It is good news indeed that the walkout of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union has been settled—and in such an extraordinarily short time, considering the size and complexity of both the industry itself and the issues involved. On strike only since last Wednesday, garment workers in New York and six neighboring states are now starting to return to work and the employers can still meet the rising demands of the Easter season.

Three reasons for the prompt settlement stand out clearly, two of them highly personal: Herbert H. Lehman and Harry Uviller, wisely chosen by Mayor Wagner to help settle the dispute. It is no reflection on City Labor Commissioner Felix that they were called in. As a matter of fact, he performed a useful function in laying the groundwork for the others' action.

Former Senator Lehman and Mr. Uviller are old dress industry hands, who already had the confidence of both union and employers and who know the business inside out. Mr. Lehman had been close to it for many years before he became Governor and Senator—as disinterested arbitrator, mediator and fact finder when labor troubles cropped up. Mr. Uviller's knowledge of the industry is encyclopedic and strictly up to date. He has been its impartial chairman for more than twenty years—in itself an index of both sides' confidence.

The third reason why the settlement could be so prompt is the unusual relationship built up over the past thirty years between the employers and the union. In the bitter organizing struggles of the early Nineteen Hundreds the union's very name was a symbol of turbulence—for the employers and the public: strikes, militant picket lines, bitterness. But, in the latter years of growing maturity and strength, the I. L. G. W. U. has, on the whole, been a stabilizing force, even with its constant pressure for better wages and working conditions. And the union has felt a growing responsibility for the welfare of the industry as a whole—even in its own self-interest.

We hope the settlement will improve both stability and the welfare of the workers, without overstrain on the employers' operating balances or consumers' pocketbooks. But it was too bad the walkout had to happen, especially to break so long a record of peace. Anyway, Messrs. Lehman and Uviller deserve an unanimous vote of thanks.