

The

WORKING WOMAN

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May 1, A Day of Fight Against Hunger, Misery, War System

Thousands of Children are Starving

Tens of thousands of children in all cities, towns and farm centers in the country go to sleep at night hungry and crying, their bodies racked by the pains of hunger. So widespread and savage have the ravages of hunger upon working class children become that the capitalist school authorities, social workers, can no longer hide it.

The tell-tale marks are on the children; undernourished, stunted bodies, pale, pallid faces, listless footsteps. In school they can not study, can not develop themselves. They are the children of the million of unemployed and partly employed workers.

At a time when the capitalist press can no longer hide the fearful suffering among working class children, Hoover proclaims May first as "Child Health Day" in monstrous mockery of the actual plight of workers' children.

Woman work-

Oakland Jobless Women Found Living on Dump and Children Too Forced To Live There

(By A Worker Correspondent)

OAKLAND, Cal. — Working women driven out of their homes, having no employment, had to make temporary homes in the city dump at 7th and Fallon Sts. There are five women, who like the men, have constructed shelters for themselves out of the dumped crates, boards, tins, etc. Here they sleep and cook whatever they are able to pick up around dump, warehouses and market floors.

One woman has a daughter of 11 years of age with her. Child is ragged and unable to attend school. She is hoping, she can pick up some rags so she could send her to school. "She needs to learn and get something better than I have," said the mother tears streaming down her face.

Women Fighting Lynching

A monstrous frame-up, intended by the white boss class of the South to rivet tighter the chains of lynch terror, and to further divide the masses of Negro and white working masses, has been exposed in the case of nine young Negro boys, sentenced to death for an alleged attack on two white girls, notorious prostitutes, at Scottsboro, Alabama.

Tens of thousands of workers, at conferences, meetings, and organization meetings, have already protested against this frame-up. Telegrams continue to flood the state capital demanding the release of the young boys.

FACTS OF THE CASE

The facts of the case are reported in The Daily Worker, and are as follows:

The freight train carrying the boys from Illinois

Working Women Fighting Hard Against Wage Cuts, High Costs, Other Miseries

Greenville, S. C: Women Lead Unemployed Demands on City and State

"The Bread Trust shan't keep food from our hungry children!" "We unemployed won't starve, we'll force the City Councils and State Legislatures to give unemployment insurance and immediate relief!" "Strike against wage-cuts!" These are the rallying cries of working women and housewives in various parts of the country who are joining the fight against starvation and for a better life for themselves and their families.

Enthusied by the victorious outcome of recent breadstrikes in Chicago, and Detroit, where the cost of bread, "The staff of life," was reduced by two, three and four cents a pound, the United Councils of Housewives of New York City are busily preparing a similar fight on the outrageous prices of milk and bread. This is the forerunner of a great wave of struggles started by working mothers and wives all over the country against the

soon find out what organized action can accomplish.

Unemployed women are now coming more to the forefront in the fight of the Unemployed Councils for social insurance and immediate relief. In Cleveland, a Negro woman delegate from the Council told the mayor recently, "We'll not starve peacefully." In Greenville, South Carolina, where

irst will be to demand that they and their children be given relief so they do not starve.

STARVATION IN PITTSBURGH

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Thousands of children of unemployed workers have been cut off from the miserable pittance doled out to their parents by the charity agencies, when all charity "relief" was suddenly cut off.

"We found hundreds and thousands of undernourished children, many of them going to bed at night hungry and crying," a charity official admitted. "We have all found families without a mouthful of food."

And now even the little that was doled out is no more, and the extent of hunger and child misery is increasing in this city.

School teachers and principals in many schools here have contributed money from their own salaries to provide some food for the children, in an effort to hide the extent of hunger in the public and junior high schools.

CUT WAGES OF CHILD WORKERS

DENVER, Colo. — The big beet bosses have condemned hundreds of little children — beet workers (Continued on page 5)

Police made several raids upon this colony of about 50 men and five women residents. They burned and destroyed their shacks, telling them to move on. But as soon as they leave they are back again. The women were tipped off and were absent when they came, but at night moved back again.

"You know it would be much worse for us than men. They would say we are solicitors," said the women.

That is what the capitalist wage slave system done to the workers.

ANNE ALDEN.

nesday Willie old young worker got in an empty box self and was alone in til taken off by an ar Painted Rock, Alabama saw the girls, the whi the other defendants.

Clarence Norris an Weems, nineteen and spectivey, of Atlanta, flat car piled with cro as the freight was pul Chattanooga. They w

(Continued on p

the impoveri... only the equivalent of one cent a pound loaf for his wheat, the city worker must pay 8 to 10 cents a loaf. The bulk of the difference goes in profits to Ward's, and other large baking and milling interests. The middleman's profits in other essentials, such as milk and meat, run equally high. However, when workingclass housewives and neighborhoods organize to force the price of these means of life—when they declare rent strikes, picket food shops—they

white force the ma to take imm women were c unemployed's body, and this certain terms. Today, in Co 600 dressmakers, ters of coal mine. strike against a are carrying on vigor of the attempted sell-American Federation of officials. In New Brunswick in the Jerry Dress Shop New York City working and girls are showing the sa fighting spirit and solidarity that exhibited by the women tile workers of Lawrence, the Danbury, Conn., hatters, and the New York and Philadelphia needle trades workers. That working women and housewives are waking up to their real interests was well demonstrated on International Women's Day, March 8, which was marked by wide-spread and enthusiastic demonstrations in all large industrial centers and many smaller ones as well. There was a marked increase in the number of Negro women participating, whose conditions are the very worst. Reports reaching the Working Woman from various parts of the country indicate that the May First First demonstrations this year will see more women masses (Continued on page 2)



Went

Show Need for Social Insurance for Working Women to Be Greater Than Ever Before

May Day is the real labor day of the workers on which they demonstrate in protest against the misery and hardship imposed on them in all capitalist countries, but President Hoover has just designated it as Child Health Day. Hoover as spokesman of the capitalist class is not interested in the health of children. His declaration of Child Health Day is merely a hypocritical publicity stunt similar to his periodic declarations that unemployment is decreasing and that the crisis is about to end. Each year Child Health Day has been solemnly proclaimed but no real effort has been made to "conserve the health" of mothers and children. The capitalist administrations have done nothing

Nurseries For The Workers' Children Teach Patriotism

Conditions There Are Not Any Too Good For Kids

By ROSA LOPEZ

Hoover tells us, working class mothers, that May First is "Child Health Day," but we know it's on his blah-blah program to call the days of protest of the working class nice innocent names to hide from us our own starvation and misery. He only seeks to make of an International Day of struggle another Fool's Day.

We know well what the health of our children means to the boss class. They cannot hide their ideas about 'over-production' of wage slaves" as the bread lines grow from day to day.

When we are forced to leave our homes to seek work we take our babies to Hoover's nurseries and are compelled there to sign a statement that we will not make the institution responsible for an accident or injury which be suffered in the

to protect or improve the condition of the 10 million children in the U. S. who are admittedly undernourished, the more than a million child workers from 10-15 years old and the 15,000 mothers who die each year in childbirth because they do not get proper medical care.

ADMIT MISERY

The White House Conference called last February by the government admitted only a part of the story of the wretched condition of women and children under the present system but their facts were sufficient to make working women realize how empty is the talk of these exploiters about "conserving motherhood and childhood." What did they disclose? Deaths of mothers at child birth are greater in number than in any of the 25 largest nations of the world. Three fourths of these deaths might have been prevented if the mothers had had proper medical attention denied to the vast majority of working women. 80,000 infants died in 1929 before they had reached the age of one month and 85,600 died at birth. Thousands of undernourished mothers, tired from the speed-up harassed by unemployment, facing starvation and insecurity for which these capitalists are responsible are unable to give their children adequate care. Deaths of Negro women and children are 25 to 50 times higher than that of whites for Negro workers are bitterly exploited

Women Among the Victims of Frame-Up in Paterson

Try in Death of Bogegger - Boss of Workers

By ILLAN JOHNSON

Five Paterson silk workers, one of them a woman, have been indicted for first degree murder and are being held without bail in a seventy-five year old Paterson jail. What horrible crime did they commit that they should face the terrible penalty of death by electrocution? They committed no crime. But they are militant, and class conscious fighters, fighting against wage cuts, against speed-up, against starvation wages, and against a seventy and eighty hour week. This is their only "crime."

Three of these workers, Mrs. Helen Gershonowitz, Albert Katzebuck, and Benjamin Lieb, were picketing the shop of Max Urban in a strike which had been called by the National Textile Workers Union against a wage cut. They had been picketing quietly but effectively for weeks. All of them are well known working class leaders of Paterson.

On February 18 Urban leaped in his automobile, and after abuse at the pickets, bestrode Mrs. Gershonowitz, a victim of chronic heart "disease" from anemia and from two recent operations. Gershonowitz covered her hands. Katzebuck topped suddenly. Gershonowitz looked

They Will Fight against Threat of Starvation



A group of miners' wives and children out on the fields waiting for their men folk to bring home the meager pay to buy food for the house. In many mining communities conditions border on famine and the women and children are especially stricken by hunger, debility, and the lowered resistance to sickness.

More mining women are turning to the National Miners Union as their organization for struggle against these conditions. As on the picket lines in all strikes the miners' wives, daughters and mothers can be counted on to stick with the men workers in a fight against the misery the coal barons are forcing on them.

"Mothers Day" a Hypocrisy In Land of Hunger, Misery

By MARGARET NEAL

This month brings us "Mothers' Day." The boss press is writing columns of sentimental slush about the "sanctity of motherhood." The florists, the telegraph companies and the greeting card manufacturers will reap a harvest of hard, unsentimental dollars.

Yet this same

Mothers' Day, millions of working class parents, out of a job, watching their children grow thin and weak from lack of food. Deperate, at the end of their resources, they take their children from school to work long hours in factories and mills.

But America has taken. Last winter it started the children's bread lines, where children

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en a sentiment
erests of those
exploit.

a "Child Health
at celebrates the
working class
in the welfare in-
after day we hear
reats from the well
nat scribble our names
again and submit us to
third degree investiga-
ore they receive our chil-
ere.

we forget how we are red-
d and herded about when we
seek free treatment in the New
York hospitals? The working
class mothers must refuse to ce-
lebrate "Child Health Day" with
Hoover and his gang of exploiters
and come out and demonstrate
with the workers.

Only in the Soviet Union where
the working class rules, can the
proletarian mothers rejoice in the
welfare of their children!

Demonstrate on May First!

(Continued from page 1)

on the streets than ever before
fighting militantly for working
class demands. Women, through
their participation in hunger
marches and strikes, through the
work of their unions and unem-
ployed councils, the struggle
against high food costs have been
learning in these past months
many lessons in the importance of
organization and working class
solidarity. Above all, they are
learning that only by united strug-
gle with other members of their
class will they be able to keep the
wolf from their door, and improve
their lot.

**Working women, Down Tools!
Out into the streets on May 1st!
Bring other women from your shop
and neighborhood with you.**

**Demonstrate on May 1st for
immediate Unemployment relief
or the Unemployed and their fam-**

conserv
ate provides to Negroes
meager medical facilities provided
for white workers. 101 Negro
children die to every 50 white chil-
dren.

More than a half million children
from the ages of 10-14, are work-
ing in the U. S. in farm work, cot-
ton picking, berry picking, tobacco,
sugar beets, truck farming and in
industry, often from sunrise to sun-
set, exposed to dampness and cold
or extreme heat, their little bodies
cramped and wasted. Many thous-
ands of young boys and girls are
crippled by machinery in industry
before they are 18, because they are
permitted to work in dangerous oc-
cupations and their health and lives
are unprotected.

NO MATERNITY INSURANCE

Let us take a look at the record
of Mr. Hoover and the capitalist
class in saving the health and life
of children. They have persistent-
ly refused unemployment relief in
the face of the present mass star-
vation involving millions of work-
ing-class children. They permit us
to starve or beat us up and jail us
if we demand relief. No maternity
insurance is given to mothers in
any state to provide wages lost
while absent from work in order
to get the proper care and nour-
ishment before, during and after
childbirth. The few crumbs given
by the federal government to states
for maternity care was with-

(Continued on page 5)

**ilies: Against wage-cuts, starva-
tion, evictions!**

**Down with the Lynch terror of
the bosses! Demand the imme-
diate release of the nine Negro
Youths, framed at Scottsboro!**

**Demonstrate against the Impe-
rialist war preparations of the
U. S. government.**

Defend the Soviet Union!

**SUBSCRIBE
to the
WORKING WOMEN**

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in jail. But
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Mrs. G
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bosses. She
to die. Sh
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REST WORKERS

atzebuck and Mrs. Ger-
were arrested immedi-
charged with felonious
The next day, as an af-
t, Bart and Harris were
even though they were
near the picket line. Why
arrested? For the same
at the five of them are
without bail, charged in
e murder. Bart was
e of the leaders of the
e. Harris was also
among the militant
Paterson.

few weeks Urban died
is the newspapers said.
ilk workers were rout-
ed at three o'clock in
ig like so many crimi-
arged with his murder.

The po
e have not been search-
e real criminals. Urban,
egger with a police re-
many underworld ene-
t the police won't look
encies, for they them-
too closely connected
underworld.

OF TWO CHILDREN FRAMED

These five working class
s. Gershonowitz, is the
two children. She is
thin, careworn, sickly, and worries
about her two children constantly
ntolerably long days
at she spends in the
is not complaining.
class struggle. She
thing is too low, too
wardly for the bosses
en they want to get
tant worker.

Mrs. G
honowitz is carrying
ion of those splendid
s who have always
part in the strug-
the ruthless textile
must not be allowed
and the four silk
with her, are victims
alist class frame-up,
llowed to go to the
because an ex-boot-
acked by his under-

hood a bitter burden to the vast
majority of its women, the wom-
en workers.

This rich country lays aside, not
one cent of its wealth for mater-
nity insurance. The last session
of Congress closed without pass-
ing the Jones bill, which would
have revived the work for mater-
nity and infancy discontinued by
the Children's Bureau in 1929.
Even this extremely inadequate
provision, with all the nasty fea-
tures of charity measures for what
working women should have as a
universal right, was turned down
because it would take a few dol-
lars from the pockets of the mil-
lionaires.

Rich America forces the work-
in class mother to go through her
child birth without offering a
penny of support. The boss with-
draws her meager wages at the
very time she needs them most.
It does not inquire, and it does
not care whether she has other
means of support.

Now and then the boss is a
little "kinder." If a working wo-
man can keep up with the ter-
rific speed of the machine, she
can stay at her work sometimes to
the very hour of child birth. She
can even take a little time off to
give birth to her child in the fac-
tory wash room.

20,000 Mothers Die Yearly

Almost twenty thousand moth-
ers die every year in the United
States. That this loss is for the
most part in the working class
sections goes without saying. The
rate of infant deaths is about 5
times as high for the working class
babies as for the children of the
rich. The babies of Negro women
are condemned to die eight to ten
times as fast as the white babies.

The boss class of America wants
plenty of cheap labor for its fac-
tories and plenty of cannon fodder
for its wars. So it forbids the
working women to receive infor-
mation on how to limit her fam-
ily. Not all women — for the rich
women can get this information
easily from the "high class" doc-
tors. This is a class law — like
all capitalist laws.

Bosses' America does not care
whether, after giving birth to her
children, the working woman can
support them or not. This very

sider the ten million undernour-
ished children. The conference
"considered" — and disbanded.

"A worker has got no right to
have kids these days," say work-
ers on breadlines and job lines on
Mothers' Day, 1931.

* * *

Soviet Russia has no use for
hypocritical sentiment, and has no
need for boosting business, so it
has no "Mothers' Day." But Work-
ers' Russia has made the welfare
of mother and child one of its
first concerns.

A working woman in Soviet Rus-
sia who becomes pregnant reports
to her factory committee, and is
assigned to a mother and child
clinic for free pre-natal care. Two
months before the birth of her
child she quits the factory, not to
return for four months. During
these months she continues to re-
ceive her pay in full. The hospi-
tal in which she gives birth to
her child gives her its services
free. When she returns to work,
her child is cared for in a sunny
creche at the expense of the fac-
tory. Summer rest homes have
nurseries so that the mother need
not miss her annual two weeks'
vacation. For all these services
the worker pays nothing out of her
wages; these services are at the
expense of the state and the fac-
tory. The maternity services, like
all other social services in Work-
ers' Russia, are received not as
degrading, humiliating charity, but
as a working class right.

With the extension of state and
collective farming, these benefits
are brought also to the millions
of Russian peasant women.
A Russian woman receives in-
formation freely about her health
and family limitation. Yet the net
increase of population in Russia is
three and one-half millions annu-
ally, greater than in any Western
capitalist country. For Russian
women know that neither they nor
their children will ever stand in
bread lines or job lines.

Workers' Russia has no croco-
dile tears to shed over the "san-
ctity of motherhood." But with the
power in their hands, the Russian
workers have built a country
where working and peasant women
are glad and proud to bear and
rear their children.

Organize Grievance Committees in your shop. The Working Woman will help you. Write to us of your problems.

SHOP NEWS FROM WORKING WOMEN

Pass this paper to your shop mate after you finish reading it. Get new subscribers.

Seattle Jobless Girls Forced to Seek Shelter, Food in City Prisons

Many Girls Forced Into Prostitution and Then Into Jail

Seattle, Wash.

Working Woman:

In Seattle, working women and girls are so "prosperous" that they go to jail to get aid! I was one of the three women who were arrested during the demonstration on February 25, which the police broke up, when 18 men were also arrested. In the cell in which I was put was a young girl who had come there of her own accord because she was sick and broke and out of work and said that she felt that she at least had the right to go to jail for help. And in the jail she stayed, unable to eat the rotten food, the jailers not even putting her in the hospital which is on the floor below the jail!

The majority of the girls in jail were "ordinary prostitutes," girls who were forced on the streets by their inability to make a living also influenced by capitalist movies and press, which glorify a life of luxury, and show women as dolls as playthings. Some are young girls who if given a job and a chance to work and help, themselves would be able to escape the fate of the older ones, so hardened by the life they have been forced into, so corrupted by disease, that there is little hope for them. But instead of help and repairing if possible some of the damages that the capitalist system of breaking

up families, poverty, and unemployment has done, they are constantly being hounded by the police who try to get graft from them.

Every day, and they said usually about three times on Sunday, the girls have to listen to various religious fakers—Salvation Army, Unity, all varieties come there to tell the girls that Jesus is with them even behind the bars—but not a word about where to get a job to support themselves. This is what the capitalist "respect and care for women" means—first, the fake charity organizations, then jails for the militant ones or for the hungry and sick ones—and always plenty of religious dope to keep them thinking as long as possible that they will be served at the big pie counter in heaven but don't expect decent conditions on earth.

A Seattle Woman Worker

Paper Box Girls Get Low Wages; Work Is Hard

NEW YORK.—The paper box factory in which I am employed was at one time affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, but later on the majority of the workers broke away from this fake union and signed up with the Trade Union Unity League. The numerous betrayals and the sell outs of the American Federation of Labor were sufficient enough to clarify the workers on why they should leave the A. F. of L. The conditions in this factory, though not maintaining exact union demands, are certainly good, especially compared to the conditions of the workers employed in other factories and in this period of depression.

In this factory the girls when they first come in receive the wages of fifteen dollars, but in five months start getting the sum of twenty dollars. Naturally the work is hard, but we are not as speeded up as other girls in paper bag factories where they are not organized.

Then men start with twenty-five dollars and then are raised. The sentiment of the workers as far as the union is concerned is good. That is, they participate in all union activities.

We are making every attempt to get the few workers still in the American Federation of Labor into the Trade Union Unity League, which is the only revolutionary fighting union

Woman Domestic Worker Given Garbage to Eat; Got Only \$20 a Month

Work Hard All Around—Clean, Scrub and Wash for Family of Eight

(By A Worker Correspondent)

OAKLAND, CAL.—Widowed, with a child to support, twice evicted, finally got a job as a domestic servant in one of Oakland's rich households.

I was offered \$40 per month working there by days. But when the boss found out I had to support a child, she asked me whether I wouldn't rather get \$20 per month and meals for myself and child. Naturally I readily agreed, knowing I could not buy food for two for \$20 per month, especially the kind of food I expected to get there.

The work was very hard. House had 18 rooms. Had to clean, scrub, wash and iron for a family of 8.

Poor Wages

The cooking was done by the boss herself and her daughter. I had to wash the dishes and clear away after meals. Meal time over, I was told, that this and this and that should be put in the ice-box. Scraps of food, parts of broken cake, cut slices of bread and left over food on individual dishes, the left over bits of vegetables not worth saving or things easily spoiled, she told me to dish out in the tins and take them home for myself and child. I was amazed, but thought she expects company and needs extra food. But each day was the same, the scraps were

given to me. We must organize a Domestic Workers Union, affiliated with the Trade Union Unity League.



Clarence Chang

Penna. Shirt Girls

SPEED UP WOMEN

Where the Big Cannery Bosses

PINACH TOILERS IN SANTA CLARA

Women Get Nervous Headaches in the Hot Sun

Santa Clara, Cal.

Working Woman:

The spinach season of three weeks is just being completed at the canneries. We workers find the bosses, or to be specific, the owner of the Pratt Low Preserving Company, in Santa Clara, appears to be very gleeful, and gloating over the large army of unemployed. He walks up and down watching everyone and devising new ways to make more profits. He gives orders to his foreman, Mr. Herman, on how to get more production. All day long it goes on like this: "Hay, you women are going hay-wire! Cut those stems shorter. Keep out all yellow leaves! Mary, go get your time. None of that work. These boxes are too light. All one pound under weight."

We have no scales to find out whether we are being made to fill our boxes over the required weight. Extra poor spinach is kept for the overtime, as time and a quarter is required to be paid. Women earn from \$1.50 to three dollars a day, or sixteen dollars a week. We work ten and eleven hours, standing all day long.

Women workers need the nurse. They are often cut in hurrying to make a little more. The nurse says that on hot days over one hundred workers come to get aspirin tablets to quiet severe nervous headaches.

Many complain about the conditions. Others say, what's the use? Hundreds come every morning to look for work. If a working mother arrives ten minutes late she finds her place taken.

We must organize or we will be further driven down. Onward and upward in the class struggle and never say fail. Form a strong militant Agricultural Workers Union



Scene in a Hawaiian cannery where thousands of young girls are speeded up under the most "modern" conditions. The wages of the workers are low and barely enough to keep body and soul together, while the hours are long.

In contrast to the lot of the girl workers is the heavy profits of these pineapple canning bosses receive out of the toil and sweat of these women workers.

LOT OF WOMEN COTTON PICKERS HARD

SEVEN WEEKS OF WORK, LITTLE FOOD, AND BAD CONDITIONS

Oakland, Cal.

WORKING WOMEN!

I was "lucky" being a woman, or I would have had to walk the four hundred miles between Oakland and Buttonwood, Cal. I had to leave the city for the cotton plantation to look for work, as I had to live. Going to Bakersfield was tough enough, not knowing how to grab a freight. The first one went too fast, the second threw me clean across the track and made me dizzy for a while, but another was coming in an hour and a half and I had a chance to practice by grabbing fences. I got the third and got half way down when I got chased off. Finished the trip bumping rides on the highway.

Picking cotton close to seven weeks, I did not make enough to eat from day to day. I got diarrhea nearly every day at supper time by eating bad food and in drinking polluted water. It sure

cramps a person almost to death, but going without sleep gave me a chance to save a few dollars. With the ten dollars I could not pay for a ticket back to Oakland, I had to hike all the way.

The highway is full of unemployed workers looking for a ride. Some have their backs and others are old. No one offers them a ride, making it impossible for a woman to pick up a ride, reaching Stockton seven o'clock. It was raining. Paid 75 cents for a bed, froze all night, and had a bad headache.

It was still raining to walk a long way. Plenty of cars offered to pick me up, but I had to walk very fast to keep from freezing to death.

on ps. Dipping in to buy food on a \$20 was out of question as rent and clothes had to be considered.

What was my other amazement, when out of my two weeks pay she held out \$3.50 for a pair of cast off shoes that she gave me the first week I was there. She said, as I didn't stay there, she could not afford to give them and had to charge me for them.

Need to Organize

Well, such is a life of a domestic servant in the sunny state. Unorganized we are unable to fight. I am still looking for work and starving. There is no work. The rich take the advantage of the unemployment situation and offer what they please for service formerly done by several workers. We should organize into stronger Unemployed Councils—men and women together and fight for immediate relief and for better condi-

truck driver picked me up and gave me his coat, cap and gloves. After riding three hours in the cold I could not walk and I was pretty sick, so he took me home. A worker always willing to help a worker. I was not the only woman hiking. There were many more like me. Some have children with them.

I am back on the bread lines in Oakland after seven weeks in the cotton fields. I left without a cent, starving. I came back the same way — starving. Eked out a mere existence.

The workers in the fields are ready for organization and are waiting for our union to start. Spontaneous strikes occur here often. The miserable conditions caused the strike in Imperial Valley last summer. On with the organization of the Agricultural Workers Industrial Union!

—COTTON PICKER.

MARY ANN

Foreladies Are Now To the Girls and Speed Them up

Caine, Pa.

Working Woman:

Most of the workers here are unemployed. The town has a population of about 6,500. Most of the factories are shut down.

In one shirt factory one worker said that his wife and sister are both working there on an average of nine and ten hours a day. One received for two weeks an average of nine dollars, and the other got seven dollars.

Two hundred girls and forty-five men are employed in this factory. A manufacturer from New York moved here after a strike in New York.

The Manhattan Shirt Company in Paterson, New Jersey, employed two thousand workers not so long ago. Two-thirds of them are women. Men are employed as cutters and ironers. Now there are twelve hundred workers.

Last July they started to cut the wages. Before the wage cut the girls on the machines were making from \$15 to \$25 a week, examiners were getting eight dollars to ten dollars.

In February wages were cut in half without any notice. The bonus of fifty cents on every dollar was withdrawn.

The forewomen are very mean. One named Agnes looks at every stitch with a magnifying glass. Girls are fired when there is a piece of thread on a shirt.

In one section there were no shirts, so the girls were given the men's underwear to sew on and they made fifty cents for a full day's work.

The girls are all excited and are talking about doing something. We wish the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union would come here and organize us.

—Woman Slave.

SUBSCRIBE

for the
WORKING WOMAN

MARYA the BOLSHEVIK

By ALEXANDER NEVEROV

A Story of the Early Period of the Russian Revolution

WE knew many like that. She was tall, full-breasted, her eyebrows lifted like two arches—black. And her husband — as big as a thimble. Goat, we used to call him. You could hide him in a hat. And angry — good Lord preserve us! He'd start a battle with Marya, and bang on the table like a blacksmith on an anvil.

"I will kill you. I will rip your soul out!"

But Marya was a sly one. She'd begin to make much of him just for the fun of it, as if she were frightened.

"Prokofi Mitrich! Prokofi Mitrich! What is it?"

"I will cut your head off!"

"I've just cooked some porridge. You want some?"

She'd fill a plate for him to the very brim, and cover it with melted butter, and make butter stars. And she'd stand there bowing to him and feed him as if they were newlyweds.

"Eat, Prokofi Mitrich. I wronged you."

He would like it — the woman was good to him, so he'd turn up his nose, and feel important.

"I don't want it."

And Marya like a serving maid near him — now a glass of water, now a pipe of tobacco. And when he'd undress in the middle of the room — she'd put his best shoes in their place — hide his socks behind the stove. And at night she'd rest him on her arm, stroke his hair, and purr in his ear like a cat. . . . The Goat would pinch her — she'd only smile.

"Now, now, Prokofi Mitrich! It hurts. . . ."

And suppose it does hurt. . . . It won't kill you."

And he'd pinch her again — he was her husband, not a stranger to her. And as soon as he was satisfied, she'd begin with him.

"Ah, you Goat. Let me only swing twice — and that would be the end of you. . . . You think I am made of wood? You think it does not!"

"This business. You never gave birth."

"What do you think I am, a woman?"

"Well, I'm not a cow to give you calves every year. When I get good and ready — I may."

The Goat got up on his hind legs. "I will tear your head off, if you dare to say such things."

But Marya insisted on her own. "I," she says, "have become barren."

"What's that?"

"If you try to force me — I'll leave you."

She drove the Goat to desperation. He used to joke on the street — go visiting, but now — nowhere.

He'd climb up on the cover and lie there like a widower. If he should beat her, she might go away. And that was not all. She'd drag him to court, and the Bolshevik would certainly put him in the jug. That was their style — to let the women have their way. He gave her her freedom — but he was ashamed of what people would say: that he had no character, that he was frightened. He went to a fortune teller twice — even that didn't help. Marya began to drag newspapers and books home from the Union Club. She'd spread them on the table, and sit there reading as if she were a teacher, moving her lips. She stayed home. Sometimes he'd even laugh at her.

"You're holding your book upside down. Some reader!"

Marya wouldn't pay any attention — and books and papers, as everybody knows, make a different person of him who reads them. Marya reached that point too. She would stand at the window and look out. "I'm lonely," she'd say.

"What do you want?" the Goat would ask her.

"I want something — something. . . ."

The Goat would control himself — only he couldn't control himself any longer.

"I'll lace it into you, the devil as to your head. Something! What are you dreaming of?"

with him," she said, "the last four months." He took her hands.

"Impossible, I will never believe it." And he looked into her eyes and pressed closer to her. He embraced her waist and held her. "I," he said, "sympathize with you."

The Goat heard all this under the bed, and began to feel bad. He wanted to take an axe and finish both of them — but he was afraid. He stuck his head out from under the coverlet and looked at them, and they started to laugh at him. "We knew all the time that you were under the bed."

"Yes."

She wrote her name on the paper and then again, like an office manager:

"Are the lists ready? Finish them quickly!"

We didn't believe our eyes. This was our Marya! And she didn't even blush once. And she started to call all of us comrades. Old man Klemov came to her once, and she to him:

"What," she says, "do you wish Comrade?" And he couldn't bear the work. It would have been better to step on his corn. "Although,"

she was too much of a Bolshevik, and the other women had also started imitating her — one would balk, another would balk, two of them left their husbands altogether.

We thought we'd never get rid of her, but a little thing happened — the Cossacks came down on the village.

Marya got into a wagon with the Bolsheviks and left us. Where she went — I never found out. They say somebody saw her in another village, but maybe it wasn't so — maybe it was another one who looked like her. There are a lot of them around nowadays.

MAY DAY IS COMING!

THE HISTORY OF MAY DAY, by Alexander Trachtenberg. International Pamphlets, No. 14, 799 Broadway, New York. Ten cents.

Just forty-five years ago — on May First, 1886 — workers laid down their tools and struck for an eight hour day. This was the first May Day strike and it happened right here in the United States.

Three years later May Day was proclaimed an international day of struggle. Year by year larger numbers of workers in more parts of the world have joined in the protest, until it has become a mighty roar of denunciation of the capitalist system. May First is a mile post which marks the way to final victory of the workers.

May Day, 1931, finds ten million unemployed in the United States alone. Hunger is a grim spectre haunting every worker's doorway. Those who have jobs must work faster and faster to retain them. Jail stares in the face of every worker courageous enough to lead other workers against the cause of this mass misery — capitalism.

In his pamphlet, "The History of May Day," Comrade Trachtenberg tells the story from its beginning. He shows us the part

Soviet Working Women Part of State Power



The working class is the ruling class in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics. And working women are part of the great state power of the proletariat and the peasantry.

The above photo is one of the scenes at a national women's conference at which the fundamental women's problems were thoroughly discussed and decisions reached. Krupskaya, Lenin's widow, may be seen in the center surrounded by many women delegates from all parts of the Soviet Union.

The male comrade is Lunacharsky, former People's Commissar for Education.

The time came to re-elect the Soviet. The women came flying as to a

We were all making

ing, when all of a

ha-

says he, "you are a District Member, I am no comrade of yours." But do you think it rattled her? She only laughed. After another month she began to wear a pointed hat, a muzhik's blouse, and pinned

... mostly within
her. When the Bolsheviks
came. Freedom, when they be-
gan all women that they were
equal to the muzhiks now, Marya
also opened her eyes. Just let an
orator come — she'd run to the
meeting. As if she had lost all
shame. She came to the orator one
time and started making eyes at
him like a girl. "Come," she said,
Comrade Orator, and drink tea in
our house." The Goat was there,
of course — on the spot — his
face changed. His eyes grew dark,
his nostrils expanded. Well, we
thought that he'd start at her right
at the meeting. But he bore up
under it somehow. He sidled up to
her and said:

"Come on home."

And she, to spite him, perhaps,
got up in front of us, and began
a speech:

"Comrades and peasants!"

We just rolled with laughter.
And here the Goat lost his temper
too.

"Comrade Orator, give her hell."

At home he threw himself at her
with his fists.

"I will rip your soul out."

And Marya teased him:

"Who's making all this noise
here, Prokofi Mitrich? It's a bother,
but nobody is afraid."

"I will cut your skirt short if
you go to the meetings."

"You couldn't do it."

The Goat got excited, started to
look for something to hit her with
— and Marya, threateningly:

"Just touch me. I will break all
the pots on your goat's head!"

This was the beginning. The Goat
would show his power — Marya
hers. The Goat would lie down on
the bed, Marya — on the oven. The
Goat would go to her, she — from
him.

"No, darling, things aren't what
they used to be. Fast awhile."

"Come to me."

"I will not."

The Goat would jump about the
bed, and go to sleep under a cold
blanket, and when the affair had
reached that stage, people began to
laugh. She stopped giving birth to
children. She had borne two —
and buried them. The Goat was
waiting for a third, but Marya
struck. "I'm sick of this business."

"What business?"

to butt into the muzhik's bus-
ness. We would have a meeting —
always be there. The muzhik be-
gan to get angry.

"Marya, go cook the cabbage."
What cabbage? She'd only roll
her eyes. And then she invented
a Woman's Department. We never
even heard of a word like that —
it didn't sound Russian. We look-
ed, one woman came to her, an-
other came, and — what the devil!
They opened study courses in the
Goat's home. They'd meet togeth-
er and begin to talk, to talk. The
Commissar from the Soviet also
began to come to them. He was
our own man from the village, we
used to call him Vaska Shlyapunch,
but when he joined the Bolsheviks
he became Vassili Ivanich. And the
Goat had to keep still. He only
had to say one word, and ten voices
would come in answer.

"Hey, hey, keep still."

The Commissar, of course, help-
ed the women — that was his pro-
gram. "At present," he would say,
"Prokofi Mitrich, you cannot get at
women — the Revolution." And
the Goat would smile like a fool
in answer. In his heart he was
ready to tear all this Revolution
in two — but he was afraid. There
might be unpleasantness. And
Marya was going on and on. "I,"
she said, "want to join the Bolshe-
vik Party." The Goat tried to
shame her out of it. "Aren't you
ashamed of yourself? Where is
your conscience? Remember, God
will not forgive you the way you
misbehave yourself."

But Marya would only giggle.
"God? What God? When did
you invent him?"

She became altogether crazy. She
lost almost all shame before the
Commissar. He would bring her
Bolshevik books, mix up the
thoughts in her head, and she would
only blush with pleasure. Once they
sat at the table — they thought
that they were alone. But the Goat
was under the bed. Jealousy had
begun to torture him. He let the
coverlet down to the floor and
sat like a woodchuck in his hole.
And the Commissar says:

"Your husband is so insignifi-
cant looking, Comrade Grishagina.
I cannot understand how you live
with him."

Marya laughed. "I haven't lived

... said just for the fun
of it:

"All right."
We thought it was a joke — but
before we looked around it became
serious. The women began to peck
at the husbands like crows. Wid-
ows — soldiers' wives — a cloud
of them. What's more, our people
didn't like to hold office, especial-
ly at that time — so they agreed.
Marya. All right, let it be Mar-
ya. Let her burn her fingers.

We began to count Marya's votes
— two hundred and fifteen.

Commissar Vassili Ivanich made
a speech of congratulation. "Well,"
says he, Marya Grishagina, you
are the first woman in the Soviet
of Peasants' Deputies. I," says he,
"congratulate you upon your new
office in the name of the Soviet
Republic, and hope that you will
uphold the interests of the working
proletariat."

Marya's eyes became big, the
blushes covered her cheeks. But
she stood here without a smile.
"I," she says, "will serve you, com-
rades. Do not blame me if I fail —
help me."

The Goat began to feel terribly
bad. He didn't know whether they
were laughing at him or paying
him honor. He came home and he
started to drink: "How am I to
speak to you now? She belongs
to the Government." We also felt
strange. We had a play going on
before our eyes? A woman —
and suddenly the District Soviet
— to run business. . . .

We began to quarrel amongst our-
selves: "Foolishness; we were, what
right had we put a woman into
such an office?"

Grandfather Zarov told Marya
straight to her face:

"Marya, you walked in at the
wrong gates."

But she only shook her head.
"You elected me. I didn't go my-
self."

Later we came to the Soviet to
take a look at her. We didn't
recognize her. She put a table
there, a red one — a sec-
retary's table, a blue one — a
retary's table, a red one — a sec-
retary's table. She put a table
in front of her with a sec-
retary's table. "This,"
said she, "is the food ques-
tion, Comrade."

... a red star to the hat. The Goat
tormented himself, tormented him-
self and began to ask her for a
divorce. "Free me," says he, "free
me from this kind of life. I," says
he, "cannot bear it any longer. I
will look for another woman," says
he, "one I can beat." Marya only
waved her hand. "All right," says
she, "I agreed long ago."

She worked five months among
us — and we got tired of her —

played by the early American mi-
litants.

And on May Day, 1931, work-
ers by thousands will be throng-
ing the streets, demanding better
conditions. They will want to
know what workers in other years
and in other lands have gained on
May First. This ten cent pamph-
let will tell them the story.

—R. S.

IT IS SPRING IN 16 to 18 Hours Work in

By EMMA BLACK

It is hot, terribly hot in Imperial
Valley. In the Spring and Sum-
mer it is not unusual for the ther-
mometer to run up to 120 degrees
and more. In some spots of the
Valley there are beautiful shady
resorts which are supplied with
long, cool drinks from across the
border. Here you find the few who
own the vast stretches of fertile
land on which are produced huge
crops of lettuce, watermelons, can-
taloupes, tomatoes and some minor
crops. As far as the eye can see
and further, there is a broad, flat
vista of productive fields traced
with lines of irrigation ditches in
which muddy water flows slug-
gishly.

And bending over, with sacks on
their backs, are thousands of
Mexican, Negro, Hindu, Filipino
workers, men and women, working
in these fields, sweating in the
scorching sun for sixteen eighteen
and more hours a day. They are
hot and thirsty but there is no
ice in their drinks—they stoop over
and scoop up a handful of the
dirty water from the irrigation
ditch. Long after sundown, after
working these long hours, some
haven't the energy to go to their
shacks and often fall asleep for
an hour or so right in the tracks
where they work.

After the crops are picked they
are sent to the trimming and pack-
ing sheds where highly skilled
workers trim and pack them on
ice at an amazing speed. Here
too, the grim story of long hours
and low pay is repeated.

During January and February
the lettuce crop must be picked
and picked rapidly otherwise it
very quickly rots in the scorching
sun. It is brought from the fields
to the packing sheds where girls
are employed at 35c an hour to
trim the heads of lettuce. This
is a skilled job as well as a heavy
and dirty one. The crates of let-
tuce are brought to the trimming
table in tall stacks and the two
girls working on either side of
the table must lug the heavy crate
down to the table, quickly pick up
their sharp, curved knives and
defly cut off a certain amount of
the leaves and stem of one head
after the other. The knife often
slips while the girls are handling
the muddy, wet heads and the first
aid table at the other end of the
shed is kept quite busy. When this
happens the girl trembles more
from the scolding given her by the
foreman and the fear of losing her
job than from the actual pain of
the cut which in itself is bad
enough. There are no rest periods
during the fourteen-sixteen hour
workday and to make matters
worse, the girls are not permitted
to sit down while working.

Last year, about this time, some
attempts were made by our Party
and the Trade Union Unity League
to help these workers organize in-
to the Agricultural Workers In-
dustrial League, to fight against
these rotten conditions and against
the Mexican Mutual Aid Associa-
tion, the fake labor organization
in the Valley. Because the work-
ers were responding to this call

A STORY of MAY DAY

"It was 25,000 on Sunday, an' it'll be bigger still today."

Young Lucy Parsons stood at the door as her husband started out for the strike meeting. It was May First, 1886, and every worker in Chicago was wondering how many would come out that day in the great strike for the eight-hour day. A monster demonstration of 25,000 on the Sunday before had promised well for the May First strike.

"McCormick and his police — they're in an ugly mood, but they can't stop us," Albert Parsons answered as he swung off down the street.

Lucy was coming later to join him at another meeting, for she was no sheltered housewife, but a fighter like her husband. She was an organizer of the unemployed, who were called "tramps" in those bitter years of cold and of hunger, when the soup kitchens never had enough for the long lines of jobless workers. And Lucy Parsons wrote articles "dedicated to tramps" for the workers' paper, "The Alarm."

More than forty thousand workers came out on strike that day — needle trades workers, lumber workers, metal workers, and men from the railroad shops of the big Pullman company. Workers from the McCormick Harvester Works were out almost to a man. By May 3 it was a mass strike of over 80,000 men, women and youth.

Cops Shoot to Kill

But Cyrus McCormick was in an ugly mood, as Albert Parsons had said. McCormick was getting rich as quickly as possible and allowed nothing to interfere with his profits. When strikers gathered for a meeting near his plant, a riot call was turned in and the police charged down upon the unarmed workers, shooting into their midst and clubbing right and left. Four workers were killed and many wounded.

Lucy and Albert Parsons escaped unhurt that day, but they and their comrades in the Central Labor Union were burning with indignation over the action of the boss class. Quickly they organized a protest meeting for the next evening, May 4, at 7:30 p. m. on Haymarket Square.

Parsons was a speaker at that

jailed the next day; he had his chance to escape. However, since comrades and fellow workers, no more guilty than he of any bomb-throwing, were held for the murder of the sergeant, Albert Parsons came forward during the trial and gave himself up for arrest.

Lucy Parsons fought for their freedom during long, bitter months of struggle. She wrote leaflets, helped to organize demonstrations and kept on with her work for the Central Labor Union. But the workers' movement was not yet strong enough to force their freedom and on November 11, 1867, her husband, Albert Parsons, and three other leaders of the left wing movement were put to death by hanging.

Haymarket was the beginning of May Day in the United States. By 1890 May First was established as the international working class holiday to be celebrated every year in every country in the world.

And Lucy Parsons? She has remained loyal to the working class through all the long years that followed Albert's death. She has never sought personal gain or middle-class comforts. She has lived and fought as a worker, speaking for the International Labor Defense, for all working class prisoners. And each May Day, since that day in Chicago forty-five years ago, she has demonstrated in solidarity with the international working class movement.

Youth in Industry

Youth in Industry, an international pamphlet, by Grace Hutchins, ten cents.

Why, out of the forty-five million children in the United States, are six million improperly nourished and one million sufferers from weak and damaged hearts?

Why are nearly a million and a half children between seven and fourteen not in school at all; and of every one thousand who enter first grade, why do only twenty-five per cent graduate from high school?

These questions and others are answered in Grace Hutchins' pamphlet, "Youth in Industry," published by the International

Youth

Discriminate Against Negro Girls

BOSTON, Mass.—Two outstanding cases of Negro discrimination in the schools took place last week. The Negro girls in the Boston girls' High School were recently sold tickets to the senior class prom. Later they were notified to return the tickets because they would not be allowed to attend the dance. The Negro girls so far have refused to comply with this rank chauvinist order. They plan to demand entrance to the prom and if refused admission to stage a demonstration outside the hall.

In the same city, 80 Negro girls of the graduating class of Roxbury Memorial High School were called into the office of a school official and told to stay out of white colleges in the North. They were told not to enter Boston Teachers' College but to go to a southern school such as Fiske University. They were also advised to study nursing or some other manual trade. On top of it all, the girls were insulted by being told that they were mentally not on a par with white students. This is a contemptible lie as the record of marks shows.

Militarizing The Working Youth

NEW YORK.—Taking advantage of the unemployment situation, the War Department is broadening the scope of its activity. It has allotted \$300,750 to the Second Corps Area for Citizens Military Training Camp purposes. This area includes New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Porto Rico.

The only other area receive a larger appropriation was the one with headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. The War Department gave this unusual amount because Nebraska is an agricultural district. The drought and depression has left thousands of young farmers without jobs. The lure of free bootleg liquor is counted against the movement to get out of work for them.

YOUR GAS BILL

The gas bill will arrive any day now. Have you got money to pay it? No? Then prepare to have the gas shut off. Yes, you have. How did you get it? By saving on something else which you need very badly, isn't that true? Of course it is. How can any working class family get the money for its gas bill except by saving on the milk bill, or by putting off buying that pair of shoes for the little boy.

But there is a little surprise accompanying the gas bill which is coming to the poor working class families of New York this month. The gas company is extremely interested in the health of the children of the workers. At least its gas bill gives that impression.

You see, the First of May is supposed to be "Child Health Day." Of course the Gas Company must do its bit to help along. But don't let me fool you. The Gas Company is not going to say:

"On this Child Health Day we realize that the children should get more milk. So instead of spending your money on gas bills, just buy more milk for Johnny, and forget about the bill!"

No, working class mother—no such sweet dreams for you. The Gas Company will do nothing for you which will deprive it of any hard cash. It will give you the cheapest thing in the world—advice.

This is what the Gas Company is going to do for you on this May Day. On your bill will be a little notice which urges every mother as part of the "Child Health" Day campaign, to have her children examined by physicians between the period of babyhood and the time for entering school! Isn't that nice of the Gas Company? Of course it doesn't offer to wait for its payments several months so that you can pay the doctor bill instead!

And then there is another awfully nice thing the big hearted Gas Company has done for you, and you certainly should be grateful. They have prepared some nice lists of what the children should eat to be real healthy. This is what they say:

"Children require certain foods to aid in growth, health, and body maintenance, and here is a daily menu which will meet these requirements:

BREAKFAST
Baked Apples

And think of it—they have a different menu for every day!

So, working class mother, before you go off to the factory at seven in the morning, don't run in to the neighbors and ask her to heat up those boiled potatoes for Johnny at noon, but just give your maid instructions on how to prepare all these nice things which Johnny will enjoy so much! You know, President Hoover wants you to do all these things—so of course there must be something wrong with you if you don't do things just this way. He even made a speech about about it last November and told a lot of ladies and gentlemen, who are also interested in the health of your children, that there are six million improperly nourished children in the United States. But, he goes on to say: "The ill-nourished child is in our country not the product of poverty; it is largely the product of ill-instructed children and ignorant parents."

You see, working class mother, it is all your own fault. Why do you insist on giving Johnny only that thin soup every day, when he should be having beef loaf with tomato sauce? Don't you know any better than that?

But kidding aside. Let's get serious about this May Day Celebration. Let's forget about all those nice but impossible things for the moment, and see what we can really do on May Day.

The First of May has belonged to the workers as long as anyone can remember. On this day the workers go out on the streets in demonstrations. They say plainly what they need and what they want. And they also say plainly that they are going to get these things some day. They say that as soon as they are strong enough, they will simply take these things—they will get out of the slums and live in decent houses. They will give their children proper food. They will take the factories and pay themselves enough to live.

most meeting when police again charged the strikers. A bomb was thrown into the crowd and a police sergeant was killed. Police quickly opened fire and several were shot down, policemen and workers. "We shall all be arrested," Albert Parsons told his wife that night.

Fought for Freedom

But he was not among the seven

al Pamphlets, 799 Broadway, N. Y. City. This is No. 13 in the 10 cent series.

Over a million child workers, says Grace Hutchins, are reported in the government census. But, she adds, "the census not only fails to include seasonal workers in agriculture; it fails altogether to report on working children under ten years of age.

IMPERIAL VALLEY

a Hot and Scorching Sun

for organization, all the force of reaction, the American Legion, the MMAA, the Sheriff and the entire government apparatus there were mobilized to outlaw the Party and the TUUL and clamp as many of our comrades as they could into jail. It is for this that our eight comrades are now in San Quentin and Folsom jails serving 3-42 year sentences. It was a direct attack on our Party and the TUUL and an effort to smash the fighting spirit of the workers. But that cannot be done. Even now, in Sacramento Valley, Imperial Valley and the other agricultural fields of

California, the workers are expressing their discontent and willingness to organize. Many hundreds are now on strike against low wages and long hours and for the right to organize in the Agricultural Workers Industrial League, part of the TUUL. And the Party and the TUUL are in the field carrying on organization work despite the terror, despite long prison terms and deportations. And while we are doing this work, we must raise a mighty roar of protest against the imprisonment of our comrades in San Quentin and Folsom and organize against the attack on our Party.

Thousands of Workers' Children Are Starving; Can No Longer Be Hidden

(Continued from page 1)

to more hunger and privation, and to earlier death, when they recently cut the wages of the beet workers' families by twenty-five per cent.

The workers, including the children, now get eighteen dollars an acre, whereas last year they were receiving twenty-three dollars.

This means that the children will have less to eat, less clothing to wear, and in general, make them more susceptible to sickness and ailments.

Twenty-eight per cent of the children died before they reached eighteen.

MALNUTRITION IN MINING TOWNS

CENTRALIA, Pa. — The effect of unemployment without relief upon school children is seen in this mining town.

Fifty-six per cent of the children in public schools and seventy per cent of the children in the St. Ignatius school are at least ten pounds underweight.

The survey was made by a field organizer of the Red Cross. This compares with only ten cases of underweight two years ago at these schools.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The

in New York, ready enlisted for the military Training Camp number exceeds all precedents and is a good index of how deeply the youth is affected by unemployment.

murderous mockery of the government at the plight of the children can be seen when the actual figures compiled by the government itself, are taken at their face value. Of the 45,000,000 children in the United States, six million are improperly nourished. This number has risen tremendously during the crisis, and is steadily mounting. One million have weak or damaged hearts, and 382,000 are tubercular.

Working class mothers and the working women must save their children from starvation. There is need of greater struggle for immediate cash relief from the government by the workers organized in the Unemployed Councils. Women's Conference must take up the fight for Unemployment Insurance. Children in the schools must be organized to fight for free lunches and for support of their parents' fight for cash relief from the city. The more cases should be investigated and relief forced from charity agencies and big companies.

CHICAGO, Ill. — The terrible misery of starved school children is reaching such proportions that the bosses and school authorities can no longer hide it, as they have done in the past.

The Daily New Socialist paper, is forced to say a bit of the real situation:

"Children who come from the jobless and breadless homes, without money, whose pinched and pallid faces bring heart aches to the teachers whose listless irritation and nervous irritability make the teaching difficult and disturb their better fed school mates."

The little that was given for the free lunches in the schools was soon used up. And when the Governor Emmerson Commission refused to give any further of their measly "relief" even that was cut off.

the record of affected

government figures value on are

LUNCHEON
Spinach Souffle
Whole Wheat Bread Butter
Baked Custard with Maple Syrup
Hot Cocoa

DINNER
Beef Loaf Tomato Sauce
Baked Potato Buttered Carrots
Whole Wheat Bread
Butter and Milk
Royal Jelly

enough, and come in. Every woman, must join. We will never be until you join and get all your mates to join. So get started this year—join our May First Demonstrations! Year by year we will get stronger, and before you know it, we'll be able to give our children baked custard and maple syrup.

Need of Social Insurance for Women Workers

(Continued from page 2)

drawn in 1929; few states have adequate hospital facilities for working women. There is no federal child labor law to prevent child labor; no public nurseries and nursery schools to care for the children of working mothers. In fact nothing is being done for the working class by the capitalist government in a country where millions are being piled up by the bosses on the sweat and toil of the workers. While they make the gesture of concern over the health of the children they are gradually taking away the meagre charity relief from starving families. We workers have forced them to give during the present crisis. In Illinois, the governor's unemployment commission composed of well-fed bankers set aside \$4,000 a month for lunches for the thousands of school children of the unemployed. Only a few children received the lunches from this inadequate fund. Now the commission announces that even this small amount will be cut down so that by June 1st the children will get nothing. In Detroit the Department of Public Welfare allows 75c a week for food for each child of an unemployed family and admits that the families get far below the minimum needs as unemployed relief but the city administration plans to cut off 46,000 families from relief by May 1st. Do they care for the starving children?

WOMEN MUST ORGANIZE

The working women of the U.S. have the important task ahead of organizing their forces and fighting together with the men for so-

cial insurance against unemployment and for the protection of health and life of the working class. On May Day the struggle for social insurance must be given concrete expression. The Communist Party and the Trade Union Unity League, have drawn up a bill for social insurance which demands a weekly payment by the government from the fat incomes of the bosses and the government war funds and to be administered by the workers in case of unemployment, accident, sickness and old age, for the protection of women and children before, during and after childbirth, and for the care of children left without a breadwinner. Working women must rally to the fight for social insurance and wipe out the vicious system of private charity which the bosses prefer, to keep the workers in starvation.

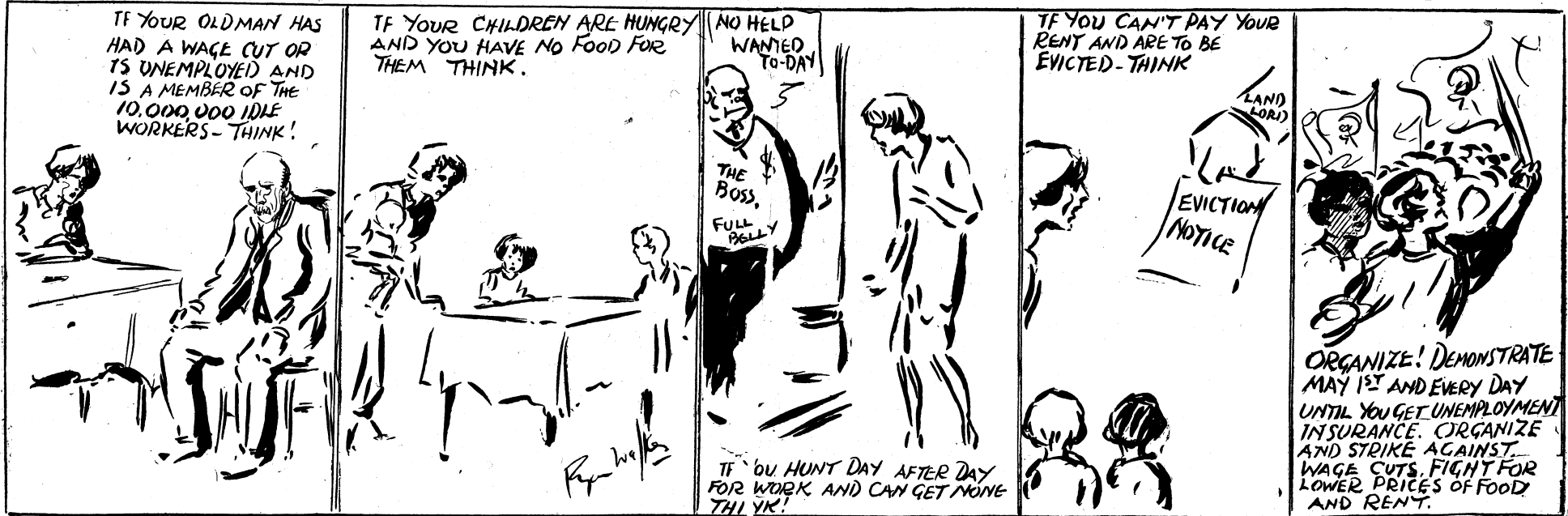
S. U. PROTECTS CHILDREN

Only under workers' rule as in the Soviet Union will a complete and adequate system of social insurance be provided for the workers. In the Soviet Union all the workers' needs are considered and provided for: Full pay for women workers two months before and after childbirth; factory nurseries under expert care where a mother is sure her children are properly cared for during working hours; clinics for health protection; vacations with pay, and rest homes for all the workers, and above all, security from starvation by unemployment insurance, and insurance against old age, sickness and accidents, paid by the industry.

WITH UNEMPLOYED WOMEN

Women Fight Starvation!

By Ryan Walker



Militant Jobless Woman In Los Angeles Jail Sees Conditions of the "Vags"

Young Mothers Jailed For Daring Take Food To Feed Their Children

(By A Worker Correspondent)

Los Angeles, Cal.

Several months ago I served 90 days in the L. A. County jail for "assault and battery" on an officer. The truth of it was I dared to show my solidarity with the unemployed workers at an unemployment demonstration on September 1st.

During the time I was in jail I came in contact with many girls—the majority of them between the ages of seventeen and twenty-one who were in for "Vag" or prostitution. The "aristocrats" of the jail were the forgers—who were made into "trustees"—meaning that they had better place to sleep—sheets on food—more privacy—never looked up in

7,500 Oakland, Cal.

Are Jobs

Worker's Wife Active In Van Dyke, Mich. Unemployed Council

Dear Comrades:

I am the mother of three children; came to Van Dyke, Mich. three years ago; was very lonesome and not acquainted until I joined the Unemployed Council. Now I am very happy and have many friends. My husband and I never miss a meeting and we certainly do enjoy them. Now we have the working women's council in our community of which I am financial secretary. I certainly do love my work, and when I think of what I am working for, I feel very much pleased. I am writing this for the Working Woman, if any of you come get busy and join our councils and fight along with our husbands as I do, and you will feel like a different person. What good is just working if it is just a big

THE MAIL BOX

The Working Woman invites discussion and questions from its readers on organization problems in building the Communist Party, the revolutionary unions, unemployed councils, etc. Help us make this a regular feature by sending in questions and short letters.

QUESTION:

Dear Editor: I am working in an open knitgoods shop. Conditions are miserable. We are working on piece work and the prices are cut on every new garment. Since I am in the shop, I succeeded in getting a number of the girls to join the union so that we can organize and fight for better conditions. But some of the girls refuse to join. Though they are very nice girls generally, they cannot see anything good in the union. This prevents us from doing anything to improve the conditions of the shop. Can you advise me what I can do.

ANSWER:

You have done very good work

QUESTION:

Dear Comrade: I am a member of a women's council in Newark. Many of the members of our council have been very badly affected by the present unemployment. Our husbands are out of work or working part time. While the income of every family has been cut down, the prices of food in Newark, especially of bread and milk, remain practically the same. Our council at its meeting discussed how we can begin fighting against the high cost of living, and we would like your advise on this matter.

ANSWER:

We would advise that you pro-

Sa of Bitter Misery Told in All Cities in Land

(By a Worker Correspondent.)

OAKLAND, Cal. —The City Women's Employment Bureau is always crowded. Women looking for jobs are talking in awed voices, some crying continuously.

The head of the Women's Employment Bureau, H. Sandford, comes out with a lying statement that there is more employment in this year. This is done to cover up the real situation.

"The report revealed that during the last three months the bureau placed 217 women in jobs, and registered 762 new applicants seeking positions.

"The number of new applicants during the same period of 1930 totaled 1,233 women, showing that this year there were fewer seeking jobs through the bureau," says Helen Sanford of the bureau.

35,000 Jobless

In Oakland there are 35,000 unemployed and about 7,500 of these are women. The head of the bureau boasts of placing 217 in jobs in three months. That less are registered this year accounts that most of the women have registered long ago and have been registering right along, without any success of getting a job through that source.

Here are some of the pleas taken from the same issue of the yellow press where the bureau statement was made, of more work in circulation.

Mothers need aid in quest for work to feed families.

"Widowed with a child of seven to support, destitute through force of circumstances, could not find any job. Just any kind of a job where she could find room and board for herself and Dorothy; a little money, of course with shelter, enough to buy clothes and send Dorothy to school. She can do any kind of housework and is willing to do anything," is one pitiful plea.

ing errands in the jail, etc., these girls were usually also used as stool pigeons.

We were locked into what is known as tanks which held about 14 cells and we had the privilege of walking up and down these tanks (about 30 feet x 5 feet) from 6 in the morning until 9 at night, at which time we were locked into our cells.

Since I was a political prisoner I was considered the worst criminal there besides a murderer—and during visiting hours when our "interested" social ladies ogled us thru the bars as monkeys in a zoo. I was always pointed out together with the murderers.

Forced Into Prostitution

As I became acquainted with some of these "vags" I found that most of them had been forced to sell their bodies in order to live.

One middle aged woman with 4 children to support—got 30 days for overdrawing 87c on a check she used to pay a grocery bill with.

There were two different cases of young mothers, who were still nursing babies, arrested for stealing some clothes and brought to jail with their six and nine-months old babies.

One day I was called in to see the head jailer and the head matron. I was asked if I was a "communist"; they had heard that I had been trying to propagandize the other girls in the jail—I would be denied all privileges such as letters, visitors, reading, etc., if I didn't stop. I replied: "When a girl asks me what I am in jail for, I am not going to tell her I stole a horse—I shall tell her what I am here for and who I am!"

Put in Solitary

The result was that I found myself in solitary confinement the next morning where I was kept for 23 days and would have been kept for 40 more (the termination of my sentence) as the jailor said, had it not been for the mass pressure conducted through the International Labor Defense.

Women workers! Our place is in the ranks of the working class next to our fellow men workers. Join us—it is the job of all workers—women and men—black and white—to overthrow this corrupt

CHINA POR.

Miner's mother herself in S. department but the S. as a drive a separated husband and children.

Workers departed now average one hundred and fifty a month, and will total twenty thousand for the year by July first, a great increase over last year's figure, which totaled 16,000.

WOMAN FEARS DEATH — ENDS LIFE

Loy, a young Chinese woman, hanged in Boston because the U. S. department of labor was trying to get her to China. Her husband as an American citizen had come into the U. S. as a student. In its merciless drive against foreign born workers the government would have separated his woman from her husband and children.

Women to Fight Legal Lynching Against 9 Young Negro Youths

(Continued from page 1)

car until Rock. The of the noticed — includ boys on fig saw no fig

SAW FIGHT BETWEEN COLORED AND WHITE MEN

Olin Montgomery of Monroe, Ga., who had been staying with a cousin in Chattanooga, caught this train to go to the clinic in Memphis.

Ozzie Poole was also riding by himself and nothing until he was hauled off the train by white men.

The four boys from Chattanooga, Roy Wright, and his brother, Andy, Haywood Patterson, and Eugene Williams had been friends for years, were all unemployed, and decided to seek jobs on the river boats at Memphis. They got on an oil car together near the end of the train. As the train was leaving evenson, Alabama, moving slowly they saw twelve or fourteen colored men and six or seven white men fighting on a car

by bringing some of the girls into the union. But you need not wait until all have joined before you take up a fight for better conditions. If some of the girls are not ready to join the union, you can get them to support you in a fight for better prices in this particular shop. Why not get together with the girls some lunch hour and decide to ask for an increase in the prices? Send a committee to the boss and if he does not give you the increase, refuse to make the work. You say the girls are a good bunch. Then they will surely stick and get the increase. This will be the best and most convincing argument as to why they should organize, and it will be much easier for you to get them to join the union.

near the front of the train. The white men were forced off the train.

GIRLS AT FIRST DENIED THE BOYS ATTACKED THEM

The nine boys, the only Negroes left on the train at that time, were brought together and shown to the two girls, Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, who at the time, declared that none of these nine boys had done anything to them. Only under pressure of the lynch mob in Scottsboro did the girls finally agree to accuse them of rape, being prodded especially by the state solicitor, who kept saying, "Go ahead and say that they did it; that boy attacked you, didn't he?" etc.

The same mill owners and plantation owners who work working women long hours at night work, who pay starvation wages to the working women, who force many working girls into prostitution, have again shown their bloody hand of lynch terror.

WOMEN! JOIN IN FIGHT!

Women workers must join the country-wide workers' protest

ceed in the following manner. Call together a meeting of your council and pick out a certain neighborhood of about two or three blocks, draw up a short leaflet asking the women of the neighborhood to line up with you in the fight for a reduction of the prices. Get the members of your council to visit every house in this neighborhood, speak to the women and get them ready to fight with you for a reduction in the prices. Arrange open air meetings on that block, calling on the workers to join in this fight. Get the other working class organizations in the neighborhood to cooperate with you. When you have organized a sufficient number of workers, call a mass meeting, elect a strike committee and declare a bread or milk strike. Organize mass picketing at the stores. In the course of this struggle many other questions will surely come up which you will have to deal with as you go along. Proceedings in this manner, you will be able to win your demands. This is how the women in Detroit and Chicago won their bread strike. After you have won your demands, spread out the struggle to other neighborhoods. Carry on your activities in conjunction with the Unemployed Council in your neighborhood.

movement against the lynch law verdict, under the leadership of the Communist Party, the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the International Labor Defense.

Meetings of working class women's organizations should be held and resolutions of protest against this new wave of terror, dramatized in this trial. Negro women especially should be drawn into the fight to save the lives of these nine young Negro youths. The "chivalry" of the Southern ruling class must be exposed and shown for what it is, a ruthless destroyer of white and Negro working women, grinding profits from the long hours and miserably low wages of women workers, starving tens of thousands of little children, both white and Negro, visiting degradation and shame upon more thousands of young white and Negro girls.

May Day Greetings from U. S. Working Women

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DETROIT, MICH.

FINNISH WORKING WOMEN'S CLUB
WAUKEEGAN, ILL.

FINNISH WORKING WOMEN'S CLUB
DETROIT, MICH.

THE UKRAINIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
MARTIN HALL BRANCH
DETROIT, MICH.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you can typewrite, file, write addresses, etc., come around any Wednesday or Friday evening after 8 P. M. and help us. 35 East 12th Street, 9th floor, Room 905. The Working Woman Office.

Ellen Aldman

UKRAINIAN ORGANIZATION NEW YORK CITY

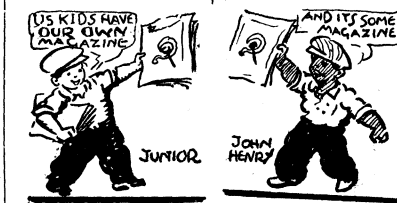
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Ukrainian Women's Club Branch No. 82
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ANTI-FASCIST LEAGUE
DETROIT, MICH.

A CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE "PIONEER"



A new children's magazine is coming out! There will be stories, pictures, laffs, sports — 24 pages for workers' children. The subscription rates are : 50 cents per year; 30 cents a half year. Address: Pioneer, Box 28, Station D, New York City.

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Voice of Women Workers
THE WORKING WOMAN

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VOL. 2

MAY, 1931

No. 5

WHAT ABOUT MAY DAY!

Women Workers, Fight For Your Class!

THE United States is getting ready for war. Everywhere in the movies, in the newspapers, and the schools, the workers are being used to the idea that another war is coming. All the capitalist politicians claim that they are "trying to prevent war." Who is it that must prevent it? Look, working women, at the capitalist government at Washington! A billion dollars for new warships! Millions upon millions for bombing planes!

But not a cent does the capitalist government give to the jobless millions of workers and their starving families. Hoover, the hypocritical scoundrel, jabbars about "child health," and says that it is a "community responsibility." If that is so, why does not the community of the whole nation, which he claims to speak for, pay unemployment insurance to the jobless workers from taxes upon the idle rich who do nothing for society?

Then working-class children would not go hungry. Then, women workers would not be in breadlines. Then there would be no horrible bread lines for children. Then the workers' wives and babies would not be ruined in health by hunger and anxiety!

Do you realize, working women and girls, that in the land where the workers have overthrown capitalism, in the Soviet Union, there is no unemployment! And that always workers who are unemployed, now only by chance, get unemployment insurance! That if workers are sick, all medicines and doctor's care, and even vacation in beautiful sanitoriums, are furnished them without cost! That nobody loses a job because of sickness! That the workers own everything, including the government!

Working women, think what life would be without worry, without anxiety about rents, doctor bills and the fear of losing a job! That is the freedom and security of all workers in the Soviet Union, and it is against the Soviet Union that the capitalist government of Mr. Hoover is preparing for war!

While the rich deny themselves nothing—and indeed they don't have to, since the profits they make from your sweat and worry furnish them everything without working—your employers are asking you to accept wage cuts, as if the rich were starving! And they tell you there are lots of unemployed women take your p

Working Women of Japan in May First Demonstration



Scene of a section of the last May First demonstration in which Tokyo women workers from the textile mills, silk plants and other big factories demonstrated against the conditions they are forced to work and live under. . .

My Life

By a Negro
Working Woman

The Story Thus Far:

The Negro working woman who writes this story married when she was 13 years old to escape the misery and starvation of farm cropping. Her father becomes a peon to his land owner, who paid a fine of \$700 when the father killed his son-in-law in a brawl. Where the story stands now, the Negro working woman has two small children, and left the day before Easter Sunday to spend the holiday in Jefferson, Georgia. Her husband goes to the farm of his land owner's cousin.

Papa did not like my husband, nor sister's. When my sister was married only eight months, more sorrow came to us. Papa would go into one of his mean ways. One day my husband and myself happened to be at home when my father and mother-in-law began to quarrel. My father brought on another fight with his shotgun

out in the room. No inquest was held.

The boss gave himself up to the town marshal and sent out for all the Negroes who were good liars and would not dare to testify against the boss, about four or five in the whole community. They went up and testified on the stand that my husband was very overbearing. They were afraid to say anything else in the boss' presence, for they knew it would not be good for them if they said anything else. The big boss claimed he had to shoot in self-defense. My husband had only a rock and the boss had a shotgun.

After the funeral the boss met me and told me he would take care of the kids until they were large enough to help me. I went back to my father and the same boss that I had run away from. I had two babies, the oldest one year and nine months, and the other about three months old. This boss gave

anything in the fall at all. I had plenty of clothes my husband had left me. My mother-in-law was nice to me and if she had not been I do not know just what I would have done. She clothed the kids all that year. She was a dear to me and the kids. She lived in Hall county, Georgia, near Gainesville, with her daughter.

The next year I stayed on with father, helping to make the boss richer. The other boss who killed my husband did not give me anything for the kids that year. He said if I would come and live on his farm and work in the house he would take care of the kids and pay me three dollars a week. I would not agree to that, so I did not get anything for the kids that year at all.

Papa gave me eleven dollars to buy the kids and my clothes for the winter would not work for him. I was smart on t

Class must stand to
 sm, with its wage cuts, starvation,
 year on May Day the workers who have t...
 strike work and go on to the streets to demonstrate against capi-
 talism.

Women and girls of the working class! Come out of your
 offices and factories on May Day! Tell the boss you are taking
 a day off! Tell him you are coming out with the Bolsheviks!
 And bring everybody with you, mothers and fathers, sisters and
 brothers—and especially your shopmates!

Tell them to strike, tell them that workers needn't be slaves
 to the bosses! Tell them it is the workers' day the world over!
 Bring them out on to the streets to let all bosses know that some
 day the workers will set up a Soviet government right here under
 their noses!

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

The June Issue of the "Working Woman" Will Be a Special Negro Number

We will have stories about Negro mothers and children
 in the North and South and we will continue MY LIFE, the
 revealing picture of the life of a Negro working woman in
 the South. Also the campaign against high rents, high
 prices for milk and other necessities.

Some splendid articles that we couldn't squeeze into this
 issue will appear next month. Don't miss them.

Did you know that over 23,000 women and children in
 New York alone work long hours in their kitchens and bed-
 rooms stringing beads and making lamp shades and cloth-
 ing, many of whom early only \$3 a week? You will find out
 more about it in the article on HOME WORK in the June
 issue.

Working women, write for your paper. Tell us what
 is happening in your town. What workers are being evicted
 because they can't pay rent? How many are starving be-
 cause they can't buy food? Is there a big factory in your
 town whose bosses are fattening on the blood of the work-
 ers? Let us know about it.

And if you haven't told your shop mate and neighbor
 about THE WORKING WOMAN, give her this copy when
 you have finished with it. Or send us her name and address
 and we will send her one free!

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It was
 a March that we began
 to have
 some real trouble. My
 baby was
 two months old on Mar.
 19, and
 on the 30th my husband
 went down
 to the farm of his boss'
 first cousi
 That was on Easter
 Sunday m
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 on Saturda
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 in Jefferso
 , Ga.

* * *

While my husband was down on
 this farm h
 e got into a gambling
 game. He
 got into a scrap with
 one of the
 boss' Negroes and the
 boss took
 his shotgun and killed
 my husband

When my brother came for me
 it was raining and cold. I could
 not believe
 what my own ears had
 heard. I h
 ad to ride seven miles
 in the cold
 with my little young
 baby. Whe
 n I arrived home the
 big boss wh
 o had killed him had
 sent his bo
 dy home. It was laid

and when she came
 They arrested
 fared him to jail in
 ga, seven miles

There ay my brother-in-
 d and mother and the lit-
 half naked. The boss knew
 had a Negro to work for
 the rest of his life. For
 gro killed another Negro
 was raised the boss would
 up the sheriff and tell him
 Negro come on home, for
 ed him there to work.
 e case was tried in court
 would pay a fine and
 Negro work it off until
 that he became too old

's paid seven hundred dol-
 lars for
 eedom. From then on
 me a slave.

My
 mother took it very
 hard a
 was sick for eighteen
 months
 er that.

After
 I was married my first
 child c
 e when I was only fif-
 teen ye
 old. It was in August
 ame. At that time my
 husband
 decided to work on shares
 and he c
 onged bosses. He made
 and started on the second
 one crop
 We were married then
 three years and in Jan-
 uary
 little girl came. My
 only one year and five
 months
 and after the baby
 s still happy.

It was
 a March that we began
 to have
 some real trouble. My
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 two months old on Mar.
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 n I arrived home the
 big boss wh
 o had killed him had
 sent his bo
 dy home. It was laid

ing until next fall,
 when he gave me about fifteen
 yards of cloth.

Of course I helped father on the
 farm that year and did not get

pick
 one day.
 father again, which I
 I was 19 years old.

(To be continued next month)

INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE

MASS PROTESTS WIN RE- LEASE OF KIENLE, WOLF

Communists Demand Repeal of Anti-Abortion Law

GERMANY.—A powerful mass
 movement against paragraph No.
 218 (anti-abortion law) is being
 carried on in Germany under the
 lead of the Communist Party.

Every year about six thousand
 workers are sent to jail for vio-
 lating the "law." Twenty-five
 thousand deaths are reported
 yearly as a result of unskilled
 treatment, in addition to hundreds
 of thousands of physically ruined
 women. The recent arrests of two
 Stuttgart doctors, Friedrich Wolf
 and Frau Dr. Kienle, for violat-
 ing paragraph No. 218, has arouse
 the fighting spirit of the mass-
 es. A great number of demon-
 strations at factories and in the
 streets took place in protest
 against the monstrous procedure.

Dr. Frau Kienle was released on
 bail after a seven day hunger strike
 and the Communist deputies, in
 the reichstag introduced a motion
 to repeal paragraph No. 218. The
 social democrats refused to vote on
 the motion and referred the mat-
 ter to a committee.

Maxim Gorki 63 Years Old

MOSCOW, U S S R. — Max-
 im Gorki's sixty-third birthday has
 aroused many expressions of en-
 thusiastic recognition among the
 workers of the whole Soviet Un-
 ios. The press published numer-
 ous appeals, letters and greetings,
 coming from every part of the
 Soviet Union, to congratulate
 Maxim Gorky. The workers of
 the great factories join in mes-
 sages of appreciation and encou-
 ragement.

BLOODY CHINESE GOV- ERNMENT MURDERS TWELVE COMMUNISTS

Mother and Three Childen Are Among Those Put to Death

CHINA. — Like all imperialist
 governments, China gives lip ser-
 vice to "sacredness of home,"
 "purity of womanhood," "wel-
 fare of children."

Good proof of these hypocritical
 lies appears in an item from the
 New York Times, which we re-
 print:

"Two days ago twelve suppos-
 ed Chinese Communists were due
 for execution, one of them, the
 mother of three children, ranging
 from five to ten years of age.
 For several hours the authorities
 debated over what to do with the
 children after their mother had
 been shot. Shasi boasts of no
 orphanage, and no one could be
 found who would adopt the waifs.
 It was finally decided that the
 children would be better off dead
 than to be turned loose to com-
 pete with the beggars on the city
 streets, and accordingly they all
 were shot."

Enlist Women in Jobless Activities

Win the wives of unemployed
 workers and unemployed women
 workers for the neighborhood
 branches of unemployed workers.
 Enlist them in struggles against
 high food prices, against the high
 rents, for free meals for school
 children, for unemployment in-
 surance. The heroic fight of the
 women in Chicago against high
 bread prices and their parti-
 cipation should be a lesson to
 neighborhood branches.

5/5/34