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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 1, Iss. 12)

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*.

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go." (Job, 13:8.)

"We ought to be just even to our enemies." — Woodrow Wilson.

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT
WORKERS UNION

VOL. I Price 2 cents. Saturday, April 5, 1919. No. 12.

Waist Makers' Struggle Still On

The Waist Manufacturers' Association is now quite aware of the real meaning of the saying that it is easy to start a fight but hard to end it.

The conferences between the representatives of the workers and the Manufacturers' Association, which had been since Friday, March 28, broke up last Wednesday at 10 P. M. The point that caused the discontinuance of the conferences was trifling compared with the points upon which the strikers and the manufacturers had already agreed. This circumstance urges the thought upon one's mind that perhaps the manufacturers suddenly realized that they had given in too much, more than they had ever imagined they would, and they, therefore, balked at a point of minor import.

Here is the story in brief. When the strike broke out a number of manufacturers hit upon the scheme of establishing waist shops in country towns, hoping that the arm of the Union would not reach that far, and that they would accomplish two things at once: have their work done on the q. t. and break the strike, and, perhaps, get rid of the Union altogether.

The figure was perfectly correct, but in stepped the Union and muddled it all up. The Union did reach those shops and in many of them it managed to precipitate strikes, so that quite a number of workers whom the manufacturers had considered "safe" quit work, and in the grand total the manufacturers' reckonings came out all wrong. Their expectations did not materialize.

Now, when both side met for the purpose of effecting a settlement, the strikers' representatives insisted that the strike should be settled on behalf of the New York strikers as well as of those outside New York. It would be nothing short of bad faith on the part of the Union to abandon those out-of-town workers who had been loyal to the Union and had gone on strike together with their New York comrades, thus aiding in winning the strike.

It matters little that the number of those strikers in the out-of-city shops is not very large. The Union whose principle is "one for all and all for one" could not for a moment take this into consideration, and it demanded that the conditions

gained for the New York shops should apply also to the country shops. This, perhaps, is a bad bargain for the manufacturers, but the Union is not much worried on this score. The manufacturers, indeed, have the alternative of altogether liquidating those shops, which were originally established as a whip against the New York strikers. It is on this point that a debate raged for 13 hours, until the conference was finally disrupted. It is clear that the workers' representatives could not act otherwise. The manufacturer

ers could have if they wanted to. But they did not want to, and the strike of the waist-makers is still on.

And it continues with even more solemnity, more determination than before. These conferences emphasized to the workers the fact that their side is strong and their cause just. That the manufacturers agreed to the conferences and conceded to all demands on the principal points, to the complete satisfaction of the workers' representatives, is proof positive that they, the manufacturers,

realize they are beaten. But men have fallings. The manufacturers were suddenly seized by the irrelevant idea that they might save something from the wreckage, and they began playing off foolish stunts. But it can not continue long. In all probably the conferences will soon be resumed and the employers will yield also on this point.

The main thing for the strikers to know is that until their representatives came to them in person and announce the great news that the fight is won, the strike must go on unabated.

CONFERENCES BETWEEN CLOAKMAKERS AND CLOAK MANUFACTURERS BEGUN

The first conference between the representatives of the Joint Board of the Cloak Makers' Union and the Cloak Suit and Skirt Manufacturers Protective Association took place on Monday evening, March 31, at the Hotel McAlpin.

The International was represented in the committee by its president B. Schlesinger and the Joint Board was represented by Cutler, Rubin, Halperin, Brodsky, Brook, Wander, Braslaver, Ninto, Ashpiz, Siegman, Finkelstein, and Fineberg.

B. Schlesinger came to the conference tired out as a result of a day's negotiating with the Waist Manufacturers; yet he made a long and lucid speech in which he stated all the demands of the Union and pointed out the reason why the Union considered those demands just and why it deemed it necessary to present them at this time, despite the fact that the agreement between the Union and the Manufacturers' Association is not to expire until August.

Of the many demands, which the Union will make public as soon as the manufacturers make their reply, we are now in a position to state the following principal ones.

1. The changing of the system of work from a piece-work to a week-work basis.
2. 44 hours to constitute a week's work.
3. A minimum wage for all workers on the basis of week-work.
4. A raise in wages for all workers now employed on the week work basis.
5. No shop to employ fewer

er than 14 operators in addition to all other workers needed to turn out a finished garment.

In factories where suits are manufactured the skirts of these suits must be made in the same factories, or where the jackets are manufactured.

These and many other demands are the result of discussions that had been going on in the Joint Board for a long time. Each demand is, no doubt, based on valid grounds.

The object of all the demands combined is to reorganize the cloak industry to such an extent that a person can make a decent living not two months in the year but all year round. The demands aim at placing the cloak industry on an equal footing with other great industries, and the cloak makers on an equal footing with other workers whose trade calls for high skill and is their sole occupation.

The new demands have it as their chief aim to change the cloak industry, as much as possible, from a seasonal trade to an all-year trade, which is just as important for the employers as for the workers. They also aim to do away with all the one-horse cloak shops where the sweating system is still in vogue.

And finally, these demands are made with a view of rendering the relations between the workers and the employer so clear and definite as to do away with the frequent conflict, and frictions between the two sides; that a clear understanding for the term of the agreement

should be the basis of operation for both sides, and that every conflict, if such arises, could be settled in a peaceful manner.

This is the meaning and essence of all the demands which the Joint Board of the Cloak Makers' Union presented to the manufacturers. It is now for the latter to speak.

It is reported that the first conference was very amicable. The manufacturers' representatives listened with a great deal of interest to the demands and also to the reasons for making them as stated by the president of the International. They declared that they must first place these demands before the body of their association, and that in a few days another conference would be called, at which the manufacturers would make their reply.

There is no doubt that the manufacturers realize that the Union is quite in earnest about its demands, and it may be hoped, therefore, that their reply will be as earnest.

If the latter will be the case, it is quite possible that, thanks to the experience of the not remote past, for the last great struggle in the cloak industry is only three years back of us—the revolution, which must be wrought in the cloak industry, will be a calm and bloodless one. One thing is certain: the workers have reached the point when most of their demands, including the change from piece-work to week-work must be agreed to. They want to avoid a fight. If this be impossible—they are prepared.

DOMESTIC TOPICS

By L. FINKELSTEIN

We Are Fed on Investigations

A number of investigations is in progress in our country. Investigation committees are searching and prying to find and discover and unearth the Lord knows what.

And these investigation committees continue to grow and multiply. Before one committee is through investigating something, another is created to investigate something else. And there is so much to "investigate" that it is hard to say when these committees will ever be through with their "work." For you must know that the gentlemen appointed on those committees usually do not overwork themselves. Most of them "work" even less than 44 hours a week, and overtime is out of the question. You need not be surprised, therefore, that some investigations are dragged out a bit too long, and that some times takes the resuscitating methods of the press to prevent them from dying a premature death.

But this is not what we are after. Just wanted to tell you that we have two new investigations. One is national, about the military courts, the other is a state affair, an investigation of bolshevist activity in New York State.

As to the first, there have been persistent rumors current that the military courts are a bit too severe in imposing penalties on those who commit offenses and are brought before army tribunals. It is alleged that these courts got into the habit of imposing severe penalties for the least offenses against military rules. The newspapers made quite a stir about it, and Newton D. Baker, our War Secretary ordered an investigation of this matter. He sent a request to this effect to the Bar Association, and the president of the Association, Mr. Page, was, of course, not slow in accepting and appointing an investigation committee of prominent lawyers and judges. Secretary Baker also ordered all military courts to put at the disposal of the committee all the records they may desire, so that the committee is not hampered in its work.

We will probably report at a later time the findings of this committee.

The second investigation, as pointed out before, will endeavor to find out how things stand with bolshevism in New York state. This our Assembly itself undertook to accomplish, for the state of New York, the Empire State of the Union, cannot, indeed be given over to the "bolsheviks" without a fight, and first of all it is necessary to find out how far bolshevism has spread in our state.

With this in view our Assembly decided last week that such an investigation must be made at once. But while the investigation about our military courts is a bare and dry one and has nothing to do with money, our own is connected with cash, and there is a chance for some politicians to get a choice morsel. Our Senate suggested that \$50,000 be appropriated for this investigation, but for reasons of

"economy" the Assembly bargained down \$20,000 and the investigators will have to put up with only \$30,000.

But what does \$30,000 amount to if the saving of our state from the bolshevist menace is at stake? The Assembly realized this, and there were only ten assemblymen who voted against appropriating the people's money for this "sacred" purpose. Eight of the objectors are democrats and the other two are the socialist assemblymen Solomon and Claessens.

The vote on the matter was preceded by a debate, and it will not be out of place to quote an extract from Comrade Solomon's speech:

"Why should you go so far to investigate bolshevism, when you have here two bolsheviks, myself and my friend Claessens?" he asked. "Ask us and we will tell you all about it." "If you really want to check the spread of bolshevism in the state, study the causes that bring about social unrest, investigate the great dearth of life essentials, study the problem of unemployment, to solve which you do not even intend to do anything, and look into all the evils of the present social life in general."

But I need not tell you that the Republican and Democratic assemblymen ignored his advice.

And now the citizens of the state of New York may rest at ease: the investigation committee of the Assembly will see to it that things are set to rights and that the bolshevist menace is rooted out. No one will now dare say that our Assembly is not on guard, that it is not concerned for the welfare of our citizens.

A "Business" That Is Dangerous

That "business" is the basis of our capitalist society is an old truth. Enterprising capitalists are in constant search of new schemes and fields for investment that would yield the largest profits.

Inspired with this motive a corporation was recently founded in the state of Maryland to introduce "strike insurance."

The founders of this brand new enterprise figure that since there are so many insurance companies insuring against all sorts of ills and evils, and since most of them are doing thriving business, there is no reason why they should not introduce insurance against strikes, for strikes are also a kind of social malady.

This is an ingenious scheme, we admit, but we are afraid that the profits of the new corporation will not be very large.

First, it will lead to strikes of eternal duration. If the manufacturer will receive his monthly profits while the strike is on, why should he be in haste to settle the strike? There will be enough manufacturers who will find it desirable that their employees be always on strike, so that they may get their regular profits without actually running their business. Firms on the verge of bankruptcy would in

every way provoke strikes of their employees to be able to collect strike insurance.

But who knows all the plans of people who constantly scheme how to make more and

more money? Perhaps they think that in this way they will break the unions, which will be the greatest chance for all capitalists to swell their profits?

But the operations of such companies are a menace to society, and the government should have no time in investigating this shadowy business. It is quite possible that behind this new corporation are the evil powers of our country that seek to breed industrial unrest.

JUSTICE FOR THE WORKER

By J. S. P.

"Fear not but gaze—
for freemen mightier grow
And slaves more feeble,
gazing on their foe."

—Shelley.

How many of us are aware that a new school has been opened during our recent strike for the teaching of the principles of the class struggle? It is very inspiring to see a hundred or two waitmakers or white-goods workers sitting day by day from morning to night imbibing the gospel of self-reliance, learning that the only friend of the worker is himself, and that only through lining up in battle-array in every field of activity will he be able to secure a better life for himself and his fellows. This extraordinary school believes in teaching by object lessons and not through mere lectures. The operations of capitalist justice are depicted before our very eyes: the judge with no sense of justice, the lawyers who sell their souls for dollars, the police who protect rather than punish crime, the criminals who prey upon the workers struggling to better their conditions, the scabs betraying their fellow-workers, the crafty employer measuring out to all these the reward of their slavish loyalty to him.

A very unusual school as you see—a school which displays the truth in pictures which can never be forgotten. Where is it? At the Jefferson Market Police Court at Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street. The terms of admission to the classes are very generous. No tuition fees are charged. Only go to the picket line and the changes are that some burly policeman will provide you with this great educational opportunity by arresting you and taking you to court. If you have been fortunate enough in addition to have been sent upon and beaten by the hired thugs of the employers you stand a chance of being sent to a still higher institution of learning at Blackwells Island called the Workhouse. Many of our workers have had the advantage of this additional instruction during the strike. They have witnessed the filthy and horrible condition of the prisons in this land of the free. They have seen the terrible tragedy of the woman of the streets suffering degradation and brutality beyond description. Little girls whose only offence was to stand in silent protest before their shops learned that the government is not by, of and for the people, that justice is an instrument of industrial tyranny. One frail little girl who works in a white-goods shop, still trembling and pale from having had no decent food to eat during her whole five days in the Workhouse, cried out: "I am an American, and I

always loved my country. When the war broke out I let my young man go with a feeling of pride and devotion to the ideals of America. Now I see what they really are. Now I know there is no truth in all they say, that there is no justice in this free country. I had done nothing. For that they sent me to the Workhouse, made me live for five days with the women of the streets, even wanted to treat me as one of them and force me to submit to a physical examination. I shall never forget it! From this day forth I am changed. I am full of bitterness. I hate them all. I hate their system!" And her pale face flamed with righteous wrath. She had learned her lesson!

And so it goes day after day. The mill of "justice" grinds on! One looks around at the class assembled in the courtroom. The best, the most intelligent workers are there. Tilly's offence was to be chairlady of her shop, and so the boss pointed her out to the police, and she was arrested and sent to the Workhouse for five days. She was paler and thinner when I saw her a week later. She had been locked in a cell all day and had slept in it all night, but her spirit was more courageous and determined than ever. Mary's offence was keeping her picket line in order. That line was too numerous and too enthusiastic to suit the boss, and so here is Mary awaiting trial. Soon the overgrown, overfed detective will mount the stand and swear that little Mary attacked him and inflicted painful injuries. Here is Bessie! Of course capitalist justice could not leave her long at large, for she is a wicked half-chairman. There is Sarah Schenin, knocked down and beaten unconscious by her employer, with injuries that have confined her to her bed for two weeks under the doctor's care. The sympathetic business man who saw her attacked and carried her well-nigh lifeless into his shop, appears with his partner among her witnesses. But he has a foreign accent! What a good joke for the judge! He laughs till the tears come, and the proceedings have to stop till he recovers. The employer is pronounced innocent and sent smiling out of court, while Sarah wrings her hands in desperation. How was it possible, she cries! Yes, how!

There are hundreds of similar cases. There is Jennie stabbed through the cheek by a scab. Her assailant will never be brought to justice. There is Rose whose white arm still bears the black and blue imprint of a great hand that clasped and crushed her. There is Mollie with a deep knife cut from the hand of a

(Continued on page 7)

THE INTERNATIONAL ALL OVER THE LAND

By MAX D. DANISH

Doings in Boston

Brother B. Kurland, chairman of the Boston Joint Board, writes:

"Boston is still a busy cloak town. The trade is prosperous and the workers are earning good wages. In fact, in some shops there seems to be a lack of workers, and it is not infrequent to see an employer running around in search of an operator or a finisher all over town.

"We made a pretty good start at the beginning of the season. You know, we in Boston don't know much about strikes or even conferences with employers. Whenever the Union makes up its mind to demand something from the employers, we just simply drop them a few lines and tell them what we want.

"Precisely in this way we informed our dear bosses at the beginning of the season that we want forty-eight hours instead of forty-nine, and also a raise for the skirt cutters. Our demands were quickly consented to by our manufacturers, in spite of the fact that we have no employers' association here, and we are dealing with each employer individually. Quite a number of our shops are already working week work in all departments. We have an understanding in the week work shops that work is to run from nineteen to twenty-six weeks each season. In one large skirt shop we even have a contract for eleven months' work during the year. In all the shops where week-work prevails the workers are fully contented with the system, and by all appearances we will present the demand for week work throughout the trade for the next season. However, the piece workers have not been falling behind and, in all cases, the prices were settled on a higher basis than last year. All price settlements were made in the presence of Union representatives and were made to the satisfaction of the workers.

Our members, about 1,300 in number, treat their Union with love and respect. According to an investigation made a few weeks ago, we have 100 per cent Union members in the local trade and 95 per cent of these are in good standing. This is a pretty good test of loyalty to the organization, and it encourages us to fight with greater energy for better conditions in our industry.

Outside of ordinary Union problems our locals devote a lot of their attention to various other social and labor questions. For instance, our locals, together with the Joint Board, have recently contributed, thru shop collections and from the local treasuries, about \$500. to the big textile strike in Lawrence. Our Local No. 24 has undertaken a theatre performance exclusively for the building of a Labor Lyceum in Boston. Indeed, there isn't a workers' cause towards which our locals fail to contribute and we are an essential part of the general labor movement in this city."

Chicago Dress & Waistmakers

General Organizer, Julius Hochman, writes to us:

"The month of March is going to be written down as a big month in the history of our organization. In accordance with the plans which we have carefully laid out and the agitation carried on in the trade, we succeeded in forcing the employers, even those with whom we have no agreements, to introduce the forty-four hour work week and to give all piece workers an increase of 10 per cent. The new regulations went into effect in the entire industry in Chicago early in March.

Of course, the workers understand fully, well that these important gains are not due in the least to the generosity of the employers. They remember so well, and so do the employers, the remarkable strike of 1917 and the still more remarkable fact that the forty-four hour work week was only a partial success, the organization of the workers was far from crushed, and remained in the industry as a continuous reminder that the Union is ever ready to begin a new campaign for the rights of the workers. That the workers understand the true nature of these concessions could be illustrated by the fact that we have, during the last couple of weeks, organized fifteen new shops and expect to organize a great many more.

The spirit of the workers is wonderful. We held a number of mass meetings during the past month and we took in a large number of members. Later we have decided on a system of conferences with individual manufacturers for the purpose of laying the ground for a general understanding with the employers in the industry."

News from St. Louis

Brother Ben Gilbert, organizer, writes:

"I have already told you, in these columns, how the St. Louis cloak makers foiled the plans of our employers to accept starvation prices on the plea that this Spring season was going to be an unusually poor one and that the workers, in order to get any work at all, would have to accept any pittance offered to them.

Well, we guessed right. There is a great deal of work in our shops, and we are, indeed, having one of the best seasons we ever had in St. Louis. Our workers have, moreover, learned a lesson not to yield easily to the tricky persuasions which their kind-hearted bosses are using before and after the season.

We hardly have any trouble here in the shops. The Seltzer Garment Co. a shop which has been unionized for the last two years, did attempt not to allow the business agent of the Union to enter the shop; but when the Union at once became ready to stop all work in that shop, the employer yielded to reason and withdrew his opposition.

Forty-Four Hours Campaign in Montreal

Brother Joseph Schubert, secretary of the Montreal Joint Board, writes:

"Sunday, March 23 will long

remain in the memory of our Montreal cloakmakers as the day when they gathered (unlike the fateful day in March, 1917 when they assembled to give up a bitterly contested strike—and to throw themselves upon the tender mercies of the employers) to open up a new page in the book of the local organization, to inaugurate a campaign for week-work system in the cloak industry and to liquidate a system which has converted the men and the women engaged in our trade into a frenzied mob that is wasting its greatest energies in the pursuit of "bundles" — the piece-work system.

The meeting place was filled to overflowing, and the workers paid the closest attention to the speeches which were made by Brothers Lanch, Schubert and Barsky, and rewarded them with applause. The center of attraction, however, was first vice-president Elmer Rosenberg, who came directly from New York to this meeting. Brother Rosenberg was with us in Montreal during the trying days in 1917 when the strike had to be given up. He was also present at the "funeral" meeting of local No. 13 several months ago, when owing to his inspiration so much new life and energy was infused into our organization that we stand ready to-day to meet any challenge or contest from our employers.

You can, therefore, easily understand why Bro. Rosenberg is our "matinee idol" here in Montreal. He was received, as usual, very warmly, and his speech was met with round after round of applause. Each argument and sally drove deep into the minds and hearts of his auditors and when he finished exhorting every worker present to fall in line and to carry out the mandate of the convention regarding week work, the meeting reached the climax of its enthusiasm, joy and determination to achieve our goal.

The following resolution was adopted at the close of the meeting:

"We, the organized cloakmakers of Montreal, assembled in meeting at Prince Arthur Hall on March 23rd, herewith resolve and call upon our superior officers;

First: To make all arrangements and to work in co-operation with all other ladies' garment workers to abolish piece work in our industry.

Second: To introduce a forty-four work week and an eight our work-day.

Third: To request Vice-President Elmer Rosenberg to bring this resolution before the next meeting of the General Executive Board and to ask the Board to assist us in bringing about the realization of these measures."

If there were any among us who doubted that the local organization is full of life and the will to accomplish things, the last meeting has dispelled and whiped out every remaining shred of pessimism from their hearts."

New Waist & Dress Locals

The general strike in the waist and dress industry in New

York brought sharply to the front the problem of organizing the numerous waist, dress and white goods shops in localities within easy reach of the New York garment market and which were, during the last few years, opened up by employers with the purpose in mind to operate them under inferior working conditions and cheaper standards.

When the strike broke out these employers, quite naturally, looked to their out-of-town shops as a source of supply of their diminished stocks. The Union, however, took a different view of this situation. It became necessary, at once, to get the girls and the men who were working for the strike-bound New York City firms in the smaller cities of Connecticut, New Jersey and New York, to become interested in the cause of the 35,000 dress and waist workers, so that they may not unwittingly become the tools by which the cause and the struggle of the strikers would be defeated. Moreover, it became apparent that these thousands of waist workers who toil at Kingston, Newark, Poughkeepsie, Stamford, New Haven, Hartford, Vineland and dozens of other places, are just as much entitled to their "place in the sun" — better conditions, as are the New York workers. Such an undertaking, however, could not be achieved through spasmodic temporary agitation, but would require permanent locals which would take care of the needs of the workers in each locality.

The Out-of-Town committee was therefore instructed to combine organization work together with its work of information and agitation. The response of the waistmakers in these localities was very gratifying, indeed, and a number of new locals have already been formed. Among these are:

Waist and Dressmakers of Perth Amboy, N. J.

Local No. 115

Waist and Dressmakers of New Haven, Conn.

Local No. 116

White Goods workers of New Brunswick, N. J.

Local No. 117

Ladies' Garment Workers of Clinton, Iowa.

Local No. 118

Waistmakers of Troy, New York.

Local No. 119

The workers in all these cities, organized now in locals, have been granted at present far better conditions than what they were working under before. The International now, doubtless, will see to it that their organizations and gains alike remain permanent.

OPPOSE MOVIE CENSORS.

Madison, Wis. — Editor Evju of the Capital Times rises in his wrath to swat the censor pest in the Wisconsin legislature who wants to sit in judgment on the movies. The editor man says:

"This espionage, spying, censorship and amateur sleuthing which has poked its nose into every phase of public and private human endeavor in the last year is a practice that is quite foreign to American ideals and traditions."

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly.

Published every Friday by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union office, 21 Union Square, New York, N. Y.

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A. BAROFF, Sec'y-Treas.

S. YANOFFSKY, Editor
L. LIEBERMAN, Business Mgr.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK

When A Union Acts As A Union Should Not.

The present writer is not a reefer maker nor a cloak maker, and is not personally interested in the question of week-work or piece-work. Consequently all that is being said now and that will be said later on this question will not contain the slightest element of bias, of personal interest,—a mode of approaching the subject that is at the present time particularly needed by both sides.

But before he approaches the subject proper, he cannot refrain from expressing his disapproval of the action of the Children Cloak and Reefer Makers' Union, Local 17, in inserting in the Forward of last Saturday a full page advertisement against week-work, on the very eve of the conferences between the Cloak Makers' Union and the Association, where one of the principal demands of the Union will be the introduction of week work. This advertisement was like a hint to the manufacturers, as much as to say: "Do not give in on this point. The Children Cloak and Reefer Workers' Union is opposed to week-work, and this is true of all cloak makers working on the piece-work basis. Those who insist on week work are only a few officials of the Union who, for Lord knows what reasons, want to foist on the Union this cursed system of week-work."

This, we repeat, is a very bad move, not worthy of a Union. The Children Cloak and Reefer Makers' Union is of course, entitled to its opinion and to expressing it, but this it should have done either before the referendum vote was taken, when a majority of 700 voted against their opinion, or, at least during the fifteen months that have elapsed since that time. The step of the Reefer Makers' Union taken now, when the campaign is over, and when the decisions arrived at in the long campaign are about to be brought into effect, is little short of a breach of loyalty toward the International, a transgression that no Union must have upon its conscience, a blot that it will be very hard to wipe out.

If this appeal for a new referendum vote had been issued when there was still time to act on it, we might have thought, perhaps, that the Reefer Makers' Union was sincere. But in issuing the appeal one day before the conferences between the representatives of the International and of the Joint Board and the Manufacturers' Association, was to begin when there could be no more question about a referendum, the Reefer Makers' Union acted as if it really were not sincere. In the light

of the circumstances their appeal may be taken as a very objectionable way of saying to the manufacturers: "You need not fear a fight on the part of the workers, for the workers, in the great majority are now opposed to week-work."

We hope that the Reefer Makers' Union took this step in great haste and without taking into account the offence it was thereby committing. This is the only extenuating circumstance in its favor. But if this union really acted with full cognizance, its action deserves nothing but condemnation, even if its position in the matter of week-work be correct.

Piece-Work Versus Week-Work

But is the position of the Reefer Makers' Union correct?

As we said, we do not intend to exhaust the question in our notes of this week. It is a very broad and important question, and we will take the opportunity to discuss it at great length and from all angles. Here we want to state a few things concerning which, it seems to us, there can hardly be differences of opinion.

It is generally agreed that the status of the week-worker is higher than that of the piece-worker, just as the status of the person receiving an annual salary is superior to that of a person receiving only a weekly salary. You will find it to be generally true that the higher the social rank of a worker the longer his term of work or service. A day laborer is considered inferior to one hired for a whole week. The day laborer is, as a rule, an unskilled, common laborer. When he is through with his job and paid off he must look for another job. The week worker, as producer, stands somewhat higher on the social ladder. Higher still is one who is engaged for a whole year.

Imagine that the "quit" offer its officers, instead of working by the week or by the year at a definite salary, to work on the piece basis; so much and so much for such and such a piece of work; so much for setting this or that kind of difficulty; this much or that much for organizing this or that number of workers. Do you imagine there would be a single union man who would go in for such an offer? He would reject it with indignation. "Who do you think I am?" he would ask. "Do you think I am a dock laborer, or a hod carrier? I am an honorable man. I don't do jobs. I want a position or nothing."

And he would be quite right. Yet some of these same officials are very noisy in maintaining for the cloak makers. For themselves they prefer and insist on

that piece work is a good thing the annual position. They would not bargain with the union for every job they do for it. They want a definite salary for themselves. But as to the workers, employed not by the union but by a manufacturer, they think, that for them there can be nothing better than to work on the piece basis and to keep wrangling with the employers about new prices day in day out.

But it may be said that, perhaps the nature of the cloak industry is such that piece work is the best arrangement for the workers and week work the worst.

Let us apply common sense to this contention. The cloak makers union, as a union that is now a position to insist on certain demands with good chances of obtaining them, is only nine years old, its birth dating back to the great strike of 1910. Until then the Cloak Makers' Union was impotent, and the employers could have their way in forcing upon the workers whatever system they liked. You may, therefore, be sure that if week work paid the employer better than piece work, the week work system would have long been introduced. The fact that the employer, throughout the existence of the cloak industry, never attempted to introduce week work and permitted the cloak maker to continue in his fortunate position of piece worker, is the best argument in favor of week work and against piece work.

This is so plain a new born babe can understand it. Now let us try to make it clear why it paid the employer to keep up the piece work system and shun week work.

In past years, when the new immigrant, after long trials, learned to operate on cloaks, he never intended to remain a cloak maker. His occupation as operator was to him merely a stepping stone to something higher. Some dreamed of saving up a few dollars and buying a soda fountain, other of entering a college and studying medicine or dentistry. Very few thought of operating on cloaks as a life occupation. And for this reason the main thing with those cloak makers was to make as much money as possible with a short period and quit. The cloak manufacturer understood this state of mind of the cloak operator and said to him:

"Very well, you want to make money? Go to it. Here are some bundles, and the more bundles you do the more you make. It won't mind it in the least. Here if you earn as much as fifty dollars a week."

And the operator set to work. This time it was not the employer who had to cudgel his brains and think up ways of speeding up the work. The operator did it for him. The employer did not have to keep an eye on the operator lest he slow down, or to hire a foreman for the purpose. The operator did his own goading-on, and the manufacturer was happy that he hit upon the clever scheme of piece work. What happened to the workman later, as a result of this system, was no concern of the manufacturers. He was not in the least put out if his operator, at the end of the season, if he lasted that long, entered a hospital instead of a college; for what employer does worry about his workers after they are done with their work?

And besides, each arriving steamer brought new immigrants, future operators who went through the same procedure.

And so it continued for many years. There were campaigns of agitation and organization, there were strikes and struggles, but the system of piece work remained intact. The cloak maker became so accustomed to it that it did not occur to them that here was the seat of the trough. And now when, after years of suffering, many have at last perceived the root of all evil, there are some who are still blind and clamor for week work, as the best system imaginable.

We do not reproach these people their blindness. We are aware of the cursed force of habit. Why, take our present system of life as a whole! Is it based on reason or justice? No, it is based on the strength of this cursed force of habit that lends it its evil strength. And the same is true of piece work. A system that deprives the human being of all that is human, which makes a person work beyond his physical endurance and drives him to his early grave, which gives him fictitious freedom and independence that he never enjoys,—such a system finds its champions in its adherents on the ranks of Union men! This is so absurd, it would be impossible to believe it. If the force of habit did not offer the explanation.

We intend to scrutinize every sentence of the advertisement of the Reefer Makers' Union and we think we can prove that every word of it is false and that the advertisement is full of meaningless assertions. We can not do so in this one time. Here we will dwell only on one point. The advertisement says:

"We maintain that the 'straw vote' of last year is not binding for this year."

Why? Wherein have conditions in the cloak industry changed so much during the year as to make members of the Union regret and alter their decision of last year? This advertisement does not state, but we can surmise the reason in the minds of the defenders of piece work. Fifteen months ago the cloak industry was in sore straits and the cloak workers voted for week work. It was better than no work. But now, they would argue, the cloak makers have struck a bonanza. They are earning as much as \$100 a week. What cloakmaker will agree, then, to work on the week basis with the minimum salary only \$50 a week? It virtually means to lose \$50, in cash every week.

This is probably the reason why the champions of piece-work think that the cloak makers would reverse their vote of fifteen months ago.

We think that also in this they are mistaken, and we are willing to make the following test:

Let every cloak operator send in to us a letter signed by him and giving the name of the Local to which he belongs. Let him state in this letter the wages he received week by week since the season began. Let him also remember to state the number of overtime hours he put in and whether he worked with a helper or alone, and what were the wages of the helper if he had one. We will then conscientiously and impartially figure out the average earnings of operators,

and we believe that it will become clear to all that even if some operators earned large wages during the season, the cloak operators this season did not make out much better than in any other season when there was plenty of work, if we take into account the present purchasing value of the collar. We do not believe that the average will exceed \$50. per week, the minimum that the Union now demands of the manufacturers. This will make it clear that the protests of the piece workers is perhaps only the protest of a small number of people who are either exceptionally fast or who have a chance to practice petty exploitations in their shops and are making more on the work of their helpers than on their own. It goes without saying that the Union cannot reckon with the opinion of such individuals. They are a blight to the Union. The Union is to exist and be strong must do away with this type of half-workers and half-exploiters, who are the prime cause of the piece system, as we will show another time.

We again state that we urge all our cloak makers of New York to write us at once and state their weekly wages since they began working this season. We request of them to give us their full names, the Local to which they belong, and the shop where they work. Their communications will be used for no other purpose than to find out whether the Union is cheating itself by demanding \$50. per week for 44 hours for every operator who worked in a shop for the trial period of one week and was accepted by the manufacturer as a full fledged operator.

One more thing and we are through for the present. We attended the great meeting of Local 1 at Cooper Union last Saturday. We listened patiently both to those who are opposed to and who favor week work. Those who spoke against it did not present a single argument that is worth dwelling on. On the other hand, those who favored it made little noise but their arguments were logical and pertinent. And the most significant thing is that week work was urged and defended by many who had been at work on this basis for a season or two, and know from experience the difference between the two systems.

DISCLOSURES OF RAYMOND ROBINS

At last Raymond Robins has opened his mouth and given information, that the American people have been laboring for months to secure. The public is glad to have it confirmed by Mr. Robins that the Russian Soviet Government was ready to cooperate with the allies, before signing the treaty with Germany, and resume war against Germany, but received no word of encouragement; also that armed intervention was a mistake; that suppression of news is a mistake; that unless America takes the lead in peaceable restoration of Russia, Germany inevitably would gain a new foothold; that Elihu Root was the wrong kind of a man to send to Russia; that stories of atrocities are largely false.

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF ENGLISH SOCIETY

By M. KOLCHIN

The English Coal Commission, which had been appointed to investigate the demands of the Miners' Union, submitted its report and recommendations to the government. The report shows that in spite of all taxes and super taxes the coal companies made an average annual profit of over 25 per cent during the last four years. It also shows that the coal companies control not only the wholesale trade in coal but also the retail, in which they make additional profits, and that the companies demand these profits in spite of the inefficient system prevailing in the coal mines. The Commission came to the conclusion that the profits are too high, that they could be still higher if a better system were introduced, that the wages of the miners could be increased without damage to the industry, that the work-day could be decreased, that coal could be sold cheaper, etc. In other words, the reports confirm the contentions of the Miners' Union of England, and its statements made in the recent memorandum to the government.

But when it came to the recommendations the Commission became frightened somewhat. To give in to the demands of the Union all at once is a thing that never happened yet; the tradition is that there must be bargaining in such cases. Besides, the Commission had in view another thing: the Miners' Union demanded a six-hour work-day, an increase in wages of 30 per cent, and the nationalization of mines, with "labor control of the management". The Union is a powerful one. If it calls a strike the entire life of England is paralyzed all at once after the strike is called. Their demands, then, must be conceded. But the Miners' Union is not the only one. There is no guarantee that the rest of the workers, when they will see that the miners so easily won all their demands, will not want the same things. And the same things for all means nothing less than the end of the rule of the present masters. Labor control of the mines also means the end of capitalist control. The Commission was in a predicament, and it finally decided to recommend the following: a seven instead of a six-hour work day, as the workers demand; an increase in wages of 18 per cent, instead of 30 per cent; instead of the nationalization of the mines the commission recommended "uniform operation" and "perhaps nationalization" with the participation of the workers in the management.

It is clear that the workers won, although not entirely. And there is no doubt that the Union will force the government to agree to its demands. In fact, the union has not yet abandoned its fight, and the government is still being pressed by other unions. The Union of Railway Workers demands almost the same things as the miners did and the government practically agreed to all their demands, according to Mr. Thomas, the representative of the Union. At the same time the government is negotiating with the Union of Transport Workers, which also

caused little comfort to the capitalist rulers.

It must be remembered that these three unions are the greatest and the strongest in the world and are closely allied with one another. Each union is obligated to aid the other. These three unions constitute the famous "Triple Alliance", which has cast so much fear upon the rulers of present England. These unions must be reckoned with.

But it is not only these three unions that now dominate the minds of the English rulers. These English society has long given up in despair as "hopeless", for they are too great and powerful. But beside these unions there are others, not so great and powerful, which must be taken into consideration. Until now there was one consolation: all of the other unions were almost all of them trade organizations, steeped in strikes among the various crafts of the same industry, and conservative in their demands. Even their recent strikes showed that they would not go further than an eight hour day and a raise in wages. Even about these demands the unions were not unanimous, and disputes broke out among the unions themselves. But the last few months taught the workers more than they learned in the last few years, in which the union made amazing progress. First, the official leaders began to realize that the wrangles among the unions lead to poor results. Secondly the

"steward" movement (a steward is a kind of shop-chairman. For the last few years in almost every factory in England such shop-chairmen were elected to unite the workers of the entire factory and not only of a certain craft.) industrialized the labor organizations whether the unions wanted it or not. And thirdly, the investigation of the coal industry showed profiteering so prevalent in England, that even the conservative unions and the reactionary leaders began demanding the nationalization of industries.

The rulers of England are, therefore, confronted with problems that are grave and threatening. The "Triple Alliance" will win, it must win, it is too powerful not to win. But a victory of the "Triple Alliance" will strengthen the labor unions, will start a "dangerous" movement among the workers connected with the unions, already are demanding that their industries, too, be "investigated" with the same view as in the case of the coal industry. It is true the present rulers of England understand that the victory of the "Triple Alliance" abolishes "the sacred principle" of private property, but who worries about principles? It is private property itself that is important and not the principle, though until now this, too, was considered "sacred".

It is evident that things are not quiet in England. The worst, it is true, has assumed forms different than in other countries. The reconstruction of society is not so stormy there as in other countries, but society is being reconstructed also there. And there is no telling what forms this reconstruction will assume. We live in an age of stormy, swift moving events.



PROBLEMS OF THE WORKING WOMAN

By JULIET STUART POYNÉZ

PROSTITUTION

As I sat in my room in the London lodging-house the wind howled outside in a most unfriendly manner, and the icy sleet tapped bitingly upon the window-pane. I shivered involuntarily as I looked at the frail figure sitting beside me on the couch. She might have been twenty, perhaps younger, but she looked old, very old, so badly worn that her features were distorted by drugs and excessive misery. A poor little suit and a thin waist open to the wind were all her clothing on this bitter night. I shuddered at her bare throat and chest. Even on such a night these poor, feminine wares must be displayed! Her voice rattled with disease. She looked at me sidelong with furtive suspicion as at one from an enemy world with whom she might have no communication. My heart went out to her, a lost sister. "Do not be afraid," I begged, "tell me everything. Perhaps I can help you." No pleas availed. Her heart was locked. Perhaps she dared not open the flood-gates for fear she would be overwhelmed by the rush of memories. Or more probably she was afraid that I would betray her to the landlady, and she would be driven out again homeless. She repulsed all my inquiries with the vague assertion that she intended to "get married next week and sail for Australia." Rather, thought I, as I

looked at her wracked and wretched body, for "that bourne, whence no traveller returneth!"

They were everywhere in London and Paris, those who plied the eternal trade of lost womanhood. The streets of the great cities of Europe were literally crowded with them, some still young and with a gleam of hope and irresponsibility, others worn with disease, no longer women, no longer human. One grew to know them by sight. One poor girl I watched on the streets for a year driven by the man who lived on the profits of her humiliation—a young, working girl, still strong with the strength of the peasant, but visibly rotting. Shaken, unnerved, hunted by the police, preyed upon by the human ghouls who surrounded her, infected with disease, the same terror was in her eyes that is in those who have seen the battlefied with all its horrors. At an age when sheltered, young womanhood is taking its first, bashful glimpse of the fascinating dream of life, she had drunk the cup to the bitter dregs.

As one sat in the cafes and watched them pass by, those lost sisters of ours, hundreds of them, thousands, hundreds of thousands, one shuddered at the debasement of womanhood, of humanity itself. Forever excluded from maternity, the greatest joy and fulfillment of woman, a prey to sensuality and disease,

they were indeed prisoners of fate, condemned to an early death.

And they were all working girls! Here was the dressmaker's apprentice who could not live on nothing a week, there the worker in the jam factory who was out of work for three months and had to find her bread on the streets, here was the cotton spinner from the North whose lover had brought her to London and abandoned her without a trade, there was the milliner from Paris who had been pretty and young but had been forced to labor long hours and live in an attic, there was the waitress, there the servant betrayed at her work and thrust from the bosom of a cold and virtuous world. Clerks, barmaids, factory hands, servants, laundry workers, every trade was represented in which women are overworked and exploited. Many ignorant, some foolish and light-headed, some with abnormal instincts and intellect were there. But all from the same cause! Poverty! It was that that betrayed them into this slough of misery, but their economic helplessness. There were no ladies in this slave market, no women lawyers or teachers or physicians, no women with independent incomes, skilled trades or lucrative professions. They came from the working class. They represented the last degradation to which the slave of the modern industrial system is subjected. They were indeed a "proletariat of ladies" as one French writer has called them. Insecurity, sickness, persecution, contempt, all the evils of the worker's life was theirs. They sold their womanhood daily on the market in order to buy the necessities of life, just as the worker sells his labor power. It was the poverty and misery of their cramped life in the slums and tenements, the starvation of their longing for beauty and joy, the hideous monotony of their daily round of overwork that had made them the prey to such temptations. Destitution means for the man worker hunger, sickness, despair, sometimes crime; for the woman worker not seldom the Slough of Despond of Prostitution.

Thus the evil of Prostitution is a labor problem. It is a labor problem as truly as are unemployment or industrial diseases or the sweating system. It is the product of the economic weakness of the working woman which arises because she is a woman and because she is a proletarian. The struggle against prostitution should be taken up by the workers, both men and women, as a vital part of the labor struggle. Working men, it is your daughters, your sisters, who are being sold into this hideous form of human slavery. Working women, it is other working girls like yourselves who have not been strong enough to resist the terrible discouragements of the working girls' life, and have taken the easiest way—no, the bitterest way.

(To be continued in the next issue)

IN THE SETTLED SHOPS

By S. POLAKOFF

Report on his volunteer work with Local 25

Before I submit to you my report of the work accomplished during my recent stay in the office permit me to express my gratitude to the General Strike Committee for the honor conferred upon me by inviting me to take over the management in the office of Local 25, thus affording me the opportunity to do my part in this present struggle.

When I left the organization in 1916 I promised our members to render my services to them whenever called upon, and I watched the developments of the strike during the first two weeks with intense interest.

The striking district and the halls swarming with strikers, whose faces were determined and enthusiastic, gave me the impression of a celebration rather than a strike. It brought back to my memory those inspired days of 1910 when we led the strike of 75,000 cloak makers,—that memorable strike which was the first stepping stone towards the building up of our own organization. When the call came to join in the struggle I responded with joy. On January 29th, 1919 I was invited by the General Strike Committee to take over the management of the office.

It is with great satisfaction that I now submit to you the following report:

I found about 600 shops, including the new Associations, which had settled with the Union and no officer or active member was available at that time to follow up those shops, with the result that I had to begin work amidst great confusion. It was not only a question of settling disputes or grievances between the workers and the employer, I had to spend most of my time in enlightening both sides about the terms of the new agreement which they either misunderstood or misinterpreted. With great difficulty we at last succeeded in mobilizing every available member of our Union and placing them where most needed, thus reducing the chaotic state in the office.

An additional number of volunteers were selected by Brother Seidman and myself for the adjustment of the prices and other disputes which would arise in the newly settled shops, and at this time permit me to say that they are doing their very utmost to get acquainted with the new work entrusted to them.

Now, at the end of the eighth week, instead of 600 shops we have 1182, which are classified as follows:

Dress-Contractors' Assn.	407
Independent	657
Jobbers' Assn.	69
Independent Jobbers	49

	1182
Out of this number, 976 shops	
are controlled by the 21st Street Office:	
Downtown office	101 shops
Harlem office	19 "
Bronx office	14 "
Brooklyn office	38 "
E. N. Y. office	28 "
Mr. Vernon	3 "
Union Hill & N. J.	8 "

With all the difficulties that we had to face during those weeks, I am pleased to say that we have a pretty good control of the situation. The conditions prevailing in the shops, according to my own observations and reports submitted by our representatives are very satisfactory. The earnings in the shops of piece as well as week work are above the minimum standards; the forty-four hours are strictly observed; overtime, with the exception of a few emergency cases, is practically abolished; of the 10 per cent levied upon the members for the purpose of aiding our strikers a great majority of the shops have paid up-to-date. Arrangements, however, are being made to follow up the remaining shops who failed to pay the amount due. For such success much credit is due to the faithful and energetic service of our chairmen and active members of the shops.

Arrangements were made, whereby a jobber cannot engage a contractor before he sub-

mits his name to the Union for approval. This will enable the Union to gain a complete control of all shops. I wish to call your particular attention to the fact that the officers of the two new associations have shown a very friendly attitude in co-operating with us. If this attitude is maintained on their part I believe a constructive policy could be worked out that would remove many evils and greatly benefit the industry.

In conclusion, I wish to state that when I was called upon by the Union to help them in this great struggle I volunteered my services for two weeks. When the job was done, I realized the impossibility of my leaving, since there was no one to take over the work. I was glad to do my bit. But, now to my deepest regret, I must inform you that it is beyond my physical and financial ability to remain with you any longer. Arrangements have been in the office whereby the work is now regulated and divided in two departments, Independent and Association, and placed in the hands of competent persons, so that I conscientiously believe that I can leave the organization at the present time.

AMERICAN LABOR ITEMS

EMPLOYERS DEVELOP BOL-SHEVIK SPIRIT

Washington. — In answer to a request for "literature or articles to combat bolshevism among workmen," A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison made this reply:

"The only literature or articles issued from this office is in advocacy of the principles of trade unionism.

"I believe that the principal cause for social unrest in our country is the attitude of conscienceless greed as represented by certain large employers of labor who refuse a living wage, insist on long hours and deny their employees the right to join a lawful organization in an effort to improve their working conditions."

"As force begets force the mob spirit of the employer is met by the mob spirit of the employe. The development of this spirit is logical when it is considered that because these workers are not permitted to act collectively through trade unions they possess no knowledge of the orderly development or the value of public opinion as a remedy for wrongs. This public opinion can only be developed through organization, education and education, which the American Federation of Labor so insistently calls for."

A SIX-HOUR DAY

Sydney. — Following the lead of their comrades in England, Cape Breton miners are about to demand a six-hour day. Silby Barrett, president of the Amalgamated Iron Workers of Nova Scotia, stated to-day that it is probable that the miners will ask the Provincial Legislature at its coming session to establish a six-hour working day at the mines of the province. The matter will come up at the convention of miners and mine operators, which is to be held here next week, and Mr.

Barrett stated he expects that instructions would be given the A. M. W. officers to seek legislation of the kind indicated. He believes that out of the convention will come an agreement between the coal operators and the miners' union for an eight-hour day, but that in any case the establishment of the six-hour day would be asked of the Legislature. In support of the proposal, Mr. Barrett argued that it would help to lessen unemployment.

B. R. T. MEN MUST BE GIVEN RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

The National War Labor Board has notified the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company that its employees must have full and free permission "to organize into labor unions in conformity with the announced principles of this board and as a matter of plain right and justice." The tactics of this company are identical with the Steel Trust, and at the hearings conducted by the board its attorney appeared "as a courtesy" to the government officials, who were told that their jurisdiction was not admitted. Last November the company refused to obey the board's order to reinstate several victimized members of organized labor and a strike followed. The company attempted to create cars with strike-breakers, and a wreck killed and injured over 100 passengers.

PASS WOMEN'S LABOR LAW

Albany, N. Y.—The first labor law passed by the present state legislature provides for creation of a bureau of woman in industry in the state department of labor. The bill carries appropriations of \$2,500 for a chief, \$7500 for five investigators and \$900 for a stenographer.

MODERN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

1.—The Peoples School of Philosophy.

The Peoples School of Philosophy, which has been holding its sessions throughout this season at the Stuyvesant Neighborhood House, 9th and Stuyvesant Streets, was organized about a year and a half ago by a number of young people who wanted a school that would furnish them with a University Extension Course — or; which should meet their educational needs and desires as they themselves saw and felt them. The increasing attendance and growing interest which has been evidenced in the school have encouraged its members to believe that this institution is supplying a real need in the community, and is therefore performing a very helpful and useful function.

The School is an organization of students who have chosen as their Director Mr. Everett Dean Martin, of the Peoples Institute of this city. There is no Board of Trustees with interests and aims alien to or unsympathetic with the purposes of the Students, but the policy of the School is determined by its members themselves, every one of whom has personal interest and voice in its affairs. From this it can readily be seen that this School is not a money making institution. The aim of the students is education, not profit. Therefore the charges made are only sufficient to cover expenses. Any surplus which may remain at the close of any course is used further to extend the activities of the School.

It is the earnest wish of the membership of the School to make it a people's school in the truest sense, and they therefore bespeak for it to interest and co-operation of any and every one to whom its purposes may appeal. Classes are open to new members at any time. All lectures are followed by discussion and questions from the audience. A considerable deduction may be secured when course tickets are purchased. Detailed schedules of lectures and any information desired may be obtained from Dr. Mary B. McLellan, Secretary, 426 East 26th Street, New York City.

JUSTICE FOR THE WORKER

(Continued from page 2)

gangster beneath her eye. There is Sam, a pale, under-sized slave of the machine, with one eye as red as raw beef, and both cheeks discolored and swollen from the blows of the large and florid "detective" who stands beside him and enters a complaint of assault against him. Sam of course is not allowed to enter a complaint against his brutal assailant.

Thus the new school goes merrily on, planting the thirst for revolution in every breast, while the judge with his eyes raised to heaven announces: "It is my duty to do every thing in my power to protect these honest workers (pointing to the scabs) in their effort to work which is their right. The lawless elements who attack them must be suppressed. I know what is going on, and I am determined to stop it. My first duty is the maintenance of law and order, particularly in a time like the present, and I must therefore refuse every appeal for mercy."

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

The League for the Amnesty of Political Prisoners is arranging a Benefit Concert, Saturday evening, April 12th, 8.30, in Carnegie Hall, with such excellent artists as Madame Hulda Lashanska, the new American Lyric Soprano of whom the "Evening Post" says "Like that Russian wonder, Jascha Helfetz, Hulda Lashanska revealed by the first tones she gave forth that she is a born artist—one of the few, very few chosen ones. . . . She is an oasis in the desert of voices." And Sascha Jacobsen, violinist, of whom the New York "Sun" says is "The best of the younger generation."

The League for the Amnesty of Political Prisoners was started in February 1916 for the purpose of educating the public to the fundamental distinction between political offences and ordinary crime and to crystallize public sentiment in the matter so that a demand will be made from all over the country for the release of our thousands of political offenders—those men and women who dared to express their opinions even in time of war. The League feels as William Marion Reedy of the St. Louis Mirror well expressed it: "Amnesty now. We cannot afford to lag behind kings."

The fame and recognition of both the artists assure a very interesting program. Tickets can be obtained from M. E. Fitzgerald, 357 Broadway, corner 17th St. Phone Stuyvesant 573 or at the Carnegie Hall Box Office after April 5th. You can have an enjoyable evening of music and at the same time help a very worthy effort.

TICKETS AT POPULAR PRICES AND OTHER THINGS IN OUR EDUCATIONAL DEPT.

Arrangements have been made with several managers of leading theatres whereby our members can obtain tickets at reduced prices. The Opera Comique at Park Theatre, and the Metropolitan Opera House are on line. The Bramhall Playhouse on 27th Street and Lexington Avenue where at present, the Doubters' Faith, a very good play, is being presented by Butler Davenport, dealing with Sex, Religion and Labor, has accepted arrangements proposed by our department and it will be possible for members of the International to obtain the \$2.00 and \$1.50 seats for 30c. This includes war tax Applications for such seats must be made at our office or thru the secretaries of the locals. The number of tickets will not be limited to our members. There is no restriction as to the day provided it is not after April 30th.

Another feature of no less importance is the affair on Saturday evening, April 12th at the Washington Irving High School when we will have a very elaborate program consisting of music, a lecture, and educational moving pictures. There will be a chorus of about 60 persons which will render songs of labor; a minuet/dance by the girls of the Brownsville Unity Center, conducted by Miss Mary Ruth Cohen; Mrs. Jeanne Alfred will sing Jewish folk songs; Dr. Norman Thomas will speak on the "Road to Freedom," and a very brief report of our work will be given.



Farmer Hiram — What are you going to raise this year, Eben?
Farmer Eben—Prices, if I can.

Working Both Ways.
"What is the object of these statistics you are compiling?"
"They are for the purpose of proving that the conclusions drawn from statistics previously compiled on the same subject are all wrong."

I would like to take out some insurance.
Fire or life?
Both. I have a wooden leg.

Sure!
"Bobby" said the minister to a little fellow aged six, "I hear you are going to school now."
"Yes, sir," was the reply.
"What part of it do you like best?"
"Comin' home."—Boys' Life.

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STATEMENT OF THE OWNER.
SHIP Management, Circulation, etc.,
required by the Act of Congress of
August 24, 1912, of Justice, pub-
lished weekly at New York, N. Y.,
for April 1, 1917.
State of New York
County of New York ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and
for the State and county aforesaid,
personally appeared Elias Lieberman,
who, having been duly sworn accord-
ing to law, deposes and says that he
is the Business Manager of the
Justice and that the following is
to the best of his knowledge and
belief, a true statement of the owner-
ship, management, etc., of the above-
mentioned publication for the date shown
in the above caption, embodied in the
Act of August 24, 1912, entitled by the
Act of August 24, 1912, and Regula-
tion 445, Postal Laws and Regula-
tions, printed on the reverse of this
form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses
of the publisher, editor, managing
editor and business managers are:

Publisher: International Ladies
Garment Workers' Union, 21 Union
Sq., New York, N. Y.
Editor: S. Yanovsky, 21 Union Sq.,
New York, N. Y.
Managing Editor: Npne.

Business Managers: Elias Lieber-
man, 21 Union Sq., New York,
N. Y.

2. That the owners are: The In-
ternational Ladies Garment Workers'
Union, 21 Union Sq., New York, N. Y.;
B. Schlesinger, President, 21 Union
Sq., New York, N. Y.; A. Baroff,
Secretary-Treasurer, 21 Union Sq.,
New York, N. Y. An association not
incorporated.

3. That the known bondholders,
mortgagees, and other security hold-
ers owning or holding 1 per cent or
more of total amount of bonds, mort-
gages or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next
above, giving the names of the owners,
stockholders, and security holders, if
any, contain not only the list of stock-
holders and security holders as they
appear upon the books of the com-
pany but also, in cases where the
stockholder or security holder appears
on the books of the company as
trustee or in any other fiduciary rela-
tion, the name of the person or cor-
poration for whom such trustee is
acting, is given; also that the said
two paragraphs contain statements
embracing affiant's full knowledge and
belief as to the circumstances and
conditions under which stockholders
and security holders who do not ap-
pear upon the books of the company
as trustees, hold stock and securities
in a capacity other than that of a bona
fide owner; and this affiant has no
reason to believe that any other per-
son, association or corporation has
any interest direct or indirect in the
said stock, bonds, or other securities
than as so stated by him.

Elias Lieberman, Manager.
Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 24th day of March, 1917.

Joseph A. Zimman,
(My commission expires March 10,
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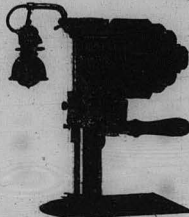
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