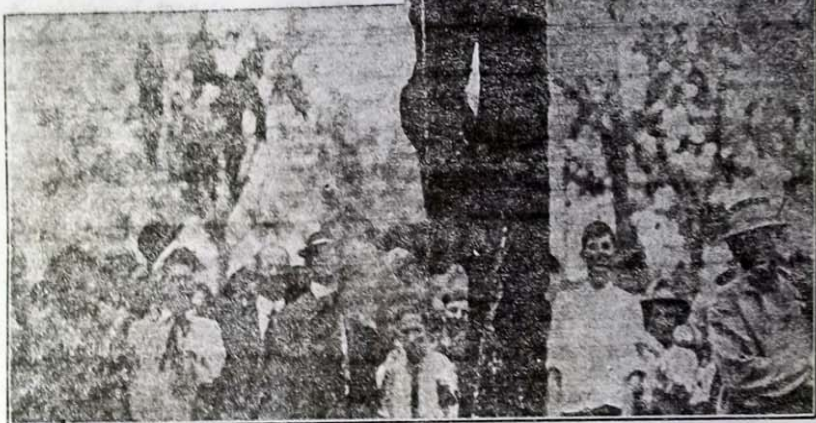


N. B.—Workingmen have paid for this leaflet out of their earnings.
When you have read it, pass it on.

Justice for the Negro



How He Can Get It

Actual Photograph of Charred Body of Jesse Washington, a Colored Lad Burned to Death by a Mob at Waco, Texas, May 15, 1916.

Two lynchings a week—one every three or four days—that is the rate at which the people in this “land of the free and home of the brave” have been killing colored men and women for the past thirty years—3,224 Negroes known to have been put to death by mobs in this country since 1889, and put to death with every kind of torture that human fiends could invent.

Even during the war, while colored soldiers were being obliged to “fight for democracy” abroad, ninety-one of their race were lynched at home.

The wrongs of the Negro in the United States are not confined to lynchings, however. When allowed to live and work for the community, he is subjected to constant humiliation, injustice and discrimination. In the cities he is forced to live in the meanest districts, where his rent is doubled and tripled, while conditions of health and safety are neglected in favor of the white sections.* In many states he is obliged to ride in special “Jim Crow” cars, hardly fit for cattle. Almost everywhere all semblance of political rights is denied him.

*The normal average death rate of males in a city is about 147.10 per 1,000; for negroes, 287.10 per 1,000.—New York Times, Feb. 22, 1919.

THE COLORED WORKER EVERYWHERE UNFAIRLY TREATED

When the Negro goes to look for work he meets with the same systematic discrimination. Thousands of jobs are closed to him solely on account of his color. He is considered only fit for the most menial occupations. In many cases, he has to accept a lower wage than is paid to white men for the same work.* **Everywhere the odds are against him in the struggle for existence.**

Throughout this land of liberty, so-called, the Negro worker is treated as an inferior; he is underpaid in his work and overcharged in his rent; he is kicked about, cursed and spat upon; in short, he is treated, not as a human being, but as an animal, a beast of burden for the ruling class. When he tries to improve his condition, he is shoved back into the mire of degradation and poverty and told to "keep his place."

How can the Negro combat this widespread injustice? How can he not only put a stop to lynchings, but force the white race to grant him equal treatment? **How can he get his rights as a human being?**

Protests, petitions and resolutions will never accomplish anything. It is useless to waste time and money on them. The government is in the hands of the ruling class of white men and will do as they wish. No appeal to the political powers will ever secure justice for the Negro.

THE MASTER CLASS FEARS THE ORGANIZED WORKER

He has, however, one weapon that the master class fears – the power to fold his arms and refuse to work for the community until he is guaranteed fair treatment. Remember how alarmed the South became over the emigration of colored workers two years ago, what desperate means were used to try to keep them from leaving the mills and cotton fields? **The only power of the Negro is his power as a worker;** his one weapon is the strike. Only by organizing and refusing to work for those who abuse him can he put an end to the injustice and oppression he now endures.

The colored working men and women of the United States must organize in defense of their rights. They must join together in labor unions so as to be able to enforce their demand for an equal share of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." When they are in a position to say to any community, "If you do not stop discrimination against the colored race, we will stop working for you," the hidden forces behind the government will see to it that lynchings cease and discrimination comes to an end. Only by threatening to withdraw their labor power and thereby cripple industry and agriculture can the Negroes secure equal treatment with other workers.

THE WORKERS OF EVERY RACE MUST JOIN TOGETHER

But the Negroes cannot accomplish this alone; they must unite with the other workers in order to make their industrial power count to the utmost. If they form separate racial organizations they will only en-

* The wages of colored kitchen workers in New York City average \$20 a month lower than white employees.

courage race prejudice and help the master class in their effort to divide the workers along false lines of color and set one race against the other, in order to use both for their own selfish ends.

The workers of every race and nationality must join in one common group against their one common enemy – the employers – so as to be able to defend themselves and one another. Protection for the working class lies in complete solidarity of the workers, without regard to race, creed, sex or color. “One Enemy – One Union!” must be their watchword.

TRADE UNIONS DO NOT WANT THE NEGRO

Most American labor organizations, however, shut their doors to the colored worker. The American Federation of Labor excludes him from many of its unions.* In those to which he is admitted, he is treated as an inferior. **The Negro has no chance in the old-line trade unions.** They do not want him. They admit him only under compulsion and treat him with contempt. Their officials, who discourage strikes for higher wages or shorter hours, are always ready, as in the case of the Switchmen's Union, to permit a strike aimed to prevent the employment of colored men.

This narrow-minded policy of excluding the Negro from the trade unions often forces him to become a strike-breaker against his will by closing legitimate occupations to him. The consequence is racial conflicts such as the frightful tragedy in East St. Louis in 1917.

THE I.W.W. ADMITS NEGRO TO FULL MEMBERSHIP

There is one international labor organization in this country that admits the colored worker on a footing of absolute equality with the white - The Industrial Workers of the World. The first section of its By-Laws provides that “no working man or woman shall be excluded from membership because of creed or color.” This principle has been scrupulously lived up to since the organization was founded. In the I.W.W. The colored worker, man or woman, is on an equal footing with every other worker. He has the same voice in determining the policies of the organization, and his interests are protected as zealously as those of any other member.

Not only does the I.W.W. Offer to the Negro worker union membership free from any taint or suggestion of racial inferiority, but in its form of organization it is far superior to the old-fashioned trade unions.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM THE STRONGEST FORM OF ORGANIZATION

The I.W.W. Organizes the workers by industries, not trades. Instead of the American Federation of Labor plan of dividing the workers in any plant into ten or twenty separate craft unions, with separate meetings and separate sets of officials, the I.W.W. Unites

* The constitution of the International Association of Machinists, for example, requires each member to agree “to introduce no one into the union but a sober, industrious WHITE man.”

all the workers in each industry, whatever their particular line of work may be, into One Big Industrial Union. In this way, the industrial power of the workers is combined and, when any of them have a disagreement with their employer, they are back by the united support of ALL the workers in that industry.

But the I.W.W. Does not limit its aim, as do the trade unions, to “less work and more pay.” Its greatest object is **the complete emancipation of the working class**. As long as the workers hold their jobs only by permission of some employer, they are not free. As long as there is one class that lives in ease and idleness off their labor, they are industrial slaves. Freedom for the workers will come only when everybody does his share of the work of the world and when the workers take control of the industries and operate them, not as at present, for the benefit of the leisure class, but for the welfare of society as a whole.

SERVANTS OF CAPITALISM LIE ABOUT THE I.W.W.

Do not believe the lies being told about the I.W.W. By the hired agents of the capitalists – the press, preachers and politicians. They are paid to deceive the workers and lead them astray. They are hired to throw dust in their eyes because the master class **does not dare to let them know the truth**.

Investigate the I.W.W. For yourself and get the facts. We are confident that, when you learn the truth about it, you will realize that it is to your interest to join and help build up the organization.

Fellow workers of the colored race, do not expect justice or fair treatment as a gift from the ruling class. **You will get from them nothing but what you are strong enough to take.** “In union there is strength.” The only power that workers of any race or nationality have is their power to act together as workers. We, therefore, urge you to join with your fellow workers of every race in the

ONE BIG UNION of the INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

**1001 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois
Workers' Halls, with Reading Rooms, at 119 S. Throop St. and 951 W. Madison St.**

NOTE – The I.W.W. Admits too membership every wage worker, man or woman, young or old, skilled or unskilled. Its plan of organization includes all workers. No matter what your occupation, if you work for wages, you can get a union card in the I.W.W.