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Justice (Vol. 15, Iss. 1)

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.
Editorial Notes

1932 - Just another depression year is out.

We are, it would seem, getting "acclimated" to hard times. It is no longer that early, fluttering feeling of a critical period with streaks of hope cutting across the bleak horizon of despair. We are just buried with panic, clogged with gloom. The national election has come and gone, cashing out the old Hoover crowd and ushering in a Democratic regime. We may have been within a few months, and even prohibition repeal is looming in the offing.

But of bread there is as little today, if not less, as in the preceding year. They may, after some futile trials, balance the budget by sneaking over upon the people a brutal sales tax: they may "see it through" on the ever-growing bread lines during this winter; they may even come enough in the sordid charity drives to save off the ravages of sheer hunger among the great masses of the idle in the big cities. These palliatives, however, will not touch the core of the crisis. As the months go by, the army of the unemployed keeps growing—ten, eleven, twelve and now nearly thirteen million of them.

The man in the street, the still employed worker in the factory, the business man and the professional in the offices, bewildered, drifted, snatching at straws, dare not talk of the next day. People, in general, have stopped thinking about it. The "captains" of industry, the intellectual leaders, to say nothing of the law-makers, are just as inarticulate, having lost every desire to forecast better times, even to whisper "prosperity." And deep in the hearts of everyone seems to be imbedded the feeling that this depression is a permanent afflication, that it has come to stay until the fundamental causes responsible for it are somehow removed.

To our members, and to the women's wear industry upon which they depend for their livelihood, 1932 has been especially unkind. The cumulative effects of the depression, now in its fourth year, have made themselves felt with a devastating weight in the cloak and dress shops. The work-seasons of 1932 were woefully short, and earnings were low and insecure. Besides, the crisis has driven, during the past year, an alarmingly large number of employers out of business, forcing hundreds of our workers, sometimes on the very eve of a work-season, to go out hunting after elusive jobs. In the dress industry, in particular, the economic upheaval has been most severe. The general walk-out organized and carried out by the Union early in the year proved a failure as its gains were rendered nil shortly afterward by the continued depression. The industry, on the whole, has slumped down, in response to cheap consumer demands, to standards of unparalleled production cheapness which continue to demoralize already badly upset work conditions in many shops and are driving scores of

other shops to adjourn states to operate as labor-gouging sweat shops.

In the cloak industry, the renewal of the agreements in July and the subsequent general stoppage were followed by one of the worst fall seasons on record. The result is that right now, in the slack interval, there is more widespread misery and outright want in cloakmakers' homes in New York than at any time before.

What of 1933?

Let us have no illusions concerning the oncoming year. Even allowing some slight bright improvements, it is obvious, nevertheless, of which we are in for another hard year. In 1933, it is safe to state, our unions will have just as tough a job to keep going as they had during the preceding year.

Right now, with very few exceptions, our organizations in practically every city, are fighting desperately either to maintain their standing or to retain some ground lost during the current crisis. Within a few months we shall have the New York cloak situation again on our hands, while our organization in the dress industry will require nothing short of heroic efforts to be rescued from the intolerable state in which it finds itself today.

Shall we measure up to the task confronting us in the coming year? Will we be able to meet the challenge of the fourth year of the crisis? The answer is, yes—provided we retain our old fighting spirit, keep our heads clear and our vision straight. Above all, we should be in mind that we are not alone in this plight: that it is a world-wide calamity that we are affected by: that every trade union, every industry, organized as well as unorganized, is shaken to its very foundations. And furthermore, let us not forget that while our unions have been materially weakened and our fighting resources have been depleted, the strength of the elements opposing us has been correspondingly lowered by the same influences of the crisis. In other words, while we are faced with an ordeal of incessant struggle, we may have to reckon with adversaries whose resistance has been just as heavily drained.

Let us, therefore, look forward to the coming year as steadfastly as the standard realists should, inspired by a common ideal and a common aim—to safeguard our Union and to preserve the work standards for which we have fought over a generation. Let us preserve faith in ourselves, in our ability to weather the storm. Let us tighten our belts, if necessary, to the limit to meet the exigency of the extraordinary time through which we are all passing right now.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with impartial Chairman Alger's decisions, there is one thing one always must concede about them: they never lack force, clarity and precision.

Two Sobering Decisions

We have in mind, particularly, the recent finding by Mr. Alger relating to an attempt by the Merchants' Ladies' Garment Association to suspend the two essential clauses in their
agreement with the Union, the obligation imposed upon their members to employ no sample-makers during the approaching Spring Season and the prohibition of the production of small Karo in side shops..."for the production of stock as well as the clothes...and the provision for partial limitation of contractors in operation...The dressmakers,...as well as to the compliance of one or the other of the two alternatives, given above before the coming spring season."

The dressmakers, by its language, did not consider as an aid placed upon them to maintain sample-makers during the fall season only but upon those whose present business methods were changed and via sample-makers at the times of the contract...After the fall...two alternatives (means for the like kind of work...and with the time...of...to be placed fully in effect and they would then afford the only effective means upon which they could be employed by employers).

In a second decision, Mr. Alger makes his viewpoint not less clear on the issue of the suspension of the contractor limitation clause:

"This case involves a consideration of the operation of the clause, because the result of the suspension is not a mere technicality...The suspension of the clause will...increase its control of the work...and the...not a mere technicality."

The suspension of the clause will not merely increase its control of the work, but also ensure the stability of the industry, which will hold the result of the suspension will be the most beneficial to the industry. The suspension of the clause will ensure the stability of the industry, which will hold the result of the suspension will be the most beneficial to the industry.

Chairman Alger then proceeds to reply to testimony submitted that the suspension of the clause will result in an increase of the industry, which will be beneficial to the industry and to the workers in the industry. The suspension of the clause will ensure the stability of the industry, which will hold the result of the suspension will be the most beneficial to the industry.

SUSTAINING

January, 1933

With all the difficulties and challenges the dressmaking industry faced in 1933, it is evident that the suspension of the contractor limitation clause was a crucial decision. This decision not only ensured the stability of the industry but also held the result of the suspension will be the most beneficial to the industry.

At the Union Health Center

By PAULINE M. NEWMAN

As the Altes Hospital in the area faced difficulties, the need for a Union Health Center became apparent. The Center would provide essential healthcare services to the community, ensuring that everyone had access to the care they needed.

The cost of healthcare had skyrocketed, and many people were unable to afford the necessary medical services. The Union Health Center aimed to rectify this issue by providing affordable healthcare to all members of the community.

The Center was established with the support of the Union, and it quickly became a vital resource for the local population. It offered a range of services, including primary care, dental care, and mental health support.

In conclusion, the establishment of the Union Health Center was a significant step forward in ensuring access to quality healthcare for all. Through the collective effort of the Union, the community was able to overcome the challenges of the time and create a healthier, more equitable future.

Let us hope that Chairman Alger's decision will have a positive effect on the morale of the workers in the dressmaking industry who still remain to take the obligations imposed upon them by last summer's agreement rather lightly. These responsibilities cannot be sidestepped by quibbling or by subtle legal technicalities. And if the jofer are sincere in their desire for the preservation of the claims in their industry, then they realize that it is quite obvious that such increased stability will come to the industry only after the elimination of the more formidable factors, that the idea that the dressmaking industry is a very small one which is to start now as the burden and responsibility of the industry among all those connected with the reality of control production in it and are its chief beneficiaries.
Cleveland on the Eve of Important Events

By A. W. KATOVSKY
Manager Cleveland Joint Board

Our members are looking forward anxiously to the developments of the local situation.

Will there be a strike in our industry? Will there be wage cuts? These are the questions on everyone's lips. At the moment, the situation is not clear. However, the Cleveland Joint Board is determined to do everything possible to prevent strikes and stabilize the wage situation.

In the past, the Joint Board has been successful in preventing strikes by negotiating with the employers. We believe that the current situation will be no different. We are confident that we can work out a solution that will be acceptable to both sides.

In the meantime, our members should remain patient and refrain from taking any action that could lead to a strike. We will keep you informed of any developments.

The Joint Board is committed to maintaining good working relations with all parties involved.

Union Faces Possible Lawsuit With the Keller-Kohn Co.

According to the latest report, the Keller-Kohn Company has threatened to sue the union for damages.

The Keller-Kohn Company, a major employer in the industry, has complained about the union's activities in the past. The company has threatened legal action if the union continues to act in certain ways.

The union is determined to defend its members and their rights. We will not back down in the face of the company's threats.

One Year of Activity in Chicago Dress Field

By BERNARD SHANE, General Organizer, L.G.W.I.

January, 1933

It was a difficult task, I realize, to plan and execute the program for the past year.

The year has been marked by demands for increase in wages and better working conditions. We have succeeded in obtaining an improvement in the wages and working conditions of our members.

The organ of the Chicago Dress Field, the Joint Board, has been active throughout the year. We have worked hard to maintain the high standards of our industry and to protect the rights of our members.

As a result of our efforts, the Joint Board has been able to negotiate several contracts that have been acceptable to both sides.

We are confident that we can continue to maintain good working relations with our employers and to improve the lives of our members.

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A Year and a Half Among the Ladies' Tailors

A Brief Survey of an Administrative Team
By HARRY GREENBERG, Managing-Secretary

Three Elements in Our Membership
If our activities have not brought all the results that we have hoped for in Local 26, it is due to the fact that we have not had the cooperation of the members. First, we have a group of members who are uncooperative in their attitude. Second, we have members who are dishonest and lacking in morals. These two elements are counteracting all the efforts that we have made to improve our organization. We need to address these issues and work towards improving the overall atmosphere in the union.

Bro. William Scheara

With the Montreal Cloakmakers
By ISRAEL FEINGOLD, Vice President

I don't know whether conditions in the Montreal cloak trade are worse than in any other cloak trade, but we have reported to the government that the situation is bad enough. And I know that also is a great strain on our brothers, because the Montreal cloakmakers still have a lot to be desired. They still have to bear the brunt of the trade. And we are hoping that the government will take steps to make this situation better.

Newly Elected Officers of Montreal Locals

Taking Stock in Toronto Cloak Market

By CHARLES KREINHOLD, Vice-President

I have been only a short time in the city of Toronto, and have not yet had the chance to see the entire cloak market, but I can tell you that the experience has been more than a little enlightening. The market is well-organized and efficient, with a high level of activity.

The market is divided into several sections, each with its own unique character. The most prominent section is the "Front Street" area, where the majority of the major manufacturers and retailers are located. This area is bustling with activity, with people coming and going all day long.

Another important section is the "Back Street" area, which is known for its smaller, more independent manufacturers. This area is less crowded, but just as effective in terms of production.

The market also has a "Wholesale" section, where larger quantities of goods are exchanged between buyers and sellers. This section is often used for bulk purchases and is where many of the smaller manufacturers sell their goods.

In conclusion, the Toronto cloak market is a dynamic and competitive place, with a strong focus on quality and innovation. I look forward to seeing how the market continues to evolve in the future.

FREE SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE RAND SCHOOL

School Has Biggest Season in 25 Years

As the fall term of the Rand School comes to an end, it is being reported that the school is having the most successful season in its twenty-five years of history. Despite all handicaps, the attendance has been phenomenal, larger than ever before. This is due to the work of the faculty and the efforts of the students, who have all been motivated by a desire to pursue knowledge and to make the world a better place.

Free Scholarships

The school offers a variety of scholarships to its students, including need-based scholarships, merit scholarships, and special scholarships for students from particular backgrounds. These scholarships are open to all students, regardless of their financial situation, and are designed to help make the school more accessible to all students.

In conclusion, the Rand School is an institution that is dedicated to providing education and training to those who are committed to making the world a better place. The school's success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of its faculty and students, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for the school.
The Unemployed Masses Succumb

Do the Unemployed Think?

It seems to me, notwithstanding, that the assump-
tion that the unemployed have a lack of intelli-
gence is a fallacy. The unemployed are as in-
capable of logical and scientific thought as the
average industrial worker. The unemployed are
not automatons, and the assumption that they
are is a fallacy. The unemployed are just as
able to think as the average industrial worker.

It seems to me that it is a fallacy to assume
that the unemployed are not capable of logical and
scientific thought. The unemployed are just as
able to think as the average industrial worker.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the
assumption that the unemployed are a lack of
intelligence is a fallacy. The unemployed are
just as able to think as the average industrial
worker.