



NEWS

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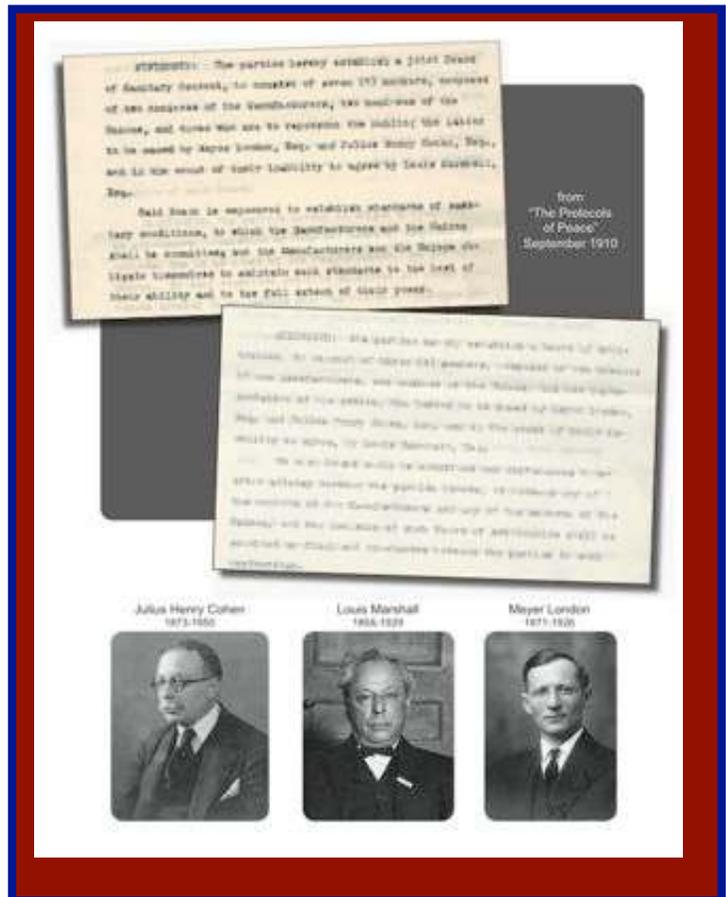
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CENTURY OLD DOCUMENT HERALDING NEW ERA OF INDUSTRIAL LABOR RELATIONS PART OF ICONIC COLLECTION AT AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

“Protocol of Peace” — mediated by Louis Brandeis and Louis Marshall — established arbitration boards, and ended the 1910 cloak-makers strike in New York

CINCINNATI, OH:--- September 2 will mark the 100th anniversary of the signing of the "Protocol of Peace"—an agreement that ended the New York City cloak-makers' strike and ushered in a new era of industrial labor relations. The original 10-page document—an agreement negotiated and mediated by future Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, and famed attorney Louis Marshall—is part of the rare documents file and Louis Marshall Papers at the American Jewish Archives (AJA), located on the Cincinnati, Ohio campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

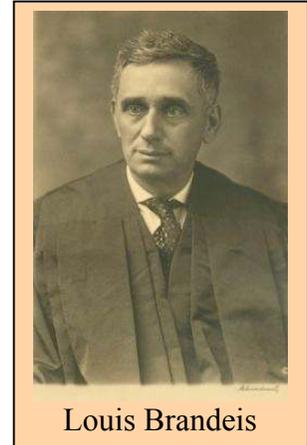


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View the entire 'Protocol of Peace' document at:

<http://www.americanjewisharchives.org/aja/aje/details.php?id=694&page=1>

Historians have observed that the most innovative elements of the landmark agreement included the establishment of arbitration boards—which included members of unions, manufacturers, and neutral third parties to settle labor disputes; and the formation of a Joint Board of Sanitary Control—a committee comprised of both union and manufacturer representatives who would oversee working conditions and details surrounding the creation of the “preferential shop.” This “shop” included a ban on all strikes and lockouts and required manufacturers to hire union workers who were of equal quality and skill in comparison to any non-union applicants.



Louis Brandeis

THE STORY

- *On July 7, 1910, over 50,000 needleworkers belonging to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) called a general strike against all New York City shirtwaist manufacturers.*
- *The strikers protested horrific working conditions, low wages, and demanded the implementation of the “closed shop,” requiring union membership as a prerequisite for hiring.*
- *The strike was spearheaded by a group of Jewish labor organizers, including Samuel Gompers (1850–1924), the future founder of the American Federation of Labor, Meyer London (1871–1926), an attorney and future Socialist Party congressman, and the “King of the Cloakmakers” Joseph Barondess (1867–1928), who was the head of the ILGWU and a future founder of the American Jewish Congress.*
- *The ILGWU and the garment manufacturers, who had also organized and created their own trade group, the Cloak, Suit, and Skirt Protective Association, contacted future U.S. Supreme Court Justice and prominent lawyer Louis Brandeis (1856–1941) to act as an intermediary during negotiations.*

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- *Brandeis was instrumental in making significant progress towards a successful compromise between labor and management. However, by the time the negotiations were finalized, famed Jewish lawyer Louis Marshall (1856–1929) took over as the head mediator. With the help of another lawyer, Julius Henry Cohen, Marshall infused many of Brandeis's ideas into a final agreement between the two sides and gave the "Protocol of Peace" its name.*
- *On September 2, 1910, the New York City cloak-makers' strike ended with the signing of the "Protocol of Peace" agreement.*

The "Protocol of Peace," as summarized by historian Richard A. Greenwald, was "revolutionary because it went beyond hours and wages to the heart of the problems facing industrial America: democracy in the workplace." The "preferential shop" was a compromise between union leaders, who wanted a work force comprised completely of union members, and employers (who did not want their management decisions dictated by the threat of a strike). It was engineered by Brandeis, and it encouraged both fairer treatment of workers by manufacturers and an increased sense of ownership and responsibility among union members.

"The 'Protocol of Peace' is a foundational document in the history of labor relations in the United States," said Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director of the AJA and Professor of the American Jewish Experience at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. "The fact that an original copy of this historic agreement is preserved in the American Jewish Archives reminds us, once again, of the pivotal role that American Jews have played in the history of the American nation.

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The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, founded in 1947 by its namesake on the Cincinnati, Ohio, campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, is committed to preserving a documentary heritage of the religious, organizational, economic, cultural, personal, social and family life of American Jewry. The Marcus Center contains over 15,000 linear feet of archives, manuscripts, nearprint materials, photographs, audio and videotapes, microfilm, and genealogical materials.