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Justice (Vol. 1, Iss. 5)

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.
GREAT PICKET DEMONSTRATION NEXT MONDAY!

VICTORY OF THE STRIKING WAIST MAKERS IS VERY, VERY NEAR.

One-half of the strikers, fifteen thousand in number, have already won out. The whole city is excited over the strike. Shlesinger is the "busiest man in town," as the saying goes. Besides all kinds of conferences with the bosses, both the ladies' waist bosses—who keep on falling away from and breaking with the association—and the bosses of the other trades which are included in the International, he must give lectures in the various churches, ladies' clubs, to satisfy the people who are very eager to hear what the President of the International has to say about the main issues of the strike. And the entire staff of the International is as busy as its President. The White Goods Makers are getting ready for the fight, and so is their president. The Wrappers and Kimona Makers are preparing to take the war path—and all utter the same battle cry: A 44-hour work week, a raise in wages and all the other demands which the Ladies' Waist Makers have put forth. The Children's Dress Makers' Union is being granted all its demands by the association without strike. Yet there remain unsettled the independent and non-union shops, and in these shops the fight will begin next Monday. Last Monday morning there took place a great and inspiring demonstration which will never be forgotten by those who attended it. This Monday the demonstration must be a still greater one. Schlesinger, Baroffi, Sigman, Seidman and the entire general strike committee will be in the picket line.

Of course, if the leaders of the bosses association of the ladies' waist industry could have foresaw four weeks ago, that all has happened from the moment when they so lightly-hearted called forth a strike, that thousands upon thousands of workers, then you may bet ten to one, that they would never, never have done so. But such is the nature of foolish man. A moment of madness comes upon him, and he forgets all the lessons taught him by the past, and he brings trouble upon himself. Take for example Wilhelm and Nicholas. Flower makes one blind, mad. Such people begin to suffer from a certain mania. They persuade themselves there are none greater, or stronger than they. They believe that the whole world must lie at their feet and back. The light of their eyes. And they call forth a conflict which lasts, sometimes a long and sometimes a short time, and which always ends disastrously for them and for their foolish ambitions.

One cannot be angry with these menaces, although they cause so much worry and distress in this world. They are spiritual sick. They should be sent to a hospital for the spiritually sick rather than to a prison.

The bosses of the association were obnoxious and showed the spirit of spiritual blindness when they permitted their workers to leave their shops on Tuesday the 21st of January. They did this because they had persuaded themselves that, in the first place, their workers would never leave the shops. How could they leave, give up their jobs in midwinter, when food was so high and when very few of them had anything put away? Then again, they figured, that if the workers did leave the shops, they would soon return. What good is there in wandering about through the streets? Then they thought if their own workers would not return, there would be others eager to do the work.

Such were the unfortunate calculations of the bosses. And what has now come of all these hopes? Ruin! The workers left the shops but they did not return, pleading for work. There are no others to take their places. Half of the strikers have already returned to work but on the conditions set by them, and the entire bosses fraternity which just a few weeks seemed to be so stable and united, is all but like an old, rotten building, and the fight of the ladies' waist makers grows more energetic, more determined each day.

This is the result of a four week strike. And did we not warn them? Did we not tell them that they would regret this soon? But this did not help. When men have grown insane over their ambitions then there is no help for them. But now they see, for themselves, how wrong they were. Many of them have put aside their weapons and surrendered. But there have remained enough stubborn ones among the bosses. And the question comes up how many men will pass before they see the light? And we appeal to the strikers now: help them, your future is in their hands. Let your feelings toward the bosses be as quick as possible. Let your feelings toward others be more than your wrath, and let not those few men who have worked themselves into a frenzy, more be reduced to their former positions of apple peddlers.

And how better can you do this strikers, than by coming next Monday, in full force, as many of you as are remnant daily workers. The chieftains of their colleagues have already realized, that each additional hour of conflict brings them nearer to their ruin.

They, their bosses, are blind; they may think that you are depending on your strike so quietly, so deliberately, without action, that then they may take it as a sign that your hearts are not in this great conflict. They cannot understand that your calm manner comes from your confidence in final victory, your consciousness that nothing on earth can wrest this victory from you. To understand this one must know psychology. But your bosses are not such men. Make them understand, this by your demonstration next Monday let them see that you will never, never return to their shops until they will grant the necessary demands of your unions.

The greater your demonstration, next Monday, the greater significance will it have not only for you but also for all your brothers and sisters of the White Goods Industry, for the Wrapper and Kimona Industry, and for the Children's Dreamakers' Industry. In these industries, too, the bosses are blind, and a great defeat awaits them. Let your demonstration of next Monday open their eyes if such a thing is possible. Save them from their own confusion, give them the light of reason. Give them to understand, by your demonstration, that it is dangerous to begin a conflict with workers who have some self-respect, who know the value of union among themselves, and who are conscious of their strength and the justice of their cause.

See it, brothers and sisters, that the demonstration next Monday shall be an epoch-making one in the history of your great International. Remember that this may be your last picket demonstration, that on the next morning, if not the very same day, the bosses may come to their senses and yield. See to it, therefore, that you shall be able to look back to the demonstration with sentiments of pride and joy after returning to your work. No one must fall to come to the demonstration next Monday, for the moment you do, you will have done a deed which would be wrong to miss it. Remember, brave strikers, that the most difficult times are the ones which are looked so strong and impenetrable, is now tottering, crumbling, and just give it one good push, and it will fall. Then let the demonstration of next Monday be a great, this victory-bringing push.

Let that day, next Monday, be your day of triumph. Celebrate on that day the victory which has already been won by your efforts. This victory which must soon come.

And it must come. All good forces have joined your cause in this great conflict. The whole city is with you. All who think and feel like you are with you. Your President is an honored guest among the elite. The members of churches and prominent ladies' clubs wish to see and hear him. But no one wants to listen to the bosses. The city knows what they want; and it has turned its back to them. They show yourselves to the city in your full force, to the city which sympathizes with you, and you will see what acclaim you will be received.

And again: this is not only your fight, which is almost won. You must here give warning to all other bosses of the various industries that belong to our International and to the others, that their end cannot be different from that of the association bosses of the ladies' waist industry. Who knows, perhaps, by this your victory, you will help that many other conflicts shall be avoided because the courage which you have shown in your fight against the workers is a hopeless one.
In spite of all the great events that have actually taken place at the recent conference at Paris, the happenings in Germany and in Russia, and in other parts of this country, there has somehow managed to keep our eyes closed to these days as if they were not destined to find their way into the pages of our newspapers. This question is a twofold one: one, the great and the important political and economic questions that are involved in the present crisis. And the other, the number of strikes which are taking place in all parts of the country.

About unemployment much is being heard, but as yet very little has been done. War Secretary Baker has assured us that every returning soldier will be provided with work. Similar statements have been made by other important government officials. But in the meantime we keep on receiving miserable reports of the gradual unemployment of the returned men who are looking for jobs. The labor masses growing at an alarming rate is expected that within a very short time the number of unemployed will reach its peak. More sensational, of course, is the news about the strikes. General trend is that the strike is moving from one city to another. For example, the strike in Seattle, Washington, where all the workers of all the trade-union organizations are now out, is steadily gaining ground. The strikers have won the battle for the reemployment of the returned men and the city of Seattle has been paralyzed for a week. No cars were running, scores of restaurants had closed, and the schools were closed. The strikers, as the law requires, have decided to maintain order and closed soup kitchens to feed the strikers who had no homes and had to eat in restaurants.

The city council, especially the mayor, condemned the strikers and threatened that they would send the police to break their strike. The police, however, were unable to do anything. The business men and bosses informed the public that the economic depression was caused by the strike and the revolution, and a Bolshevist revolution is nothing more than a truce. They say that the city council, in order to maintain order, is going to send the police to break the strike and that the workers who do not do it will be arrested. This is the way the strike is being reported at the headquarters of the car workers. It has been decided that the strikers to send the police to close the strike to car workers and all traffic was stopped.

The strike in Paterson is also a radical one. The demands of the workers are not very radical. They want an increase of $48 hours and they want to receive the same wages that they received before the strike. Only the leaders of the strike are of the left wing of the movement. This gives the employers a chance to spread the report that this is a revolution of the reds. But the strikers and this also gives the police an excuse for mishandling them.

That a new radical spirit is penetrating the American labor movement, and in particular the American workers are beginning to regard themselves in an entirely new light, is a matter of fact, because it has now been the world of capital and labor. The above-mentioned events have caught the attention of this country. But here is quite another occurrence from which we can learn the lesson.

The country is now very much perplexed about how to solve the railroad question. The government now has the railroad under its control. The companies demand that they be returned to their former owners. There are some difficulties in the way, various plans are being proposed how to get rid of these difficulties. During the many days this matter has been discussed, many plans have been set in practice which those who are more or less interested in this matter concerned, by the companies, by the lawyers, by the bankers, by government officials, etc.

Suddenly, last week, there appeared in Washington a bill of the two million organized railroad workers, and he made known a brand new plan proposed by the workers. And just try to understand this, to apply the government that the government should buy the roads from the companies or the workers, to take them over for the workers to administer.

Has anyone ever heard of the like there in the world? I don't think, almost, almost so.

The plan of the workers is, of course, identical with the soviet rule in Russia. They ask that the government should be the owner of the roads and that the workers should pay rent to the government. Should there be any profit, the workers and the government will divide it equally. There will be no profit but that the government will receive a fixed rent. Only the leaders of the movement are the workers. But the question is, to whom will be entitled to this rent.

The prohibition amendment, it seems, will not have such success with both sides of the House as is expected from various quarters. First of all, there is great dissatisfaction among the workers of various trades. In New Jersey certain unions passed resolutions saying that they will strike if they are forbidden to drink. They say that prohibition is a step back for the working men that it is due them, that they are entitled to this.

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OUR CAUSE SPREADS OVER AND SEA
By William Morris Felgenbaum

While the great peace conference is settling the affairs of the world, at the Quai d’Orsay there have been other developments in other parts of Europe, of the utmost importance which in the balance of events matters equally as important as those at the Paris meeting. A meeting of the International Socialist congress has been meeting for the past few days at Weimar, and among the delegates there were some eighty-seven delegates from this country. Among the delegates there were Arthur Henderson of England; Albert Thomas of France; Kurt Eisner, of Bavaria; Émile Van- dervelde, of Belgium; Camille Neymann, of the International Socialist Bureau, and many other international comrades. Two of the delegates, numbered 127.

The most important of the German Socialists were absent because of the election of the Assembly at Weimar, sitting at the same time, but the party of the Socialists was represented by Karl Kautsky, its foremost thinker and writer, and several other members.

The Socialist party of the United States was unrepresented because of the great strike which was unable to get their passports in time. While the Congress was in session, Oscar and Algernon Lee received passports from the United States government, but the American delegate, John M. Work, was denied a passport because of the strike. Victor L. Berger, on whose paper, the Milwaukee Leader, Work was editor.

At this writing, however, neither Lee nor Oseal has been able to sail because their passports have not arrived, and the British consul, a necessary step because the delegates expect to sail on an English steamer.

The first days of the Congress at Weimar seemed to be quixotic one of “fixing the responsibility” of the war.

Albert Thomas, one of the extreme “right” of the French Socialists, began denouncing the Germans for participating in the war. Dr. Mueller, one of the German delegates retorted, defended the course of the Germans. For a while, it seemed as if the meeting would break up in a quarrel, but the meetings have broken up in jangling, discord and fruitless wrangling, as is the case wherever the question of who started the war.

The note of discord was quickened however, by the calm, clear headed and cool head of Karl Kautsky, who made a bitter attack upon those of the Socialists, who supported the Kaiser in the initial war. This action elicited the note of discord.

Emile Vandervelde the brilliant leader of the Socialist party in Belgium, who is always in his cabinet at the outbreak of war was one of the irreconcilable who President Wilson had expressed a desire that this bill might pass. Vandervelde is a man almost to a man voted for it.

AULABHAM: LINCOLN
By Louis V. Goldsman

One hundred and ten years ago, on the 12th of February, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was born. He was killed on the 15th of April, 1865, at the age of fifty.

No man before him, with the exception of Washington, did so much for America. He was the great leader of all marshals Lincolns. On the first of January, 1863, he signed the Emancipation proclamation which freed black slavery in the United States.

And he did this in the face of tremendous difficulties. Besides the opposition of the slavery party, who were considered by his own cabinet, his class advisers who did not bring themselves to believe that England who at that time carried on a great cotton business with America and they did not wish to ruin this business. Then were among men who put on a great show of sympathy, and on the other side, human liberty; men who placed money above all, and the happiness of human beings. On the first of January, 1865, Lincoln had asked them their views on the matter, but he told them that no one had decided to do what he thought right, because if slavery was not ended, he had decided to do what he thought right, because if slavery was not ended, he would put an end to the war.

On the 12th of February, the whole world, in gratitude, remembers the great man who freed the black slaves, and freed away with one of the greatest of all, effects that ever occurred.

But we must remember that no matter how great the accomplishment was, the black man has remained the same.

In those days when Lincoln freed the black slaves, he did not think that the time would come when in the cotton mills and in the fields, little white children would make up for the damage and the loss of property caused by the freeing of black slaves.

Lincoln did not think that the negro was capable of learning; he did not think that black slaves would tolerate so much white slavery.

It is very significant that you recognize the Negro as a human being, and if slavery is a crime; you may perhaps think that the Negro is not my equal, but when it comes to the right to eat the bread he earns, then the Negro is my equal.

What would be said today to the old abolitionists who had their feelings in the Karia mines where free slaves, thousands of mothers, fathers, brothers, sons, were starved, tortured and killed under worse slavery conditions than exist today in the existing in the days of Lincoln?

What would be said today if he saw in the factories, mines and coal mines (See page 8) wanted to see something else. The interesting to note that Prince Kropotkin, Marc Spiritdounova, Mar- skvka, used to kill three times a week have joined hands with the Bolsheviks, and are strong for the cause of the Soviet government of Russia.
JUSTICE

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FROM THE EDITOR"S NOTE BOOK

MORE ABOUT THE STUPIDITY
OF THE ASSOCIATION
BOSSES

One of our readers who, for reasons best known to himself, did not consider it wise to give his correct name, writes us the following:

"It occurs to me that you were very wrong in what you said in your January 25th issue. The

totemless stupidity of the association

bosses. You wish to prove that they were either not interested in their work or that they thought that if they had been the efficient, stupid men you picture them to be, they could not have been such efficient, splendid businessmen.

Granted that a few of the association bosses cannot say this about all of them. Just because you are too easily taken in by a name, you are led to

cause you wish to convince the world that all of the bosses are stupid, that is your excuse, and that is not and is not convinc-

ing. Don't try to prove what doesn't exist, and then, perhaps, your editors will have the desired effect upon some of the new members and do more work in your way, you, unwillingly, do the bosses a good turn."

Let me admit right here that this letter gave me a little food for thought. I have been a little too far? Had I actually painted the devil blacker than he is and had given him a tail or a club and caused the people of one who had been wrongly slandered, of a martyr? I must say that I should have been willing to have

grieved if I had actually made a statement for which I was not so well grounded. And I shall, therefore, here repeat the facts which have been so many times verified. These facts plainly

prove that the bosses are far, far from being truly efficient businessmen who understand their own interests.

Number one — The boss, the employer, has all the money and the great desire to exploit his em-

ployee, as much as possible — this is the nature of the beast. In order to be successful as an

exploiter, he must understand how to exploit. He must understand, for instance, that he cannot bring back the job, if at all, because the worker was the property of the slave-owner. He must take the man as he finds him. This which may be re-

discretely desired, but which he can never again get. All these things are a matter of con-

sideration. He meets his em-

ployees half way; he understands that the time that has gone by can be unreasonably ob-

tained. Have the association bosses done this? The answer of ev-

ery unbiased person to this question must be decidedly "no."

Because what is there in the demand of the workers about which a man with the least bit of common sense will say that "the member is killed?"

If you have asked for and are still de-

manding, a 44-hour week instead of a 56-hour week, is the rule up till now. Is this such an impossible de-

mand? Why through the device of machines by the ever-grooving division of la-

bor, the work is being turned out, the workers must admit, if we are to say, was the case a few years ago.

Everybody knows that the

association bosses desired nothing less than to have the workers return to conditions of six years ago. Is it not the height of idiocy to think that the union can have no power if it is not able to defend the rights. Is it not the height of idiocy to think that the union can have no power if it is not the height of idiocy to think that the Ladies' Waist Union can be licked? And this is what the bosses in-

tend to do. Is it then an exag-

geration to say that the workers are great, blooming idiots?

Number three. In the fight between the workers and the manufacturers, it is not only the two parties in the association who are

Juxtaposed. There is a third par-

ty — the great public. It is there that the work of the producers and the workers is done. The workers and the employers, for instance, have no right to

the justice and logic of a forty-four hour week; the employers must understand that it with that must come an in-

crease in wages. This is so evi-

dent that a child could grasp it.

But the bosses did not under-

stand it. With lips foaming, they said just demands as the most ter-

rible crime on the part of the workers. They say that such people have any sense?

Then consider another thing. According to a statement made by "Times of last Sunday, the wages paid to the garment or wait-

maker, constitute only fifteen

per cent of the price of the gar-

ment. Therefore, an increase in the demand of the workers would only raise the price of the wage only a very insignificant amount. Let us use an example: The price of a waist, let us say, is one dollar, and for this one dollar the worker produces gete
teen cents and the remaining eighty-five cents is spent for rent, food, clothing and the like. The profit which goes to the boss. When the worker demands fifteen per cent, he demands one cent, in which means that instead of fifteen cents he will receive seven and one-half cents. That is all.

The worker will receive two cents more for making a waist, and the employer receives one dollar. Is such a great demand? Can a truly educated and thinking man, free from ambition and con-

cern that the bosses have lost out—then why do they continue to demand the same? The bosses always recognize the inevitable and yields to it. But the bosses are not wise, and therefore their stupidity is truly bottomless. Every day that they con-

tinue to fight is the extent of their defeat increases.

As for the bosses being cap-

able of fighting, the answer to this is that this is not true. All their business efficiency con-

sists in being able to squeeze another nickel out of the worker. A waist buyer tells the manufacturer, "Two days Times about our waist manu-

facturers. I cannot relate all of the cases, because of our inefficiency in appointing such men in our offices, who instead of being proper, are against us. The waist buyer designates all the employees in the waist department as, fitters, shift-

less people, men who are con-

stantly polishing their nails, who are, generally speaking, the one so that very often, having come up with the intention of being careful about their dealings they display not one iota of common sense. I am certain that the same slow-edged told the truth and this in a restrained and moderate way.

A WORD ABOUT WEEK-WORK

WORKERS

Somewhere in the past, this issue the reader will find a report about the meeting of all shop committees held at New York, with the Union, at Cooper Union, last Thursday, which was, in truth, a source of real inspiration for all those who were present. The very fact that the great hall was filled to overflowing, and the meeting speaks well for the great, truly wonderful strength of the Clothing Workers. A second meeting the first mention was made about the resolution which was given at the meeting in their industry, that is, the sub-

stituting of week-work for piece work.

Such has been said and will be said about the need for this resolution. An article by Mr. Sigman, manager of the Joint Board of

Saturday, February 15, 1919.
DEMOBILIZATION AND THE WORKERS

By M. Koltchin

Four years ago when England began her terrific war, she mobilized her war economy and directed an enormous military service, the government of that country also began a gigantic war economy and directed a future mobilization. Special commissions and 'committees were appointed and these committees were of the opinion that they were the usual 'fake' committees and that these committees later they applied themselves energetically to the problems. And this was done. The government had already worked out a plan of demobilization. This plan was or whether the workers, especially the old and new workers, will be worked with it. The fact is that a plan had been worked out.

It seems that a moment for a moment that the English government is more liberal or that it is more open to thinking of the workers and soldiers than the American government. It seems still that the British government is more efficient than ours. We have seen that in some countries government accomplished more in five or six years than the English in three. And there are people who think that America is richer or that she was richer—better—would be a better and more fresh—but because America represents itself in itself one big business with many earnest businessmen. Every business or firm does the following—when anything 'wants' or opens or is about to close. If the event is a trifling one, a gang of men troops in and business amuses themselves—they do not take it seriously, as at the end of the day they make the figures. But if the thing means "business," is something real serious, then it is regarded a business and everything is done with all the energy called for by the affair.

This is why America in the short time of a year and a half defeated fascism and the force and built up such a mighty military machine. And if the war continues there will be a day when she will be able to work out a plan for demobilization. And if it is not not have been worse than the one worked out by England. But the point is that they have not had to get better or worse. We are, in the matter of demobilization almost at least. All labor leaders are more or less publicist turned it demobilization is going on; tens of thousands, if not millions of war workers are being demobilized each day and all this has been done in every case with a definite plan. Why is this? Because America does not take the problem of demobilization seriously. It does not feel that it is a business, it is a matter of work, it is not felt so. Because American labor did not make her this clear and I don't believe that the English government, very early, began to occupy itself with the problem of demobilization, with the working out of demobilization plans, not because of her generosity and her very old time she is now an English soldier. The British government in 1915, when Kitchener spoke about demobilization, the British government had in the labor party and the socialist organization also spoke of demobilization. When Kitchener declared that the war would last three years more (and it did last three years more) all kinds of conferences and congresses of workers and trade unions meeting in London, which took up the problem of demobilization. The government was forced to consider this problems, it had to pre- pare a plan, and it dared not permit that some one—and especially the labor leaders—should have a plan when it had none.

But how was it here with us, to that one talk of reconstruction, of demobilization? Several times there were reconstructions conferences, but they did not discuss either demobilization or reconstructions conferences many—many of these conferences had very little interest to the workers in the shop to be really good union men. Instead of there being a spirit of something in the shop, an essential for good union men, there was a spirit among the workers a spirit of competition.

It is to be wondered that that state of affairs could have existed for such a long time without any criticism. Many critics if the leaders of the union and the observing members did notice it, it was probably noticed very little to help matters. The piece work system is a chronic disease of the shop. The piece work system is a disease of the shop, and most of the workers, up to a very short time ago, believed that is the best way of life. Finally the eyes of many, yes of most of the members have been opened, and the time has come to change the entire system. This was shown clearly at the meeting of the shop union leaders to see how by their determination to create a mighty fund, and it was decided a union at the renewal of the agreement with the bosses, would establish the establishment of the week work system in place of the old piece rate. And always prevented the union from bringing about permanent and complete recognition in the conditions of the cloakmaker. It seems to me that it would be well to begin the meeting in the strike of the washerwomen also to try to introduce the question of piece work. This would, perhaps be the greatest accomplishment of the strike, the meeting of the week work system and 4—4 hour week, and an established minimum wage, would no other conflict in the future, de to do with the workers and the workers had little to do with them. Labor in America remained silent, especially in the matter of demobilization was none of its affairs. The official labor leaders not remunerations. If they did not even wish to hear anything about reconstruction or demobilization. The official labor leaders had a good excuse, if at least they thought a great war was going on. They kept on saying that the question was not a matter of demobilization and not of demobilization; now they could not think of anything else. The only problem to be considered was war.

And the government, too, bothered very little about these matters and one cannot blame them, if they were not thinking of their own condition; if the labor leaders bothered little about demobilization, then why should the government occupy itself with these men. About the million were so many other affairs to be considered? No plan was worked out the labor condition of our country.

Of course there are plans, many plans, individual as well as government. There is a fact that we have so many plans and that we make use of all of them at the same time, which is worse than they would be if we had no plans at all. We go from one plan to another, but at the same time, or demobilize without any plan at all. We are working for a definite plan, no well worked-out plan.

My next article I shall take up these various plans for demobilization. Here I wish to say that I am interested in what is called the important and far-reaching problem of demobilization is, I don't care how many of these there were, how great was their number, and what the estimates begin with three million and reach to five million. It is the problem of how many of four million soldiers, we have also an army of four million workers those who are employed in any kind of activity of great wealth and eight million people. And we must also hear in mind that these workers were formerly workers and that the majority of the soldiers are former workers. And these workers must be returned to the industries, many of which were altogether destroyed. This is not the case of some of which kept on with their work but have now enough workers. The workers must find work and there is no work, or can be no work in such a way that the big industries must shut down, when capital is withdrawn from them, going to other fields of "invest- ment".

I know very well that the problem is a great one, and it is one that is difficult in our present state of society. Still more—even a better, more normal and more organized society could not solve these problems very speedily. But the process of demobilization can be carried on so that the workers will be able to take their jobs. After all it is possible because of it, or it can be done in such a way that it gives great sufferings, and cause a wave of unemployment to any considerable extent.

The workers should therefore have the courage to put an end to the plan for demobilization and if the government would have courage to decide to cut down this work. But the workers had no plan.

And what are the results? From all sides come reports about a swelling army of unemployed. Here is another case of some leaders who didn't wish to hear anything about plans for demobilization, and everything about unemployment. Three hundred thousand, four hundred thousand, five hundred thousand—shouts Mr. Frank Morris, general secretary of the A. F. of L. and the number is increasing. Each day tens of thousands of soldiers are being demobilized, and each soldier a million soldiers have already been discharged, and eight hundred thousand more will be home this month. Each day ships filled with soldiers arrive from Europe and Asia. Here is a great number, but that is not enough. Of course the government promised that every soldier is looking for jobs for soldiers, the big employers promise jobs, and the government has promised even every soldier his pay as long as he will remain idle, but still they are to be found. For without work, wages, they put all workers in danger of losing their jobs. Conditions grow worse steadily. It is needless to tell here of the other way that the argument the arm of unemployed has upon the condition of all the workers. When leaves the door stand thousands of hungry ones who are willing to work any kind of work for any kind of wages, and under any labor conditions as long as they get work. And the big employers cannot think of shortening their hours, much less better working conditions.

Cleveland, February 12—On Monday evening, the 10th of February, there was held here a mass meeting of the members of the <CLEVELAND CLOTH WORKERS WILL RAISE A STRIKE FUND.>

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO JUSTICE.

CLEVELAND, February 12.—On Monday evening, the 10th of February, there was held here a mass meeting of the members of the American Tailors and Teamsters Union, the largest labor organization in the city of Cleveland. It was decided that a tax for a general strike fund should be imposed on every member of the union. Every man will pay five dollars and every woman three dollars. All promised to pay this tax within the next five weeks.

M. PERLSTEIN.
The Conquest of Leisure

By Juliet Stuart Poyntz

Colding gives instances of dressmakers who had gone blind from strain, and of women who had gone white blind after eighteen hours a day and sometimes more, another who had murdered her husband with futility of love, and nights with only an hour or two of rest, occasionally, while she worked fourteen hours a day. Nearly all were overworked, and it is well to reflect upon the condition of the women's labor movement which has taken in recent years.

The ten thousand weavers who are marching back to the mill after two weeks' strike with a permanent contract of five hours a week do not realize perhaps with what great fear they are to become today as were the women of the great boom of the sixties. But the strike has been a great depression following a war period just as at present. Before the strike the hours were fifty-six, but when the strike was first made in 1877, it was immediately after the Napoleonic War. The French Socialist, made the extraordinary discovery that it was not the naked workers who were the children of seven years old sixteen hours a day in order to make a combination in factories. A servant professor, for the type existed even in the early eighteenth century. The whole profit of the manufacturer was made in the last hour of work, and when the hours were reduced there would be no profit from the business. The professor had his way until the shameful conditions of employment for women and children forced the first legislation for the normal working day in 1833, and wonderful to relate, the fifteen-hour day was made a law by law. Think of it, privileged workers of a better day! This great legislation was in the cotton mills the opportunity of working only from half past seven in the morning to past eight in the evening, with short periods allowed for meals. Even these humane conditions were lacking in the dressmaking trade.

In one account of "seamstress slavery" we read, "The young slaves are worked in gauges in 18-centuries. Their occupation is to sew from morning till night, and from night till morning. They have no pause, without speech, without a smile, without a sigh. In the great room there is but one way, and that is to be at work. From six in the morning until nine at night it is summer, and until ten at night in winter. In the morning the needles are seen in motion once more until one, two, three o'clock in the afternoon, when meal time is over. In sleeping pens, ten in a room large enough for two. The seamstresses, when they no longer feel it to be their duty, doubt, but what awaits them on the other side of the door?—starving, imprisonment, prison, imprisonment, for not, prostitution and its consequences."

In the same book, "The White Slaves of England," Richard

The progress of trade union organization and the greater influence in reducing the hours than did legislative action. As we have learned the lesson of organization, they too have profited by direct action. In the state of New York, for example, while the law still allows unorganized women to work forty-four hours a week, the organized women of the needle trades have for several years made their own trade union law which now provides for only forty-four hours. Ten blocks more of the working women. Is that not alone a sufficient reason for being for our movement? There is a deep significance in the great movement that is going all over the world. The shortening of hours. Millions of workers everywhere are already taking their shorter work-day. Is it a mere accident or a mere coincidence that all alike should be moved by the same impulse in a time of such deep meaning as the present? Why is it that after the tragedy of the world was the first movement of the workers in their determination to make the world a better place to live in? Is it a movement for shorter hours? It is a new day indeed, the workers have decided that their time should be bartered for any price, that no wage, no matter how high, can compensate them for the evils that were treated from the bough with difficulty? The groups that are leaving every Saturday afternoon were put from the boughs with difficulty? The groups that are leaving every Saturday afternoon to go to some preparatory meeting, then meeting at the little organization of physical exercise and walk into the country for the education of Nature, so long a closed book to the workingman, the publishing, the subjects of importance and interest to labor, the building of associations. The first few years of the labor movement, these and other similar projects are the result of the conquest itself. The power of the common people is the result of the conquest and use of leisure. And all of these should be undertaken by the workers themselves through their own organizations, so that they may breathe the life of the people and form a vital expression of their needs and aspirations.

The Testing

God mixed in man the rapture the tears and the fears And scattered through his brain the stary stuff. He said, "Behold! Yet this is for you not for me. For I must test his spirit to make sure That he nor I can dare the vision and endure.""I will withdraw My face Veil Me in shadow for a certain space And let Me be alone." Some whisper from the sky Some footprint in the road to track Me by."

"I will leave man to make the choice Will he turn his face from the narrow path and false shall thou go, and no farther! On the other side is the post-Utopian, the post-American, the post-utopian. What shall I do with my result? How can I use it to the best advantage?" In answering this question, as working out the principles of a new society, how is the worker to earn his livelihood? Is it not the most fruitful use of his leisure. The worker with her leisure can afford to be a critic, less likely to be frittered away in trivial things, the new opportunity for health and happiness that comes with greater leisure. How many of us for instance are interested in the furthering of the labor movement is providing for us in its members in ever increasing measure are winning their shorter hours twice, first when they took them from the employer, and secondly when they learned to use them for themselves. The labor movement should take up the pleasant task of organizing leisure for the workers just as fast as it is won. The labor movement should give its workers' theaters with dramas written for the people and not for the actors. And the state of the labor organization of physical exercise and walk into the country for the education of Nature, so long a closed book to the workingman, the publishing, the subjects of importance and interest to labor, the building of associations. The first few years of the labor movement, these and other similar projects are the result of the conquest itself. The power of the common people is the result of the conquest and use of leisure. And all of these should be undertaken by the workers themselves through their own organizations, so that they may breathe the life of the people and form a vital expression of their needs and aspirations.
New Life in Montreal:

During the past two years the Raincoat and Raincoat-Maker Union has had a hard road to travel. The outcome of the strike of the Raincoat-Maker Union was a great extent and put the organization on the down grade. The trend of the work in this industry is from a local to the national. The number of its local unions from out of town, from New York, Chicago, and other cities, and this unstable and transient element is an obstacle in the way of organizing a solid union in that city. There was, however, in Montreal, and in other cities always a band of faithful and loyal workers who knew no defeat and from whom the organization meant everything in life. During the past two years, they stuck together, and now that the storm is weathered and normal conditions have returned, they have launched an organizing campaign that is bound to yield fine results.

The International is sending every assistance to the organizing work that is being conducted in Montreal. During December, Brother Sol Rosenberg spent a week in Montreal on behalf of the General Office and addressed a meeting of workers. Brother Joseph Schubert, the indefatigable secretary of the Montreal district, reports the following:

"We are working like the "devils" to build up a union and we are succeeding to a great extent. Hope that a few weeks from now we will be able to send you a very encouraging report, totalmente different from what we have been sending you in the past. I believe that after the report which Brother Sol spoke, the workers of Montreal, who last month, you are convinced that the "devil" here is not as black as he appears on the surface, for they see that it is still far from a union stampede here, and we all know that we must have patience and devotion in order to succeed fully. Such qualities are just as rare today as they are in New York, Chicago or Cleveland, but after the mass meetings that we have given in the past month and the sincere decision of the local clockmakers to have a union and to build and strengthen it, we all feel that we will get there very soon.

"The local's past month has elections of officers and the new Joint Board is made up of fresh forces. We have a right to expect a very great growth in this union this year."

The Connecticut Corset Workers

The past few months have seen marked awakening in the corset workers locals in Connecticut. To be true to facts the state of Local's No. 34, 35 and 36 is very healthy. The reason why these locals into existence in 1915, was winning and gave way to the local's. The corset workers had no fighting program and their numbers were gradually decreasing. We did not speak English, the Hun- garians, and Italians, were par- ticipating in the organization, being indifferent and ceased to come to the meetings or to pay dues. The organization on the working conditions of the local industry became correspondingly nether thorn.

The abnormal industrial con- ditions in these cities arising out

of the war, were also a consider- able factor in weakening these locals. Bridgeport and New Haven were great centers of war indus- try. The numerous muni- cipal churches here were a demand for corset making. The workers who were attracted to these factories made up a large part of the wages and fabrics to do work in the corset shops, gradually lost their power and were hard to organize.

The end of the war has at once brought forth a number of expensive and well-organized corset workers. First was the question of unemployment cre- ated by the large numbers of women who came back to the corset shop after they were laid off during the war. This problem, was fortunately, solved quickly; as the corset shops soon resumed normal oper- ations and absorbed these workers. Next came the question of organizing the 6,000 corset workers in Bridgeport alone and about 3,000 in New Haven. Only a small part of these were within the fold of the Union. The General Office kept an eye on this territory during this time but as long as normal industrial condi- tions lasted, it was difficult to attempt an organizing campaign.

Four months ago the Interna- tional sent into Connecticut two organizers, Vice-President Miss Panama Snyder and Brother Lefkowitz. Later Miss Cohn was withdrawn and Brother Lefkowitz was sent to this territory. His coming brought considerable life into the locals. Soon a number of meetings with Hungarian and Italian speakers were arranged and a systematic campaign was set on foot.

The corset workers of New England are just entering the very large number of corset workers all over the country. Long hours and poor pay prevail in the trade and they offer an excellent field for organization. It is important to lay a solid foun- dation for a country-wide move- ment. We have a great opportu- nity to win better conditions and a standard week work and enroll every man and woman into our organization. The winning of the Middle-West and the West- ern corset shops and the intro- duction of uniform working con- ditions throughout the industry will then be made considerably easier.

Among Cincinnati Clockmakers

General Organizer, Abraham Snyder, writes:

"Our agreement expired on February 1st, and we have now sent our demands to the manufacturers. As usual we had good representation and we won a substantial increase and vote on these demands, and we regret very much that, owing to the great hurry made here a few weeks before the strike in New York City, it was impossible for President Schles- singer to visit New York, which we have anticipated for a long time. Of course, the general goal of the organiza- tion is the firm of Bishop, Stern and Stein, the largest shop in the city. We don't ex-pect, any trouble, however, and have reason to believe that we shall sign up agreements with all of our firms in a short time."

We are asking $3 per week for all workers, $2.50 for pressers and $2 for tailors. We also demand 8 hours per day and 50 cents per hour for clock operators, 70 cents per hour for skirt op- erators, 35 cents per hour for pressers and 75 cents per hour for finishers, and we expect to get them.

We have had some friction here in a raincoat shop and we are almost sure that this shop could not supply the firm with the Union label. While this is a matter of our minds, of great importance, the question of the label on the Union line is not as decided internationally. We will be studying this question of the label and will decide such matters as are best for the movement."

Cutters of Local 10 Tax Themselves for the Ladies' Waist Makers' Strike

Our cutters' union, local 10, is a "mixed" local. All cutters who work for manufacturers of women's clothing in Greater New York belong to it. This union belong the cutters of cloaks and suits, of waist and dresses, of wraps and gloves, and in some places, of termal, etc. It is therefore quite natural that as soon as a strike breaks out in any branch of ladies work in New York, local 10 is involved. When the cutters of the members of local 10, always go on strike together with the other local unions. They all belong to the same international, and are all children of one large family.

Well, the waist and dress cut- ters of local 10 are now on strike together with the waist and dressmakers of local 26.

Last week, the executive of local 10 of the "White Goods Di- vision," held a meeting and they were about to decide that these cutters would ask the manufacturers to pay three dollars a week for the waist and dress strike, for the duration of the strike.

The cutters of the cloak suits, as well as the dress makers of this and they asked the other cutters to hold up their deci- sion for a while. They felt that they had been insulted because their branch had not been rep- resented. The Secretary stated that the cloak and suit cutters did not wish to be exceptioned but they would ask the manufacturers to pay three dollars a week for the strikers. In short, a meeting was soon held of all branches of local 10 and it was unanimously decided that the interested cutters' union, local 10, should hold three dollars a week for the general cutters and dressmakers, as long as the strike would last.

It would be hard to make any argument on such brotherly action. The noble-deed of local 10 is the noblest deed any union has done to show the world that the Women's International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
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Act quickly — Give as much as you can — Money means Education — Education builds our Movement.

CUTTERS

All members of Local 10 employed in trades not on strike, or in settled shops, are urged to pay their Work Tax of $3 per week beginning February 3, 1919, and for the duration of the General Dress and Waist Strike. This decision was passed at the Special General Meeting held on February 1, 1919.

SAM B. SHENKER, HARRY BERLIN,
Secretary, President.

TENTH LOCAL NO. 10 I. L. G. W. U.

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