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Justice (Vol. 1, Iss. 14)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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**Keywords**
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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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Debs, the man whose highest achievement became his conviction for his crime against his government, became aware of the great schizophrenia that rends modern society. The agitation for emancipation of the down-trodden and disfranchised working class, in the United States was symbolized, he said, by the conviction of a son in the Mountainsville prison, in Virginia.

Debs was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment because of a few sentences in one of his brilliant and death-delivered at Canton, Ohio. He committed a grave crime. He said that the workers are fit for something better than salts, and cannon fodder, and a number of similar crimes.

It was thought that he would be treated with more consideration than it was accorded to other criminals. After all he is the great American labor leader, and he was respected and beloved all over the world, who as presidential candidate of the Socialist party, polled millions of votes. It was thought that the severe penalties were counter-acted with leniency in his case. It was thought that president Wilson would change his mind on his behalf and prevent his going to prison. But these expectations were disappointed.

Debs, now 63 years old, is a prisoner.

They are silent as yet. Silent and the present only are they. As Debs organized the workers in the seventies of the last century and for which he was arrested on the charge of treason in 1894. Silent are the million workers who voted for him in 1912 and to whom he addressed his beautiful words of hope.

This silence is terrible, but it is not for Debs. It will not change his heart. He will remain the great, devoted champion of labor within and without the prison walls. It is terrible for the workers themselves that they can remain silent— if at all affected — when their heart's desire is to act from their midst for real justice for the man of love and unity.

But in this silence, if not in Debs' condition, we do not believe it will, we cannot believe it will. The workers' breath is America's future. They are silent, and it must raise its voice.

We are sure that before long the voice of the great Debs will be heard with a clarion loud the great elocution as the preparations and with urgent demands that Debs be set free.

If the people of America do this, if they do it or they will be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. If they remain silent and do nothing for the liberation of Debs it will be the greatest triumph of reaction, retribution, and everything that isressive.

In this Debs question it must

Judging from the two conferences so far held between the manufacturers and the manufac- turers, it does not look as if the latter are of a pacific mood, and from the fact that the workers have not agreed without a fight to the demands of the workers which have made a result of long experience.

The manufacturers offered the stiffest resistance to the strike of the workers for the very essential demand of the cloakmakers for the introduction of week's work in the industry. This is a very serious one. The workers are paid only during the week's work system both for the cloakmakers and for the manufacturers, and the Union could not and would not drop this demand, the pre- sumption being that Debs would make the manufacturers submit. Singer was "highly surprised" at this action. He thought that the workers came to consult the manufacturers, and he kindly agreed to as an advisor, and it was evident that the Union should come to demand things.

Of course, the conferences are still in progress, and as they progress both sides appointed sub-committees for further consideration of the piece-work as well as other questions at issue. But whether the conferences will result in an amicable solution is hard to say. The employers, unfortunately, under- stand the financial difficulties and for them of the week's work system much more than some workers generally understand.

At any other time the manufacturers would probably refuse to negotiate the matter with the workers. But they know the overwhelming objection of the cloak makers against the week's work system, and the demand of the Union for the most 100 per cent organized: they know of the extensive activities and preparations going on in the Union, and we must give them credit — they try in every way possible to keep the workers knowing full well that they could gain nothing by it.

In the course of the negotiations between the two sides it was pointed out that the Union had a lack of unity in the matter of piece-work. They pointed out the various differences in the various districts, and this appeared at such an untimely moment in the Forward, but President Singer explained the prop- erty that he represents the Un- ion as a whole, and that it would be too big and good to decide themselves.

The manufacturers know that if it comes to a fight they will have to fight in a convincing force. Hence their patience and tolerance.

If this spirit is repeated the employ- ers cannot be banked upon. VI- tal interests are at stake on both sides, and the American people of the Labor Union has not and intensifies its "war" preparations, realizing that every greedy union should and does, that the best way to avoid a conflict is to be prepared for it at any moment.

And the Cloak Manufacturers know it. They know that the Cloak Makers are bent on winning every one of their orders. They know that the Cloak Maker is never anxious for a fight, but that he never shirks or dodge- ges it when he finds it essential to his interests. They know that the Union is splendidly organ- ized, that it has been the greatest and strongest labor union organization, which has only recently been composed of the greatest number of unorganized labor and have no political affiliations and leavings of any kind. Lodges, like the Order Brothers of Death, of which Abraham were no less vir- gorous in their protests than the Salvation Army, the Order Brothers of Death, of which Abraham were no less vir- gorous in their protests than the Salvation Army.

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But the protests of the working people of New York were the loudest. The cloak makers organizations, the Amalgam- ation of workmen, the United Hebrew Trades were particu- larly alarmed and indig- nated. The Mayor's action on the fundamental rights and lib- erities of America. They realized full well that the language of foreign languages would mean the virtual destruction of the or- ganization, their ranks and the very existence of the people. They raised the following questions:

"If this realization on the part of the manufacturers may lead to an amicable solution of all difficulties, but this is not a certainty. It is therefore, best and wisest to expect for it, whether it comes or not,
By N. BUCHWALD

Talk about Bolsheviks’ plots, why it is the hardest thing in the world nowadays even for the best of us to understand the aim of the police and the papers to carry out a simple task. In the case of a bunch of foreigners, Greeks, Syrians, Ruthenians and all those illiterate barabarians.

Take Lawrence, for instance. What could be more American with the magnanimous co-operation of the police, not done to establish a black reputation for the striking textile workers? And all of no avail. It came out even worse than nothing, for the unsuccessful combatants failed to gain their end and earned a black reputation to boot.

At home, of course, no one seemed to care. The Lawrence police was faithfully carrying out the wishes, if not the slightest, of the strikers. Their heads were split, women and children were fired upon, the strikers, the use of meeting halls was prohibited, strikers were branded as in their own headquarters and soup-kitchens — all the well-known devices of strike-breaking were applied.

The Lawrence police, it is true, has never been the best. Those obdurate foreigners, 35,000 of them, persist in striking and demanding, as they put it, autonomic brutes and the hired thugs and cut-throats, despite their decent police officers and the cooperation of the Lawrence and Boston papers. But the police and the civilian “servants” may say with a clear conscience that they have never been so bad as when they were interpreted by the law as interpreted by the textile kings.

In other things, life can be managed somehow. But what are you going to do about the Americans who are listless or can’t, indeed, send thugs, brainwashed anarchists to every town and city and every country with pistol and club to herald just the cause of the Lawrence strikers? Such a course would be impossible of embarked upon for sheer lack of man-power. The power the way open to them was the way to the editorial offices of the country.

And, indeed, it could not be long before in every town, city and hamlet the news was spread that a bitter war is being waged in Lawrence. The authorities of the city, it was announced, were as a matter of fact, a host of Bolsheviks, foreigners all of them, who are ostensibly conducting a strike for an eight hour day, but in reality they are trying to put out of business every pay, but who in reality are bent on destroying every form of organization which has public alarm.

To permit Bolshevik strike root in Lawrence would be to pull the very foundations of our great society, to let Bolshevikism is a plague that could wipe out civilization. What was to be done? It was the plain and obvious duty of every good American to suppress this hastily struck and nip the poisonous weed of bolshevism in the bud. A movement of this effect would perhaps have been started.

Growing a group of New Yorkers with the nasty habit of Missourians and form a Committee of Public Safety to compose of studying conditions on the spot. The vying thing about this is that none of them, and not only not any foreigners or bolsheviks. All of them are good old American business men prominent in the public life of New York.

And what do you think the committee found out in Lawrence? Why, the same old Lawrence of 1912, the same old police, the same bounting on the part of the press, the same ruthlessness of the silk manufacturers. We refer our readers to last week’s issue of the Justice, where Helen Todd, one of the New York Committee on Lawrence, describes conditions in a textile center. Why, even our respectful and law-abiding N. Y. committee is driven to accuse of Bolshevik leanings, found it necessary to come out against one of its correspondents who, the day before had a big splash in the papers about the bust up heavin in Lawrence.

In the issue of the N. Y. World of April 4, we read the following:

"Each side to the controversy, and then we will be thoroughly agreed on four sides, accuses some or all other sides of Bolshevism. But the union, as always, is being betrayed by its own members with strike breaking help, and as the strikers are demanding simply their old fifty-four-hours-a-week wages for the new forty-eight-hour week, we believe that thought of establishing a Soviet operation of the plants, it is evident that the need of Bolshevism must lie against the City Government. If it is against anything it is against a law.

An essential principle of Bolshevism is arbitrary government and government by law. If the government and its municipal law makers, where the law makers are law makers, would pass a law against bolshevism, it is evident that the need of bolshevism must lie against the City Government. If it is against anything it is against a law.

And on top of all these difficulties, the whole course of events and Lawrence and textile workers can be seen how the heart can be consumed with Bolshevism, what is it?"

And a certain Charles G. Wood of the textile workers strike, Board of Conciliation and Arbitration had the audacity, the temerity, the impertinence to betray the secrets of the manufacturers of the state of Massachusetts to the public and officer. Really, it is the height of impudence to write a letter like the following:

"Dear Sir:—You are reported in the papers as saying that you advised me to hold an investigation as I proposed to do in compliance with the law. This is true. You did.

"You urged me strongly to adopt a course, the police there were willing to make me violate the very law which my oath of office compels me to obey.

"Why are you opposed to a public investigation? If the strike is illegal, as I believe, Bolshevist plot, why do you oppose my plan to inquire into it? An investigation such as I have many times proposed would be the only way of exposing the black spots in Lawrence, if any. No Bolshevist plot can survive a searching inquiry conducted in the open. Its only hope of survival lies in the concealment of a star chamber."

Why do you ask me to violate the very law which my oath of office compels me to obey? I recently made a modest contribution to the educational preparation of the Lawrence committee. I would recommend that a good part of it be teaching you that loyalty and obedience to the laws of our commonwealth is the salvation of a democratic government.

Yours truly,

Winston-Salem, N. C. A. McAndrew, president of the Tobacco Workers’ International Union, a member of the executive committee of L. organizer, was arrested in this city for "soliciting insurance" without a license.

The unionists protested that they were organizing tobacco workers, but were told that the Tobacco Workers’ Union has sick and frail people in the organization, and no union cards were released on bail.

On behalf of the American Tobacco Company, the police, who were told that the Tobacco Workers’ Union has sick and frail people in the organization, Frank Morrison forwarded a long telegram to protest against the arrest of the organizer. The Wilson County grand jury and the legal counsel and took the matter up with the State Fire Insurance Commission, who ruled against his deputy and held that the insurance law had to be taken into consideration.

In this city is located the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., manufacturers of "Prince Albert" smoking tobacco. This concern is notoriously connected with anti-union and local trade unionists declare that it "owns the town,"
ATTENTION OF ALL WAIST MAKERS:

According to the new agreement, with the closing of the dress and waist trade all tucking and hemstitching must be done by the shops of the Union, and the workers must see to it that no new work is started that was not already done in non-union shop. The list printed below contains the names and addresses of all the tucking and hemstitching shops that settled with the Union. The list will be run in the press and shown with the picture of the women who worked in the shops and keep it with you.

All workers in the waist and dress shops are urged to keep an eye on the tucking and hemstitching work. If you find any weaver sewing or attempting to shop other than those printed in the list you are urged to come to the effect Committee and proper measures will be taken at once.

Settled Tucking and Hemstitching

Barbos Postpone Their Strike in Brooklyn

Barbos, members of the Independent Union of Journeyman Cutters and Dressmakers, have called off their strike after up demands at a mass meeting on Thursday night. The Barbos have also announced the commencement of a national meeting of their union at the Beekley Hotel.

John Inglima, secretary of the Barbos, announced the commencement of a national meeting of the union at the Beekley Hotel.

John Inglima said that the situation is deadlocked. He declares that the Barbos will not accept any terms that will reduce the wages of the workers, and that the workers will not accept any terms that will reduce the wages of the workers. The Barbos will continue their strike until a fair settlement is reached.

Wrong Ticket

Conductor (at ticket office): "Ticket for Columbus 129. Who's that?" "That's for the paymaster." "Wrong."

The delegation to the Western Canada Labor Conference represents regular members of the American Federation of Labor who have voted unanimously in favor of a regional dictatorship. The conference has also been attended by a number of labor and liberal-minded educators in the east who have become interested in the work of the conference and the efforts that are being made to bring about a peaceful solution to the problem of organized labor in the United States.

The policy of the conference will not be changed from "above," in that the decisions of the conference will be shaped by a committee on which members of the unions sit, and the final decision in any matter may be referred to the central labor union at the conference.

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From THE EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK

Piece Worker and the Union

We have just gone through reading the stereotyped report of the second National Congress of the Textile Workers Union, held by B. Schlesinger, and hear about the delegates of the cloak manufacturers. We read with great pleasure the statement of the union as to the introduction of week work throughout the industry, and we are satisfied that there is no lack of honest workmen urging and prompting on our part. The delegates of the cloak manufacturers will know, as we know, that the cloak manufacturers have no wish to meet all the arguments of the manufacturers against week work. They know, however, that the event the manufacturers will show obstinacy in agreeing to this proposition, there will present upon them those columns the arguments of both sides. The workers will then be able to judge whether the manufacturers were better and more devoted delegates to present their case. They will be able to judge whether their representatives not only kept even with the manufacturers but overcame them. When we consider the arguments presented by the manufacturers representatives we are struck with a great deal of quibbling, the presentations of B. Schlesinger were marked by clearness and genuine eloquence, for they were plain, lucid, and unclouded. We suspect the manufacturers will come to realize the necessity of introducing week work and will at once proceed to inaugurate the new system. Here we stand, as the piece worker, who, some say, is opposed to the new system, because we do not for a moment believe that he is.

The fact that at the last convention the great majority voted in favor of week work and that the change of system was ratified by a referendum vote, and the membership is proof enough that the majority of the cloak makers are in favor of the change.

And it stands to reason that the majority of cloak makers will be in favor of the change. We have seen that to some workers who are at last as the hurricane and who have been 50% of the time normal output, the piece work system presents a momentous change, but the hour will come when high wages while they work. The majority of workers, however, are of average speed and average strength and endurance, and they, indeed, cannot be opposed to week work which will give them a chance to work in accordance with their physical strength at an assured rate of pay higher but never lower than the minimum agreed upon.

Col. Roosevelt, tells us that in the great majority the cloakmakers cannot favor the law. The instance of the piece work system.

But for argument’s sake let us assume that the workers are so blind and so ignorant of their own interests that the piece work system is the best in the world and that if it were up to the workers they would refuse to accept the week work system into.

Assuming this to be true, the question presents itself: has the Cloak Makers’ Union a right to say that the workers will not work? Higher prices were fought for and were won, the value of an hour’s labor is agreed upon, the price agreed upon, but the cloakmaker of today is comparatively the richest man in America. The censuor of ten, fifteen, or twenty years ago. In the busy season he is at the height of his strength, and in the dull season his life is just as enviable as that of the past cloak maker and even worse, for the standards of living are higher.

Thanks to the piece work system, which does not exist in this line and are no longer the same, however small it may be, he gets something positive and real. He is not a money factor. He has increased a certain amount. But this is not the case with the cloak maker. On his gain may be at the end of a strike, in a reality turns out to sell their goods with the cloak maker, and he is cheated. To the cloakmakers Union, as such, must insist on putting an end to the system of piece work.

The Cloak Makers’ Union has fought many battles and from all of them come victories.

After so many battles and so many victories the condition of the cloak worker is sufficiently good. But in the final analysis the cloakmaker of today has little to boast of his organizational strength and power. Solid organization of the shops and strict adherence to the terms of the agreement will go a long way in organizing the country’s work. Only an argument that can be presented to the country worker is that he works under worse conditions than his New York fellow. The work of organizing the country shops goes on. It will soon be over and completed.

Things Are Smoothing Out

The situation in the settled waist shops after the strike and the stupendous victory, is improving with every day. It is not long since another week in over things will run quite smoothly.

It must be remembered that the strike ended at a time when the busy season was on the wane, and for this reason there is really no work in many shops.

It is true that there are the usual complaints and thus affectual must realize that their idleness has nothing with the strike. It is said that it is on the strike settlement, but that it is the old familiar slack evil.

And, as pointed out last week the strike is still on against some shops. Many manufacturers are seeking agreement signed by the association and broke away from the manufacturers’ body, and against these the Union will continue the strike with the same vigor as before, till they yield.

In all this there is nothing new, unless we consider the matth of every strike and it takes some time before matters are adjusted, the matter of this strike as a result of the strike is that of country work. The out-of-town shops in the centers that devour the New York work. This must be stopped, and the work must be fully organized and unionized. The same hours and wage scales must prevail throughout the country. Only then will the extent of the waist makers’ victory be complete.

Unions without saying that this is not a task that can be accomplished in a day. The work requires constant application and the best organizing is the Red Cross. These forces are already engaged in the work.

But if this work of organization is to be crowned with access it is necessary that the Waist Makers’ Union of New York retain its present strength and power. Solid organization of the shops and adherence to the terms of the agreement will go a long way in organizing the country shops. The long argument that can be presented to the country worker is that he works under worse conditions than his New York fellow. The work of organizing the country shops goes on. It will soon be over and completed.

Cleaners and Dyers’ Union Go On Strike

Demanding a 44-hour week, $5 increase in wages and 10 legal holidays, the local Cleaners and Dyers Union, affiliated with the United Hebrew Trades, is now on strike. The call for a general strike following the bosses’ refusal to meet their terms.

The union is known for its compromise plan which has been rejected by the strikers. The plan called for a 50-hour week, a wage increase of $5 over legal holidays. The terms of the offer were not accepted by the outside workers, such as drivers, who are affiliated with the union. The union is composed of forty workers, is in charge of the strike officials as an attempt to divide the workers.

Members from each shop constitute the strike committee of which Charles Schildkraut is chairman and Sam Raffer is secretary.

Thirty shops were originally affected by the walkout. The Peterson Dye Works and the United Cleaners and Dyers Company have already settled.
The books they read, some in English, some in Russian, are human and vital, touching upon subjects of significant immediate interest. They study the history of the great labor movement, the development and growth of conscious manhood and womanhood; they read the English classics, they are laying a broad human foundation for a working class movement, having as its end the highest and noblest sense of the term.

And then they dance or sing in song and dance and talk just as any human people only do it more spontaneously, and just as our "society" folk: These students of life are not studying social etiquettes and formalities in their dancing class. They are simply developing social contacts, and combining the hard condition of life and work and would otherwise make difficult in the midst of nature simple surroundings.

And so throughout the activities of Unity Center: the dramatic circle, the educational, the industrial, the social, the economic, and politics, and sociology, contribute to go to museums, to woods or shops. Their work and inspiring pleasure, study and development, maturity and beauty in an earning manner which crie shame on the professional philanthropist, or the "noble" Americanizer who would thrust comfort upon us all just as this enthusiasm by child.

This work is no charity. Without the exception of the English teachers who are paid by the City in co-operation with the United States, all the teachers: Union paid teachers and lecturers. The English classes are under the direction of the Board of Education which is in this way helping to make the public schools of more direct use to the workers who need them. If co-operation work of the Board of Education the Union, will not go as far as it is probable it must come to him in his own.

Every moment, in the process of becoming self-conscious, must train its own leaders and inspirers. The Workers' University has not overlooked this need. This winter a new winter of literature and fun, the training of leadership. Classes for the Business Agents, the Workers' representatives in shop matters, have been opened. In one of the Public Library rooms, English classes for the workers, economics for the workers, subjects needed by the Business Agent for his job as a conscious, dignified, and responsible leader. Any student of labor movements, or of the Labor Movement, looking into one of these earnest classes can take great hope for the future of industrial democracy.

Americanization is an important and interesting thing. But the worker of New York, Cleveland and Philadelphia, and (soon of) every important city in the country, for the worker of today (the growing) has something equally vital and important on hand. The Americanizer is working in becoming a conscious master of his own destiny as it and all his fellow. He can afford to smile at the frantic gestures of the Americanizers and the philanthropist. For he is busy laying his way toward the New Frees quarter of life.

It's hard to stop the water after the dam breaks.

This is just another war for democracy.
WHY BUY VICTORY NOTES?

VICTORY Notes will make your dollar do double duty: you lend your money to the Government and you provide for your family's future. At the end of a few years the Government will return to you the full amount you loaned, with interest in the meantime.

If the signing of the Armistice had been delayed by several months or longer, you would have subscribed to more Liberty Bonds to carry on the War. Subscribe now to the Victory Loan in order to help the Government pay off obligations incurred in order to speed the end of the War.

CELEBRATE the coming of Peace by helping the Government meet its obligations contracted during the War. Lend to the Government.

THE Government needs money to care for the sick, the crippled, the wounded, those who fought our battles "over there". Help Uncle Sam pay his and our debt to them.

OUR boys did their part. We Americans bought Bonds of the first four Loans to help them. We have won the War, but we have not paid all the debts incurred in winning it. Buy victory notes to pay these debts.

REMEMBER that United States Government Securities are the safest in the world. Invest in Victory Notes, and keep them.

YOU invest $50 now and you get back $50 when the Notes come due. Draw your interest in the meantime.

A Victory Note is a short-time Liberty Bond

BUY VICTORY NOTES
SOLDY, to ask the Board of Aldermen, not to enact this law which would injure the welfare of our Organization and would also undermine the democratic institutions for which our forefathers fought and sacrificed themselves.

(Signed) L. LANGER, Sec. 

JOINT BOARD CLOAK-MAKERS' UNION.

SEDITIOUS LITERATURE!

Canadian Immigration authorities at Bridgescott recently detained and deported Joseph Schlossberg, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, who was traveling to Toronto from New York. The charge against him was that he had in his possession seditious literature.

The Advance, official organ of the Clothing Workers, says that the literature found in Mr. Schlossberg's possession consisted of copies of The Public Advance, the New Republic, the Survey, the Nation, and the Christian Science Monitor, and most incriminating of all of the eyes of the Canadian officials, a copy of "The Only Possible Peace," by Dr. Frederic L. Howe, United States Immigration Commissioner at the port of New York.

HIGH SHIPPING PROFITS

Last year's profits of the American International Corporation are so stupendous that no attention is paid to the sequent's law, which is invariably due for a demoralization when a shipping company makes a report.

The corporation reports earnings of $7,248,547 with net return of $3,716,579 on a total capitalization of about $30,000,000 of which only 60 per cent has been paid in.

This means that if a man subscribed for $1,000 of stock in this corporation, he paid but $600, and this investment returned in one year a profit of $401.

"REVOLT!"

By HAROLD LORD VARNEY

A tale of revolution, lived and spun through the familiar settings of American cities. A cross section of proletarian life, never before revealed by fiction. A spiritualist pilgrimage which finds its haven in Industrial Unionism. A tale of love which carries the reader across the ocean to the stirring days of the Petrograd and the Bolshevik triumph of 1917. Here one meets all the drama, the burning passions, the breathless thrill of the life of the Revolutionary agitator. The drudgery of the factory and the docks, the romantic freedom of hoblo life, the agonies of hell and imprisonment, the fervor of the labor movement of New York, the pretenders at radicalism, and the inspiring radiance of revolutionary women, the climax of the great strike at Bayview and the sudden journey to Revolutionary Russia—a great fictional fabric of reality.

Harold Lord Varney is a ruthless realist who writes his story with the pen of golden romance. His pages are full of the cadences of real life. They glow with the color of the actual class struggle. And his story never lags. One follows the plot breathlessly until its final, thrilling page. Never before has such an encyclopedia interpretation of the labor drama been offered. The I. W. W. has found its revealer.

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"REVOLT!"

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