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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*.

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THE BLACK SATURDAY AND THE WAIST MAKERS' STRIKE

This was eight years ago, on Saturday, March 15, 1919, a Saturday which to those who knew them was no more significant than any other Saturday, but which to all the members of the Ladies' Waistmakers' Union was the beginning of a struggle which was to make world history. It was a day on which a threat to destroy the whole of the history of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was made.

The struggle which began on that day was not an isolated one, but a part of a series of struggles which had been going on for some time, and which were to lead to the formation of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The Ladies' Waistmakers' Union, which had been formed in 1914, was one of the largest of the unions of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and its members were engaged in the manufacture of waistcoats, dresses, and other garments.

The trouble which began on that day was caused by a strike of the members of the Ladies' Waistmakers' Union, who were demanding better wages and working conditions. The employers, who were represented by the War Labor Board, refused to grant the demands of the union. The strike lasted for several weeks, and during that time there were many arrests and clashes between the strikers and the police. The result of the strike was the formation of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which was to become one of the largest and most powerful unions in the United States.

The strike was a symbol of the growing workers' movement in the United States, and it was a symbol of the power of the workers. It was a symbol of the fact that the workers were not going to be pushed around by the employers, and that they were going to fight for their rights.

The strike was also a symbol of the fact that the workers were not going to be pushed around by the government, and that they were going to fight for their rights.

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English Labor and Conscription

We all remember the pledge given by the "coalition" candidates of Great Britain during the last General Election. As a member, among many others, the pledge to abolish conscription was a campaign plank. The coalition government, however, has introduced a new military bill which may result in the conscription of 900,000.

Unhappy is the passing of the bill last Friday William Adamson, the leader of the parlia-

democrats, who opposed the bill, the conservative party, and the liberal party. He announced the debate on the measure by moving to reject the bill. He accused the government of making a bad beginning in their demands for the general abolition of conscription throughout Europe. He pointed out that this measure, if adopted, would bring about many unpleasant results. He said that those who believed that Prussian militarism was an important political issue were unnecessary, and that it would disturb those who believed that this was the case. He was speaking for James H. Thomas, another labor leader, who opposed the bill by breaking the election pledges in introducing the bill and asked to be released. Adamson intended for the invasion of Russia.

In reply, Mr. Churchill stated that only "imperious necessity" forced the government to introduce the bill. However, the pledge had been given this "imperious necessity" could not yet have been met. The government would not send masses of conscripts to Russia.

In Spain

The Spanish General Union of Workingmen is a federation of the most important labor unions of Spain. It was organized in 1893 and has membership of not more than 30,000. A few years later the membership of the organization increased to 30,000; in the course of another year it increased to 60,000; and now the General Union has a membership of almost 150,000.

The General Union has always been a consistent opponent of the Socialist Labor Party, for the workers of Spain have long ago recognized the necessity of fighting their enemies with both arms, political as well as economic. In fact the organization of the General Union can be traced directly to the activities of the Socialist Labor Party, which has been in existence for more than a century.

Organized in 1875, the Socialist Labor Party has ever since been the champion of the cause of labor.

The world war has netted the Socialists a certain advantage. The General Union of Workingmen is still smaller. The Party and the Union are now operating in a much more favorable environment, with large street demonstra-
tions and strikes, to demand measures to protect the marines and against profiteering. And it was the concerted action of the Socialists in Spain and France which has begun at Cler-

Mont-Parnass. The principal defendants are M. Andrieux, the secretary of the Mutual Union of Solidarity, and of solidarity on the part of the conservative Workmen's Union, is a cheering sign.

A Microscopic Scope of Executive Democracy

A ray of hope appeared for the hundreds of prisoners who had been sentenced to serve long terms for speaking against the war or for expressing views hostile to the government. Before sailing for Paris President Wilson had promised to release these prisoners and commuted the sentence of others, altogether 154, according to a recent executive order.

Among those pardoned are some of the most prominent prisoners. None of the 24 Socialist Workers or of the revolutionary socialists was released. Wilson acted on the recommenda-
tion of the ex-attorney general, Mr. Doak.

The order explains why among the 53 persons affected there are no radical revolutionists, who have to be a confirmed conservative who has little sympathy for revolutionists.

At about the same time that President Wilson showed a dis-
cree dem political to political

turers the Supreme Court of Washington City, and this appeal of combate Debe.

It must be admitted that no one expected the Supreme Court to pass upon the appeal founded on the contention that the entire Espionage Act is un-
constitutional, and it could not be expected that the Supreme Court would annul the most important gag measure directed against the opponents to the war.

Immigration—Which Way?

While some congressmen want to shut the gates of this country, others are just as strong in favor of invasion on the part of the impoverished Europeans, thousands of whom are seeking a better country. Every house of the country is in favor of the country. The offices of the Jour-

tom House are besieged by thousands of persons asking for a chance to sail. They are will-
ing to undergo the hardships of $75 for a ticket. Most of them are Italians. Among them there are Greeks, Spaniards, Poles, Russians, and French.

The prophecy of the New York Immigration Commission may come true, that after the war the tide of immigration will move from, and not to America.
Chicago Raincoatmakers

Loud Greenspan, manager of Local No. 4, writes:

"The Raincoat Makers' Union is the same bee-hive of activity today as it ever was. Can you imagine, when the Chicago raincoat makers were resting on their laurels that we'd have to come on the scene? That's a little to do at home, our boys do not hesitate to go out of town to get wherever they possibly can.

"Just recently the firm of Samuel Ben-ll, with our local shop for eighteen months here in Chicago, decided to put company a few miles away. We were called in to see if we could help them. We believed and hoped that the International will see the importance of a union being established in the best interests of the organized waterproof garment workers."

Boston Ladies' Tailors

Brother Jacob White, Boston Joint Board manager, writes:

"We have started a campaign to get the expected reply from Boston, and we have encountered considerable success. We have had several well attended meetings and at each meeting large numbers of tailors signaled their approval of the move. The Joint Board has had, during the past year, a very large number of ladies tailors. It is difficult to state in one breath the reason why they joined, but in most cases the fact that they are among the poorest paid, was never an easy argument in New York. We believe, however, that the time is ripe for their organization and we intend to continue on our campaign as fast as possible. We have recently applied to the International for the renewal of their charter.

"At the time of the Hickson strike in New York last fall, Brother Magnavita of Local No. 60, New York, came to Boston to see what was the situation here. The branch in this city and without difficulty took down the names of all the tailors and had the convincing proof that the ladies tailors here are working fast and hard. We visited the Worcester cloakmakers recently, and found the conditions there no better than they had been. We succeeded in signing up new agreements with the employers for the benefit of improvements to the work."

The New Agreement of the Cincinnati Cloakmakers

Brother Abraham Snyder, manager of the Cincinnati Joint Board writes us:

"Two years ago, the International, after a lapse of several years, started a campaign to organize the cloak trade in Cincinnati. After weeks of preparatory work, a general strike was called which resulted in victory. The employers signed agreements which were considered very liberal. We are looking into the organizing material as any body of men in any capacity. We visited the Worcester cloakmakers recently, and found conditions no better than they had been. We succeeded in signing up new agreements with the employers for the benefit of improvements to the work."

The remarkable change of working conditions in the local industry during the last few years, leaves no doubt in the minds of our cloakmakers that the Cincinnati Joint Board has received "qualified" support. The Joint Board celebrated the signing of the agreement with a "dinner-dance" of their members on February 28th, which drew a large crowd and was a most successful affair."

Boston Waist and Dressmakers

Brother Samuel Jacobson, manager of Local No. 49, writes:

"The sale of the general strike in the dress and waist industry in New York, we have been on the lookout here in Boston and vicinity for shops where work would be attempted to be made for the New York strike-bound shops. Every once in a while we hear of a suspicious place or report and would at once trace it down to the New York."

"Quite recently we were informed from New York that there was no way of long strike in Fall River by the Order Made Waist Co. of that city. Our information was well confirmed, and after we intelligently took stock of the situation, we were able to arrange for a general strike. At first there was no desire of meeting our modest terms with a conciliatory spirit, but presented with the facts of increase in wages, claiming that now the critical conditions were faced, and that the strike has been ordered, the workers had no right to demand a living wage. Just think of it! The Union actually insists on operators earning not less than 80 cents per hour, and 60 cents and 56 cents per hour, in a strike. We made a thorough investigation and found that while the work belonged to a firm on strike in New York, it was contracted for a long time before this was any spotlight for a strike in the New York industry. In order to avoid a stoppage in this shop, however, the firm agreed to send back 350 dozen cut and uncut waistsl to New York City which we found on the premises.

"I also went to Worcester to look into the situation and see what could be done in order to renew agreements with the employers for Local No. 49, and also to investigate whether there was any strike-work being done in local establishments for settlements, as the local shops were not very busy. I expect things to pick up in Worcester and to give whatever aid I possibly can to the local to get the employers and better conditions for the workers."

"DADDY" on the Picket Line

This is "Daddy," the idol of our brave, spirited pickets. Never mind that his name is Henry Werner, member of Local No. 10; he is "Daddy," dear, good, kind Daddy, and the girls refuse to know him by any other appellation, and he, himself, answers to the name most cheerfully.

We confess to our inability to convey to the readers of the "Justice" the spirit of admiration and love the pickets have for this lovable man and staunch defender of our just cause.
Our rich ladies, who have been in the habit of buying the most expensive waists on the market, are naturally inclined to realize that waists, as a rule, do not drop from the sky to the storekeeper’s ready made; that strange as it may sound, waists must be made by human hands. And the astounding discovery in that order that they may droll up in parts and be sent out to their friends, and hide the cruel pranks that caprices and fashions form, many young, tender blossoming girls must stay in the world beyond their needles and exhibit, in addition to the vast amount of patience, a great deal of taste and talent.

Our rich ladies are angry. And they are quite right. They want the very best in waists. Prices are no consideration. But the cheap waists that were offered are like words on paper shoulders. "It’s the strike!" they exclaim, "We can’t set up with what you can get.

What a strike?!" My, but that is a shame. They have no business to strike!" Poor, innocent, well-behaved employers and employees.

Our strikers who took it into their hands to stay out of the shops and work at home, are not the artless rather than stay in the shops and make artistic, fashionable waists.

And the remarkable thing about it is that our strikers are not to be held strictly responsible for the indignation on the part of the rich ladies. On the contrary, they are not to blame. It is the poor in measure, it compensates them for all the hardships they have to suffer on the picket line. Not because of the feeling of malevolence and vengeance against the rich ladies. This is not the time to quarrel with them but with the bosses. And the despair of the rich ladies is only to be accounted for when we re-echo the despair of the bosses. This is clear to the striking girls. They realize full well that if the ladies must leave the atelier and go home, then they face a thing like a decent labor. It shows plainly that the manufacturers cannot supply those waists to the storekeepers; it would be much more seductive and paralysed, in spite of all the desperate efforts the bosses are making to keep it going. And they become inspired anew with the wonderful power of solidarity.

It is true, the complete victory has not yet been won. But we do not lose heart; it will be won. It is unavoidable. What we have accomplished so far is already a great success. What has become of the determination of the bosses to deal the working body a fatal blow? It never was. The union is now, even before the final victory has taken place, a hundred per cent stronger than it was before the strike began, and the Bosses’ Association is in the utmost hurry, met with an uncertain, unstable condition, and it is really a question of days when the union will show the strength that the bosses never dreamed of. The union will win.

We trust that our president, B. Schlesinger, will, if he finds necessary for the present occasion, to which the present moment of intense struggle belongs, undertake the writing of the letter that has not been written by a union man, but by no unprepared person, and stung on the part of the bosses, to discredit the union in the eyes of the working class. The bosses are like robbers who do nothing but extort the hard-earned dollars from the poor in order to support under all sorts of excuses.

The surprising thing is how the union has succeeded in realizing that the whole thing was a trick of the bosses. The letter which has been written by an employer, who forgot to hide his handwriting, is written in bad English, but as he wrote with the slumbered obviously careless, the letter is not what we are concerned with. We mention this letter because it is characteristic of the attitude of a small fraction of our workers who are now at work under union conditions. We mention this letter of a callous man in a measure expresses the emotions of the working people. And it is this that we regret.

It is too bad that some of the settled bosses did not rise to the task to get of some of the workers the ten per cent of their earnings to go to the strike fund, — something that would have been accepted by the strikers had it not come from reliable sources. This is really astounding.

The difference, however, is that the strike on strike are on the firing line not for themselves alone, but for all those who are working under the new conditions; for they recognize the solidarity of those who have gained the 44 hour week and a considerable increase in wages, that they have not only to fight for their own rights but also for the battle of the bosses’ Association is not in the way of the union’s growth, but the destruction of the Association. If the latter is successful, the union will not meet.

A Little Self-Criticism

The other day B. Schlesinger received a letter from Mayor Hylan which the latter received from a union member. In the letter Hylan challenges the union and makes a request to the union members: a request to the decision of the union that they are to contribute ten per cent of their earnings, one per cent that were won for them. No, it is useless to expect Hylan to allow us any satisfaction.

This is what we should like to impress upon those laborers who are slow to contribute the ten per cent of their wages that will provide them with the money to buy the present moment of intense struggle byagination and to realize that the letter has not been written by a union man, but by no unprepared person, and stung on the part of the bosses, to discredit the union in the eyes of the working class. The bosses are like robbers who do nothing but extort the hard-earned dollars from the poor in order to support under all sorts of excuses.

Our yield-lady is speaking members and indeed, all the Jewish workers who have celebrated last night the twenty-fifth anniversary of the literary activities of Abraham Lesain, the eminent Yiddish poet.

Our Yiddish-speaking members deserves the honors accorded him by his many friends and admirers in and out of the labor movement. We take this belated opportuni- ty to extend to him our best wishes to the poet to whom the cause of the poor and oppressed has been a source of inspiration for a quarter of a cen-
The first congress of the Woman's International League, which was held last Saturday gave the world an impressive view of the future of the American woman movement. The new organization, which is of such vital importance to the welfare of the woman of the world, was not only a sight to be marvelled at but a sight of great hope for the future of women everywhere.

Among the leaders of the new movement were Miss Agnes E. Dunning, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and Miss Harriet Taylor, who was the first woman to be elected to the House of Representatives.

The congress was held in New York City, and was attended by delegates from more than twenty countries. The speeches of the leaders were eloquent and inspiring, and the meetings were well attended.

The league is founded on the principle that women, as citizens of the world, should have the same rights and opportunities as men. It will work for the abolition of all forms of discrimination against women, and for the establishment of equal rights and opportunities for all women.

The congress was a great step forward in the struggle for women's rights, and it is hoped that it will be the beginning of a new era in which women will play an equal role in the affairs of the world.
It will surely please our members to learn that a new feature has been introduced and has already proved a success. We have received a note from our branch in New York, that we can see a fact for our organization. We have started it in our educational activities. The new feature is the "Our Educational Activities" column, which will be published on a regular basis.

By S. Liberty, Local 6

We are pleased to announce that our branch in New York, Local 6, has introduced a new feature in its newsletter called "Our Educational Activities." This column will highlight the various educational activities organized by the members of the union, including workshops, seminars, and discussions on various topics.

The feature is designed to provide members with information about the educational programs and activities that are taking place in the local and how they can participate. The aim is to foster a culture of continuous learning and development among the members.

Embracing this new initiative, we hope to see a steady increase in the number of members who actively engage in educational activities. These activities not only enhance the professional skills of the members but also contribute to the growth and development of the union.

We encourage all members to take advantage of these opportunities and to participate actively in the educational activities organized by the union. We believe that such activities are crucial in building a strong and informed workforce.

As we move forward, we will continue to explore new ways to enhance our educational programs and make them more accessible to all members. We value the input and suggestions of our members and welcome any ideas they may have on how to improve these activities.

Let us work together to make "Our Educational Activities" a cornerstone of our organization, providing our members with the knowledge and skills they need to excel in their careers and contribute to the success of the union.
The Dress and Waist Cutters have been looking forward to and planning for last Monday night which, aside from the action taken on therubber-tipped tools, was the meeting held by Mr. Lewin reported on the outlook of the strike. He said that even from a purely financial point of view, the strike situation could not be better.

Mr. Lewin pointed out that the treasury of the union is well able to care for those still out on the line. Those who were working or returning or working less than half time have already been paid off and the men still out to picket, their shops, since the majority of the men are back at work.

Miscellaneous Meeting

The Miscellaneous Branch, which controls the wrapper and kimono, children's dresses and underwear cutting trades, will hold its meeting this Monday. Members of this Branch are urged to attend, since this is the last meeting being at the present time reorganized and the Manager will make a report on the present situation In the three trades.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on the twenty-fifth of March. Indications are that the big fight that was expected in the underwear trade, was proving to be a non-event in the near future. The strike in this industry is well in hand and many settlements have been made.

Victory Ball Huge Success

The Tenth Annual Ball, which was given last Saturday night, and which by March 8th, surpassed all expectations. While the arrangements committee and the hotel were well attended and while it looked to a large profit, the big surprise was the hopes even of the most optimistic.

In view of the results which the union is making in the matter of improving the general condition of its members, and considering the many gains one need hardly wonder at the outcome of this event, from all angles, a real "Victory Ball." The beautiful large ball hall of the Hotel Majestic was decorated and crowded to capacity. The band did not play,"Home Sweet Home" until the wee hours in the morn. In fact the milkman was some two hours behind in his usual round.

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Where organized labor is employed, where conditions and wages are satisfactory, where the men know that their grievances have not been discharged unless the cause for such dismissal is furthered by him, he can no longer depend on the factory, shop or store in which he is employed for the same reason that the owner or manager, evinced the same lively interest in its success as does the latter. "One knows that the worker concentrates on the job, and they have a decided improvement in the quality of the work."

The above is only one of a thousand advantages that accrue to the manufacturer through the Amalgamated Cooperative Union's organized labor under proper conditions, and gives an idea as to the reason for the continued growth and expansion of the trades union movement. — La- by Review.
Greetings:

The New York Call is the only English daily paper which has fought loyally the battles of our workers; and has made our cause, and aspirations its own. It has always rendered invaluable service to us in the hour of need and we must do our utmost to protect it from all possible harm and to insure its future existence.

We are informed that its existence depends upon the good will of a private printer: that it could be made self-supporting, that it could treble its usefulness and become a great organ and mouthpiece of labor, if it obtains its own press and printing plant and is made independent.

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Individually and as an organization it is our duty to come to the assistance of the Call. It is our duty to buy bonds; and we plead with you not to fail to respond to this call.

Remember, the press is the greatest weapon in the hands of the enemies of the workers. It is also our greatest weapon. Let us strengthen it by all means at our command.

Fraternally yours,

AB. BAROFF.

General Secretary-Treasurer.

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