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Comments
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Editorial Notes

IT IS STILL TOO EARLY to attempt an appraisal of the Fifty-second annual convention of the American Federation now in session in Cincinnati, Ohio. For the moment we must content ourselves with a cursory glance at the report of its Executive Council submitted to the convention.

The A. F. of L. Convention in Cincinnati

It is a document of unusual interest. There are teeth bristling from its lines, sharp, biting utterances, the kind one is not accustomed to see in the usually reserved Council declarations. The cumulative anguish of the fourth year of the depression cries out aloud through many of its pages.

Eleven million people unemployed; millions working on part time—nearly sixty millions—half our population—are living below minimum standards; workers' incomes are scarcely half of those received in 1929—a total loss of 48 billion dollars.

It demands: A 6-hour day 30-hour week as a standard applicable to normal times under present technical progress; distribution of man-hours with reference to total number of workers seeking employment; national economic planning; steeply graduated income and inheritance taxes; recognition of the equals of the workers in the industries in which they work and at least protection equal to that given financial investments, and last, but not least:

Compulsory unemployment insurance, as a charge upon industry, costs to be borne by ownership and management of industry as part of costs of production. If modern management of industry has failed to provide work for millions of working men and women, ownership and management should bear the responsibility for this tragic state of affairs and should be made to assume the burden of supplying relief.

It is a foregone conclusion that the convention will line up behind the Council's demands. And while people may differ concerning the Federation's equipment and ability to enforce its demands, one thing is certain: It speaks the voice of the millions of wage earners in America and it addresses the country from a forum which is heard from one end of the land to the other.

The New York Cloak Jobbers' Association has asked the Impartial Chairman in the cloak and suit industry to make "inoperative" two of the most important sections of its agreement with the Union. These are the clause affecting partial limitation of contractors and the restriction placed upon them with regard to employment of sample makers.

In substance, the jobbers' association is asking for the nullification of the agreement. To be sure, the jobbers have been trying quite consistently, ever since they had signed the agreement in July, to treat their new obligations as lightly as they would be permitted to. The jobbers are not accustomed to union responsibility. Small wonder they are irked and annoyed by it.

The argument they advance is that the Union is not fulfilling its undertaking to organize the non-union element in the industry. But coming from the jobbers this plea is, to say the least, diabolous. It was their members who, more than anyone else in the industry, had kept and are still keeping the Union busy day in and out fighting off violations, trying to direct jobber production to legitimate channels, etc. It was not, indeed, difficult for the Union's representatives to show, at the first hearing on this matter before Chairman Alger, that the complainants, the jobbers, had come to court seeking relief with hands not entirely clean.

The whole affair gives rise to suspicion that the jobbers had started this complaint at this time in order to drag it out long enough to enable them to make up their samples for the next season under the old conditions, namely, without the assumed obligation of running at least one inside shop. We doubt very much if they will succeed.

The Between-Season Lull in the Dress Industry is on again. Most of the workers are out of the shops; the streets of the dress district are crowded each morning with job seekers, part-time work aspirants, seekers of any work at all.

Facing Hard Realities in the Dress Industry

The fall season, even in the better years no more the important work season in the New York dress trade, brought little cheer to the dressmakers while it lasted. There appears to be no sign of change in the dress market from the trend towards cheaper and ever cheaper merchandise. The competition between producers at the expense, of course, of labor costs—the only item which they seem to find it easy to slash continually—is becoming keener and ever more merciless. And with this epidemic of cheapness still rampant in the industry, work standards continue to fall, earnings continue to drop and union work conditions in the dress shops are being trampled under foot.

How long can this go on? What is to be done to check this demoralization? What methods of defense, or attack, is the Union to adopt to meet this extraordinary situation? The leadership of the Dressmakers' organization, of course, realize that a trade union cannot change industrial conditions which depend on the economic situation of the country as a whole: they realize that, insofar as lower prices reflect the impoverished condition of the buying public, any effort to stem this tide of cheapness on the part of the Union would be futile even if it had the industry one-hundred per cent organized. But the Dressmakers' Union, and for that matter the great mass of the workers in the industry, are no less keenly aware of the fact that the present degradation of union work condi-
sions in the dress shops is the result not only of the natural causes of the prevailing depression. They know that the employers—jobbers, manufacturers and contractors alike—have taken full advantage of the economic crisis to cut prices, to discard agreed upon work-hour schedules, to humidate the workers and to terrorize them into a state of fear and helplessness over their jobs.

And they know, too, that this mad scramble for cheapness is sending daily out dozens of shops into the outlying districts and into the nearby States of Connecticut and New Jersey, where cheap dresses of every description by the ton-load are being made up at unbelievably low wages, long hours and under conditions of veritable industrial slavery. And this flood of cheap merchandise from the constantly expanding out-of-town bootleg production centers, they furthermore realize, is only adding fuel to the fires of competition in New York and is further degrading work conditions in the New York dress shops.

These thoughts, worries and problems are uppermost now in the minds of every active member of the dressmakers' organization, of every leader and of every thinking rank-and-file. They constitute almost the exclusive topic of discussion at the numerous meetings which are being held now that the slack period has again arrived and the dressmakers have more time for stock-taking and planning.

The key to the situation appears, by general consent, to lie in the fact that the industry is but partly organized. Only about a third of the workers in the huge dress trade, with its nearly sixty thousand employees in the New York market, are members of the dressmakers' organization. It is too evident that even under good industrial conditions it would be impossible to control terms of labor in an industry in which only a portion of the workers are organized.

What means may, and should, be used to attract the masses of the non-union dressmakers into the organization? Industrial conditions as they are today, what slogan, what program is the Union to advance to the vast non-union element? The general campaign of last Winter, it should be remembered, was a failure largely because the frightfully poor spring season in the dress industry which followed it had wiped out whatever results were achieved during that drive. What guarantee is there that general conditions will improve in 1933 and that improvements gained in another industry-wide drive will not remain improvements on paper only?

On the other hand, it is impossible to stand still and watch the industry sinking further into abyssal misery. Something must be done to arrest the continuous disintegration of work conditions in an industry which is still New York's largest and most profitable business despite the depression and the general lowering of the demand standards of the dress buying public. These thoughts fill the minds and plague the hearts of the active and loyal men and women in the dressmakers' ranks. They stir their meetings and agitate their discussions during these days of enforced idleness and inventory taking.

Cloakmakers and Dressmakers in every women's garment market have suffered bitterly from the depression in the past three years. But nowhere have the workers in the cloak and dress shops been hit as hard as in Cleveland.

Our Cleveland Campaign

In Cleveland the employers have taken advantage of the depression to destroy union work conditions and together with it the Union. They have used every trick and scheme, first, to get rid of union control in the shops and, then, to smash down work conditions. After dealing with the Union on a collective basis for more than twelve years, the Cleveland cloak and dress manufacturers last year purposely dissolved their association and adopted a policy of bitter opposition to the Union. The Cleveland Joint Board was compelled to ask manufacturers on an individual basis while shops were temporarily lost to the organization and employers did not stop there. During the year cuts in many shops, work hours were disregarded, pay for legal holidays was practically abolished, the security against unemployment in the form of time-loss unemployment fund was all but abandoned, and there was an unluckily hard times.

The current drive of the Cleveland Joint Board to organize all the workers in the local shops is aimed primarily at putting a stop to this brutal irresponsibility. The cloak and dress workers must be saved from the tragedy of the sweat shop. They have waited and suffered long enough. The time has now come for them to stand up like American wage earners and fight for the restoration of humane and decent work conditions in the New York shops.

The Cleveland workers will not be alone in this fight. The International, of which the Cleveland organization is a loyal and faithful part, has pledged to the Cleveland cloakmakers and dressmakers its full support in this campaign, and the International will abide by its pledge. Nor will the Cleveland workers be intimidated by the fear of some of their employers that they would give up business or liquidate their present shops should the workers continue to press the demand for decent wages, humane work hours, and union recognition. Employers in other cities have tried this stuff on many occasions, but when the workers showed courage and determination they invariably won.

The Sensational Disclosures in the Public Press

of disgraceful conditions in hundreds of women's garment shops in many Connecticut towns, where thousands of young girls are being sweated at unbelievably low wages and incredibly long hours, may have shocked a considerable number of more enlightened and sensitive citizens in Connecticut and in New York. To those of us, however, who have come in daily contact with the problems of the women's garment workers in the revelations of Mr. William G. Shepherd, in Collier's, and of Mrs. William Bilevitz, in The Nation, concerning 15 year old girls being forced to work for 4, 5 and 6 hours in fly-by-night Connecticut dress, lingerie and even cloak shops, is no startling news.

We have known right along, and we have endeavored to make these facts as widely known as possible, that hundreds of such shops, if they can be dignified by this term, have been ripped up, during the past few years, in Connecticut—and in New Jersey—by former New York manufacturers and contractors whose labor-saving practices had been checked by our Union and by the factory and labor laws of New York and who have found nearby Connecticut and New Jersey convenient places to house the surplus sweat-shop laborers for their New York shop operations. These sweat-shoppers have been encouraged to come to Connecticut town by real estate "booster" committees and by local chambers of commerce upon the promise that they would not be interfered with by labor laws, factory inspections, and trade unions. And whenever our Union had attempted in the past to organize these half-enslaved women workers, and to protect them against the greed of the sweat-shoppers, we were met by the bitterest sort of opposition on the part of the local police and the courts who apparently regard trade union activity in behalf of underpaid and overworked young girls as a crime.

President Dubinsky's move in launching a broad organiza-
n national activity in Connecticut, in conformity with the last decision of the G. E. B. regarding out-of-town non-union shops, could not have been made at a more opportune time. Let us hope, in the words addressed by President Dubinsky in his letter to Governor Cross of Connecticut, that "a thoroughly aroused public opinion will side with us in this campaign to eradicate the sweat shop conditions prevailing in these shops and that we shall not fail the civil and court authorities allied with the sweat shoppers against us."

In addition, there is reason to believe that all fair-minded elements in Connecticut, aroused by these revelations of brutal work conditions in the sweat garment shops, will succeed in forcing through the General Assembly of their State, more adequate labor and factory regulations that would enable the Labor Department of Connecticut to proceed against these sweatshops and to offer the unfortunate workers employed in them a degree of protection.

These are election weeks in most of our New York cloak organizations, and, like in former years, such elections are bound up with a lot of excitement, trades, "deals," and an expenditure of energy and means that to an outsider may rightly appear as extravagant and wasteful.

That our elections are hotly contested affairs is itself not an unwholesome thing. Our unions have from their early days been thoroughly democratic organizations in which every cause, no matter how unpopular, has been allowed a generous hearing. It cannot be, nevertheless, denied that in the past few years especially these local elections have become tainted with abuses of fundamental trade union ethics and that the electioneering methods practiced in some of the locals have fallen far below fair standards.

To correct some of these abuses and to improve election methods and regulations until now in vogue in general, our last convention has adopted a number of new rules, printed elsewhere in this issue, which President Dubinsky has now forwarded, in a circular letter, to all local bodies the country over. It is to be hoped that the locals will strictly adhere to these new by-laws during the pending elections. We have reason to believe that such locals as have in the past spent entirely too much money for elections will practice economy this year and will reduce this expense to a minimum.

Above all, we hope that all sound trade union elements in all the locals—and they constitute a preponderant majority—will act like good trade unionists and will overwhelm every attempt on the part of the so-called "left" groups within some locals to creep into the executive boards for the benefit of their avowed Communist allies on the outside. During this critical period, in particular, such disruptive factors have no room in the councils of constructive trade union organizations.

VICE-PRESIDENT NAGLER, the general manager of the New York Cloak Joint Board, was granted a leave of absence by the central body of the New York cloakmakers after repeated and urgent requests.

Brother Nagler Seeks Health

Brother Nagler's health has not been good for some time past. Recently, however, the strain of his office began to tell heavily on him and his physicians advised him to take a rest and to mend his physical condition without further delay. The Joint Board was, therefore, forced reluctantly to accept his temporary retirement and appointed Bro. Samuel Lefkowitz, Manager of the Jobbers' Department, to fill this post while Brother Nagler is away.

The members of the Joint Board locals and all his numerous friends in our Union and in the Labor movement will wish Brother Nagler a speedy and complete recovery. We all hope that his temporary retirement from activity at the head of the Cloakmakers' organization will not be unduly prolonged and that we shall soon have him in our midst again.

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Toronto Drive Under Way

By S. KRAISMAN
Joint Board Manager

I hope that our members appreciate the interesting time we are going through in Toronto at the moment and that they will long remember it as a lesson for future guidance. For, despite low work prices, miserable work conditions and unemployment, our local situation still offers many odd features that are to say the least amusing.

A Tory Allied With "Reds"

In our previous local opposition movement the exponents of disruptive tendencies, at least, had somewhat of a union reputation and made an effort to cater to the better elements of the cloak trade. But it seems that even disruption has now degenerated, and we now have the enlightening spectacle of "red" and "black," of Fascism and Communism marching hand in hand in their abortive efforts to destroy trade unions.

A few months ago, when the disruptonists began their turmoil in the cloak market, I predicted that it would not be long before the members of our Union discovered that they are dealing with a group of irresponsible who have unsavory reputations in the cloak trade, and I am happy to say that not only our active workers but the general mass of the Toronto cloakmakers have recognized them as such. The disruptonists, in the desperattion to make a showing, have enlisted the assistance of a Montreal reactionary capitalist politician and are planning to break up unions with his assistance. The rank and file of the workers, by this time, are so nauseated with this unholy alliance that they avoid them as a contagious disease.

Union Prepares For Campaign

The Union here is making all preparations to carry on an intensive organization campaign to reestablish union control in the shops. We expect Vice-president Kreindler to come to Toronto by the 15th of this month to assume charge of the drive. We already have picked an organization committee of 100 active members who are ready to do all they can in cooperation with Bro. Kreindler. There is one thing that Toronto may boast of, and in respect we are second to none, namely, of a splendid group of members who rise equal to any occasion and are ready to work day and night in an organization campaign. Not only have we an "old guard," veterans of several former campaigns, but we also have a younger element imbued with constructive union principles who can be fully depended upon. The spirit among our people, on the whole, is very encouraging. Indeed, never in my experience in the Union have I seen better attended and better conducted meetings as we have had here during the past few months.

Drive Already Under Way

We recently had a general member meeting and all of us, without exception, were pleasantly surprised at the splendid turn-out of members who attended. Many questions were discussed in an intelligent trade union manner, and in every present seemed to be of one mind that we must unite, to fight now, the companies that reestablish union control in the local cloak industry. At that meeting we picked the organization committee I mentioned before, and this committee has held its first meeting last week at which plans were discussed and a complete machinery for the organization campaign was established. I am sure that when Vice-president Kreindler comes to Toronto, he will be amazed at the amount of ground already covered by the organization committee.

As far as the trade in general is concerned, the little work we had here during the season has come to an end. There are a few shops making samples, but most of the manufacturers have not gone to New York for styles as yet. However, the trade has organized as far as the composition of the firms is concerned, for, as usual, at this time of the year, dissolutions and bankruptcies take place, and new partnerships and corporations are being formed, we can now have a general idea as to whom we shall have to deal with.

And as far as the cloakmakers are concerned, there are one thing on the mind of each and every one of them—the coming
News From Cleveland Fighting Lines

BY ABRAHAM W. KATOVSKY,
Manager Cleveland Joint Board

In the notices which our Joint Board had sent to the small town manufacturers, the 15th of November was set as the date for a definite decision on the agreement for 1933. Prior to that date, however, the Keller-Kohn Co., the largest cloak employer in Cleveland, with nearly 300 workers in their inside and outside shops, notified us that they were going out of business. They gave the following reasons:

1. Their business had shrunk materially in the past year;
2. The firm had lost money in 1932;
3. The company was overmanned; if they were to remain in business, 80 per cent of the volume would have to be under the $16.50 line, and this they could not make under a union agreement.

Other Firms Refuse to Renew Agreements

Simultaneously with this announcement, all the other manufacturers with whom we have contracts under the Union that they would not renew the agreements for the coming year. We were, therefore, faced with a double problem: first, to find a new market for the labor, and second, to prevent the other firms from withdrawing their workers to renew the agreements with the Union. "Justice" readers probably remember that a similar situation occurred, with regard to the Keller-Kohn firm, last year when they had put up ten demands to the Union with a threat that, in the event they were not acceded to, the firm would go out of business. Thanks to the solidarity shown by the workers, we were able in making the firm take back all those demands and to renew the contract for 1932 with minor changes.

Keller-Kohn's New Tactics

This year, instead of employing threats, the Keller-Kohn firm has decided upon a different course of action. They notified the Union that they were going out of business, hoping apparently that this fear of losing their jobs would make the workers accept their terms on any conditions.

The question that might be asked: "Would a firm of such size doing a business of $3 to $4 million dollars a year, make a damaging announcement of this kind if it were insincere?" can't be answered without a brief analysis of the following facts. The Keller-Kohn firm has for years been catering to small town merchants. Of these small town retailers quite a number were driven out of business by the chain stores, while the business of the rest is now not acceptable because of their credit can't be satisfactorily checked. The firm was therefore confronted with the need of a drastic change in selling methods along with the problem of organization drive. Everyone seems to be impatient and ready to do things; particularly that impatience at shop meetings where the members feel restless and want to know when we may be starting to go out on a big scale.

I feel convinced that the situation is shaping itself in our favor and that with the cooperation of the leadership we shall succeed in getting our organization drive once again on the I. L. G. W. U. map as a fully organized cloak market with union work conditions prevailing in all the shops.

readjustment from within. If they need not call on so many retailers as before, they need less salesmen.

Second, to make a readjustment in their overhead, they could not find a better way than to announce that they were going out of business. Such a move, they felt, would cause workers to remember that we would be willing to accept terms similar to those offered us by a year ago.

Not Liquidation But A Fight on Union

The Keller-Kohn Co., however, is erring. They cannot do this. The spirit of our members, though the psychological pressure created by their announcement cannot be underestimated. But our members are intelligent enough to understand that the Keller-Kohn business is not the kind to be thrown away or give up. It is obvious that the firm is not going out of business but is contemplating a fight upon the Union. In fact, last week an event took place which confirmed our contention. The firm began to make samples for the Spring season assigning as an excuse that the samples are made only to dispose of the Spring material on hand. The Keller-Kohn then really intends to do, in our judgment, is to give up the inside shop and to make up its garments wherever it can get them made. But the Union is ready to meet this challenge and to meet it effectively.

Committee Confers With President Dubinsky

Our Joint Board, realizing the big problem before us decided to confer on this matter with the General Office.

Brothers Friend and Solomon, chairman and secretary of the Joint Board, were sent to New York to consult President Dubinsky on the situation. President Dubinsky assured them that he would do everything possible to help the workers of Cleveland in their fight with the company. The message brought back from our President was very encouraging to the Cleveland workers and they stand ready to take up the challenge of the Keller-Kohn firm.

Until this situation is cleared up our answer to the other manufacturers will be kept in abeyance while we are watching every move they might make.

Our Organization Drive

It is needless to point out here that the Keller-Kohn announcement has had a damaging effect upon non-union workers. The workers in the non-union shops do not realize that the company is interested in selling uniforms. Our committee has found that the firm knows that if we succeed in organizing non-union shops and improving the condition of the workers, conditions in their own shops will improve. But the Keller-Kohn firm also fail to realize that the announcement was intended to break down the Union's campaign so that the firm might go ahead

with its plans to manufacture their garments under sweat shop conditions.

Since the campaign started, a series of leaflets have been distributed at the shops by our committees. A shop paper called "The Ladies' Garment Worker" has been started which contains also shop news and other trade union matter. Our members are working energetically in front of the shops. Non-union workers are also nightly visited in their homes. These non-union workers are beginning now to understand more than ever before that in order to keep in step with developments in the garment industry they must have a union.

Meanwhile, the manufacturers are using every conceivable method to intimidate and coerce the workers. They have threatened to discharge those who dare to join the Union and have formed a stool-pigeon system in the shops to discover such as join the organization. Daft (H. E.) at present, only a miracle may avoid here a general strike. Many of the non-union workers have promised that when the strike is called they would respond to it.

What We Demand

In this organization campaign the Union's demand are:
1) Abolition of the sweat methods in many factories;
2) Higher pay;
3) The 8-hour day;
4) Price committees selected by the workers;
5) Guaranteed minimum wage scales for all crafts;
6) One price for inside and outside workers;
7) Time and a half pay for overtime;
8) Pay for legal holidays.
9) Security against unemployment.

President Dubinsky in a letter advised us that on his way back from the A. F. of L. convention he would step over in Cleveland for as long a time as might be necessary to review the Cleveland situation. Our members are looking with eagerness to having President Dubinsky here as this would be the first time since 1918 that a president of the international has taken a direct part in the making of an agreement in Cleveland.

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Chicago Negotiates Cloak Contract

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

For several weeks past we have been chiefly concerned with negotiations concerning the renewal of agreements with employers. These discussions have been more difficult than usual because of a general reluctance on the part of employers to have to renegotiate agreements. There have been more disagreements as to what the workers want and the employers do not. At the same time, the demand for labor has been down, and the employers have been able to hold their prices down.

The big issue of the day has been the question of a "standard of living" for all workers. There have been differences of opinion as to whether or not this should be included in the current negotiations.

The main argument has been that this is a question of current wages, and that the joint board should not have to try to force employers to agree to something that is not part of the current negotiations.

The board has argued that it is necessary to include the "standard of living" in the current negotiations in order to prevent the slipping of wages. The employers have argued that this is not a matter for the joint board to settle, but one that should be handled by the government.

The board has also been criticized for trying to force employers to agree to something that they do not want. The employers have argued that this is a matter of individual agreement between the employer and the employee, and that the joint board should not be trying to force employers to agree to something that they do not want.

The board has argued that this is a matter of public health, and that the employers should be willing to agree to something that is in the best interest of the workers.

The issue of the "standard of living" has been a matter of great dispute, and it is likely that it will continue to be a matter of debate for some time to come.

They Keep On Demanding

They also came around later in the day and they asked for more time to talk about the issue. They wanted to know how much more they could get for their workers. The employers argued that they were already giving the workers more than they could afford.

The board pointed out that the workers were not getting anywhere near what they deserved. They argued that the employers were not being fair to the workers.

The issue of the "standard of living" has been a matter of great dispute, and it is likely that it will continue to be a matter of debate for some time to come.

In the Philadelphia Organizations

By ELIAS REISSBERG, Vice-President, Manager Dress Joint Board

In the Dress IndustrY

In Philadelphia the full dress season was one of the worst ever experienced in the local dress history. It will not be an exaggeration to state that there was hardly one full week's work in the shops from August until now. At present the "season" is at an end; most of the shops are shut down.

We have heard that there was a great deal of competition to the general rule in many other cities. We know that we are not alone in the plight of unemployment. We are not ignorant of the fact that dressmakers everywhere nowadays have to struggle to keep body and soul together. But knowing this does not make our situation any easier.

It is true that the unions have their difficulties in Philadelphia as in many other places, but we know that we are not alone in the struggle. We are not the only ones who are suffering.

The Philadelphia Waits and dress market

With the Cloakmakers

In the cloak industry we have encountered likewise a very bad time and the cloakmakers worked only half time throughout the last full season. The cloak season is one of the best in the business, but not good enough to be able to say that the cloakmakers are making a fair living. The depression has had a very serious effect on the industry.

As a result, the activities in the Cloakmakers Union were slowed down somewhat and the question of economy has been constantly coming up at their meetings.

Traditionally, the cloakmakers' organization in Philadelphia does not change its leadership every year. The Union is made up like one big family, and there never has been any reason for a change of leadership. The two officers of the Philadelphia cloakmakers' union, Bros. Joseph and Daniel Rubin, have been elected for another term and is now the only paid official of the Cloakmakers' Union. There is no doubt that the cloakmakers will lend him their support in the future.

Trouble in Sight

The cloakmakers will sorely miss the leadership of Bros. Joseph and Daniel, but they are sure that he will continue his useful activity in the organization. They also feel that the cloakmakers have a right to have their wishes heard in the Board's meetings. They do not want to have their wishes brushed aside.

We expect shortly to renew our organizing activity in the towns where we have organized against runaway firms. We are calling the attention of the international to the fact that for pursuing relentlessly every employer who is trying to dodge union conditions by moving to an outlying place, and we shall not rest until such shops are brought back.
The problem of the out-of-town shops is not a new one in our Union: it is, in fact, as old as our organization itself. The flight of workers to the large cities has practically begun from the day our Union in New York has succeeded in obtaining a foothold and the workers have been able to take advantage of the extra work which the larger cities offer.

The small town in Connecticut, New Jersey or upstate New York to the union-dodging manufacturer or contractor always has contained a strong attraction from the viewpoint of cheap, plentiful labor, cheap production plants and abundant protection from the local authorities.

Years Ago and Today

This problem, however, while not a new one, has never before been full of significance to the well-being and the work standards of the big-city Union worker as it is today. It has become, in recent years, not merely a question of individual shops escaping from New York City but of a wholesale exodus. "Out-of-town" has become a big production center, employing thousands of workers. There has been more than one underlying cause which led to this development.

First, the making of cloaks and dresses, at one time a complex task requiring skill and experience, has now become quite simplified. Years ago, only producers of the cheapest garments could afford moving their shops to outlying localities such as the Brooklyn districts, Harlem, Bronx. An employer who wanted to transplant himself to a place outside New York proper was then compelled to take along with him a complete staff of mechanics, and that implied large costs. There was also the troublesome problem of delivery, the hazard of transportation. Now to the Union Declare a strike even in the new locality (the runaway shop invariably had a few workers in it who still continued to belong to the Union membership and would not be willing to work), and all these drawbacks combined to make moving out of New York a rather expensive and cumbersome task.

A Fire-Fighting Agency

The Eastern out-of-town department, which the Union had organized in these years used to perform the functions of a fire-fighting agency. Its business and policy was chiefly that of bringing the runaway shop to the shoe. And it would strike a blow even in the new locality (the runaway shop inevitably had a few workers in it who still continued to belong to the Union membership and would not be willing to work), and all these drawbacks combined to make moving out of New York a rather expensive and cumbersome task.

The simplification of styles and work methods in the cloak and dress industry has created new possibilities for the workers who were not satisfied with the control of work conditions. The Dillers in the cloak industry and the Flomothers in the dress industry have disappeared to make room for the Biala brothers. One of the large scale producers of cheap merchandise, the kind that can be made practically everywhere. The truck transportation system has developed to an extent that it has become just as convenient to ship made-up goods from a Connecticut or Jersey town overnight to New York as from one Manhattan section to another.

A Totally New Situation Now

In short, the out-of-town situation has reached its climax today: we are facing an extent that it has become just as convenient to ship made-up goods from a Connecticut or Jersey town overnight to New York as from one Manhattan section to another.

What then is to be done? How can we proceed to make these shops less of a menace to the organized market? My answer is: We have to find, if we can, ways and means to make these shops less of a menace to the organized market.

If we analyze these shops, we must take them into the fold of the Union; we must improve the work conditions at these shops, and then the production costs will become equal. If these improvements are made, in our out-of-town organization policy, the workers in these shops will be able to compete with these shops and the New York or other big city shops. I do not mean to imply by this that the workers in these shops are not offering, on the contrary, the workers in these shops are offering better conditions. In the end, however, we shall be able to convince them of this and establish a union over these shops.

If we undertake among these workers a campaign of organization and of improvement of work conditions, I am confident that we shall win in the end. And by this method we shall also succeed in cutting down the present merciless competition between the union shops and the non-union shops.

G. E. B. Unveils Sigman Monument

More than six hundred friends, former associates and co-workers of Morris Sigman, late president of the I. L. G. W. U., who died in Storm Lake, Ia., on July 19, 1931, gathered on Sunday, November 29, at Mount Eden Cemetery, Queens, L. I., at the unveiling of a monument erected on his grave by the General Executive Board of the International Union.

The monument, a tablet of marble granite, bears the simple inscription in the center: "Morris Sigman, 1883-1931." A couple of feet lower, a tablet reads: "The Friends, Befriended and Left His Mark on the Labor Movement."

Early in the morning, committees of the various localities in Greater New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Cleveland, St. Louis, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Cincinatti, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, and in other cities-Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland—began to gather in the International Building, 3 West 14th Street. More than a hundred buses and about fifty automobiles took the invited guests and the several hundred members delegated by their organizations to take part in the unveiling at 11:30 A. M. to the cemetery.

A Simple Ceremony

The unveiling ceremony was as simple and as impressive as the life of Morris Sigman. There was genuine earnestness and deep feeling in the short addresses delivered at the grave and the profound feeling showed itself clearly on the faces of the hundreds who gathered around the tombstone which was completely covered with wreaths of flowers sent by locals and by central bodies. Vice-President Julius Hochman, a lifetime friend of the late Morris Sigman, acted as chairman and presented the speakers.

The first to speak was Hugh France, New York City organizer of the American Federation of Labor, who spoke on behalf of President Green and the Executive Council of the Federation. He said in part: "We have made this pilgrimage to the grave of Morris Sigman to express upon this sacred spot our tribute of love and affection for one who dedicated his life to the advancement of the cause of labor, one who during his life contributed to the ideals and aspirations of labor and to the cause of human progress and happiness. If he were here today, he would be speaking as a leader of the Labor movement which he loved so well. He would be helping to solve the many problems of the workers, in this city and throughout the nation.

A Heart That Beat For All Mankind

"No man in the Labor movement of his day did more to inspire in the minds and hearts of the workers the spirit of confidence, loyalty, devotion and determination to secure a greater and fuller share of the good things of life than did Morris Sigman."

"The life of Morris Sigman was a most interesting one; a poor immigrant boy, through tireless energy and a dauntless courage he overcame every obstacle that confronted him and reached a place in the life of the nation that made him honored and respected by all who knew him. To him we pay tribute, even though he has been called away by death, his memory will always remain: the man who is absent in person, his spirit is still with us to inspire all to strive higher than ever before to promote and advance the trade union movement and the ideals for which he fought in life and death."

The warmest and most touching speech delivered at the unveiling was that by President David Dubinsky. President Dubinsky began by interpreting the simple inscription on the Sigman monument into chapters of the late leader’s life. "These words," he said, "express better than any long oration the many contributions of Morris Sigman’s life and of his unyielding contribution to the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and to the Labor movement as a whole."

A General and a Soldier

"Morris Sigman was not only a general, he was a soldier in the ranks who shared with his comrades in the trenches all the
With the New York Dressmaker

By MAX BLEUSTEIN, Secretary

In his report in the November issue of "Justice," Bro. Samuel Perlmuter, manager of Local No. 10, complains about the officers of Local No. 22, who, he claims, at a recent meeting of the local, had charged the cutters' union with failing to cooperate with the other locals of the Dress Joint Board.

Brother Perlmuter says that he cannot "of himself explain the motives behind these insinuations." He says, "the failure of the Dress Joint Board to function properly was due to the lack of cooperation on the part of Local 10. I should consider it a very serious charge, and Local 22 should have referred such charges directly to the international." Several instances were also cited by him, in which the cutters were made the victims because the operators—who he thought were members of Local No. 22—did not cooperate with the former in helping to win certain strikes.

I sincerely welcome this opportunity to discuss the very vital problems in the official press of our union, in the hope that such a discussion will accelerate their solution. I am certain that if we approach this question in a proper spirit, we shall soon find it possible to work for the common good of our entire organisation.

One more word concerning this charge of non-cooperation. Non-cooperation cannot be righted by charges, as Bro. Perlmuter suggests; nor can it be salved by gaining a favorable decision at the hands of an investigating committee. It has been proven more than once that it is quite possible to comply with the letter of the law and at the same time violate disgracefully the spirit of the same law. It must be apparent, also, to Bro. Perlmuter that every official verdict carries with it, as a rule, new and more violent controversies. We must, therefore, dismiss the question of charges and, instead, examine broadly the position which Local No. 10 has adopted towards the Dress Joint Board from its very inception.

"After the Deluge"

In attempting to meet the present crisis in our industry, I believe, Local No. 10 has assumed a policy of self-preservation which, in essence, is equivalent to the theory of "after the deluge." It is likely that Local No. 10 was driven to this position by

... the force of circumstances, but that it is not subject its position to less criticism. We are convinced that the momentous theory of the individual over the majority stands being wrong in principle, is not half as important as in the success of the individuals concerned. Specifically, the motive of this, an improvement in the lot of the one who constitute a minority in every group without taking into consideration of the crafts, is neither morally nor practically unless we are not Local No. 10, proach the local administration when its members that it has to try improvements for the greater and more enhance be the prestige of the craft. Without seeing all the crafts could show the same members! The real reason, however, that cause one local to be key position in the seeks to strain times with outations.

We are not Local No. 10, to Local No. 22, inquiring their own violation of and never unpardons of our own condition heretofore, of reason. Instance recently a, 10 would be more in order. We are main propety of its equal with...
With the Baltimore Cloakmakers

By SAMUEL KAPLAN, Secretary

As I read in "Justice" about the difficulties and hardships which our organizations, all over the country are facing these days on account of the depression, the thought occurs to me that we here in Baltimore are no exception to the general rule. We are a branch of the largest of our industry's trades, and the worst that are disturbing the lives of the cloakmakers everywhere these bad times have, naturally, harmed us considerably.

Our own problems here are perhaps even more aggravated for the reason that we have not here any inside manufacturers; just a few big jobbers and a lot of small contractors. As a result, control of work in the shops is very hard, and being that the jobbers here carry the responsibility for production, the moment, we confront our union contractors with a demand for more or less decent prices we are faced with the possibility that the jobbers would send the work to non-union contractors and our members would then be left without a job. This is, of course, well to bear in mind in connection with some of the plans that we are getting ready to carry out in Baltimore for the next season.

We Hold Our Position

What concerns the condition of our local, with the assistance of the help of the international, we have succeeded in holding our lines and even regulating several attacks by the employers. We are going on with organizing activity right along as the present situation only would permit, but unfavorable and now one grade here is less organized than in some parts of the country. The feeling in the shops in general is a depressed one, and the way it seems to appear to us nothing short of a depression in its worst conditions has been materially for us. So we are keeping every effort to prepare the ground for such a movement.

For my part, I have no doubt that every Baltimore cloakmaker, regardless of the fact whether he or she belong to the Union, or whether they understand the great importance of this demand, I believe that when the opportunity comes to us, we shall all like one person rally to the call of Local 4 to fulfill for our members, particularly those more active, obligations of self-imposed decisions is essential to the welfare of the organization. We must, once and for all, lay down the law for the future of our order, to maintain our dignity and discipline.

A New Branch of Minority Crafts

Our local has now undertaken the creation of a separate branch of minority crafts consisting of finishers, drapers, examiners, and cleaners. The members of the Union have approved this proposal many months ago.

A preliminary meeting of the above crafts was held in the office of the Union on November 19, and was attended by about 50 of the members. The remarks of most of the craftsmen who participated in the discussion were genuinely interesting. These workers, most of whom take no active part in the affairs of the organization, attended these meetings and take part in its problems, seemed to understand the complicated problems of our Union even better than some of the more active members.

Most of the girls complained bitterly about their exploitation by the employers. They openly complained that they were not always receiving the proper support and encouragement from the operators. Everybody at the meeting agreed that the creation of a separate branch, whose function and duty should be to take care of the problems of the minority crafts, would ultimately prove an important step.

Before the present issue of "Justice" is off the presses, a general meeting of the minority crafts will be held to form a permanent organization and to elect members to the Executive Board of Local 22.

Several Recently Approved Decisions

At a general membership meeting, held October 25, 1922, the following recommendations of the Executive Board were approved:

a) Discipline in Shops.

b) Shop Restrictions.
The Connecticut Needle Trades

By WILLIAM BILEVITZ

(Reprinted from The Nation, Nov. 16, 1932)

While the attention of the country has been focused on the unhappy condition of Southern textile operatives, Kentucky miners, and, generally, of the workingman, the industrial towns of Connecticut have been having labor troubles of their own. Even before the entrance of the sweatshop into Connecticut, the State was not exactly a workers' paradise. The Manufacturers' Association has seen to that. For years wages have been low, unions have been suppressed, and labor legislation has been discouraged. Nevertheless, the Connecticut industrial worker has remained docile. Recruted largely from the most recent immigrant classes, he is usually an Italian or Slav. In the factories he has contributed his share to the manufacture of machinery, hardware, firearms, organs, typewriters, streetcars, and clocks with rarely a word of complaint. The possibility of a lay-off was his one concern. Otherwise he lived boisterously in the factory district, voted the Democratic ticket, alternated between Italian wine and needed beer, and through the magic of installment buying managed to enjoy the benefits of progress until the crash of 1929.

For a period of years prior to the new historic crash Connecticut cities had been trying to drive the sweatshop out of New Haven. But a short time ago, the prospect of thousands of Connecticut women and women accustomed to employment at a low wage level, had Connecticut had obvious advantages over other industries. These new factories were feeling from the high wages imposed by the Amalgamated Clothing and United Needle Trades, New York City, as well as from the stringent labor restrictions of New York State. They found in New Haven all that they desired: low wages, an expeditious labor law, and a Chamber of Commerce to welcome them, and the Connecticut Manufacturers' Association to back them to the hilt.

During the six years that these factories have been in New Haven several strikes have broken out, a labor injunction has been issued, and scores of picketers have been arrested. The conditions that precipitated this unrest were recently outlined by the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor in a preliminary report. Although this report is considered a very conservative description of the sweatshop situation, it has received public attention throughout the State. Editorials demanding immediate action have appeared in a number of Connecticut's important newspapers. Governor Crozier, La Follette of the New York Times, and Mayor Murphy of New Haven have all denounced the sweatshops but admit themselves powerless to act without the proper remedial legislation. That legislation will undoubtedly be presented at the next meeting of the General Assembly, where it will have the assured support of the Connecticut Manufacturers' Association.

It is necessary here to differentiate between a regular factory and a contract shop. The owner of a regular factory in the needle trades manufactures something regularly; for the market the fluctuations of which are known to him through experience. He is reasonably sure of disposing of his product, and is not, therefore, making a contract, any more than he believes he can sell. For this reason employment in a regular factory is fairly stable and hours are more regular and the contract.

It is on the conditions usual in the contract shops, frequently open busy, overcrowded, and shorthanded, that the unions have concentrated their efforts. These shops, which are owned by employers who might be said to be doing a part-time job, are what the laboring man considers to be his birthright in the land of opportunity. It is the ideal of the contract shop owner to do more than make a living. His wages are usually from one to forty dollars. The following tables represent the wages paid in two of Connecticut's contract shops, and are based on information acquired by the State Department of Labor in recent investigations. Since most of the contract shops have little or no bookkeeping, the figures are based on the capricious notes of employers and managers. The first table represents the wages paid for a fifty-hour week and a forty-hour week.
Local 1-17 Controversy Nears End

November 3, 1933.

Dear Sir and Brother:

In pursuance of instructions of the General Executive Board at its last meeting, the Special Committee, which was appointed to carry through the classification of shops on the basis adopted by the General Executive Board in October, 1932, and approved by the Convention of the International, lists the following final rules of procedure:

1) The Committee shall submit a list of shops to the Joint Board and to Local 1 and Local 17, respectively, in conformity with the rules adopted by the G. E. B. on October 30, 1932.

2) All local transfers under the regulations herewith set forth shall be charged by the Local Union from which they are transferred for dues up to November 1, 1932 only.

3) Should any member whose local affiliation is to be transferred not be able to pay his arrears in accordance with the Committee's recommendation, the Local Union shall, nevertheless, issue such transfer and note the amount of his arrears on his transfer certificate. The Local Union receiving the transfer shall collect the arrears and turn same over to the member's former Local Union in amounts paid by him from time to time, until his obligation is fully met.

4) All members who are arrears up to thirty-three weeks shall not be accepted by either of the Local Unions without transfers.

5) Such members as have been automatically dropped from the rolls (after the 53 weeks stipulated above) shall not be accepted by either of the Local Unions without transfers.

shops in which they are employed are classified.

6) No applicant for membership shall be accepted by the Local Union unless such applicant is employed in a shop under the jurisdiction of the Local Union to which application is made, or unless such applicant is a member of any other Local Union.

7) Local 1 shall forward to Local 17, and Local 17 shall forward to Local 1 the weekly a list of the members transferred and accepted on the works, such lists to be checked up by the respective Local Unions as to the accuracy of the number of transfers listed and accepted.

8) Neither Local Union shall accept a member unless he is working in a shop coming under its jurisdiction.

9) In the event any member of the Local Unions accepts a member contrary to the rules and regulations herewith set forth, each Local Union shall turn over to the other the initiation fee and membership of the person in question.

10) Any member of either of the two Local Unions who has worked less than two weeks in a shop coming under the jurisdiction of the Local Union of which he is a member, shall, after four (4) weeks of employment, obtain a transfer to the Local Union which has jurisdiction over that shop.

11) The case of an applicant who has worked less than two weeks in a shop coming under the jurisdiction of the Local Union to which he has applied for membership and who is employed for less than his employment in a shop classified as Local 1 shops shall transfer their membership to Local 1.

12) Applicants who have applied for membership in either of these Local Unions up to this date and have not been accepted as members in the other Local Union unless and until such applicants have received the recommendation of the Special Committee, shall have their obligations to the first Local Union.

13) Neither Local Union shall issue working cards to workers employed in shops coming under their jurisdiction.

A large proportion of the girls and women employed in the above-shops have never had sufficient schooling to compose a letter of complaint to the proper authorities, and a still larger proportion are probably unaware that agencies exist which might help them. But Commissioner Tena has received a number of slightly garbled, yet coherent letters which may reflect existing conditions much better than statistics can.

A number of arrests have already been made of managers and owners who were employing minors without the required minimum age, or who had failed to post the labor laws in their shops as is required. Except for charges of this sort there is at present no means of reaching the men who run the contract shops. During the next session of the General Executive Board of the Union of Women Voters to lobby for a forty-four-hour week for women, and a maximum-hours law for minors. Commissioner Tena has obtained the necessary by this means the building of all establishments employing labor in order to facilitate the regular inspection of contract shops located in obscure lots in so-called factory buildings. Whether such legislation will be passed in the General Assembly is a difficult question to answer.

The transfer of members, in accordance with the above, from Local 1 to Local 17 and from Local 17 to Local 1, shall be completed not later than November 30, 1932.

The Committee recommends to the G. E. B. the appointment by the President of a permanent jurisdiction committee to take care of the rules and regulations set forth and to act in disputes that may arise out of the present reclassification of shops.

A newly organized shop shall first be properly classified into the first category back to work. In the event of a dispute as to classification, it shall be submitted to the above named jurisdiction committee who shall pass judgment on the classification of the respective shops or shops.

The Committee, above referred to, will be appointed by the above-mentioned committee and will be appointed by the Joint Board.

Fraternally yours,
SPECIAL COMMITTEE of the G.E.B.
Chairman.

Locals Notified About Election Law Changes

November 3, 1933

To All locals and Joint Boards of the Int'l. Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

It is customary for our affiliated organizations to hold their elections for officers during the coming months. Therefore, take this occasion to apprise you of the amendments to the Constitution of the International, which were adopted at the Twenty-first Convention held in Philadelphia in the month of May, and which bear directly on such elections:

No member of the I. L. G. W. U. shall be eligible to vote for the election of local officials unless he have lived in the particular local for at least three months prior to the date of election, and be paid up to date. (Appears on page 285 of proceedings.)

Any member who has been found guilty of violation of any provision of the Constitution, shall not be entitled to hold any office within the I. L. G. W. U. and its affiliates for a period of three years from the date of the completion of his trial. (Appears on page 285 of proceedings.)

The above does not in any way affect the office of any local or joint board officials, many of whom have lived in the particular local at least one year. (Appears on page 286 of proceedings.)

Members shall be eligible for any elective office unless he has been a member of the particular local at least one year. (Appears on page 286 of proceedings.)

Only such members will be eligible to be elected to office in said L. U. at the same local from the date of the conventions of the I. L. G. W. U. No member shall be eligible for any elective office unless he has been a member of the particular local at least one year. (Appears on page 286 of proceedings.)

Members shall be eligible for any elective office unless he has been a member of the particular local at least one year. (Appears on page 286 of proceedings.)

Local secretaries are hereby directed to notify all the members of these constitutional provisions and to guide them accordingly.

Sincerely yours,
DAVID DUBINSKY,
President-General Secretary
Season Worst in History of Our Industry

With the fall season in the cloak and dress trades coming very rapidly to an end, we find the situation worse than ever before.

An idea of what is going on in the dress industry at present may be glimpsed from a story by William G. Shepherd in Collier's of Nov. 12. It is through the writer's attention to the fact that New York jobbers are having their merchandise made up in Connecticut sweat shops where girls are being paid as low as 50 cents per day. It can readily be seen what a handicap our workers are placed under when they have to compete with off-town shops where such work is Evan done. It is claimed by the dressmakers in New York that they have practically no work at all during the past year and a half.

The cloak industry, too, has been growing worse, since 1932, from seasons to season.

While in the past years the inside manufacturer would almost uniformly start their spring season in the early part of December and work until Easter, and would begin the fall season in the early part of June, to last until Election Day, at present the seasons in this industry start a long time after the New Year, and the factories have now shrunk to 6 or 10 weeks. In some shops our workers do not make six full weeks during either season.

A glance through the inside shops right now would indicate to the outside observer that our workers have not even had a chance to make any call in the outside shops.

To add worry and discouragement, the industry is suffering from an epidemic of bankruptcies, reorganizations, and changes from manufacturing to jobbing, which has been growing alarmingly and has increased the number of our unemployed.

Causes and Effects

In examining the causes of these failures and reorganizations, we find that they are due largely to the overexpansion of our industry in view of the volume of production, in some cases to the extent of 50 per cent or more. In other words, these firms are selling only half the number of garments they used to sell and that at about half the former prices.

The demand for the higher price garment is gradually becoming ancient history. It is no wonder that such a situation is as a result of the present boom. Emmett Joyce, Maurice Bandler and a score of others have fallen by the wayside and along with them thousands of workers were thrown out on the unemployment market, while dozens of others are gradually slipping in the same direction. It is true that a large number of prominent cloak and dress employers became victims of stock market and Wall Street gambling, spurred on by a desire to graduate from the manufacturing class into the financial and banking class.

That financial debacle is still fresh in the minds of our people, as the collapse of such large establishments as Sprague & Marks, Singer Bros., Sadowsky's, Lefcourt's, Wm. Fishman's has meant not only havoc to themselves but chaos to the industry in general. And those of ours who have finally come out of their state of coma and decided to reenter the cloak business, such as Sam Samuels, Lustig, Fishman, have returned only to find that they have to compete with the Franklins and competition they themselves had helped to rear. Had these men stuck to the cloak business and shown a desire to improve the industry instead of selling out, the industry, by and large, would have been in a much better condition today.

Joint Boards Call Special Meetings to Consider Pressing Problems

As a result of the many failures and reorganizations referred to above, among them such firms as Weinsten & Son, employing about 90 workers, Bernstein Bros., Wm. Badger, Goldfield & Newman, Weissle Bros., and many others, a special meeting of the Joint Board Directors was held on Friday, November 13 at which the situation in the industry was thoroughly outlined by General Manager Izadore Nadel, before leaving for a short trip to improve his health. The question which consumed most time at that meeting was the weekly-work system. Some of those who spoke expressed the opinion that the persistent policy of the Union to continue the work-week system has been the cause of the retirement of many firms from the manufacturing business, and that by working longer, their entering the jobbing system; other speakers insisted that the piece work system, if reinstated, would leave the problem unsolved if not worse.

Another problem in which the Joint Board is very much interested is the financial condition which confronts the Union at present.

It is no secret that since 1932, when the international had taken over the remnants of the Cloak and Dressmakers' Unions, both Joint Boards have found themselves handicapped financially, as a direct result of former Communist mismanagement. The Communists, having squandered over a million dollars of the security funds which belonged to employers, have thereby saddled the American clothing industry with a debt that, even if it were paid off in full, would not leave the American clothing industry in the same condition that it was in before 1932.

In economy plans which will be presented by the Executive Board on December 24, the Joint Board will take steps to minimize the cost of other Americans, to reduce the amount of money spent in the future for work that does not pay, to increase the amount of money spent in the future for work that does pay, and to increase the amount of money spent in the future for work that does pay, and to increase the amount of money spent in the future for work that does pay, and to increase the amount of money spent in the future for work that does pay, and to increase the amount of money spent in the future for work that does pay, and to increase the amount of money spent in the future for work that does pay, and to increase

SPECIAL MEETING of the Miscellaneous Branch
To Nominate Members to the Executive Board for 1933
will be held
Monday, Dec. 5
at the
International Auditorium
3 West 16th Street
at 7:30 P.M. sharp

All Underwear and Children's Dress Cutters are urged to attend this meeting without fail.

Attention!
Cutters of Local 10
A Good and Welfare Meeting
will be held
Monday, Dec. 12
at ARLINGTON HALL
23 St. Marks Place
at 7:30 P.M. sharp

Each and every member is urged to attend this meeting without fail.
The Month in Local 10

(Continued from preceding page)

the elimination of standing committee expenses and such other items, all of which would mean an annual saving of about $25,000.

Firms Compelled to Reintestate Cutters

The firm of Samuel Rapaport and Character Dress threatened recently to give up their cutting departments and dismiss the cutters. The Rapaport firm, which was located at 821-7th Avenue, and was employing 8 cutters, recently moved out of its premises to 1,460 Broadway, where it joined partners with a certain Hoffman, a bitter enemy of the union, who never operated a union shop. Immediately thereafter they informed the cutters to secure other jobs as they did not intend to continue cutting. When this information reached the office, the shop was immediately declared an strike. After effective picketing for three days the firm agreed to reinstate all the men.

The same situation developed in the Character Dress. This firm also announced that they would give up their cutting department and would discontinue cutting. The office of the local immediately called upon the firm and warned it that unless their cutters are put back to work, a strike will be declared against it. After a few days elapsed the firm reconsidered its former decision and reinstated the cutters.

Nominations for 1933 Officers

The following members of Local 10 were nominated for the various paid and unpaid offices of the organization for the coming year at a meeting held at Arlington Hall on Monday, November 25:

President - Maurice W. Jacobs
Vice President - Martin Feldman
Secretary - Joel Abramowitz
Central Trades Labor Council - Julius Levine
Jack Kopf - Arthur Blumberg
Sam Massover - William Fine

Attention! Cutters of Local 10

Installation Meeting

will be held

Monday, Dec. 26

at

ARLINGTON HALL

23 St. Marks Place

at 7:30 P. M. sharp

Among the speakers who will address this meeting, will be David Dubinsky, President of the International; Julius Hochman, General Mgr., Dress Joint Board; Ida Oster Nagler, General Manager,Cloak Joint Board, etc.

Each and every member is therefore urged to attend this meeting without fail.

Books will be stamped signifying attendance and the $1.00 fine for non-attendance will be strictly enforced.

READERS OF JUSTICE

In case you move from your present quarters, please notify your local office of your new address. We shall then forthwith put your new address on our mailing list.

Attention, Cutters! Members of Local 10

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

For the ensuing term of 1933

will take place

Saturday, Dec. 17

at

ARLINGTON HALL

23 St. Marks Place

The polls will be open from 12:00 Noon to 6:30 P.M.

Come without fail and bring your dues book with you.

Manager-Secretary
Samuel Perlmutter
General Business Agent
Philip Ornstein
Business Agents to Cloak Joint Board
Louis Stilberg, Max Gordon
Sam Loder, Max Diamond
Business Agents to Dress Joint Board
Morris Alvis, Adolph Sonen
Election Board:
Abe Reysz .............. 105
Issac Bass ............... 122
Max Polacheck ........... 105
S. Linderblatt ........... 115
Morris Lavin ............ 139
Abe Wildman ............ 139
William Zelwoben ...... 30

Cloak Executive Board Members:
Nathan Saperstein Louis Fainkin
Philip Ansel Louis Gold
Louis Brown, 19
Charles Beavers Philip Lelbowitz
Harry Friedman William Ander
Meyer Friedland Jack Chasbyt
Harry Zaslawsky Abe Merritt
Emanuel Kopp Isser Cohen

Dress Executive Board Members:
Joel Abramowitz Joe Ader
Morris Fuller Louis Gilbert
Morris Strauss Fred Ratner
Benjamim Evry Julius Levine
M. Pupko

Pres. Dubinsky Seeks Local Economy Data

In carrying out the policy of economy and cutting down of union management expenses inaugurated by the General Office of the I. L. G. W. U., President Dubinsky has forwarded a letter to all the locals and joint boards affiliated with the international in which he asked them to submit to him the briefest time possible all the facts and information regarding re-arrangements already made and economies planned for the near future.

The letter was sent out following a conference of all the New York cloak locals held in the middle of November, at which several of the locals represented reported some of them had already taken the initiative in introducing drastic economies.

The letter follows:

November 25, 1932

Dear Sir and Brother:

At its last meeting, the General Executive Board devoted much time to the consideration and discussion of the organization's industrial problems which face our local unions and joint boards, and unanimously agreed to the urgent need for curtailment of management and organ-izational expenses wherever possible to meet the emergency situations created by the present industrial condition.

In September of 1931, the General Office took the initiative and carried through a policy of strict re-enforcement by reducing the salaries of its officers and employees, and curtailing the staff in its various subdivisions, effecting an annual saving of between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars. It was the conviction of the G. R. B. that similar savings and curtailment of expenses should be made by its local unions and joint boards, and it, therefore, decided that the Finance Committee of the G. R. B. and the General Office shall have full authority to look into the finances of each and every local and subdivision and to direct them how and when to make these economies and cutting down of expenses.

We are aware of the fact that several of our locals and joint boards have already undertaken to introduce re-enforcement and economy in order to meet the requirements of the present emergency. To obtain a complete picture of the situation, in order to properly coordinate and direct such economies wherever required, we are hereby requested to furnish us with the following information:

1. What branch or department has been eliminated or curtailed?
2. How many persons, if any, were dropped from the payroll?
3. How many persons had their salaries reduced, if any, and what was the total sum of these wage decreases?
4. When were these economies effected?
5. What savings, if any, were made by your organization expenses, rentals, office management costs, etc.
6. What other definite economies do you plan to make within the immediate future?

If no economies as yet have been effected by your local union or joint board, do you contemplate making any in the immediate future and what is your plan?

Will you kindly supply us with this data without undue delay and I may submit this information to the Finance Committee for their consideration.

Yours truly,
DAVID DUBINSKY,
President-General Secretary.