals, unfortunately to the great injury of our organization, share the common prejudices. The ill will between the cutters and tailors in our trade is accentuated by the differences of language, race and religion with the result that in spite of the all resolutions of the various conventions calling for the formation of
District Councils and Joint Executive Boards, these two branches still keep aloof from one another and yet their members work side by side under one roof and under one employer. Here is an evil which unlike the contract system in the pressing trade is entirely the fault of the leaders and which could be eliminated by a free and candid discussion. Mere resolutions will not alter matters. An earnest desire on the part of the leaders to solidify our organization by bringing about a better understanding between the two branches in the cloak trade is all that is necessary. If this convention achieves this result it will mark an epoch in the history of our International.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. DYCIE,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

ORGANIZING REPORT OF B. SCHLESINGER.

On the 16th day of June, 1904, I was sent to Philadelphia and Baltimore to see the chances of uplifting our locals there.

I arrived in Philadelphia and found things in very bad shape. I noticed that the Strawbridge-Clothier strike, has made wonderful changes in the once prosperous city of Philadelphia.

Brothers Jos. Schwartz, S. Rabinowitz and myself immediately arranged a mass meeting. We had been working for two days on that meeting. We have been around and seen a large number of cloak makers and in addition got out about 2,000 circulars, and so we expected a large attendance.

Well, we had a fair meeting, the audience was very enthusiastic, while the principles of unionism was explained to them, but not one of the audience applied for membership in any of the locals, although this request was repeated several times.

I stayed in Philadelphia until I visited and addressed the regular meetings of each local (five days in all). I did my best to encourage them and then left for Baltimore.

Things in Baltimore were not as bad as in Philadelphia, yet I had a hard job before I could get together enough brothers to help me arrange a mass meeting. I finally got Mr. Etkin, who at that time was the Secretary and the most active member of Local 4. With his assistance the mass meeting was a grand success. About two hundred men and women were present, each and every one of them was very enthusiastic.

I left Baltimore for New York after I had given them some advice how to keep their local in good shape.

While in Baltimore I found that the cutters' local and the ladies' local went out of existence. The strike against the firm of Shiff & Bloom, which ended in defeat for the locals, has caused these two locals to go out of existence.

On June 28th I was sent to Wilkesbarre, Pa. I spent four days in assisting the committee of the Central Labor Union of that city, in settling the strike of the ladies' underwear workers against the firm of Galland Bros., the strike having been in progress at that time for about five months.

Arriving in Cleveland I found things in awful shape. Local 13 had not had at that time more than 25 members in good standing. Locals 25 and 55 were out of existence. Local 10 was considering the advisability of dissolving the local and dividing the money in the treasury amongst their members. The only local that was more or less alive was Local 14.
I thought the best thing under the circumstances to do, would be to call a mass meeting in one of Cleveland's largest halls, and so I did. I arrived in Cleveland on July 2d and I immediately arranged a mass meeting for July 7th at Perry Theatre. I had three different circulars printed for that meeting.

The meeting was a grand success. Many cloak makers joined the locals. On the 8th of July I left Cleveland for Chicago promising the Cleveland locals to be there again in a few days, on my return to New York.

I arrived in Chicago, Saturday, July 9th, and found the cloak makers engaged in a general strike. I did my very best to assist them in their fight, and have been with them day and night for ten days, and on the 19th of July left for Cleveland.

In Cleveland I arranged a mass meeting in Perry Theatre for July 20th, I again had different circulars to advertise that meeting, and the success of this second meeting was still greater. I stayed in Cleveland the second time from the 20th to 26th of July, and then left for New York.

to 26th of July, and then left for New York.

On the 22d of April, 1905, I was sent to Philadelphia, where I addressed a meeting of Local 2, and on the 23d, I addressed a mass meeting at Baltimore for Local 4.

BEN SCHLESINGER.
## PAYMENTS BY LOCALS FROM MAY 1, 1904, TO MAY 1, 1905.

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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Per capita tax</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ladies Waistmakers Union of N.Y.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Cloakmakers Union of Cleveland, O.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Cloak Pressers Protective Ass'n of Cleveland</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Gotham Knife Cutters Ass'n of N.Y.</td>
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<td>Cloak Cutters Union of St. Louis, Mo.</td>
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<td>Manhattan Knife Cutters Ass'n, N.Y.</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Ladies Waist and Underwear Workers of Montreal, Can.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>International Ladies Tailors Union of N.Y.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Quaker City Ass'n of Cutters, Phila., Pa.</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Young Ladies White Goods Workers Progressive Ass'n of Worcester, Mass.</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Ladies Tailors Union of Buffalo, N.Y.</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Skirtmakers Union of N.Y.</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Cloak Pressers Union of Chicago, Ill.</td>
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<td>Local 23.</td>
<td>Skirt and Cloakmakers Union of Boston, Mass.:</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Local 33.</th>
<th>Ladies Garment Workers Union of Pittston, Pa.:</th>
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<th>Local 34.</th>
<th>Ladies Garment Workers Union of Cincinnati, O.:</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Per capita tax</td>
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<table>
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<th>Ladies Garment Workers Union of Cleveland, O.:</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Local 38.</th>
<th>Cloakmakers and Custom Tailors Union of Montreal, Can.:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Per capita tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local 42.</th>
<th>Skirt and Waist and Underwear Workers Union of Wilkesbarre, Pa.:</th>
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<th>Ladies Garment Cutters Union of Cincinnati, O.:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>1.40</td>
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<td>Strike assessments</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>Union Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>St. Louis Garment Workers Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Ladies Tailors Union of Hartford, Conn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Cloak Cutters and Trimmers Union of Baltimore, Md.</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>1000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1000</td>
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**Totals:**

|             | 2030.10 | 1817.5 | 1800.0 | 1030.0 | 11250 | 810.0 | 800.0 | 625.0 | 625.0 |

**Receipts:**

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<td>1900.00</td>
<td>1835.00</td>
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# EXPENDITURES

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<th>Postage</th>
<th>Sta. &amp;</th>
<th>Per Cap.</th>
<th>Donat.</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tel. &amp;</td>
<td>Tax to</td>
<td>and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Org.</td>
<td>Assess.</td>
<td>Salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sup.</td>
<td>A.F. of L.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1004</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rent.</td>
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<td>49.00</td>
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| Total | $87.48 | $260.10 | $131.84 | $184.60 | $226.45 | $85.41 | $61.00 | $1,002.48 | $203.19 | $2,228.55 |

| Balance on hand May 1st, 1904 | $160.79 |
| Total Receipts for the year 1904-1905 | 2327.21 |
| Expense for the year 1904-1905 | $2488.00 |
| Balance in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer, May 1st, 1905 | $2228.55 |