

DEMAND

Equal Pay for Equal Work
The 7-hour Day, 5-day Week
Abolition of Child Labor
Protection for Working Women

THE WORKING WOMAN

The Voice of Women Workers
Published by the Central Committee
Women's Dept., Communist Party of the U. S. A.

FIGHT

Against Racial Discrimination
Against Wage Cuts
Against Imperialist Wars
Defend the Soviet Union
For a Workers' and Farmers' Government

VOL. I, No. 5

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1930

5 cents a copy

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT FEBRUARY 26

UNEMPLOYMENT GROWS IN ALL PARTS OF THE U. S.

JOBLESS DEMONSTRATE

Negro, White Workers in South Unemployed

DURHAM, N. C., Jan. 15.—Thousands of jobless workers are flocking here looking for work on the Duke University construction job, in the American Tobacco Company, and Liggett and Myers. Many jobless Negro workers are among the unemployed army trooping in looking for work which does not exist.

1,600 Paterson Workers Fired

PATERSON, N. J.—Sixteen hundred men were laid off recently by the Wright Aeronautical Corporation. They were told they would be taken back, but they have not got their jobs again. Women are being hired at \$14 per week for the work in place of some of the men who were getting 50 cents an hour.

5,000 Less Jobs in Boston

BOSTON.—Despite New England Council ballyhoo that that section is not decadent and has no industrial depression from which to recover, the manufactures census of the state department of labor and industries paints another picture. Figures just tabulated for Boston show a decrease between 1926 and 1928 of 5,000 workers, of whom 2,000 were dropped in the second year. The boot and shoe industry is Boston's largest.

Steel Workers Jobless

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—The National Tube Company, leading finished steel plant here, admits that only 40 per cent of its usual force is working. The Edgar Thompson works of the U. S. Steel Company is on half-time. The Westinghouse plant is practically shut down. Only a few departments are working with skeleton forces.

DETROIT COMMUNISTS EXPOSE MASS UNEMPLOYMENT

DETROIT, Jan. 15.—In a leaflet entitled "Unemployment Grows in Detroit!" distributed among many thousands of jobless and employed workers, the Communist Party here points out that there are "over 150,000 workers unemployed in the city of Detroit.... The city government, through Jos. E. Mills, announced: 'We can do nothing to relieve the present unemployment situation.'"

The leaflet calls for an organized struggle for unemployment relief on the basis of full wages paid by the state, at the same time pointing out that "the capitalist system cannot solve the unemployment problem. The program of the capitalists to meet the growing crisis of unemployment is further wage cuts and increase the speed-up."

CRISIS THROWS MILLIONS OF WORKERS ON STREETS, TO FREEZE, TO STARVE

TWO MILLION WOMEN ARE JOBLESS

Communist Party Leads Workers in Fight Against Unemployment



Thrown out in the streets—no job means no rent.

WORKING WOMEN! ORGANIZE COUNCILS OF UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

Trade Union Unity League Demands Jobless Relief; Fights Cuts and Speed-Up

Six millions of workers are out of work, tens of thousands are being thrown on the street every week; the prospect is that in a short time there will be ten million unemployed workers. This occurs because capitalism is in a crisis, and the capitalists are trying to make the workers, by their suffering, pay the cost of the crisis; by wage cuts, increased speed-up and firing of great numbers of workers to starve on the street.

Those now unemployed have no hope of getting jobs. More will be added to those out of work. Still more will working part time. To successfully struggle against this attack upon the whole working class and its living standards is the chief task now confronting all workers, both employed and unemployed.

Workers, whether you be organized or unorganized, whether you be employed or unemployed, Negro or white, working women or youth, unite in common struggle against the vicious attack made upon our class. Organize councils of the unemployed prepare for huge, militant demonstrations in every city in the United States, not a mere protest demonstration, but an organized, fighting demonstration of all workers to fight for "work or wages"—"immediate relief"; fight for unemployed insurance, against the speed-up, against wage-cuts, for the seven-hour, five-day week. Demonstrate for these demands in every city on February 26th.

The Trade Union Unity League (T.U.U.L.) calls upon all workers immediately to build up Councils of Unemployed, through meetings, at factory gates, general meetings of the unemployed, conferences of delegates from mass organizations, with representation from all working class organizations.

Action Committees should be organized

by these Councils of Unemployed to link up the employed workers with the unemployed and all workers, both organized and unorganized, should combat the attempt of the employing class to divide the employed and unemployed against each other; all efforts to be made to unite the whole working class for persistent struggle, and to participate actively in the Mass unemployed demonstration, of Monday February 26th.

Work or wages!

Unemployment insurance financed by taxes on profits and inheritances and administered by the workers!

Immediate relief for the unemployed by grants from government funds!

The seven-hour day; five-day week! No overtime!

Down with the Hoover-Green strike-breaking agreement!

Strike against wage cuts and speed-up! For higher wages, shorter workday and better conditions!

Build councils of the unemployed! Join the revolutionary trade unions! Build the united front in the shops!

Down with the Hoover plan, which gives hundreds of millions to the rich and nothing to the unemployed!

Drive out the reformist and socialist traitors from the ranks of the working class!

Down with the imperialism of United States imperialism in the Philippines, Haiti and all oppressed countries!

Unite the Negro with the white workers! Soldiers and sailors! Demonstrate your solidarity with your class!

Fight against the war danger! Defend the Soviet Union!

For a revolutionary workers' government! Mass demonstration of all workers on February 26th

Women's Wage Lowest; Negroes Pay Is Poorest

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Women's wages in chain stores average \$12 to \$15 a week, according to a report of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor. For these miserable low wages the women work as high as 60 hours per week. The Women's Bureau made a study of 6,000 women employed in chain department stores in 18 states and reported that 60 per cent of the women receive \$15.00 a week and 40 per cent, \$12.

The average wage in many states is \$9 a week. In its figures the Department of Labor always colors the facts to give the bosses the best end of it, and to make the workers' conditions appear as rosy as possible.

Another report by the same department about women workers in Florida shows that Negro women are being exploited under the worst conditions. Of 1,266 Negro working women studied, the average wage was \$6.65 per week for a 60-hour week.

The survey covered nearly 8,000 working women in Florida. The average hours of work for all women employed in Florida is more than nine hours per day. The wages for all women workers is very low, averaging about \$15.00 per week, with a good many receiving \$9.00 per week for 60 hours of work.

Wright Plant Uses Women to Cut Wages

PATERSON, N. J.—Sixteen hundred men laid off by the Wright Aeronautical Corporation of this city recently waited anxiously for the return of their jobs. They had been told that an inventory was the reason for the layoff and were led to believe that they would soon be put back to work. Most of them have experienced bitter disappointment as the plant gradually reopened and filled their places with women at \$14 a week. The men had been getting about 50c an hour.

Bosses Employ Children—Pay Starvation Wages

PHILADELPHIA.—The F. M. Paist Co., like all bosses' plants, always has some dirty scheme or other by which it squeezes the best out of its workers for a starvation wage.

This candy factory, situated at American and Jefferson Sts., Philadelphia, Pa., is one of the many plants which has replaced adult workers with child labor. Young girls between the ages of 13 and 16 are the majority there. These girls attend school one day a week and work all other days over 10 hours a day for the measly wage of \$8.00 per week—working on the belt!

We begin work promptly at 7:30 as before. The girls were threatened with being fired if they didn't do this. In this way the boss played safe with the school authorities and at the same time got the most out of his young workers.

We young workers of the F. M. FIGHT are organizing against this as well as all other rotten schemes which make up the awful speed-up that sends us to an early death.

Women Builders of Industrial Unions

WORKING WOMEN ELECT DELEGATES TO TUUL CONVENTION

Working Women, Send delegates to the convention of the Trade Union Unity League (Metropolitan Area) March 1st and 2nd, 1930, at the Irving Plaza Hall, 15th Street and Irving Place.

Working Women:

The bosses, bankers and trust magnates under the direct initiative of President Hoover have declared war on the wages, hours and working conditions of all American workers. As a result of the developing economic crisis in this country as expressed in the Wall Street crash, the Hoover Fascist Council, with the aid of William Green, reactionary chief of the A. F. of L., is conspiring to put thru general wage cuts and further increase the speed-up. The capitalists and their government wish to ward off the crisis and make good the billions lost in Wall Street by driving down the living standards of all workers, especially the unorganized, semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

As a result, we find a wave of wage cuts sweeping the country. All kinds of new speed-up schemes and new labor-saving devices (rationalization) are forced upon the workers in every industry. These crushing speed-up and intensification of labor are throwing millions permanently out of the industries. The growing industrial crisis further increases the army of unemployed. Millions are on the threshold of starvation.

These conditions affect the women workers as well as the men workers, who are losing their jobs. **STARVATION FACES US UNLESS WE ORGANIZE** and fight together with the men workers for our interests as a class.

More of us women are in industry than ever before. In textile mills, in electrical apparatus, in telephone, telegraph and radio, in chemical industries, in the food industry, in the needle trades, laundries, in the shoe shops and in the stores—in fact, in every industry, hundreds of thousands of women are toiling at miserably low wages and under intolerable conditions. Eight million of us are in the industries of the United States. The wages of the men in these industries are too low to live on decently, even according to the figure of the government in Washington. Our wages are only 50 to 60 per cent of what the men get for the same work. And now, with the crisis in industry many tens of thousands of us will lose even these jobs. Forty per cent of the unemployed in New York City are women.

WE MUST ORGANIZE TO FIGHT AGAINST THESE CONDITIONS.

A new Trade Union Center has been formed, composed of the following National Unions: Coal Miners, Needle Trades, Shoe Workers, Food Workers, Textile Workers, Marine Workers and other militant groups in shops and factories and in the A. F. of L. unions.

The Trade Union Unity League is calling a **METROPOLITAN AREA CONVENTION** to be held **ON MARCH FIRST AND SECOND, 1930, 2:30 P. M., AT IRVING PLAZA HALL, 15th St. and Irving Pl.**

We call upon all working women in shops and factories to elect delegates to this convention.

NEGRO AND WHITE! WORKING WOMEN! ORGANIZED AND UNORGANIZED AND UNEMPLOYED! Elect your delegates to the Metropolitan Area Conference of the TUUL and fight for these DEMANDS!

- 1—Fight against Wage Cuts, against Higher Wages.
- 2—Seven-hour five-day week.
- 3—Fight against the Social Fascist A. F. of L. Bureaucracy!
- 4—DEMAND EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.
- 5—AGAINST NIGHT WORK FOR WOMEN.
- 6—Two 15-minute rest periods.

WOMEN RALLY TO WIN SHOE STRIKE

The women's department of the Independent Shoe Workers' Union calls a women's shop delegate conference for Monday, February 3, at 16 West 21st St. They have sent out instructions to all shop chairmen to make immediate efforts to elect women delegates from their respective shops. In their call for this conference they state that women must take a direct and active part in the union's struggle for the 40-hour five-day week and the abolition of the slave system of piece work.

Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union Calls Women Workers' Meeting

The Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union, affiliated to the TUUL, has issued a call to all women workers in the industry to elect delegates to the Eastern Conference of women workers, to be held Feb. 15th and 16th, at Irving Plaza, Irving Place and 15th Street, New York City. The Eastern Conference will be the gathering point of all the struggles conducted in the needle industry and will particularly discuss the problems of the women workers, who compose the majority in this industry. The growing replacing of men workers by women at the reduced rate of wages and the consequent result of unemployment in the industry is a special problem for the women workers. The Conference will therefore launch an organization campaign among the women workers of the industry for a solidarity struggle with the men workers against the increasing speed-up, unemployment and worsening conditions.

The major cities on the East Coast are arranging preliminary conferences to mobilize women workers for the final conference February 15th and 16th in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, etc., already arranged such conferences and are working intensely to get shop and unemployed representation among organized and unorganized workers.

The women workers of New York are commencing a campaign in the shops for an extensive delegation.

On with the preparation to make the Eastern Conference a rallying point for the struggles against the rotten conditions, the increasing speed-up and the agents of the bosses, the **Yellow ILGWU.**

INSURANCE

Two million men and women over 65 are dependent for support on other individuals or agencies, estimates Secretary Abraham Epstein, of the Association for Old Age Security, in a pamphlet just published by the League for Industrial Democracy. One-third of the aged in America are dependent, he states, after a careful survey of estimates made by other agencies, ranging from the well-known insurance company figure that 54 out of 100 young men of 25 will be dependent when they are 65 to Massachusetts estimates that 40 per cent are dependent.

7. For full wages and leave of absence during child birth!
8. For sanitary conditions.
9. Fight for Social Insurance, Against Unemployment.
10. Defend the Soviet Union, the Workers' International Fatherland.

The Women Workers' Shop Committees Have a Large Representation at This Convention. Prepare by Electing Delegates of the Following basis:

- Form Union—1 delegate and 1 additional for every 100 members.
 - T.U.U.L. groups—1 delegate from each group and 1 additional for every 25 members.
 - Form Shop Committees—Unorganized and shop controlled by the A. F. of L.—2 from each shop.
 - Form Committees of Councils of Unemployed—3 delegates each.
- Women's Department TUUL, Local New York



Paterson Women Silk and Dye Workers Preparing with N.T.W.U. for Strike

By SOPHIE SPRECHMAN

The National Textile Workers' Union, in its preparation for the coming general strike of all silk and dye workers of Paterson, is paying special attention to the organization of the women in the industry. The importance of the work is great, since 60 per cent of those employed in the silk and dye shops of Paterson are women. These women represent the most exploited section of the silk workers.

Very little, or no, organization work has been carried on among the women. Particularly is this true of the girls working in the dye shops and throwing plants. These girls are forced, while still of the school age, to go into the mills and factories to help support the family. The bosses, taking advantage of their youth and inexperience, pay them the lowest wages possible and force them to work very long hours, most of the time without pay for overtime. They are forced to work nights in spite of the supposed law prohibiting night work for women. Besides this, they are constantly being speeded up, the bosses watching the girls all the time so that they do not rest for one minute during the day. It is a common thing for the bosses of the throwing plants to tighten the belts on the frames, and so make them go faster. The girls are being forced to work on more frames than ever before.

Speed-Up in Dye Shops

Speed-up, long hours, night shifts and miserably low wages are also the lot of the girls working in the dye shops. Women and girls working in the dye shops are paid as low as 18 cents per hour. In many of these shops the bosses have introduced a system of keeping the girls working until they have completed a certain amount of work allotted to them. This they have to do regardless of how many hours they must work. But in spite of the long hours they have to work their wages are very low, averaging about \$12 per week.

Generally, where women in the industry do the same kind of work as the men, they are paid less than the men. The bosses have been using the women to reduce the wages of the men. But the women of Paterson are beginning to realize this and are determined to stop this outrageous exploitation. They no longer will stand by and permit the bosses to use them against their men fellow workers. The women of Paterson will organize with the men textile workers and, together with them, will prepare and carry on the general strike that

WORKING CONDITIONS IN ONE OF THE MANY WOMEN'S SWEAT SHOPS

(By a Worker Correspondent)

Very little has ever been said on the conditions of the working women in these parts of Upper Michigan, so it is time we take a little look into what is going on in this part of the country.

In Upper Michigan there are thousands of women working. The majority of them are working in factories with almost nothing as their pay. For instance, in the Negaunee glove factory and Ishpeming corset factory—I know personally the conditions of the Negaunee glove factory, for I have been working there. The factory employs about ninety young men and women, ages averaging from sixteen to forty-five years. Tools for this work are only a pair of scissors which cost \$1.35. You have to work over a day to pay for tools because for the first five weeks you get only \$1.08 a day, working nine hours a day.

Lunch time you sit beside your machine sewing the whole lunch hour. If the machine goes out of order this is the workers' hard luck, because it certainly isn't fixed on the bosses' time. Oh, NO. It is the worker (Continued on page 3)

BOOKS FOR WORKING WOMEN

- The Trade Unions and Socialist Construction—E. Andeyeva..... 15c
- Southern Cotton Mills and Labor—Myra Page..... 25c
- Women in the Soviet Union—Jessica Smith..... 25c
- Out of a Job—Earl Browder..... 5c
- Gastonia, Citadel of the Class Struggle in the South—Wm. F. Dunne..... 15c
- Communist Manifesto..... 10c
- Karl Marx and Fredrich Engels..... 5c
- Why Every Worker Should Join the Communist Party..... 5c
- Program of the Communist International..... 25c
- Program of the Trade Union Unity League..... 15c

will be called by the National Textile Workers' Union in the near future. The Women's Section of the National Textile Workers' Union is helping to organize the many thousands of women textile workers and is also undertaking to organize a women's auxiliary that will in time of strike help carry on a militant fight against the bosses and the miserable working conditions that have been forced upon the workers.

Women Workers!
Build the Women's Section of the Union!
Join the National Textile Workers' Union!

UNITED FRONT OF WORKING MEN AND WORKING WOMEN AGAINST CAPITALISM

Shop News from Working Women

Food Workers in Chain Stores Build Union

By a Workers Correspondent

Among the 300,000 unorganized food workers in this city employed in the various chain stores, 40 per cent are women and young girls. They represent one of the most exploiter sections of industry. For the same work the women receive less pay just because they are women. They have to stand the insults of the managers and of many guests without a comeback. From their miserable wages they have to pay in most cases for their uniforms. The food that they are compelled to eat is in most cases not fit for human beings. The speed-up system, the long hours which in many cases are as long as 12 and 14 hours a day, the unsanitary conditions like overheated kitchens, dirty lockers, undermine the health of the women and girls.

In addition to all this the women very often have to carry the burden of caring for their homes and children after the long hours of slavery in the shops. All these conditions exist because the women in the food industry are not organized. However, the organization of the women in the food industry is not the work of the women only. Alongside with men workers, the women must organize into a real fighting union, into the left wing Hotel, Restaurant and Cafeteria Workers Branch of the A.F. W., which is affiliated with the Trade Union Unity League. This union is now in the midst of an organization drive to organize the thousands of food workers in this city, especially the women workers. The demand for equal pay for equal work is of utmost importance to all women workers in the industry.

Our union is fighting against discrimination against women and young workers. For the 8-hour day and six day week. A minimum wage scale for all workers. Hire help through union only. Our union is bitterly fighting against the fake employment agencies where many women workers lose their last few pennies and remain without a job in the end. For sanitary conditions in the shops; and against the wage cuts. For wholesome food for all workers. Fellow women workers, these things can be won. They must be won. But they can be won only through militant organization. Our slogan is: Join the Amalgamated Food Workers' Union!

—JENNIE.

NEGRO WOMEN TELL OF SPEED-UP IN LAUNDRIES

WASHINGTON, D. C.—I have been working in the Washington laundries for several years now. The conditions are very poor here. The work is very irregular. The first part of the week we have all we can handle, and then the last part of the week we are usually laid off. The wages are 10 to 12 dollars per week for an 8-hour day. The speed-up is very great, and it is all we can do to keep up with the pace. The room we work in is hot and damp, and we have no time to sit down or rest or anything. We have only a half hour for lunch.

We Negro workers are made to feel as if we're worse than our fellow white workers. Once the A. F. of L. started to organize our laundry, but they wouldn't let us Negroes in it, and you can understand what a flop that was. When I heard of the Trade Union Unity League, I said, "That's the union for me!" The T. U. U. L. really has the interest of the workers at heart, and it doesn't make any difference whether they are colored or white.

I wanted to organize the workers in my laundry before, but I couldn't do anything by myself, but now, with all the comrades helping, I am sure we can build a strong union that will fight for all of us.

—ARCADE LAUNDRY WORKER.

German Workers Killed by Police.

BERLIN. — During demonstrations of workers in German cities on the tenth anniversary of the deaths of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, police shot into the crowds, killed at least five workers and wounded more than twenty. In three districts of Berlin, the police employed by the "Socialist" government, massed over 14,000 men in an attempt to stop the workers' demonstrations.

WOMEN WORKERS BEING POISONED; PAY LOW; SPEED-UP GROWING

(By a Worker Correspondent)

DETROIT (By mail).—Tuesday, Jan. 7, about 5 a. m., I was one of about 500 workers waiting at Brigg's factory to get a job. The talk was why are more women, now than any other time, looking for work. Because fathers, brothers, husbands and sons are unemployed. The women are given the same jobs for 50 per cent of the wages that the men had been getting.

One of the group of girls that I was walking with, said no wonder that the women at Murray Body are sticking all day at the factory in order not to miss a chance to get a few hours work, even if it amounts only to 80 cents or a dollar a day. It is at least warm. Another girl was telling about Ternstedt's, and about the work they are doing there. The girls are working at chromo plating, and that is the kind of work that poisons the skin of the hands. The girls call it nickel-itch. Of course, after getting your skin poisoned, you are no good any more for any work, she added.

But who thinks of consequences when one needs a job bad enough. You got to have something to eat and a roof over your head. After I had parted with the last group of girls, cold and hungry as I was, I could not help thinking of all I had heard and learned that morning. My answer to you, women of Detroit, is: "Let us organize in the Auto Workers Union, side by side with the men workers and help make conditions fit to work, for all workers, regardless of sex, color or race."

S. V.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN ONE OF THE MANY WOMEN'S SWEAT SHOPS

(Continued from page 2)

who pays for that. Sometimes as much as an hour is spent in repairing the machine.

Dirty, Choking Air

Machines send out a lot of smoke, which makes it hard to breathe, but the workers have to keep right on working so as not to lose a minute of factory time.

When you have learned this work, the workers are changed to piece work, which requires every bit of strength and energy a worker has to make her small pay. As soon as a worker has learned a certain line of work so that she can make as much as two dollars a day, which the boss thinks is a fortune, she is put on a new line where she is not so fast, which means that the poor worker has to learn from the beginning again.

Only a few average \$3.50 a day. All work is examined in different departments. If work is not just satisfactory, it is sent back time and again, and the worker goes on repairing it. If workers stop to wipe sweat for a few minutes, the floor lady is at their heels with her hurry up.

The prevailing low wages in the trade make every member of the family work, regardless of age or physical strength, trying to make an ordinary living. The air is dusty and smoky, for cutting and sewing skins are the main industries. Men's gloves are chiefly manufactured here.

Workers in this factory are afraid to rebel and raise their voices against their miserable conditions in an organized manner. There is much discontent. These workers are far from being satisfied when you talk to them, but do not know how to organize and get better working and living conditions.

The workers who are conscious that only through organization can the conditions be improved, try to teach and educate the rest. A factory workers' committee has been started here.

In these industrial and manufacturing centers, the Communist Party and Young Communist League, as the leaders of all struggles of the workers, should direct their attention to organize these exploited workers.

To help the factory workers' committee with the aid of the Communist Party and T. U. U. L. newspapers and bulletins to organize the workers to join the Communist Party and the Young Communist League, is our aim.

EFFECTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

ON WORKERS' WIVES

By a Workers Correspondent

Is there unemployment in this country? After months and months of hushing upon this question, finally the capitalist press was forced to admit that the matter is quite serious. And how could they help admitting it, when unemployment is spreading like wild fire; when hundreds of thousands of workers in every city and town are thronging the streets in search of work.

Here are their own figures: 5 million unemployed in the United States; 250,000 workless in the textile and tobacco industries in North Carolina. 3,000 workers laid off in California railway repair shops! 30 Philadelphia hosiery mills entirely closed down!

And in our "rich prosperous" New York, the bread lines are growing to a menacing size. The unemployed storm the employment agencies where no work is to be gotten. One occasional job is hunted by hundreds and police clubs are busy chasing the hungry enraged crowds from factory gates where that job is offered.

The wife of the unemployed gets the worst of it. She is the one to answer her

children's cry for bread. She has got to face the angry landlord, who comes to demand his lion's share. All the misery of the shortage, of keeping the family from starvation in time of unemployment, falls heaviest on the housewife.

What does the government do to relieve this situation? Hoover is very busy dishing out millions from the Federal Treasury to trusts and big corporations in the form of a so-called refund on the overpayment of their income taxes. The Steel Corporation alone received a Christmas present of a mere trifle of 40 million dollars. Other companies did not fare any worse. They were all looked after very well.

The wives of the big stockholders do not have to worry. Their rents will be paid, their meals will be plentiful; their children will not go hungry.

Wives of employed and unemployed workers who are hard hit through unemployment and low wages of their husbands must organize together with the women and men workers in T.U.U.L. councils of unemployed in all cities. Only through organization will the workers be able to relieve unemployment.

Negro Workers Tell of Unemployment in Coal Fields

By ORA BOYCE

Women's Auxiliary, National Miners' Union

The life and condition of the wives of the coal miners vary sometimes a great deal, as different states and localities often bring a different situation altogether.

Through the middle west, since the unemployment situation has become acute, the woman is often the bread winner for the whole family—mostly by washing and ironing or as a domestic. Regardless of qualifications for better jobs, there is always a barrier of race discrimination, and they cannot work in stores, factories and offices. Occasionally, where the coal regions touch on larger cities, they may find work in some other line of industry.

About forty miles north of the little town where I live the coal miners' wives, seeking employment (as domestic work did not supply all), appealed to the city authorities to enter the overall factory.

Many of the coal miners' wives also go to Chicago, Detroit and other cities seeking employment while the men stay home, as the women in all industries are being exploited and they can find work when the men cannot. Another reason is some of the Negro miners through the middle west have not worked in four years, some five years, as much through discrimination as unemployment.

The strike area so far has been concentrated mostly where there are but few Negroes, especially in the middle west, for I find in the state of Illinois there are many towns where Negroes once worked. They have been crowded entirely out of the industry by discrimination under the leadership of the United Mine Workers. The Negro workers accept the National Miners' Union leadership. The National Miners' Union is the only union that fights in the interests of the Negro miners. The Negroes desire a new union and freely express this—the women as well as the men—but as Springfield has been the scene of some bitter race riots and the Negroes have been unjustly dealt with, they are timid about it, but are beginning to join the National Miners' Union.

Textile Workers in Belgium on Strike.

BRUSSELS (Inprecor).—Six thousand textile workers of the Renaix district of Belgium have struck for wage increases. The demand is for five francs weekly wage raise.

Subscribe
to the

WORKING WOMAN

Young Girls Tell of Speed-Up in Glass Factory

(By a Worker Correspondent)

The girls in the coning department of the Pairpoints, a short time ago, because of the bosses' speed-up, turned out some cones which were not perfect. For this the bosses fined each one of the 16 girls \$4.00, to be paid within three weeks, with the understanding that if the fine is not paid the girl is fired.

Previously we would make \$18 per week. We worked very hard, but the bosses thought this was too much for a young girl of 16 or 17 to make, so they cut the wage, making it impossible for us to get more than \$12 or \$14 per week. We work on piecework and make 50 cents per thousand cones. If we work like horses, we can put out five or six thousand cones per day, but only experienced hands can make this much.

Why is it possible for the bosses to exploit us young girls to such an inhuman extent? Because the girls are unorganized. Young workers, organize with your adult workers of your class into the Trade Union Unity League, the only revolutionary center of all militant trade unions, which is fighting in the interests of the workers and which is working to organize the workers of Pairpoints. Young workers, join the T. U. U. L.

YOUNG WIVES FORCED OUT TO WORK

(By a Worker Correspondent)

I worked at a place where a family moved out and a new family moved in. I had to do all the dirty work, scrub the dirty floors, clean the windows, wash the woodwork. She would just tell me to do this and that, and I wasn't through with one and she told me to do a dozen of other work before I got through with one. When I was eating my dinner she asked me if I would come next day and watch her baby. I told her I would. It was four o'clock, I was ready to leave, and she asked me if I would work one hour longer, so I did. One hour later I was ready to leave at 5 o'clock; then she asked me what she owed me. I told her four dollars, and she told me not to come any more.

Well, I guess it's not only me that's treated like this. Some of the women are afraid to write, so their mistress might find out and be fired. You're fired whether you write or not, so what's the difference?

We are their slaves. If all the workers stick together, we would not need to be their slaves.

A. RUPNIK.

Join the Communist Party of U.S.A.

Voice of Women Workers THE WORKING WOMAN

Published monthly by the
Central Committee—Women's Dept.
Communist Party of the U. S. A.
43 East 125th St., New York, N. Y.

Subscription rates, 50 cents per year
Foreign \$1.00 per year
Single copies 5 cents

VOL. I February, 1930 No. 5

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment is Growing.

Workers have always suffered from unemployment, more or less, under the capitalist system. Sometimes it has been less severe sometimes more.

But for the past ten years, or since the world war, unemployment involving millions of workers has become PERMANENT and constantly growing, in "good times" and "bad times." In the "good times" it has been growing seriously, and now that "bad times" are on us again, unemployment grows at a tremendous pace. Hundreds of factories are shutting down entirely, and almost all are running on part time or with greatly reduced working forces.

This latest increase in unemployment, caused by economic crisis, is the latest example of a regular occurrence under capitalism.

Cause for Unemployment.

What is the cause for unemployment? Why is it not possible to give everyone the opportunity to work, to provide for himself and his dependents, and to increase the general well-being of all society at all times?

The cause for unemployment is to be found in the system of capitalism itself. Capitalism is built upon unemployment, and reproduces unemployment upon a mass scale. Unless this fact is thoroughly understood it is impossible to do anything to change the present terrible conditions to any serious or important extent.

The Speed-Up System—Cause of Permanent Unemployment.

In addition to the unemployment caused by a crisis, we have seen that unemployment has also become a PERMANENT condition for millions of workers. What is the cause for this?

PERMANENT UNEMPLOYMENT has grown up especially in the last ten years as the result of new capitalist methods in the mills and factories. These new capitalist methods are called by the general name of RATIONALIZATION, that is, the reorganization of production along "rational" lines. But the "rational" ideas of the capitalist run in a direction that is very "irrational" for the workers—for they mean the development of new methods of getting more work out of each worker in a day or an hour. They are the methods of SPEED-UP, of STRETCH-OUT, and all the other forms of making every worker work harder and faster. Each worker is made to keep up with a faster machine, or he is given more machines to tend, or both. That is the meaning of capitalist rationalization which has been the outstanding new development of capitalism in the last ten years.

In all manufactures in the U. S., during the past ten years, this process has resulted in an increased production per worker by 43 per cent, or an increase of almost one-half.

But the workers, who made this tremendous increase at the cost of their very life-force, their vital energies, their bones, muscle, and sweat, instead of gaining anything by it, suffered the most severe losses. First of all, almost two millions lost their jobs entirely. Next, those who kept their jobs, in order to prevent the capitalists from hiring the unemployed in their place

were forced to accept lower wages and worsened working conditions. And finally, and most important, the workers have been loaded with a terrible burden of exhaustion, disease, accidents, AND THE THREAT OF PERMANENT UNEMPLOYMENT which hangs over every worker today like a threatening black cloud. NO WORKER CAN ANY MORE FEEL SURE OF HIS JOB.

A. F. of L. and Socialists Join Hoover

The program of Hoover, which is to dope the workers and prevent them from struggle while the burdens of the crisis are placed upon them, has been given the support of the A. F. of L. leaders as well as that of the socialist party. These "labor" and "socialist" fakery and betrayers are the most dangerous enemies of the workers, because, while carrying on Hoover's program for the interests of capitalism, they do so in the name and in the midst of the working class. Like all traitors, they are more dangerous than the open enemies.

The leader of the Socialist party, the Reverend Norman Thomas, has also endorsed Hoover's program, saying: "It is now clear that unlike some of his predecessors, President Hoover at least has a policy for dealing with depression and unemployment"—a program which Thomas endorses as "a step along the road the socialists have long since pointed out."

It is clear that the workers, and with especial force, the unemployed, must prepare to fight against not only Hoover and the capitalist class, but also against the A. F. of L. and the Socialist party. Only through such a struggle can any progress be made in dealing with the problems of unemployment.

The Final Solution for Unemployment.

From what has been said, it is clear that unemployment, which is the foundation upon which the capitalist class has built its entire system, can only be finally abolished by the abolition of capitalism. And capitalism can only be abolished by the working class, organizing its power in strong, fighting trade unions, under the leadership of the Communist Party, and overthrowing the state power of the capitalist class to replace it with a workers' government—the dictatorship of the proletariat, the rule of the propertyless people.

The only country in the world where unemployment is being abolished is the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, where the working class seized power, drove out the capitalist class, and reorganized society and industry upon the basis of socialism under the leadership of the Communist Party.

For Unity and Struggle Against Capitalism

Successful struggle against unemployment demands the maximum of working-class unity and militant struggle. Workers must rally around the revolutionary trade unions, sections of the Trade Union Unity League. Workers must unite closer and closer with the Communist Party, which is the only leader of all struggles against exploitation and for the overthrow of capitalism, as well as for all immediate benefits.

The working class must mobilize all its forces not only for the daily struggle for immediate demands, but also in preparation for the final struggle for the overthrow of capitalism, and for the establishment of a workers' government—the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Communist Party U. S. A.
43 East 125th Street,
New York City.

I, the undersigned, want to join the Communist Party. Send me more information.

Name
Address City
Occupation Age

Mail this to the Women's Department,
Communist Party, 43 East 125th St., New
York, N. Y.

DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day 1930 is being celebrated all over the world under the leadership of the Communist International, champion of the workers of the world. The Communist International calls upon all the workers of the world and particularly the workers of the world to mobilize for struggle under the leadership of the Communist Parties of their country, and to follow the lead of their Russian sisters and brothers to overthrow capitalism and establish Soviet Governments all over the world.

International Women's Day takes place at the time when the economic crisis is gripping the entire country, spreading throughout the capitalist world, at the time when preparations for imperialist war are hastening. In their struggle for world markets, the imperialists feverishly arm against one another and especially against the Soviet Union which is the only country in which unemployment is being abolished, where millions of more workers have been drawn into industry in the last year, where the workers enjoy a real socialist prosperity because they have abolished capitalism and reconstructed industry under workers' control.

Over six million workers in this country are out of jobs. At least two million are women from shops and mills. Many more millions of women and children, dependents of workers, are being thrown out of their homes, facing misery and starvation. The government, headed by Hoover and in agreement with the A. F. of L. and Women's Trade Union League betrayers, are throwing the burden of the crisis on the working class by increasing speed-up, lowering wages, taking away the right to organize and strike. While a cut of 160 million dollars in taxes has been granted by the government for the capitalists not one cent has been allotted by them for the relief of the millions of unemployed working men and women and their families.

Particularly are the women workers forced to accept work at any price in order to provide food for their children. The bosses are using these millions of unemployed workers as a whip over the employed. Those who revolt against the inhuman speed-up are threatened with losing their jobs. Irrespective of the bosses' threats and the A. F. of L. betrayers and the Socialist Party, the discontent among the workers is widespread.

The bosses' and governments' attacks on the workers have had the effect of increasing the class consciousness and militant determination to fight against their oppressors. The women workers, the wives and daughters of workers are taking a leading part in the strikes carried on in

the coal fields and textile, food, shoe and needle industries. In these strikes whole families participate.

International Women's Day 1930 places important tasks upon the working women in the United States; the task of organization, to organize and to fight against the American bosses, the Socialist Party and other enemies of the working class.

Working women, Negro and white, on the occasion of March 8th—International Women's Day—Join with the men workers, form a solid front of labor against American and world capitalism, become members of the militant unions of the Trade Union Unity League; help build a strong working class organization which fights to improve your economic conditions; join the only political organization in the United States, which represents and militantly fights for the interests of the whole working class, to improve their immediate conditions under capitalism, and for the overthrow of the capitalist system and the establishment of a workers' and farmers' government in the United States.

Working women—Negro and white!

Fight against imperialist war! Prepare to turn the next war into a war against the capitalist class!

Fight against speed-up, unemployment, low wages!

Fight for the right to strike and organize into militant trade unions!

Fight against the betrayal by the American Federation of Labor, the socialist party and the Women's Trade Union League!

Join the militant industrial unions of the Trade Union Unity League—Section of the Red International of Labor Unions!

Join the Councils of Unemployed workers under the leadership of the Trade Union Unity League in your city and fight for work or wages!

Fight together with the revolutionary workers of the world!

Negro and white working women, wives and daughters of workers employed and unemployed join with the men workers in demonstration against unemployment February 26th.

Join the ranks of the Communist Party, section of the Communist International—organizer and leader of the workers in all their struggles against the capitalist system!

Join in demonstration with the Communist Party of the United States on the occasion of March 8th—International Women's Day—against unemployment, speed-up, against imperialist wars, in defense of the workers' fatherland, the Soviet Union! for a workers and farmers government in U. S.!

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Important Post in Soviet Cabinet Held by Women.

MOSCOW (by mail).—Vera Yakovleva has been appointed People's Commissar for Finance. This 44-year old comrade has been in the revolutionary movement since 1905. In the course of her activity she was twice exiled to the Narim district from which she successfully escaped both times. Before her appointment as Soviet Finance Minister she was assistant Commissar for Education.

SOUTH NIGERIA—AFRICA

Despite the reports of the British bourgeois press according to which the situation in Southern Nigeria is quiet after the demonstrations on the December 11 and 12, further demonstrations took place in the Aba and Opobo districts. The demonstrators were mostly women protesting against the taxes. The police fired on the demonstration, wounding 18.

TURKISH WOMEN STRIKE

CONSTANTINOPLE (by mail).—Turkish women workers have struck for the first time in the history of Turkey. The strike broke out in the city of Kastomoni near the Black Sea, where 2,000 peasant women who worked for the Turkish Lumber Co. demanded a wage increase of 100 per cent. Pay had been only 50 piasters a day—one half the wages paid to men. The strike, which was conducted with the greatest spirit, resulted in complete victory for the women workers.

French Chambermaids on Strike.

PARIS.—Chambermaids, the domestic servants who are supposed to be humble and servile, are on strike. Hundreds met and drew up a list of demands. Among the demands is such a simple thing as a fixed wage, rather than being paid whatever the employers feel like. Refusal to do certain dangerous work such as climbing ladders to polish windows, and a rest period of 15 minutes each morning, with double pay for Sundays and holidays are among the demands.

Austrian Women Workers Meet. (Inprecorr Mail Service)

VIENNA (by mail).—The first conference of working women opened here with social democrats and seven non-party working women), three delegates representing organizations and 24 guests.

The speakers demanded that the women great enthusiasm. There were 28 delegates from the factories (18 Communists, three workers also should be trained to take their part in the physical struggle against fascism and should take their place in the ranks of the workers defense corps. The resolutions which were all unanimously adopted, demanded equal pay for equal work, the abolition of capitalist rationalization, a pause of 10 minutes at the moving band, the prohibition of all night work and children's labor, the reduction of the cost of living, the abolition of the fascist constitutional law against imperialist war, for the defense of the Soviet Union and for a Soviet Austria.

Opening of the Mass Demonstration Before City Hall Against the Murder of Katovis



Thousands Battle Police in New York City Hall Demonstration Called by Communist Party to Protest Against Shooting and Murdering of Workers by Whalen's Cossack Police on the Picket Line. 200 Police Assault Workers with Blackjacks and Clubs. Workers Fight Back. Just as the Workers Raised Their Banners and Placards, the Hundreds of Police That Surrounded City Hall, and Were Hidden Inside of the Building, Rushed on the Workers and Began Using Their Clubs. Mounted Police Rode in. The Demonstrators Fought Back as More and More Cops Kept Arriving, Beating Women and Children in a Furious Effort to Break the Protest.



Women Fight Police at City Hall Demonstration for Katovis Who Was Shot in the Back by a Policeman While at a Meeting called by the Trade Union Unity League at Miller's Market, 161st Street and Union Avenue, New York, to protest against the granting of an injunction (by a Socialist lawyer) against picketing the market.

Building the Working Woman

The subscription drive for the Working Woman is on—10,000 by May 1st is our goal, and with your help we can do it. Between 5 and 7 million workers are out of jobs today, and a great percentage of them are women. Conditions of workers in the U.S. are steadily growing worse.

The Working Woman is an organizer, it shows women workers how to fight effectively against unemployment, low wages, long hours, speed-up. The Working Woman must reach every shop, mill and factory especially those which are unorganized.

The capitalist powers of the world are preparing for another world slaughter. Women workers in the factories are already being mobilized for imperialist war. When the war breaks out, millions of women and children will be forced into industry to make

greater profits for the bosses, while their husbands and brothers will be dragged to the front to kill the workers of other countries.

THE WORKING WOMAN teaches women workers the real causes of imperialist wars, and proves that there can be no peace under the capitalist system. The Working Woman shows women workers how they can organize to fight these wars.

Comrades, in building The Working Woman you are fighting against unemployment, you are helping to organize the masses of unorganized women workers, you are helping to defend the Soviet Union. ON WITH THE DRIVE! 10,000 SUBSCRIBERS BY MAY 1st.

Send in your reports about the drive to The Working Woman.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE WORKING WOMAN

It fights for women workers wherever they are exploited. This is your paper—BUILD IT!

HELP TO GET THE 10,000 SUBSCRIBERS Only 50 cents a year

The Working Woman 43 East 125th Street New York City

Enclosed find 50 cents for one year's subscription to The Working Woman.

Name Address City Occupation Union

Rush Funds to THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE 80 East Eleventh Street, Room 402 New York City

WORKING WOMEN! Young Workers! Proletarian Housewives! Rally to the help of class-war prisoners and defendants! Add your strength to smash capitalist justice and tyranny and to break the bosses' armed attacks! Join the ranks of millions of working men and women in a campaign for the complete freedom of all class-war prisoners!

Join the International Labor Defense

Get into the I. L. D. work in your city or town. Write in for information NOW. Help in the Tag Days and mass collections on February 1st and 2nd and on February

15th and 16th. We need thousands of dollars immediately—before February 3rd—and more February 17th. Get your organization to run affairs for defense—for International Labor Defense.

We must help the dependent wives, families, children of class-war prisoners. The I. L. D. gives over \$1,000.00 a month for prisoners and their families.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE, Room 402, 80 E. 11th St., New York City.

Inclosed in my (our) donation of \$..... for Labor Defense.

Name Address

AUTO WORKERS ASK FOR T. U. U. L. (By a Worker Correspondent)

At the Murray factory there are a few hundred workers employed, the majority of them are young workers who work under miserable conditions. The wage scale is very low, 17 cents to 30 cents an hour; for overtime they pay even below the wage scale. The workers cannot put in the time sheets themselves, the foreman takes charge of the time sheets in the end of the week. We are cheated of many hours. We always protest against these conditions and the answer is, we are not worth any more. Instead of working eight hours a day we have to sweat for twelve hours a day. The workers are resisting and fighting against long hours, speed up, wage cuts, and are demanding fighting organization which will fight militantly for the working class. If we demand shorter hours in order to revive the body physically, and in every respect, the bosses' answer is there are 50,000 waiting for your job. If you kick too much you get fired for the least little things.

Worker Fired

A fellow worker was smoking a cigarette. He was fired immediately, and the bosses refused to give him the pay envelope. He was waiting patiently, but they didn't seem to get busy, to let him have the money later the bosses called on the watchman and ordered him to throw the young worker out of the factory. And some of the bosses came over and knocked him cold. In a short while the workers gathered to the scene and protested against these outrages. The bosses told them to get the hell back to work or get out.

Every Saturday we have to clean the benches and the machines for two hours and we don't get paid for it. The bosses say it was only a little cleaning up, but why he would not pay for work he did not answer. This is the way they are cheating

every worker, even of the little wages we get. The wash rooms are filthy and unsanitary and they do not employ any extra sweeper in order to keep the place clean. The workers get fired if they talk to each other about these rotten conditions.

THE ONLY TIME WE WILL BETTER THE CONDITIONS OF THE WORKERS—IF WE ORGANIZE AND ESTABLISH SHOP COMMITTEES, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NEW MILITANT FIGHTING UNION, "THE TRADE UNION UNITY LEAGUE." THIS IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKING CLASS. FIGHTS RATIONALIZATION; "AGAINST SPEED-UP", WAGE CUTS; AGAINST LONG HOURS; FOR SOCIAL INSURANCE; FOR SEVEN-HOUR DAY. —A. KINCES.

Send Greetings to the Soviet Union!

Unions! Fraternal Organizations! Working Women's Clubs! Send your greetings to the special INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EDITION of the WORKING WOMAN which will come out March 1st, 1930 The rates are \$2, \$3, \$5, \$8, \$10

SHOW YOUR SOLIDARITY! DON'T DELAY!

Send your greeting now to The Working Woman 43 East 125th Street, New York

Negro Women Workers—Organize!

Negro Women Workers You Belong to the Communist Party

By L. AMTER

Of all sections of the working class that are oppressed, the Negro workers come first. Of the Negro workers, the Negro women workers are the most exploited. They are of that section of the working class—the Negroes—that are used wherever dirty and hard work is required, and they also get the longest hours and lowest pay.

The bosses prefer women to men workers, or they know that a woman worker for special reasons will work cheaper, and if married, and especially if she has children, she is forced to work under any conditions and for low pay. The bosses know that when a woman has children and is compelled to go to work, she will accept any conditions to be able to help out the family income.

The Negro women also take the place of white women, and that takes place only when the employers are determined to lower the conditions even of the white women. Therefore we find the shift in some industries from white to colored women—even from white to colored girls.

Thus we find that the Negro women workers are the most exploited, the most robbed—and they are not in a position to fight back. They are not organized as the Negro workers generally are not, being excluded from the unions. The American Federation of Labor today will not organize the workers to fight or better conditions. Wm. Green, President of the A. F. of L. made a pledge at Hoover's conference in November to carry on no campaign for wage advances. The A. F. of L. is a strike-breaking agency working for the bosses. And above all, the A. F. of L. refuses to organize Negro workers, for it is a Jim-Crow organization acting in the interests of the bosses and keeping the workers divided. The white workers also are not sufficiently organized, and therefore the main job today is to bring about organization of ALL UNORGANIZED workers. This is the big task of the Trade Union Unity League, and it is the duty of all workers, but particularly the women workers, white and colored, to form their groups in the shops and mills, and to elect delegates to the convention of the Metropolitan Area of the Trade Union Unity League, which will be held on March 1 and 2.

Organization into unions is not sufficient however. There is the big job of changing the entire system, which makes it possible for the few billionaires to control the lives of the tens of millions of the workers. There is the need of preparing to fight against the coming imperialist war which will result in the slaughter of millions of American workers, white and colored. There is the need of fighting for our rights today—the right to organize and to strike; the right to picket and not have to face courts, injunctions, police and jail. That is the system under which we live today, because the bosses—the capitalists—control, and we workers remain slaves.

Therefore the workers—both white and colored—and particularly the women workers, who feel the struggle most—and above all the Negro women workers, should be part of the army of the workers, which is fighting against the present conditions, organizing the workers to put up an effective fight against the present conditions, organizing the workers to up an effective fight against the war danger, with the aim of destroying the present system and setting up a Workers and Farmers Government in this country, like that of the Soviet Union.

In the Soviet Union, the workers and peasants control. Everything is done for the benefit of the workers and peasants. The workers produce not for profit of the bosses, but for the benefit of the working class. The result is that not like in the United States, where there is tremendous unemployment, wages are going down and wars are being increased and conditions are getting worse; in the Soviet Union they work only 7 hours a day, and in some industries less hours; wages are continually increasing, and the conditions are being proved.

What can the worker—and particularly the Negro woman—do in the U. S.?

Negro Workers Are Betrayed by A. F. of L.

(By a Worker Correspondent)

Winston-Salem, N. C. (By mail).—Hundreds of Negro and white workers wait in lines in front of company employment offices here waiting in vain while two or three replace the same number fired a few days before because they could not stand the speed-up.

Many of the workers were formerly farm tenants and are beginning to let the tenants back on the farms now that only by the organization together of the farm and the factory workers can the workers, black and white, throw their chains off.

Jefferson Neal, a Negro, once helped the A. F. of L. to organize 8,000 Negro tobacco workers who were kept divided from the white workers and sold out by the A. F. of L., which refused to call a strike of the white and black slaves of the tobacco bosses here. He is now active for the American Negro Labor Congress.

Winston-Salem Worker.



Tobacco Worker at Winston Salem, N. C. Her wage was \$9.90 a week, until she was discharged for being a union member.

government? The U. S. government represents not the workers, but the bosses of this country. Its function is to keep the workers down and make it possible for the bosses to get more and more profits out of them.

Can the Negro worker and the Negro woman worker look to the Garvey Movement for guidance, when Garvey made a deal with one section of the capitalist class, the democrats; when he accepted the supremacy of the whites in this country, and looked to Africa for salvation? And when he is excluded from Africa by all the big powers, which will not hand over Africa to the colored workers except through a revolution—a revolution which must take place in the imperialist countries as well?

Can the Negro worker look to the N.A.A.C.P., which only wants a few crumbs from the tables of the masters for the Negro doctors, lawyers and professionals, and cares nothing for the Negro workers? Or the Urban League, which works hand in hand with the bosses?

There is only one place for the Negro worker, and particularly the Negro woman worker, who recognizes that the system robs us and is willing to fight against it in an organized manner, in an organization which demands discipline because it faces the most serious business in life for the workers—the job of overturning the entire system and putting the workers into control. If a woman worker sees the need of fighting and is willing to fight, then she belongs in the COMMUNIST PARTY—the only organization that knows no discrimination, no segregation—that fights for the working class as a whole, for the white and colored, for men and women, young and adult workers; that fights for the colonial peoples.

Colored women workers—you who are working in the laundries for \$8.00 to \$10.00

Negro Women Workers Fight Against Conditions of Slavery

By GRACE HUTCHINS

Of all workers under capitalism, Negro women are the most exploited. Slaving longest hours at lowest pay, nearly 2,000,000 unorganized. Negro women workers call out to fellow-workers for help through organization. Where do these women work, and what do they do?

On Southern Farms.

The last census, taken 10 years ago, tells us that over 600,000 Negro women workers are farm laborers in the South. But this is an under-statement, because the census was taken in January when there is not so much work on farms as in the spring, summer and autumn months. The number is more nearly a million.

Picking cotton and tobacco in the hot sun all day, stooping over the long rows of plants, lifting heavy bags, and dragging them to be weighed, these agricultural women workers are still doing what chattel slaves did before the Civil War. Only now they are paid an average of 10 cents an hour for the job and are expected to provide a living out of it. "Living" is merely existing in little cabins without the means to buy proper food enough to get the strength to go to work.

Serving the Rich Class.

About 800,000 Negro women workers are in domestic and personal service. The leisure class like colored servants, because "they come cheaper" and because in the past they have been more humble and docile in accepting orders from a mistress.

But those days of submissiveness are nearing an end. Negro women, as well as men, are awaking to class-consciousness as self-respecting workers who will no longer tolerate the chains put upon them by the master class. An organization of household workers including all those who are in "domestic and personal service" will demand a 7-hour day, increase of wages, and freedom to live independently.

Negro Janitors.

Down in wet basements of tenement and apartment houses live the Negro janitors and their wives, working from 5 a. m. to 11 p. m. Landlords and tenants depend on the janitors to keep the furnace going, clean the whole house and the sidewalk and do all the odd chores, but pay is miserably small. Dark basements quarters and \$10 a month make up the wages in return for a 16-18 hour day's labor.

The janitor's wife must help with all the work. Sometimes she is herself the janitor while the man goes out on other work, trying to make up a meager living with some other earnings. As one Negro janitor says: "It is necessary for janitors to organize into a fighting union to better their conditions, and I think all janitors, Negro and white, should be together in that union. And a union led by the Trade Union Unity League will take in all."

In Factories.

Tobacco factories employ a fifth of the 110,000 Negro women in manufacturing industries. Centering largely in North and South Carolina, Kentucky and Missouri, the tobacco industry employs colored women on the heaviest, dirtiest, and dustiest jobs. Cigarette plants have moved away from New York City, where wages were a little higher, and are now concentrated in the low-wage southern states. Smaller cigar plants center largely in New Jersey and in New York City, on the upper east side.

Unpacking the tobacco from hogsheads raises irritating dust, and it is Negro women who do this job. In the steaming room colored women are the ones who must stand the high degree of humidity and the heavy odor of damp tobacco. Steaming or

a week, toiling long hours; you who are working in the needle industry for \$10 to \$12 a week; you who are exploited in all industry, you who will be murdered and butchered in the coming imperialist war, Join the Communist Party! Join with us in Fighting Against the Present System and for the Establishment of the Power of the Working Class through a Workers and Farmers Government of the United States!

stripping the tobacco leaves is a semi-skilled job, and Negro women do it well, but higher skill brings no promotion to any other department in the factory.

For a 10-11 hour day in these tobacco plants, under such conditions, colored women may average \$6-\$8 a week. The great R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., making vast profits of over \$32,000,000 in 1929, pays wages of \$7-\$11 a week to the 12,000 workers in its plants at Winston-Salem, N. C. More than half of these workers are Negroes.

Colored women in textile mills number about 7,000. They also are doing the heavy general labor or are helping machine operators by such work as filling frames. Many are picking waste matter from raw cotton, the dustiest job. Cotton shreds in the air get into the throat and lungs, and injure the health.

These Negro women textile workers, doing the worst jobs of all, are as welcome in the new left wing industrial union, the National Textile Workers Union, as are the most highly skilled weavers and warpers. Where the treacherous A. F. of L. unions have cared only to organize the small aristocratic group of more highly paid men, the Trade Union Unity League and its affiliated union, welcomes all who are workers regardless of race, color or occupation. Negro delegates at conventions of the National Textile Workers Union, both in the South and in the North, have found themselves on a complete equality with white fellow-workers.

Laundry Workers.

In nearly every city in the United States Negro women work in the larger laundries under terrific conditions of speed-up and long hours for low wages. Most of the laundry workers in Harlem and the Bronx sections of New York City are Negro women who tell of pay so low that it is impossible to make a living. Overtime work is common, and hours per week sometimes run up to sixty.

Paid by the pound, the workers find the rates continually cut to keep down wages. A rate of 4c a pound was cut to 3½c, then to 3c and finally to 2½c. Women often faint on the job, while working for long hours in the steam and heat, or contract bronchitis and pneumonia.

But Negro laundry workers are beginning to organize under the leadership of the Trade Union Unity League. Standing up for their rights in solidarity, they are no longer afraid of the boss. Leaflets and literature have been distributed at the laundry gates; open air meetings are held in spring and summer, and conferences give rank-and-file workers a chance to speak freely of conditions. The T.U.U.L. gives these workers full support.

In the Needle Trades.

In the needle trades, especially in dress-making, Negro women are more exploited than any other workers. Four thousand Negro women are working in the dress industry in the Harlem district of New York City, many of them under shocking sweatshop conditions. Wages for these colored workers range from \$8-\$12 a week on the same work for which white union shops pay \$25-\$44 a week. This pay is less than a third what the white organized workers are getting for the same job.

The Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union welcomes Negro workers, whatever their occupation in the needle trades, on an entirely equal footing with white garment workers. Negro representatives sit on the central committee of the union. Negro members of the union have realized that only by organizing in this industrial union under the leadership of the T.U.U.L. can they secure their rights.

Organize Under T.U.U.L. Banner!

Negro women workers, Organize! Write into the Working Woman, or to the Trade Union Unity League at 96 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Tell of your conditions. Join the union affiliated with the T.U.U.L. Only by solidarity with other workers—white and colored—will you gain freedom. You have nothing to lose but your chains. You have a world to gain.

Fight Against Imperialist War!

TWO REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN WORKERS OF LATIN AMERICA

By HARRISON GEORGE

Not long ago there was a great strike in Colombia, of the workers on the great banana plantations, owned by the United Fruit Company. It was more than a strike, it was a revolt, since the government, which is a lackey of American imperialism, sent troops against the strikers and the 30,000 strikers gave battle and fought like heroes. Though hundreds, no one knows how many, were killed by the troops, the Colombian workers even under martial law, reformed their lines and organized something they never had before, a central trade union organization and based it on the class struggle, affiliating it to the Latin American Confederation of Labor, the revolutionary center of red trade unions for all Latin America.

But what is of especial interest to the women workers of the United States is that in the armed revolt of the Colombian workers, two women, Maria Cano and Maria Rico de Tobon, shared the leadership of the battles and led hundreds of both men and women toilers in struggle against American imperialism. For so doing, these two splendid working women were sentenced to 1 1/2 years of prison, along with the Communist man strike chief, Alberto Castrihon.

American women workers must give special appreciation to this incident. Latin American women are even more backward than the women of the United States. The whole mass, both men and women, are yet not freed from the prejudices of feudalism, which esteems women as mere objects of sexual pleasure and as undeserving of participation in political struggle. Such prejudices still are lingering to some degree even in the Communist Parties, not only in Latin America but right here in the United States.

It must then be fully appreciated what a revolutionary development is taking place in Latin America, that the Colombian workers threw up as leaders two women. And it is the imperative duty of American working women to engrave in their minds the names of Maria Cano and Maria Rico de Tobon, and proceeding from that to act further Latin American working women into action by establishing a fraternal bond between themselves and the revolutionary working women of Latin America.

The writer suggests that the Communist and revolutionary working women of the United States address the working women of Latin America through the Latin American Trade Union Confederation at Montevideo, Uruguay, (Calle Olimar 1544), not only extending a message of solidarity, but establishing permanent bonds of communication and correspondence such as will prove of mutual benefit in arousing the spirit of internationalism and fighting action in support of each other's battles.

It is the duty, and should be the pleasure of the revolutionary women of the United States, the imperialist oppressor of Latin American workers and peasants, to strive by every means in their power to establish firm bonds with the working women of Latin America, and a tribute to the women fighters of the Colombian working class is a fitting way to begin.

Murder of Ella May Is Not Mentioned When Judge Instructs Jury

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Judge Clements spent one hour in charging the new Gaston County grand jury about routine matters, but never once, directly or indirectly, reminded the jurors to indict the murderers of Ella May Wiggins, who was pursued and shot to death in broad daylight on September 14 by a gang of Loray mill gunmen. Even callous newspaper men commented on Judge Clements avoiding mention of the first case to come before the jury.

W. T. U. L. Demonstration



At the call of the Communist Party, working women of New York picket the Women's Trade Union League—exposing its treacherous role in the fake conference of the Cause and Cure of War, called by bourgeois women's organizations.

Stories from SOVIET RUSSIA

Sketches of the New Life in Soviet Russia

(Editor's Note.—This is the second of the series of stories of the lives of the working women under the Workers' and Farmers' Government of Soviet Russia. Whereas the first of the series dealt with the heroism displayed by the women in establishing their new government, the following sketch depicts the life of the factory women as she now works and lives since her own government has been established.)

Immediately after the factory whistle has announced the end of work, the workers' club in the factory, quiet all day long, is filled with life. At one stroke everything is full of noise, the workers are shouting and laughing.

Hardly has one had a chance to look around than all the tables in the "Rest Room" are already occupied by lovers of chess. Here one meets with very few women—most of the devotees are young working men. The women also play, but not with the enthusiasm displayed by the young workers, and only now and then. For the working women there is much more attractive activity in the club.

Here parts of plays are learned by heart, there are singing groups, music lessons are taken, sport is also popular, instruction is given in reading and writing, courses on trade unions and cooperatives and also in educational subjects and the elements of political knowledge. There is a school for sewing, then there are chess hours, a library, and finally there is the women's favorite sport: "The Working Women's Cozy Corner."

Here in this comfortable little room, where the portraits of Comrades Krupskaya, Inez Armand, Rosa Luxemburg and Lenin look down from the walls and attentively watch everything that is going on; here loyally and indefatigably the formerly ignorant illiterate slave is being transformed into a new woman, self-confident the civilized mother and worker, a woman taking her place in public life.

It is so pleasant and peaceful after having stood at the vise for eight hours, the whole body and the whole brain tense, both working with the mechanism of a clock, to sit in a comfortable armchair and read the paper.

And then also there are consultations with the doctor on woman hygiene and the health of the children, the reading aloud of the newspapers and periodicals and of literature—all this serves one and the same object, the raising of the general political and cultural standard of the working women.

The women take turns keeping order in their corner, and they are devotedly thoughtful of order and cleanliness, and keep up their "Diary of the Life of the

Working Women's Corner" with the greatest care.

And it is nearly nine o'clock before the club begins to empty itself.

The clear voices of the Pioneers ring out. In twos or in social groups the youth are leaving. And the women go to the Children's Home in order to call there for their little ones and to take them home. (In the Children's Home an evening group was formed on March 8 for the benefit of the mothers active in public life.)

And when she comes home to her husband, and begins to explain to him the meaning of the German-Russian Treaty, then he, who from the time that he was a little boy has always been accustomed to look upon woman as an insignificant creature, does not know how he should express himself about the knowledge of his wife—whether he should be glad or whether he should feel irritated...

Thus in the Club "Svoboda" (Freedom) the builder up of a free and better life, the Russian working woman, is being trained; thus she is developing.

B. YUROVSKAYA.

Tax-payers Strike in India.

A tax-payers' strike has begun in India and is rapidly developing in the Punjab. It is a part of the independence movement.

The bourgeois National Congress had nothing to do with starting it, but some elements of the National Congress are trying to get it under their control and are arranging a huge demonstration.

Reports that the Hindus and Moslems are united are most significant, since the British have always strived to keep them divided. This time, they are jointly refusing to pay the water tax, over which the fight is beginning.

JOIN THE COUNCIL OF UNEMPLOYED

PEACE PACT BUNK

BOURGEOIS WOMEN DECEIVE WOMEN WORKERS

A committee of three women, representing the conference for the Cause and Cure of War which was held in Washington last week, are on their way to London, with a peace petition signed by thousands of women. Among the organizations supporting this "conference" for the Cause and Cure of War are The Women's Christian Temperance Union, the League of Women Voters, the Federation of Women's Clubs, and specially the Women's Trade Union League. All of these bourgeois women's organizations who are deceiving thousands of women workers, with their talk about peace, while they assist the government in preparing for war, were very active in their support of the last war and forced thousands of working women into war activities.

The Women's Trade Union League, which pretends to represent the interests of workers has continually proven by its support of the last war, its failure to organize the masses of exploited women workers, by its loyalty to the A. F. of L. that it represents the bosses and not the workers whom it has betrayed.

This "peace" petition is just another way of fooling women workers into believing that peace is possible under capitalism, and in keeping them from organizing against imperialist war.

Unemployed in Demonstration

HAMILTON, Ont.—Nearly a thousand unemployed workers, including many women, held a mass demonstration in the central market square near the city hall at 3 o'clock on Jan. 13.

Extra police were on hand as the usual provocation but they are not yet ready to begin clubbing in the Toronto police manner.

The Board of Control do a lot of talking on the subject of unemployment, but the talk is for the purpose of passing the buck.

The most poisonous member against the hungry workers is Sam Lawrence, the reformist Labor faker, who, at one time, lined up with, and supported the militant workers, but by the fruits of office, went the way of all reformists, right wing, and—fake "lefts"—over to the side of the bosses.

Thousands of Heroic Illinois Coal Strikers, Their Wives and Children, Are Starving!

THEIR FIGHT IS YOUR FIGHT

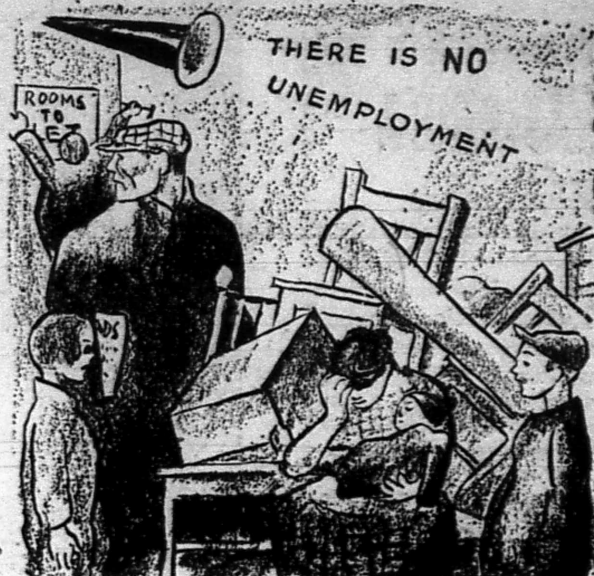
Rush Funds at Once to Workers International Relief. 949 Broadway, Room 512, New York City

Join the WIR—RELIEF ON THE BASIS OF SOLIDARITY, NOT CHARITY

ACT NOW!

Crisis In U.S.A. Intensifies World Crisis

Unemployed Workers! Organize! Don't Be Fooled by "Prosperity Lies"



Activities of the Women of the N. T. W. U.

The last meeting of the Women's Section of the National Textile Workers Union decided what its immediate activities should be:

1. That a meeting of all quilters and winders on its list to be called for Tuesday, January 21st. This meeting is to take up the special demands that must be put up for them. These demands will be presented to the Union Demands Committee. A representative from this meeting will be elected to the Union Demands Committee.

2. A mass meeting will be called of all women silk and dye workers Friday, January 31st, at the Union Hall. At this meeting besides speakers, there will be a discussion and recommendations will be made to the Union as to the special women demands. At this meeting an attempt will be made to unionize all those women that have as yet not joined the union.

3. The Women's Section is definitely going ahead with its work to organize a Women's Auxiliary in the N.T.W.U. This work is very important, as the mobilization of the wives of the workers for the strike is a very important factor in strike preparations. This work has already been started and good results are expected.

Special leaflets are being issued to the women in the industry pointing out their rotten conditions, and urging them to join the union together with the men and organize for a successful fight against the attacks of the bosses and for decent living conditions. The work that has been done, clearly demonstrates to the women in the textile industry that the N.T.W.U., unlike the U.T.W. and A.S.W., sincerely mean to organize the women in the textile industry.

Jobless Increase in Austria

AUSTRIA (By Imprecorr Mail Service).—Unemployment is rapidly growing in Austria. In Vienna alone there were 10,000 more workers unemployed in December, making a total of 83,396, being 6,917 more than this time last year.

According to the official statistics, there were 167,479 workers receiving unemployment support at the end of November in Austria, and of these 67,002 were in Vienna proper and a further 9,166 in the immediate neighborhood. There were 41,635 more workers unemployed on December 1 than on November 1.

Reckoning their dependents, at least one million persons are suffering from unemployment in this small country.

BERLIN, Jan.—Mass demonstrations of unemployed workers, whose total number has swelled above 2,000,000, under the auspices of the Communist Party, demanding unemployment relief, resisted the attacks of the Zoergiebel social-fascist police, in an attempt to break their ranks. Five are dead and 20 wounded, among which are the police thugs who sought unsuccessfully to smash the demonstrations. Demonstrations were held simultaneously in Berlin, Chemnitz, Madgesburg and other cities.

California Agricultural Workers Ready for a Widespread Rebellion

(By a Worker Correspondent)

BRAWLEY, Cal. (By Mail).—The agricultural workers here, mostly Orientals and Mexicans, recently rebelled against intolerable conditions—long hours, starvation wages, the forcing of women and children into the fields alongside with the men, and the system of "seigniorial rights" over the wives, daughters and sweethearts of the agricultural workers, which the American ranch workers adopt.

In many cases this is the only condition on which an agricultural worker can obtain employment.

The sheriffs and deputies are all re-

cruited from the American Legion and are vicious and degenerated.

They forced the striking workers back to their jobs at the point of guns.

The workers are seething with discontent and ripe for organization. In the Palo Verde Valley in Riverside County hundreds of families of poor whites from Texas are living in tents and out of doors. Many are only kept from sheer starvation by the miserable doles of cornmeal and fatback which the county authorities throw to them like to dogs.

The need throughout this section is for good organization. The material is here and we are ready.

—AGRICULTURAL WORKER.

CHILDS RESTAURANT STARVES WOMEN WORKERS

I am employed in one of the largest stores in Childs. In this aristocratic, clean-appearing restaurant 150 women workers slave under the most miserable conditions. Women and young girls between the ages of 16 to 18 are barred in the downstairs cellar kitchen suffering from overheated, stuffy and filthy air away from the sunshine and fresh air. Women are working as potwashers, lifting heavy pots, handling chemicals that infect their skin, always in damp and heat. This job, which could have been eased by certain improvements, is not fit for women and young girls. And for this rotten work we are getting paid from \$15.00 to \$12.00 per week. We are compelled to eat "special" food—which means that it cannot be sold to customers and is not fit for human beings. We are compelled to live on one portion of bread and a cup of coffee, which makes up a meal. Which in reality means starvation to us workers, as we are not allowed to get even an extra piece of bread. "Cake or fruit," says Childs experts, "is not for workers." But the fat-bellied management, of course, do not live on this starvation diet—they are allowed everything their fancy dictates to them. The speed-up system in the Childs squeezes the very life out of us workers and compels one worker to do the work of two. It is for this reason that the Childs management is reducing the staff more and more, and every day women and girls are being thrown out in the street penniless and jobless. The women in Childs realize these conditions and are willing to organize. We welcome the drive of the Hotel, Restaurant and Cafeteria Workers' Union to organize the food workers in this city.

BETTY.

DO YOU KNOW THAT—

At least 6,000,000 workers cannot find work in the United States today.

The specter of permanent mass unemployment grows larger and blacker every day.

Over 2,000,000 workers who had jobs in 1923 in factories, in mines, on railways and on farms have been thrown on the scrap heap.

In all important industries—steel, mining, automobiles, textiles, construction and agriculture—workers are being laid off daily by the hundreds.

While millions of adult workers are out of work, capitalist America employs 2,000,000 child workers for starvation wages.

Besides the millions of unemployed, uncounted numbers of workers have only part-time work and part-time earnings.

Unemployed are organizing in Councils under the militant leadership of the Trade Union, Unity League to demand immediate unemployment insurance at full wage rates for all workers, to be provided by the government and financed by taxes on income, inheritance and profits.

GASTONIA, N. C.—Cliff Saylor, National Textile Workers' organizer, recently arrested and held in Gastonia jail in default of \$10,000 cash bail for the murder of Police Chief Aderholt, has been released. Robert Allen, who later repudiated his forced "confession" against Saylor, has disappeared. He was the only state witness. A new charge of perjury has been pleaded against Saylor. The International Labor Defense is fighting the case.

INTERNATIONAL NEGRO UNIONIST MEET JULY 1st

At this moment when the imperialist powers of the world are preparing for a united attack on the Soviet Union, when the great powers are convening in London in their Naval Congress, to lay plans for this attack, the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers is calling a conference, also in London, July 1, 1930, for the purpose of forming a central united front of struggle against colonial oppression, capitalist exploitation and imperialist war. To consolidate the militant forces of the world for the formation of strong labor unions, and for a struggle to maintain organization for these unions.

The International Trade Union Congress at London will point out to the Negro people that they are not the only people suffering from oppression for capitalism and imperialist wars, although their burdens are heaviest. Americans are also the victims of imperialism. The struggle against imperialism is not the struggle of any one people, but of all the peoples of the world. In India, China, Persia, Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, etc., the oppressed Negroes are struggling heroically against their imperialist exploiters.

The phenomenal rise of the trade unions in South Africa, the revolt of the workers and peasants of Black Haiti against American Imperialism, and the constant clamor for organization of the millions of Negro workers in the United States will make the London Conference the rallying center for the most militant elements in these struggles, and will become the organizing force of the Negro masses into revolutionary trade unions against the whole system of capitalist exploitation and imperialist war.

J. W. Ford, with offices at 2 W. 15th St., New York City, is chairman of the committee issuing the call.

SOVIET 7-HOUR DAY MAKES PROGRESS

WASHINGTON.—Half a million workers in Soviet industries came under the seven-hour day rule last year, and another 500,000 will get its benefits this year, according to the recent annual report of the chairman of the State Planning Commission, quoted in the January issue of The Soviet Union Review, published here.

An increase of 12 per cent in real wages for the 13,000,000 industrial, clerical and intellectual workers in the Soviet Union is anticipated during 1930.

SOVIET MEAN BUSINESS

MOSCOW.—The Kulak, or rich peasant class, is to be wiped out, and their lands seized by the Soviet Union, according to the latest decision of the Russian government. More than eighty-one million acres of sown wheat will exist in the socialized area by the fall of 1930, twenty-one million, six hundred thousand acres more than the government had hoped for.