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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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It is not yet certain whether the Cloakmakers and cloak manufacturers will not come to an open clash. But if one is not too optimistic and looks at things clearly, one is inclined to think that a struggle is unavoidable.

At first it seemed that the manufacturers were ready to meet the workers half way. Their prompt reply to the letter of the 17th inst. to give a vote on the issue; the manner in which, at first, they receive the workers' demands, is an impression for a while, that a strike would be avoided this time.

And it was indeed reasonable to suppose that the manufacturers would not be stubborn.

Even if we consider the most revolutionary demand, the introduction of week work we do not see what right the manufacturer can have to resist it. We say: "I insist that you work piece work." It is obvious that in this case the manufacturer has the right to determine the manner in which he should be rewarded for his labors.

"Naturally the employer may say that he is willing to have his workers paid by the piece work, but that he cannot pay the scale the workers demand. But the fact is that the manufacturers have not been asked to yet be reached. The dispute is still revolving about the question of piece work and we believe they have no cause to resist it.

"The manufacturers were in the least logical their reply to the Union. They pointed out as follows: "In our opinion work week is not a good system. It will be injurious to the workers as to the entire industry. But since you insist on week work, we agree and we will raise all the questions about wages, working hours, etc. You want $60 a week, we will raise it to $80 a week."

We say that the manufacturers have raised all the questions about piece-work, piece-time, and that the system of compensation, as just as if the worker is not the only one who has full right to determine this point.

We might have expected, of course, that the manufacturers would try to win the Union representatives over to their point of view; but we could raise no objections when they tried to do this with their "arguments." But in the face of that they have tried to give an eloquence on the workers' representatives without success; they might have yielded gracefully and passed on to other matters. But this they have not done. They have remained obstinate with the same obstinacy. Does it not prove clearly that without a struggle the manufacturers will never understand that the worker has the absolute right to determine in what way their wages are to be paid; what if he insist on being paid by the piece, there is no power in the world which has the semblance of right to force him to work by the piece.

This the workers understand very well. They have thrown out tracted conferences as an indication that the manufacturers, after three years of peace in the cloak industry, again want to match strength with the Cloak Makers Union.

We do not know to what extent the manufacturers are prepared for the impending struggle. Most probably they do not depend upon miracles and have taken to their account But the same is true of the Union which is ready at any moment to meet all conditions.

The difference between the Union and the manufacturers is this: the former are not interested in the progress of the strike with the hope that they may win this battle, but the workers are sure to win. They are fully conscious of their power and the absolute justice of their demands, and therefore confident that the worker there reigns a spirit of enthusiasm which is rarely to be met with even in labor struggles. Not a shadow of doubt, not a trace of dissidence. These are the best guarantees for a speedy and complete victory.

This is the case not only with the New York Cloak Makers. The fighting spirit has seized all Cloak Makers wherever cloaks are made. And the object is everywhere the same: week work, a definite scale wage and all other demands.

But how are they to be met? We hope that it will not be necessary to strike in order to arrive at this. But even if a strike will break out, it will break out simultaneously in New York, Cleveland, Toronto, Montreal, Chicago, etc.

We say it is possible, but we are not sure of it. It depends upon many circumstances. But we are the leaders of the international find it necessary to call a general strike of the organized Cloak Makers throughout the country.

The most important thing is that the entire cloakmakers arm is completely united and determined to work with all their strength and to work its way to victory whatever the cost.

It is therefore clear why the Union makes use of every minute to perfect its preparations. The workers are determined in or ars in their dues know that now is the time to pay up. The workers are determined that now are flocking to the Union and offering their services in any way in any part of the United States.

We understand that the leaders of the Cloakmakers' Union and the Joint Board are now living through the stormy days of their glorious history.

We are living in a period of reaction. Darkness, stupidity and crime have increased their horrid faces which had been disfigured as progressive or even reforming.

This is the time when darkness and vigile have joined hands: it is the time of the Rater, the parasite. The scoundrels will permit himself all liberties if only he does not disgrace himself in the cloak of patriot.

Small wonder, therefore, that in all factories the whole body the labor movement, who until now had enough reasons to keep themselves into the disad and did not know how to escape this danger, have now come to realize that all they have to do is to raise a hue and cry of socialists! Bolsheviks! Radicals! and they can continue to stay on the organism of the labor movement as parasites.

Until now these vile creatures feared the day when the workers would come to realize their role and would now take advantage of the prevailing confusion of minds to attempt "to clean out the labor movement", of all that is noble and pure, of all that contributes to the material and spiritual welfare of the workers.

A conspiracy is on foot "to cleanse the labor unions of their radical elements." It is planned to break every union concerning which there is slightest suspicion that it is more than an organization that affords cozy corners to a band of parasites and idlers. The plans are to make the American Federation of Labor a hewing in desert in which there should be no room for anything that is progressive, for any elements that strive to real freedom.

The plan is supposed to accomplish all this at the coming convention of the American Federation of Labor in Atlantic City.

This plan is in the making in carrying out the act of treason against the American labor movement. It is not the first. We believe that the great masses of American Labor are not afraid and foolish and that they will give these fakers and parasites the labor movement the prize of their lives.

We believe that these creatures without knowing it, are with their own hands, putting us into the way by which they shall be cast out. One thing is certain — that they think that they can carry out their treasonable work the better because there is dishonor among the radical elements themselves, they are mistaken.

In a moment when the entire labor movement is in danger of perishing, these parasites, knowing their minor differences, and the black conspirators will face united before the world that will be the stronger since it has no other interests than those of their masters.

These traitors may attempt to do their worst; the result will be such as will rid the labor movement of one of its greatest enemies.

The first of May was celebrated this year in every portion of the world in spite of the rigid police precautions taken everywhere.

Of particular significance is the May Day demonstration in Paris. The capital of France witnessed once more one of those great, elemental mass demonstrations of Parisian laboring people, which mark the turning points in the history of the French nation and, indeed, of the whole world.

In America the forces of repression did all in their power to snuff out the holiday of international labor. Uniformed rowdies, unbolted weapons, and the police, particularly notorious in attempting to disrupt labor meetings and parades.

How can they stop these attacks on organized labor? It has only the effect of fanning the flames of discontent and inflammation. When workers of this country have lost faith in their strength and confidence, it will be harder to put down and understand.
Impressions of the quarterly meetings of the General Executive Board at Philadelphia on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 25-27.

By S. YANOFSKY

I have long had a desire to see the public meeting of the General Executive Board at Philadelphia, and I was fortunate enough to be accepted as a guest. I was able to attend the meetings on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

On Friday, the board met to discuss the situation in Italy. They were concerned about the government's efforts to suppress labor unrest. The government had recently passed a law limiting the workday to 8 hours, and there were reports of violence between workers and the police.

On Saturday, the board discussed the situation in France. They were impressed by the May Day demonstration, which had been peaceful and well-organized. The workers had demanded better working conditions and an end to child labor.

On Sunday, the board discussed the situation in Russia. They were concerned about the suppression of political opposition and the lack of free speech. The board members discussed the need for international solidarity and the importance of supporting workers' rights worldwide.

The board members were unanimous in their support for the workers' rights and the need for international solidarity. They agreed to send a delegation to France to support the May Day demonstration and to send aid to workers in need.

The board also discussed the need for a more active role of the International Labor Committee in supporting the workers' rights movement. They agreed to increase their funding for the committee and to seek new international partners to support the movement.

The board members were optimistic about the future of the workers' rights movement. They believed that the international solidarity and the support of the workers' rights movement would lead to a better future for all workers around the world.
For eleven weeks textile workers at the 30,000 have been on strike. They demand an eight-hour day without a reduction in wage rates. Their pay for nine hours is far below a living standard. This pay was the result of recent union struggles. They cannot stand a further reduction.

Yet the famous American Woolen Company in 1917 made the statement that the mills would not be closed, and while they declare themselves unable to meet the new wage demands (March, 1919) they grant an extra dividend of 10 per cent.

The strikers have asked for a reorganization of the factory and have appealed to peaceful citizens, investors, social workers, and even to the workers, who come in daily at the call of the factory to work.

Frank Ribault, Italian, served as an American soldier in France for 18 months, returned to work in February 29th. On March 11th he was attacked by police officers while walking to his home. He was stopped and his wallet was searched; a wallet containing 50 cents which he had locked the door of his cell, entered and beat him so severely with the nightstick that he was confined to his bed for several days. Ribault says he will never again wear the woolen uniform, he has lost all faith in American institutions.

In addition, the strike has been a class movement. The first "crime" of the workers is their request for a 48-hour course, gain all their demands for the masses are with them, but the asking of a higher wage means their influence upon the population.

The conservative and liberal newspapers are clamoring for "the making use of this civil war of the Canadian Labor Favors Industrialism"

In Canada organized labor is beginning to understand that a form of organization which includes only the skilled workers and leaves out the unskilled is a menace to the working class as a whole. The Western Conference of Labor therefore decided to reorganize the Federation upon industrial lines, to form a basis for cooperation of interests, and to appeal to the unskilled laboring population. The conference was held at Toronto last year.

The "industry" here comprises approximately 80 operators, 40 dressers, 6 cutters, and 15 dressers (all girls). It supports besides the women's and their families, 25 houses, 250 members of the good old Gompers type. The strike was lost. Ignominiouly lost. The men went to work.

This was in 1913.

A few Indians' then kept alive a little independent union, and from time to time called the cloaker to mass meeting, trying with their utmost to reorganize them again, to little or no purpose.

1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917 went by. During one of those who had been forced to flee in 1915, came back. By this time the 44 hour day was unanimously demanded.

Our pressers had a special meeting in the fall of 1915, and the following letter was sent by all of the good old Gompers type.

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A Word of Sympathy to Our Old Labor Champion Samuel Gompers

Samuel Gompers, for many years president of the American Federation of Labor, who was hurt in an auto accident, surely has the sympathy of labor the world over, in spite of the fact that he is the head of one of the largest labor organizations of the world. Workers have never been in accord with his policies and views, and still less so for the last few years of Balfourian confession, when stirred up by evil passions the nation turned to condemn and understand one another.

Now, when Gompers has met with a Wreck, we must not have very grave consequences for the 70 year old veteran, we cannot think of that which divides us from him, but rather of our common ties, and embittered as we may be against him, we recall with profound feeling that all his life has been devoted to the workers, and that he, more than any other labor leader has been spotless. He may have committed many blunders, but at least he has alway been true for labor. We disagree with him on many things but we must recognize his indelible will, his marvelous energy, his great organizing power. We all sincerely wish him a speedy recovery.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family and with it our sincere hope for his complete and speedy recovery. We consider the Wreck as a means for the future to put a new spirit of work and new ideas into the workers.

Our Sympathy to Ab. Baroff

We in the last issue of the Justice that the general Executive Board at Philadelphia and the firm declaration to see work week established throughout the cloak industry, we almost lost our sweetest hopes for a considerable improvement in favor of work-week. Why take up space in our publications with a competitive view about work-week work-we want to carry it out even if the readers are not inclined because there are still are some who believe that piece-work is the more advantage.

In our last issue we touched on the connection between freedom and piece work. We stated that if freedom has as much to do with piece work as it is said never to have been. We showed that the piece work system subjects the workers to a degraded form of slavery, for the worker must be his own slave driver.

We did not, of course, for a moment want to suggest the idea that work week means absolute freedom. Far from it. As we stated that is the question of freedom in connection with work for wages. It is easy to say that out of a system the system is at least assured a definite weekly wage, and that is all we ask. If only the workers can see as to how much he will earn and from fear lest he will not earn enough, for himself and his family.

The advantage of work week is obviously and indisputable. But we are not content because we think the workers will have to pay for these advantages in such a way that it pays him because the piece work system is not cost efficient. We are told (we quote here from the advertisement of the Select Joint Board and the manufacturers) that, brother, think what you spend in getting out of the shop; secondly, it will sell out at a price that is not unfounded with—undesirable discipline in the shops"; thirdly, "that it will be easy to get a new job"; fourthly, "that it will be easy to get a new job"; and, lastly, "that it will be easy to get a new job".

Unbearable discipline means a discipline people cannot stand. Unbearable discipline last if it is not endurable! We know from experience that a firm stand that tolerates discipline much less than a worker of the past. Yet every day in all parts of the country we see how laborers are to the fact that the modern worker is at least to some degree imbued with ideas of freedom, will long tolerate a discipline that is unbearable! True it may be that the workers are not the best of men, but they are no fools either. They know better than to pay a few dollars for discipline that will not be able to maintain itself to frequent strikes and stoppages. Can it be believed that in the interest of the "unbearable discipline" the employers will cut their own throats! When we take into consideration the fact that the workers belong to a powerful Union and the strength of the Union, the power to protect its members when they are wronged in the discharge of their duties is too evident, the semblance of validity, and falls to appeal even to the least discerning mind.

Yes, this argument is simply foolish. There is and there must be discipline in a shop both under the week work and the piece work systems. And the rigidity of a discipline depends on, the degree of unity among the workers of the shop. Under the piece work system, each worker must look out for himself, and the devil may take him in as they are thus divided against themselves. They are satiated by motives of envy and the like. Under these circumstances the employer can tighten down on the discipline in the week work system, because the workers is his strongest weapon. On the other hand, where real interests meet, where interests of common interests, which must be the case under week work when every worker makes his wages and work the same hours, and all of them belong to the United Brotherhood, it would be painful not to tighten the discipline too much lest it snap. He can no longer count on the capacities of the workers for his ends, and it stands to reason that the discipline under week work can be observed as well, and be very lax, at any rate far from "unbearable".

Week work will lessen the chances of the worker to get a new job. This is remarkable reasoning. It is not the week work arrangement when one man does the work of three it is easy to get a job. And every one works a set number of hours at normal speed it will be too much to think of getting out of our inability to see through this. Now try to put these two arguments side by side and you will find out that it will be hard to get a new job it means that the workers are well organized, that the discipline is not unbearable.

Unbearable discipline exists in all shops it may be that the community of interests may have at least a few vacant places every week. It is clear that only a few of the workers will have to get another job. We have no case: either the discipline is unbearable, and then there are places available. The workers are so well off in their jobs that they would not quit and there are no vacant places. In this case there is, of course, no "unbearable discipline, either. This is elementary common sense. As to the other question: both things are possible. With them unbearable discipline, with them workers they are not in the best of interests, but I with a total absence of jobs.

"Week work will decrease the present earnings" the week work system. The scale that will be obtained will never be as high as the present earnings of the piece workers.

Never is really too comprehensive a word. And the scale is not as great as the present earnings of the piece work, and the change of wording. Instead of "piece workers you must read "work week system", as we showed many workers who were earning 50 dollars a week for each operator. It is true that some workers who earn 100 dollars a week operators who earned $100 within a normal weekly time. It is a fact that some workers who earn 100 dollars a week operators put in more than two weeks time in one week and it is a fact that some operators who earned 100 dollars a week. It is to this state of affairs that the Union really wants to bring about. It is the desire to see the workers want to earn 100 dollars a week and spend it on clothes and things and fill the next week. The union wants his earnings and his work- conditions to be such that he may earn enough and be in a posi-
RIGHT AND LEFT WING

By N. BUCHWALL

The Background
Socialism of America as well as the world was watching with the closest attention the air that is now going on in the United States. Probably the party will soon split in two or three factions. It seems that some of the old-time Bolsheviks have found a common basis upon which all elements and tendencies in the party can unite.

Grave as the crisis is, it did not come as a surprise to any one. The accumulating material had long been stored up, ready to burst into flame. The favorable moment was only needed.

The war split the socialist parties of all the European countries, especially in Germany, Russia, and France. To the old theory of the controversy concerning methods and tactics, in themselves sufficient to give birth to various "wings" and factions, was added the very burning question as to the attitude toward the war. This was the final basic question. It called for action, immediate and decisive.

The war may be regretted or not, but in all the belligerent countries the great majorities were carried away by the general sentiment of nationalism and official patriotism, and under one pretext or another modifications, the socialists hurled themselves into the life-and-death struggle against mediæval Prussianism, others against the "Barbarous Congress" of "Kaiser and Company," and the "cynical, greedy, Englishman." Of which the belligerent countries there remained a minority of socialists who failed to see in this war an internal war against the revision of the traditional, fundamental socialist point of view, according to the old alliance of the capitalist wars. These socialists came out against their government and the reactionaries, "patriots," as the loyal socialists were called, as strongly as it was possible to be called.

Also in the United States the socialists disagreed as to the war. But these who are still in grammar school, or, as we have brought into the world, the workingmen, the failure of the struggle of the socialists for food and shelter, the war was before the Russian Revolution.

When Germany began crushing the Russian revolution with her heel, when she began displaying the utmost brutality and cynicism toward the Russian people and organized her diplomatic terrorism, many socialists here became loyal supporters of the war. Though officially "neutral," the government of the country did not want to see the war, but rather that all the workers would have to work for the war. The government did not want to have the workingmen, the failure of the struggle of the socialists for food and shelter, the war was before the Russian Revolution.

As soon as the fighting ceased, it was agreed that the war would be over, and that the blockade would be raised immediately. The peoples of Europe breathed a sigh of relief and saw bread in sight. But the socialists, who had been stung at the declaration that the existing blockade conditions were necessary, that the Allies and the United States contemplate the provisioning of Germany during the armistice as shall be found necessary. Now, as the English Nation remarks, "Five months have passed since the war began; the blockade remains unchanged. It has been tightened. New trade restrictions have followed the armed occupation, including the prohibition of fishing in the Baltic. The Allies have not found that it necessarily provokes Germany. Up to the present time, however, we continue to contemplate it."

The workers of Europe are starving under the blockade. They may have starved in the worst conditions of capitalist wages. They may have starved even daily from lack of food. The镣s are starving themselves to keep for food for their children. In countries like Austria where the conditions of underfeeding have lasted for a year or more, the physical condition of the people is truly terrible. It is stated that hardly more than one child out of a hundred born in Lemberg survives. In Vienna the bread ration has been reduced once a day, while the little unemployment benefit granted by the government has just been withdrawn. The unemployed go, therefore, to demonstrate their situation. They also suffer because of the sudden collapse.

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The socialists of the old school, that is, the "socialists" that cannot readily agree to this, they are convinced that theirs is the proper course; that the road to socialism lies through the ballot box; that there is a necessity of renouncing that which they had been preaching for these many years. As we said, the schism is unavoidable, for there is no middle ground.

We will have occasion to return to this question.
Dut while it is true that the strike would, if passed, put both the hall owners and participants in meetings and convocations of the magistrates courts will recognize how easy it would be in the eyes of the public and the state administration and its backers wish to suppress, to railroad them into the cover of the state and federal laws, how ever, persons accused of murder and other crimes do not have to fear being detained in the magistrates courts while their cases are in the lower courts. The three main features are:

Registration of all aliens now in the United States or who are to apply for admission hereafter; and

Registration of all immigrant provisional or proba- tionary during their stay in this country and in the United States.

Changing the burden of proof from the immigrant, that it will be incumbent upon the government to prove their unfitness, as at present.

"Under this law," said Mr. Parker, "new immigrants will be registered upon arrival in this country. They will also be required to report when they move from one immigration district to another and that the government will be required to prove their unfitness, as at present."

This woman left quietly on the request of the attendant.

Letter of Warning

Dear Editor:

Please permit me to call the attention of your readers, and especially the members of political, economic or ci vic organizations interested in the labor movement, to two pieces of legislation now pending in the New York Board of Aldermen. One of these bills, introduced by Alderman Kenneth on April 8th; the other, one of persons whom Col lins on April 15th; both are in the Committee of General Welfare, of which the Hon. W. T. Collins is chairman.

Both of these proposals aim at hampering, freighting and public discussion. Under the present pretext of prohibiting the importation of these publications which would, if passed, put both the hall owners and participants in meetings and convocations of the magistrates courts will recognize how easy it would be in the eyes of the public and the state administration and its backers wish to suppress, to railroad them into the cover of the state and federal laws, how ever, persons accused of murder and other crimes do not have to fear being detained in the magistrates courts while their cases are in the lower courts. The three main features are:

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