ILGWU Convention Reports and Proceedings, 1907

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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8TH CONV.
JUNE 3-6, 1907
Report and Proceedings

OF

Eighth Annual Convention

OF THE

INTERNATIONAL

Ladies' Garment Workers Union

Baltimore, Md.

June Third to June Sixth

1907.

J. Litwak, Electric Power Union Printer, 185 Bowery.
PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

TO THE OFFICERS AND DELEGATES OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION.

GREETING:

As President of the International, and in compliance with our constitution, I herewith submit my report for the past year, beginning June 21st, 1906, until June 3rd, 1907, and trust that it will meet with your favorable consideration.

The past year has been a very trying one for our organization as we have had more strikes and lockouts than ever before.

After our last convention had adjourned, the International believed it would be a good plan to endeavor to organize the different branches of our trades over which we claim jurisdiction. In this we were not as successful as we hoped, as we found there existed quite a number of grievances that interfered with our work in this direction. The grievances that existed were of such a stubborn nature, that we decided to hold this work in abeyance until some favorable opportunity presented itself.

Notwithstanding all the opposition and obstacles that we had to contend with during the past year, it gives me great pleasure to report that we have granted new charters to the following locals:

CHARTERS ISSUED DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Local 6—Cloak Makers' Union, St. Louis Mo.
Local 12—Boston Pressers' Union, Boston, Mass.
Local 13—Skirt and Cloak Makers' Union, Boston, Mass.
Local 14—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Racine, Wis.
Local 16—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Carmel, N. J.
Local 24—Skirt Makers' Union, Philadelphia, Pa.
Local 26—Cloak and Suit Cutters', Boston, Mass.
Local 31—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Seattle, Wash.
Local 34—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Bridgeton, N. J.
Local 34—Custom Tailors Ladies' Union, Baltimore, Md.
Local 39—Cloak Makers' Union, Toledo, O.
Local 41—Ladies' Wrappar Makers' Union, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Local 42—Ladies' Underwear Workers' Union, Sandusky, O.
Local 43—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Freemont, O.
Local 44—Cloak Makers' Union, Los Angeles, Cal.
Local 46—Ladies' Tailors and Cloak Makers' Union, Pittsburg, Pa.

We have also succeeded in re-organizing Local, No. 36, of Ladies' Custom Tailors' of Boston, Mass.

The following locals have been dissolved on account of lack of activity of their members.

Local 6—Cloak Makers' Union, of St. Louis, Mo.
Local 21—Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union, of Carmel, N. J.
Local 30—Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union, of Melville, N. J.
Local 33—Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union, of Bridgeton, N. J.
Local 39—Cloak Makers’ Union, of Toledo, O.

STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS DURING THE PAST YEAR

During the month of August, the Cloak and Suit Cutters’ Union, Local, No. 10, of New York were engaged in a strike with the firm of Goldstein and Koerner. The reason for this was that the Cutters Local demanded the prevailing wage scale be $4.00 per day, the manufacturers absolutely refusing to grant same. The District Council took this question up and appointed me to take charge of this strike. In order to assist Local 10, they also decided to get out the tailors, operators and pressers, so that the manufacturers could be brought to terms. Notwithstanding the fact that they were non-union men, I had succeeded in getting them out with the exception of some sample tailors, some skirt makers and pressers. I had arranged a meeting to be held on Saturday, August 4, 1906, at 62 East 4th street, in order to induce the sample tailors, pressers and skirt makers to come out the following week, to try to bring about an amicable settlement between the said organizations and the manufacturers.

They promised me that if a committee of the cutters and I would be present at their shop meeting, we probably could use some pressure, so as to induce them to come out, but unfortunately, I was busy with the Executive Members of local 10 at that time, trying to get some of the scab cutters to stop work at this shop.

I had arranged with Bro. Rosenberg, who was temporary manager of the Skirt and Cloak Makers’ Union to address that meeting and hold them out until the committee of cutters and I could come down, so that they would not go to work on the following Monday.

The following Monday, I being on picket with a committee of the cutters, not only did the sample tailors and pressers go up to work, but those men whom I had succeeded in getting out, previously, were induced by these sample tailors and pressers to go to work, the manufacturers making some concessions to those tailors, consequently the backbone of our strike was broken. After a long struggle, we lost. Although morally, the strike was a loss, the Cutters’ Union, Local, No. 10 gained their point financially, and are now receiving the scale of prices, contended for, which is $4.00 per day.

GENERAL STRIKE OF THE CHILDREN CLOAK AND REEFER MAKERS’ UNION.

This most bitter and energetic strike took place in the early part of March. After negotiations with the representatives of the manufacturers, they posted up a notice that in future, they were going to run an open shop. A general meeting was called of all the members connected with the Reffer Makers’ Union, and a general vote was taken, they decided to go on strike in order to protect their rights and just demands, i.e., to fight against open shop, abolish the miserable system of furnishing machines for the manufacturers, and also to receive better treatment in general.

Immediately after the strike was declared, the cloak manufacturers hired
thugs to slug our striking men and women who ventured near those various places where the cloak establishments were located. The police and private detectives were also working hand in hand with said thugs in order to protect the manufacturers. The result of this was that our men were mercilessly clubbed, the manufacturers using all the above methods in order to tire them out. In addition to the slugging that our men received, they were dragged to jail, and all sorts of charges were preferred against them. The organization had to hire counsel in order to take care of our men, paying fines, some of our men were also held for Special Sessions, the manufacturers thought this was the best method of fighting our organization of the Referee Makers' Union.

As I had the honor of being appointed by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, to act as special organizer for the different trades, the I. E. B. appealed to me to help them in their struggle against the manufacturers' association. I took charge of all legal proceedings in order to protect the interest of these striking referrer makers who had been dragged to jail, and most of my time was spent in court, in attending to the different trials and in getting bailers for our men, also rendering all the assistance that was in my power.

A committee of our organization in conjunction with a committee of the manufacturers' association and also with the able assistance of Bro. Herman Robinson of the American Federation of Labor, who has been intimate with our members for a number of years and who is also thoroughly familiar with all the details of our craft, and after several meetings brought about a settlement of the strike. I want to state that our men were victorious in every respect and gained every point they contended for.

GENERAL STRIKE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

During the early part of March, a general strike of the three following locals, 12, 13 and 26 took place in Boston, Mass., involving the Skirt and Cloak Makers' Union, Pressers' Union and Cutters. As the conditions were unbearable, the organization could not help themselves, and were practically forced to declare a general strike. As soon as the manufacturers were aware of the fact that the said locals were organized they immediately began to victimize the members, i.e., discharging various members of the different locals, and blacklisting them. This practically was the reason why the general strike was declared. The Boston organizations did their utmost to protect the interest of their members. The manufacturers immediately formed an association and began to use the same methods as those of the New York manufacturers, by hiring riffians to help them beat the members of our organization. In addition to this, they had injunctions against the leaders and the officers of the various locals. The leaders and the best members of said local were handicapped by these injunctions. They were using threats to put out of commission the best men of said locals, especially Bro. Goldstein who had absolute charge of this strike.

The organizations in question were compelled to keep constant guard with Bro. Goldstein as he was being followed wherever he went so that they might do away with him.

In spite of all these hardships and the very little outside assistance which the organizations received, the expense which was needed was covered by their
own membership, who were working, and we taxed on 20% on each dollar of their earnings.

It gives me great pleasure in saying that the locals in Boston are well organized and have given the manufacturers a well disciplined fight, which resulted in 38 of the firms conceding to the demands of the said locals and this enabled them to assist their sisters and brothers who are still fighting for their rights and their just demands. As 12 of the cloak manufacturers are still holding out, about 350 of our members are still out and have pledged themselves not to return to work for these manufacturers until they have been granted all the demands they have been contending for.

I arrived at Boston on May 14th, 1907, and during the early part of my visit there, could not render the locals involved the assistance I might desire, as I was in constant touch with the New York Reefer Makers' trouble, but as soon as the New York situation was favorable, I gave the Boston locals all my attention.

I have been in consultation with the members of the Executive Board of the following locals, 12, 13 and 26 and have received full information as regard their strike which is still on and as I stated before 38 concern out of 50 have signed contracts and negotiable notes were deposited with the said organization, as a security that they will adhere to their agreements. Twelve manufacturers are still fighting for the open shop. The representatives of the union, upon advice of other labor representatives were willing to concede the demands of the manufacturers with the exception of the open shop.

I was also informed by the representatives of the striking locals of Boston that a conference was held between the manufacturers' association and the representatives of the unions, at the request of the Civic Federation, Mr. Robbins of that body acted as representative for same. Mr. Brandies, a member of the Civic Federation and attorney for the Employers Association, was the one who helped Mr. Robbins bring about this conference. The manufacturers would not come without their attorney. It was therefore necessary to invite the unions attorney, to the conference; also this conference took place in the early part of April and lasted from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m. The following were present, Mr. Henry Abrahams, Secretary of Central Labor Union of Boston; Dennis D. Driscoll, Secretary of the State Branch of the A. F. of L. of Mass.; Frank McCarthy, general organizer of the A. F. of L. and Meyer Bloomfield, a distinguished citizen of Boston and prominent in the labor movement. The conference was opened by Mr. Robbins who acted as chairman at the request of both sides, the representatives of the union upon advice of other labor representatives were willing to concede to every demand of the association with the exception of the open shop. Mr. Brandies was the chief opponent to the closed shop, and said that he would rather concede to anything else than the closed shop. Not being able to get the one point, that is the closed shop, which was practically the only demand of the unions, the representatives of the unions decided that they could not come to a settlement and the conference ended. I therefore desire to call the attention of this convention that you take this matter up and find ways and means morally and financially to help the said locals of Boston who are fighting so nobly and bravely for the cause of labor. Something must be done
in their behalf. I hope and trust that every delegate will give this important subject their kind consideration in order to assist those sisters and brothers.

Other strikes occurred during the past year which were not of such vital importance. They are as follows:

Ladies’ Waist Makers’ Union, Local No. 15, of Philadelphia, who were engaged with the firm of Max Clair & Company and B. Kaufman & Company, our Secretary Dyche took a trip to Philadelphia and immediately started to negotiate with the said firms but he could not accomplish anything because of the fact that the strike was so complicated and of such a nature that he had to return without any result and after the Ladies’ Waist Maker were out a number of weeks the strike was lost.

Local No. 30, of Milville, N. J., against the firm of H. Dix & Company, was also on strike and won a reduction of half an hour a day’s work and a 10% raise in wages.

Local No. 39, Cloak Makers of Toledo, O., were also engaged in a strike. Secretary Dyche after leaving Melville, N. J. went to Toledo trying to straighten out the affairs there, but met with very little success there, on account of the unfavorable conditions.

It would probably interest this convention to know that on account of being handicapped in a great many ways, I was unable to devote as much time as I would have liked to on this important subject, but notwithstanding these severe handicaps, I visited Baltimore, Boston, and considerable time was put in New York.

I paid two visits to Baltimore, the result of which was the granting of a charter to the Ladies’ Custom Tailors, also appealing to the different organizations for funds in behalf of the striking Reefer Makers of New York. I found general conditions there not up to the standard, but am pleased to say that upon my appealing to the unions direct, I succeeded in getting them interested once more, and am pleased to report that my appeal was not in vain, as they immediately made arrangements and had a theatre benefit which took place on Monday, May 20th, the proceeds of which, I understand will be devoted to the strikers of New York and Boston.

The strike situation of New York occupied considerable of my time. The result of the New York strike is gratifying in every respect, as we have won a memorable victory of our organization in the Empire state. I intended to pay a visit to Montreal, Can., to see what could be done in the interest of our craft there, but upon the suggestions and advice of Mr. Benjamin Schweitzer of the United Garment Workers of America, who has been there recently, I concluded to delay my visit there, as I was given to understand by Mr. Schweitzer that Bro. Miller former organizer of the Cloak Makers’ Union of Montreal, and who is also acting at present as organizer for the U. G. W. of A., will be in the city of New York, on May 30th, to attend a meeting of the General Executive Board of the U. G. W. of A. This will give me an opportunity of getting in touch with him and finding out the exact situation so that I can be prepared in every respect and accomplish better work in a shorter time than if I were to go there now.

Bro. Dyche received a communication from Pittsburg in reference to organ-
izing a new local of the Cloak Makers' International Union, as also a request to have an organizer sent there, but in view of the fact that it would be necessary for this organizer to spend some time in Pittsburg, and as this would be very inopportune on account of our convention being so near at hand, it was decided to grant them a charter and also inform them that immediately after our convention an organizer would be sent there who would stay some time and endeavor to organize the entire city. This explanation being made to the local in question, was readily accepted. Immediately after our convention, steps will be taken in endeavoring to organize all the members of our craft there.

As I have always endeavored to the best of my ability to do all in my power as President of this International, in every respect, I trust that the delegates will also take into consideration the fact that I am not a paid representative of our organization. Notwithstanding all this, every moment that I could spare from my work has been devoted to the interest of our trade in general. I was also severely handicapped by being unfortunate enough to meet with an accident that incapacitated me for a period of nearly two months. This has been a very serious set back for me.

During the past year, Local No. 10, Cutters of New York, have expressed dissatisfaction at the manner in which our International has conducted its affairs. They communicated with President Gompers of the A. F. of L. and informed him that we were not having any district council meetings in New York in accordance with our constitution. This charge I must admit, was well founded. Our International officers knowing the importance of such meetings, did all they could in their power to have these meetings in accordance with the constitution of our International, but I am sorry to say that through the indifference of those delegates who failed to attend, we could not have any District Council meetings whatsoever. However, the result of the cutters local appealing to President Gompers was that he referred the subject in dispute to Bro. Herman Robinson, who called a conference of all members of the General Executive Board and the cutters representatives. I am happy to say that the result of this conference was very favorable, meetings are now held regularly. I have no hesitation in saying that if we continue our meetings in the same direction good work can be accomplished.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union owes a debt of gratitude to the A. F. of L. which it can never repay. The A. F. of L. has always assisted our organization morally and financially, to such an extent that it has at times evoked criticism from other international unions, but notwithstanding all this, the A. F. of L. continues to assist and is ever ready to lend a helping hand irrespective of the cost and trouble. I therefore trust that our international organization will in the near future use its very best endeavors to cancel this everlasting debt of gratitude to the A. F. of L. and our organization will reap the benefit of the seeds sown by the great representative body of the American Workingmen. It would not be out of place at this particular time to mention the fact that through the efforts of Bro. Samuel Gompers of A. F. of L. that I was appointed special organizer for the Garment Working trade in general, for a period of two months and the most of my time has been occupied with our trade exclusively.
it is no more than right to express a wish that the A. F. of L. will be benefited by this move.

THE UNION LABEL

We have not made very much headway with our union label. Only two concerns being added to our list, viz.—Enterprise Garment Co., Racine, Wis., and the Novelty Skirt Co., of Seattle, Wash., which makes a total of three concerns now using the union label, the other firm being the Henrietta Skirt Co. of Kalamazoo, Mich.

As the union label plays a very important part in the history of the American Trade Union movement, it should be the endeavor of every individual member of our International Union to agitate for the union label, and I therefore suggest that every local affiliated with our International body appoint label committees to visit the different labor organizations of their cities for the purpose of advertising and creating a demand for the union label on our product. If we paid the necessary attention to this important subject some years ago, we would not have had as many strikes and lockouts as we have had. I can only point out to you the success that the U. G. W. of A. have had with their union label, what the United Garment Workers have done, the International Ladies' Garment Workers can also do. If we cannot be original, let us at least endeavor to follow in their footsteps. According to General Secretary Langer's report of the U. G. W. of A., they have issued 44,000,000 labels in the year 1906 and hope to increase this number by over 5,000,000 in the year following.

UNFAIR LIST

We still have Blauner Brothers of New York, and Chicago Corset Company of Chicago, Ill. on the unfair list. Nothing has been done in trying to bring these two concerns to a settlement. This is another proof of the indifference on the part of our members.

I desire to recommend that the incoming President of our International be a paid representative devoting his time exclusively to the interest of our organization. Past experience has demonstrated the necessity of having somebody continually in charge of the office, vested with authority to dispose of our international affairs. In the past, when our Secretary was called away on a trip the office has been left unattended and correspondence that should have received prompt attention has been unanswered for several days. This has caused dissatisfaction amongst the locals and I have been repeatedly urged to bring this to the attention of the delegates. Whilst we may not be in a position at the present time to act upon this suggestion, on account of lack of finances, I am of the opinion that the office itself would prove self-supporting as the increase of revenue accrued from this new department would be more than balance the salary of the President.

In my last years report, I mentioned the fact that local 14 of Cleveland, O. disbanded and the money left in their treasury was divided amongst some of its members. We took the necessary legal action and am pleased to say that a greater part of the money was recovered. The Secretary, in his report will touch upon this subject.

A great many strikes that have taken place during the past year have been entirely uncalled for, many hardships imposed upon our members for no reason
whatsoever, and for this reason I trust that under no consideration will any local
union engage in any controversy or order a strike unless approved of by the
General Executive Board, for I am positive that the larger portion of the strikes
that took place during the past year could have been avoided if the subject matter
in dispute was referred to the General Executive Board, they could have been
adjusted satisfactorily to all parties concerned, and I therefore hope that under
no consideration will our locals act outside of their constitution in this respect.

SWEAT SHOPS.

Whilst it is true that sweat shops in our trade have not flourished within
the past few years, still we cannot deny the fact that on account of our trade
not being well organized as it should be, they are starting to crop up again. The
past has shown us that the only way to eradicate this evil is by organization
and not by factory legislation.

CHILD LABOR.

We still can pride ourselves that we have absolutely no child labor in our
trade. Not because we are so thoroughly organized, but existing conditions are
such as not to make the use of child labor profitable.

INJUNCTIONS.

The several decisions rendered by the different Supreme Court Judges against
unions, enjoining their members from interfering or attempting to speak to parties
remaining at work during a strike or lockout, has made it possible for any
manufacturer or capitalist who has trouble to get an injunction on the most
flimsy pretext. This has caused the A. F. of L. to urge the different trade
unions to go into politics, believing that the only solution, to this question is
that the labor organizations send their own representatives to the different state
legislatures to the United States Congress and to elect their own judges.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The practice of operators in our trade supplying their own machines and
furnishing parts for same has been cause of great deal of agitation on the part
of our members, this agitation is responsible for doing away with this evil in
a great many respects, particularly in the Children Cloak and Reefer Making
trade in New York City. We must continue this agitation for only through
this means can we hope to do away with this unnecessary evil, because it has
been clearly demonstrated that when our members desire to do something of
this nature, it is in their power to do so, as recent events have shown.

All the other garment working trades have established the system of having
their machines run by power. Foot-power, should not be used and our members
should not be content unless their employers supply them with machinery run
by electric or steam power. I must also touch again upon the evils of the piece
work system. The continuance of which brings disruption and causes untold
suffering. The very many different styles and changes in our garments make
it impracticable and unprofitable to our members. I therefore trust that this
convention will discuss this question so that we can introduce the week work
system and do away with the evils that accrue from piece work.

During the past year a condition has presented itself in connection with the
Cutters' Union, Local No. 10 of New York. Local No. 10 has complete jurisdiction
over all the cloak cutters of Greater New York and as there are a number of
cutters working in small houses who do not belong to any organization and are not receiving any way near the scale paid to the cutters of local to, and realizing that this element will prove a dangerous factor in case of trouble, I trust that this convention will take this question up as it is of vital importance to the cloak making industry in general of greater New York. These men have claimed unless we take them under our fold they will start an independent union.

I desire also to state that I have been occupied in the last few days with the Ladies' Wrapper Makers' Union of Brooklyn, Local No. 41, and am in hopes that the matter will be adjusted to their satisfaction in the course of a few days.

In conclusion, I express my heartiest thanks to all those delegates who have rendered valuable assistance to our International in our different undertakings. To those brothers and members who have taken part in the different strikes of Boston and New York on behalf of our International, I desire to express my sincerest thanks. To those who took a leading part in these conflicts, I wish it were in my power to express my appreciation, more fitting than mere thanks.

To the New York Jewish Forwards, our appreciation should be stronger than our words, for I must say the help and encouragement received daily from this great workingmens paper is one that we never can forget. They are also to be commended for the valuable, moral and financial assistance rendered in all our troubles.

I also desire to express my thanks to the other Jewish papers as also to the New York Evening Journal, Bro. Buchanan, the labor editor of this paper rendered all the assistance in his power by giving as much publicity as he could, in exposing the evils under which our people worked.

And last but not least, I must not forget again to ask the convention to express our sincerest thanks to the A. F. of L. and to its representatives here in New York, Bro. Herman Robinson who worked hard and did all he could in bringing about the settlement that will ever remain a victory to the Children Cloak and Reefer Makers' Union of New York. And I therefore trust that the delegates will accept this report in the proper spirit and endeavor to be guided in their deliberation by the recommendations I have made.

Respectfully submitted,

HERMAN GROSSMAN,
President I. L. G. W. U.
SECRETARY'S REPORT.

TO THE OFFICERS AND DELEGATES OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL
CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT
WORKERS' UNION.

FELLOW DELEGATES:—

In submitting to your consideration and approval the financial report for
the year 1906-1907 I want particularly to call your attention to the increase in
35 per cent. in our income, the gain of 12 local unions and the increase of about
60 per cent. in the total membership.

This increase in membership and locals have been effected within this last
few months and does not therefore correspond to the increase in the income which
covers a period of 12 months.

That this phenomenal increase in membership and number of affiliated organiza-
tions is not of a temporary character, but is indicative of solid and substantial
growth must be apparent to all who have witnessed the splendid fight and the
crowning victory of the members of local 17 against a formidable combination
of manufacturers in the Reefer trade and the unparalleled heroism displayed by
our members in Boston in defense of their organization against the association
of their employers who succeeded in inducing the Courts to issue against our
locals sweeping injunctions which made picketing impossible. In spite of these
prohibitions and in spite of the fact that our Boston local have until now received
very little support from outside sources, they are ready to keep up the struggle
until the Fall season, when the Manufacturers' Association of Boston will surely
have to capitulate.

All this should not leave a shadow of a doubt that the tide of unionism
among the workpeople in our trades at last turned in our favor, and that we
have every reason to believe that our International Union is now facing a period
of prosperity which let us hope, will result in some substantial gains to the
workpeople in the Ladies' Garment industry.

This happy outlook should, however, increase the sense of responsibility of
the assembled delegates and should make our deliberations and decisions all
the more cautious.

The President in his report having covered all the most salient features
and important events which our local unions have met during the past year,
it remains for me to call your attention to what seems to me to be some of
the most pressing problems which calls for your immediate attention.

THE N.Y. JOINT EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

There are two governing bodies in the city of New York, claiming jurisdic-
tion over the local unions. The Joint Executive Board, which is a survival of
the old Executive Board of the former United Brotherhood of Cloak Makers,
and consists of delegates from locals 1, 9, 17, 23 and 35, and the District Council, consisting of delegates of all New York locals and which has been brought into existence by Section 6, Article xii, as amended by the New York convention of 1905.

The feeling of late among these two bodies has become rather strained and the tendency of the two bodies is to ignore the work and decisions of the other. The situation is a very delicate and complicated one.

The mere passing of resolutions by the convention, I am afraid, will not solve the question. The locals in New York, are looking with anxiety to this convention for a solution which should eliminate the friction between these two bodies and settle once and for all the legal standing of the Joint Executive Board and the District Council.

THE GENERAL DEFENSE FUND.

The attempt of the New York Convention of 1905 to create a General Defense Fund, has so far resulted, in collecting a little over two hundred dollars by an assessment of 10 cents per member, and which took us eighteen months to raise. Such a sum of money is ridiculously small even for a local union, and seems absurd when we consider the general membership which consists of over five thousand. Some efforts will have to be made during the ensuing year to create a fund which should bear some correspondence to the general membership and which should satisfy the feeling among many of our members who are desirous of seeing our National Body in a position to be able to render to the locals in time of need more than mere moral support.

CONSTITUTION FOR LOCAL UNIONS.

We have a constant call from our smaller local unions for a set of rules dealing with the government of their local affairs since the general constitution deals almost exclusively with the government of the National Body. The difficulty of satisfying such a legitimate desire will be apparent when we take into consideration that our affiliated organizations enjoy full local autonomy, and that the convention has no right to legislate for the internal affairs of the locals. A way will have to be found of how to provide our locals, a good number of whom are too small and inexperienced to make and print a constitution of their own, with a set of rules which they shall be in a position to adopt, reject, or amend to suit their local conveniences.

Our Constitution so far gives the right to send delegates to the convention only to local and sub-local union, and makes no provision for representation of Joint Executive Boards or District Councils. This seems to me to be a serious omission for it is highly important that the interest of the central bodies should also be represented at the convention for it may often happen that the delegates from the local unions may have the working of little knowledge of the locals jointly, and the interest of such bodies may be entirely neglected or overlooked.

Before closing my report I want to be excused by the delegates for not translating and printing our constitution in Yiddish in accordance with the decision of our last convention. Until within these last few months, the balance in our treasury was too small and consisted almost entirely of the General Defense Fund, and I did not consider it justified to use this fund for printing purposes. Later on, when the General Fund began to increase, I thought it more advisable to leave this work after this convention, not knowing what changes and amendments this convention may make.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Dyche,
General Secretary Treasurer.
**Payment by Locals from May first, 1906 to May first, 1907.**

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Balance on hand May 1st, 1906: $161.88
Total receipts for the year 1906-1907: $2927.47

Expenditures for the year 1906-1907: $3089.35
Balance in hands of Gen. Sec.-Treas. May 1st, 1907: $2542.54

General Fund: $327.01
General Defense Fund: 219.80
Total Balance: $546.81
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REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION.

PHILANTHROPY HALL, Baltimore, June 3, 1907.

FIRST DAY.—MORNING SESSION, JUNE 3, 1907.

President Grossman called the convention to order at 10 a.m., and introduced Bro. Edward Hirsh, President of the Baltimore Federation of Labor, who spoke in part as follows:

Gentlemen: I come to give you my words of welcome. I see that you seem a little discouraged at the small number of delegates present to-day, but I am sure that the small number can do the same amount of work, or more and better work than a larger number. I have heard of your victory in New York, and I trust that your work here will be as good as elsewhere. I hope that when you leave you will be happy and satisfied with the work you have done, and trust you will be present at the meeting of the Federation of Labor of this city, which we have every Wednesday night. We have there 108 Unions represented. I want to say once more, Gentlemen, that I hope your stay here will be as pleasant as possible, and your work as good.

The President thanked Bro. Hirsh on behalf of the delegates.

Bro. Samuelson representing the local organization of the "Bund" spoke, in part as follows:—It gives him great pleasure in having the opportunity of greeting in the name of the "Bund" the assembled delegates to this convention. They need not to be discouraged at the small number of delegates. In Russia they are used to see a small number of men come together and decide the fate of thousands. They took a mass of enslaved, degraded, ignorant workmen, organized them and made fighters out of them who are not afraid to stand up against the sabers and bullets of Russian despotism. Hopes that the work of the Union movement of this country will not be confined to the raising of a dollar or two a week wages, of the reduction of the hours of labor, but to the abolition of capitalism and the wage system.

The President thanked the speaker on behalf of the delegates.

The following credential committee was appointed by the Chairman, Sol. Policoff, local 9; John C. Ryan, local 10; Chas. Jacobson, local 13.

Delegate Jacobson for the credential committee, recommends the seating of the following delegates their credentials having been presented.

Local 1, New York—A. Rosenberg and K. Elterman;
Local 4, Baltimore—Meyer Weitzman;
Local 9, New York—Solomon Policoff;
Local 10, New York—Alex. Block, John C. Ryan and M. Julian;
Local 13, Boston—Chas. Jacobson;
Local 17, New York—Abraham Cohen and E. Zwillinger;
Local 23, New York—John A. Dyche;
Local 34, Baltimore—Meyer Karassick and Louis Kachemene;
Local 35, New York—J. Lubinsky. Recommendation concurred in;
Local 4, Baltimore—A. Radkovitch, claims to be the alternate to William Moss, the original delegate, whose credentials was presented. Upon motion agreed that Bro. A. Radkovitch be seated in place of William Moss. Credential
of J. Goldstein, of local 13, in question. The Bro. not being a tradesman and his seating would be against Section 5, of Article III, of the Constitution of the I. L. G. W. U. Upon motion agreed to seat Bro. Goldstein without a vote.

Credentials from the Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union of New York, requesting the seating of Messrs. Wallerstein and Aspis as delegates was referred by the Chair to the organizing committee.

Credential of delegates B. Zolotaroff, of Local No. 24, Philadelphia, read and approved.

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

The following committees were appointed by the Chair:

- Press Committee—M. Julian, Alex. Block and S. Polakoff.

Upon motion the privilege of the floor was given to Bro. H. Schlesinger with the request to report the strike of Local No. 17. Bro. Schlesinger stated that he has nothing to report of the strike which is not already known to the public. They conducted an open campaign and all they did was fully published in the press. He was sorry that the President in his report introduced the names of Pres. Gompers and of Herman Robinson in connection with this strike. He was also sorry that the President in his report left out all reference to the strike of Bergman and Turkel, which in his opinion was as important as the strike of the Reefer Makers.

Upon motion agreed that a vote of thanks be given to Bro. Schlesinger for his able work in connection with the Reefer Makers strike the same to be published in the Forward.

Upon motion agreed that the session of the convention be held from 9 a.m., until noon and from 1 until 5 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 to reconvene at 9 a.m., on Wednesday, June 4.

SECOND DAY.—MORNING SESSION, TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1907.

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m. Roll call. Absentees—A. Radkowitch and S. Poliloff.

Credentials of M. Salpeter, of Local No. 25 New York, read and approved. Minutes of previous session read and adopted.

Secretary began to read the report and proceeding of the previous convention. Upon motion the reading of the minutes of the Seventh Annual Convention
was dispensed with.

The following telegrams were read and filed:

"Delegates Eighth Annual Convention, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Philanthropy Hall, Baltimore, Md. Heartiest congratulations and best wishes. Three cheers for the Working Class."

Children Cloak and Reefer Makers' Union, Local No. 17 of New York.

"Eighth Annual Convention, I. L. G. W. U., 1017 E. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Md. Greetings to the officers and delegates assembled. Best wishes for the success of the convention." Vest Makers' Union, Local No. 117, U. G. W. of A.


"Philanthropy Hall, 1017 Baltimore Street, City. To the Eighth Annual Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Best wishes for the successful opening of your conventions and future welfare of your organization. Maryland State Committee Arbitration Ring."

Minutes of meeting of the General Executive Board were read and filed. The General Secretary repeated his request stated in the last report of the General Executive Board to send the General Office a copy of all printed matter issued by the locals.

REPORTS FROM LOCALLS.

Delegate Rosenberg, Local No. 1, New York: Thinks a report from his local to be superfluous since all the particulars about the big strike has been published in the papers.

K. Elterman for the same local: His local was entirely neglected by the officers who cares only for the Reefer Makers' strike. They have a strike at Bergman and Turkles, which is equally as important as the one of Local No. 17. If this strike should be lost, the local will suffer a defeat, from which it will take them years to recover. This local would like to see the International do something for its organization and that in future all strikes undertaken by his local should be conducted under the direct supervision of the General Office.

Delegate, A. Radkovitch, of Local No. 4: This local is poor in finance and membership. They decided to demand from the International Union to send organizers to Baltimore, at least four times a year.

Delegate, M. Weitzman for same local: The International did nothing for them. A few years ago they had from 300 to 500 members. They are working hard to organize their trade but find it impossible, but is sure that an outsider could do it for the Baltimore clog makers have no confidence in their own men.

There are some reefer makers in the city of Baltimore, who wish to organize a separate union of reefer makers. This would make their local weaker than it is. Asks the convention to issue no charter to such an organization in Baltimore.

Delegate, S. Polcoff, of Local No. 6: His local is in the same position as it was last year. A few years ago they were the strongest local in the International Union, but a number of their members were sympathizers of the I. W. W., who began internal quarrels and fights, and this was the main cause of the present weak position of the Union. The loss of the strike at Belles & Co.,
which was conducted by the I. W. W., demoralized the tailors of New York, and it will take time before they will organize again. Since the strike of Local 17, the active members of local No. 9 had little time to devote to the business of their own local.

Alexander Block, of Local No. 10: His organization is in a much better condition than last year in spite of the fact that they lost their strike at Goldstein and Koerner. They increased the wages of waist cutters without strikes, but through conferences with the employers.

John C. Ryan, for the same local. Thinks something radically wrong must be with the tailors in New York, who obstinately refuse to act in harmony with the cutters. At Bellers strike they could take out 25 cutters but they were never consulted. The tailors keep blaming the cutters but the fact is that local No. 10, pays all fines assessments and donations. They are disgusted with the way the International Union neglected the strike at Goldstein and Koerner. At Goldstein and Koerner the cutters were getting $16 a week, now they are receiving 24 dollars.

He found that at the firm of Julius Stein and other places the cutters were neglected. When the District Council was in existence the tailors neglected to send delegates.

Delegate, Julian for same local hopes that the convention will take up the point raised by his co-delegates. The fact that we have union tailors doing the work of scab cutters and vice-versa shows, that there is something radically wrong in the International. Wants a sweeping change and the International to have a man who should organize the New York tailors.

Local No. 13, Boston Skirt and Cloak Makers' Union. Delegate, Charles Jacobson: The Boston Skirt and Cloak Makers' have been organizing and reorganizing. Two years ago they had a strike and lost it, but the manufacturers were taught a lesson they will never forget.

After the loss of the strike they decided to give up the Charter and be entirely without a Union. They soon began to try and reorganize under the I. W. W., but after a while they became convinced that the mass do not care to join the Industrialists.

As soon as the manufacturers became aware that there is no vestige of an organization left in the city of Boston among the Skirt and Cloak Makers, they began to reduce the prices and generally take advantage of their opportunity. The result was that the people noticed their mistake and reorganized. They applied for a Charter and were at first very cautious with their work, following the advice of the General Secretary in the method of organization. They found that it worked well. The manufacturers then organized and formed an association with the object of breaking up the Union.

They put up the firm of Shapiro to start the game: This manufacturer is known as one of the worst employers in the city and an uncompromising opponent of the Union. The fight kept on for several weeks, but the members assessed themselves. Some of them paid as much as five and six dollars per week. The manufacturers then came to his rescue and began to make his work. They sent committees in the shops to find out where Shapiro gets his work done, but the committee were refused admission to these shops. They called upon
the General Secretary to investigate the matter but he was against the calling of a general strike and warned the Executive Board against such strike. They then invited Bro. Schlesinger who at first was also against the strike, but later on said that it was inevitable.

They then raised the assessment of the members to 20 per cent. on their earnings. The manufacturers then made them slack. They thereupon called a meeting for Monday, March the 25th, in the afternoon of all the people engaged in the Cloak and Skirt trade, and there it has been decided to call a general strike. They sent committees to the manufacturers and asked them to sign an agreement with the Union, all refusing, but one. Thereupon 2,000 men and women left their employment. All admit that a noble fight has never been put up by a labor organization in the city of Boston and if it was not for the Teamsters' strike which overshadowed their struggle they could get all the financial assistance necessary to keep on the strike. The N. Y. Press paid attention to the Reefer Makers only, and they were overlooked.

He attributes the success of their strike to the following causes.

First: Never in their history did they succeed in organizing the cutters.

Secondly: All the officers worked in harmony. They sent men to stop work in New York, but the Gen. Sec. told them that it is impossible to stop work in New York.

The strike cost them $1,200, $1,600 of which they received from outside sources. The rest was contributed by the members who assessed themselves. So far, they settled 39 firms, and 17 are still on strike. They have now 800 members in good standing working for settled firms under Union conditions.

He considers this to be a splendid victory. If they succeed by the first of July to keep out, the rest of the manufacturers will have to settle.

The manufacturers are nearly ruined. The two injunctions cost them over 2,000 dollars.

SECOND DAY.—AFTERNOON SESSION, TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1907.


Report from locals continued.

Upon motion the minutes of the previous session were dispensed with. Del. J. Goldstein for local 13. They should consider the Boston strike as the most important as well as its result.

In Boston they could not avoid a strike. He was at first against the strike but saw that there was no way out of it. They called upon the Gen. Sec., who made up his mind in New York and believe that he is still against the strike. In slack time the bosses have the best of the men and set them against each other. The bosses picked up Shapiro because they know that this employer succeeded twice in breaking the Union. The bosses tried to induce the men to form shop unions and set them against the Skirt and Cloak Makers' Union.

The strike was intended to save even a part of the Union in dull season when the bosses have the upper hand of the men. In this they fully succeeded, for he had in his possession negotiable notes from the employers for $15,000, which could be collected any time. In six weeks strike not a single member went
back seaging. This is the best record any labor organization could show. Asks
the financial assistance of the delegates to enable them to win their fight against
the Manufacturers' Association of Boston.

E. Zwillinger for local 17, New York. He has nothing to report. The most
important event in the history of their organization was their general strike and
this has been so often referred to at this convention, that he has nothing new
to add. Delegate Cohen for same local has nothing to add to the report.

J. Dyche for local 23. Is glad that he is in a position to give a better report
from his local than he could at the former two conventions.

Until about December last, the local kept losing ground. All known means
and methods to keep it alive were adopted, but with no results until the few
remaining members demanded the local to be given up and the Charter re-
turned. He, however was opposed to such a course. He pointed out to the
members that choose whatever they do the skirt-makers will have a Union and
will sooner or later organize and it is important that there should be an organ-
ization in existence to whom those who wished to organize should know, where
and to whom to turn and make use the benefits of their experience. If they give
up their local it means that the energy and the whole of the 7 years of organizing
work among the skirt-makers in the City of New York will be lost. His argu-
ments prevailed and about December quite a number of workpeople from several
shops were enrolled as members. Some of them succeeded in unionizing the shops
where they were working without asking the aid of the Union. They first settled
their differences with their employer and then joined the Union. They have
now over three hundred members in good standing. There are among the new
recruits several very energetic and intelligent men who are willing to work for
the organization. The prospect of local 23 is very bright.

B. Zolotraoff for local 24. His local only just re-organized. They had a
few years ago a strong organization, but has gone to pieces through the inex-
perience of its Walking Delegates. They afterwards re-organized with the help
of the International, who appointed an organizer and paid part of his expenses.
The organizer however could do little for them for he was a stranger in the
city and not acquainted with local situation.

He thinks that just now there is a good opportunity for re-organizing the
Philadelphia locals. For this last few months the International did nothing
for them. New members are coming in and asking why the general office does
nothing for them.

Within this last few months from 70 to 80 shops were on strike and settled
their differences with their employers without joining the Union. If they had
some one who looked after the interests of the organization they could organize
the trade in the city of Philadelphia.

M. Salpeter for local 25, Ladies' Waist Makers' Union, of New York. This
organization made no progress since last convention although they are doing their
best for the local. They decided to make the initiation fee, $2.00, instead of
$3.00, and 50 cents a week dues. They had several strikes and won several shops
but it turned out ineffectual for they had no one to look after them. There are
30,000 of Ladies' Waist Makers in the City of New York and he is sure that they
could be organized if they had the proper person for it. They are all young
men and women and the people who join the union soon leave them, for they have no confidence in their own men.

Louis Karasik for local 34, Ladies' Tailors, Baltimore—His union was organized through the efforts of three men who were active in the movement in Russia. They called a meeting in a private house, and there formed a union. After a few months of independent existence they were persuaded by the President of this International Union to become affiliated. It was not for the opposition of a few men of their craft who want to join the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, they would have been much stronger. They are determined to remain affiliated with this International Body. The Secretary of the Baltimore, local of the J. T. Union, tells them that the Ladies' Tailors of that city will get a Charter from them. He would like to see the A. F. of L. be communicated with and the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America prevented from issuing a Charter to any local of Ladies' Custom Tailors'. This jurisdiction question should be once for all decided.

S. Karasick for the same local. One of the difficulties in organizing his trade is the variety of nationalities working in it. The founder of his local are foreign Jews who cannot reach the other nationalities. Would like to see an organizer from the International take up this work.

J. Lubinsky for local 35, has nothing to report. Details as to the conditions of his local will be reported when the report from the Joint Executive Board will come up.

Delegate Rosenberg, of local No. 1, asks for the privilege of the floor, wishes to report for the Joint Executive Board of New York. Del. Block objects. They have only report from locals. Delegate Block finally withdrew his objection. Delegate Eberman objects to the granting the privilege of the floor to Del. Rosenberg, on the ground, that when he was called upon to report from his local he refused. Upon motion the privilege of the floor finally granted to Delegate Rosenberg to report for the Joint Executive Board, of New York.

Delegate Rosenberg: The New York Joint Executive Board consist of delegates from five locals engaged in the cloak and skirt industry. They have in common an office and business agents so as to obviate the necessity of each local dealing individually with the employer and controlling the shop. He is dissatisfied with the report read by the Gen. Secretary as to the numerical standing of his local instead of 150 members claims his local consists of a membership of 400 to 500 in good standing. Local 1, grew this year in intelligence and activity. The meetings are now better attended than they were at the time when the local counted 2,000 members. Financially they are poor. They pay 65 cents dues per month and pay their members strike, sick and death benefits. He can make the same report for local 9. Last year they had a nominal existence of 12 or 15 members. This year they have from 200 to 300 members due to the activity of the old members. If it was not for local 17, which absorbed all their energy, they would have been in a much better position. They had a strike at Alpers, due to the dismissal of the shop delegate. The strike lasted five weeks; was won right out.

They had another strike at Bergman and Turkel, and local 10, knew nothing of it. The General Secretary went to Toledo, but never visited the New York
locals. All that the New York locals looked upon the General Office as a store, where they have to buy their stamps. The officers of the International never attended the strike of local 17.

They want that all the energy and activity of the International should be concentrated in New York. That in case of an important strike, the International should put on a temporary organizer. The strike of local 17, cost $14,000 of which $9,000 went for strike pay, $3,000 law expenses and from two to three thousand dollars general expenses. They gained everything except one important point. Formerly they had a system of official permits without which no one, even a member in good standing could accept employment in a union shop. Now the employers take unfair advantage of it and fill their places with non-union hands. They also lost the demand for a nine-hours working day for the week hands. The General Secretary reports that local 23 is in a good position, but a strike is threatened at the firm of Katz & Co., and Stegeman Bros. Both shops were neglected by the General Secretary, who should have attended to them.

Local 35 made no progress. Regrets that Bro. Schlesinger left the organization just at a time when his services were most needed. What is needed is that the energy of the General Office of the International Union should be concentrated in places where our trade is big, and leave the small places alone. The cutters, who can do very little by themselves, should join the Joint Executive Board and leave the District Council. By working together with the tailors, they could be of mutual benefit.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES.**

For the Finance Committee, Delegate Block, finds the books and accounts of the General Office correct. The totals for the year and the items are the same as are stated in the printed report of the General Secretary. They found that local No. 1, owes the International Union $80. Local No. 8, $10. Local No. 9, $50. Local No. 10, $18.95. Local No. 11, $57. Local No. 17, $115. Local No. 35, $44.85. Local No. 23, $35.25. Local No. 25, $53.45.

Upon motion agreed to instruct the incoming General Secretary to notify the locals in arrears of their indebtedness, and ask them to remit the same at their earliest opportunity.

Delegate Jacobson for the Committee Report of Officers, recommends that the Report of the General Secretary-Treasurer be accepted as written. Delegate Dyche moves to refer the report back to the Committee and for them to bring in recommendation or amendments to the report; the same as the case was at all preceding convention on report of officers. The motion being put to vote and resulted in a tie seven votes for the recommendation of the Committees and seven against. The President cast his vote in favor of referring the Report of the General Secretary to the Committees on Officers Report for further action.

Delegate Jacobson for the same committee objects to the part of the President's report which gives all the credit of the strike of local 17 to President Gomper and Herman Robinson.

The committee recommends as follows:

1. A vote of thanks should be given to the labor press and particularly to the "Forwards."
2. To the labor organizations and societies, who assisted the strikers financially and morally.

3. The United Hebrew Trades and Secretary, Mr. Max Pine.

4. To Bro. Schlesinger for ably managing the strike.

5. To the Bros. Rosenberg, Polacooff, Cohen, Kirshenbaum and the strikers. Rosenberg moved that the report of the President to be entirely rejected. After a protracted debate by a roll call vote of 9 against 3 the report of the Committee was rejected. Motion finally carried to accept the report of the President, and refer it back to the Committee for the purpose of striking out all parts objectionable to the members.

Delegate Weitzman, on behalf of the Baltimore locals, invites the delegates to a banquet. Invitation is accepted. The following telegram was read and placed on file:

"To the Eighth Annual Convention, International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union, Philanthropy Hall. The Pants Makers’ Union, No. 114, of the United Garment Workers’ of America in Baltimore, send their congratulations to your honorary body and hope this convention will be successful in all its undertakings.

(Signed) E. Gelman, Business Agent."

THIRD DAY.—MORNING SESSION, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1907.

Roll call. Absentees—Meyer Weitzman. Upon motion the reading of the minutes of the previous session dispensed with.

The Committees not being ready with their reports, recess for one half-an-hour was taken.

Upon motion, the Committee of the New York Ladies’ Garments Cutters’ Union organization were granted the privilege of the floor. Agreed that all delegates with the exception of the members of the committee, should speak only once on the subject and for five minutes time.

I. Aspis: His organization sent him to Baltimore for the express purpose of asking from this convention a Charter, to enable them to be affiliated directly with this International Union. When he joined, he made it his business to find out what has been done, and found, that nothing has been accomplished by this organization. The membership was small and there was no life in them. Local 10, said, they could do nothing for them. They found that they must do everything themselves even without the assistance of Bro. Dyche. Lately they found things were getting lively and were getting in members very fast.

Their membership consists of quite a different element, working under different conditions, and although it is desirable that they should receive the same scale of wages as the members of local 10, still they realize the impossibility of it. In the reefer shops they raised the wages of cutters from 10 and 12 to 15 and 18 dollars a week. They want separate jurisdiction and independence from local 10. Even the best men of local 10, can do nothing for them. He wants to remind the delegates that here is not a question of the desirability or otherwise of the existence of such an organization. The fact is that they exist and their existence cannot be ignored.

Bro. J. Walerstein, for the same organization, simply wishes to impress upon the delegates present that the members of his organization are a different class of people, working under different conditions for a quite different class
of employers, and need a separate organization to deal with the special evils from which the members of his organization suffer.

Delegate Ryan denies that the previous convention decided to organize a union of cutter on the East Side. He would not like to see this organization turn out the same as the former local 17, who made a speciality of turning out cutters by the score. His local was willing to do for this new organization everything possible, and give them all the moral and financial assistance. They must eradicate the apprentice system which ruins their trade.

Delegate Block would have no objection against issuing a Charter to an organization of Hebrew speaking cutters, or to such, who work in a different part of the city, but they must have the same scale otherwise the employers will always give employment to the local whose members are working for a lower scale, and the members of local 10 will have to walk the streets.

Delegate Dyche is strongly against the issuing of a Charter as an independent organization. He reminds the delegates of the former local 17, which was a source of fights and quarrels between the locals of the international and at the Boston convention, they were finally compelled to withdraw that Charter. He warned the delegates not to repeat the same mistake. He was however, strongly in favor of granting them a charter as a subordinate organization to local 10. At present they are legally not an organization, are not members of our International Union and have no standing with us.

Delegate Policoff moves that local 10 be instructed to grant a charter as a subordinate local. The same to hold good until the next convention.

THIRD DAY.—AFTERNOON, SESSION, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1907.

Roll call—All delegates present.

The reading of the minutes of the previous session were dispensed with.

Upon motion agreed to instruct local No. 10 to issue a charter to the Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union as a subordinate local union.

Delegate Block, for the Committee on the Report of Officers, recommends the acceptance of the Report of the General Secretary-Treasurer. Recommendation of the committee concurred in.

REPORT OF RESOLUTION COMMITTEE.

Delegate A. Block.
Resolution No. 1.

Whereas, delegate, Jacob Goldstein, of Boston, has always been the leading spirit of the Skirt and Cloak Makers' Union of that city and
Whereas, the success of the above is chiefly due to his tireless energy, be it therefore

Resolved, that Brother Jacob Goldstein be elected as honorary member of this body.

CHARLES JACOBSON,
Local 13.

Committee report favorably Report of Committee concurred in.
Resolution No. 2.

Whereas, the present law limiting the time to six weeks of a member of the International Union changing his occupation to another trade under the jurisdic-
tion of another local is a source of trouble and disruption of the locals, be it therefore
Resolved, that this time be extended to six months.

S. PALAKAFF,
Local 9.

Committee reports the rejection of the resolution on the ground that this is purely a local matter and could be arranged by the locals involved. Recommendation concurred in.
Resolution No. 3.
Whereas, there are in the City of New York about twenty thousand men and women engaged in the manufacture of Ladies’ Waists, who are working under the most intolerable conditions, and
Whereas, the membership of the Ladies’ Waist Makers’ Union, of New York does not exceed 150, although several attempts have been made by the said Union to organize the entire trade, and,
Whereas, experience proved, that the only reason that all the attempts were unsuccessful was due to the lack of funds, the impossibility of maintaining a permanent organizer. Be it therefore
Resolved, that the Eighth Annual Convention held in the City of Baltimore, Md., appropriates the sum of one hundred dollars ($100.00) for the purpose of organizing the Ladies’ Waist trade in the City of New York.

MAX SALPETER.
Local 25.

Committee recommends the adoption of the resolution with the amendment, which should read the G. E. Board at its next meeting, make plans for the organization of the Ladies’ Waist trade in the City of New York.
Recommendation of committee concurred in.
Resolution No. 4.
Whereas, the weakness of the locals of Baltimore is chiefly due to the lack of organizing ability, be it therefore
Resolved, that the I. L. G. W. Union should from time to time send an organizer to Baltimore, and thus help organizing the Cloak Making trade of this city.

M. WEITZMAN,
A. RUDKOVITCH.
Local 4.

Committee report favorable.
Recommendation of Committee concurred in.
Resolution No. 5.
Whereas, the Skirt and Cloak Makers’ Union, local No. 13, of Boston, has been involved in a general strike since March 25th, 1907, for the recognition of the union and the closed shop, and
Whereas, all the men and women involved in said strike, numbering 2,000, have fought their battle nobly and bravely, and
Whereas, the above strike is still on, and the strikers are suffering severely on account of their lack of funds, therefore be it
Resolved, that I. L. G. W. U. at its Eighth Annual Convention assembled, should donate to the strikers of local No. 13, the sum of two hundred dollars ($200.00), and be it further
Resolved, that this convention sends a letter of gratitude to the members of locals 12, 13 and 26, for their loyal and brave conduct.

S. POLAKAFF, Local 9
M. JULIAN, Local 10

Committee approves. Recommendation of Committee concurred in.

Amendment to constitution.

Resolution No. 6.

Section 5. No strike shall be considered legal or be permitted to take place which involves a conflict with a firm recognizing the Union without the sanction of the G. E. B. being obtained. A local of the I. L. G. W. U. shall have the right to order a strike involving only the members of such local, but must first apply to and receive the consent of the district council, in accordance with Art. XII, Sec. 3 of the Constitution.—M. Julian, local 10.

Agreed resolution be tabled until resolution No. 8 will be disposed off.

Resolution No. 7.

Article XII, Section 3. Change the name District Executive Board to read District Council.

M. JULIAN, Local 10

Committee approves.

Delegate Dyche, amend the word "may" on third line of the same Section to read "must." The mover accepts the amendment.

Recommendation of committees concurred in.

Resolution No. 8.

Whereas, many strikers of the tailors, pressers, finishers, are called without the sanction of the local 10, and

Whereas, the claims of the local 10, to consult them in matters of calling strikes where their members are concerned, is just, and

Whereas, the tailor locals are combined in a "Joint Executive Board" where matters of strikes are taken into consideration, be it therefore

Resolved, that this Eighth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. recommends local 10 to join the Executive Board and thereby avoid all ill feelings between the Tailor Unions and the Cutters.

SOLOMON POLAKAFF, Local 9
ABRAHAM ROSENBERG, Local 1.

Committee recommends the rejection on the ground that it is purely a local question. A long discussion follows, in which the delegates Rosenberg, Bolickoff, Block, Ryan, Dyche and Zwilling took part.

Recommendation of Committee rejected by 8 to 5 votes.

Resolution, No. 8, finally accepted.

The following telegrams were read and ordered filed:

Herman Grossman, International Convention, Ladies' Garment Workers', Philanthropy Hall, 1017 Baltimore, Md. In the name of our great trade union movement, the movement for the uplifting of America's toilers, I send fraternal greetings to you and your assembled delegates. May your organization grow in numbers and power and become a great potent force for the good of your industry and its men. Regret that the absence of President Gompers from headquarters prevents me from accepting your invitation to address the convention this afternoon.

FRANK MORRISON.
Secretary, of the American Federation of Labor.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Convention, Baltimore, Md. The General Executive Board of the United Garment Workers of America in session, send their most hearty congratulations and best wishes for your future success.

B. A. LARGER.

Convention, Ladies' Garment Workers, Philanthropy Hall, East Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Md. Accept our greetings. Harmony and success in your deliberations for the common cause.—United Hebrew Trades,

MAX PINE, Sect'y.

Resolution, No. 9.

Whereas, The United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers' Union has demonstrated that an International Union must not necessarily have a President, that the business of an International Union can very well be transacted by the Secretary and the G. E. B., and.

Whereas, the office of the International President, in the I. L. G. W. U. brought about according to the President's report nothing else but internal strife, dissatisfaction in the general office and demoralization among the members in general. Be it therefore

Resolved, that the Eighth Annual Convention, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union abolishes the office of International President and that the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

Article IV. Section 1. The General Office of the I. L. G. W. U. shall consist of a General Secretary-Treasurer and eight other members, selected by the convention, all to form the G. E. B.

A. ROSENBERG,
Local 1.

MAX SALPETER.
Local 25.

Committee recommended its rejection. Report of committees concurred in. Delegate Goldstein announces that he just received information from Boston to the effect that all legal suits against the strikers have been dismissed by the court.

Resolution, No. 10.

Resolved, that Article III, Section 1, of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union constitution be amended, to read as follows:

Article III, Section 1. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union shall meet bi-annually in general convention, on the first Monday in June, at 9 a. m., at such place, as may have been chosen by the last convention.

A. ROSENBERG, local 1.; M. SALPETER, local 25.; S. PALAKAFF, local 9.
Committee recommends rejection. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

Resolution, No. 11.

Whereas, the last convention of the I. L. G. W. U. held in the City of New York, decided to raise a two thousand dollar fund for organizing work.

Whereas, no attempt has been made to raise the amount, be it therefore

Resolved, that this Eighth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U., held in the City of Baltimore, assess each member of the local unions fifty cents a year, and that said fifty cents be made in two payments.

MAX SALPETER,  
Local 25.

S. POLEKOFF,  
Local 9.

Committee recommends its adoption. Delegate Dyche objects to the wording of the resolution. No convention ever adopted a resolution to raise two thousand dollars organizing fund, and he, would object to taxing the local for organizing purposes. He would however, support the resolution if instead of an organizing fund, it should read General Defense Fund. The movers of the resolution agreed to accept the amendment. Recommendation of committee concurred in.

S. POLEKOFF,

Upon motion agreed that a special stamp for this assessment be issued by the General Office and supplied to the locals.

Resolution, No. 12.

Be it hereby resolved, that the first paragraph of Article X, Section 5, of the constitution, be stricken from the constitution as superfluous and unnecessary. The import and intent being fully covered and prescribed in Article X, Section 6, of the constitution.

Respectfully submitted,

M. JULIAN,  
Local 10.

Committee reports favorably. Reports of committee concurred in.

Resolution, No. 13.

Whereas, Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, are now on trial on a charge of murder of Mr. Steunneberg, ex-Governor of Idaho, and

Whereas, President Roosevelt in an open letter has marked the above defendants as "Undesirable Citizens," be it therefore

Resolved, that we, the delegates assembled at this Eighth Annual Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. regard the statement made by President Roosevelt as unjustifiable and demand a fair and impartial trial to be given our innocent comrades.

MAX SALPETER,  
Local 25.

CHAS. JACOBSON,  
J. GOLDSTEIN,  
Local 13.

Committees report favorably. Recommendation concurred in.

Upon further motion agreed that a copy of this resolution be sent to President Roosevelt and Messrs. Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone.

Resolution, No. 14.

Whereas, all the members of the local union, under the jurisdiction of this
International Union, find themselves under a system of economic oppression, and
Whereas, the system is closely allied with the political power of the workers,
be it therefore

Resolved, that we, the delegates assembled at the Eighth Annual Convention
of the I. L. G. W. U., recommend this question to be thoroughly discussed and
a decided course of action taken in this matter.

L. KARCHEMNE.

Committee recommends its rejection; the resolution being unconstitutional.
Recommendation concurred in.

Resolution, No. 15.

Whereas, the growth of local 34, is impeded by the opposition of several
members of their craft, who desire to form an opposition Union which shall
be affiliated with Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, be it therefore

Resolved, that the incoming General Secretary-Treasurer communicate with
the American Federation of Labor with object of preventing the Journeymen
Tailors' Union of America from issuing charters to any organization of Ladies'
Tailors in Baltimore. Committee reports favorably. Report committee concurred in.

Resolution, No. 6 read and recommendation of committee concurred in.

FOURTH DAY.—MORNING SESSION, THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1907.

Roll call. Absentees—Rosenberg, Polekoff, C. Jacobson, J. Goldstein, J. A.
Dyche, M. Salpeter and L. Karasic. Reading of the minutes of the previous
session dispensed with. Report of Label and Miscellaneous Committee, Delegate
Julian.

Resolution, No. 16.

Be it hereby resolved, that the Label Committee of the I. L. G. W. U., recom-
mands that the Eighth Annual Convention of the International Ladies’
Garment Workers' Union go on record as deploring the state of affairs that exist in
Racine and Chicago and throughout the rest of the Union, in reference to patron-
izing union label goods by union men and women, wherein they by their
indifference to their own welfare support, scab made goods and sweat shop
production by failing to insist and securing union label goods. Be it therefore
further resolved, that the I. L. G. W. U., send a vote of thanks expressing
their sincere thanks to Bro. Charles Geller, of the late local No. 20, in his
efforts upon behalf of the union label and unionism, and to offer him our aid
and encouragement to his future efforts and achievements and extending him
our heartfelt interest in his whole efforts, and be it further resolved, that the
I. L. G. W. U., send a copy of these resolutions to the A. F. of L. to the
various central bodies and state organizations and the various Hebrew Trade
Unions throughout the U. S., also including the affiliated locals of the I. L. G. W.
U. asking all to unite in a further and stronger effort on behalf of the "union
label."

M. JULIAN, Chairman,

Local 10.

Committee reports favorably. Report concurred in.

Delegate Block for the Committee for the Report of Officers Report moves,
that this committee recommends to refer the report of the President to General
Executive Board.

President refuses to entertain the motion. Delegate Block appeals from the
decision of the chair on the ground, that a duly appointed committee on Report of OfficersReported to the convention that an Officers Report be referred to the incoming General Executive Board and a report of such a committee must be entertained. The appeal from the chair sustained by convention.

The President thereupon resigned from office, claiming that an unconstitutional act has been committed by the convention in sustaining the appeal from the chair. The business of the committee was to act upon his report to either accept it, amend it or reject it and not to refer it to the incoming General Executive Board. And in refusing to entertain the motion of the committee, he acted within his constitutional rights, which the convention by its vote violated.

Upon motion the resignations of the President accepted.
Delegate J. Goldstein are elected temporary Chairman.
Upon further motion the report of the President was referred back to the committee.

**REPORT OF PRESS COMMITTEE.**

Mr. Julian, the committee have done their duty and informed the press of the proceedings. Report of committee accepted.

Appeals and Grievances Committee has nothing to report.

Law Committee report progress. Report accepted.
The following letter read and placed on file.

Mr. President, officers and delegates to Cloak Makers Convention, greeting.

It affords me great pleasure to inform you that at the regular meeting of the Baltimore Federation of Labor, held 5th inst., the sum of fifty dollars was donated to the striking Cloak Makers' of Boston. Will you kindly notify me to who I shall make out a check for the money.

Fraternally,

CHAS. H. METTLE, Fin. Sec.-Treas., Baltimore, Md.

Secretary ordered to write to the Treasurer of the B. F. of L., and ask him to send the donation to Bro. Jacobson, Secretary of Boston District Council, of the International League Garment Workers' Union.

Under the heading of Unfinished Business, Delegate Rosenberg asked the committee which was appointed by the last convention to see the firm of Rosenberg and Lockwood, who locked out their work people for stopping work on the first of May, a anything was done in the matter.

Delegate Dyche states that himself and delegate Ryan have interviewed the firm who denies the statement that they locked out the men for refusing to work on the first of May, but because they demanded their pay a day earlier than it was due to them; the men claiming that they must be paid at once and gave as a reason that the firm is going to be bankrupt. They were then compelled to take them out of the office by force.

Under the heading of New Business, delegate Dyche, claims the privilege of the floor to defend himself against the accusation made against him by the delegates Jacobson and Rosenberg. After some discussion agreed that all references in the minutes which reflects upon the character of the General Secretary-Treasurer be expunged.

Nomination of officers were proceeded with. For the office of President: Julian, Grossman, Ryan. All declined except M. Julian. For the office of Vice-


The following telegram read and filed:

Delegates of I. L. G. W. U., Philanthrophy Hall, Baltimore, Md.—Gentlemen and brothers accept our heartiest thanks for donation in behalf of our strikers. Wish best success. Local 13, Boston.

FOURTH DAY.—AFTERNOON SESSION, THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1907.

Delegate Goldstein, in chair.

Roll call. All present. Minutes of previous session dispensed with. Election of officers proceeded, with the delegates Ryan and Zolotarooff acting as tellers. There being only one candidate for the office of President. The General Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the convention for delegate Julian. The General Secretary complied with instruction and the chairman declared—delegate M. Julian as President for the ensuing year.

Election of Vice-President was then proceeded with. The tellers declare the result as follows: Jacobson 12, Salpeter 5 ballots. The chairman declared delegate Jacobson as Vice-President for the ensuing year. Brother Jacobson returned thanks to the convention. The election of General Secretary-Treasurer was then proceeded with. The tellers declared the result of the ballots as follows:

For John A. Dyche 12 and Alexander Block 5 votes. The chairman declared delegate J. A. Dyche re-elected General Secretary-Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Upon motion agreed to have only one out-of-town member on the General Executive Board. There being three nominations from the city of Baltimore thereupon delegate Radkovitz resigned and after a vote had been taken, the teller declared 10 votes for delegate Weitzman and 7 for Karchemne. The chairman declared delegate Weitzman as member of the Board for Baltimore. For the rest of the members on the General Executive Board there being only the delegates: K. Elterman, S. Polecoff, B. Zolotarooff, M. Salpeter, Ab. Cohen. The chairman ordered the Gen. Sec.-Treas. to cast one ballot for the delegates: Elterman, Polecoff, Zolotarooff, Salpeter and Cohen as members on the General Executive Board for the ensuing year.

Upon motion agreed that the rest of the vacancies out the Board to be filled at the next meeting of G. E. Board.

For delegates to the American Federation of Labor Convention, tellers declared the result of ballots as follows: Block 8, Julian 1, Dyche 1, Rosenberg 7. There being no absolute majority ballots of the voters between delegates Block and Rosenberg was called for. Delegate Block declined to run again for the office of delegate to the A. F. of L. convention. Nomination for the office of delegate to the A. F. of L. convention was then proceeded with. The following delegates were nominated: Julian, Grossman, Rosenberg, Ryan, Polecoff.
Ryan and Polkoff declined. The tellers declared the result of the balloting as follows: Julian 2, Grossman 8, Rosenberg 7. There being no absolute majority the balloting between the Bros. Grossman and Rosenberg was proceeded with. The tellers declared the result of the ballot as follows: Rosenberg 9, Grossman 8. The chairman declared Bro. Rosenberg elected.

Upon motion agreed to take up the report of the committees on Report of Officers. Delegate Block for the committee reports that they struck out all references which are objectionable to some members. The rest of the report, they recommend to accept with the exception to that part of the report, which relates to paid organizers. Report concurred in.

Upon motion a vote of thanks was returned to the retiring officers.

President Grossman installed and administered the oath to the newly elected officers. The place of holding the next convention was decided by 8 votes in favor of Boston against 3 votes for Philadelphia and 3 for New York.

Upon motion a vote of thanks was returned to the retiring President, Bro. H. Grossman.

President M. Julian in chair. Under the heading of Good and Welfare.

Delegate Polkoff wished the President and General Secretary-Treasurer to look after the interest of the New York locals, especially local 17, who never carry out the rule of the International Union and the Joint Executive Board. President promises to do all he can to assist the New York locals.

Delegate Goldstein thanked the delegates for a donation of $200 to the Boston strikers. He considers it very generous for an organization which possesses such small funds. He impresses upon the delegates the absolute necessity to inspire their members with love, confidence and fidelity to the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union.

Delegate Salpeter would like to see a monthly Journal issued by the General Office.

Delegate Rosenberg: They have accomplished at this convention more than at any previous convention. It is the first time in the history of the International Union they had the delegates from local 10, who had always been complaining of the illoyalty of the action of the tailors’ locals, on the defense. He considers this as very important for the New York locals.

He hopes all personalities will be set aside and they will return to their respective cities and work in harmony. He hopes the new President will visit the locals and put them on a strong basis.

Also, hopes that the incoming General Executive Board will confer with the Joint Executive Board and have a monthly Journal issued.

Charles Jacobson believes that all misunderstanding and dissatisfaction must be thrashed out at the convention, but must be put aside as soon as the convention is over.

Zwillinger objects to his local always being referred to by some delegates in a deprecatory manner. He would like to see the General Executive Board visit local 17 and they will become convinced that everything there is in good order. He finds the Joint Executive Board is always against them. If there were no personalities the organization would be in a much better position than they are now.
Upon motion the privilege of the floor was granted to the delegates from the down-town Ladies' Garment Cutters' organization. Bro. Wallenstein complained that injustice had been done to them by the convention in letting them sit throughout all sessions and not permit them once to take part in their debate. Under the circumstances they will be compelled to accept the decision of the convention and accept a charter as a subordinate local to local 10.

Bro. Aspis would like the convention to define the relation of his organization to local 10 and to the International Union.

There are several things upon which he is entirely in the dark. How about a member of his organization wishing to be transferred to local 10, and if they find that local 10 does not deal with them rightly, to whom should they apply. Delegate Dyche assured the Messrs. Aspis and Wallerstein, that in case they will get no satisfaction from local 10, they can apply to the General Executive Board, but is convinced that there will be no need for it. Owing to his illness, he was unable for the last few months to do for the locals as much as he would like, but his health having improved, he will be in a position to attend to the locals much more often and to do all in his power to assist them. The convention adjourned to reconvene in Boston on the first Monday of June, 1908.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. DYCHE,
Gen. Sec.-Treasurer.