

Scholarship Winners



Chicago.—Michael A. Musser (left) and Raymond Van Kerkhove (right), members of the Chicago Flat Janitors Union affiliated with the AFL Building Service Employees, stand next to their offspring, Frederick M. Musser, 18, and Shirley Anne Kerkhove, 18, winners of the union's 1950 Opportunity Scholarship Awards for study at Northwestern University. In the center is AFL Vice-President William L. McFetridge, president of the Building Service Employees.

Safety Leaders



Washington.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin (left) gets last-minute information on program for President Truman's Conference on Industrial Safety from William L. Connolly director of the labor department's bureau of labor standards, just before conference convened on June 5.

ICFTU To Help Asia



Brussels, Belgium.—J. H. Oldenbroek (center), secretary-general International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, leans over shoulder of Eiler Jensen, Denmark, to discuss with Miss Maribon Kara, India, plans of the ICFTU to aid free trade unionism in India and other democratic countries of Southeastern Asia. Gordon Chapman, Madison, Wis., secretary-treasurer AFL State, County and Municipal Workers, was appointed member of ICFTU commission to visit India and other countries of the area to bolster anti-communist labor forces.

Women's League Quits With "Carry-On" Cry

WASHINGTON.—The National Women's Trade Union League dissolved on June 15 after 47 years of pioneer crusading for protection of women and children in industry. Miss Elizabeth Christman, secretary-treasurer for 27 years, said she believed the league had accomplished its mission.

"Women are now widely organized and have the protection of union standards," she said. "The unions themselves now do the work which we once did. I think we can be proud of our record and of the sacrifices made by many of our pioneers in this movement."

The National Women's Trade Union League was organized in 1903 at Faneuil Hall, Boston, during an AFL convention. The late Samuel Gompers gave it his strong endorsement at a time when working women and the labor movement had few sympathetic supporters.

The sweat shops, the strife, the ignoble attitude of employers toward their workers in 1903 seem far away now. But the record of improvement in working conditions for women and children, the understanding of their problems, and the growth of the labor movement was made bright by the services of the Women's Trade Union League.

In some far year ahead, readers of that record will find the torchlight of the Women's Trade Union League still lighting the way to go. Let the record speak! For 47 years the league was a

recoation of trade unions with women members, with a supplementary membership of persons who indorsed its principles and accepted its platform. National and International Unions and State Federations of Labor were linked to the league by affiliation.

In the several industrial centers where the league maintained local branches there was a similar relationship. The fundamental principle upon which the Women's Trade Union League based its work is the organization of women wage earners into trade unions. Throughout the years it has been their spokesman, the interpreter of their problems—and these have grown in complexity with mass production and modern speed, repetitive processes and mechanized assembling.

Above all others to whom tribute is made and gratitude must be expressed is Margaret Dreir Robins, for 38 years the president or honorary president of the league. She was the guiding spirit from the early days of the league until the end of her life in 1945. Her spirit and understanding, her exhilarating leadership, opened the door to a

vider and more useful life for countless women workers.

As the program of the league developed over the years there was practically no facet of the worker's life that it did not influence. The primary task of organizing women into trade unions was carried out successfully in many parts of the country. Women in the garment industry and other needle trades, in the textile industry, in many other trades and industries, were helped by the league to organize and become part of the labor movement.

During the months of the bitter strike in the clothing industry in Chicago in 1910 the league organized and supported the commissary for the striking workers. The president of the league was one of three signers of the famous Hart, Schaffner and Marx agreement which resulted from this strike and which set up collective bargaining machinery in the industry.

Elimination of home work and the sweat shop was part of the league's successful achievements. The league established the first training school for women labor leaders in 1913. The first summer school for women workers at Bryn Mawr College followed the resolution adopted by the league at its convention in 1915.

As early as 1905 the league initiated a movement for a federal investigation of the conditions of women and child wage earners, which led eventually to the establishment of the Women's Bureau and the Children's Bureau in the federal government.

It inaugurated health instruction and medical care for women workers in Chicago in 1912, and in 1908 it was instrumental in setting up an Immigrants' Protective League and in developing an American program for immigrants, who were a neglected group in that great city.

The first international gathering of working women in history, in 1919, was inaugurated and supported by the National Women's Trade Union League, and in 1922 the league was the first national woman's organization to go on record for international cooperation to abolish war.

Miss Christman said in a final report:

"The complete history of the league's work for women and for the labor movement will be found in the advanced opportunities for women, in the improved working conditions in industry and in the greater understanding that exists today of the problems of all workers.

"We have ploughed the hard fields and planted them with the seeds of accomplishment. Some of the crops have been harvested, others are yet to come to fruition. We ask our friends and supporters to carry on in the many new ways that are now open to them until the entire harvest is in, and women workers everywhere have full opportunity to play their part in the economic and social life of the nations."

ILGWU FILM HITS BROADWAY

(Continued From Page 1)

Me or the labor movement?" He replies:

"How many suits or dresses does the family of a textile worker buy on \$15 a week? Through the union you raise wages, improve conditions. People live like people instead of like an apple. Does an apple buy what I make in the shop? No. This stuff about the American standard of living—know how to get it? Build the trade union movement."

The film shows how collective bargaining is conducted in the industry, the summer vacation resort owned by the ILG for its members in the Pennsylvania Pocono Mountains, the health centers. And all through the film are woven the episodes which show how a few thousand men and women fought determinedly to bring unionism to a cut-throat industry.

"The motion picture of your union," says President Green in the film to the ILG leader, "portraying the struggles and accomplishments of the ladies garment workers also typifies the struggles and accomplishments of the American labor movement."

"Samuel Gompers was the architect and builder of the trade union movement in this country. He came to America as an immigrant boy from the East Side of London and bound up his life and destiny with the millions of underprivileged. Many of the scenes shown in this picture would have been familiar to Gompers.

"I know he would have been

proud, as proud as we are, had he lived to see what American labor has achieved for the wage earner as well as for America itself."

Following its Broadway run, for which admission is to be charged, the film will be shown to AFL unions all over the country and to the European labor movement.

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