Justice (Vol. 3, Iss. 14)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)
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Comments
*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of Justice were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.
Dispute In White Goods Industry Settled

After a series of conferences between the Whitesgoods Workers' Union, Local No. 62, and the Cotton Garment Manufacturers' Association, an agreement was finally reached last week.

When the Union had raised the Six Dollar Tax for Waist and Dress Strippers, in this agreement, the Association put forth a counter-demand to reduce the wages of the workers. The Association, however, had not broken up and were continued from time to time, until a settlement was finally reached. The employers have withdrawn their demand for a reduction in wages and have consented to the following several improvements demanded by the workers:

1. A minimum scale for week workers and apprentices.
2. The base rate for price settlements for piece workers has been increased.

CLEVELAND HEARING BEGUN ON WEDNESDAY

As we go to press, we received a telegram from Vice-President Meyer Perlfield, announcing:

"The hearing before the Board of Referees has begun on Wednesday, March 29th. A number of disputes in the cloth industry, and the demand of manufacturers for a reduction in wages, in particular, are on the order of the day for the Board."

While the employers still maintain their intention to accept the opportunity offered in the decision, to fix minimum wages, and to continue their fight to break up the workers' organization, it can be said that the employers have withdrawn the allegations against the union as proper ground for proceedings against the workers.

The Union is represented at this hearing by Vice-President Meyer Perlfield, and by Director of the Research Department of the International, Dr. Harry L. Steinberg. The hearing is held in Cleveland now for over two weeks, investigating living conditions and wages. An executive committee was appointed to present the report to counteract any demand of the employers for a reduction in wages.
TOPICS OF THE WEEK
By MAX D. DANISH
THE STRIKE OF THE TEACHERS IN CHINA
The strike of the teachers involving thousands of government schools and universities, and affecting 5,000,000 students and teachers just a few days ago at Peking owing to the government's failure to meet the teachers' demand for a raise in salary, is now assuming nation-wide importance due to the teachers' demands for a fixed annual revenue for educational purposes.
This strike of students and teachers in China, like previous strikes of the working class, is receiving very important background. It is the fight between the militarist and liberal and progressive elements of the country, between the supporters of modern education on the one hand, and the upholders of forced education and militarism of the old China. The teachers realize that the present crisis involves a very educational system, bringing up the fact between education and militarism. The government of the day of course attempted to resign last week owing to his inability to face the situation due to the strike of the teachers. He remains in office, however, unable to get in touch with the working teachers, and will stand or fall with them. Like in Russia, the students in China are at present taking a very important part in the liberation movement of that country, during the present period when a new educational system is being worked out for a modern educational system which is the result of half a century of hard-fought struggles and the fight for all that is in accord with the principles of freedom and liberty, an idea through the country. The present teachers and students strike is, therefore, of more than national importance. It is a strike for mere pay back, but involves the fundamental principles of modern progress in the Celestial Republic.

THE SETTLEMENT IN THE STOCKYARDS
A temporary settlement of the differences between the big stockyard employers and the workers was reached last week, after several conferences between both sides with the collaboration of three cabinet members—Secretaries Davis, Hoover and Wallace. The terms of the settlement, which is a compromise between the two sides, amount to the following: There is a wage-cut of 8 per cent, for everyone, and 12 1/2 per cent, for all piece workers. Second, the basic 8-hour day and overtime rate of pay are maintained. The existing system of arbitration and collective bargaining remain in force. Third, the present stockyard committee, the present chief arbitrator and all parties are to remain as arbitrators, and as arbitrators for as long as the strike shall continue.
It can be seen that with the conferences of the different parties and the adoption of the form of a reduction in wages, the workers have won practically everything. The reduction of the 8-hour work in the stockyards is of particular significance. The improvement in the preservation of the stock of collective bargaining has been of such great benefit to the workers in the meat packing industry. The workers are now able to defend their standards and organization by a strike, as the overwhelming majority of the workers had voted in favor of one. The desire to avoid a struggle is the greatest concern, but the workers, however, promptly their representatives to agree to a strike of reduction in wages. It speaks very well, indeed, for the men in the meat packing industry to press their employers and the country in general with their splendid demands. It is a fact that only a few years ago these workers were practically unorganized and exploited and oppressed in the country.

COURT STRIKES AGAIN AT ANTIMONOPOLY
Of top of the Van Siclen street declaring picketing beyond the pale of the law, there came last week another avalanche of declaration adverse to the right of picketing, and granting injunctions against it in two cases out of three.
Among these injunctions there were severe actions against our International Union and its officers by Justice Newburger. In handing down his decision, he quoted the judge that it was clear that the strike was "not for the pur pose of fairly obtaining the demands of the workers, but for fear of the action of the complaining firms might embolden its employees to engage in collec tive bargaining." He, therefore, set upon a line of demarkation, limited the right of the union, or organizing, but not to act in any way which might cause a breach of contract. His decision was based upon the statement of the learned judge that a strike to "prevent the continuance of the system of collective bargaining between the employers and the employees," is an unlawful strike.
The logic of this argument is sound and futile that it passes the power of conception of the ordinary human mind. The workers have the rights to strike, to organize, to work, for existence and for what sense for democracy and unionism, they are permitted to jointly abstain from working under inferior standards of living, to obtain a living wage, and to gain collectively for these standards? The fallacy of this argument will be best seen by a higher tribunal, to which the International has appealed. The organized labor movement will watch the appeal from this decision with a great deal of interest, as it involves the fundamental question of the very basis of its existence.

GOMPERS AND HEARST
RECENTLY, the Hearst publica tions have leveled a number of attacks upon President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, accusing him of pro-British sympathies and views and a detrimental attitude toward the labor movement. Whatever substance there may be in these attacks, the workers through the publications, they savour of the customary insincerity and hypocrisy which have always typified Hearst's attitude.
A general impression among working men and women seems to prevail that the papers of the Hearst group are friendly to the working class, and that Hearst is friendly to President Gompers, in a recent statement, in, therefore, refreshing and strengthening their faith, through his newspapers, has undertaken to control the labor movement, with a view of chain ing it as an adjunct to his political ambitions. Fortunately, the labor movement has nothing to fear from the national papers of Hearst, in part of the Hearst political machine. Gompers reminds us in his attack on President Gompers that in the Boston newspapers' strike for better treatment of labor, President Gompers was the first appealed to the A. F. of L. for support and finally beat the boys of Hearst.
It is a healthy thing to have the records of the past to show what "labor" exposed from time to time the reading public, and particularly if the charge was practically substantiated, the public is thereby justified in saying the demand of the railroad for a strike is 

GOV. KILBY AS ARBITRATOR
The mine workers of Alabama have been in a bitter fight against their employers over for a year. The strike, which has embraced all colliery in that south central state, has resulted in a settlement of work for months and the United Mine Workers have spent large sums in the strike.

About two months ago a tentative agreement was made between the employers, to present the grievances of the workers to an arbitration board; and the miners to have agreed upon Governor Kilby of Alabama as the sole arbitrator.
Whatever reputation for fairness and impartiality the Alabama Government may have, before undertaking to arbitrate this bitter struggle, he has stripped the miners of their sole representation by his decision. In brief, the Governor decided that the strikes of the colliery workers are not bound to recognize the union, nor to re-employ who strike, and in addition to all this, he finds the coal operators' methods fair and equitable. Practically every form of unfair labor practices the miners have fought against and which has been rejected in all the courts in the United States for the country is to be retained in Alaba

B. The day wages are to be reduced to remain un changed, and the freedom of contract between the operator and the miner, an old time means of dodging the union, is held to be inviolate.

The report also approves of the maintenance of the detestable company stores. It ends with the recomendation that since this strike was "wrongful and without the slightest justification," the organization of the United Mine Workers' is responsible for the present strikers being without further, the organization should support the strikers until they find work.

When the present Governor Kilby will be nominated and re-elected as Governor, there will be no reflection by the ruling political parties upon the strength of the United Mine Workers, but not mere the miners in Alabama could have ever picked a less fitted person for a position of this importance. The only way the miners can only be safe in stating that this sort of arbitration will not arbitrate anything for the miners of Alaba

B. After the period covered by this decision has expired, there will be no arbitration by Governor Kilby. Neither the United Mine Workers nor the miners in the Alaba

SPIES ON THE RAILROADS
I was a pretty admission on the part of General Attenbur, the chairman of the Railway Executives, under the close fire of Frank P. Walsh, attorney for the Brotherhood, that the Pennsylvania system might have been prejudiced by the war, and that it had arsenal and guns and revolvers at various places in the system. When Mr. Attenbur was asked to comment on the report of the railroad workmen for the future, that they could not negotiate with their own employers, but that they would negotiate agreements with their own employers, charged in connection with the railroads gen eral treatment of its employees, that the Pennsylvania company men had maintained a spy system and that almost one million dollars was invested in the spy system in 1914 to maintain the system. As this charge was practically substantiated, the judge ruled that the justification of the demand of the railroads for a strike was not valid if. It costs millions to maintain a spy system, and if the railroads would lower rates increased, the maintenance of such a benedictory system like a spy system must naturally come from the wages of the workers.

The recent deserts about the keeping up of huge spy establishments continues to grow, according to the story of the land which have produced such a deep impression throughout the country in the United States and have received national confirmation through this admission. It offers an opportunity for the interested public to offer to legitimize the labor spy system out of existence through the action of the government, in the relations between workers and employers, and the government to the upkeep of this system upon industry in general.

LAND TO IMMIGRANTS
Plans to divert immigrants from the cities to the farms and place them on the new small farms, were announced by the Secretary of Immigration in Washington.
The plan is approved by Secretary of Labor Davis and is intended to accomplish the purpose and at the same time to correct the economic situation arising from the recent immigration. The statement goes on to say that there is land enough in the country for small farms in the West and the South, in addition to large farms. The farmers are not only needed for farming by the drift of our populations to the cities. The plan implies that the problem of immigration in this country is largely a problem of distribution of the land. As far, so good, there will be very few found to quarrel with the intentions of this plan. If, however, the argument is that by the deduction that they could force or induce industrial workers arriving at the ports, the arguments, for some time and forsaken tract in the North west or from the South and to shift for agriculture fields, they will find that is the same plan which others had before failed. To succeed, would have to be a genuine, large scale movement, which has already supported wholeheartedly by the resources of the nation and minority, the determination that the change from European rural life to conditions in big factory city is the result of the social and the psychology of a great many immigrants. But a large enough force free labor and human conditions here will not become swamp farms and failed. But the virtue of an administrative order.
THREE DEADLY DROPS

By OBSERVER

"It takes an expert worker from 2. 3 to 4 days to finish each piece, and in an hour's work, he can only pay for the materials, which, very often, the agent sells to some visiting British earnings."

Bonfires which still in the stores of our large cities for $20 to $35, are manufactured by these women at a labor which is even more poorly paid than that of 400,000 human souls has made the struggle for existence in Porto Rico more difficult to perform than before. Needless to say, that the women have been called into action in the fight for existence, and these are the blonde and underworld factories of the American manufacturer."

There are three sorts of work-machines, the labor unions of Porto Rico were not interested in visiting them, but was informed that it was against the rules. "So far as my knowledge goes and I started by ticketing the women who labored in those same story of the dirt and filth of the room for months, there is in the existence of the labor unions in Porto Rico is a sense of the ghastly, hard to overcome.

One's first impression of a well-dressed girl is set aside, because she is not all-eyes, thanks to the American employers for having opened factories there. The women have fired without a struggle, in the view of the fact that their earnings are so low and working conditions so wretched, was found in the following:

When the United States took possession of Porto Rico in 1898, there were 990,000 inhabitants on the island. The last census shows a population increase of 400,000 human souls has made the struggle for existence in Porto Rico more difficult to perform than before. Needless to say, that the women have been called into action in the fight for existence, and these are the blonde and underworld factories of the American manufacturer."

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JUSTICE
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EDITORIALS

LEINEN'S ILL-ADVISED APPEAL

It was an unwise step on the part of Lenine's advisers to have suggested to him to appeal to the bourgeois government of America to resume trade relations with Russia. This step was apparently precipitated upon an assumption that Harding and his cabinet are not such rock-ribbed upholders of the present system as their predecessors. It is only another example of how poorly the Soviet diplomatic informed about America and its rulers.

If the Soviet leaders thought that its success in concluding a trade agreement with England could be easily and naturally followed up by a similar result with the United States, they have certainly failed to consider two very important factors. First, in the United States, there exists a position to offer something substantial in return for this agreement. Second, there exists in England a powerful labor movement constantly agitating for resumption of trade with Russia.

The representatives of these factors are almost completely absent. A promise on the part of the Soviet regime to cease agitating for Bolshevism in America would be of no worth to our government. If our government were to promise the Soviet regime to withdraw from the propaganda of Bolshevism in countries within the Soviet sphere, it could not exist. On the other hand, with the exception of a small minority, is very unfriendly to Bolshevism. Under these circumstances it was extremely naive on the part of the Soviet rulers to have believed that they could soften the hearts of the ruling class of America through a sentimental appeal.

Naturally, had the Soviet government been able to offer a secure and substantial source of profits to the American bourgeois world, the appeal to Harding and his cabinet would not have been forthcoming. The instinct of the shopkeeper is surely as strong in America as it is in England. The Russian regime cannot appeal to the American capitalist, through its appeal about the "traditional friendship between Russia and America," a reminder which could have but little influence upon the American public. In return there they received, through the mouth of State Secretary Hughes, a sermon on an amendment to re-establish the capitalist system in its full glory if they ever expect American capitalists to make investments in Russia.

The reply of Secretary Hughes leaves one open to the benevolent lecture to Soviet Russia by our Secretary of State as a piece of uncommon arrogance. The Soviet government was not interested, it would seem clear from the above, in trade with Russia, but in trade with Affairs. It only asked for the resumption of trade relations. On the other hand, it would seem as if the Soviet government had given the American capitalists nothing but lip service and, through its appeal, a certain justification for the latter's action. If the Russian government deemed it proper to harp upon the traditional friendship of the two nations, it would be difficult for the Soviet government to give to Russia, that it change its ways and modify its system, is the advice of a "friend." In the eyes of the American government, the revival of production in Russia means re-establishment of capitalism, and without the latter it claims it could do no business with Russia.

What remains to do at present to move America to deal commercially with Russia? The only avenue of activity is the enlightenment of public opinion. The influence between Russia and America is of the greatest importance not only for Russia, but also for America, particularly for American workers. An educational campaign must be waged among the organized workers to the effect that trade with Russia does not mean necessary agreement with Bolshevism, or the Soviet regime; that it is not the Bolshevists who must be left to the Russian people itself. Under the present conditions it is not possible for the Soviet government to change its way of life upon which the promise that the Harding administration will change its present stand and will endorse trade with Russia.

The reply of Secretary Hughes leaves an open door for such a change. It states that if the Administration will become convinced that economic conditions have changed in Russia, that it will reconsidere the question of trade. There is no doubt that the broad and influential public opinion that working people can prove to the Government that the Russian conditions have changed to the better.

DEBS' MORAL VICTORY

Debs' visit to Washington without a guard or surveillance is a moral victory for the American labor movement. It is, simultaneously, just as sound a rebuke to the former Wilson administration which had jailed the old fighter for freedom for his political beliefs.

Bears in mind the facts. Only a few weeks ago the Debs case was brought up before ex-President Wilson with the personal rec-
WHAT HAVE THE DRESSMAKERS GAINED THROUGH THE GENERAL STRIKE?

By BENJ. SCHLESINGER

Leaflets are being distributed among the ladies' garment workers in New York City for the purpose of dissociating the workers from the organization. On the day when we called the dressmakers of New York to a general strike, these leaflets were distributed to discredit the leaders of the strike for the obvious purpose of discouraging the workers from leaving their shops.

Now, when the general strike was called, it was being distributed to discredit the settlement.

The questions being put forth in these leaflets:

1. What have the members of the Dressmakers' Union to do with this general strike, through the big fight which they have just carried through?

2. Is it true that it is the policy of the Union to call general strikes whenever it wants its members to pay up their arrears?

The Answer

1. The members of the Dressmakers' Union have won through this general strike that the Amalgamated Clothing Workers are fighting 15 weeks already, and which the United Textile Workers, the United Clothing Workers, and the other unions were compelled to give up without a fight. To be explicit, the dressmakers were compelled to give up their wages, and to clear out, as they have for the past few years.

The Union had settled with 650 dressmaking establishments in the Dress Manufacturers' Association and who employed at least 12,000 workers, an agreement, and the dressmakers were not able to make the workers of the other 1,000 dress shops that were operating under open shop conditions, and to force these firms to come to a settlement.

The result of the general strike was that 700 additional independent employers had made their strike, and we now have in New York over 1,300 dress shops where the dressmakers are free from the usual mistreatment by surety, rough, steep mountains, now we were completely isolated. We have to get out in a few minutes," my companion rudely awakened.

"Streetsburg! Next station—Streets-doo-burg," the conductor yelled.

Ah, well, we are nearer there, any day is a bright day that takes a little less to tell about it. We were impatient to get there.

It was a cloudy, hazy day, but we did not mind—any day is a bright day that takes a little less to tell about it.

It wasn't long before we got into Rocky Pennsylvania, with its smoky mountains, its blue mountains, and fields of evergreens. Then for a while the country became more and more open and marvellous; then again rocky. We knew we were fast approaching the wondrous Delaware Water Gap. Here we were! The altitude getting ever higher, as we were hastening on. Soon we were passing over many stone bridges. We were flying past cow pastures, chicken farms, and apple orchards, and then suddenly we crossed the Allegheny River. Water, water—more bodies of water. We came across some rocky, steep mountains. Now we were completely isolated. We had to get out in a few minutes," my companion rudely awakened.

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THE INTERNATIONAL AND ITS EDUCATIONAL WORK

The organization enjoys four peculiar difficulties. Anybody who has had experience in union work knows that in any department which is concerned with educational activities, the difficulties are difficult in number, but also in character.

It will undoubtedly interest our friends to understand the dimensions of the problems which must be solved, in order to make the work of the Educational Department of the International successful.

1. The first difficulty is that of getting the union to send all its well-known that while it is a very simple matter to get many people to come to entertainment, concerts, moving picture shows, etc., it is very difficult to attract them in equal numbers to educational meetings, where they have to meet regularly from week to week, and where they have to concentrate and think seriously about the important questions.

This is not an easy task, and requires a great deal of work. It is a matter of securing interest on the part of those who are known to be interested in educational work, of their going to meetings of the local union and the state union meetings of the Union, of getting them to go and leave up a number of the letters with personal interviews. It is a matter of persuading them, by every possible means, that the energy which is spent in getting people to see that it is their duty to themselves, to their families, and to the labor movement to pursue serious study in our classes.

2. But a second difficulty is that students are persuaded to join the various classes, the work of the department is by no means finished. Once they are members, they have the matter to keep them there. While they may join a class and attend meetings, it is sometimes necessary to have human nature to get tired after a while, and it is necessary to the duty of attending the classes on certain days at a certain hour.

Also, many get tired of the work. It is quite a strain to stay in the classroom after one's regular work day, and if possible, the teacher in his discussion. The mind, after all, gets tired and requires rest.

So this presents an extremely difficult problem. And this is the problem which the department is supposed to solve.

But the Educational Department must have all its energies to prevent this from occurring. What does it do? Again a again the same question, and the answer is the same. It must appeal to the students directly, and bring to their attention the importance of the classes.

The mind, after all, gets tired and requires rest. This is the problem which the department is supposed to solve.

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A Declaration to the American People

(Continued from last page)

Going hand in hand with profiteering there has been and is a shameful and undoubtedly unjustified over-capitalization of industrial and commercial projects, compounding the mounting price to pay interest in the form of inflated prices on vast sums of money, back of which there is no foundation of intrinsic value or productive capacity.

Curtailtng Gains from Power

Due to the maladministration of industry and principally and primarily because of the studied and calculated arbitrary policies of reactionary employers, there has come upon us a state of unemployment which is depriving fully three and one-half million working people of the opportunity to earn a living. That there should be this tragic situation at a time when hardly any portion of the world has a sufficient supply of the necessities of life, is a commentary upon the methods of those responsible for the conduct of industry which they cannot justify is a rebuke to their methods which offer prompt and fundamental remedial action can repress. The condition of unemployment has been accentuated by keeping open the flood gates of immigration which has added to the confusion and given employers an additional weapon in their efforts to reduce the American standard of living.

One result is the effort to lower wages. The stupidity of such policies as these, whether or not apparent to employers inspired only by a desire for monetary gain, is a matter which should give the most serious concern to the American people as a whole. Every reduction of wages is a reduction in the consuming power of the wageearners and a direct blow at the prosperity and well-being of the country.

Labor not only insists upon maintaining the present standards of wages and working conditions, but declares its solemn purpose to continue its struggle to further improve these standards. Where the unorganized workers are concerned, while they benefit by the protest and progress of the organized workers, they themselves are unable to meet properly the present crucial situation. Their course is to join the organizations of their trades or calling and we demand for them the opportunity to freely follow such a course and to exercise all of the powers and privileges that imply. Collective bargaining is one of the great stabilizing influences in industry in the relations between employers and workers. It is censurable that employers have in too many instances rejected these friendly and mutually advantageous arrangements. We strongly urge upon both employers and employees to keep inviolate the instrumentality of collective bargaining.

TRAGIC PENALTIES OF MALADMINISTRATION

Another manifestation of the unscientific and inhumane policies of industrial activity is found in what is commonly known as "labor turnover," which means the repeated hiring and discharging of individual workers without any opportunity for an expression on the part of these workers in determining the terms or the conditions under which they shall give service.

This endless movement of workers from shop to shop, with its inevitable burden of idleness and loss of production, is the individual protest of the unorganized against conditions of employment which they have no strength to remedy. Where there is organization of labor and the opportunity for negotiation and agreement, labor turnover is eliminated as a check and drain on industrial life.

(To be continued)
The Weeks' News in Cutters Union Local 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN

The uncertainty regarding the outcome of the injunction suits brought against the union by three manufacturers in the Dress Industry has passed. The injunctions were granted to maintain wages at the水平线 by the courts...

The settlement of the suits is expected to have a pronounced effect on the whole industry. The manufacturers, although unprepared for the action of the courts, are now working to prevent a recurrence of the situation that has developed in the past.

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THE WEEKS' NEWS IN CUTTERS UNION LOCAL 10

UNION HEALTH CENTER DENTAL CLINIC

We beg to announce that the Dental Clinic is at present in charge of Dr. Max Price, a dentist of fifteen years' experience, with whom are associated Dr. Lewis B. Ellis, Dr. H. B. Silver, Dr. L. Epstein and several other graduate dentists and specialists.

We make a specialty of removable bridges made in our own laboratory by Mr. A. Chankin, one of the most skillful dental mechanics in the City.

UNION HEALTH CENTER

181 EAST 17TH STREET.

Open Daily except Sundays, 10 A.M. to 8 P.M.

HARRY WANDER, Chairman.

ONCE UPON A TIME AND NOW

Once upon a time, when nature would give men warning that her wrath was waxing, he would pay no attention to it. Or he would think that he could stop the rain before it fell. This was the case with many of the workers in the industry. We are glad that the workers of Local No. 10 do not have to be reminded twice about their obligations to their fellow-workers and will comply fully with the request of the union to pay up this assessment at once.

The Arrangements Committee of our Twelfth Annual Ball to be held on Saturday, April 2nd, at Hunt's Point Palace, 163 St. and Southern Boulevard, have issued an invitation to everyone in the trade to attend the ball.

This Saturday

CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

ATTENTION!

OUR ANNUAL BALL

will take place

Saturday Evening, April 2, 1921

at

Hunt's Point Palace,

163d Street and Southern Boulevard.

Make no other appointments for the above date.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

CLOAK AND SUIT: Monday, April 4th.
WAIST AND DRESS: Monday, April 11th.
MISCELLANEOUS: Monday, April 18th.
GENERAL: Monday, April 25th.

Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.

AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

Cutters of All Branches should secure a card when going in to work and return it when laid off. They must also change their cards when securing an increase.