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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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CLOAKMAKERS’ UNION CALLS MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The first anniversary of the imprisonment of Eugene Victor Debs, now serving a ten-year term at Atlanta Penitentiary for violating the Espionage Law by speaking his opinions about the war, is being commemorated this Tuesday, April 13. By the Socialist and trade unionists of New York, with the assistance of the Anarchist and Socialists of Chicago and other cities, a meeting will be held at the Grand Opera House to launch the demands for the release of Debs and the other political prisoners.

The Socialist Party together with the Anarchist Congress has issued a call to all its members throughout the country to attend the meetings and support the demand for the release of Debs and other political prisoners.

In addition to supporting Debs, the Socialist Party has been working to gain more support for the movement to end imperialism and colonialism.

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The Sociali
Topics of the Week

The Railroad Strike

W HATSOEVER the outcome of the railroad strike might prove to be, it is certain, however, that it is one of the most fascinating events in the American labor movement. The railroad strike which began a week ago in Chicago has spread all over the country and touched upon every railroad strike throughout the entire country. A signed statement was issued by the Railroad Brotherhoods declaring that the strike was an attempt to destroy the United States Railroad Dynamen and the Switchmen’s Union and to promote the Big Four millionaire. The statement read in part: “There can be no settlement of pending wage questions without the railroad workmen continuing their fight. We insist that every member of these Brotherhoods do everything within their power to preserve their own rights, and to that end all their workers to strike for compulsion, before they may be compelled to act by force. The statement is signed by J. E. Shepherd, President of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. Chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and W. S. O’Brien, President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

The strike would be considered, if the Big Four, particularly Warren W. Stone, have been sufficiently strong to bring about a financial plan movement for the nationalization of the railroads. It was said that the two sides at the moment of the workers are far in advance of the rank and file, and that they are only all their powers to strike consummate, conservative workers. Here, it was pointed out, it was a case where the leaders are more revolutionary than the rank and file.

But this was only an illusion. The officials of the Railroad Brotherhoods did not live up to their declared promises to strike. The Brotherhoods employed in the campaign for the Federation of Labor, or to be merely one of the labor organizations, and the Democratic or Republican ticket includes the great social movement that it originally seemed to be. But what was most interesting was the repeated delay of adjusting their controversy with the railroad management. They were first to wait for the equest of labor to drop. They were to wait until the order to be appointed, split, dissolved and reappointed again. They were to wait until the order to be assigned back to private hands. The leaders of the Railroad Brotherhoods were the men of the workers by their futile tactics. They adopted a policy of lobbying the government and working with politicians. They have openly declared that the strike will not be settled until the government is convinced of the truth of their case.

The workers have gone out on strike in spite of the repeated assurances of the management. The strike is successful. It has paralyzed the transportation from coast to coast. That the strike is effective can be seen from the fact that General Wood terminal for their campaign to the Presidency and has rushed to Chicago to resume command in the strike. A significant sign is that President Wilson has for the first time since the strike started, a meeting. He has also hastened to appoint a Railroad Labor Board under the authority of Attorney General Palmer, of course, has announced that he has told the Governor of Maine to follow the same action and thereby giving a death-blow to the entire labor movement. Will Wilson court serve the interests of the industrial barons or of justice?

Prohibition and the Loopers

S WERT, Loop and Co. are actively carrying on the war against Socialistic, trade unionists, and any other group of people who dare to challenge their exclusive control. On April 3d, the Albany Senate passed all a clear-cut Attorney General’s anti-front taint” by substantially curtailing the anti-Labor laws. The bill establishing an anti-front taint in the office of the Attorney General, passed by a vote of 20 to 18. In the case of the bill seeking to abolish the Board School and independent educational institutions, the vote stood 20 to 18 while the measure inaugurating a “speech test” for school teachers before they can qualify was adopted by 43 to 6. A hasty law what information on the methods employed by the law givers of Albany was furnished us by Senator George J. Thompson. At one point the Senator said. “I doubt if there is a liquor, for instance, to go to court, to cite in the name of the purpose of exposing Socialist members of the Assembly.” And we went on to explain what he meant:

“I am told that on the night when the vote of expulsion was taken, liquor was used in large quantities — in fact to excess that those who were drunk labor had to be carried out of the chamber. That liquor was used to gain advantage for expelling the Socialists. Now I don’t know these Socialists, and I don’t believe in the general theory of Socialism, but I don’t think it’s quite right for a lobbyist to use liquor to induce men to vote as he wants them to.”

This revelation of Senator Thompson throws a flood of light on the sentimental processes of our legislators. For it was puzzling how some Americans could successfully direct the ghost of expelling the Socialists from this country. It seemed a monstrous stupidity to legislate a bypocritie in this country. In other words, we are brought before the courts and legislatures, it is clear that our country is the most dangerous country for itself. The latest trial is against the Amalgamated Journal and the American Labor party. It began last Monday in Rochester and it promises to be one of the most important cases in the history of American labor.

The suit against the Amalgamated Journal is brought by H. W. Stern & Co. of Rochester for permanent injunction and damanges of 100,000 dollars to end the strike which was forced on the workers last July, and the control of the Amalgamated.

The Amalgamated will, of course, be charged by the forces of Michaels, Stern & Co. with “disloyalty,” “anti-Americanism,” “Bolshevism,” etc. The Loopers are doubtless delighted at critical moments. Lenox and Trotwood and the coated Socialist Assemblies will protest against the “evidence” against the Amalgamated. In short, we will have the same thing in evidence, a trial against the “conscription” of labor. The prosecution has called in all the witness of the strike, the railway workers, in their capacity as employment. It is unfortunate that the huge majority of the American workers. Mr. Palmer assisted by the public press of the private interests are making out a “case” of the strike. The opposition of the chiefs of the Railroad Brotherhoods to the strike is in the air. But the self-righteousness of the workers, their novel methods in conducting the strike may lead to a complete settlement. In fact, it is sometimes called the Big Four, who are insisting that this is a “law” strike, that it must not be recognized. The Senate Committee was summoned the strike leaders with a view to mitigate the strike. The Big Four opposed it on the ground that it would mean recognition of the strikers.

The strikers make it clear that it is not only a strike for higher wages but for new leadership. They have abandoned for the time being perhaps their old organizations, and have created a new one. The United States Railroad of America which they later changed into the United Brotherhood of America. There are about 100,000 workers on strike. Their number is increasing. Their victory will doubtless be a signal for the labor movement in America.

The Amalgamated Trial

It looks as if the courts and the legislatures have been mobilized by our industrial leaders with a view to destroy labor organizations. It cannot be help- ful that they are doing the work well. Judging by the number of workers who are brought before the courts and legislatures, it is clear that our country is the most dangerous country for itself for the courts and legislatures. The latest trial is against the Amalgamated Journal and the American Labor party. It began last Monday in Rochester and it promises to be one of the most important cases in the history of American labor.

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Plains for the Convention of the T.L.G.W.U.

(AContinued from page 4) Subsequent to the unification of the various manufacturers are constantly endeavoring to place the blame on the contractors and dealers who charge for garments, explaining that increased wages and shorter hours had raised the prices of the garment. Yet it is a fact, which they cannot deny, that the costs of raw materials have been increased at most 75 per cent, the prices of garments has increased 100 per cent.

For the first time in the history of the American labor movement, the manufacturers are prepared to meet the workers. This is not only true of the national officials in the International, but the railroad officials in the National Brotherhood of the several needle trades unions in this country.

Another significant proposal is that the International is making an effort to establish co-operative factories, where the time is not far distant when the workers will be running their own plants. This is a step in the direction of the national officers of the unions. If one should visit the General Offices of one of the smaller departments, the department is mobilized to the utmost. There is a ceaseless, spirited activity, and the department has its own work which is part of the large plans of a vast organization that is grappling with the stubborn problems of the time, is overrunning them and is marching on.

The tireless work of the General Secretary, Ollinger, General Secretary Bell, and others shows them to be in possession of amazing powers and inexhaustible energy.

The convention of the New York Clacksmen’s Union of Waistmakers’ Union as well as any other union of the International has its hands full with matters of an international character, and the arrangements for the convention as well as the arrangement of things in the offices during the two weeks when so many officers will be busy at their own business. This is not only true of the New York unions but of all the International organizations all over the country. Particularly is this the case with the Chicago unions. The effect of the joint board of the Clacksmen’s Union of that city must doubtless be the busiest spot of the International as it had the additional task of making all the arrangements for the convention and the whole program all going well.

The delegation from the New York unions alone consists of not less than 150 representatives. The International is taking a special train which will arrive at the Grand Central, Friday, April 18th, at 8:30 P.M. On that day, May 1, the delegation will celebrate the International Labor Day at Niagara Falls, and on Sunday, May 2, the delegation will be in Chicago ready to begin their work on the very next day.
Debs' Message From Jail

My message to the Comrades and through the country on the first anniversary of my imprisonment is one of love and good will to each and to all.

I never felt better in my life than I do today. I have not for a single moment been conscious of my imprisonment. Every day during the past year has brought me new hope and promise that we are going to be free in 12 months. My spirit has been abroad in every Socialist activity and I have felt within these prions as if the vital principles of free trade were both outside of lofty purpose, uncompromising will and zealous faith in the sympathy and backing of a man's life to live for—Socialism.

If there was ever a time in the history of the American working class when all of the Socialists should be active that moment is now. The time has arrived when all of the Socialists should unite, and I believe it will be done.

The Socialist movement must rise above sectional and party lines and unite the industrial and political wings in harmonious alliance with the mass of the people, and Socialists should be active that moment is now. The time has arrived when all of the Socialists should unite, and I believe it will be done.
WANTED: AN ALLIANCE IN THE NEEDLE INDUSTRY

All the other unions were always ready to support it both morally and financially, but such an alliance would bring most effective weapon in the hands of the workers. It is true that even in the past our unions were not in a state of absolute isolation. Whenever a union became involved in trouble...

The plan will certainly have to overcome great difficulties. The American Federation of Labor may not find it to its liking and the cause of its dislike is not hard to guess. Again, our union leaders may find it difficult to allot among themselves the task of taking the heat. It may be an arduous task to work it out in detail, but let us hope that all questions will be removed.

It is highly desirable that the delegates to the convention should be ponderous and in most likely to be settled at once, in order to be able to discuss it in a fruitful way. For the fate of the plan will be determined above all by the decision of the convention.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA

It was impossible for President Schlesinger on his trip in Europe to penetrate into Russia and see things for himself as he did in the case of Holland, England, France, Germany, Austria and Poland. His, accordingly, applied to George Lansbury, the editor of the British Socialist paper, "The Daily Field," which Schlesinger had approached to speak about Russia, to give him the benefit of what he knew. As Schlesinger was not able to see Lansbury personally, he asked the latter to send him in writing all the information about Russia that he could give. We are certain that the readers of Justice will be interested to read excerpts here which we are publishing in full.

March 24, 1920.

Dear Comrade Schlesinger,

I am very sorry it was not possible to see you before you left. It is a difficult side of things in Russia, but roughly this is how it stands: To all intents and purposes the railroads are the only vital work which must become a trade union; these in turn are federated into a guild, a kind of Guild Socialism which is being worked as far as industry is concerned. Everything else has all the importance connected with labor Exchanges. They see to the sick insurance, to old age benefit, etc., and provide for all sanitation and health — both for men and for women.

The railway workmen, of course, are the factory.

These are managed by representatives elected by the workers, but the most important work was the Railway Industrial Committee. There is a great Supreme Industrial Council which resolves itself into the railway committee where all of these workers are nominated by these district committees. These are great specialists in Russia as to whether the unions will swallow the State or the State will swallow the unions. We may very well believe that the State will become merged into the union because I can see justification for the proposition of One Big Union.

What we mean is the establishment of a great council in which the workers are taken as a whole. The council shall be represented and whose function shall be to deal with problems affecting the whole industry. But every union to retain full autonomy and independence as far as the management of its own affairs is concerned.

In advocating an alliance of all the powerful unions in the needle industry, we do not intend to suggest what usually goes under the name of One Big Union. What we mean is the establishment of a great council in which the workers are taken as a whole. The council shall be represented and whose function shall be to deal with problems affecting the whole industry. But every union to retain full autonomy and independence as far as the management of its own affairs is concerned.

This plan is doubtless time-consuming and demands serious and immediate consideration. We are glad to say that the question was discussed and decided at the last meeting to propose this plan before the coming convention. A national, and especially Schlesinger are determined not only to discuss the question at length, a thing which has been done repeatedly in the past, but also to endeavor to realize it.
### Industrial Conditions in Germany

**By B. Schlesinger**

(Continued from last week)

I could get a much clearer notion of the garment industry in Berlin by visiting the headquarters of Germany, Comrade Stimmer, Secretary of the International Association of Garment Workers, whom I had met in Amsterdam, and who is also secretary of the German Union, gave me all the details of the industry and organization from which I am going to tell you. The details of the industry in Berlin were given to me by the three chief branches of the Berlin Union. They are Comrades Shmacher, Selvay and Knopp, Selvay is the Manager of the ladies' garment branch, Knopp — the men's garment branch, and Shmacher is the general manager of the entire Berlin local.

The number of garment workers was greater than I had thought. The figures are about 360 thousand workers in the garment industry in Germany, approximately 200 thousand are employed in the Berlin garment industry (185 thousand women and 15 thousand men), and 150 thousand workers in the men's branch (80 thousand men and 70 thousand women).

Shmacher, fifty, a hundred or more workers are employed, and where the machines are driven by electricity, as they are but few in Germany. Much of the work is being done by women workers, the number of women in small shops, and about 15 thousand in large shops.

Garment clothing and white goods are manufactured in the large factories by which the clothes, suits, dresses, and tailors' clothing are made in shops are not more than 20 workers are employed.

There are about 182 thousand workers who do work in Berlin is, more than 46 per cent of the total. It also means that tens of thousands of garment workers who live in the 110 thousand workers in small shops, and about 15 thousand in large shops.

The following table gives the number of workers in each of the eight districts, local belonging to its respective district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berlin</td>
<td>28,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuremberg</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanover</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamburg</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breslau</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiel</td>
<td>31,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>140,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The dues collected by the locals are forwarded to the general office of the organization which in turn allots 20 per cent to each local for meeting and other local expenses. Strike benefit and general expenses are paid by the general office of the Union.

The dues in weekly and is divided into four classes: 2 classes of workers whose dues are 15 per cent of the woman's work. Every male member may belong to the third or fourth class. Every female member may belong to the third or fourth class. This is the weekly dues in the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class (men)</th>
<th>Dues (women)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st class</td>
<td>70 pfennig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd class</td>
<td>60 pfennig</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd class</td>
<td>50 pfennig</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th class</td>
<td>40 pfennig</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Those belonging to the first and third class paying higher dues, are, in a time of strikes, entitled to a higher bene fit.

The clothing trade of a large and detailed trade, 5,000 to the Hirsch-Dunker Unions, and 2,000 to an organization of the "Trade of the Home Workers."

The "Alliance" has locals in 30 cities and towns in each city. These 30 cities are subdivided into eight districts, each local belonging to its respective district.

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Beginning with this issue of "Justice," we are going to renounce the business of the Joint Board to the S. of our Executive Board every week. Excerpts of the minutes of the last meeting of the Joint Board, in which the cases that come up before the Executive Board will be given.

Brother Nathan Kaufman, No. 5994, appeared on summons, charged with having made false statements to the office. Brother Kaufman, 234 S. 14th St., East Side, New York, was the chief applicant appearing in the papers, and during my stay there I daily heard them cry out something about the Fine and other matters. I must say, however, that I was not a great reader of German, and from the little I read I was evident that there was no talk of receiving the Jews but of ridding the country of them.

I discussed this subject with Cenzadore Eduard Bernstein. He feels very much depriected by it. I tried to explain to him why the Jewish workers do not belong to the unions, but after speaking to some of our Jewish intellectuals the matter became.cleet. There are very few people who understand this work. Those who are capable to do such work, do not want to bother with such a triflif as organizing things, and that is a waste of time at a time when "the social revolution is expected every minute," or, as others believe "the Jews are about to get Palestine and become a nation of nations.

I was compelled to give up my trip to Rome to become acquainted with the tailors' industry of Italy. The Italian consul in Warsaw categorically refused to issue my passport. He was for several years in America, he told me, and he knows how much trouble I caused in the garment industry in America.

We were told that I want to go to Italy, at the request of 20 thousand of his countrymen to whom the Italian members must reply themselves.

stopped off by the business agent of the Joint Board for failure to pay the $5 assessment levied by that body. While letters were being exchanged between Local 10 and the Jewish Board of American Association of Clocks and Sewing Manufacturers, of which the Tar, Chronicle is a branch, the business agent went to get other cutters to take the place of those who were stopped. On Tuesday, March 21, 1910, Mr. Janoff, Deputy Clerk of the American Association, succeeded in getting the last Fine to go out to work for this house.

During the cross-examination, it was discovered that Brother Pinzer was not aware of the fact that there was trouble existing in that house and that he simply went up to "make a job" to Brother Fine, on the other hand, after he had worked in the shop for a few minutes, was informed of existing difficulties and told to bring the Toronto Clock Co., but remained at work. Upon motion the Executive Board sentenced Brother Fine and $ 5 on Brother Pinzer.

Israel Perberg, No. 3334, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Settle of the Union to appear at the meeting of the Joint Board of Clockmakers' Union, with interfering with the making of Karrich & Karrich, at 539 Broadway, Brother Perberg is also charged with having interfered with the union boy the cutting trade and received an illegal amount of time and a half for overtime. Upon motion a fine of $75 was imposed and the case was referred to the Executive Board to investigate the books of the firm so as to find out how much Brother Leftlich is entitled to, as he claims he was paid at the double time rate.

Abe Rogoff, No. 7007, appeared before the Executive Board to express himself as a member of the Neighborhood Union has done for him through Business Agent Lipshitz. Brother Bogue, also, of 1410 W. 75th St., has an interest in the Lipshits with a gift as a token of his gratitude. The Executive Board instructed Brother Leftlich to notify them that they are happy to find that the members appreciate the work that is being done for them by the union, but that they could not establish the precedent of permitting the business agents to receive from individual members, as it might be misconstrued.

Albert Lippert, No. 5915, appeared on summons, charged by Brother Sam Shanewater, a member of the Lippert's Union, No. 45, with interfering with his work in the shop of Chas. Lippert, at 14 U. 24th St., Brother Shanewater claims that the cutter is bringing patterns, to the shop from the schneiders' and that they were allowed to go to the boss that they can get along without the designer. The Executive Board instructed Brother Dave Shalman to mind his business in the future and attend to the cutter's complaint. On the charge of interfering the case was dismissed.

Harry Plutzer, No. 3599, and Harry Fine, No. 2071, appeared on summons, charged by the cutters of the shop on W. 17 St., No. 8 E. 17th St., with having gone to work for the above house on Saturday afternoon, March 27, 1910. The cutters of the above shop were
LADIES' GARMENT CLERKS' UNION

The Ladies Garment Clerks' Union, under the leadership of L. G. W. U., is planning a big organization campaign for the month of May. The union will distribute the number of tickets for the Jewish Town Hall in order to raise money. The play is "Green Fields" and the date is April 22nd. All those interested may see the play and help the organization, which will be registered with the Board of Trade Union, 33rd St. and Avenues Ave., or Mr. Jacob Diamond, 22 W. 17th St.

MARY GOFF, Local 62.

NATIONAL LABOR PRESS ASSOCIATION

Ladies' Tailors and Alteration Workers, Local 80.

A GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING will take place

TUESDAY, APRIL 16th, 7:30 P.M.

A MOUNT MORTIS HALL, 1962—4th AVENUE

Discussion and the adoption of resolutions for the good and welfare of our trade before the convention of the International will be the subject of this meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 80.

HARRY HILFMAN, Secretary.

P. S.—From the 1st of May our Local meetings will be held every Tuesday at Local 80, 1916th Street, corner Madison Avenue.
To Members of the I. L. G. W. U.

Have you ever considered what the loss of the Rand School, the People's House, would mean to you and your friends? For 15 years this institution has been the center of the labor educational movement of the country. Hundreds of its students every year are I. L. G. W. U. members. In fulfilling this function it has at the same time become a favorite social center of its students. The closing of the School would indeed be the loss of a "People's House."

Because of its general activities and wide sphere of influence it has suffered much at the hands of the Lusk Committee and the courts. Reactionary forces have threatened to close the School, and the result of their work is that we are now facing the greatest crisis in our history. The yearly deficit is ominous in its proportions. Friends are needed as never before.

Not only for the sake of the thousands of young men and women whom it directly serves, but for the sake of the whole labor educational movement, the Rand School must be saved and kept safe. The task before us is large. No small group of people can accomplish the work. Its success requires the united, whole-hearted support of all its friends. As a member of this group, we count on you to do your share.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO

THE RAND SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
7 EAST 15th STREET
BERNA H. MAILLY, Executive Secretary.