

WAIST STRIKE ON; 18,000 WOMEN OUT

**They Quit Work In Factories Here
on a Signal From Their
Union Leaders.**

SOME EMPLOYERS GIVE IN

**East Side Halls Crowded with Strikers,
and the Number Is Expected to
Grow to 40,000 Soon.**

Every available hall on the east side was filled yesterday with striking shirt-waist girls, who quit work throughout the city in obedience to the strike vote passed at the mass meeting in Cooper Union and three other halls on Monday night. There are some men among the strikers, but they were insignificant in numbers compared to the vast outpouring of women and girls from the shirtwaist factories.

In accordance with a programme arranged late on Monday night the army of waistmakers went to work as usual yesterday morning. At 10 o'clock an agent of the union in each factory gave the signal and the strike was on. At a waist factory at 536 Broadway, where a strike occurred before and was called off only 50 of the working force of 450 girls obeyed the signal at first. Then a young fellow who gave the signal pushed a button and turned off the power. The lights went out and there was a stampede from the place, in spite of the efforts of a number of forewomen to prevent it.

More than twenty halls were designated as meeting places, but the general tendency was to crowd into Clinton Hall, 151 Clinton Street, where the Women Waistmakers' Union has its headquarters. The office of the Shirtwaist Makers' Union is on the fifth floor. B. Weinstein, S. Goldstein, Salvatore Ninfo, Max Kasimirsky, and Solomon Schindler were looked on as a Committee of Arrangements at Clinton Hall, but the women came in such numbers that nothing could be done. The office of the union was choked up with people; so were the stairways, passages, and every assembly room in the building.

Employers began to arrive to settle with the union, but had a hard time to get near the room where the officers had agreements ready to be signed. Later non-union women strikers began to arrive to ask how they could get into the union. They were admitted on payment of 25 cents each as an installment of the initiation fee, but so many came that there was no chance of writing receipts, and those not admitted were told to call again. Every time the office of the union opened the press of people behind forced men and women into it, until the man who was filling out the agreements had not room to move his elbows. The place was cleared, only to have the same thing happen every twenty minutes. It was announced that eleven employers had signed agreements with the union, and that fifty more who were ready to sign will do so to-day.

The strike leaders could make no estimate of how many workers were on strike. So far as they could guess about one-half of the shops were affected, and about 18,000 waistmakers were out. More continued to quit until the closing of the factories, and the strike is expected to be complete to-day. The leaders, who estimate liberally, cling to their original statements that 40,000 will be affected.

Miss Mary E. Dreier, President of the Women's Trades Union League, appeared at Clinton Hall in the afternoon and succeeded in persuading the striking waist girls who filled up the corridors to squeeze themselves into different assembly rooms so as to leave a passageway for employers who came to settle. There were several police around, who kept order at the doors, but were jostled around like other people if they were caught in the crowd.

Miss Dreier said that the Women's Trades Union League had formed itself into a sort of general committee of the whole to aid the strike in every possible way.

"The first day is the worst," she said. "After to-day matters will be systematized. Such a big strike as this is hard to handle at first."

Each factory has its own system of wages, which are to be filled in blanks in the agreements the employers are required to sign. There are general demands applicable to all, the principal of which are an advance of 20 per cent. for piece workers and 15 per cent. for week workers; a fifty-two-hour working week for the latter, pay for all legal holidays and not more than two hours in any day to be worked as overtime. The proposed agreement, of which the union is the one party and the employers the other, also provides that if either side violates its provisions the party violating it shall pay \$300 for "liquidated damages."

Some of the women waist workers refused to strike. This was the case with the employes of two firms at 207 Wooster Street.

The employers are not organized. None of them had much to say about the strike, except that it was expected.

• MCCARREN'S VACANT PLACE.

**Republicans Want Hughes to Call a
Special Election to Fill It.**

Despite the efforts of the local Democratic leaders to have Gov. Hughes leave vacant until the next general election the seat of the late Senator McCarren in the Senate, the other political interests in the Seventh Senate District, Brooklyn, are demanding that a special election be called to elect a successor to Mr. McCarren. The Democratic leaders wanted the seat left vacant "out of respect to the memory of McCarren."

It is probable that the Governor will be asked to set Dec. 21 as the date for holding the special election. Ex-Senator George A. Owens and Ernest C. Wagner will probably try for the Republican nomination. Owen Murphy, leader of the Thirteenth Assembly District, seems to be in the lead for the nomination on the Democratic side.

Miss Louise Taft to Wed G. H. Sheldon

The engagement is announced of Miss Louise W. Taft, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Taft of 36 West Forty-eighth Street and a niece of President Taft, to George H. Sheldon of Seattle, Wash. The marriage will take place in the holiday season. The engagement of Walbridge S. Taft, Miss Taft's brother, was announced in THE TIMES last September. His younger brother, named William Howard after the President, is a student at Yale. Mrs. Taft was Miss Julia Walbridge Smith.