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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.

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When we wrote the news about the situation in the cloak industry last week in "Justice," the atmosphere was still one of optimism, even when these lines were being penned.

It appeared last week as if heavy, unanimous cloude covered the horizon. The manufacturers have withdrawn from the conference a day before it was to take place, in accordance with arrangements made, and it looked as if no conferences would be held for a long time to come. The manufacturers have insisted that as long as the representatives of the union would not agree to a settlement of the prevailing standards in the trade, there was little use in continuing to confer. The union, therefore, left hanging in abeyance.

Today, the state of affairs is somewhat clearer. On Tuesday afternoon last, President Nicholas J. Gaffney, as Chairman of the Executive Board of the Protective Association, and they both addressed another conference where a final attempt would be made to come to a peaceful understanding. The conference will be held on Thursday next, May 26th. The reason for this postponement is the fact that the General Executive Board of our International is now in quarterly session in St. Louis, and will not return to New York before that day.

President Schlesinger left for the Board meeting, he stated that he hopes that at the next conference both sides will reach a settlement, which a peaceful conference might yet be reached without infringing upon the present prevailing standards of the workers in the cloak industry of New York.

The last meeting of the Joint Board, Saturday, May 16th, was preceded with a holiday spirit owing to the presence of several guests who have addressed the delegates. There were at that meeting Congressman Meyer London, Editor R. Yanovsky, and President Schlesinger. The speeches delivered were received with wholehearted applause and thanks. Brother Israel S. Greenberg, as Chairman of the Joint Board, also delivered a speech which closed the meeting.

**GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD IN QUARTERLY SESSION AT ST. LOUIS**

On Thursday morning, May 19th, the Fourth Quarterly Meeting of the General Executive Board opened its sessions in the Claridge Hotel, 11th and Lowe Sts.

This Quarterly Meeting is something of a novelty. It is a meeting of the last month’s discussions, such as the conferences with the Protective Association in New York City and the week involved in the injunction defense, have caused the postponement.

The quarterly meeting is taking place at a very grave hour in the history of the union, at a time when a very broad question of complicated and far-reaching conflicts are facing it, demanding immediate solution. General Secretary Baroff has prepared a very interesting report to this meeting, which will be the subject of much discussion.

The report contains a complete statement of the work conducted at present by the International in New York City and all the local boards of the Protective Association, all the court proceedings which our organization has had to withstand during the last few months are coming in for a measure of description and detailed elaboration.

In the view of the situation, the quarterly meeting will also contain the recent events in the cloak industry of New York, as well as the law suits which will render a full report of all the conferences conducted with the Protective Association until this date and the final issue of this particular situation will receive due consideration. The recent happenings in the waist industry will be brought before the Board and will be discussed along with many other timely and important questions that draw the attention of our members and involve their welfare.

The meeting will last several days. Always as a large meeting this meeting will be devoted to the discussion of requests and demands which will be forwarded to the Board through communications and by visits of committees from various cities.

In addition to President Schlesinger, Secretary Baroff and all our Vice-Presidents, the meeting is also attended by our lawyer, Mr. Baroff, who will give a detailed account of the meetings’ transactions in the forthcoming issues of "Justice."

** COURT HEARS PLEADING IN TOLEDO INJUNCTION SUIT**

As reported in last week’s “Justice,” our International is confronted with a new and sharp challenge to the ordinary week-day injunctions, with an injunction of a new-fangled kind. This injunction comes from a cloak firm in Toledo, Ohio, namely, the Cohen, Friedlander & Martin concern of Toledo, who chose to New York charging our union as a "conspiring organization," one that "discouraged the laws of the land," and is intent upon the destruction of the present order and the establishment of Bohemianism in America.

The hearing for the permanent injunction in this case took place on Thursday, May 15th, before Justice Mackay, who had issued a temporary restraining order against our union. Morris Hillegut and Morris Rosenberg appeared for the union. The lawyer for the Toledo firm was Walter Gordon, attorney, who conducted the well-known Danbury case against the Hatters’ Union and the Mopelux Machine case against the Machinist’s Union.

As we are going to press, the details of this hearing and the decision of the judge are not yet available. We have stated last week that in the case, the outcome of the "Cloakmakers'" strike in the shop of the Cohen, Friedlander & Martin concern of Toledo. The firm maintains that it had given up its shop in Toledo and wanted to become a jobber in New York. The charge here is international has hindered it in this endeavor, demanding that its strike with the workers be settled.

After Morris Hillegut, attorney for the union, had made a study of the facts in the case, he made public the following statement: "The complainant appears to disregard entirely the fact that any business is being influenced in the cloak industry. The complainant would make me forget that the jobber plays a very important role in the industry, and just as it is important for the workers that the garments made by manufacturers, subcontractors or contractors be union-made, so is it important to all workers that the garments ordered be a jobber be union garments."

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**CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL PROTEST INJUNCTION ATTACKS**

The first big anti-injunction protest meeting held under the auspices of the Central Trades and Labor Council of New York took place on Wednesday last, May 15th at Cooper Union. It appears that the efforts of the Committee of the Council to obtain a larger meeting place for this big protest meeting were unsuccessful, as the owners and lessors of the Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall and the various auditoriums refused to accommodate the request of organized labor for the use of their auditoriums.

Nevertheless, in spite of the fact that the meeting had to be confined to a comparatively small auditorium the holdings of the meetings was considerable. It was one of the most rousing and enthusiastic meetings that New York has seen in years. The principal speakers were President Samuel Gompers, who came from Washington to address the meeting, Dr. Lindley of Nashville, Tenn., Hugh Freyne, organizer of the American Federation of Labor in New York, and William F. Kehos, Secretary of the Central Trades and Labor Council.

Owing to the absence of President Schlesinger from St. Louis, the General Executive Board of our Local No. 25, in St. Louis, the International was represented at this meeting through Brothers Israel Feinberg, and Louis Goldfarb.

The keynote speech of the meeting was delivered by President Samuel Gompers. In unimined terms he denounced the courts for granting indiscriminately injunctions against striking workers and made a specific attack upon Justice James G. Van Norden of Brooklyn, declaring that he should be impeached and then removed from the bench. He also made a direct appeal to the courts not to be subject to contempt of court for his remarks. He urged the labor organization of the country to stand together and resist the onslaughts made by employers. Gompers said it was a question of civilization whether in land, perhaps the most beautiful on the globe, the thousands of skilled, educated, hard working people, who are unable to find employment because there is nothing for them because the courts have passed a law that they have to be maintained, they have to be deported...
Ten Years of Sanitary Self-Control

The Joint Board of Sanitary Control in the ladies' garment industry of New York, celebrates next month its tenth anniversary. On this occasion it has issued a booklet which covers the range of its activities for the entire decade, and contains a recital of the gradual development and the extension of its work from the joint sanitary program to the after the great cloakmakers' strike to this day.

The Joint Board was established at a conference of the representatives of the employers' and workmen's organizations, under the chairmanship of Louis D. Brandeis. It is impossible, indeed, to speak of this sanitary campaign as an isolated event in the industrial hygiene of ten years age by the standards of today. The sanitary conditions in the garment shops in 1910 were beyond a doubt a problem not only for the workers in our trades, but for the whole industry. The general strike of 1910, that revolution which has set up new working standards and conditions in the cloak industry, could not therefore help facilitating this grave problem and endeavoring to solve it definitely.

A CALL TO UNION SHOP CHAIRMEN

By JENNIE MATYAS, Organizer

"Are you working?" is the eager question which wherever our members meet.

"A little, but the wages are bad, very bad," is the general reply. Workers in our industry never had a worse season. Unemployment is rampant. The whip of necessity is forced upon us and we are all fighting our battle against price committees and the employers. "I can't afford to pay that much. You're way off." make our salaries for the year.

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"You're way off." make the terms of the agreement are the same as last year. The strike is in order by the whole union.

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The strike of the Sanitary and the Shipping Board

By HENRY LANG

The strike of the Sanitary and the Shipping Board offers quite a striking example of the way in which labor in the United States is handled. The strike is being conducted by a union of shipbuilders, who have walked off the job in protest against the conditions of work and pay. The union has been in existence for over a year, and the strike has been going on for about six months. It is believed that the strike will continue for several months, and that a new contract will be negotiated before the end of the year.

The strike is not the only labor problem facing the shipbuilding industry. There is a serious shortage of skilled labor, and many shipbuilders are finding it difficult to keep their workers on the job.

The strike is also having an effect on the economies of the country. The shipbuilding industry is a major contributor to the national economy, and a strike can have a significant impact on the overall economy. The strike has already caused a decline in shipbuilding activity, and it is feared that this trend will continue.

The strike is being handled by the union, which is demanding better working conditions and higher pay for its members. The shipbuilders are resisting the demands, and the strike is likely to continue for some time. The outcome of the strike is uncertain, but it is clear that it will have a significant impact on the shipbuilding industry and the economy as a whole.

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EDITORIALS

SHOP COMMITTEES—THE CURE-ALL

In the course of the last few days our workers have probably had occasion to discuss the proposal of a certain prominent cloak employer, adopting the collective action of the trade to afficit the cloak industry. This new remedy appears to be shop committees. "Give us shop committees to settle our shop disputes with," said the employers, "and we will demand for lower wages, for longer work-hours and for the right to discharge. All grievances would adjust themselves automatically if they only deal with shop committees instead of the Union."

In justice to the Protective Association, with whom our union has conducted negotiations in a friendly manner so far, it must be stated that this proposal was not made officially at the conferences. It comes from an individual manufacturer to whom full credit for originating the shop committee panacea must be given. Obviously this proposal is intended to meet a situation in the Union a certain element which could justly claim a priority to the invention of this cure. And, then, again, perhaps, he was aware of all the arguments which were being adduced in favor of the Union a certain element which could justly claim a priority to the invention of this cure. And, then, again, perhaps, he was aware of all the arguments which were being adduced in favor of shop committees as the only remedy for the existing state of labor. "Why then," said he, "if we can now lay claim to the invention of shop committees, why should we be excluded from their use?"

The answer to this question Mr. President Schleisinger, has replied to this proposal firmly and unanimously in the negative. He is quite likely that that particular element within our union which conceived the shop committee idea has not like this reply of our committee. After all, these shop committees have been their goal, too. These committees were supposed to be the last word in good labor management. They have in the Union a certain element which could justly claim a priority to the invention of this cure. And, then, again, perhaps, he was aware of all the arguments which were being adduced in favor of the Union a certain element which could justly claim a priority to the invention of this cure. And, then, again, perhaps, he was aware of all the arguments which were being adduced in favor of shop committees as the only remedy for the existing state of labor. "Why then," said he, "if we can now lay claim to the invention of shop committees, why should we be excluded from their use?"

The logic of this argument is, indeed, as clear as daylight. If each and every shop is a little kingdom for itself, then each and every shop may have its own rules, prices and standards. The union, as a whole, then becomes superfluous, and after it is done away with, peace and contentment will reign in the industry. We take our shop committees—except those few who are really-intent upon breaking up the union—have not gone so far in their reasoning. We take it that our employer has no right to demand for the shop committees to represent the interests of the Union and the Union. Our manufacturers, however, have gone deeper into the matter and they have come to the conclusion that the shop committees are not the representatives of the employees and the authorities. It is either the shop committee or the union, and, of course, the employer finds it much easier and convenient to deal with the former.

There is another important point which our shop committee advocates must have lost sight of. At present, while the union is in control and has been overwhelming all its strength to produce more or less uniform conditions in the shops, the same wage scales, the same working hours, a general strike in the industry is a logical and appropriate method to obviate the exigencies of the hour and demand it. With the introduction of shop committees, each shop becomes a principality for itself with special "conditions" and regulations. The working hours are increased, the wages and the hours, the desirability of such a "reform," therefore, can be easily imagined. We can picture ourselves to what the employers would sacrifice for the permanent removal of the spectre of a general strike!

We can understand our employers. We fail, however, to understand the currency of these shop committees. We are led to believe that our followers of the idea of a general strike under any and all circumstances, how they can harmonize their erstwhile pet theories and this scheme of things.

Nevertheless, the proposal of that manufacturer may have its beneficial results for our union. Willy-nilly, the habitual of vociferous advocates of shop committees within our midst will have to re-examine their panacea which pleases our manufacturers so well. Of course, the possibilities for the realization of this plan are not peculiarly limited to the cloak and suit industry as long as the union exists.

At the last meeting of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers’ Union, to which we have reference, the Membership Committee of the Joint Board, laid before the delegates this unofficial proposal and the reply of our committee. There was not one among the delegates who had a good word to say for this proposal. With but a single exception, all the delegates have seen through this attempt to kill the union by this pre-natal scheme. Let us be thankful. All told it amounts to no less than a direct insult to the intelligence of our representatives.

We are the employers for advancing this or any other idea designated to injure our organization. From their point of view they are quite right and it will fall not upon our shoulders to ask them to withdraw their labor in vain in this respect. They can never rid themselves of the union. It is their own interest, and the interest of the community that they consider the needs of the union and the ways of how to go on with their work in cooperation with the union.

Such cooperation the union fears is not ready to supply. The notion of the employers in the building of a machinery which would make an end to whatever ‘soldiering on the job’ there exists in the trade, if the allegations of the employers are true. This machinery has been a matter of concern to our Committee, and the employers have not learned that this is the only way how to aid the industry. They are still wandering upon paths that lead not to the desired result. We believe that our Committee, as a whole, will not allow our committees to pass away upon the various problems taken up for discussion. It may then be possible to come to a lasting understanding, mutually satisfactory to every party affected.

"MIGHT IS RIGHT"

In one of the applications for an injunction against the International, the lawyer for the firm of Democracy, a horrid insult is made in accordance with the principle of "Might is Right." A more malicious and stupid libel could not have been invented against our International. Had our International "made a false call of support" it would never have attempted to organize the workers in the industry. Our International never divulged itself. It knew well that no matter how strong it might grow, it could not organize the manufacturers—"with the latter's resources for exploitation, in which it is protected by every agency of the existing social order." Our International believed that might is right; it would never have mustered the courage to undertake a struggle for the betterment of the lives of the workers who had advanced, in advance that it is doomed to failure. The true facts, however, are just contrary to this allegation. Our International, the lens behind which the whole thing is seen, is not in the right; that right is; that regardless of their temporary and comparative weakness, they will eventually gain power. For better or for worse, the forces that, of that firm which seeks to malign and misrepresent our International, has mixed up his cards badly. It is not a new method. This "catch a thief in his own hand," and we are inclined to believe that he could not muster a better argument for his plea.

"SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY"

For five long years a war was waged to make democracy safe for the world. As a result of this warfare, the world lies today in ruins. In the end, the enemy of democracy was a horrid insult in accordance with the principle of "Might is Right." The forces of democracy have won and our own country has earned the greatest share of credit for this achievement. It was America’s idea to “make the world safe for democracy” which has made the propaganda for this idea her own special mission. And she supplied the money and the human material for this purpose. She declared that she would "make democracy safe for the world," and the world would naturally expect that democracy would blossom out now the world over, and particularly in America. Alas, the results are just contrary. America, the self-styled "democracy" of the world, has turned away from its old faith and reverence of the people. The basic idea of democracy that the people, regardless of whatever errors they may commit, are right and always equal and worse than these are the true sovereigns of the land—these fundamentals are today regarded as fantastic, wild and "foreign." The masses speak of "change" and "progress," but the challenge to the "anti-democracy" must for ever dire, be static, and therefore, be strictly censored.

And so our entire little world, and more than every other country in the world, must now turn to the other end of the democratic scale, from which we were separated by a wall of hate and fear. It seems, the people of the world, in order to regain the few meager liberties and rights which they had enjoyed before the war, would have to wage bitter and unlimited warfare against its new strangler and censors.

OUR INTERNATIONAL AMONG THE "REDS"

As if to spite Zinovieve and his local parrots who have been wearing sackcloth and shedding tears over the "backwardness" and "conservatism" of our International, the Zinovievites have made this international one of the most menacing institutions to the existing order. According to the opinion of the Lusk Committee, our International has nothing else in mind but the planning of a "conspiracy against the state," and the film of the "International" is not for the "Reds." But the Lusk Committee regards our International even more dangerous than every other communist and revolutionary agency. Here is what they say:

"The committee emphasizes that the real danger to Americans
There are in our unions two extreme minorities, both equally harmful and even menacing, and the unity contains of idealists, of "patriots"—such who are always inspired by a vision of the golden day, to whom, each officer is as great a diplomat as Bismarck, as eloquent a speaker as the Czar, as talented a strategist as King Solomon. They leave every- thing to the officers in the blind hope that the day will dawn for them. The second minority is the very opposite of the first. It is always distrustful, always suspicious, always fearful of assassination. Long to this minority, the officers are always "misleaders," "takers" and persons who have sold themselves to the employers. They consider their duty to attack, to slander without end and with all the means at their disposal. Both these minorities are detri- mental and frequently very dangerous, as both of these groups are acti- vated not by convictions, but by blind sentiment. They shun brawls be- cause they know that they can be destroyed because they are excited. And while inspiration and excitement are always fatal for revolutionary emotions are, nevertheless, danger- ous when they take the place of cold reasoning.

There are, of course, not always the same. At one period the group of idealists is stronger, at another the group of malcontents is stronger. At this particular mo- ment, however, it is the latter group that is in the saddle. The blind attackers are in the forefront. Their voices resound in the air. They are in the pulpit and are delivering the sermon. I am not speaking of the principles involved in the program of the disaffected. With some of these people I can sympathize; they have their own campaign. I am not discussing here the demands advanced by the critics. I am pointing out the weapons which they employ in or- der to realize their demands, the weapons with which they attack the leaders of the union. These methods do not help the aggressors and bring them the slightest injury to the entire organization.

The leaders at the head of our unions are faced with new demands, new responsibilities. They have devoted their entire life to the labor-mov- ement, and are now facing a new reality. They have achieved more comfortable and far better paid careers had their ambition been the only personal success and aggrandizement. We know them all; we have watched them at various times under different conditions, and we know that the organization is part and parcel of their mind and soul, that they hold good the solidarity, the loyalty and devotion which are the first ingredients of a labor leader.

Perhaps they are too conservative: perhaps they do not talk as much on labor matters as we would wish; perhaps they are absolutely necessary to guide the younger leaders for them. This is a question fer debate, for discussion. But a labor leader is one who has fallen behind in not a "Judas." A superannuated general is usually harmless; the man who is sent home for rest. A traitor, however, is being tried and his name is put down forever in the black book of treachery.

I alluding, the irresponsible attacks upon persons who are clean and honest, have in the end the fol- lowing consequences: They believe that the men who are attacking union leaders are attacked as trait- ors; as men who have sold the work- ers' cause, men who have betrayed them. The masses will not bother much with the puny ones. When the honesty of the leaders is attacked, the labor masses turn to the genuine leaders of labor, however, lose their heart and their inspiration.

The leaders forget about another point, a strategic point. In the long run they will have to convince themselves that their charges are truthful, and this, they know them- selves, they will not be able to do. These stone facts, there, these charges against the recognized leaders draw some attention, create a sensation, are of no particular use to the organization. How- ever, once aroused and having become interested in the work, the masses will be satisfied until the charges against the leaders will have proven and verified beyond cavil.

Among the disaffected are jeering to bring a more rad- ical and revolutionary spirit into the unions, there are calmer minds. They know that these tactics are against the interest of the whole movement and that they are left to leave others to do this dirty work. This is not merly a supposition; it is a fact.

I have failed to many of them and they are running down the road of perdition. Let the more intelligent and those possessed of a greater share of com- mon sense and special knowledge follow the following: their abstention and the license which they give to the irres- ponsible and the disaffected, to all methods and means, no matter how deplorable, hurts their own cause. An army which does not draw its recruits from the same mass and material they are them- selves, will never be able to discipline, to obedience, which is as important a part of the revolutionary army as it is in a military unit.

Respect and consideration for leaders are necessary and considerate. Criticize them to your heart's content, but be honest with them, at all times, in their honest motives and their cons- cien tious opinions. You might be able to prove them wrong, but you are too conservative for our times; their opinions are old and super- anuated. Argue about it; bring the facts; let them draw the old paths and turn away from the old leaders because these have been proved and verified beyond cavil in the past.

Among the disaffected are men who have given up all their spiritual feelings, who are placed in the position of the men who have all the intelligence and earnestness they have pos-

Respect for those who have earned respect!

The Growth of Local No. 66

By HARRY ROGOFF

The Bonnus Embroiderers' Union, Local No. 66, was reborn after a spontaneous general strike in the trade. That strike brought a number of substantial improvements in the conditions of the men in the shops. For the first time in the his- tory of the trade, written agreements were made, and the employers and the union obtained control in a good- ly number of shops.

The union in the trade came after a period of long unem- ployment, when the struggle for the recognition of the trade was another activity in the embroidery industry. The workers were famished and were ready to accept any conditions the employers were not in a less distracted condition. So the strike was made. A new phase of our local was laid. The en- tire trade did not amount to much in those days. The number and size of the shops was small and the workers barely enough to make ends meet.

The years of war have made a tremendous difference in the industry. The cloak, suit, waist and dress manufacturers not being able to import lace from abroad, have begun to use embroidery on garments, and things began to hum in the embroidery trade. In the race with the development of the indus- try, began earnestly to improve the working conditions of the workers, the union being in the hands of men who are interested in the prosperity of the trade. As we look back, today, the work we have done is something one can hardly believe eyes in ap- praising the tremendous achieve- ments that the local has made during the span of the membership of the local.

We have reduced the working hours to 40 a week, which is 5 a week more than the amount we formerly had. The earnings of experienced workers have been raised from $14 and $16 a week to $65 and $75, as specified in our 1920 agreement. The sanitary con- ditions were improved a hundredfold, and the control of the union over the trade is practically complete. Dur- ing these years of our existence we have gone through two general strikes. During the two strikes we have dis- covered that the charges are truthful, and this, they know them- selves, they will not be able to do. These stone facts, there, these charges against the recognized leaders draw some attention, create a sensation, are of no particular use to the organization. How- ever, once aroused and having become interested in the work, the masses will be satisfied until the charges against the leaders will have proven and verified beyond cavil.

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The(valor trade was at an end, and brought forth numerous arguments to prove their case. The trade did not justify their for- bodings. On the contrary, the embryonic work- ers of the trade was at an end, and the trade continues to expand and flourish without halt. The progress of the industry is re- flect ed fully in the general condition of our local. From a membership of 100 in 1915, to 1,100 in 1921, and the last three months have seen an addition of 400 men to the ranks of the local. The new recruits came from trade schools and non-union shops, where they got a taste of the work, and an in- dustry which is so well established, it is not likely that any new unions will be formed. This addition to our family we are endeavoring to assimilate as quickly and as completely as possible.

The last general strike in the waist and dress trades has won for us a victory which is the result of the effect that all embroidery used in waist and dress houses shall be given to union embroidery shops only.

government and to the structure of American society and its in- stitutions rests in the continuous activities of such organizations as are here mentioned. Follow a roster of "red" trade unions. And you will find that the "red" trade union will not be a victory for the revolutionaries secretly coming together in conspirative organiza- tions. Such a movement would hold out no promise of success. On the contrary, it will be a sign of the failure of the local Commit- tee with its work of Prussianizing America, we cannot agree ing with it on this point. Somewhere we are quite contented with the word, while we are entirely against the word "red." "I would have felt rather disappointed said President Schlesinger on this occasion, "had our International not been on the side of the reds, and in their activities." The word "red" is the word which the Local Committee would have everybody believe it is. No, we

are distinctly in disagreement with the Lukkers with regard to their characterization of the A. F. of L. Nevertheless, the very fact that a Local Committee is arranged to work for the federation in our land, has a good word to say for the A. F. of L. is enough to plunge all those to whom the honor and the activities of the Federation are dear, into deep and serious thought on the matter. Obviously, there is a conflict of the situation of the A. F. of L. and a Local Committee can not only tolerate it, but even lend it its ap- proval and encouragement!

I feel that the effect of the article is a great deal of disquieting in this Local testi- monial, something which should give the leaders of the Federation a cause to look around and investigate until they have found what they look for. I do not believe the federation will neglect them. They need not postpone it for a long time either. The masses of thinking workers feel deeply hurt by this Local hymn to the A. F. of L. We hope that the leaders of labor will give some close attention to this rather sore point. The A. F. of L. bothers little, and with right, about the definitions of a Zinoviev. A recommendation of the Local Committee, how- ever, is too near a pill to swallow without suffering some conse-
Ignorance and Action

By ALEXANDER FICHANDLER

One of the oddest spectacles that confronts the student of current events is the appalling ignorance of those who have power today. Few people might imagine that leaders in government, business and education are at least equally unfamiliar with the facts of their own country and the world. But, their actions do not seem to suffer any inconvenience from this ignorance.

Any child who has read the story of the Tower of Babel will know just how much difficulty it happened when those who were led society attempted to superimpose one construction on top of another. The pages of history tell us that although Soyer was killed in an attempt to construct the tower, the first through early Christians were tortured and murdered, Christianity was eventually suppressed by all barbarians who would be given in large numbers. If those who have power would but remember these facts, they would realize how utterly stupid it is to try to suppress new ideas with force. They would learn that the effect is just the opposite, and that ideas thrive on persecution.

The point is that those who have power, who do not profit by the experience of their predecessors and commit the same mistakes, which will without any doubt, bring about similar results. This is another lesson for us. It is bad enough when a stupid, naive, frightened group, commits mistakes which are the lessons of the past. How much worse it is that the great masses of workers who have struggled for so many years and are still struggling to obtain more happiness, are just as stupid and just as ignorant! And with workers, the results are much more serious. Their mistakes do not lose much by their ignorance; at least, they still have the comforts and the pleasures which they are accustomed. But it is different with workers. Their mistakes mean defeat, unemployment, and poverty.

Today, the inability on the part of many workers to understand the logic of their present situation is the disillusion of those who of all people in the world, should be united. Individuals may have split and differences all over the world, but, as a group we have small groups skirmishing and being badly beaten by their enemies. Instead of a common fight, for a common victory, against a common enemy, there are many workers with common enemies, who do not see them from achieving their aims.

What is the cause of this? It is not easy to give a single answer. Human action is seldom the result of one particular motive. It is generally caused by a number of motives, combined in various ways. But it is safe to assume that the fundamental cause of the tragic situation lay in the theories of the Russian Revolution. It is but natural that such a tremendous upsurge of ideas should change their attitude, their aims and methods under the influence of these theories.

But another cause is undoubtedly present. That is the ignorance on the part of workers of the significance of their own development, and the significance of the historical background of present conditions. Too many of them are only interested in watching, measuring and considering the situation from the narrowest standpoint. It is true that too much thought paralyzes action, but it is equally true that little thought paralyzes action, and that action is essential, and while without action, there can be no progress, the student of history can see that in the long run, effective results are brought about by the kind of action which is based on the facts and the imagination and the desire of the people.

The latter is romantic and appeals to the imagination, but action is essential. The idea is nothing else but this. The correct plan, the correct plan in which to work. If it does not work, if it is not practicable, if it does not accomplish its aim, it is useless and an unnecessary drain on human energy.

The present situation in the labor world demands study on the part of workers. In America, it is essential to understand American conditions. No person has a right to advocate new methods of immediate action unless he can answer satisfactorily such questions as: Are the American people ready for this? Are the American workers ready for it? Will such a move be greeted by a charge of sedition, or with indifference, or with opposition, or with the demand for the participation of the movement? Will it be possible to carry out the movement? How? What steps have been taken in the past to make the movement possible? In short, the worker must not be merely less ignorant than the capitalist. He must know more, understand more, and act with better appreciation of historical influences and social conditions. He who does so, can be claimed to be superior to those who have mastered the world for so many years.

Control and Management

The educational work of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union is entrusted to a committee which is a sub-committee of the General Executive Board. The committee consists of five Vice-Presidents of the International.

The Educational Committee, however, is in no position to go into all the details of the actual work conducted by the committee, or by the Secretary of the Educational Department, which is in charge of the entire educational work: This Department is managed by a Director, who is an educator (Mr. Alexander Fichandler is the present director), and by the Secretary of the Educational Committee, Fania Cohn.

This dual management is very vital to the success of the work. Furthermore, this work requires not only a knowledge of education, but a knowledge of labor and its problems, and particularly a knowledge of the methods by which labor work is to be done. The management of the Educational Department requires, therefore, a close cooperation of an union union insures methods suited to the needs of our members, and the work of the Department has as its objective the education and to the Labor Movement.

Methods of Organization

We realize that no plan for organizing the movement will be successful, unless it is expressed in something more than the establish- ment of interest clubs in employers’ halls and Workers’ University. The plan must produce a material attitude which will be carried through by an education movement for Labor Education within the Trade Union Movement. The question has come up in our work how to accomplish this. We reached the conclusion that our primary object is to carry on our activities by directing all our efforts and attention to the real work of the movement. If they are impressed with the necessity for Labor Education, and if they will be impressed with the necessity to organize and to become members of the union, we will then and only then, will we be on the road to success.

In the past week, we have published in English, Yiddish and Italian, is devoted to the work of our Educational Department. These papers are sent to the home of every member of the union, and also appear in the daily English, Yiddish and Italian press which is read by the masses.

We find that we reach our members most effectively by coming into direct contact with them. We try to stimulate in them a desire for education, and then we try to satisfy this desire, by bringing the workers to the proper clubs, which are held almost every night, describing our plan of education to them. The clubs are looked after by members of the union. We arrange gatherings, at times in the Workhouse, with many numbers of members, whom we try to interest in our work. Our current literature is also mailed to their homes.

Through all of these means we try to foster a spirit of self-sufficiency in the workers, by giving them the sense of organizing Labor Education as an integral part of the Trade Union Movement. It does not mean upon them the conviction that while organization gives them power, education will give them the ability to use this power properly and effectively.

The most interesting part of which we have a very great interest in connection with the development of educational work is that the workers, who, for a very long time, have been the raw material for the educational work, that it is almost impossible for any man to be expected to understand the social relations between organizing the educational activities and supervising them. The work of the committee on labor education work are so interwoven that they cannot be separated. In fact, they are so closely interconnected that it makes a clear labor movement is not an easy matter at all. We realize that its success depends upon the success of the committee. This requires constant effort on the part of those in charge. It requires a knowledge of the psychology not only of human nature, but also of a particular group—understanding of their needs and aspirations. The work must be planned carefully. This is not a matter of a moment in charge unlimited devotion, idealism, inspiration, and a belief in the importance of the work. The work as a conception of what education can contribute to its achievement. It requires careful planning. It asks us to be in constant touch with the membership in order to inspire them with the idea of the importance of the work within the Trade Union Movement a matter of the utmost importance.

The paper is charge magazine which is the result of an examination of the determination to overcome obstacles and the development of methods.

To a high degree the success of this work rests also with the teachers, the lecturers, the organizers. They must be made as familiar with academic knowledge and theoretical foundation as they are familiar with the knowledge of the Labor Movement—understanding that this movement deals not only with theories but also with facts and conditions.

How Financed

We believe that education for workers within the Trade Union Movement should be financed, completely by the workers themselves through their properly constituted organizations. On this ground, the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union of International in 1916, voted $15,000 a year for the purposes of the Union to support its educational activities. The biennial convention held in Chicago in 1921, voted $25,000 a year for the next two years, and at the last Convention, held in Chicago in 1923, $25,000 a year was voted for the following years.

Our members are admitted without fees and all of the members of other Trade Unions are admitted at the request of their organizations for the purpose of study.

I may add here that we have so far been unable to open the hall and the evening classes. Before the next Convention will convene in 1928, the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union expects to have its membership the large sum of $75,000.

Democracy in Education

This is the problem that we have developed in our International, and one that has not come from above, and was not handed down from authority, but developed by the International General Board and the International Districts of the Union. In the International, it is the workers who have the final say.

(To be continued)
III Treatment

1. The firm of Rosenhall & Match of 15 West 25th Street reported a business agent about six weeks ago with irritating the shop. The case was filed immediately, and the sum of $25.00 was liquidated damages.

2. The chairman of the shop of Samuel Door of 13 East 25th Street, who, as a commission of this violation, we collected the sum of $25.00 as liquidated damages.

3. We collected the sum of $50.00 from the firm of R. Rubach & Co., of 6 East 16th Street, for having inducted an employee.

Cutting Done by Employers

4. H. Schnaider of 125 West 21st Street, was found violating the agreement by doing his own cutting. The case was applied by applying the sum of $50.00 as liquidated damages.

5. The security of the firm of the Lion Dress Co., of 463 11th Street, was applied as liquidated damages to the sum of $45.00 because they were doing their own cutting.

6. The firm of Alba & Kals of 23 West 15th Street did not employ a cutting service for the cutting done by us all the cutting himself. We collected the sum of $50.00 as liquidated damages.

7. The firm of N. Ely of 11 West 17th Street also violated the agreement by doing their own cutting. Collected liquidated damages for the sum of $15.00.

8. The firm of the Leonard Dress Co. of 11 West 29th Street was found doing its own cutting. Security was collected for the amount of $75.00.

9. The employer of the Quaker Dress Co., of 109 East 17th Street, did his own cutting and his security was applied as damages to the amount of $15.00.

10. $50.00 of the security of the firm of W. & Z. Dress of 138 West 17th Street, was applied as damages because the firm was discontinued doing its own cutting.

11. The Heman-Claire Dress Co. of 124 East 18th Street also did its own cutting. Collected as damages the sum of $1,500.

Reduction of Wages

12. The employer of the Dobland Costume of 156 West 28th Street violated the agreement by reducing the wages of its employees. The matter was finally disposed of by collected the amount of $50.00 as damages.

13. A reduction of wages was attempted by the Espree Dress Co., of 112 Fourth Ave. We collected $500.00 as damages.

14. Another reduction of wages was attempted by the firm of the Lion Dress Co., of 416 Sixth Ave. The sum of $150.00 was collected.

Running Corporation Shop

15. The firm of the See More otherwise known as the Apollo of 101 Fifth Avenue was found to be a running a corporation shop. The case was filed and collected the sum of $200.00 damages.

Paying Single for Overtime

16. The workers of the firm of Tyer & Greenberg of 114 West 27th Street working on the receiving of goods were paid single instead of double for overtimes. $250.00 was collected as damages.

Sending Work to Non-Union Shops

17. The Franco-American of 114 West 26th Street firm that was committed a violation of the agreement by sending work to non-Union firms. We applied liquidated damages for the sum of $140.00.

Sending Work Out While Inside Workers Are Not Fully Supplied

18. The firm of R. Gait & Co. of 28 West 25th Street violated the agreement by sending a lot of work while the inside help were not fully supplied. Collected damages amounting to $300.00.

19. The Bon Marche Costume of 22 East 21st Street refused to show his books to our investigator. We collected $50.00 damages.

20. Our investigator was refused access to the books of Geller & Frank of 159 Spring Street. We settled this case and applied $25.00 collected $25.00 damages.

21. The firm of G. Litcher of 19 West 21st Street refused our investigator access to its books, and we collected $25.00 as liquidated damages.

Employing Non-Union Help

22. The Co. west Norwalk of 69 West 23rd Street violated the agreement by employing non-Union help, approved damages as damages for the sum of $25.00.

Miscellaneous Violations

23. Brucier Bros., 240 West 23rd Street paid the sum of $25.00.

24. Cooper-Silor of 43 East Broadway paid the sum of $25.00.

25. The sum of $40.00 was collected from the firm of Gold & Wechsler of 256 West 23rd Street.

26. H. Risher of 39 East 6th Street paid the sum of $50.00.

27. Hovlyn & Lobin of 144 West 21st Street paid $75.00.

28. The firm of the L & P Dress of 16 West 21st Street, paid the sum of $50.00 for violation.

The total sum collected as liquidated damages for this period was $2,521.00.
Appeal to Shop Chairmen

The following are extracts of the Executive Board minutes of the past week:

William Shellenberg, No. 8562, appeared on summons, charged with violating the regulation for the Flower Dress Co., 133 West 13th Street, for three weeks. When he appeared at the office of the union on April 18, he was working at the above house. Brother Shelenker asked him whether he had a working card, to which he replied in the affirmative. The foreman then ordered him to leave the house, he admitted not having a working card. On motion a fine was imposed upon Brother Shellenberg.

Harry Reinstein, No. 2599, appeared on summons, charged with failing to secure a working card for the firm of Rosenberg & Schneider, Flower Dress Co., 118 West 68th Street, to work for the above shop. Brother Biennstein states that Miss Maud Foley, International Organizer for Poughkeepsie, permitted him to work for the above shop. Brother Reinstein was instructed that in the future he must present a working card at the office, should he be a job out of town, and case was dismissed.

Harry Weinberger, No. 6013, appeared on summons, charged with failing to report the employment of a non-union boy at the Eagle Dress Co., 132 West 25th Street. This brother also allowed a non-union helper at the table for a number of months. Brother Weinberger states that he is in the shop chairman to attend to the matter. On motion he was fined.

Morris Perlman, No. 2611, appeared on summons, charged by Miss Orleans, Business Agent of the Joint Board, and by Miss Pauline Silverman, Shop Chairlady of the Sefer Dress Co., 119 W. 23rd Street, with working during the closing of the shop. Brother Perlman states that as he does not come in on time to work, his time is therefore made up for lost during lunch hour. On motion Brother Perlman was fined $1.50 for the week, to keep regular hours, and the case was dismissed.

Nathan Solars, No. 5490A, appeared on summons, charged with working six weeks' overtime for the firm of Hyman Levine, 10 West 19th Street, without receiving pay for the same. Brother Solars is charged only by the office with having agreed to work without pay for overtime, or in order to work steady. Four weeks after he was discharged, he appeared at the office complaining that he had not received compensation for the work he therefore made up for lost during lunch hour. On motion a fine was imposed upon Brother Solars.

The following are excerpts of the Executive Board minutes of the past week:

About 200 open shops have already spoken to the first leaflet, called "Don't Let Them Cut Your Wages," and the second leaflet, "Did You Ever Think of It?" Some of the chairmen have already gotten协同 with the workers and are following them up enthusiastic.

I have seen middle-aged men and married women, as well as young girls on the line early in the morning, in rainy weather, giving these leaflets to every worker who understands them. These chairmen are devoting themselves with determination to the work. There is every reason to hope that they will be successful. There is a kind of content ge-