Justice (Vol. 1, Iss. 13)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords
International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

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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Most of the Ladies Waist Makers who were still on strike last January's issue will surely be back in their places when they read these lines. They fought for eleven weeks. The Ladies' Waist industry was greatly demoralized by the strike, which is a reminiscence of to-day's present condition of the trade and its effect upon the workers. The strike was not for a greater amount than the return of strikers should not find things in the same shape as before.

It is possible that in some shops there will be no work for the strikers, and in others, because the manufacturers, in cases many found the time too short to get ready for the resumption of work. The strikers will not be allowed to show any signs of disappointment. They must realize that in many shops there will be a surplus of labor. A little patience on the part of the strikers will go a long way. The manufacturers must be given time to get things ready, and the work will soon run in its normal course.

It is also possible that in some factories the employers, of course, some employers, with the strikers, will pretend not to have any work for the strikers and will say to them: “We have no work for you. Come to our places, if you like, but I have no work for you.”

This is all the strikers will say: “We will do so only to dampen the pride and the victorious spirit of the workers. The latter must realize that in doing so the employer simply “chucks a blinder” even if he cannot start work too soon to suit him, and if he holds out, why it is only a will of the workers to employ the strikers. The latter should not be so much concerned as to where they are piqued. By behaving so they will make the employers feel that they are aware of all his petty tricks.

The consciousness of their being the victors, is communicated to everyone by the greatest possible victory under the circumstances. The strikers have received them with a broad smile and sweet words. This would be enough to keep the workers from the shops. It would be enough to show the manufacturers more than anything else in the strike.

The eleven weeks of striking should have given them the necessary fortitude to bear the unceasing attacks upon the trade, and to the tender mercies of the manufacturers. The fact that they did not go so far as to agree to all the demands of the Union is the best proof that they have enough work and will have the work done. But they cannot forego the pleasure of the manufacturers. They are the last ones to remain in the field. To make these increased pay-
IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR WORLD

By M. KOLCH

Another “issue” in England

Whether the miners of England will accept the decision of the English, Irish, and Scottish coal and colliery workers to strike or not will depend upon the reactions of the miners of the other coalfields. Under ordinary circumstances, mining in England is dependent upon the coals of other countries, and major interruptions in the supply of coal from the United States, South Africa, and other countries will eventually affect the English coal industry. However, this time the situation is different. The English coal industry is more self-sufficient, and the miners of England are more fragmented, with different unions representing different sections of the industry. Therefore, it is possible that the miners of England will decide to accept the strike, or to negotiate a settlement, without a major effect on the supply of coal to the rest of the country.

Bolshevism in Hungary

The situation in Hungary is the context of the current conflict between the government and the socialist parties. The government is ideologically opposed to the spread of bolshevism, which it sees as a threat to its stability and sovereignty. The socialists, on the other hand, see bolshevism as a means to achieve their goals of social and economic justice. The situation is complicated by the presence of the Soviet Union, which has been providing military and economic support to the socialists.

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(The strike of the 35,000 silk-weavers of Lawrence, Mass., is entering in its tenth week. It is the most bitter, the most cruel contest between the manufacturers and the weavers that Lawrence has ever known. Even the strike of 1912 with its atrocity displays by the police and the thugs pales before the present struggle.

The strike leaders say over 50 per cent of the workers in the mill were receiving less than $7 a week when the strike was called. Their surroundings are miserable and wretched. There is no beauty and no chance. It is always anxiety. The women have to go out to work at the mill to eke out an existence, but they do no daydreams for the children. Whenever the workers get a raise, rents go up and the prices at the stores go up.

Before the strike each man ate in a little congested room. There was no room for company, no money for extra food. Since the strike the household, usually a mill worker as well as homemaker, had time only to cook for her own. Since the strike family life is better. They have found leisure to get out to the co-operative soup kitchens. Those who can afford to pay do; those who cannot are content and the waiting, the buying and the planning — all is done by volunteers. Men who before the strike would rather have died than be found out in the street and who are happy cooking in the company of other volunteers. They run the kitchens absolutely themselves. There is the Jewish kitchen, the Italian kitchen, the Portuguese, and those of all nationalities, for of course they have different tastes in food.

The meetings of the strikers are the most religious the I have ever attended. There are the men and there are the women, shawls over their heads, a baby in the arms and one or two or three more at their skirts, and standing around. They begin singing the "International — all about a day that is coming. They talk of how the world is going to the dogs and how justice is coming and their children won’t have to live under the same conditions as us. The Church is nothing like it for real consecration to a cause.

There were 12,000 Italian strikers. Funds were getting low. The Italians said they would come in if we initiated for no more money, but would take care of their own nationalities. And they are doing it this way through. I went with a Sicilian organizer to see a man who had worked himself out in the strike and was dying. It was one of the many, dark, dank, dirty basements where the sick die with the cooking and the playing of the shabby children and the whole family going on for them. The sick man wanted to give the organizer some money. He had been happy since the strike, he said. He had had a chance to look after his people and to know them, and he wanted to give just a little more, just before he went. He was dying happy, he said.

The only thing that gets these people going is that the fund gives out. They can be brave themselves; it seems; they can, till the eight-year-old boy he must be brave when he is hungry, but the baby can’t understand why, it is that their great worry.

PROBLEMS OF THE WORKING WOMAN

BY JULIET STUART POYNTE

(Continued from last week)

We are the ones, says the woman, who are complicitly that the evil of prostitution is as old as the hills, and this includes that respectable women always will be. They remind us of those prosperous diplomatists who easily remain the same and who always have with you. Humanity has been blinded by such lies for at least a million years, for thousands of years, but the wonderful day has come in the masses of which we are a part and cried: These things shall be no more. And lo, they are no more. Poverty, disease, punishment, these things always have been. But together with other evil deeds of the past, this evil will soon be dead. The new enlightenment that is spreading among working women is the greatest source of hope for the abolition of prostitution, strong women’s organizations, not only improving the economic condition of working women, but lifting them out of that hellgates and defenseless condition which has led them to the slave of the white slave. Their minds and their spirits are roused by better conditions. They have begun to realize that they have human value, and not mere sex value, and that sex value can be the same as a free gift through love, and not a commodity to be bought and sold on the market. We are told that in Russia under the Soviet prostitution has been abolished, that there women work together as comrades now and that it is inconceivable that working women should be bought and sold in a free, working class society.

The new politics and prosperity of women will also contribute much to the abolition of the ancient evil. The struggle for the assistance of women in child birth with money payments by city and state and for money aid to the mother in bringing up her child whether it be legitimate or illegitimate will bring succor to the working woman at a great crisis in her life when many find circumstances too difficult for them alone. At the same time the fearful prejudice against free sexual relations and children born out of wedlock which has long been critically upheld by the middle classes in order to protect their own propriety interests and the right of inheritance so essential to capitalism is being thrown overboard in the middle class. In fifty years, perhaps, in ten, the terrible social penalties and the fear of "erroneous" children will be no more and free sexual relations and children society will be a thing of the past. The old rubbish of capital and the whole social structure will be as well as its economic foundations, will soon be thrown on the dustbin and the old socialological museums as curiosities for future generations.

A woman in the war will surely be written that future generations can only wonder how we could stand and tears. But no pages will be more heartbreaking than those which describe the loss of the tatter of love. Imagination balks at the story. From the lip of the worm to the end of the terrible truth. Whole regiments, a French writer tells us, have been filled with that woman tortured, riddled with venereal disease, and reports have it that these diseases are spread by the piece of terrible and horrid form through the war than ever before in our century. The terrible wreck of womanhood that inhabits the hospitals of Paris and other cities. These battles are as truly the fates and these battles as the "great" war as are the legs of the relentless shells. Ten million now dead, twice that number have been withdrawn from their crews, from their children, from their wives and their husbands because of their rendezvous with death.

And with them went regiments of young men, yet the war is not true, but no less dedicated to the service of the great god of war. There is a better piece of womanhood! Death and disease, boon companions! Laughter and sorrow, weeping and singing! And song and drink, for tomorrow we die! Let us draw a medal on the neck of eachastos and the abyssal depths of human safery and degradation. Peace for women, and against the misery and victims of a decaying society men and women once full of life, and whose love was, without soul not touched by noble aspirations! Res! in pace! You, you, you, you! Let us console the earth and your tears shall wash the blossoming thereof. No more shall the female sex be observed against the hand of worker! No more shall woman’s flesh be sacred. No more shall woman’s heart be ground in the dust. No more shall woman’s soul have the protect of his toil and worry! She shall live and love in freedom and security.

TO ORGANIZE STEEL

At a meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa., attended by representatives of the Steel Workers’ Congress, the delegates decided to give every possible assistance in the campaign to organize employees in the steel and iron industry and to demand the right of free speech for the organizers. The unionists will pay especial attention to McKeesport, Pa. The Congress invited permission to hold meetings.
VICTORY

Victory! This is the most
beautiful and potent word in the human language. What indi-
ness is the meaning of life if it is
not overcoming difficulties and attainings goals? Victory is life.
The two words are synony-
mous - life is the struggle to live. And life without victory is not
worth living.

But victory has all kinds of vic-
tories. There are victories that are
hardly worth fighting for. So
crassible are they that they
bring very little value, so transient that be-
fore they are won they are already
polished out of existence and the bit-
ter realization that the goal is not
what we had thought for. There are, again, victories, which are
lasting in their effects upon our entire life, and
how dearly we may have paid for them, no matter what
dreadful things we may have endured in our efforts. They are worth it
all, for they give a new meaning to our lives.

And it is this kind of victory that the Ladies’ Waiters’
Union has achieved.

The road was rocky. The
fight for victory was a heroic one. It
waged against the powers that be, the
powers that were, the powers that still are,
the powers that are, the powers that may be.

But victory is not a matter of
victories. It is the journey, the struggle itself.

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victories. It is the journey, the struggle itself.
There mas be only one object to be raised upon the new anent, that is, how the union should respond to the shop owners for the purpose of protecting the workers. It is not a new idea, but one that the employers do not realize this aspect of the question, just as they did not realize their position as yet not aware of it. But the experience of the near future will make this clear to the manufacturers that the bargain in accepting this modification in the question of discharge is not in their favor.

The same thing applies to the shop owners in this case — less than four months. First, for such workers it is not such a great hardship. The fact that the worker has been in the shop less than four months makes it easier in an indication that he or she belongs to a class of workers who are often not paid the Union to engage in a big fight on behalf of the workers. The less, of course, the question of union activity in the shop is lived up to, the better the worker may be, of course, with those who have been in a shop more than four months.

An Important Easy Mistake

There may be only one objection raised against the new arrangement — that those who do not belong to the shop for the purpose of preaching and advocating socialism, bolshevism, etc., may with less difficulty be discharged by the shop owners. But the past four months of their stay in the shop, and that the Union has now provided better protection than for the rest of the workers.

As a response to this objection the reply may be made that with both the Union does not demand their services, and that they want to act as they must do on their own responsibil- ity. The shop owners and agitators of a cause must be ready to undergo hardships for it. The question is raised whether it is a justifiable opinion that the unionists are too weak to strike because of the burden of the struggle. Fortunately the International was in a position to do it. But it could have been otherwise. We, therefore, urge the unionists to take braver sacrifices of themselves to protect the Union in the future and the untried and the unpro- foundly, we congratulate all the unions of the International which have fought side by side with their brothers and sisters of the Ladies' Tailor Organizations.

The strike was a model of unity which is rare even in the case of labor movement, especially when we remember that within these eleven weeks the Unionists, Workers, Kimmons and Wrapp- er Workers, Embroidery Workers were atPrecio and the rest of the batt- le and that they all came out victorious.

And with all our might we want to exclaim: Long live the Great and Mighty International Ladies' Garment Workers' Un- ion.

UNITY HOUSE

Following the example of our older centers, Unity House will have a prominent and Art Lecture this Sunday after- noon, May 1 in the Metropolitan. The lecture will be given by Professor Seid, 52nd St., 6th Ave., Class Room A. with Mr. Saul Raskin as lecturer. There will be many more such promenades arranged by the Educational Committee for the members of the International.

No Compromise Made

We have purposely dwelt on these details because many believe that if the protest is made, it will not be effective, and that the employers do not realize this aspect of the question, just as they did not realize their position as yet not aware of it. But the experience of the near future will make this clear to the manufacturers that the bargain in accepting this modification in the question of discharge is not in their favor.

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CUTTERS ON THE ALERT

By A "JUSTICE" REPORTER

A regular monthly meeting of the Cloak and Skirt Division of the Cutters' Union Local, was held Tuesday evening, April 7, at Arlington Hall, 23 Railroad Avenue, with President of the Union in the chair.

The beginning of the meeting was somewhat special, and impressive ceremony of administering the oath of "obligation" to the new members. It was quite a haul of them, and as reported by the editor, most of them were new members only technically, as they had been convicted of offenses against the Union, others — and these were the ones we suspected to have been caught in their dues for a long time, and upon their failure to heed the repeated warnings on the part of the Union they were deprived of their membership.

The employers stated the strike the position of patriotism by accusing the strikers of being disloyal, and that the workmen have done their duty by this country. The employers together with the president of the Union of Lawrence, began the same campaign as occurred in 1912 a strike is a war for wages. They prohibited them the use of any meeting places. They educated the strikers to discriminate against the strikers' children in the schools and they branded them as "foreigners"; they call the strikers, "immigrants" and while our work week hours, they hope to break the strike. We, workers, are well acquainted with much of this stuff. We have heard them too often, but we have always stood to the back of the Union, and we know the tariff, and the employers can fight and win. The Lawrence strikers will prove that the strike can be fought, and that they are of many different nationalities, they want to show how they can stand by their demands, and to accomplish, aid is necessary. Money must pour in from all sides, the strikers must have bread, the children must have homes and not suffer because of the strike. Help is needed immediately, and we hope the strikers will reach out to the people of all lands, so that they can stand by their demands, and to accomplish, aid is necessary. Money must pour in from all sides.

Max Margoles warned the members of the possible conflict. In this connection he he has no doubt that the called American Benevolent Associa- tion, and the National Labor Leagues of this body, who he said, are accented, dishonest ex-officio representatives of the employers, who are on strike, and are cabling on sea activities and sea propaganda under the cover of this movement.

The reporter had a long talk with Mr. Margoles on this question, and the documentary evidence produced shows the following: Mr. Margoles leaves no doubt that the American Benevolent Association is the same league and a menace to the best interests of organized labor in general but particularly to the women's partiular. The members of the International would, therefore, to call to fight as one, in their individual and not to be decoyed by their spurious names, and false promises.

LADIES' TAILORS & ALTERATION WORKERS

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WEEKLY WAGE, $8.00

By H. HILPFMAN Secretary

Although it is the height of the season, the Ladies Tailors have solicited the General Members, the meeting called for Monday, March 31st, for the only purpose of assessing themselves. The Ladies Tailors were able to foreclose the coming season, when the agreements with the manufacturers were renewed, and will have to be renewed.

We are interested in the proceedings and many vigorous and eloquent speeches were made by tailors and members of the union.

The Ladies Tailor and Alteration Work sisterhood are an alert lot. They have learned from experience that the strength of the Union, the better conditions that can obtain.

The special business of the meeting was the recommendation of the Executive Board that each member should be taxed 10c. per week. In the event a strike will be necessary to obtain a 4c. hour wage, this wage increase will mean a great deal to the members when the present agreement expires. This includes the cost of living increase of 8c. per hour.

The Executive recommendation was voted down by a large majority. The members agreed to pay the 50c. which is to include the International cost but no less.

The amount must be paid not later than May 15th.

Let us serve notice to the manufacturers, that when we will no longer be able to suffer them about new conditions our Union will be well prepared. If the important employers will think twice before they precipitate a strike.

POSTPONE

Because of the Jewish Holi- day, the Executive Board met off on April 12th at Washington Irving High School by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union for its members will be given on Saturday April 19th, 1919.

Tickets are being printed now and locals of the International should send in their request telling how many they can use. Tickets are free.

The Program is one of the finest.

The People's Chorus with 60 voices will be the closing feature. Dr. Norman Thomas will lec- ture on the Road to Freedom. Jewish Street will lead the Yiddish Folks Songs. A short report of the activities during this term will be made by the Educational Organizer. A good Educational Moving Picture will be shown. Miss Fania M. Cohen will be chairman. In the mean- time those members who want to may play a part in the "Double's Faith" at Brundall Playhouse can obtain them by sending 10c. to Miss Fania M. Cohen at 21 Union Square, Room 1002.

Her-Illustration

Nature herself teaches us that success depends on system.

I admit she's made a shining example of her solar system.

SECOND CONFERENCE ON
THE CLOAK SITUATION

On Thursday, April 10, at 7 P.M. the Women's Department Board met the representatives of Cloak, Suit and Skirt Producers in a second conference.

At the time of writing we do not know the result of the conference. We know, how- ever, that actual negotiations between the manufacturers were to begin at that conference. It was rumored that the manufacturers were to come out in stormy opposition to all the Union demands, especially to the demand for straight week work throughout the industry.

The Tolles in the meantime, is stepping with activity to meet whatever situation may arise out of the conference.

That the situation threatens to become serious may be seen daily in the Woman's Wear, a Jus- tice is published for the interests of the Manufacturers of the Ladies Garment Industry. The reports appearing daily in the Cloak Manufacturers are matters of the incidents of the day. These reports are written in the name of the manufacturers, they are real news. The manufacturers are evidently trying to create trouble, the Union ready to meet any emergency.

In connection with all this it is important for the manufacturers to keep their sacred duty to become members in good standing and to do it at once. There must be no laggards in the Union.

Everybody must pay up dues up to date. It is in the interest of each and every mem- ber that the Union chest be filled up, for—who knows?—it may have to be used as a war chest.

You May Need

Junk Young Man (breathless) A kingdom for a car!

Garage Owner — Sorry, Sir, but we don't deal in junk.

MAYBE

A Discovery Farmer—(To city chap, after he is really published in the first inte- ress of every member that the Union chest be filled up, for—who knows?—it may have to be used as a war chest.

Harold — That fellow who says a cow gives milk is a darn liar.

Professor — Sir, I regret to say that your daughter lacks interac- tion.

My Hawkins — But, my dear professor, I've told you a dozen times when the time is necessary and send the bill to me, I have no idea what's the matter with her.

—Tit-Bits.

Harold — "I thought you made a resolution not to drink any alcohol.

Percy — "I did.

Harold — "Then you are drinking as much as ever.

Percy — "Well, that isn't any more, is it?"

—Pearson's Weekly
THE DIAL
FOR APRIL 19th contains:

“CONTROL OF GOVT. INDUSTRIES”

—HELEN MAROT

A plan whereby Trade Unionsists, Socialists and Civil Employees may apply the SOVIET IDEA to American Industry

“PAYING THE GERMAN INDEMNITY”

—JOHN CODMAN

“PEACE IN ITS ECONOMIC ASPECTS”

—HERBERT J. DAVENPORT

The DIAL will shortly release a reprint on “Sabotage” by THORSTEIN VEBLEN.

See that the Literature Committee of Your Local has the DIAL on Sale.

AMERICAN LABOR ITEMS

WILL ASK SIX-HOUR DAY.

Hazelton, Pa. — When the 15,000 anthracite miners make their next demand of the operators they will ask for a six-hour day and a substantial increase in wages, according to Thomas Kennedy, president of the Hazelton district, who has returned from the Indianapolis meeting of the policy committee of the United Mine Workers. The present contract expires next year.

President Kennedy says that the policy committee is squarely on record to use the full power and influence of the organization to retain the present war-time increase. If peace is officially declared before September, a special international convention probably will be called to handle the situation. Under the agreement the advances granted during the war are to run only until the official signing of peace.

EIGHTY THOUSAND WOMEN OFFICE WORKERS JOIN TRADE UNIONS

More than 80,000 women office workers have joined trade union organizations during the past year, according to reports received by the National Women’s Trade Union League at its Washington office. These are for the most part stenographers, clerks, accountants, etc., in the railroad offices throughout the country, and in the various branches of the federal civil service, and they represent about one-half of the total increase in membership recorded by the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, the National Federation of Federal Employees, and the local stenographers and office workers’ union, all of these organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

STRIKEBREAKERS STRIKE.

Dayton, Ohio. — Strikebreakers iron molders employed at the Pasteur-Chamberlain plant walked out when their wages were reduced to 65 cents an hour. These “free and independent” were assured that they would be paid the union rate—70 cents—and now they are told that they are not worth more than 65 cents.

CARPENTERS SUCCEED FROM DISTRICT BODY

Approximately 2,500 members of the Carpenters’ Union held a mass meeting yesterday afternoon at the Yorkville Casino, 310 East 86th Street, and passed a resolution calling upon all locals to withdraw their delegates from the district council and to cease paying dues and assessmensters charge in their resolutions to that council. The carmons that the officers of the council have misappropriated funds which the various locals have contributed for union activities.

IT IS YOUR DUTY TO ATTEND THIS!!

MOONEY MASS MEETING

IN MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

ON

May lst, 8 p.m.

WE EXPECT EVERY MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL TO COME

READ

"LABOR AND JUSTICE IN THE MOONEY CASE"

(15¢ a copy). Order from Room 82, Bible House, New York City

Benefit Concert

Arranged by

LEAGUE FOR THE AMNESTY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 12, 8:30

at CARNEGIE HALL.

Artists:

HULDA LASHANSKA—Soprano
SASCHA JACOBSEN—Violinist

Tickets: $2.00, $1.50, $1.00, 75c, and 50c.—plus 10% war tax
* Boxes: $18 and $16—plus 10% war tax

Order your tickets at once

Tickets on sale: M. E. Fitzgerald, 567 Broadway, cor. 17th St.
Phone Stuyvesant 672—and at Carnegie Hall Box Office after April 8th.

THIS SATURDAY EVENING

NINTH ANNIVERSARY MASQUERADE AND CIVIC BALL

GIVEN BY

THE JOINT BOARD MILLINERY AND LADIES’ STRAW HAT WORKERS UNION

AT HARLEM RIVER CASINO

12TH ST., & 2ND AVENUE

SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 12TH

Price Per Ticket 25 Cents

100 DOLLARS IN CASH PRIZES
50 DOLLARS IN VALUABLE ARTICLES
Music by Professor Schiller Union Band

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