

Working Woman

The Voice of Women Workers

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5 Cents

Push Fight to Lower Rent and Living Costs; Make May First Fighting Day Against Hunger!

MISERY GROWS AS CHARITY FAILS TO MEET NEEDS

Women and Children Starve Amid Plenty

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Eight girls have been found living on five bananas a day in the richest city in the world. The girls managed to scrape up \$2 a week and they all live together in one miserable room where they find that the only food they can afford is ten cents worth of bananas a day. The measure off the bananas into five equal parts with a ruler which gives them each about five inches a day.

WHEELING, W. V. — Carrying her dead baby in her arms, a 19-year old mother walked miles in a blizzard to have her child buried. The child was ill with pneumonia when the mother and her husband started out for medical aid, but by the time they arrived in Wheeling from East Alexandria, a near-by town, the infant had died. When the couple applied to the Coroner to have the child buried, they were told to go back to Stuebenville in which county the child had died. The young couple were living in an abandoned farm house and were without food and money.

PHILADELPHIA, PA. — Screams of a young mother were heard in the Kensington district when her 9-year old son collapsed in the street. A doctor prescribed food and contributed 25 cents for milk. Absolute destitution faces 125,000 unemployed textile workers in this district.

NEW ORLEANS, LA. — Bertha McMahon, 27, is dead from acute influenza. She has been selling oranges in the streets to help her six brothers and sisters and the other day she sold her last orange before she would admit that she was suffering. Another orange seller collected nickels and dimes and donated the money for a coffin for Bertha.

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Waiting for her ration of watery soup, a 12-year old girl toppled over in a breadline here. She was suffering from acute starvation. Later it was found that her parents and 7 brothers and sisters were in the same plight.

GASTONIA, N. C. — The murderers of Ella May Wiggins, the militant textile striker who lost her life at the hands of the mill barons, are now persecuting her children. The damage suit on behalf of the children against the Manville-Jenckes Co. has been thrown out of court. Why? Because the children's witnesses have been forcibly kept out of the state by the mill owners. They killed the mother and they want to starve the children, too.

RALEIGH, N. C. — Pellagra killed more people in North Carolina in 1930 than all the contagious diseases put together, according to the State Health Officer. Deaths from this disease which are caused by lack of, or improper, food numbered 1,070 in 1930, 89 more people having died from this dreadful disease in 1930 than in 1929.

Fathers Deported; Children Starve



Homes Broken Up by Deportations As Bosses War on Foreign Born Hundreds Being Sent to Possible Death

Homes are broken up, wives and children are left starving, in the latest drive of the boss class against the foreign-born workers. In one day this month 257 workers were locked up at Ellis Island for deportation. At the Seamen's Church

Dressmakers Fight Injunctions

The militant workers of the Jerry Dress Company, many of whom are on strike for the first time, are demonstrating to their bosses and the agents of the American Federation of Labor company union that they are determined to fight for their interests. The attempt of the bosses to terrorize the workers by issuing a sweeping injunction prohibiting any picketing has only served to increase the militancy of the workers. "The bosses can not make dresses with injunctions," is the slogan of the Jerry dress workers.

Daily they are on the picket line fighting with the scabs sent by the company union fighting the police. The wholesale arrests that are taking place every day fail to terrorize the workers. From jail to the picket line and back again to jail. On will they go with their fight until the Jerry has become a union shop, controlled by the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, where the workers, through their organized power, will be able to force the bosses to give union conditions.

Greetings Continued in May Issue

All greetings which have been received on the International Women's Day lists and arrived too late to be printed in the March issue, will be printed in the MAY issue. Comrades are urged to continue making collections and send them in to be printed in the May issue.

Institute, a religious flop house, the police alien bureau barred the doors and quizzed 4,000 seamen, arresting 105 to be deported.

A dance of Finnish workers in New York City was raided by 20 department of labor agents and 10 New York policemen, who arrested 16 men and 2 women as aliens and took them to Ellis Island for deportation. These mass raids and attacks on individual foreign-born workers are carried out by the ruling class with the active help of the American Federation of Labor and especially of Hoover's right hand man, Secretary of Labor W. N. Doak, formerly vice-president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.

Among the spirited young organizers facing deportation for their militant work is Edith Berkman, active in the Lawrence strike — and if the boss class has its way she will be deported to Poland, while her fellow organizers, Bill Murdock and Pat Devine, will be deported to Great Britain.

On the Pacific coast more than a score of active organizers are held in jail. If the boss class has its way, they will be flung on the ships which will dump them in the white terror countries — there to be tortured or murdered by a Mussolini or a Chiang Kai-Shek. These are only a few of the deportation cases now awaiting decision.

But the ruling class shall not have its way! Native and foreign-born workers together, Negro and white workers together, can make a solid line across the gangway and stop deportations. Fight against this boss terror. Protest against the persecution of Negro and foreign-born workers, against the breaking up of their homes.

Send delegates to the May Day United Front Conference, April 24, at Manhattan Loews, 86 E. 4th Street, New York City.

Women Who Won Bread Strikes Set Example to Entire Country

Food and Rent Prices Sky-High; Wages Low

Throughout history the wives and daughters of workers have always marched at the side of

STARVATION SPREADS IN BLACK BELT

(By a Worker Correspondent)

While down in the Black Belt below Selma in Alabama, I had a chance to observe how the Negro women have to work and live. One young girl, of about 20, works in a boarding house at Gastonburg from 7 till 1—6 hours a day, 7 days a week and gets for this her breakfast and dinner and \$1.00 a week—just about enough to buy her supper with.

The young Negro school teacher had to take care of 75 kids from 5 years up for the wonderful wage of her board and \$3 a week.

The poor croppers (mostly Negro here) live in miserable one room shacks. They don't even have a brick chimney only a mud one, no windows—only a hole in the wall with a board to cover it when it's cold. There isn't even any light—no money to buy kerosene. These poor farmers are actually starving to death. They and their kids have no shoes and wear only rags; very little food and it's not very healthy.

The Negroes are practically slaves as they are so in debt to the landlord. In fact many of them aren't even called by their right names instead they are "Gaston's niggers," etc. The white children go to school 9 months a year while the Negro children go only 3 months. Very few young workers stay on the farms—they skip to the city as soon as they can.

These workers are rallying now to the Communist Party especially since we distributed thousands of leaflets on the farms calling on them to fight against starvation. Daily we receive letters asking for more information and instructions.

WHO KILLED VIV GORDON?

With the murder of Vivian Gordon came further revelations of the corrupt police department of New York City.

Who killed the woman will probably never be uncovered. All clues point to higher ups in the police department who were afraid Viv would tell what she knew about the white slave plots of the vice cops. She was ready to reveal how she was framed up by a policeman but was murdered before she could tell the story.

Unable to stand the strain following the murder, her daughter committed suicide and her brother was taken to an insane asylum.

Workers who read of this murder and of the police vic-rings in New York City, Chicago and other cities know that it is all part of the graft and corruption under capitalist city government.

their men-folk in the struggle against their exploiters for improved living conditions, and the recent bread strikes, organized by women in Detroit and Chicago, prove that the working women of America are ready to carry out this tradition.

The strikes against the high cost of bread in these two cities is the way the working class women are announcing their intention of joining the fight against starvation, against slave-wages, against the misery and poverty and hunger which all workers in the United States are now suffering at the hand of their bosses.

Children Die for Lack of Milk There are 10,000,000 workers unemployed in America today, and that means that two and three times that many women are being forced to watch their children die for lack of milk, for lack of the food which has brought dread consumption to millions of workers' children, as well as their parents.

Through the trusts that the bosses control they are keeping the price of food sky-high while they cut wages more and more. Workers and their families are thus being squeezed by both sides of a capitalist vise.

According to the bosses' own figures, wages have been cut over 33 per cent in the past year, while food prices have come down only 7 per cent. The prices of the most important foods, like bread, milk and meat, have come down even less than that.

Bosses Want Still More Profits This means that the bosses are taking advantage of the crisis to make even more profits than they usually do, and at the same time to make conditions of workers still more difficult. The bosses are trying to force the workers of the United States to live like slaves, and the workers can beat their bosses only by organizing and uniting their forces.

The workers who offer the least resistance are the most exploited. Negro workers in New York, for instance, earn on the average 17 per cent less than white workers but they are forced to pay 20 per cent more for tenements than white workers pay for the same rooms.

Organizing and fighting get results. The housewives in Detroit and Chicago fought for lower bread prices and won! This victory must be an example to the working women of America. Fight against high rents, high food prices. Fight against hunger! Fight against starvation, and fight together!

DIAL PHONES THROW MANY OUT OF JOBS

DETROIT, Mich.—Another big lay-off of 2,500 telephone girls operators who will join the other thousands of jobless here. The Telephone Company has installed the dial system which rids them of need for the many thousands of people they have now in their employ. They have started the lay-offs and will continue to do so as soon as the dial system has been installed in all the homes. This places thousands of workers on a system of starvation. The same thing is happening in cities all over the United States.

Chicago Workers Win Bread Strike

Militant Fight Reduces Cost of Bread Four Cents a Pound

By LOUISE MORRISON

The Bread Strike on the Northwest Side in Chicago, organized through the efforts of the Mothers' League and actively supported by the Trade Union Unity League, has ended in a complete victory for the strikers. The price of bread has gone down from 10 cents to 6 cents a pound.

On January 23rd, the Mothers' League called a mass meeting to protest against the high cost of bread in that neighborhood. At the meeting the speakers, in Jewish and English, pointed out the facts of the situation. Flour before the war sold for \$4.00 a barrel, while bread was 5 cents a pound loaf; immediately after the war flour went up to \$9.00 a barrel and bread went up to 10 and 12 cents a pound; now, flour is only \$3.50 a barrel and still the baker-bosses insisted upon keeping up the prices of bread. Flour, eggs and all other foodstuffs necessary for making bread were cheaper than ever before during the last 15 years. The women workers and housewives left the meeting determined to arouse the rest of the housewives in the neighborhood for cheaper bread.

The bakers refused to accept the demands of the women for 6 cents a pound for union baked bread instead of 10 cents and for 15 cents a dozen rolls instead of 20 cents. A week later a vote taken was unanimous to declare a strike and a committee of 25 working women and housewives were elected to organize the picket lines, and spread the strike to the Jewish bakeries in the neighborhood.

A series of picketing begun in front of the bake shops. The women with signs in Jewish and English picketed back and forth in front of the bakeries keeping the workers from going in there. Other women went from house to house, street after street, speaking to the housewives, urging them to bake their own bread and support the strike. Block committees went to the groceries in the blocks, demanding that they stop taking bread from the bakeries on strike, urged women not to buy at groceries selling "scab" bread. They distributed thousands of leaflets throughout the neighborhood. Afternoon and evening meetings of working women and housewives were held. On the following Saturday the children of the neighborhood under the leadership of the Young Pioneers were drawn into a mass picket line together with the women. At one of the bakeries—Banovitz's, the indignation of the women rose to a high pitch when a scab came out carrying a loaf of bread. The loaf of bread was torn from her hands, thrown into the street and trampled on.

Mass Picket Lines

The bakeries were empty. The bakers advertised premiums with each loaf of bread, giving away pieces of china, towels, soap and rolls of toilet paper. Police stood guard at each bake shop arresting the pickets. But as fast as they were arrested other appeared. Those arrested found the International Labor Defense right on the job ready to bail them out, and returned at once to their places on the picket lines. Gangsters were hired by the bosses to beat up the women pickets and chase them from the streets. But these methods did not help. They applied to the courts for an injunction, which was eagerly granted by the notorious Judge Dennis Sullivan. Even this did not bring back their business back nor stop the women.

Mass picket lines of women and children were attacked by the police with sawed-off shot guns and eight sticks. The picket lines reformed and marched on to the next bakery. The arrests of the strike leaders, the beating of women and children, the securing of the injunction made the workers more ready to fight.

Socialists, AFL Help Bosses
The officials of the Bakers' Local 237 of the A. F. of L. did not support the strike. They, together with the yellow-socialist "Forward" did everything they possibly could to smash the bread strike. They antagonized the bakery workers against the women, by saying that the bosses could not

lower the price of bread without lowering the wages of the workers.

Fourteen women, refused to pay the fines of \$2.00 each imposed upon them by the Judge who found them guilty of picketing and instead served 2 days in the Bridewell jail.

After three weeks of intensive struggle, the Bread Strike ended in a complete victory for the workers. Six cents a pound, union baked bread was granted at no expense to the bakery workers, but at the expense of the bosses. At the same time the price of meat was "voluntarily" reduced by the butcher in the neighborhood from 36c to 28c a pound, which was another direct outcome of the strike.

Must Correct Mistakes

Quite a number of weaknesses and mistakes, however, must be recorded to avoid repeating in the future. We did not prepare for struggle and permitted ourselves to be rushed headlong into battle with no pickets organized. On the first morning not a single picket showed up. The strike was too narrow—taking in only the Jewish bakeries instead of carrying on a fight against all bakeries in the neighborhood selling bread at high cost, and we appealed too late in the strike to the non-Jewish working women and housewives to join us in the picket lines, demonstrations, meetings. We did not immediately begin to prepare for defense, throwing the full burden of bail, etc., on the Local International Labor Defense. We failed to call a large victory mass meeting in the neighborhood and consolidate our gains—and to continue the fight against the high cost of milk and rent.

In spite of these shortcomings, however, as a result of the strike, we have organized a Women's Council in the neighborhood with 30 dues paying member and have about 200 additional contacts which we are visiting and following up in an effort to bring them into the Council.



Militant Woman Is Victim Boss Terror

To escape the vicious persecution of the Portland, Oregon police, Mrs. Minnie Levitt and her four children were compelled to leave that city and come to New York. Her husband, Ed Levitt, is one of the eleven defendants there facing trial on charges of criminal syndicalism. Comrade Levitt has been one of the most active supporters of the Working Woman and a loyal fighter in the ranks of the workers.

In addition to threats that she would be arrested and her children thrown into an orphan asylum, Mrs. Levitt was several times terrorized by raids on her house. A passport secured for her and her children, the oldest of whom is six years of age, was stolen by the Portland police.

So unrelenting has been the persecution of this militant worker's wife and children that his fellow workers in Portland have raised enough money to send her to the Soviet Union, where she and her children will be safe from the tortures to which they have been subjected to by the bosses' government.

Women and Children on Picket Line In Chicago Bread Strike.



Women Organize Struggle Against Misery, Starvation

80 Meetings in U. S. on March 8th, Pledge Defend Soviet Union

International Woman's Day in 1931 was organized and carried through by the Communist Party through a number of United Front Conferences in many cities and industrial towns. Over 80 meetings were held on March 8th. Over 50 thousand workers attended. Resolutions pledging defense of Soviet Union were adopted. This year, due to the preparatory work, International Woman's Day was carried through on a much higher scale than ever before. In face of the government and police terror, demonstrations were held at factories. Four meetings were held in the South where a number of Negro women attended. Quite a few of them joined the Communist Party.

The campaign was conducted through a number of struggles against unemployment, wage cuts, against high cost of living, high rents, evictions. The women were in the forefront of all of these struggles. In Lawrence textile strike which involved 5000 women, the dressmakers' strike in New York, and the bread strike in Chicago which involved hundreds of women, militantly fighting and violating the injunction.

In Cleveland, special squads of police were called out by the bosses at the Kaynee factory and the working women were locked in so as not to be permitted to take part in the demonstration. In Denver, Colo., over half of the audience at the big mass meeting were women, something never heard of in the history of Denver where only few women usually attend meetings. They were mainly workers from the beat fields. One young Spanish girl of 17 addressed the meeting in Spanish calling on the workers to organize in the revolutionary trade unions.

In the Pittsburgh District, seven meetings were held in the industrial towns. Four women auxiliaries of wives of steel workers were formed. In New York City 11 mass meetings were held. Five other meetings were held in the smaller industrial cities. About 300,000 women's leaflets were published during the campaign, 65,000 copies of the March issue of The Working Woman was printed; 15,000 buttons with Comrade Krupskaya's picture were distributed and sold among the workers during the campaign.

As to organizational results; (Continued on page 6)

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WAGE CUTS UNDER THE GUISE OF CHARITY

On October 20th the unemployed workers of New York, under the leadership of the Unemployed Council, voiced their demands for

Enemies of the Workers on Trial

ON MARCH 8, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, while working women were pledging themselves to stand by their fellow workers against their oppressors, fourteen men in Moscow were on trial for plotting to overthrow the country in which the workers were building socialism and for which millions of workers had fought and died.

THE MENSHEVISTS AND THE INDUSTRIAL PARTY

These fourteen Menshevists — members of the Second International, along with such betrayers as Thomas and Hillquit — worked hand in hand with Ramzin in trying to destroy the Five Year Plan. The trial showed that they (like the counter-revolutionist Ramzin and his Industrial party), had not been able to win one worker to aid them in their black plotting. They relied upon the former middle class, now in Soviet government positions, to falsify figures and to draw up plans would bring about the failure of the Five Year Plan. They even tried to disorganize the supply of food to workers in cities, so as to create dissatisfaction.

But the Five Year Plan is gaining and it is the plan of the Menshevists and their allies that have failed.

ROLE OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL

These Menshevists are part of the Second International, which is seeking to strangle the proletarian revolutionary forces in every country, including the Soviet Union. They want to bring back the capitalist system through intervention



of the capitalist powers from the outside and wrecking from the inside. They mean war against the Soviet Union.

FOREIGN INTERVENTION

These Menshevists, working under the guidance of Abramovitch and Dan, admitted that they hoped that the Five Year Plan would fail — that the workers would crash to defeat in their support undertaking. When they saw that the workers were gaining (Continued on page 7)

unemployment relief before City Hall. Mayor Walker and his corrupt gang of politicians, brutally beat up and arrested the delegation of the unemployed sent to present demands before the Board of Estimate. The politicians organized the Prosser Committee and began a so-called campaign for the collection of funds to provide three day jobs at starvation wages for the heads of families who were unemployed.

This campaign was undertaken to mislead the unemployed workers and to turn their struggle for unemployment relief from the government, to charitable institutions.

Eight million dollars was collected by this committee. Much of the money was forced from the wages of workers employed by the city. This so-called measure of charity as we can see today was nothing but a scheme to reduce the wages of the workers employed in the various public institutions. Workers employed in public institutions for regular wages were thrown out of their jobs and unemployed workers engaged at half the wages. It was a scheme to divide the struggle of the employed and unemployed workers and to turn each against the other instead of against the bosses.

The money collected as charity was paid in low wages to the workers, thus giving the corrupt politicians in charge of the various public institutions a chance to save the thousands of dollars which they would otherwise have to pay to regular workers.

The recently organized women's committee of these charity fakery are receiving wide publicity in the press about their campaign to aid the single unemployed girls. This fake charity scheme will be conducted on exactly the same basis as the Prosser Committee. Girls employed in the hospitals and other institutions receiving regular wages will be thrown out of their jobs and, in the name of charity, other girls will be engaged at half the wages. In the name of morality, philanthropy, these "fine" ladies are helping the bosses carry through their wage cut schemes. They are trying to make it impossible for the girls to live, not only when they are unemployed, but even when they are working.

The unemployed girls must organize under the leadership of the Unemployed Council to demand union wages for the jobs given to them by the Belmont Committee. We must organize to demand relief from the government, and all empty rooms in hotels and unoccupied private homes for the unemployed working women. It is not through charity schemes, wage cut schemes, but through the organization of the workers that we will be able to get real relief, both for the homeless girls as well as all unemployed workers.

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WORKING WOMAN

SHOP NEWS FROM WORKING WOMEN



WRITE AS YOU FIGHT!

What is happening in your shop, factory, mill, neighborhood, children's school? Write down the facts and send them to The Working Woman. Arrange to sell and distribute The Working Woman, which contains your story in the particular shop, factory, mill, neighborhood. Let The Working Woman help you organize.

Religion Is Workers Dope

(From a Coal Miner's Wife)

I enclose one dollar (\$1.00) money order. That is all I could get for donations. I went from house to house. Some people would say my husband has no work, my husband is in the hospital, my man is sick and can't work, my man can't get work he's on the black list. My man only works one or two days a week that's not enough to buy bread with. . . . This is what I told them.

We are fighting for our rights, equal work, equal pay. Let's all stick together. The capitalists are taking bread away from us. They rob us out of wages and fill their bellies with good food and we have to eat stale bread.

The men that work on the railroad the baker brings them the staliest and hardest bread so they can chew on it longer, so they won't eat too much. That's not all people think that bread is cheap. Well, bread was 12c a loaf out here but now it is 10c but much smaller and there is another thing — when the capitalist is through wearing his clothes, the poor workers get it second hand. Where the working class should get the best they get the worst. Don't let the capitalists get the best of us, brothers and sisters.



FIGHT FOR NEGRO RIGHTS

(By a Worker Correspondent) Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Comrade: I have seen a great improvement in the work of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights among the working women of this city. They are beginning to realize the strength of organized women. We had a big demonstration on February 25, at the State House; there were at least 3000 workers. We are getting ready for a big demonstration on Women's Day on March 9. We are spreading leaflets and getting the crowd to join in the struggle. Comrades, mail me 15 copies of The Working Woman each month.

Will mail you a nice donation in my next letter. Soon old nap town is coming into her own. We also have a war on chain store as they discriminate against colored workers. They tell us here: to hell with the Negro workers, and they will close their stores before they will hire any.

So we are going to give them a plenty of. . .

Conditions are very bad here as they are throwing the workers out of their homes and starving the workers and workers' children.

International Women's Day in Cuba

Women Fight Bloodiest Tool of Yankee Imperialism

One of the most important factors in recent events in Cuba is the participation of the working class in the struggles which are taking place, and the fact that the women are fighting together with men against the bloodiest dictator, Machado, the tool of American imperialism, in the exploitation of Latin American workers.

In spite of all the terror and intimidation of workers in their daily struggles, they are showing their willingness to take part in the international activities of the international working class. On the occasion of the unemployment demonstrations the Machado police surrounded the hall with hundreds of police outside and his gang of cut-throats inside. In the middle of the meeting, shooting began from the middle of the hall and from the police outside, resulting in sixty workers being wounded, and two dead.

On the occasion of International Women's Day the revolutionary trade union, for the first time in the history of the revolutionary movement, there issued a call for a meeting. At the appointed hour all streets leading to the hall were packed with police patrols, but the

NEW SCHEMES TO CUT WAGES OF MILL WORKERS

By DEWEY MARTIN

The textile bosses in the South have adopted the plan of no night work for women! Was this brought about because of the goodness of heart of the bosses? Hardly. Said one boss, J. G. Gregory, secretary and treasurer of the Elizabeth City Cotton Mills: "Night operations are justifiable only in case the process of manufacture must be continuous for successful production, or else to meet an emergency such as was brought about by the World War. Working nights is contrary to nature, which designated night time for rest."

Here is the case in a nutshell. If night work is necessary for the bosses to pile up more profits or to carry on a war that slaughters workers by the millions, then it is all right and hang rest and nature. But night work is wrong if it doesn't pay!

On March 3rd, at the Poinsett Mill in Greenville, S. C., women working on the night shift and making \$11 for 55 hours' work were laid off. They were placed on the very same job in the day time at a reduction of \$5 a week, replacing men who were making \$10 for 55 hours' work. Men were told to expect night work at \$7, a cut of \$3. So the men lost \$3 a week and the women \$5 and the bosses gained \$8. This was done at a time when thousands of workers were already out of work and starving. Those who have work can barely live on their miserable wages.

Such actions of the bosses should show the women the need of joining the National Textile Workers Union and to fight together with the men for the right to live.



The Working Woman to Issue Special Negro Edition

The June issue of The Working Woman, issued by the Communist Party, will be devoted to the struggles of the Negro working class women, and the need for organization into the revolutionary trade unions and organizations which lead in the struggles of workers against discrimination, for better conditions, for abolition of capitalism.

The editorial committee of The Working Woman calls upon all Negro women workers to write about their conditions in the shops, on the job in the home, on the farms, in the schools. These articles should come from the workers in every part of the country and especially from the South.

The Working Woman also wants all workers to order bundles for sale and distribution among the Negro workers. The workers are asked to send for free samples. Write to Station D. Box 87, New York City.

meeting was packed with women workers. At this meeting a committee for the organization of the working women was created.

Women Must Become Fighters

(From a Worker Correspondent)

There are thousands of housewives in the United States who are trying to feed and clothe their families and pay rent and buy coal out of the small wages their husbands receive. These women are never able to save any money, and they know that if their husbands are out of work they and their families will be faced with starvation and eviction from their homes. They live in constant fear of their husbands

losing their jobs, and urge them to accept conditions as they are, to accept wage cuts, speed up, and longer hours, without protest. Many of them will do everything they can to keep their men from organizing and fighting for better conditions. Without realizing it these women help the bosses to lower the standard of living of the whole working class, and to worsen the conditions under which they must work.

A lesson we are slow to learn is that being a good slave, being willing to accept whatever wages the boss sees fit to give us, and to work under the worse conditions, will not help us to keep our jobs. When worn out by the speed up we can no longer keep up the pace.

Then the boss does not consider it profitable to keep us. We hear of countless cases of men and women, who, after years of faithful service are laid off, and must join the millions of unemployed workers in the vain search for jobs.

Instead of keeping our men from organizing and fighting for better conditions we should urge them to join the militant unions of the Trade Union Unity League. We women, whether we are housewives, or work in industry, should organize and become active in the class struggle. Women of the working class, join the "United Council of Working Class Women," an organization of working women and house wives, to fight along with our men.

"The United Council of Working Class Women actively supports the Unemployed Councils of the Trade Union Unity League" in their demands for immediate relief for the unemployed, and for free rent and fuel and lights, and care fare for the unemployed. And they also support the Workers Social Insurance Bill.

—D. E. E.



FLAG FLIES FOR BOSSES

(By a Worker Correspondent)

Comrades: Several hundred girls, and young women in the Edison Electric Plant, are treated in a manner that we feel really ashamed to say. The speed-up system, on one side, the small salaries on the other side. And so many accidents, make our lives a hell. The salary shrinks every week, so that it is hard to exist. The machinery invention is driving out a great number of those that are left. Asked the management why are we treated so mean. The answer was: girls have got to know how to make more money, smiling sarcastically. Lately we have often visitors in the factory, preaching us patriotism.

We wish to thank them for their kind humanity. Shylock was strictly forbidden to cut more than one pound of human flesh.

We are in worse condition now than the slaves of the olden times. The government gave a free hand to the manufacturers to take off our skin. We appeal in these lines to the Communist Party, to organize the electric plant.

Thanking you in advance. The mistreated, and persecuted that we stated in these lines is the real truth. We are not any longer under the protection of the American flag.

EVICTED AFTER SIX YEARS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — I have been living at Alley South in one of J. L. Yanney houses six years. Had two children there. He refused to take one dollar rent and evicted me.

—Woman Worker.

WORKING HARD AND STARVING

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — I have one of those starving jobs. I go to work at seven a. m. in the morning, get coffee, water and a slice of bread for breakfast. Work at breakneck speed until one p. m., then coffee, water, bread, soup; some times a small piece of left-over meat. All of this I refuse to eat. I work until two p. m. for four dollars a week. I have to buy groceries with that.

—Woman Slave.

ANTI-SEMITISM PUNISHED IN USSR

MOSCOW—An anti-Semitic outbreak in the mining city at Kizel in the Ural mountains, with the beating of several Jewish school children, brought the teacher a sentence of two years' imprisonment and the two youths who led the fights three years each.

Mrs. Hoover's Dope

In a radio address delivered last week, Mrs. Hoover, wife of the Wall Street "engineer," lauded the work of the Girl Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls in spreading American patriotism among the youth.

The special attention paid to these jingoist girl organizations by high government officials and their wives shows that the bosses are fully aware of the importance of winning over the working girls' support for the present system of capitalist exploitation.

Working class mothers should see that their daughters join a revolutionary youth organization instead of the clubs and the fraternal orders, which the bosses create to control the activities of young workers.



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for the WORKING WOMAN

T. B. Spreads; Children Worst Sufferers

A survey conducted by the Crawford County Health Society under the supervision of Miss Margaret Donaldson, secretary of the organization, of the health of the school children of three towns, reveal the terrible effects of unemployment upon the children of workers.

The report shows that the towns of Meadsville, Titusville, and Cambridge Springs have one fourth of their school children suffering from that dread working class disease, tuberculosis. These towns are not the worst hit by the crisis, but are representative of the toll which unemployment and undernourishment have taken of school children coming mostly from workers' homes.

Pope Attacks Birth Control

Federal Council of Churches Makes Believe It's Interested in Mother and Child Welfare

By S. VAN VEEN.

The pope has proclaimed that birth control is wicked, sinful, immoral and that married couples who practice such control have dropped from the race of god and will be condemned to everlasting fires. The sex relation says the Catholic church is a divine institution and the prevention of conception is against the will of god.

The recent report of the Federal Council of Churches however, does not fully agree with the belief of complete domination for couples who prevent conception. They state in a very careful language, that in these days of enlightenment "it may be that there are times when it is wise for a couple not to have too many children or that, where the health or mother and child are at stake, there should be some control used," but in the main they stick to the pope and his declaration of the will of god in all matters over the will of man.

The facts are that the bourgeoisie and boss class can and do use all the necessary means for birth control. First they have all the sanitation and privacy of well equipped homes and bath rooms necessary for such measures. Second, they have plenty of money to buy every sort of contraceptive (appliances for the prevention of conception); third, they have plenty of money to pay their doctors in return for advice on the use of these appliances and lastly, when all else fails, they have money for hospitals and operations.

Unemployment, Misery—Workers Lot

But when the pope and the church speak, they talk to the great masses of the working class who live in crowded unsanitary houses, without hot water, time or privacy. They tell the millions of unemployed that to bring more children into the world to starve, is the will of god. The holy words of the pope and hell's fires are not meant for the rich.

The church wants a big population so capitalism can keep down the standard of living and have soldiers in war time.

The church knows that if the workers, particularly the working women find out how to prevent the birth of children they will have more time and strength to find out how to improve working conditions and real wages. They will struggle against the bosses for their rights and this will lead to the fight to abolish the capitalist system.

These are the reasons why the church condemns working women who dare to ask the question: "Does my body belong to me or to god? Must I have children when I can't even feed myself?"

But while the church takes its stand against birth control it has nothing to say about starvation, unemployment, with the resulting prostitution, suicides, disease and death. The pope does not condemn to hell's eternal flames, the capitalists or politicians or the imperialist governments. The pope and the churches must serve capitalism, so they frighten and keep in ignorance the millions of toiling weary starving working women, keep them slaves, and have them continue to supply more slaves for the labor market and more cannon fodder for war.

Little space was given the following news items in the capitalist press. They occur too often, and the bosses want to hide them from the workers. The first is: "Mother gets life imprisonment for drowning two children. She feared that she could not provide for them." The second is: "Mother and five year old son found dead in room with all the gas jets turned on. She had no job and no money and the child needed medical care which she could not afford." Nothing can be added to show what kind of a system the pope and church serves, that does nothing to provide for mothers and children.

Where Workers Rule

In contrast to this, in Moscow, in the Soviet Union, there is a huge institution situated in a magnificent park, for the care of mothers and children and the training of doctors and nurses. Here are great clinics where thousands of bottles of prepared milk formulas for infants are handed out free daily, where women can go for information

Organize Fight, for Immediate Relief

By R. LILIENSTEIN

One afternoon when my girl came home from school, I gave her some milk as usual, and was surprised when she said that she will not drink it. She told me that she was coming from a friend's house where she found the family very hungry and nothing to eat.

"Mother," she said, "take them over to our house."

I immediately put on my coat and with my child, went over to her friend's house. When I opened the door I got frightened. The apartment was lit up with a small candle. The children were in bed with their coats on.

I came here. I informed the mother because my daughter wanted to know why her friends were not going to school. She told me that her husband is out of work for the last ten months, and that her gas and electricity had been shut off. They had no food in the house, and besides, they expected to be evicted, she said.

After listening to that pathetic story, I assured her that we will help her. I called together the tenants and explained the situation to them. We took up a collection for some immediate relief for the family.

The women were interested and we called a meeting near the school house, where we demanded that our children be given free lunches in school, and we demanded immediate relief for this family. The next morning both their gas and electricity were reconnected. Evidently, when women get together and make their demands sound loud and long enough they will get results.

Our next step will be to organize tenants' leagues, house committees in all the houses, so that we can carry on the fight more effectively against evictions, and for immediate relief for the unemployed workers and their families, to be provided by the government.

DIVORCES TO KEEP JOBS

BUCHAREST.—Faced with the loss of job or loss of salary, nearly 3,000 Bucharest Stat. officials of both sexes have decided to sacrifice their wives or husbands to retain their posts.

The government promulgated weeks ago an order to the effect that where both husband and wife are in State employment, whichever enjoys the higher salary is to be dismissed. Since that time 2,731 officials have handed in divorce petitions to one Bucharest court alone.

Tell your fellow workers about the Working Woman.

tion on the prevention of conception. Here are great nurseries where working mothers can leave their children free of charge all day long, with the most competent nurses, doctors and teachers. In addition to this all school children get free warm food at school. All working women get rest hours, and special rest and care before and after childbirth at the expense of the Soviets. In the Soviet Union mothers are not forced to kill their children to keep them from starving to death.

But, of course, the pope and the church do not like the Soviet Union because it tells the truth about those who live on the workers' backs. But the working women of the world are beginning to see what is good for them. They will not trust to the "mercy of god," the pope and the bosses much longer. They will understand and fight for their rights which means the rights of the whole working class.



Wives of unemployed miners gather coal from tracks to keep from freezing.

Night Work for Women

By MARGARET NEAL

The bosses grouped in the Cotton Textile Institute have, it would seem, suddenly become very much worried at the thought of women and children working long night hours in the cotton mills. They have come out "against night work for women and children. By a voluntary agreement of mill owners, "women and minors are hereafter to be confined to the day shift."

Until recently, the cotton textile manufacturers have been among the most bitter enemies of any attempt to regulate the hours and working conditions of women and children. Especially in the south, where hours are longest, wages lowest, and conditions worst, the cotton bosses have fought against laws limiting night work, and shortening the working day and week. Why, then, this sudden change of heart?

In the present crisis the cotton textile industry, which was "sick" even before the crash, has been among the hardest hit. The bosses find their system getting out of hand. Production must be cut down. So they hit upon the idea of throwing the women and children off the night shift, as a convenient way of unloading the crisis onto the workers.

The cotton bosses are as much as ever against laws stopping the night work for women and children. Their present action, is, as much as anything else, an effort to prevent future legislation. The report of the Cotton Textile Institute speaks of "the determined opposition of the industry as a whole to legislation."

In case of a boom in the industry — due to a war, for instance — they will want the chance to use women and children on night shifts as before. And also this pose of fairness by the cotton

bosses is done with an eye to preventing the organization of working men and women around the issue here.

The National Women's Party, which is the heart and soul of the boss class on this as on every other issue, has come out against the abolition of women's night work. It stands, on principle, for the unlimited sweating of the woman worker.

The Communist Party and the Trade Union Unity League fight against night work for women, against child labor and for a shorter working week. But they know that to do away with night work in the manner of the Cotton Textile Institute, is only to increase the misery of the working class. Most of these women and child workers have no other means of support. Many of them are the only wage earners in the family. This is more true today than ever, when so many millions of men are out of work.

The workers must fight against night work for women, against child labor, in connection with the demand of the Communist Party and the Trade Union Unity League for Unemployment Insurance. Only in connection with this demand does the abolition of women's and children's night work mean a real advance in the conditions of the workers.

DRIVE MARRIED WOMEN OFF JOBS

Fake "Solution" Of Unemployment

Taking jobs from married women who need them and giving them to jobless men is the latest capitalist "solution" of unemployment. In several states bills making it unlawful to employ married women on state, county or city jobs have actually been introduced into the state legislature.

California has three such bills before the legislature and New Hampshire has a similar bill, proposing that the state department fire all married women and hire only single women workers.

Already, in 60 per cent of the schools in 1,532 cities, there is discrimination against married women teachers. In more than half of these schools, when a single woman teacher marries she loses her job, either immediately or at the end of the school year.

These city and state regulations do not apply as yet to factories and shops owned by private capitalists, but many industrial companies are carrying out a similar policy. It is the result of propaganda put out by the boss class which is trying to "solve" unemployment and the crisis of capitalism by firing married women workers.

Why Married Women Work

Government studies have been forced to admit that married women workers go out to work because the money is needed as part of the family income. Over half of the women workers studied by the U. S. Women's Bureau contributed to the family all their earnings. In one survey in New York State it was found that 83 per cent of the women workers had to work to help meet the necessary family income.

Not a single industry in the United States pays an average wage equal to the amount estimated as necessary for health even in a minimum family budget. So it is clear that at least two wage earners are needed to support the family. Yet in countless families the woman is the only wage-earner either because the man is dead or because he is ill or out of work.

An increasing number of women workers in the United States are married,—about 2,000,000 according to the 1920 census or nearly one in four women workers as compared with one in six in 1900. The 1930 census will probably show that of the 10,000,000 women workers, at least one in four is married.

Attempts of the boss class to drive these 2,000,000 married women out of industry must be resisted by all workers, men and women together. It is only a fake gesture of "solving" unemployment. Women wage earners need the jobs. Millions of unemployed men need jobs.

Women workers, demonstrate on May 1st to demand unemployment insurance, immediate relief for the unemployed!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

TORONTO.—Despite a severe storm, which tied up practically all the street cars throughout Toronto, mass meetings were held in three halls in the city on March 8, about 1,400 workers participating, at least 50 per cent of them being women.

MONTREAL.—700 workers gathered at the Annex Hall. A well attended meeting on Sunday night wildly applauded comrades as they hailed International Women's Day. A resolution of protest against the embargo and for the defense of the Soviet Union was passed, as well as a cable of greetings to the Soviet Union.

VANCOUVER.—International Women's Day was celebrated here in two mass meetings, one in the afternoon on Gamble St. grounds and another at night in the Royal Theatre at which hundreds were turned away.



THE UNTAMABLE

By HENRI BARBUSSE

I know what happens in Rumanian prisons, those living cemeteries. I went to Rumania purposely to find out. I have talked with prisoners, had letters from them; in Rumania and elsewhere, I have talked with men who have got away from those up-to-date caverns in Doftana, Jilava, Vacaresti, etc., where political prisoners, convicted or detained on suspicion of Bolshevism, are killed by slow degrees.

Countless facts, patent, undeniable, throng round me, clamoring with a voice like the voice of remorse.

And on one of these I would like to shed a little light today—on one man, one case.

G. Boujor was a Rumanian lawyer who had expressed sympathy with Russia. In particular—and this was the greatest crime laid to his charge—he had been Rakovsky's secretary. He had protested against the annexation of Bessarabia, of which the least that one can say is that it constitutes an act of international robbery perhaps without precedent, a bare-faced challenge to the right of peoples to govern themselves.

For six years now, Boujor has been shut up in Doftana prison. For six long years, perpetually loaded with chains, he has been confined in a diminutive cell, containing the bed where he crouches, hands and feet held down by iron loads. There he eats and there he sleeps. Within hand's reach, a pan. This is the only furniture in a cell which he has not once quitted in seventy-four months.

Absolute secrecy hems him round, seals him hermetically in. He is not only forbidden to receive any visits; from the very first day he has seen no human face, heard no human voice. He is forbidden to read and write. Nor would it be possible for he is in complete-darkness. No light in this bare-sided safe. He is lucky if he sees the arm of the gaoler who draws back the heavy sliding door of the dungeon, once in every twenty-four hours to pass through a grating, and lays down near him a revolting mess of soup.

At first, urged desperately by human instinct, he sought to speak with this gaoler, hear the sound of his voice. In vain. The orders of the Rumania oligarchy are that no one must ever speak to Boujor.

It was in vain, too, that steps have been taken to obtain some alleviation of this fearful torture which changes a human being into a corpse, and consigns him, yet living, to the tomb. The Rumanian oligarchy has always refused to do anything to lighten his vengeful retribution. In spite of the representations of Soviet Russia, Rumania has never consented to exchange Boujor for other prisoners.

Still, there was one day when Boujor was seen, was spoken to, and when he answered.

Rumor had come that he was dead; then a fresh rumor; he had gone mad. With my own eyes I read the tragic letter written by an old prisoner in Doftana, telling how, in the night—sometimes, when the weather was calm—the dull sound of tunes and chantings could be heard, rising out of the ground; it was Boujor.

A young working woman, by name Lenutza Filipovici, determined to risk everything to get through to him and find out what had become of him.

A chance happening gave her an excuse. During the political trial known as the trial of the Three Hundred, the Public Prosecutor had declared that Lenutza, who was eighteen, had been Boujor's mistress. This was a lie, but the young woman tried to turn it to account. She went straight to the high official in the Rumania police who was responsible for the suppression of Communists—that sinister figure, Ranciulescu, "Chief of the Communist Brigade."

She said to him "They say that Boujor is dead."

"That's not true," replied Ranciulescu; "he's alive."

Lenutza bravely put forward her plea, "You know that he was my lover. I should like to make sure if he's still alive."

The official turned his back on her, because he had special orders to allow this prisoner no contact with the living.

Lenutza pressed her case desperately. With threatening voice, she talked of creating a public scandal; then, she tried imploring, and knelt and wept before the monster. The incredible happened. After long hesitation, yielding to some reason or other (no pity, in any case), the high official changed front. He burst out, "You shall see him, devil take you! and talk with him for three minutes."

Holding the paper which opened locks and bolts for a few moments, she walked down a long dark passage where the walls shed an icy wind. In this endless passage, the gaoler stopped, the key ground in the lock, the heavy dungeon door slid back, disclosing iron bars. Through these bars, at last her eyes could see. His clothes were torn, his beard had grown. He was crouching on his wooden bed, and the first thing that Lenutza noticed was that the faint light let into the cell from the dark passage by the opening door had dazzled him like the sun.

The prisoner's face wore a wild look. Clearly, this was no longer a normal man; six years of torture in darkness had shattered his mind. On an impulse, Lenutza held out her hand to him through the bars, but she was drawn violently back by the gaoler. For some moments she stood there, unable to speak or cry.

At last, however, she spoke:

"Comrade Boujor, I have come to greet you in the name of our friends."

At the sound of this voice, it was as though a disruption

Concentration in New York on April 25th



had taken place within the prison, in the inner mind. A flash of clear light went through him and he, too, spoke—in a voice that was weak and dying, but quite distinct. And what he expressed was the one great thought that had beset him through months and years in the midst of the deathlike ignorance that walled him in. He did not speak of himself, he did not speak of friends or of kinsmen. He spoke of the one capital thing. All that he said was:

"In Russia, are the Bolsheviks still strong?"

"Yes!" she cried.

But the warden interrupted roughly:

"No politics, you know!"

Silence.

At last, she asked, "Is there nothing you want, Comrade Boujor?"

"No," said he; "but I am happy now."

They said goodbye to one another, and she went away, taking with her the books and the food that she had hoped she could give him. She could not over-ride the prevailing law: Boujor was forbidden to receive anything whatsoever from anyone.

These things happened not so long ago. And not only do they shed a blinding light on the barbarity of those now ruling over great nations with the connivance or consent of other potentates; also they give us a glimpse of that iron resolve which lives on in the hearts of the victims, even those who have been most mutilated, most beaten, down in the depths that crass "public opinion" would rather leave unguessed.

Stronger than all torture, stronger than sickness, stronger than madness, faith endures and is fostered in the only free race in the world, in its ultimate ideals.

And this faith is the most terrifying of all explosives.

June, 1926.

LESSONS OF THE LAWRENCE STRIKE

The Lawrence strike of over 10,000 textile workers was the outstanding struggle in the last few months. If properly followed up and the lessons utilized in our work in other industries it can become the turning point in the building up of the revolutionary unions.

What were the main lessons of this strike? First of all it exploded the opportunist theories that there can be no strikes during a period of crisis. It proves that strikes will

take place and that they can be successful. The partial victory of the Lawrence strikers in the face of the onslaught of the government, the American Federation of Labor, and the employers can not be overestimated.

The strike also showed once more the character of the strikes in the present period already clearly indicated in the Flint strike of July, 1930. The rapid maturing of events was an outstanding feature. Events that in the past would develop in the course of weeks and months transpired in a few days.

From the very beginning the strike faced the combined attack of the government, the church, the American Federation of Labor, the fascist bands organized as the so-called citizens' committees. At the critical stage the federal government, through the Labor and Immigration Departments, acted as the outspoken strikebreaker, arresting the leaders and intimidating the strikers.

This struggle was not accidental. Lawrence was the concentration point selected by the National Textile Workers Union. And even prior to this Comrade Edith Berkman was active in the organization of the workers in the Pacific Print Works.

The Lawrence strike showed that to the extent that the union was able to overcome its former general approach and come to the workers on the basis of more concrete partial demands, organize

grievance committees inside the mill to the extent that we are successful in developing the struggle against wage cuts and speed up. The work carried on among the unemployed prior to the strike made it possible to get the unemployed workers to fight side by side with the strikers.

Prior and during the strike a number of serious errors were made. Prior to the strike there was the failure to carry on a persistent struggle against the Musteites and the American Legion who still have great influence among a section of the workers. During the strike the many mistakes, the failure to build a broad strike committee was an outstanding weakness which brought many dangers and some very bad results.

But some of the worst mistakes was the failure to draw the women strikers into the strike committee. It is true that a small number were elected, but somehow, those few selected never participated in the work of the strike committee. The fact that the local organizer was a woman, Comrade Edith Berkman, evidently did not help to overcome this. And this was by no means a small mistake. This mistake must be examined. It is particularly dangerous in the textile industry in which more than half the workers are women. This mistake must now immediately be overcome in the organization of the forces and the building up of the leadership in Lawrence.

Kurochna

By ESTHER KEY

KUROCHNA is the pet name of a woman who is head of the cotton department in the Halturin textile factory in the Soviet Union. She began working in the factory when she was a little girl ten years old, and she has worked there forty-one years. Now, in spite of her gray hair and her 51 years, she runs around like a little school girl.

KUROCHNA took us through the mill and constantly called our attention to the new machinery that has been installed since the workers began running their own factories. As she led us through the various departments, she explained how much of the Five Year Plan each of them has carried out. Each department has been trying to complete its quota in less than five years and the girls were very proud if their department was ahead of the regular schedule.

By the time we reached Kurochna's department, it was the lunch hour. Some of the girls who had already eaten were talking and laughing in groups. Kurochna jumped up on a table and in a ringing voice asked the girls to tell us about their conditions and find out about ours.

Many of them could not believe that pregnant women are in no way provided for in the U. S. A. and that factory workers do not even have vacations. They could not understand why women had to work nine to ten hours a day when so many were looking for jobs. They told us that they all were on the seven hour day and that every woman gets two weeks' vacation. Some of the girls who did heavier work said that they got four weeks' vacation with pay.

We wanted to hear more about conditions in the factory, but the whistle blew for the girls to go back to work. The girls hastily said good-by and ran back to their machines. As they left they called out apologetically (for leaving us so promptly) the most popular slogan in present day Russia — "We must finish the Five Year Plan in four years!"

Kurochna still walked with us. On her way she told us that her husband and both his brothers were killed fighting for the revolution. There was neither grief nor sorrow in her voice, but rather pride and respect.

When we reached the dining room we got a good lunch for twenty-five or thirty kopeks (twelve to fifteen cents). Afterwards Kurochna showed us the day nurseries and kindergartens. At the same time she told us that in the old tsarist days she and other women had to leave the children alone or in the streets, but that now mothers could leave their babies in these sunny nurseries right at the factory. We told her about the drudgeries that both the children and the working mothers have to undergo in capitalist America and Kurochna asked us to tell the women in America what the women in Russia had gained under a workers' government.

We were also taken to the various educational institutions attached to the factory. In this connection we were told that sixty per cent of the factory workers attended one or another school at the factory. Kurochna pointed to a young woman and told us that she was her daughter, who at eighteen, did not know how to read or write and only after the revolution did she start to go to school. Now she is a good student at one of the factory technical schools.

On our way out we told Kurochna how deeply we were impressed and she answered smilingly: "That is all well and good, but how soon will you overthrow your oppressors in U. S.?"

Women Textile Workers! Organize Into the NTWU!

WITH UNEMPLOYED WOMEN

Organize Tenants League Stop Evictions—Fight For Lower Rents

Mrs. Adams has learnt by bitter experience that she must fight for her rights as a worker.

She has an invalid husband and small boy. For years she has been struggling to get enough to eat for her family and to pay her rent. It was always very hard, and more than once she found herself and family put on the streets because she could not meet the rent bills.

Last month, when she was being evicted because she could not pay a paltry fifteen dollars for her "apartment," she appealed to the Unemployed Council to help her. Members of the Unemployed Council visited the other tenants in the house. They found people who were certainly not living in plenty. Some flats were miserably cold because the people living there had not enough money to buy coal.

"Here," said the Unemployed Council, "is Mrs. Adams being put on the streets because she hasn't enough money to pay her rent. Get together, and don't let the landlord put her out."

"Oh, no—," answered some of them, "it's not because she has no money, but because she has not prayed enough to god to help her, that she is being put out."

"Let her pray to god, and she won't be put out."

"I'm praying to god for her," said another.

The praying did not help. Mrs. Adams was put out and her boy was taken away from her by the charities. The charities, no doubt, will also pray for Mrs. Adams. But you do not see them taking

children away from their greedy, rich bosses.

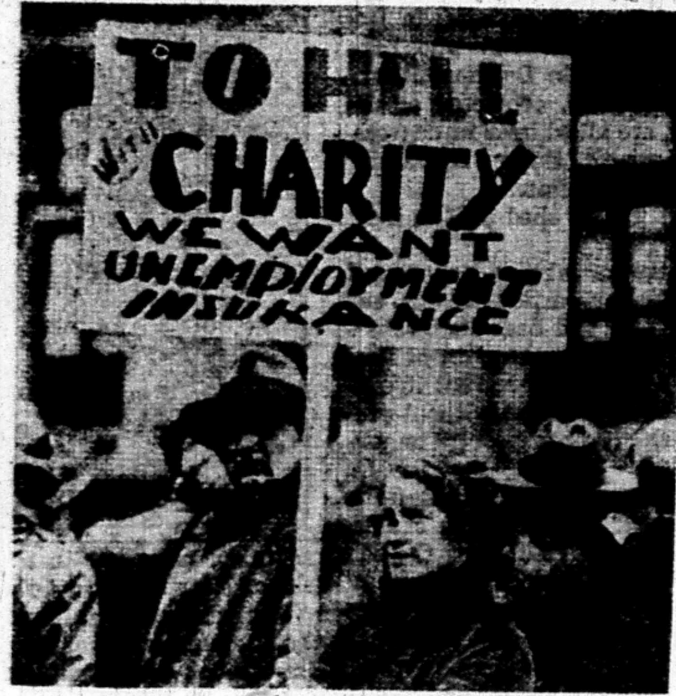
This is the system we are living under. We must organize and fight against it. Mrs. Adams is not discouraged. She will fight, and we women who have to take care of the home must get together. We must try to organize all the women in our house, so that if one of us is evicted because our husbands are not given work, we must work together and not let the landlord put us out on the street. We must organize to demand lower rents.

In most of our families the wage earners are unemployed. Where they are working their wages have been cut. When we get less from the bosses, we pay less rent to the bosses!

With the help of the Unemployed Council we are now beginning to organize. We go from house to house and the women are joining up with us, the more women we line up the better we will be able to fight. Soon we will form a Tenants League to demand and to get lower rents and no evictions.

Other working women in our neighborhood are organized. We must join up with them.

Women Demonstrate Against Unemployment \$2.80 A Week For Family of Five



Community Chest Refuses to Give Sick Child Milk

DENVER, Colorado.—On March 18, a committee of eight, from the Women's Committee of the unemployed council of Denver went to the office of the Community Chest to make demands for more and better relief for the unemployed workers and their families, and to protest against discrimination of foreign born workers.

The man in charge tried to get rid of us by saying, they did not give any relief at the office and told us to go to the "Denver Charities." We told him that it was just passing the buck, that workers are sent from one office to another, and in the end get nothing in most cases. We made this man listen to us and told him of the case of one of the women on the committee, who has a family of five all trying to live on two dollars and eighty cents (\$2.80) a week.

Doctors say children should have milk, eggs, meat, fish, fresh fruit and vegetables. We asked this man if he could supply these things for his children on \$2.80 a week. He admitted it couldn't be done. We asked him how these workers were to pay rent, buy coal, and clothes. He said he didn't know. Then he said these people should try to find jobs and help themselves. We told him there were ten millions workers in the United States looking for jobs.

Then he asked, what can we do? We told him that's what we want to know what is going to be done for the unemployed workers who are starving to death.

One member of the committee has a girl who has been sick seven years. Doctors say she must have milk. Because this girl is over twelve years old, the Community Chest refuses to give her any milk.

We told this man the Community Chest is a prop of the capitalist system organized for the purpose of throwing a few crumbs to the starving workers to keep them from becoming too rebellious. We said to him you are one of the authorities of this charitable organization and in the face of all this poverty and misery what solution have you to offer. He said the system will have to be changed. So we told him alright, we will organize the workers to change the system that dooms millions of workers to die through starvation, but until we change the system we will see that these women and their families got more relief.

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ILLITERACY

MOSCOW.—On the 19th of February the congress for general compulsory education took place. A compulsory education day will be organized. The past three years show a steady increase in the extent of the elementary school system in the Soviet Union. In the school year 1930-31 fourteen million children were drawn into the education system. In addition, millions of adult and adolescent students are at work to liquidate their own illiteracy. Under czarism progress in the abolition of illiteracy was infinitesimal for decades. Since the November revolution, however, rapid progress has been made.

Child Slavery Goes On

A program for the elimination of the worst features of child labor presented to the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women by Gertrude Schnerhorn of the Public Education and Child Labor Association of Pennsylvania was almost completely voted down. The well fed club women of Pennsylvania are quite content to allow children to leave school at fourteen years of age and work more than eight hours a day, and forty-four hours a week. The only points they approved were the payment of extra compensation to the children who became victims of industrial accidents while employed in violation of the law, and a meaningless migratory child workers' law.

Women in Lawrence Strike

Workers Militancy Defeats Bosses Speed-Up Schemes

By EDITH BERKMAN

The first to strike under the leadership of the National Textile Workers Union, in Lawrence, were the women workers in the Wood Mill, American Woolen Co. This strike was called in September. The women workers struck against the "stagger system." This system was to be introduced to lengthen the working day for all the men workers and to put the women workers on a two shift basis. Under the leadership of the NTWU this strike of the women workers was won.

The workers of Lawrence learned a lesson from this small victory. We learned that we can organize and through strike struggle win better conditions. We also learned that the women workers are the first ones to strike against the inhuman conditions in the mills: The women workers too learned that as workers they must organize into unions. They organized and joined the National Textile Workers Union.

Solidarity with Men

On February 16th when the mill owners tried to make the men combers run nine combs, the women, not affected by this efficiency method came out on strike as soon as the strike committee called upon them. At first, though timid, the women workers soon became the most active workers on the picket line. Not only those employed in the mills took part in the picket lines but also the wives and sisters of the strikers took an active part in the strike. The strike meetings were always well represented with women workers. While the law in the State of Massachusetts prohibits overtime work for women workers, the women were the most ardent supporters of the demand for time and a half for overtime. Why were they so? Because they realized that only the unity of all the workers in the mills will bring about victory. Women, who were at the time of the strike unemployed, were on the picket lines at all times.

Costly Mistakes

One of the shortcomings of the Lawrence strike was that we did not succeed to make the elected women of the various departments on the strike committee to function and this must be corrected in future strikes and struggles.

How can women workers be made to become active in the struggles in which they are involved? Well, it is not easy to break down all the years of training of the old traditions. Through personal talks with these women workers one can find them very anxious to take part in the struggle, but they are kept back by priests who preach them to stay home and take care of the house work and their large families after working hours. One of our duties is to break down this tradition.

In the mills we must get women workers to be active in our mill committees. In the neighborhoods we can form women's committees. The tasks of these committees are to put up fights against high costs of food.

Our movement has among its leadership many women workers. We find in every struggle women workers in the lead of these struggles. In the Lawrence strike the Union organizer was a woman worker. In Gastonia, too, we had women leaders who came right from the ranks of the workers. For instance, Ella May Wiggins was shot just because she was in the lead of the strike.

Draw in Women

In our organizational work we must at all times draw in the women workers and assign to them special tasks. Even though these tasks might be very small at first, these women workers will soon learn to be the spokesmen for the other women workers in the mill.

Through the Lawrence strike the workers have learned that we do not have to accept the new methods of speed-up, that we do not have to accept any wage cuts, that we can organize and win our demands through strike.

Fight Against High Rents

Stop the landlords from raising rents and demand a twenty per cent reduction. Fight against evictions!

The Coney Island Tenants League is now fighting for rent reductions in the three houses on Thirty-third Street. The tenants have started a fight for five dollars reduction in their rent. The landlord tried to scare some of the tenants, and told them that she would throw them out of the house—but just as soon as the tenants of the house explained to her that they are all organized, and that they would stick together, she immediately changed the tone of her voice and became very nervous—and the result is that the landlord is compelled to make the reduction.

In another house on West Thirty-second street, the tenants are confronted with an increase in the rents. As soon as their landlord heard of the tenants league, he began to scare the tenants that if they do not pay the ten dollars increase they would have to move. The answer of the tenants was: Try and put us out if you can, but your chance of renting the rooms is slim, because we will picket the house.

Open air meetings to start a campaign against the high cost of living, and to demand free lunches for the children of the unemployed will be arranged.

With the Young Workers

NOT THE WAY OUT PIONEERS PROTEST

Young Workers Must Join Fight for Unemployment Insurance

NEW ORLEANS, La. — A fifteen year old girl, Ethel Hansmith, of 2719 Decatur Avenue, drank poison in an attempt to kill herself because she could not find a job. Ethel was cold and hungry and needed money. She looked high and low for work, but could not find any. She took the way out that the bosses taught her to take.

They sent her to Charity Hospital and later declared her out of danger. Now she will start her vain search for a job all over again.

Similar cases are happening daily. In New York, Elsie Jordan, a twenty-five year old stenographer, ended her life by inhaling gas in her room at 239 West Seventieth Street. Her landlady told the police that the girl had been disappointed and despondent over a big wage cut she had received recently.

The same day, Mrs. Lily Schaefer, of 85 Livonia Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, a twenty-one year old mother of two children, attempted to do away with herself. Her husband, unable to support her, had left home in despair. She herself searched for a job for months. Facing starvation, she left a note in a milk bottle and turned on the gas. A delivery man discovered the act and prevented the suicide.

Every day workers are passing through the three stages of unemployment, starvation and suicide. They are the victims of the boss propaganda which teaches self destruction instead of revolutionary struggle against exploitation.

PROLETARIAN FREE-THINKERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDED

BERLIN.—On Saturday the 7th of March, the inaugural congress of the Proletarian Freethinkers Association took place in Berlin and was attended by 482 delegates, 96 of whom were women. After a speech on the situation of the freethinking movement in Germany and a thorough discussion it was unanimously decided to form an Association of Proletarian Freethinkers.

AMERICAN LEGION AND RESERVE OFFICERS LEAD ATTACK AGAINST MILITANT SCHOOL CHILDREN

American Legion and Reserve Officers Lead Attack Against Militant School Children

A protest demonstration held on the campus of the Roosevelt high school in Los Angeles on Monday was broken up with great brutality. Members of the Pioneers were beaten up and the Workers' Cooperative was smashed.

In addition to the school units of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, the principal of the school, Hugh Elston, called on the Girls' Athletic Organization to smash the meeting. Together with the R. O. T. C. they were organized into combat divisions under the leadership of the police and the American Legion.

After the attack, the principal held a special meeting of the boys and girls who had helped to break up the meeting and praised them for their work in "ridding the school of Reds."

Organize Struggle Against Starvation

(Continued from page 2)

while it is difficult to make a direct check-up, we already know that about 100 women joined the Party, out of whom 10 were Negro women. Two women miners' auxiliaries and four metal workers' auxiliaries were organized during the campaign. Out of the struggles against high cost of living, high rents and evictions, a number of women joined the councils of unemployed. The broad strike in Chicago resulted in the forming of a women's organization.

The campaign marked the beginning of the work among the broad masses of women workers through the preparatory delegated conferences. The problem before us now is to continue these conferences and to draw the women, wives of workers into daily struggles.

Let us continue these conferences. Let us mobilize the women workers and wives of workers for preparations for the giant demonstration on May 1st. Women workers from the shops, women's organizations are called upon to send delegates to the District Conferences to prepare for May 1st.

The Fight Against Starvation Goes On! Demand Relief--

The Struggle Against High Cost of Living

By JACK STACHEL

The wages of all workers in the manufacturing industries have been reduced by more than one-third. The miners, textile workers, needle workers, food workers, all are today laboring under starvation wages. The recent strikes of the textile workers, particularly the strike in Lawrence, the strike of the dress makers, the strike of the New Orleans longshoremen, the strike of over twenty thousand anthracite miners despite the open sabotage and treachery of the officials, is proof that the workers will fight against these conditions.

The bosses are taking advantage of the present crisis, under which more than ten million workers are completely unemployed, and many more millions are working part time in order to cut wages and to reduce not only the unemployed, but the entire working class to starvation. To the unemployed their answer is that they must starve — that unemployment insurance is a dole and the American workers must not "degrade" themselves to the acceptance of doles.

To the employed they say: accept wage cuts or we will replace you from the ranks of the unemployed. But the recent strikes and the solidarity of the unemployed and employed in these strikes show that all will not run as smooth as the bosses think; that even the Fish committee fascist terror, and the betrayal and demagoguery of the American Federation of Labor, the Musteites, and socialists will not prevent the workers from fighting for the right to live. The workers will fight. They are already fighting. And more and more they look to the Trade Union Unity League for leadership in these struggles.

But the bosses do not overlook any means to further lower the standards of the workers. Through the big monopolies they control prices and force a high cost of living upon the workers in the face



of the terrific unemployment and wage cuts.

In fact the lying rulers of the country tell us that they must cut wages because prices have gone down; that wages must be brought down to the same level as prices. But what is the actual truth? The facts are, that while wages have gone down by thirty-three and one-third per cent wholesale prices declined by about only sixteen per cent, and retail prices to the consumer have gone down only by between seven and eight per cent.

The workers must see that the struggle against the high cost of living must therefore become a struggle on the part of the whole working class. It must become a part of the fight against the reduction of the workers' standards of life.

WAGES LOWEST — HIGHEST RENT

Every worker knows that while the poor working farmers are being driven off their land through bankruptcy, because of the lowest price of wheat in more than twenty years, the price of bread remains about the same. That the

price of milk, meat and the other necessities are maintained at the same high levels as before. That rents has not gone down.

And it is precisely in those cities where wages are the lowest, that the cost of living is highest. The South is the best example of this. In the company controlled mining, textile and steel towns, the bosses through the company stores, always keep the workers in debt through high prices and high rents. But this same situation exists in all cities though they may vary the thievish methods.

The bosses in the present crisis take advantage of the situation by cutting the workers' wages, by speeding up those inside the factories and refusing to have any concern for the unemployed doomed to complete starvation. In addition, they rob our class through high prices. And the lower the wages of the workers, the higher the prices. This is not accidental. Those who can offer least resistance are robbed most. This is clear from only one fact that we can mention here: The Negro workers in the city of New York

receive proportionally in earnings seventeen per cent less than white workers, but they are compelled to pay twenty per cent more for the same tenements than white workers pay.

ALL WORKERS MUST FIGHT!

The workers must fight against the high cost of living. We must fight against the monopoly prices of bread, milk, meat, rents and the other necessities. This fight must become the fight of the entire working class. This fight must be organized.

How shall we proceed with this struggle? The Trade Union Unity League, the T. U. U. L. unions, the Councils of Unemployed, and the working class housewives organizations must take the initiative in this fight. They must convene conferences of working women and men from the shops, unions, from the tenements, neighborhoods, into huge delegate bodies of the exploited and oppressed, who will gather to raise these issues before the whole working class. Committees to fight against high prices and high rents, tenants' leagues in

the big apartments and neighborhoods must be formed to take up the struggle. Every worker, every working class house wife must be aroused to this struggle.

The surprising thing is that the fight has not yet begun in earnest. Only in a few isolated cases such as Detroit and Chicago has the fight begun. And in these cities, the women have been able to win the reduction in the price of bread. But the fight here was not only limited to the price of bread, but also to a certain section of the city.

This fight must become the fight of the whole working class in every city, town and village. It must be a real mass fight in which the whole working class and all its organizations take part. It must be a fight against the high cost of living and rents. This fight must be the concern of the basic organizations of the workers in the trade unions and out.

And in this struggle, the fight against wage cuts, the fight for the relief of the unemployed, the fight for Unemployment Insurance, the fight against discrimination of the Negro masses, must become an integral part.

EVICITION STOPPED STARVING

(By a Worker Correspondent)

Dear Comrades:

A needle worker, living in the east side of New York City, has been out of a job for six months. He has a little girl and his wife is expecting another baby most any day.

They owed two months' rent and received a dispossession notice. Their furniture was thrown out on the street. The Downtown Unemployed Council moved it back in.

They have just received a second dispossession notice.

The Downtown Unemployed Council has gotten the signatures of seventeen tenants in the house, that they will not let this tenant be thrown out on the streets once more.

This worker has proven to the other workers in the neighborhood the need for organizing to fight for Unemployment Insurance.

—R.

Building the Working Woman

For many months the circulation of The Working Woman has been steadily increasing. Many new subscriptions have been received from workingclass women all over the country working in shops, mills, factories, on farms, in the homes. Many more comrades are acting as agents receiving bundle orders. But this number is still insufficient.

Besides we find that many of our agents in spite of repeated letters, bills, and requests do not pay for the papers they receive. This situation cannot be tolerated any longer. Next month we shall, in The Working Woman, call concrete attention to those that receive but never pay.

Many of the Finnish comrades have been active agents for our paper. They have been sending in many subscriptions. Many of the Finnish Working Women's Clubs have ordered bundles. But from time to time we receive a letter from one or another asking us to discontinue the bundles on the ground that their membership cannot read English any they cannot sell the paper.

We have written these comrades to the effect that they must go outside of their own membership to sell the paper. They must reach the thousands of workingclass women who are not yet class-conscious. They must request their members to sell the papers before factories where women are employed. Besides they must not forget their own daughters who are growing up and who are being poisoned by the boss class ideas they hear in the schools, in the shops, in the bosses' papers. They must be given The Working Woman each month so they will become fighters in the working class movement.

The Lithuanian comrades have also been supporting our paper, individually and thru their clubs.

Many men-workers act as agents for The Working Woman. They

Enemies of the Workers on Trial

(Continued from page 2)

many victories, they turned to foreign intervention as the only way to destroy the workers and peasants government.

THE WRECKERS

Inside the Soviet Union, the role of the Menshevists was still more insidious. Here they tried in every possible way to damage the work of building Socialism. Groman, one of the accused, and member of the Planning Commission, received twenty-five thousand dollars from the Industrial party, knowing that this group wanted to set up a military dictatorship and bring back capitalism.

Thus, all these three parties — the Ramzin (Industrial) party, the Kondratyev (kulak) party, whose leader was also on trial, and party of the Menshevists — were tied together in their common aim of destroying the workers' state.

DANGER IS NOT OVER

On March 8 these men were sentenced to prison for terms ranging from five to ten years, and on the Eighth of March we women workers all over the world, pledged to defend the workers' fatherland against traitors such as these. The danger is not over. Lies and slander against the Soviet Union goes on day after day in the capitalist papers, and workers in capitalist countries who fight against misery, starvation, wage cuts, unemployment, are being thrown into prison.

The socialists in every country work with the bosses to overthrow the Soviet Union. Women workers, we must unite against these socialist wreckers and their bosses. Let us fight together with the men workers for our class.

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 of the Working Woman: I am working in a textile mill in Passaic. After the last strike I was out of work for many weeks. They knew me in Passaic and would not hire me. Now I am working, but the conditions are rotten. Last week the National Textile Workers Union distributed a leaflet in front of the mill. I knew that the bosses' spies were watching me and I was afraid to take the leaflet, but I am mighty glad to see the union on the job again. I hope that some day we will strike and win. I would like to help but I am afraid to be seen at the headquarters. It will surely mean my discharge. I read your paper and sometimes the Daily Worker. Can you advise me what to do?

ANSWER:

You can help a great deal. You had some experience in the last strike. Why not use it? You are working in a mill and know the workers. Pick out a number of workers whom you trust. Call them to some house and organize a group to carry on the union work in the shop very quietly. Work carefully. When you see a chance, organize another group. This is how the work was done in Lawrence and they pulled off a pretty good strike. If you cannot go to the office of the union, write to Paec, the organizer.

QUESTION:

Dear Editor: I am living in a poor neighborhood in Philadelphia where many of the workers are un-

employed and even those who are working received many wage cuts. A group of women in the block where I am living got together and we organized a tenants' league to fight for lower rents. We held three meetings but they were all the same. I am afraid they will soon lose interest and will stop coming to the meetings unless we do something.

ANSWER:

You are correct. If we only keep on talking, your League will die out. At your next meeting you must decide on a demand for a definite reduction of rent. Assign each woman to visit the homes of all the neighbors in her house, explaining to them the purpose of the League and asking them to join. Arrange open air meetings on the block. Get in touch with the Unemployed Council in Philadelphia. They will help you get up a leaflet. See that it is written in plain language that everybody can understand. Don't do all this work by yourself. Get every member to help along. When enough tenants have joined, call a mass meeting and elect a committee to present your demands to the landlord. See that this committee reports back to all the tenants belonging to the League and if the landlord refuses to grant the demands, organize yourselves for a rent strike. It may take you some time, before you are ready to enter into a strike, but if you work along these lines you will surely be able to develop a real fight, and to get a cut in rent.

Send us the name and address of your shopmate, your neighbor, and we will send a sample copy of THE WORKING WOMAN

**Voice of Women Workers
THE WORKING WOMAN**

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The Lawrence Strike

The fighting spirit of the days of 1912 and 1919 were revived in Lawrence when in the short space of six days 10,000 workers, men and women, together presented a solid front against the bosses and struck against the speed-up and "efficiency" system which was to impose greater burdens on the workers. The whole working class can look to the Lawrence strike led by the National Textile Workers Union, as an example of achievement and inspiration. In spite of the cowardly propaganda of the American Federation of Labor, the Mastetes and the other enemies of the workers in the bosses' camp—that strikes cannot be successful in time of depression and unemployment—it was possible for the workers not only to carry out a successful strike with splendid solidarity but to win most of their demands in the face of the united attacks of church, government and company owners. The working men and women of Lawrence have proven to the working class that in these days of crisis when the bosses attempt to keep profits high by wage cuts, speed-up, lengthening of hours and other means of sweating the workers, they will resist and defeat these attacks under the leadership of the Trade Union Unity League. That the unemployed are learning the lesson of solidarity is shown by the fact that they were unwilling to be made to play the role of scabs and strikebreakers.

In the Lawrence strike we must record especially the splendid militancy of the women workers, who marched on the picket line and participated in the struggle with the men.

The women of Lawrence did not fail to live up to the fighting tradition of Ella May Wiggin, Gasconia textile union leader who was martyred by the bullets of the company thugmen, nor to the coal miners' women of Ludlow who fought so courageously against the bloody Rockefeller gunmen. But the women workers of Lawrence were slow in functioning actively on the strike committee. This was partly due to the failure of the strike committee to bring the women closer and to assign important tasks to them, and partly to the teachings of the priests who discouraged women from taking an active part in the improvement of their working conditions. This resulted in weakening and often dividing the ranks of the workers, for those women who are away from the struggle misunderstand that the workers are fighting in their interests and so become, unconsciously, the tools of the bosses. In the Lawrence strike the women learned that the same priests who urged them to remain at home and keep out of the struggle, were the ones to join the company in its efforts to break the strike, to attack the union, to spread terror and deprive the workers of their leaders by arresting them.

Women workers must be on guard against further attempts of the company owners to destroy their living conditions, and must prepare now through strong organization to fight back. Keep the victories of your strike by winning more workers into the Mill Committees and into the National Textile Workers Union. Get into the fight to smash the attack of the bosses and government to railroad the strike leaders to jail or to deport them. Help build a powerful union of textile workers throughout the United States.

What Does This Mean to You?

ELSIE JORDAN was 25 and pretty. Today she is dead. She died alone. Just lay down on her bed in her furnished room at 239 West 70th Street, in New York, the night of March 24; held a gas tube in her mouth — and died —

Why? Ask yourself, you other working girls! The capitalist newspapers, which gave her death two inches of type, admit that it was because her boss had cut her wages once, and was going to cut her wages again. She could no longer live under capitalism!

Then let us go to Cleveland, Ohio. There on March 14, Mrs. Helen Rainovic, 39, of 19209 Arrowhead Ave., N. E., faced with poverty because she could not find a job (her husband was paralyzed as result of an accident while at work), and desperate because she saw her four little children starving to death before her eyes — took a revolver and shot herself through the heart.

Why was this? Doesn't charity take care of such cases? Look around you, in any city, any day, and see the thousands who are NOT taken care of, and you will know that the capitalist press lies when they say that "charity" is "adequate."

In reality, this working girl, Elsie Jordan; and this working class mother and wife, Helen Rainovic, were murdered by the capitalist system. Just as though some capitalist had choked Elsie to death; just as though the stockholder of a big corporation had shot Helen Rainovic with his own hand!

So far, you agree — yes? But you can't bring them back to life again, can you? They died. Died uselessly, and what's more and worse, they died without even making a fight. Yet any animal will fight for its life. Why didn't they fight?

Because you, the class conscious workers — men and women alike — did not bring them the Communist message of struggle, the hope of victory of all workers for security in life and freedom for our class that we see realized and proven true in the Soviet Union.

You can not bring Elsie or Helen back to life. But you can stop other Helens and other Elsie from taking this path — which is no cure for the working class, which solves no problem for anybody!

Be awake to those around you in the shops and offices, working girls! There are other Elsie Jordans in your city, girls who are having their wages cut. Show them that their wages are cut because there is so much unemployment, and the unemployed get no Unemployment Insurance, and thus the boss makes them work for less and less.

Show them that it is their affair to join the struggle for Unemployment Insurance, and be sure to explain what the TRADE UNION UNITY LEAGUE is, and how to get together in its fighting unions with other girls and battle for higher wages — with the help of the Unemployed Councils, which will make the boss disappointed because he can not get the unemployed to take the strikers' jobs!

Look around your neighborhood, working class women, and count the wives and mothers who are in the same fix as Helen Rainovic. Then do something about it. Help the Unemployed Council in your city to organize a struggle to compel the capitalist class and its government to give some relief.

Organize the neighborhood to demand it. To stop greedy landlords from evicting such families! And let everybody know that they must join the fight for the Workers Unemployment Insurance demands, as against the miserable slow starvation that is called "charity" in the U. S.!

Worker must not kill themselves! Nor must they die of hunger and cold! We, all of us, must be responsible to see that they are rallied around in masses to fight against it! And by winning something — by even bringing these workers into a struggle — we show

Edith Berkman, Lawrence Strike Leader, Up For Deportation.



My Life By a Negro Working Woman

THE STORY THUS FAR:

The Negro working woman who writes this story was born Pendergrass, Jackson County, Georgia. When she was ten years old her father became a shape-ropper and the seven children were put to work on the farm, standing knee-deep in water cutting willows. In the last instalment this Negro working woman told how she stole a piece of cloth to get clothes to go to school and how she was punished. At the age of 12 she already thinks of getting married to escape the hard winter that is sure to come after the boss takes the whole crop. Continue reading.

I often think now that if I had only been a Pioneer as the children can be now, I would not have had to work under such mean bosses. I could have said many times when the boss was sitting in the shade watching us to see if we worked steadily: "To hell with the bosses! I will fight the bosses and join the Communist Party."

I went to school that year, half-dressed and part of the time hungry, but yet I made my grade. School closed in the summer. I was twelve years old in October. I began to think that if I could only leave home I could live with some good people until I grew up, for I did not see how I could stand my papa and the boss.

As we gathered the crops I could not see how we could have anything again that winter. When we gathered the crops the boss would wait until all the corn, potatoes, peanuts, cotton and all were gathered before he could settle with papa. That fall we paid for the cow and the result was that we had to sell part of our corn to finish paying the rest of our bills.

There we were with not a thing to go up on, not even shoes or clothes. All that Bottoms corn was almost gone and we made six oads to our part with double bodies on the wagons. When the boss got through we did not have over fifty bushels to live on during the winter months. We did not raise any wheat, we made about sixty-five

gallons of syrup and part of that went to the boss.

Mother and we kids went into the fields where the people had already gathered their corn and picked up the corn where the other farmers had overlooked it. By doing this we gathered enough corn to get us some shoes and an outing dress for me.

I was then twelve years old and wearing an outing dress for Christmas, but yet I felt that I was dressed up. In fact it was an unusual thing, for I never got things like the other children in our community.

After I had put on that little outing dress, I thought I ought to begin and try to find myself a husband.

My father and the boss were so hard on me and I was then entering on my thirteenth year. I had heard my mother say that she knew girls getting married at that age, but she did not even know that I was listening to her when she made those remarks.

So we had a little Christmas not much, but papa seemed like he was having the time of his life. At this time our boss would give a few hundred dollars to the fifty tenant families on the farm, which was the settlement for the year's work. But after Christmas they would all be without money again so there was nothing for them to do but go to work on New Year's Day for the boss who would give them something to live on until another Christmas for they would not get any more cash until that time. After the holidays were over we started school again, and I was always wondering why I would not be treated like other girls. I began to write notes to boys. I gave up worrying about the way papa and the boss were treating me for I felt that I would be married soon.

I went to school that term and we made another crop in the fall. We gathered and Christmas came again and I yet did not have anything. I was then thirteen and I thought I was deep in love. I know now I was not. I was only trying to get away from home. I had decided not to work under that mean boss another year. I would

run away before I would do that. After Christmas papa got another big crop pitched for that year and I went to school that winter. Since I had finished grammar school the year before, and I was not fixed to go to junior high, I just decided that I would go to grammar school another term. When I entered school I taught the small class for the teacher. I enjoyed that for I felt that I was grown up.

Before school was out I was engaged to a man about sixteen years my senior, but I felt that I would be better off away from home. I was to get married the fourth Sunday in February but my papa stopped me and I could not get away until March 15. I ran away then and got married. I was just thirteen years and five months old, just a baby. If I had known what was ahead of me I might have committed suicide, for the bosses in the country where I was raised were just hell. I never want to go home any more.

My sister was married two weeks before I was. My husband had a good boss, as bosses go. I did not work in the fields. I had nice clothes and shoes and was treated alright. I lived happily for my husband told the boss that he was enough to boss, and he could not boss me.

I was always happy. My sister and her husband lived in the house with my father and I lived in a little one room cabin, but yet I felt that I lived in a mansion. (To be continued next month)

Calls on Women to Join the Communist Party

Comrades:

Just a few lines to let you know about the conditions of the women workers in Birmingham. Mrs. Fox is a well known parasite of Birmingham whom I have worked for for five years and she paid me only \$10.00 a week up until 1930 and in 1931 she cut my wages from \$10.00 to \$4.00 and because I refused to work for that she told me that she could not use me any more. We women workers at Birmingham, both white and colored, how long are we going for these rotten conditions.

We must wake up and join the Communist Party and also read the "Working Woman," a paper for all working women.

—By a Negro Working Woman.

them that the way to hope and life and freedom is the way of the Communist Party!

The big thing is not the small success of today, but the mobilizing of the masses for the final revolutionary struggle to overthrow capitalism! And you, yourselves, will learn that the way to fight for tomorrow is to fight today!