

Central Labor Union Asked to Mediate

An attendance above the average, an interest that was intense expressed determination to stand solidly together and present a united front, an address from a minister of the gospel whose unionism leads him to speak without fear or favor—this in brief is the report of the Central Labor Union meeting Tuesday night.

For the first time in the history of the local body the deliberations were opened with prayer. Rev. Mr. Batten, appearing with credentials from the Ministers' Association as a fraternal delegate, was asked to invoke the Divine blessing, and did so while the members reverently stood.

The routine business of the meeting was quickly disposed of. The reports of trades was gratifying, ranging from "fair" to "excellent."

M. E. McKnight from the Teamsters reported that his union had been unable to reach an agreement with the employers, and presented a resolution from the local asking for the services of an arbitration committee from the central body. Briefly stated the contention is this:

A year ago the Teamsters and the employers were unable to get together for quite a while but finally met and arbitrated their differences, the result being a contract that was in effect one year, ending with the first day of the present month. Shortly before the expiration of the agreement the Teamsters presented their new wage schedule and asked for a conference with the employers. The employers let the matter run along until after the expiration of the 1904 agreement, and then presented a schedule of their own making, saying that it was what they would pay. The Teamsters immediately asked for a conference for the purpose of adjusting the differences, but up to date have failed to secure any concessions from the employers. The employers have refused to meet either as a committee or as a body with the Teamsters.

At Monday night's meeting of the Teamsters the matter was discussed in all its bearings. Then it was decided to ask the central body to lend its aid to an effort to adjust matters peacefully and satisfactorily to all concerned. The Teamsters have become impressed with the idea that the local employers of teams and teamsters have tacitly agreed not to treat with their employes, but to arbitrarily force their scale upon the teamsters without giving them any voice in the adjustment thereof.

On motion the chair appointed the following committee to visit the employers and endeavor to secure arbitration of the existing difficulties—S. J. Kent, M. T. Castor, Louis Hale. On motion the fraternal delegates from the Ministers' association were asked to designate one of their number to work with this committee.

In this connection it might be mentioned that the central body was a unit in declaring that he organized trades of the city were ready to stand to a man behind the teamsters in their efforts to secure arbitration of the difficulty. Mr. Kent struck a responsive chord when he declared with emphasis that, "To arbitrarily set a price upon the labor I have to sell without consulting me is unfair and un-American."

The committee was notified to get to work as soon as possible and on Wednesday morning it met and began its labors.

Under "good of the order" Rev. Mr. Batten was called on, and in response made a union speech that met with the hearty approbation of the delegates. Rev. Mr. Batten declared that anything which tended to uplift humanity, that tended to bring men closer together in the ties of brotherhood, was worthy of being encouraged, and he believed in labor organizations because they meant helpfulness. "As a general thing," said the speaker, "I believe sympathetic strikes to be mistakes, but be that as it may, there is something about the sympathetic strike that appeals to my heart, for it is evidence that men are willing to undergo hardships and privations in order that they may be of service to their brothers who are in trouble." Continuing the speaker said: "I believe that a man's best interests are best conserved when he forgets his own interests in the great work of guarding the interests of his fellows." This sentiment was greeted with great applause. "I know that labor unions have made mistakes," said Mr. Batten, "but that is only natural because the members are men. Organized labor has been guilty of crimes, too; but I am willing to let history and facts bear witness to the truth of the assertion that organized labor in all its history has never been guilty of the crimes that have been perpetrated by organized capital."

Rev. Mr. Batten assured the members of his interest in them as men and brothers, and announced his willingness to work with them to the end that mankind would be benefitted and the cause of the Master served. The short address was one of the best ever delivered on the floor of the Central Labor Union, and after adjournment the delegates crowded around the speaker and thanked him for his co-operation and his words of encouragement and advice.

AUXILIARY SOCIAL.

Capital Auxiliary's May social will be held at Bohanan's hall Wednesday evening, May 17. Union printers and their wives are cordially invited to be present and enjoy a pleasant evening. An exceptionally good program is being arranged, and good music will be furnished.

Let every printer remember the date and attend the social. Those who miss it will miss the time of their lives.

SERVANT GIRLS STRIKE

Refuse to Work Under Conditions That Have Become Unbearable.

New York, May 1.—Thousands of servants in Greater New York have delivered the ultimatum to their employers—"No more coal ranges." Consequently, hundreds left their positions. They were out but a short time. Employment agents quickly solved the mystery of the apparently concerted movement against coal stoves.

Inquiry developed the fact that the girls and women had quietly devoted their spare moments during the summer to organizing a general crusade against the practice of forcing them to stand over veritable furnaces in kitchens. "Gas ranges and heaters, or we quit," was their cry when householders began preparing for the use of coal during the winter months.

The servants had learned a thing

two from those of their number whose employers use gas exclusively, winter and summer. They determined that they would no longer be roasted over masses of heated iron and steel, and that they would no longer put up with the muss and fuss of coal.

In their campaign, the servants knew that a gas heater attachment provided the heat that does not come from a gas range. They announced that they did not believe it would be a hardship on their employers. When objections were made, they promptly presented a statement of cost, showing that it was no greater. Then they demanded that they be given the treatment due to all human beings.

It's Often the Case That—We miss today's opportunities because our eyes are swollen with the tears shed over yesterday's failure.

We see very little good in life because we are always looking for the worst of it.

We fall to see our neighbor's virtues because we spend our time searching out his faults.

Success.—"Who is that scrawny little man crossing the campus as if he were afraid some one would recognize him?"

"O, that's Professor Bumps, the scientist who has acquired thirty-seven degrees and written a number of books that are used as standard text books in our leading universities."

"And who is that young fellow that everybody greets with cheers?"

"That?" Why, where've you been not to have made the acquaintance of Leonidas Mercutio Smithers, the collegian who invented our university yell and discovered a new way of tying an ascot tie?"

WOMAN'S UNION LABEL LEAGUE SOCIAL.

On Monday evening, May 22, the Woman's Union Label League will give a social at Central Labor Union hall, the purpose being to raise funds to defray the expenses of a delegate to the international convention in Chicago in June. A fine program—something out of the ordinary—will be rendered, refreshments will be served, and the best of music provided for those who desire to enjoy the merry dance. The Woman's Union Label League is doing a splendid service for unionism; and it deserves the cordial support of union men and women. The admission to the social—including everything that goes on inside the hall—will be 25 cents. Let every unionist in the city remember the date and be there, prepared to enjoy the hospitality of the League, and at the same time assist the organization in a splendid work. The attendance should tax the capacity of the hall.

STORY OF A CAPMAKER

(By Rose Schneiderman.)

(Miss Schneiderman led the women capmakers in their recent successful strike for the union shop. She is a small, quiet, serious, good looking young woman of twenty years, already a member of the national board, and fast rising in the labor world.—Editor.)

My name is Rose Schneiderman, and I was born in some small city of Russian Poland. I don't know the name of the city, and have no memory of that part of my childhood. When I was about five years of age my parents brought me to this country and we settled in New York.

So my earliest recollections are of living in a crowded street among the East Side Jews, for we also are Jews. My father got work as a tailor, and we lived in two rooms on Eldridge street, and did very well, though not so well as in Russia, because father and mother both earned money, and here father alone earned the money, while mother attended to the house. There were then two other children besides me, a boy of three and one of five.

I went to school until I was nine years old, enjoying it thoroughly and making great progress, but then my father died of brain fever and mother was left with three children and another one coming. So I had to stay at home to help her and she went out to look for work.

A month later the baby was born, and mother got work in a fur house, earning about \$6 a week and afterward \$8 a week, for she was clever and steady.

I was the house worker, preparing the meals and looking after the other children—the baby, a little girl of six years, and a boy of nine. I managed very well, though the meals were not very elaborate. I could cook simple things like porridge, coffee and eggs, and mother used to prepare the meat before she went away in the morning, so that all I had to do was to put it in the pan at night.

The children were not more troublesome than others, but this was a hard part of my life with few bright spots in it. I was a serious child, and cared little for children's play, and I knew nothing about the country, so it was not so bad for me as it might have been for another. Yet it was bad, though I did get some pleasure from reading, of which I was very fond; and now and then, as a change from the home, I took a walk in the crowded street.

Mother was absent from half-past seven o'clock in the morning till half-past six o'clock in the evening. I was finally released by my little sister being taken by an aunt, and the two boys going to the Hebrew Orphan Asylum, which is a splendid institution, and turns out good men. One of these brothers is now a student in the City College, and the other is a page in the Stock Exchange.

When the other children were sent away mother was able to send me back to school, and I stayed in this school (Houston Street Grammar) till I had reached the sixth grammar grade.

Then I had to leave in order to help support the family. I got a place in Hearn's as cash girl, and after working there three weeks changed to Ridley's, where I remained for two and a half years. I finally left because the pay was so very poor and there did not seem to be any chance of advancement, and a friend told me that I could do better making caps.

So I got a place in the factory of Hein & Fox. The hours were from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m., and we made all sorts of linings—or, rather, we stitched in the linings—golf caps, etc. It was piece work and we received from 3½ cents to 10 cents a dozen, according to the different grades. By working hard we could make an average of about \$5 a week. We would have made more but had to provide our own machines, which cost us \$45, we

paying for them on the installment plan. We paid \$5 down and \$1 a month after that.

I learned the business in about two months, and then made as much as the others, and was consequently doing quite well, when the factory burned down, destroying all our machines—150 of them. This was very hard on the girls who had paid for their machines. It was not so bad for me, as I had only paid a little of what I owed.

The bosses got \$500,000 insurance, so I heard, but they never gave the girls a cent to help them bear their losses. I think they might have given them \$10, anyway.

Soon work went on again in four lofts, and a little later I became assistant sample maker. This is a position which, though coveted by many, pays still in glory than in cash. It was still piece work, and though the pay per dozen was better, the work demanded was of a higher quality, and one could not rush through samples as through the other caps. So I still could average only about \$5 per week.

After I had been working as a cap maker for three years it began to dawn on me that we girls needed an organization. The men had organized already, and had gained some advantages, but the bosses had lost nothing, as they took it out of us.

We were helpless; no one girl dare stand up for anything alone. Matters kept getting worse. The bosses kept making reductions in our pay, half a cent a dozen at a time. It did not sound important, but at the end of the week we found a difference.

We didn't complain to the bosses; we didn't say anything except to each other. There was no use. The bosses would not pay any attention unless we were like the men and could make them attend.

One girl would say that she didn't think she could make caps for the new price, but another would say that she thought she could make up for the reduction by working a little harder, and then the first would tell herself:

"If she can do it, why can't I?" They didn't think how they were wasting their strength.

A new girl from another shop got in among us. She was Miss Bessie Brout, and she talked organization as a remedy for our ills. She was radical and progressive, and she stimulated thoughts which were already in our minds before she came.

Finally Miss Brout and I and another girl went to the national board of United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers when it was in session, and asked them to organize the girls.

They asked us: "How many of you are there willing to be organized?"

"In the first place about twelve," I said. "We argued that the union label would force the bosses to organize their girls, and if there was a girls' union in existence the bosses could not use the union label unless their girls belonged to the union."

We were told to come to the next meeting of the national board, which we did, and then received a favorable reply, and were asked to bring all the girls who were willing to be organized to the next meeting, and at the next meeting, accordingly, we were there twelve strong and were organized.

When Fox found out what had happened he discharged Miss Brout, and probably would have discharged me, but that I was a sample maker and not so easy to replace. In a few weeks we had all the girls in the organization, because the men told the girls that they must enter the union or they would not be allowed to work in the shop.

Then came a big strike. Price lists for the coming season were given in to the bosses, to which they did not agree. After some wrangling a strike was declared in five of the biggest

factories. There were thirty factories in the city. About one hundred girls went out.

The result was a victory, which netted us—I mean the girls—\$2 increase in our wages on the average.

All the time our union was progressing very nicely. There were lectures to make us understand what trades unionism is and our real position in the labor movement. I read upon the subject and grew more and more interested, and after a time I became a member of the national board and had duties and responsibilities that kept me busy after my day's work was done.

But all was not lovely by any means, for the bosses were not at all pleased with their beating and had determined to fight us again.

They agreed among themselves that after the 26th of December, 1904, they would run their shops on the "open" system.

This agreement was reached last fall, and soon notices, reading as follows, were hung up in the various shops:

NOTICE.

"After the 26th of December, 1904, this shop will be run on the open shop system, the bosses having the right to engage and discharge employees as they see fit, whether the latter are union or non-union."

Of course we knew that this meant an attack on the union. The bosses intended gradually to get rid of us, employing in our place child labor and raw immigrant girls who would work for next to nothing.

On December 22d the above notice appeared, and the national board, which had known it all along, went into session prepared for action.

Our people were very restive, saying that they could not sit under that notice, and that if the national board did not call them out soon they would go out of themselves.

At last the word was sent out, and at 2:30 o'clock all the workers stopped, and, laying down their scissors and other tools, marched out, some of them singing the "Marseillaise."

We were out for thirteen weeks, and the girls established their reputation. They were on picket duty from seven o'clock in the morning till six o'clock in the evening, and gained over many of the non-union workers by appeals to them to quit working against us.

Our theory was that if properly approached and talked to few would be found who would resist our offer to take them into our organization. No right thinking person desires to injure another. We did not believe in violence and never employed it.

During this strike period we girls each received \$3 a week; single men \$2 a week and married men \$5 a week. This was paid us by the national board.

We were greatly helped by the other unions, because the open shop issue was a tremendous one, and this was the second fight which the bosses had conducted for it.

Their first was with the tailors, whom they beat. If they now could beat us the outlook for unionism would be bad.

Some were aided and we stuck out, and won a glorious victory all along the line. That was only last week. The shops are open now for all union hands and for them only.

While the strike lasted I tried to get work in a factory that was not affected, but found that the boss was against me.

Last spring I had gone as a member of a committee to appeal to this boss on behalf of a girl who had been four years in his employ and was only getting \$7 a week. She wanted \$1 raise and all legal holidays. Previously she had had to work on holidays. After argument we secured for her the \$1 raise and half a day on every legal holiday.

When the strike broke out, looking

(Continued on Page Four.)

Woman's Union Label League

Interest in the work of the Woman's Union Label League is growing, and the interest of the membership is evidenced by the constantly increasing attendance upon the meetings. The meeting last Monday night was the largest in the League's history, and three new members were initiated.

If union men and women were alive to the real value of unionism they would be more liberal in their support of this splendid organization which has for its object the upbuilding of union sentiment and the advancement of the union label. The League's chief mission is to cultivate a demand for the union label, and although the local organization has been sadly handicapped by reason of lack of support on the part of those most interested in this work, it has already accomplished a great deal of good. The members are alive to the value of the label, and are not only demanding it on what they buy, but they are trying to awaken union interest in the label. It would seem that union men should not be in need of any special urging on this point, but it is a sad fact that union men themselves are too prone to ignore the label on everything that they are not interested as tradesmen in making. At one union meeting recently where about 150 union men were gathered, an investigation disclosed that 35 of the number were wearing "scab" hats. This is about 25 per cent. Doubtless an even greater per cent were wearing "scab" clothing and "scab" shoes.

There is something wrong about the unionism of the union man who neglects to demand and insist upon having the label on his hat, clothing, shoes, shirts, collars, overalls and jacket. It is to overcome this wrong that the Woman's Union Label League was organized. There is every incentive to union craftsmen to join this league and assist it in its good work, for that work is nothing more nor less than to advance his interests as a craftsman.

The international convention of the Woman's Union Label League will meet in Chicago on June 6, and Mrs. Alice Kent, president of the local League, has been elected delegate. The local's funds are low at the present time and at Monday night's meeting it was decided to give a social for the purpose of raising funds to meet the delegate's expenses. A committee was appointed to take charge of all the arrangements, and it is the intention to make the social better than any yet given by the League—which means something unusually good. The social will be given on Monday evening, May 22. Next week's Wageworker will give full details.

Election of officers for the ensuing term was held, with the following result:

President—Mrs. Alice Kent.
Vice-President—T. C. Kelsey.
Second Vice-President—Mrs. Wright.
Recording Secretary—Mrs. W. M. Maupin.
Financial Secretary—Mrs. Gus Swanson.
Treasurer—Mrs. A. Hill.
Sergeant-at-Arms—Mrs. Elgin.
Doorkeeper—Miss Schaant.

Under the head of "good of the order" several interesting talks were made, and it was the unanimous opinion that the outlook for the League's success was brighter than ever before in its history.

CAPITAL AUXILIARY.

Changes Its Date of Meeting and Arranges For May Social.

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 has been meeting at the homes of the members since its organization, but the Auxiliary has grown to such dimensions that this method has become unhandy. At a special meeting held at the home of Mrs. Maupin Monday afternoon it was decided to rent Bohanan's hall twice a month, and the date of meeting was changed from Friday afternoon to Wednesday afternoon. It was also decided to hold the regular monthly social on the evening of the second meeting in each month.

At last Friday's meeting Mrs. H. W. Smith, president of the Auxiliary, was elected delegate to the international convention at Toronto on August 14, and the sum of \$50 appropriated to meet her expenses.

The committee having charge of the April social reported and the report was very satisfactory. A vote of thanks was tendered The Wageworker for its assistance in making the social the greatest success in the history of the organization's social affairs.

(Contributed.)

Capital Auxiliary No. 11 will have taken a progressive step when the next meeting is held in Bohanan's hall on May 17. On account of the increased membership, the homes of the members have been taxed to their utmost, in order to accommodate the large attendance.

The ladies have been deliberating upon this plan for some time and final action was taken at a special meeting held at the home of Mrs. Will Maupin on May 8. The feasibility of the plan was almost unanimous and hereafter the meetings of the Auxiliary will be held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Bohanan's hall on South Tenth street.

May 12 is the lucky day for the Auxiliary's market which takes place at the "old stand," the Keystone Grocery. The ladies are very indulgent in donating their good cooking for so good a cause, that of making money for the Auxiliary. We are not beggars, of course, as we have some money in the bank, but we do want to add to the fund in order to more easily meet our obligations further on.

We expect to pay our delegate's expenses while she is representing us in Toronto at the convention next August.

At our last meeting, held at the home of Mrs. George Freeman, our worthy president, Mrs. H. W. Smith was elected delegate to Woman's International Auxiliary to I. T. U. Mrs. W. M. Maupin was unanimously chosen alternate. Either one of these ladies expect to furnish their own transportation.

Do not forget the date of our next

social, May 17. The committee are working hard to make this social a success, so it is hoped that all printers and families will be present.

MRS. BARNGROVER.

AUXILIARY SOCIAL.

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THE PAINTERS.

Waging a Strong Fight and Boosting Fair Firms Day and Night.

The Painters and Decorators are making things lively for the unfair employers, and have instituted a scheme that beats the boycott a block. Instead of knocking on the unfair firms the union men are boosting the fair firms, and the result is that the unfair firms are looking for business, while the fair firms are looking for men. Cards bearing the names of A. Cornell, Lincoln Wall Paper and Paint Co., W. N. Steikels and the Lincoln Sash and Door Manufacturing Co., all fair firms, are being circulated and union sympathizers asked to throw all possible patronage to them.

The demand for union workmen is good, and more "square men" could find employment right now. In fact, the union is in better shape than it was before the late trouble. It has weeded out the spineless members who thought more of a temporary job than they did of their unionism, and has gained some recruits whose unionism was manifest when they refused to play the "scab" after being brought to the city by the misrepresentations of the unfair employers.

Sold

"That may be a fine poem, Scribberly, but I'll be blest if I can understand what it means."

"Thanks, awfully, old man. If it strikes you that way it's as good as sold to one of the leading magazines."

Money can buy many things, but here is a combination that it can not purchase: A frolicsome dog at the gate, a laughing baby at the window and a smiling wife at the door.