Justice (Vol. 7, Iss. 49)

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.

This article is available at DigitalCommons@ILR: https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/justice/389
The formal opening of the Eighteenth Convention of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union took place in Philadelphia on November 30, 1925. The convention was held at the Philadelphia Labor Temple, the largest union hall in the country.

The meeting was opened by Vice-President Elias Reisbehr, Chairman of the Convention, who pointed out the importance of the gathering. The excellent musical program throughout the meeting was rendered by a symphony orchestra and choruses made up of women who were members of the union.

After the applause which greeted the first musical renditions had died out, Chairman Reisbehr delivered a short address on the importance of the work of the Philadelphia garment workers in the international campaign. He emphasized the need for increased membership and cooperation both within the union and with other labor organizations.

Mr. Joseph Rosenthal. The stage of the Arch Street Theatre was literally deluged with flowers as the plenary session opened. Local labor leaders, friends, and trade unionists showed their highest regard for the work of the union.

Maurer and Others Join In Welcoming Delegates

The next speaker to address the gathering was Brother David Braginsky, Secretary of the United Hebrew Trades. Brother Braginsky spoke in Yiddish. He extended fraternal greetings to the representatives from all parts of the country, and wished them success in their deliberations.

Brother James A. Ritchie, representative of the American Federation of Labor, also spoke, expressing the hope that the convention would be successful and extremely beneficial to the workers in the immediate and distant future.

The convention was addressed by a number of other speakers, among them were:

- The delegate from the District of Columbia, who spoke on the importance of the union's work in the capital city.
- The delegate from the Eastern District, who emphasized the need for increased organizing effort in the east.
- The delegate from the Western District, who urged the workers to continue the fight for higher wages and better working conditions.

The convention adjourned after a long session, and the delegates were expected to return on December 1st for the next session.

**Unemployment Fund Starts Payments on December 15**

Checks due the workers from the Unemployment Insurance Fund of the Relief with the Spring season will be mailed to the headquarters of the union in Philadelphia. The fund is one of the most important measures taken by the union to assist the workers during periods of unemployment.

The fund was established by the union in the early days of the depression, and has been a great help to many workers. The checks are usually mailed out in the middle of the fall season, but in the middle of the unemployment periods.

In the interest of economy of operation, the convention decided to reduce the amount of money paid out in each check. It was felt that by directing the operation of the fund and that this policy of reducing the amount of checks to a minimum will cut off partially the effects of unemployment will be more satisfactory to the workers than supplying them with large payments.

Data on employment and unemployment is sent to the fund headquarters each week by all manufacturers and contractors of the industry. From this information that the fund computes the amounts due the workers for unemployment. A large percentage of these checks are not returned, making these reports, but as workers, have a peculiar interest in seeing that all reports are in the hands of the fund. Without delay, they are urged to remind their employers of the necessity of avoiding any delay when the report is filed to the fund. Without the return of the report, the reports are not considered as having been filed.
Second Session Considers Report of Credentials Committee

President Signam Informs Delegates Convention Decisions Are Supreme

Presidential Session

President Signam called the delegates in order at 9 o'clock, after which Secretary Burt proceeded to read messages and telegrams sent by local and joint branches of the International and from our sister organizations, groups and individual friends and well-wishers of the L. L. G. W. U. in New York.

President Signam then called upon chairman Abraham Snyder of the Credentials Committee. The first open indication of division among the delegates came on the report of this committee. Protests against the seating of six delegations from locals on charges of irregular elections had been referred by the credentials committee to the Appeals Committee of the convention.

The report of the credentials committee's action drew the criticism of Louis H. Witkin, who said, "left wing" delegates, who charged that the proceeding was a novel one, declared the "lefts" will not recognize the appeals committee or appear before it.

President Signam immediately took up Hymann's challenge to vigorous fashion coming, and if there is anything that I might be able to do to serve you not only in this convention but at any time in the future, I shall, indeed, consider it a privilege to be called upon.

Brother Weissberg.
The next speaker or pleasure have an interest in one of our very early organizers, HE seeks no introduction, and that is our outstandingly young Brother Weissberg.

Brother Weissberg spoke in Yiddish. He recalled the early struggles of the workers of the International, con parting the important state in the midst of all the wonderful progress that has been made since the inception of the International, adding that the delegates conduct their proceedings in a harmonious and noble manner.

The address of Brother Maurer, President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, was intoned elsewhere. For all of these reasons the membership will be the delegates of this convention, who are the supreme body to pass upon such questions. I am fully satisfied that every delegate here represents a membership in our international and that there is no justification for the pass or the omission of any delegate to refer to its artificial majorities.

The Credentials Committee recon-

announced that protests had been re- moved against the improper in the local elections in locals 2, 9 and 27, "left" locals, and 23, 48 and 62, "right" locals, had been conducted. These were the last of the appeals of the Credentials Committee and it had accordingly decided to send the report of the appeals committee of the convention.

By a unanimous voice messages delegating support were sent the strike movement on the job. On the motion of Israel Feinbergh, birthday greetings were sent to Engels for having started the world, and not celebrating his 56th anniversary.

Notice to Shop-Chairs

The shop-chairmen of the following shops are requested to call at the Unemployment Road office at No. 122 West 18th Street within the next week on important matters relating to their respective locals.

Bau & Son, 161 E. 57 Ave.
Brooklyn.
Bruzet & Siberg, 49 West 25th St.
Braff & Feit, 106 West 25th St.
Cire-Arn Arb C8, 129 West 22nd St.
Cohn Bros., 54 West 22nd St.
Cohen & Eilenberg, 151 West 23rd St.
Davidoff, Wm., 252 Nevins Ave.
Eilberg & Co., 54 West 22nd St.
Gildenberg & Greenberg, 148 West 24th St.
Goldman Bros., 149 West 22nd St.
Hark, & Klein Co., 42 West 6th St.
Holman & Dunn, 27 East 16th St.
K. H. M., 54 West 15th St.
Kimmerly & Masters, 54 West 23rd St.
Kayaslates C8, 767 Nevins Ave.
Klein & Masters, 159 23rd St.
Kohn & Company, 23 West 52nd St.
Krauwer & Greet, 14 West 19th St.
Kessler & Horstine, 119 West 24th St.
Klein & Maude, 115 23rd St.
Kolm & Company, 23 West 52nd St.
Kropky & Lesat, 127 West 21st St.

FOR YOUR WINTER VACATION

HARLEM BANK OF Commerce
2118 Second Avenue
New York

P. M. FERRARI, President
P. M. FERRARI, Vice-President
P. M. FERRARI, Treasurer
H. LAZARUS, Vice-President
ANONY DI PAOL, Cashier

FOR THE LAKE VIEW

303 FOREST AVENUE, LAKEWOOD, N. J.
THE FINEST SECTION OF LAKEWOOD
Home atmosphere—All Modern Improvements—Food of the best quality.
Rates reasonable.
Tel. Lakewood 257

REBECCA SILVER
SARA CARRIE, Prop.

ESSFEND'S EXPLAINS HIS RETIREMENT

I do not know whether the results of the election reflect accurately the sentiment of the members towards me, because a group of people within the labor movement has been trying to defeat me. The members were not called upon for a free expression of their sentiments as to whether or not they are candidates, but every effort was made by the group of people which I have mentioned to influence numbers not to vote for me. Had I tried to carry out those efforts by carrying on a campaign for my own election, perhaps the results might have been different; but I felt as I always did in previous elections, that the dignity of office is such as to make it imperative for the people who hold the positions of the nation to be without favoritism and should not stoop to such methods, and as those were carrying on the campaign did not do it for me. However, the results of the election registers a vote against me, and apparently represents the attitude of the people, and I can do no more than represent their interests at the Convention. Under the circumstances therefore, I have felt it proper to represent them further as Manager.

In order that Local 66, for which I have continued to hold the very best hopes, may have ample opportunity to find the right person to succeed me when I retire, I have thought it proper to inform you in advance of my intention not to be a candidate for re-election, and to tender my resignation to Manager, which position I now hold.

MAX A. ESSFEND.
Impressive Address by President James H. Mauren

Penn. Labor Head Tells Delegates
"Working Class Is Watching You"

Chairman Reitberger: I will now introduce to you the President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, who has come from Harrisburg to address you. I take pleasure in introducing to you Brother James H. Mauren, (Great Applause).

President Mauren: As the chairman has informed you, I am the president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, and as the representative of this State I welcome you to Pennsylvania. We have many historic spots that it would be well for you to visit before you go home, such as the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia; the birthplace of the Constitution at Independence Hall; Gettysburg, Gettysburg, etc., where human blood has been shed in the struggle for the uplift of the human race. We have also the State Constitution that was brought into existence to keep down the enthusiasm of the people, and the Union of the United States of America as a strike-breaking institution. We are here to continue the work that was begun long ago for the general uplift of the working class, or as a class, have been the suppressed people of the world, and as a beginning of civilization. The struggle is only by
continuing to gather real momentum. We peculiar people, yet as a class we own nothing. The happier we work the poorer we get, and the owning class they live the richer they get. There is something wrong.

Freedom for Gitlow Urged
By Local 66

The Bonann, Singer and Hand Embroiderers, I. O. O. F., W. W. W. has adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Benjamin Gitlow, a Member of the Working class, and one of the leaders of the Working class, for the promotion of its interests on the political and economical side, has been set up for no other offence than publishing a newspaper a few years ago, which was one of the later fighting newspapers for the interest of the working class, and

WHEREAS, many other members of the working class, who are not closely connected with Benjamin Gitlow and who have been convicted with him for the same offence for which he was pardoned and released by an act of the State of New York; therefore,

RESOLVED, That we, the Bonann 'Embroiderers' Union, Local No. 66, I. O. O. F., urge Benjamin Gitlow and all others who have been convicted for the same offence, to stand by him immediately.

The above resolution was unanimously adopted and it was decided to insert it in the Labor Press.

Things Worthwhile Knowing

The Jewish Farmers

Twenty-five years ago, there were only several hundred Jewish farmers or farmers of Jewish descent in the United States. Now we have a Jewish farm population of over 75,000. In 1900, the total acreage owned by Jewish farmers was about 12,000. Today, more than 1,000,000 acres are worked by Jewish farmers and the real and personal value of these holdings is over $100,000,000. In this development, the Jewish Agricultural Society, which has issued a comprehensive report, has had a large part. Its farm loan department, since its establishment in 1908, has granted a total of $7,250,000 to farmers living in 29 states. These loans are made on marginal security and there is no taxation of bonus or commission or payment of renewal charges. The farm labor department has secured farm employment for 12,352 Jewish young men since its establishment in 1908. Last year it placed 671 men as farm workers. This department affords young Jews the opportunity to acquire practical agricultural training. Records show that many thousands of young men have taken advantage of this period of service and many have served the purpose.

The farm settlement department gives advice and guidance to those who desire to buy farms. It registered 2,531 applicants in the past seven years, and farms were found for 646, of whom 211 received loans to help finance their purchase. To properly locate these new farmers, it proved necessary for the S. W. P.'s experts to examine 251 farms in the various states of the East and Middle West. Through this investigation the society is carrying on effective fraud prevention work, and it is protecting Jewish farmers from farm brokers and dishonest real estate agents. The Extension department maintains a staff of experts who bring to the Jewish farmers agricultural information on every branch of farming.
THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

In the two hundred pages which comprise the report of the General Executive Board to the delegates of the convention now meeting in the City of Philadelphia, there is crowded a wealth of material and a mass of experience, which no delegate should fail carefully to read. It is a clear, concise narrative of conditions and causes and effects that rings true and impresses as much by its careful handling of facts as by its frankness and sincerity.

The delegates to the Philadelphia convention, each of them individually and collectively, are much more intimately familiar with many details of the events in this or that city or locality touched upon in this report. But even to the most active of our workers the whole panorama of the progress and development of our International behind the shifting scenes of its daily life, are to a large extent shrouded in a veil. This report successfully throws a light on the traditions of the past, the achievements of the present and the opposition of the future. In the past eighteen months and present a deeply interesting ensemble of all the chapters that make up this convincing and very important book.

We are fully aware that there is a number among the delegates who have been deluded into believing that the officers of the International are servants of reaction, "counter-revolutionists" who have been interested in the Intermediated, the philosophy of the city of Philadelphia, they have no doubt that they are not. These notions have been assiduously implanted in their minds by a steady campaign of lying propaganda which they apparently believe to be the propaganda of our International. These leaders, behind the shifting scenes of its daily life, are to a large extent shrouded in a veil. This report successfully throws a light on the traditions of the past, the achievements of the present and the opposition of the future. In the past eighteen months and present a deeply interesting ensemble of all the chapters that make up this convincing and very important book.

They will find that the report is replete with facts that entirely contradict whatever former notions they may have had concerning the International. G. E. B. and their friends have been looking for the steady unwavering fight which the General Executive Board, with President Sigman at its head, have waged for long months against the forces of reaction both in and out of the Joint Board. They will find that the report is replete with facts that entirely contradict whatever former notions they may have had concerning the International. G. E. B. and their friends have been looking for the steady unwavering fight which the General Executive Board, with President Sigman at its head, have waged for long months against the forces of reaction both in and out of the Joint Board. They will find that the report is replete with facts that entirely contradict whatever former notions they may have had concerning the International. G. E. B. and their friends have been looking for the steady unwavering fight which the General Executive Board, with President Sigman at its head, have waged for long months against the forces of reaction both in and out of the Joint Board. They will find that the report is replete with facts that entirely contradict whatever former notions they may have had concerning the International. G. E. B. and their friends have been looking for the steady unwavering fight which the General Executive Board, with President Sigman at its head, have waged for long months against the forces of reaction both in and out of the Joint Board. They will find that the report is replete with facts that entirely contradict whatever former notions they may have had concerning the International. G. E. B. and their friends have been looking for the steady unwavering fight which the General Executive Board, with President Sigman at its head, have waged for long months against the forces of reaction both in and out of the Joint Board. They will find that the report is replete with facts that entirely contradict whatever former notions they may have had concerning the International. G. E. B. and their friends have been looking for the steady unwavering fight which the General Executive Board, with President Sigman at its head, have waged for long months against the forces of reaction both in and out of the Joint Board. They will find that the report is replete with facts that entirely contradict whatever former notions they may have had concerning the International. G. E. B. and their friends have been looking for the steady unwavering fight which the General Executive Board, with President Sigman at its head, have waged for long months against the forces of reaction both in and out of the Joint Board.
In the Cooperative World

French Cooperator Boycott American Packers

The recentence by workers and farmers to the Big Meat Packers of this country is not confined to those of us who live in the United States. But what is happening in our fraternal and friendly Federation will may lead to a very serious conflict with some employers in certain markets. We will have to look into the situation of our workers right now in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia has given our International a right to the battlefield. There are tremendous battles here, one of the packhousemen in 1912, when for twenty-one weeks they fought and stood on the battlefield. The employers at that time were the victors. But because of the deliberate policy of their courage, we regained in one year not only all that we had lost, but still very much more. In the future we will have another very interesting battle and had almost the same experience. Not very torn and revived and the dreamers' union was again re-established.

Our city in Philadelphia is still a large one. We meet while here, we shall have to look into every branch of our concern. It is a question whether we can only do that after our convention we shall be able to show what the workers have gained by having our convention here.

I don't know in what way we can compensate for the speakers who have addressed us except by showing in our deliberations a unity of spirit and a willingness to push our movement forward toward victory. We appreciate, indeed, the generous welcome our President Mauzer offered to us. The spirit of our work and the efforts we have made in the last year are a sign of this spirit. Our Board of Labor, Brothers Ritchie, Bragniny, and our old friend Brother Weirinberg, have set the example in working together with many other men and women in the City of New York, concerned with the interests of our packhousemen and prepared as best we could for the general strike of 1918. Not only hope it will be a great day at our conventions and I hope that we will enjoy our proceedings and will consider them to be beneficial to the organization.

In conclusion I wish to say that the Chairman of the Arrangements Committees in order that we had engaged for our proceedings, the English word, was found to be too small, not to accommodate the International, but to succeed in getting larger quarters at Laul Temple, across the street from English word, our meetings and dealings will be held. There we will begin our work and we shall receive the greetings of representatives of organized labor. We are going to have a representative of organized labor from the other side, Conrado Platt, president of the German Co-operative Federation, who comes as a fraternal delegate to our convention. We can expect a great deal of good from the American Federation of Labor, Brother William Green.

I will conclude with my heartiest greetings to you delegates to this convention. Please, bear in mind that as delegates do not represent yourselves. You are only the trustees of the farmers who have placed their confidence in you. In the performance of your duties in mind the life and the struggle for happiness of the ten of thousands you represent.

I want you also to realize that a large number of farmers and their representatives are going to this convention for the good and welfare of the human family. As Brother Neubauer said a few years ago: "You who will watch our proceedings, I greet the members of our International and I greet the leaders and the farmers. I am sure that this convention will, as our past conventions have, accomplish greater and brighter things for our organization as well as the organized labor movement of the country, to further the needs of the human family. I thank you. (Prologued applause)."
The Workers and History

By A. J. MUSTE

Introduction to Course of Ten Lessons

The question may be raised whether it is worthwhile for the workers to study history at all. Henry Ford has said "History is bulls—. The saying is perhaps profoundly true of the history to which he was referring. Someone else has said: "The only thing we learn-from history is that men learn nothing from history."

There are genuine complaints that this is also profoundly true. Nations, social groups, trade unions, continue to make the same mistakes over and over again. Are there illusions about this truth in the history of the American Labor movement and of your own organization?

On the other hand, one of the leaders of the British Workers’ Education Movement has said: "The laborer who is not conscious of the change in every labor college should be history." This suggests that some workers, at any rate, have found a way to use history to help them in their struggle for a better life.

History indicates that it takes a long time to get things done on this old earth. Consider the tens of thousands of years that elapsed before "human beings" "knew enough to come out of the rain," to use caves for shelter. Consider the nine thousand years or so that elapsed between the dawn of civilization in Egypt and the industrial Revolution in England in 1756, hardly a single new fact was investigated: that the Russian Czars lived exactly as the Egyptian peasant had lived 6000 B.C. Or consider the length of time required for the development of such a movement as the British Labor Party.

History indicates that great social changes in the past have always been violent and painful. Has humanity reached the point where it knows how to clean house without first smashing all the furniture?

History indicates that great social changes never bring men just what they think will make them happy. The laborer of the eve of the millennium, only to discover that he is left face to face with much the same old problems.

History teaches us that up to the present time the great masses of men, the workers have never been free. In one way or another they have been enslaved and exploited. Is there any indication that today we can achieve what the ten thousand years of civilization before us have not?

History indicates that there are two things which we have today today that we can achieve what the ten thousand years of civilization before us have not.

The first is MODERN SCIENCE, including SCIENTIFIC HISTORY, giving us a picture of how ordinary human beings have lived and toiled and struggled for centuries. The other is a WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT including millions of members in nearly all parts of the world.

Profit and Power are the two forces we may be able to accomplish what our forefathers could not. Some study of what the history of History has to tell us about the past and especially about the workers of other times and other lands may be useful and interesting to us.

Classes at the Workers University

Next Saturday, December 5 at Washington Irving High School, Room 530, at 7.30 P. M. Professor Emery Holley- way will continue his discussion "A Study of the Working Class Movement," He will take up Hawthorne and the Brook Farm Experiment. At 2.30 P.M. on the same day, Ben Selekman, a member of "Company Unions," Mr. Selekman has lectured for us before and is well known to the students of our classes. His discus- sions are always enjoyable and thought provoking.

On Sunday morning, December 6 at 11 o'clock, A. J. Muste will continue his course on "History and the Workers." His topic will be "The Cave Man" and "The Cannibal." Please note, in this course, the time and place. We strongly urge our members to attend this excellent course. The value of this topic is not only of immediate importance but cannot be overestimated. It leads to a better understanding of the problems of society-economic, political and social.

On Saturday, December 12, at 2.30 P.M. in our Workers' University, Dr. Iago Galston will lecture on "Preventive Measures in Safeguarding the Health of Workers." We need not emphasize the importance of health to our members. Our lives and happiness depend on it. Come and learn how to keep healthy.

On Saturday, December 19, at 2.30 P.M. President Abraham Baroff will discuss "Some Problems of Workers' Industry." A discussion of these problems in the light of experience, as they affect the position of women in in- dustry and in trade unions will do much toward clarifying a number of issues beset by old social and economic prejudices.

From President Sigman and Secretary Baroff

Regret beyond expression our in- ability to attend the Opening Exer- cise of the Workers' University last week. We appreciated the efforts of our friends who so ably organized the event. We all join in celebrating the Eighth Anniversary of our Educational De- partment and in our loyalty and ded- icion to our International Labor- Arbitration Workers' that has always been a basic principle. The Workers' Education Bureau that the Workers’ Uni- versity may grow in power and influ- ence. To the many who have helped this movement model. WFA greetings to all.

MORRIS SIGMAN.

President

ABRAHAM BAROFF

Secretary-Treasurer

From Spencer Miller, Jr.

The opening of the Workers’ Uni- versity and its general high standard of instruction, have become such an important part of the tradition of the workers' education movement in the United States that we think of it as one of the most important aims of our movement. As a result, we have made efforts for self-education on the part of organized labor in this country.

It is the wish of the Workers’ Education Bureau that the Workers’ Uni- versity may grow in power and influence. To the many who have helped this movement model. WFA greetings to all.

SPENCER MILLER, JR.

From Bertha and David Sapos

We both wish to express our best wishes for a successful year as well as congratulations to the Eagles Gar- mient Workers for their continued and persistent interest in furthering the education of their members.

DAVID AND BEATRICE BAYOS

From I. L. G. W. U. Students at Brookwood

We, the I. L. G. W. U. students at Brookwood congratulate you on your many years of glorious achievements in workers’ education. May your suc- cess be a source of inspiration to the Labor Movement in workers’ educa- tion.

BROOKWOOD STUDENTS

Messages Received at Opening Celebration of Education Season

From President Sigman and Secretary Baroff

Responses are on file at the Workers’ University and may be seen by those interested.
The Week In Local 10

By SAM R. SHENKER

For the present, the activities of Local 10 as well as of the entire inter-
ternational have been transferred to the</t>