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Justice (Vol. 1, Iss. 3)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments
Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of Justice were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of Justice shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of Justice.
Bravo! Bravo! Bravo! Bravo! 

Bravo! is the shout which escapes from the depths of the hearts of the entire labor movement to the triumphant tailors. 

Like a beautiful miracle appears everything that the Amalgamated has accomplished during the four years of its existence, in behalf of the tailors who, no matter what they were trying to do, were never moved from the lowest rung of the ladder of organized labor for years and years, and therefore it is all the most to be wondered at, that during the past four years they have come ahead with such an impetus that they have left many behind in the very top rung of the ladder. 

Yes, they have reached the very top rung! They have succeeded in being the first large organization which dared to go out to fight for a just wage. 

But will they remain there in “mass Jessie’s” loneliness? Will they be abandoned by the only ones who have attained that high position? No—it is too lonely to be there. 

And, from the height which they have attained, they beckon to the workers of America. 

The topmost rung, although high up, is nevertheless very wide. The workers in cold and wet of you, come climb up! It really is not so far away as it appears to be from below. Since we have been able to reach it, then why not you? 

Of course, it is not because of their good-nature only that they are so eager for companionship. It is also the feeling of well considered self interest. They know that the workers of one industry cannot, for a long time the triumph of all the other workers in the other industries remain back of you. 

They know that in order that the 44-hour work week shall remain firmly established in New York and Chicago in the tailor trade, so that nothing can change it, then the same must be secured in Rochester. 

And throughout the whole country wherever clothing is manufactured. But this is not enough. In order that the tailors may be sure of their victory, the workers in cold and wet of the industries must also win for themselves the very same advantages. 

But whether it be self interest or good-nature, yet the triumph of the tailors is highly tempted to all the workers to follow their splendid example. The tailors, emphatically, say to all the other workers: we were the first to take up the fight. We were the first to start this battle. But to remain alone with our gains, when you remain without the same gains, will be very difficult. Therefore, follow us! For thirteen weeks we have been in the fight. And now we may tell everything: we went hungry, we went barefoot, and at times we were too proud to beg, to beg for a small wage, which we did not want our bosses to know what this fight against them was. 

And so we struggled on, for thirteen weeks. We have won out and now it is your chance, organized workers, to do the same. A 44-hour work week must now become the battle cry all along the line. 

And it must be done right through. Then we hear come the cries of the unemployed; when already it is reported in the papers that the men and women are going about without work. 

And in this case, now, when hundreds of thousands of our brothers are still on the other side of the Atlantic. How will this happen when these will return? Then the army of unemployed will swell to a million or more and there will begin the horrible competition for a meagre bread. And this will have to bring about that everything, that the organized workers have won during many years, will all at once be lost. Is not this a terrible thought? And the thought will become a horrible fact if we shall not, in time, adopt all measures to avoid such a state of affairs. And the only just means for making impossible the terrible curse of unemployment for millions, is that in no industry shall the men work one minute longer than is necessary for the accomplishment of their work. But, on the contrary, there shall always be a scarcity of workers, for the accomplishment of that necessary work. 

This is the great lesson which all workers must draw from the triumph of the Amalgamated.

And we assure you, tailors, triumphant tailors, that you shall not remain alone. Large armies are following in your footsteps. Do you see the thousands of ladies’ waist markers? They are going to follow your example; to fight and win! Do you see the furriers getting ready for battle? And in this way hundreds of thousands of workers are preparing for battle, to fight for themselves, for their lives and for their brothers and sisters, who will soon come and demand a place at the table. 

Bravo, tailors, you have set a glorious example. 

10,000 on picket line next Monday morning
CONTENTION IS STAGNATION OF PROGRESS

ORIENTAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

By Samuel Comper

At a Reconstruction Conference called to consider issues and situations arising in the Orient, the subjects now prominently in the public mind, attended by representatives of various large interests as well as men who are directly or indirectly involved in local problems, President Samuel Gompers, American Federation of Labor, gave voice to the following thoughts upon the grave questions confronting the American people:

"I get to the people to respond to the call to arms in defense of our republic, to show that our institutions required much effort, but it was not difficult of accomplishment. To preserve our civilization will be done through the commanding of their recom-
mended to the legislatures. Of course, before these committees can be completed, the war, and before the legislatures will go through discussing their recomm-
ments. In a month or two, the months will have passed. And in the meantime hundreds of thousands of unemployed will have to wait and starve.

In Washington there is now being played one of those investigation comedies to which the government is so accustomed that no one takes any interest in them. A Senate Committee investigating the war trust. In the lapse of many years, the most serious charges of which are, of course, against this trust and now the committee wants to find out whether it is any good.

The chief magnates of the trust appear as witnesses; Wilson, and questions are put to them and they answer. The following method is used. South of where every question is asked about some transgression of the law, they deny it. "Are you aware that you have violated the law?" "Do you agree among yourselves what prices to charge?" "No." "Do you make a profit of such and such a sum in the course of a business?" "Do you make such a profit?" "No." And so on, and so on.

After they so positively deny all these accusations, the gov-
ernment's lawyer begins to cross-examine them, and proves that they lied. But they do not grow, almanacs, but they announce that they had been mistaken, that they had forgotten, that they had misunderstood the question.

We want to give just a sample of what was found in the Vaudelle investigation. Ar-

me is on the witness stand—the president of the big meat trust, Armour and Company. The lawyer asks him what are the profits of his company. The lawyer asks him how much the company has invested in the business, and what were its credits in the past year. Armour answers each question like a real bookkeeper. He knows all about it.

Suddenly the lawyer reminds him about the company’s busi-
s with the government and asks him to answer that question. Under a short debate, Armour admits that in Argentina, alone, the company spent ten million dollars last year. "This would show that your company is protecting its business interests," asks the lawyer. "Yes," says Armour, "we are doing business in the Argentine and we have gotten all of the ten million dollars profit in Argentina." The lawyer, who had just slipped his memory.

The railroad question will be taken up by the next Congress, which will be republican. The present administration has no

definite policy about the railroad.

President Wilson admitted he has a plan for the roadsavers. He is not likely to leave the railroads in the hands of the government for any length of time, and during that time it will be decided whether they are given to the government or returned to the private companies.

The question is now going on in the press. The railroad companies are doing all they can to save the government from sentiment against government ownership. They want the govern-
ment to be the railroad company for as long as it will. It is the time for as long as it will. It is the time to cut down their politics, to put them in good shape, to repair them, and to do away with the tax that has been put on them for the saving of expenses—and then they want the railroads back. According to the company, government can do all these things in two years.

The government should be every which way about it and the railroad companies have a whip over the companies. It can say to them: If you do as I wish, good and well; if you do not, I shall return the railroads to you at once. The companies will be forced to make the railroads back now and run them under existing circum-
stances, but no one is going to do anything for them. This would throw them all into bankruptcy.

The government is unanimously on the side of the companies. The sentiment against government ownership is so great, that even the liberal papers tremble at any talk of it. The government has no such problem to give us.

It is impossible to tell now how the whole affair will end.
The Problem Of The Nine And The Ninety

By Julietuart Poyntz

There are ninety and nine that work and die.
In want and hunger and cold,
That one may revel in luxury,
And be lapped in the silky fold.
And ninety and nine in their hovels bare
And one in a palace of riches rare.

From the sweat of their brow
The desert blooms.
And the forest before them falls.
Their labor has bullied humble homes,
And cities with lofty spires.

HELP THIS ORGANIZATION

The Workers Defense Union is a working class organization formed to defend or coordinate in the defense of men and women prosecuted for the activities of the labor movement, and to secure the liberation of all persons imprisoned in consequence of such activities.

Under cover of the war situation, the business interests of this country have carried on a systematic campaign in all parts of the country to induce workers active in the labor struggle. Hundreds of working men and women have been thrown off on flimsy pretext and convicted on prejudiced testimony. Today half have been usually executed, the remainder demanded, resulting in months of imprisonment before conviction. Conditions of the workers seek to abolish or at least to mitigate the force of combinations. But here the working woman has an even longer and more difficult road to travel than the working man. The idea of organization began much later to penetrate among working women than among men. Even so, the organized women and survivors of greater resistance from many obstacles, the women's organization encouraging the women to resist and prejudices and tendencies to limit her activities. Unfortunately it is not seldom that such prejudices animate her brother worker to take up the cudgels against her and attempt to bring her down from certain fields of industry and organization. The struggle of the women worker is for the recognition of her own weakness, collective and individual, as well as with the exploitation of the employer. It is well for us to remember, however, that aborts against exploitation is only one side of the effort toward a new life and that the struggle for development must go hand in hand with it. The struggle against blindness is negative, a conflict with slavery, while the struggle with person-hood is positive, an aspiration toward freedom. The problems of the working girl become more perplexing to her own and to the people who would whittle the free desire of a soul which awakes and pleads for its share of life. Such thoughts move us, and we all are, sometimes, unconsciously, often more than we realize; a yearning whisper to us of all that we are losing. When that yearning grows into a dream, when that unrest mounts to divine discontent, then nothing will satisfy save that new world in which all can be truly human. Let us not think only of our complete defect of life, until the great day of emancipation arrives to make the theme of manhood of man.

Our problem is for the present as much as the future, for to-morrow will be to-morrow. Our problem is our lives of touching, and now, unless we can think and mind and character, to meet and conquer them as they appear, we shall be in the world of to-morrow, and the whole time, because we are not brave and intelligent enough to surmount the evils of the present world, we are never to the blessings of the future.

The problem of the working women to-day is:

1. A problem of adjustment.
2. A problem of work and the problem of life.
3. A problem of the family.

On the other side, in the same fashion, which the working girl is a thing, on the other side in which she is a separate individual, the struggle to confine and limit the forces which would reduce her to slavery and slavitude and fate and for those which elevate her to person-hood. In that simple fact the struggle against the whole condition of labor and the evolution of civilization.

The struggle against thinghood as I have called it is much more difficult. The woman worker and her brother man is a conflict with all those forces that tend to make the woman machine, long working hours, low wages, irregular employment, and worse. In short conditions the workers seek to abolish or at least to mitigate through the force of combination. But here the working woman has an even longer and more difficult road to travel than the working man. The war for reasons directly or indirectly due to their position in the labor market or for acts or utterances colored by their conscience.

It is our duty to act at once and to act vigorously, until we seek to change the lot of all fellow workers and comrades.

While these persecutions may be stopped or may increase, the real cause of defense to the whole organization of persons imprisoned during the war by the war the national De- defense Plans of the labor movement. Hundreds of working men and women have been and are being thrown off on flimsy pretext and convicted on prejudiced testimony. Today half have been usually executed, the other half demanded, resulting in months of imprisonment before conviction.
The Bosses Are Again Advertising.

Somewhat much to boasting those manufacturers in whose shops everything is now so quiet, so peaceful and, say, so dependent, to the extent of dining their melancholy, their sad mood, by advertising in the papers. The public has a way of talking their troubles away. May they succeed.

With a show of great indigna-
tion they declare that Brother Schlesinger, President of the International, the leader, the very soul of the present conflict, was not in Boston yesterday. Mr. Schlesinger, stated that in the majority of the shops of the As-
sociated Industries the bilateral con-
tions were miserably bad and they, the manufacturers, swear by all that is holy that such is not the case. What a crime!

But here another question comes up. Supposing Brother Schlesinger cannot find the time, or what is the good of your advertising in the papers, dear manufacturers? Oh, do settle the matter at a much lower cost? Just agree to arbitration and be done with it. It's a sad thing to argue the d of who is lying. If you are right, then, why are you so afraid of arbitration? Dear, kind manufacturers, why do you hope you would take the trouble to answer this?

And Again We Have the Old Story About a Life-Job.

They say that nothing better, are still keeping up their old argument: The workers want a permanent job; they want a job to last a lifetime. In the last number I pointed out how unreasonable and untrue is this claim of the bosses. It appears that this is the only crutch in the thick, high wall through which they hope to crawl. Well, we can't blame the man for catching at a straw, and that the manufacturers are crowding out the skilled with the only thing they know, this three or four years' job as a "laborer".

The same is true of the young men. Many young men who are members believe they can get a little ambition to get somewhere, will not remain all his life making ladies' waists. Why should he do this. If he can find some work which pays him well that he may do it. The bosses here to fix that three or four years. That is a "job for a life-time.

Our Strikers Firm and Courageous.

On another page the reader will find some reports about what is happening in the halls where our strikers congregate. Our representatives have reported that some of the leaders of the bosses are not as effective as a single instruction from me: describe what you see and hear. Mostly, though the boss does not get rid of the shop as soon as the day is over. And for this reason it really happens that a girl works in a shop more than three or four years. The bosses have decided that these three or four years shall be a "job for a life-time.

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The organized workers of England have instinctively realized that one of the most potent factors for the看不出 the rest of the text.
I mean hardship and fatigue. I was writing about Lubeck, the wound of war, the trash...

It seems like Latin America, and we all have seen the symptoms. It has been supported by reaction against the will of the people...

In Germany, the greatest thing that has happened within the past weeks has been the elections for delegates to a Constituent Assembly, to give the provisional government, headed by Chancellor Ebert, called for a Constituent Assembly to settle everything, since the country had to be restored. The reader can take his choice.

As a matter of fact, there is no one that can restore Germany. The workers have been an uprising to restore a vanished order. Never aarchy has been restored, it has been supported by reaction against the will of the people...

The international labor situation is interesting. There is to be an international congress. As of course, this congress will include labor problems, but, what will the situation be in every land. The unions in this country, I mean the constitutional, are there. We have only pure and simple unionists. But they find themselves in the same situation. The unions are at one with the Social Democrats.

There will be differences of opinion, of course, at the congress. The world has ever since the war, government will recognize the property of the bourgeoisie in its war debts, and in its right to exploit the people.

Full election returns are not yet in, but enough is known to indicate that the majority of the constituencies voted for the Social Democrats. The Spartacists did not vote; many of the "Independents" of Hessian Socialists were with Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. They did not vote. In all the social democratic areas, the candidates ran candidates against each other. And yet, there are more than 200 Socialists, including 36 women, elected to the Assembly. The Assembly will dominate.

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Rosa Luxemburg

By Dr. Esther Lurie

Rosa Luxemburg was a theoretician. She was an expert on certain questions and her writings on some of these are very valuable. A book of hers, which mentions a book which proves that militarism is based on capitalist social relations, and so on, is a deep, constructive study. The German social-democratic party was not lacking in Social Democrats. But Rosa Luxemburg occupied a prominent place in this circle. She was a professor in the party school. The German social-democratic party is one of the most prominent feudal parties in Germany. With her sharp, biting sarcasm, her education, her temper, as a speaker, she would always win for her cause. The Luxemburg's book on this subject is a history of the social-democratic party in Germany. She drew her material from a deep, constructive study.
Rosa Luxemburg worked in the social-democratic party. She lived in this country all the time. She was looked upon as a German. Marx did not think that she was a foreigner. Many among the socialists, even, did not think she was a foreigner. This was from the lowing: Once we were seated at a club. We were talking about the death of Felix Pfeffer. She was present told us that she had studied in the Warsaw gymnasium. Almost all of us cried out: "But that is impossible; she is German." Luxemburg lived and had lived so long in Germany, she still yearned for her home, the socialists, the German social-democrats were interested in the triumph of the Russian revolution. But they displayed no closer relationship to it. But this was not the case with Rosa Luxemburg. The Polish revolution was so near to her that she had to witness its growth and not just to talk about it. She had to work for its progress. In October she went to Warsaw where the socialists were active in the social-democratic party. She had a taste of the famous Warsaw rising. When the Poles were warned of the Bolshevik invasion, she went to help the soldiers who were treated in the camps. She was tried and condemned to death because of her physical condition, her sentence was postponed. But after eight months, however, she was re-arrested and sent to prison. Liebknecht's brother and sister were there. He was the opinion that a woman like Rosa Luxemburg could not run away, that such a woman did not exist in German police were capable of misunderstanding and of ignorance.

It was only natural that this extreme socialist should belong to the party. Liebknecht's right hand. Leipzig was the typical revolutionist—fearless, energetic, eager for battle. She knew no compromises. Courageously and with firm steps she worked toward her goal. She was not a question of the workers' place in society. She was a question of the workers' emancipation.
CLEAR in the following paragraph.

The question of the employees’ right to discharge workers on grounds which have been made to appear by the employers. The Board of Arbitration under the chairmanship of Justice Louis D. Brandeis and Judge Julian W. Mack, has on many occasions decided that the employees have the right to choose their own workers for fair, just and reasonable cause, but that they have held that the view of the fact that the workers under the protocol had established and their right to strike as a remedy against abuses of the employer’s prerogatives, they are entitled to a substitute for such remedy in the form of a machinery for the speedy adjustment of their complaints against unreasonable and unjust discharges. We are prepared to meet them on either side of the proposition; they may claim it as an abuse of their right of discharge, and in that event we shall be quite ready to surrender our rights to secure redress of their grievances by unfair employers by such means as we have at our command; or they may limit their right of discharge, and in that event we shall be quite ready to surrender our rights to strike against discharges.

International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union

With such powerful and able leaders of the labor movement in jail or under indictment, the question of voting in the election is urgent and will probably continue for many years to come. Any agreement to substitute an independent organization should be built up in all industrial centers, in order to engage in effective labor protest against oppression and injustice.

In the name of the fellow workers who have already gone to jail and of those who will in the future be imprisoned for their devotion to the cause of labor, the Workers’ Defense Unions calls on the working men and women of America to lend their aid energetically to this movement in defense of our common rights and liberties.

HELP THIS ORGANIZATION! (Continued from page 3.)

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HARRY BERLIN, President.

MEETING

OF

BRANCH A, CLOAK, SUIT, SKIRT, REEFER AND RAINCOAT CUTTERS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1919, 7:30 P. M.

AT ARlington HALL, 23 ST. MARKS PLACE

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MAX GORENSTEIN, Manager.

HARRY BERLIN, President.