

# The WORKING WOMAN

The Voice of Women Workers

Published Monthly by the Central Committee, Communist Party, U.S.A. Entered as second class matter April 22, 1930 at the Post Office New York, N. Y., Under the Act of March 3, 1879

Subscription rates. 50 cents per year Foreign \$1.00 per year

Section of the Communist International  
Single copies 5 cents

50 East 13th Street, New York, N. Y.

VOL. 2, No. 12

NEW YORK, DECEMBER, 1931

5 CENTS

## WOMEN DELEGATES IN HUNGER MARCH

### United Council To Lead Coney Island Bread Price Strike

#### Housewives Demand Lower Prices

NEW YORK. — In the last few weeks the price of bread and rolls went up in Coney Island.

Whereas we formerly paid five and six cents a pound of bread and twelve and fifteen cents for a dozen rolls, we again must pay eight and nine cents for the bread and twenty cents for the rolls.

The workers are preparing to go into a struggle against these robber prices. This was proven at a very enthusiastic mass meeting that was held on Monday, November 23d.

The leadership of the American Federation of Labor and the United Hebrew Trades proved at the mass meeting that they are in favor of the bakery bosses, and are against the workers in the struggle against the high cost of bread. The Women's Auxiliary of the Workmen's Circle of Coney Island backed out of the struggle upon the instructions of the Workmen's Circle, and together with all the reactionary elements, are working hard against this issue.

The Council of Working Class Women, together with the rank and file committee of Housewives of Coney Island, are mobilizing and preparing for strike against the high cost of bread. All workers of Coney Island are asked to help us. Come to our mass United Front Committee and voice your opinion. Come to our mass meeting which will be held Nov. 30, and hear the final preparations for strike.

#### BRUTAL SENTENCES FOR WORKING WOMEN

The Riga court has sentenced nice revolutionary working class women to sentences ranging from three to five years hard labor each for having organized demonstrations on International Women's Day in Latvia.

### Phila. Hunger Marcher



Drawn from life by SAM SILVER.

Louise Macon, of the Women Hunger Marchers elected by the Philadelphia Hunger March Conference. Comrade Macon is active in the daily struggles of the unemployed workers of South Philadelphia.

### Women's Demand For Unemployed Relief

1. Federal Unemployment Insurance at full wages for all wholly or partly unemployed workers.
2. Equal Unemployment Insurance for Men and Women Workers.
3. Equal Unemployment Insurance for all single and married women workers.
4. Unemployment winter relief for wives of unemployed and part time workers.
5. No dismissal of married women.
6. Special free municipal lodging houses for homeless unemployed women.
7. Free medical care for unemployed pregnant women at the expense of the state.
8. Free hospital care during confinement and two weeks after confinement for mother and child.

## Tell of Desperate Need of Jobless Women Who Suffer Hunger, Misery, Humiliation.

### Detroit Women in Conference Spur March Activities

The eyes of the millions of jobless men and women workers and their dependents will be on Washington, December 7, when 1,500 delegates representing the 12,000,000 unemployed workers and their families present demands upon Congress for unemployment insurance for all unemployed, and a series of measures for the immediate relief of all unemployed, part time workers without discrimination against married and single jobless women, foreign born workers, young workers, Negro workers and with ample provisions for the children of the unemployed.

Unemployed working women and girls, wives and daughters of jobless workers are playing a very important part in this great Hunger March. At public hearing, mass trials, mass meetings for the delegations, and elected as delegates themselves, more and more working class women are in the forefront of the fight for government unemployment insurance to save millions from the horrors of a winter without adequate relief. Many woman delegates have been elected to the National Hunger March.

The specific demands for the unemployed women and wives and daughters of unemployed men workers will be presented together with the general demands of the unemployed workers.

DETROIT, Mich.—At the Women's Hunger March Conference (Continued on page 7)

### Marching to Washington



Eva Green, one of the women delegates of the National Hunger March, was elected by the Downtown Unemployed Council of New York where she is active in the fight for unemployed relief and insurance for jobless women and men. Read her story elsewhere in this issue.

### Delegates from the New York Councils Tell Their Stories

Helen Lynch and Eva Green, members of the New York Downtown Unemployed Council and elected delegates to the National Hunger March, described the plight of the jobless women and girls in an interview by the "Working Woman."

The young girls, representative of the type of working-class woman that is beginning to take active part in the class struggle told of the deadening miseries weighing down on the masses of unemployed women and girls, of employers taking advantage of the unemployment crisis to force down the wages of working women, of the humiliation and degradation of jobless women at the hands of charity and city officials, and of the turn of the submissive, beaten woman into one that will stand up and fight for the right to live, for unemployment aid and insurance.

Lived at City Lodging House  
Helen Lynch, 26 her eyes and face still bright with youth told how she had lived at the Municipal Lodging House sometimes after losing her job as a waitress.

"The unemployed women who come to the Municipal Lodging House look beaten and drugged by their miseries. The religious ones think it is an act of god. All hope against hope to get back into their previous lives."

"They are of all categories of working women. Factory girls, office workers, institutional work- (Continued on page 2)

### TONS OF GRAPES TO ROT

DUNKIRK, N. Y. — A full harvest of grapes in this section will go unpicked because the grape growers can only get twenty dollars a ton for the grapes. It will cost half that to pick the grapes.

Tons of grapes will thus be left on the vines to rot, while in the cities, unemployed families will lack fresh fruits.





# Women Active In Jobless Fight Chosen for March at Phila. Meet

## Public Hearing Testimony Reveals Much City Suffering

### Women Show Militancy in Fight For Unemployment Aid, Insurance

By HENRY ROBINSON

Many women were elected as delegates at the Philadelphia United Front National Hunger March Conference held Sunday, November 22, with an attendance of two hundred, eighty-four delegates representing one hundred and thirty-eight organizations. These unemployed women workers will be part of the large Philadelphia delegation to the March on Congress.

Of the twelve million unemployed workers in the United States, five hundred thousand live in Philadelphia. These workers are living in fearful slums, undergoing the direst privations, resulting in disease, death and suicides. The Negro workers are especially discriminated against.

There have been fifteen thousand evictions in the past five months. More are scheduled. On the eve of Christmas the sheriff has planned two thousand additional evictions, the selling out of workers' small homes. The workers, unemployed, of rent or interest on mortgages are unable to make any payments. If the city and state will help, they will be put out on the streets the night before Christmas.

The fakers of the city and state republican administrations of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania have done nothing, and are doing nothing except making demagogic proposals for taxes which fall upon the shoulders of the workers — not the bosses. In these proposals they are aided by the democrats and the socialists of the state.

The bosses themselves have a \$9,000,000 charity drive in the city of Philadelphia. This would amount to \$18.50 per worker for the entire winter if the unemployed would really get all of it. But from this \$18.50 must be deducted graft, advertising, administrative and other expenses. And most of this \$9,000,000 is collected out of the wages of workers yet employed, the big bosses posing as benefactors where as they are, as always, parasites.

Below are sketches of the activities of three of the women delegates to the National Hunger March elected at the Philadelphia Conference.

### Louise Macon Is Active Fighting Against Evictions

Louise Macon, 512 Cantrell St., Philadelphia. Young Negro woman worker, 27 years of age. Busily engaged in organizing the working women, now unemployed, amongst both colored and the white workers in her neighborhood.

The Cantrell Street Unemployed Council has secured 42 regularly attending members during the past six weeks, and Louise Macon is one of the most active members of the Council.

Louise Macon is a restaurant worker, but was laid off a year ago and finds it impossible to secure work. Her husband has been out of work for two years, and the family, including children, have been without food often during the past year.

The solidarity of the white and colored workers of Cantrell St. prevented the Macon family from being evicted and Louise is now anxious to fight for Unemployment Insurance and against starvation.

She is one of the women delegates from the Philadelphia Unemployed Councils who will march to Washington in the National Hunger March.

Rose Evans



Drawn from life by SAM SILVER.

A National Hunger Marcher elected at the Philadelphia Conference.

employed Council. Has fought to prevent evictions of families in her neighborhood and is now a delegate to Washington for the National Hunger March, enthusiastic in her determination to voice a protest for the starving unemployed workers of Philadelphia.

### Wilmington Girl Is Chosen as Hunger Marcher

Rose Evans of Wilmington, Delaware has for the past two years found it impossible to get any kind of a job. Expert stenographer by training, but willing to do anything to make a living. She has taken the civil service examinations and made the highest marks, but she cannot secure a job because she has no political pull, and in the state of Delaware as elsewhere, political pull is even more of a requisite than ability.

Evans is a native born young woman, determined to protest the starvation forced upon her and her class. She believes that one of the best methods is through the National Hunger March and is one of the woman delegates from Wilmington.

### NEW SOVIET AIR INVENTION

Soviet aeroplane constructors in the Ossoaviakhim have now completed a satisfactory model of a new plane on which they have been at work for three years. The new plane has no wings and no propeller. It needs no special airfield for landing and has a very high degree of safety.

### Martha Jeffries Fights for Her Dependents

Martha Jeffries, 1734 North 21st Street, colored woman worker. Formerly worked in chemical factory, manufacturing cleaning fluids, but because of conditions, unable to get her living at this work now.

Daughter of 22, a widow with a child three years of age. Has not worked for a year.

This family had a home but they were swindled out of it by a company of church people, including a



MARTHA JEFFRIES - Drawn from life by SAM SILVER.

minister of the church formerly attended by Martha Jeffries.

The family is now living on a relief order secured from the Lloyd Committee. This measly bit of capitalist charity has been cut from \$4 to \$3 per week. How much will \$3 buy for a family of three in one week? Not even enough for the baby granddaughter of Martha Jeffries.

Comrade Jeffries joined the Un-

## NEW YORK DELEGATES TELL STORIES OF MISERY

### Helen Lynch Elected by the Downtown Unemployed Council

(Continued from page 1)

ing women and mothers of working-class families. Nurses and bookkeepers are here too. And more keep coming in daily and weekly.

"Live is miserable at the Munnie. The women are cowed and terrorized. Where formerly they were forced to sleep on the floor, now they sleep on hammock that sicken them."

Helen Lynch paused. Her eyes flashed a new militancy as she recalled life at the city's lodging house. She seemed to typify the growing spirit of the masses of jobless women to put up a fight against being crushed down still

further. Then she told of the forced labor at the "House."

"A list is made out of those that have to work around the house. Making beds, washing and such things. And if any woman refuses, for any reason, sickness or what it may be, she is immediately barred from the house. And there is no pay for this work."

"The women that seem militant and instinctively able to put up a fight against this are framed up, some to be sent to the 'booby hatch' at the Bellevue. Anyone that fights for her interests is considered to be crazy by the house officials."

## Bosses Take Advantage of the Unemployment Crisis, Slash Wages to Low Level

### New York Delegate to the National Hunger March Tells of Her Experiences

Eva Green, 25, a member of the Downtown Unemployed Council, is typical of the young working women who see the need for organization and struggle to better their own and the conditions of their class.

Comrade Green was recently discharged as a chambermaid at the 34th St. Y.M.C.A., New York, when some inner politics among the officials caused a general layoff. Eva has been a worker for many years, straining every effort to make a decent living. Her experience with some charity organization has opened her eyes to their general function, though at one time she received some tuition aid from them.

When jobless women apply to the charity organizations, the social workers then place them with a family "in need of a maid," Eva told the "Working Woman."

#### Housework But No Wages

"You have to mind the children, wash dishes and do practically all the housework for your board. Those women expect you to do all the housework," Eva said as she told how many bourgeois families save paying a maid's wages by "doing the unemployed girls a favor and boarding them."

"I worked for one woman for one night—Thanksgiving and had to wash dishes that whole night."

Telling of her experiences in trying to survive on the wages paid in factories and shops, Eva said:

"Factories are taking advantage of the crisis to cut wages down to almost nothing. At the Shrieber's Underwear shop, 108 West 20th St., you begin work at 8 a. m. and stop at 6 p. m., and make about \$11 a week. The women here are very submissive and afraid of the boss."

"I was fired because I couldn't keep up with the speed-up although the boss didn't tell me I wasn't fast enough for him."

"At another place, a big toy factory, with the fastest speed up you can't make more than 45 cents a day stringing tinker dolls. You've got to work like a son-of-a-gun there. The first day I didn't even make my carfare home."

After months of trying to keep alive on factory wages and being fired or laid off, Eva, in despera-

tion turned for help to the Salvation Army "home for women" on 22nd Street.

No Aid from Salvation Army  
"Major Dene gave me a third degree from a questionnaire. Are you married or single? Do you drink or smoke?"

"We can't have anybody who smokes. It is not respectable to smoke," Major Dene told me. And she told me to get out."

Almost at the end of her resources Eva had to turn to the Municipal Lodging House as an alternative to sleeping out in the park or on the subways. There she found a life of petty tyranny, of forced labor, and health destroying living conditions.

"Breakfast was impossible. The bread was mouldy. Hundreds learned not to eat regular meals. In fact if you could get along without that food the better for you."

Asked about the sentiment of the unemployed women and girls Eva said: "They are hard hit and are yet humbly grateful for even the scraps and insults thrown at them. They would do anything to get out of the 'house.' But you can see that many are beginning to stiffen their backs, understand the cause of their miseries. A little bit of resistance in them is beginning to show."

Her manner, her determination and her hatred of the charity and city "aid" schemes was proof that the jobless women would fight against further degradation and misery.

### To Get New Form of Labor Unity at Banquet Dec. 25

NEW YORK. — One of the most important steps yet made in the life and work of the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement, will take place with the appearance of the new and better official organ of the Trade Union Unity League, the 32 page monthly LABOR UNITY magazine, the first issue of which will be off the press about December 25th, dated January, 1932.

The appearance of the new LABOR UNITY magazine will now be marked by real directive articles by the leaders of the Trade Union Unity League, of the unions and leagues, and by international revolutionary trade union figures.

The new LABOR UNITY magazine will sell at ten cents a copy, one dollar a year by subscription. Organizations can get bundle orders at seven cents per copy. All money for subs and greetings to be sent to Room 414, 2 W. 15th St., N. Y. City.

#### UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' SELF-HELP

A few days ago, in Berlin, four large shops were raided by groups of unemployed workers who seized large quantities of foodstuffs and disappeared before the police arrived on the scene. No arrests were made.



# The WORKING WOMAN

The Voice of Women Workers

Published Monthly by the Central Committee, Communist Party, U. S. A.,  
Section of the Communist International

50 East 13th Street, New York, N. Y.

Entered as second class matter April 22, 1930, at the Post Office New York,  
N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. 2 DECEMBER, 1931 No. 12

Subscription Rates: 50 CENTS PER YEAR; Foreign \$1.00. Single Copies 5 Cents

## Working Women and War

War in fact has been declared against the Chinese people by the great imperialist powers with Japanese imperialism already occupying Manchuria. The cordon of buffer states primarily intended as military bases against the Soviet Union, has been extended on the east to include Japanese occupied Manchuria.

The world crisis of capitalism is driving the imperialist powers for redivision of the world colonies, for intensified hatred against the workers' and peasants' republics, the Soviet Union, and the spark has been kindled in Manchuria.

Imperialist war to the women masses, as the last world war proved, means increased misery, broken families, and militarily-forced labor in the war factories. The scars of the last world war are still borne by the working-class women masses.

Working women have a big task in the struggle against war. The poison of pacifism spread by bourgeois women organizations paralyzes revolutionary struggle against the war makers and their government. Pacifism means faith and hope in the very machinery and organizations that the war makers use to further their war plots, the League of Nations "disarmament" conferences and all sorts of "peace" treaties. Pacifism serve the imperialist war makers in holding war preparations under smoke-screens of talk of peace, disarmament, etc.

Working women from the factories and mills, housewives and young working women must be drawn into the revolutionary struggle against imperialist war, for defense of the Soviet Union, and for the strengthening of the organizations of the working women in the fight against capitalist miseries and wars.

## Not Suicide, But Struggle

When Mrs. Anna Nathan, 21 year old mother of Philadelphia, Pa., killed herself and three small children because of the accumulated weight of jobless misery and fear of starvation, it was the fourth recorded horror of this kind within a month throughout the country.

The haunting fear of slow starvation, of seeing their children slowly droop before their very eyes, acted to drive these working-class mothers to a maddening pitch of fear and despair and led to their self-destruction and the death of their children.

These cases show how totally inadequate are the charity and city relief of the bosses and the desperate need for unemployment insurance. These horrors stamp the capitalist government and its class, who spend billions for war purposes, as the murderers of working-class mothers and little children.

Working-class mothers, confined by capitalist society to the "sphere of the home" and not understanding the cause of their misery, see themselves and husbands to blame and not the capitalist system. Many working-class women, especially those in the "home sphere," are backward in getting into the movement for unemployment insurance, in finding out the cause of their misery and turning from cowed, beaten women to militant struggle for the right to live.

Throughout the country there are signs that the jobless women and wives of jobless workers are overcoming their submissiveness in the face of the misery forced on them by the capitalist class and its government and are turning to struggle alongside the men unemployed for immediate relief and for jobless insurance.

## Working Women Drive

The last month brought in 170 subs making a total of 319. The increase in the bundle orders has been 135 copies making a total of 650 copies of the "Working Woman." The Lithuanian Working Women's Alliance sent in \$18.95 in subs and donations.

The Districts are just beginning to carry on the drive. It took a long time to get started but now many activities are being carried on in connection with the drive.

Out of the districts holding affairs the Center knows only of Boston, Philadelphia, New York and Cleveland. The Districts that have so far shown serious work in connection with the drive are New York, Boston, Cleveland. These Districts have sent in subs and according to one of the comrades in Cleveland she secured 20 subs herself. It is not a hard task to get "Working Woman" subs, especially with the free plaque of Lenin. Many other individual comrades have shown good work.

We must mention the fact that Chicago, Philadelphia, Connecticut, Minnesota and San Francisco have done practically nothing, either in getting subs or increasing their bundle orders. We urge the comrades to follow the comrades of the other districts and get on the job.

The New York District joint affair for the "Liberator" and the "Working Woman," held on November 28, was very successful. Other affairs are being arranged for the benefit of the "Working Woman" in Sections 5 and 6, New York.

The drive will continue to January 1. In the remaining month the comrades can do a great deal. We urge you to organize "Working Woman" Committees. GET BUSY! DO YOUR SHARE IN CARRYING THROUGH THE DRIVE TO A SUCCESSFUL FINISH!

"Congratulations Mr. Morgan!"



## Chicago Women in Testimony on Mass Misery in the City

CHICAGO, Ill. — The following are excerpts of the testimony of working class women at the public hearings on unemployment suffering in this city:

Katherine Donnelly. Single, received relief of \$2.25 per week by the United Charities. She had to eat, therefore refused to pay the rent of fourteen dollars per month. She had gas in the flat, but no electric or bath. What relief she was getting was gotten through the pressure of the local Unemployed Council.

Olla Simmons. Out of work for fifteen months. Three in family. Getting relief of six dollars a week for the entire family. This is paid by the United Charity. She pays fifteen dollars a month rent.

Nellie Thomas. Widow, out of work. The Charities transferred her to a place called "Sunshine" Home at 3810 Rhodes Ave.

Georgia Adams, widow. Received four dollars per week relief from the United Charities. Pays ten dollars a month for rent. Got her aid through pressure of the Unemployed Council.

Clara Byrd. Widow. Supports mother and her own two children. Receives relief of four dollars per week for all four. The Charities refused to give her rent money. She must pay nine dollars for three rooms, no gas or bath. This little aid was gotten through pressure of Unemployed Council.

Bertha Allen. Has a son nineteen years old. He is out of work for fifteen months. Charity gives them four dollars relief (\$3.25 for groceries and seventy five cents for meat) per week.

Mrs. Korleen Hartner. Ill with broken shoulder. First applied for relief from the Church Federation at 25 North Dearborn Street. They advised her to go to Oak Forest. She went to 190 North State St., a Women's Clearing House; was sent to 2841 West Washington Boulevard. Charity promised to pay three dollars weekly room rent and \$1.50 per week for groceries. Discrimination in giving out this relief.

Anna Vagutas. Her husband is working one day a week, hardly making enough to live on. His pay has been cut over 64 per cent in the past 3 years.

Mary Hadzynski. Widow. Not working. Son unemployed, daughter works two days a week. Went

## Eye-Witness Writes of the Working Women in Moscow Anniversary March

to United Charities four times, and was refused relief. Then went to the Unemployed Council. She had also gone to the Catholic organization but they refused relief because she did not go to church.

The following letter is from an American working woman in the Soviet Union now, who witnessed the Fourteenth Anniversary demonstration in Moscow. —Editor.

Moscow, USSR.

To the WORKING WOMAN Comrades:

Having had the privilege of visiting the Soviet Union recently, and of participating in the celebration of the Fourteenth Anniversary of the rule of the working class in this land, I will try and relate to you my impressions of this huge celebration, the spirit that prevailed amongst the workers, and the part played by the women workers.

Our delegation has been attached (workers' delegations from the U S A visiting the Soviet Union for the purpose of finding out how the workers live and work in this country) to a textile mill which employs over five thousand workers, most of whom are women.

Women in March

At 7:30 a. m., about 85 per cent of the workers (mostly young women) appeared in front of the factory. At 8 a. m. the march began. The women workers were very well dressed, all wore a Red arm band. They carried many placards pledging their utmost cooperation in completing the Five Year Plan.

Erect, and determined these women marched from eight till four p. m., till they got to Red Square. During the march they sang, and while stopping for other marchers to pass, they would form a round circle, and begin dancing. Both young and old participated. The faces of these workers were happy and firm.

They speak of a life that is free from slavery and starvation. Not only have these women freed themselves from the kitchens. Their places are now taken by the huge factory kitchens that feed many thousands. They are leading an independent life of their own. They are participating in the building of the country.

They walk four abreast, in military fashion, shouting slogans all along the march, on to the Red

Square they go.

A few start a discussion with us. "Do you have such demonstrations in the United States? If so, do the working women participate in them as do our women? When we told them that in the U. S. the women are miserably exploited in the shops, caring for the home and children after work, those active in the labor movement being arrested by the bosses' men, thrown into jail and beaten up, the women said, "We, too, had such bad conditions under the rule of the czar, that is why we worked hard, and made many sacrifices, but we got rid of him, and now we are working even harder to keep him out of our country forever. We women who have since the Revolution become free and happy persons, are taking every advantage of our opportunities. We are helping to build the country.

"While these women are drawn into the mills, you see, while in your country many are out of work, in the U S S R we are short of workers. When you return to the U S A you tell the workers there that we are building the U. S. S. R., not for us alone, but for the entire working class. Tell the women workers to organize themselves into the Trade Union Unity League and into the Communist Party, to militantly fight the boss and the bosses' system. We will always be ready to assist and defend them. This is our aim.

At 4:15 p. m. we reached the Red Square. Loud cheers were heard all over the Square, which was filled with thousands of workers, including many foreign workers, and workers' delegations. Near the Lenin Mausoleum there were to be seen the leaders of the Russian Revolution, among them, Stalin, Molotov, Voroshilov, Kalinin, etc., etc.

The Red Army was to be seen in many thousands, standing ever ready to defend the Fatherland of the Working Class.

The main slogans that were to be seen were "Down with the rule of capitalism, with starvation and hunger. Long live the World Revolution."

Some one said that two million workers from the factories marched by the Red Square today. These workers are determined, and ready to defend the U S S R. Let the capitalists attack the U S S R, and they will be smashed to shreds. They shall not dare.

—Jennie Bowers.



# Her Lesson of Workers' Solidarity

## A SHORT STORY

By Jeanne Martini

Two things had been troubling Elise that week. A week in which she had watched the rain brush violently against the factory windows, of wet dumpy feet, and a cold.

The first was the change that had come over Charlie. His blond hair would go unruly, his face was sullen and irritable, and his cheeks had a new pallor. He would speak abruptly, seemingly lost in thought and brooding. And his actions, were abrupt and snappy. It had all happened after he had been laid off in the office. Two years spent there and they had talked over his plans for going to night school and studying mechanical drawing so that he could advance in his position.

The machines clattered and they made a din that choked her. The day outside looked dark and was threatening more rain.

And then her second worry. How it started no one knew, but the girls were talking of it. Angry, cross words, guesses, rumors, at the wash stands, during the lunch hour and in whispers during work hours. A lay off of the whole department, and maybe the second floor also.

When the bell rang and the machines whirled slowly to a stop, she heaved a sigh of relief and ran for the wash stand. Mildred was tossing her hair about, glaring angrily at her face in the little pocket mirror. The hum of the be-soaped faces came up.

"And what do you think that monkey said. Maybe the place would shut down altogether."

Faces were frightened with sudden fear and there was silence. Mildred was now the center of the group of girls.

It seemed that the office super had told someone that in threatening him with something.

"What ever will happen?" a low voice riddled with despair made the girls silent again.

Going down the stairs Mildred touched her on the shoulder and said, "Some of the girls will be talking over what is coming. Over at my house. Want to come along tonight?"

She suddenly remembered she had a date with Charlie for that very evening. Between her two worries, which should she see or hear about first?

"I'm real sorry, Mild, I can not come. I would like to. But there is something on tonight. And I can't miss out."

"Okey with me, E. We'll be letting you know if anything does break. But it's coming."

She waved and rushed along with the crowd for the trolley on the corner.

In the trolley she hung limply on the strap and wondered why the fat red faced man stared at her so. She was getting the creeps lately.

Three flights up and her mother greeted her. The supper was already set and her two sisters and one brother were at the table looking hungrily at the potatoes, and chunks of meat in the stew waiting for her.

"I got to see Charlie tonight, ma," she forestalled any request for help around the house. She did not want to think of anything else and she finished her supper answering the children and her ma in monosyllables.

She took the uptown car and got off in the movie picture and business district. Crowds were hurrying by, pushing umbrellas into her face. She hurried to the corner, her coat collar up against a drizzle. Charlie was standing near the cigar store, rather nattily dressed and smoking a thick cigar.

"Charlie!" she cried. Somehow she was glad to see him. Things would smoothen out.

"Oh, hello, kid!" Charlie straightened up and took the cigar from

his mouth slowly. "How about a feed first?"

Somehow he looked too much like the corner sheiks, too much front, and breezy. What had happened now?

"No. I had supper. Where did you get that outfit, Charlie?"

He made no attempt at answering her. With a fierce scowl he said, "Never mind that, we'll be running along. Let's take in the movies."

They walked along the street. Charlie spoke:

"That school idea is all wet. I have a promise to get in on something that will pay. And then you won't have to work, kid. I am sick of just worrying about jobs and money. To hell with that mechanical drawing stuff. Me for a game that pays."

She caught her breath sharply and felt something leaden in her head grind down. What had come over Charlie and their plans for the future?

"You are going with one of those gangs," she caught Charlie fiercely by the arm. He paled and tried to puff at his cigar. His manner was that of a beaten bravado. Suddenly it became acutely apologetic; regretful, pleading.

"What could I do, E. I would have gone crazy sitting at home, nothing to do. Our plans are a big lie. There's something wrong in them somewhere. It's bad all over. And I won't let myself sink into it."

She could see it now. Almost overnight Charlie had changed, had grown a new, repulsive hardness. But maybe it was only skin deep. Their plans for the future would break. A tired languor came over her; she wated to sink down and forget this trouble. But she said, a little weakly:

"But, Charlie, it means that our plans would be all forgotten, and broken. I could not let you do it. Try to keep up. Maybe things will get better."

He turned upon her with a half smothered cry.

"That's what they all say, but it is a lie. Why are things this way;

why did I have to give up my big plans for school, why do I have to do this; can you answer?"

It came over her; she did not know exactly why this had suddenly come into their lives, why Charlie could not go through with his plans. Why the future that she had lived in more than in the present was tottering at their very feet.

The lights on the sides of the theatre danced up and light, red, green and a brilliant white. Hard-eyed women in rich furs, highly made up, passed them. It was a different world from the neighborhood and the factory and she felt alien in it.

"Come on, E. We'll hop in a taxi and whizz to the Brewster's. That's a swell place for food and entertainment."

She wanted desperately to beat her clenched hands against the side of the walls of the building, to cry out in agony of worry and anxiety. She glanced down the street. If Charlie went that way, she could not.

"I've got to go home now, Charlie. I feel tired after the day's work. I'll call you again, maybe."

Charlie did not seem to hear her, but put up his hand to call a taxicab. She wrenched her arm away from him. With a swift movement she was lost in the crowd, and was away from Charlie.

With a hurried, nervous step, she set out homeward through the deep dark, deserted streets of the lower thirties.

The days were laden with rumors, whispers among the girls and furtive glances to see if the superintendent was approaching from the office. An air of tension had settled down on the shop. Some of the girls were moody and were afraid to talk. On Wednesday a rumor was caught up that an announcement as to the new wage-scale would be placed on the bulletin board tomorrow.

They won't get away with it," Mildred muttered grimly. She was very busy those days and her



face looked tightened and achy with thinking and work.

Elise felt weak when she got up Thursday. That something would happen, she was convinced. But what and how and what would be the outcome? She had not called Charlie and he had not called her either for more than a week now.

"Was I ever as miserable as this before," the question seemed to frame itself before her eyes and danc before her.

A small knot of girls were standing near the entrance door. Mildred was talking to them, in a low earnest tone. They looked up as she came, were silent until Mildred said: "Elise will be with us."

Running up the stairs she knew that already the new pay schedule was announced. "We're in for it now," she almost groaned.

When the bell rang the girls went for their machines. It looked like any other day, only she could feel an undercurrent of restlessness and fear in the fact, in the looks and motions of the girls.

At ten o'clock the tension heightened. The superintendent came out of the office, walked down the aisle. As if by a single instinct the girls all looked up, followed his movement. Some held their breath. He had stopped near the bulletin board. He held something white and square on his hands. Slowly, with the girls watching in a fascination, he thumb-tacked the paper. Then, wiping his hands as if in satisfaction, the superintendent strode back to the office.

Mildred was the first one to

reach the board. The others were afraid, keeping close to their chines. Elise however followed few around the board.

It was an elaborate hieroglyphic of figures. She ran her eyes down for her machine, 5 cents reduction on the hour, why that was simply taking the very bread out of our mouths.

The week that followed was an active one, at first strange to her. The word had spread somehow the same day of the announcement of the new payroll schedule that the girls would hold a meeting over the grocery store on the corner.

The girls did not seem to recognize each other in the hall, it was something new to them. At first there was a restrained feeling in the atmosphere but soon Mildred had cleared it up, gave them a common feeling. A new word—Strike—was caught up and tossed around.

The next day they were before the factory when the morning was still grey and cold. Mildred seemed to be directing things, and soon there was a orderly march up and down the pavement. "Watch for the weak sisters," was the call sent out. Thus the first day passed and nothing eventful happened.

The third day, however, when they had taken their places and were pacing back and forth a sudden flurry in the front ranks caused the girls to look out. A wagonful of policemen descended at the curb and seemed to be running for them. Shouts went up and Elise felt a rough hand on her—"Git the hell out of here," a thick, husky voice said.

What followed Elise could not remember very well, only the girls struggling against the policemen and Mildred shouting to encourage them. She found herself breathing hard sitting on a chair in the corner store, her hair disheveled and her dress torn at several places. Mildred was muttering, and got up and walked up and down.

This was a different meeting. The girls looked determined, talked to each other more easily than before, and there was the question of the next day and the day's fight against the policemen.

Mildred arose. Her words shook with a controlled fury. "There's been a 100 percent turnout on the lines every morning since the day we told the super to take back that pay slicing proposition or out we would go and stick out until we got it back. You girls done good. And there's a reason. It's been hard enough to get along on the lousy 12 dollars we used to get. Slice that and we're out altogether."

A chorus of approving shouts went up.

"We'll show them they can't pull that stuff on us," someone in the rear shouted and the girls took up the cry.

"I never knew the girls were that way," Elise leaned over and said to the girl next to her, a silent girl who looked at the proceedings big-eyed.

"Everybody's more friendly to each other now," the other nodded.

Some of the girls were now speaking from the platform telling about the work of their committees

(Continued on page 7)



By Walter Quirt



# League of Nations and United States Lead War Moves on China and USSR

## Support Japanese Invasion of Manchuria as an Eastern War Base Against Soviet Union

### Bourgeois Women Pacifists Aid War Plans By Says War Mongers Will Make Peace

War in the Far East was extended very rapidly last month when Japanese imperialist troops continued their sweep through Manchuria, wiping out all small Chinese armies opposing them.

Insolent provocation of the Soviet Union by Japanese militarists was witnessed when after penetrating to a city near the Soviet border, the Japanese imperialists tell the Soviet Union not to interfere with their plans. The American capitalist press continues to play up stories inspired by Japanese sources that Soviet troops are being mobilized whereas not one single Soviet has been moved.

Japanese are active in buying war material in the United States ranging from cotton, copper to nitro-glycerin, a high explosive.

In a manifesto issued by the Communist International the workers, peasants and oppressed peoples of the world are called upon to rally to the defense of the Chinese masses and to defeat the Japanese, American, British, French and Italian imperialist aggression in China.

The Soviet press recently declared that the United States imperialist government was playing a game of support of the Japanese occupation of Manchuria and war on the masses of Chinese workers and peasants. First, uncertain where to cast its alliance, Yankee imperialism is abetting Japanese imperialist aggression, not only for partition of China, in which the Wall Street bankers hope to get big slices hitherto under the control of other imperialist powers such as Great Britain, but to establish a military base against the Soviet Union.

The latest move of the imperialist powers in Manchuria and China is in preparation for a drive against the revolutionary movement of the Chinese workers and peasants who have established their Soviet Government in an area comprising 60,000,000 people. The League of Nations is being used as the instrument for this purpose and it is the meaning of the League "truce" heralded by the capitalist press.

Writing on the war situation, Mrs. Walter Ferguson, columnist editing the "A Woman's Viewpoint" column in the New York World-Telegram, again raises the question of pacifism to fight the war danger.

With war looming ominously in the Orient every woman should ask herself an honest question. Just how much or how little influence do we have in the shaping of governmental policies?"

Mrs. Walter Ferguson poses the question as Mrs. Carrie Catt has once done before: that war is a man's war and that all women irrespective of their class position are opposed to imperialist wars.

By this sentimentalism and pacifism Mrs. Ferguson covers the fact that the bourgeois women and the small bourgeois women pacifists are invaluable allies of the war makers. The worst jingoists are the women of the capitalist class. By the use of such sentimental pacifism Mrs. Ferguson and others of the small bourgeois class would drag the women masses of the working class in their wake, to sidetrack revolutionary struggle against war, and to place the origin and cause of war on a sex basis and not a class basis.

Mrs. Ferguson also talks about educating children not to like war. Under capitalism with the capitalist control of the schools, of such organizations as the Boy Scouts, etc., this is a reactionary utopian hope. Only in the Young Pioneer movement do working-class children learn of the cause of war, of the means to fight it and its relation to their lives and future.

### INTERNATIONAL APPEAL AGAINST WAR DANGER Berlin.

The International China Relief Committee has issued an appeal in connection with the Japanese threat in Manchuria calling on the masses to form committees of action for the defense of the Soviet Union and for the Soviet districts in China. The appeal points out that the criminal neglect of the Chiang-Kai-shek administration of the maintenance work on the big dams has caused catastrophic floods and the death of millions of workers and peasants. In addition a new danger had arisen in the east, the danger of war. Japanese imperialism was not satisfied with occupying Southern Manchuria, but was preparing to drive forward into the Soviet sphere. Food and money were no longer sufficient for the relief of the Chinese workers. A revolutionary united front against Japanese imperialism was necessary. The existing relief committees must develop into hands of Soviet Russia and Soviet China Committees. Meetings and demonstrations should be held immediately in conjunction with the proletarian organizations under the slogans: Down with the Japanese Imperialist War Criminals! Support the Chinese Workers and Peasants! Defend the Soviet Union and Soviet China!

The appeal is signed by the W. I. R., the I. R. A., the R. I. U., the League against Imperialism, the Red Sport International, etc., etc.



A SECTION OF A RECENT PARADE IN WARSAW, Poland, in which many working women were forced into gas masks to march in the fascist military parade organized by the fascist Pilsudski. Both the Polish and Rumanian fascist ruling classes are feverishly preparing for war against the Soviet Union.

## Woman Nat'l Hunger March Delegate Tells of the Life of Jobless, Homeless Women

By HELEN LYNCH

This article is composed of fragments from my own observation and from the experiences of other women told to me. The billionaire is a product of capitalist institutions, but not more so than are the characters in the following sketches, scenes and episodes.

A group of unemployed women workers lingered about the bread line in Madison Square Park. One went to the window of the booth to ask for the "charity" which it offered. She was told to go over to the Calvary Mission, between First and Second Avenues, on 23rd Street to the gloomy building behind a projecting and conspicuous cross. After climbing a flight of stairs they knocked. The face of a priestly person emerged to announce that they fifty tickets allotted each day by the "benevolent" Mrs. Hearst (wife of the owner of anti-working-class newspaper chain) had been given out hours before.

The unemployed workers insisted that the priestly person should not retreat until it answered their questions. The replies were evasive. Then followed a shallow sermon with many references to the virtue and generosity of Mrs. Hearst. The unemployed women remained hungry. They went away with a deepened insight into the hypocrisy of religion and the super hypocrisy of Mrs. Hearst.

Confinement at Saint Zita's Home  
A social worker in the palatial Catholic Charities Building on Madison Avenue and 50th Street, instructed a homeless, penniless young woman to go to Saint Zita's Home, "A Home for Homeless Women" on West 14th Street. She went and knocked on the door. After about ten minutes a small, sliding grated window was cautiously opened. A nun's upholstered head looked out. Guardedly the

convent door was opened and the woman allowed to enter a vestibule dimly lighted by the flickering candles at the base of the statue of the "Virgin Mother" and "The Sacred Heart of Jesus."

The worker told her story of hardships to the nun. After long deliberation and hesitation the nun offered her program of "charity" which was that Saint Zita's was a business venture in which "Holy Mother Church" profited on the misery of the poor in the following manner:

Homeless women in Saint Zita's Home are provided with a bed in a crowded dormitory and three scanty meals a day on condition that the women inmates accepting this charity agree to remain at least one month without ever for a moment, during that period, leaving the convent, that the thus imprisoned unemployed woman, together with numerous other women must work without wages, six days a week, all day, in the large scale profit-making laundry conducted in that pious institution. The word "charity" took on a new definition as it merged with the listening woman's concept of voluntary slavery.

### Bosses Break up Families

Regarding the integrity, beauty and sanctity of the family institution which has been flaunted and proclaimed as the basic institution of American culture by bombastic politicians in their preachings, their actual practice follows a contradictory line. Instead of offering cash relief to families in stricken circumstances these very politicians are constantly engaged in splitting up the family unit.

The family is lodged for a night or two in the Municipal Lodging House. These victims are not consulted as to their choice. The children are forced into the Foundling

Home or the Heckscher Foundation on Fifth Ave. and 105th St.

The defeated and cowed mothers swell the masses of the unemployed that wait each morning and afternoon for the jobs that never come into the city and state Free employment agencies to enable them to get back the children and to re-establish their homes.

### Brutal to Jobless Women

A destitute, unemployed working woman was unable to pay rent for her furnished room. The landlady terrified her threatening to arrest and disgrace her. Therefore late one night she went out into the street to find another shelter. A policeman advised the Lodging House. There she was greeted with a demand for the pass from the Registry for the Homeless. She had none. The sleek, well-fed matron told the workers that the Registry remained open until midnight. The weary woman protested that she had no carfare to which the matron replied, "Well, walk."

The Registry happens to be at South Ferry, the Municipal Lodging House is on 25th St. Several miles separate the two. The exhausted worker walked there and back. This was a bitter experience but it had a tonic effect in the woman's consciousness.

### A Sketch of Misery

Creases obliterate the features of her face, the shrivelled torso is in a grotesquely distorted posture—mumbling. Her only function in a capitalist society is to tenderly finger before she cracks, the lice that crawl across the surface of her body in the Municipal Lodging House.

### WORKING WOMEN'S CONGRESS IN BERLIN

The North German Working Women's Unity Congress took place in Berlin. 1,100 delegates were present from all parts of North Germany. 502 of the delegates were working women from the factories, 186 of the delegates were unemployed and 78 were clerical workers. The political report was delivered by the communist members of the Reichstag Lena Overlach.



# Hearings of Workingclass Women Brought Out At Public Hearings in New York City

## Women Show Determination to Fight Evictions; For Cash Relief From the Government

By SADIE VAN VEEN

The Unemployed Councils of New York have been running a series of public hearings at which unemployed workers are asked to testify as to the situation in which they find themselves and whether or not they have received any help from the city authorities, charity organizations, and city employment bureaus. In Bronx, Harlem and Brooklyn meetings were held where all together nearly fifteen hundred workers, men and women of all races and nationalities took the floor to testify.

These hearings have brought out the startling facts that destitute men and women with children to feed are turned away day after day from the relief agencies by the thousands.

In Brooklyn a Negro woman worker testified that she was without a single penny in the world and that she did not know what to give her child to eat that very day or the next day. Asked how she had managed to eat the last few days, she said she got a little work occasionally washing or scrubbing but that she had none lately. She spoke so low she could hardly be heard. It was plain to see that she was near starvation. Her husband has been out of work for nearly a year and they both managed with odd jobs but she said she thought the end had come. Her husband had registered with the city bureau for a job but nothing came of it. She said she was willing to join the Unemployed Council and fight for immediate relief for her own family and for other sufferers as well.

A Negro ex-serviceman who had served in France in the last war, testified that he was out of work, needed help badly but got nothing from the charities. He was also registered with the city emergency committee. He said that he understood at that time that the last war was fought for prosperity and was the war to end all wars. But now he knows that there is nothing but misery and hunger for the workers and another war is here already in the Far East. He said he was thru fighting for the Wall Street bankers. He said if he ever fights again it would be only for the working class.

Another mother of five children showed her eviction notice to the presidium and said she had no idea how she and her family were going to live. Her husband was also registered for a job but as in the other cases he also has not gotten the job. He was told to wait, and they are still waiting but they are in danger of starving to death in the meantime.

In all the above cases and in many more gas and electricity had been cut off. Several families hunted for old boxes on the street to burn for fuel for heat and cooking when they had anything to cook.

Several mothers declared that the charities had advised them to give their children to institutions and go to work. Two women testified they were too sick to work even if they got a job.

The following is the statement of a Negro woman worker, 62 years of age:

"I have been mostly without work for six months and starving most of the time. I live with my nephew who has also been out of work about six months. I get a job doing laundry for folks some times but not very much. They say am too old to work. But I got to work, I don't want to starve. I say be too old but I can work and am willing to; but I can't get anything to do.

"I paid my last month's rent but we had to go without food for several days to do it and we don't

know how we are going to pay for this month. I went to the charities but they just said they couldn't help us. What am I to do?"

This old woman, so small and thin that she seemed about to fade away was looking for work and begging for work and slowly starving to death. The charities turned her down.

One woman, a widow with 11 children, is the only one who testified that she gets any relief. She is receiving from the charities the sum of \$15 a week out of which she is supposed to pay for rent, gas and electricity, food, clothing and milk for the children as well as for herself. "Of course," she said, "I can't manage. I get one bottle of milk for the baby and one quart of loose milk for the rest of the children all together. This means one quart divided among ten children. I have to send the children to the grocery to beg for bread and potatoes or anything they can get to keep us all alive. We have no clothes, and I don't know what we are going to do."

Five of her children were with her including the ten-month old infant. All of them were in rags. The children were wearing old and torn sneakers which offered no protection whatever against cold or wet. "The charities told me they can't give me any more for the children," the mother said. "They told me they haven't enough to go around. They told me to give my children away and try to find a job, but I want to keep my children; maybe they never give them back to me."

A young woman worker testified that both she and her husband had been out of work for seven months and living on odd jobs. "But we seem to have come to the end," she said. "We got a disposes; we can't pay the rent and we have no money for food. But I am willing to fight for it. I want to join the Unemployed Council and force the government to give unemployment relief to every unemployed worker." Her face blazed with anger as she spoke and the hundreds of workers

## Murder of Workingclass Mothers



By Walter Quirt

Fearing that starvation would take her children and crazed by despair, Mrs. Anna Nathan, the mother of three children, shot and killed her children and then killed herself on November 3 at 3549 N. Warnock Street, Philadelphia.

Her husband, Charles Nathan, a chef, had been unemployed for a long time, and was getting odd jobs here and there.

Dr. Richard B. Burke, a hardened coroner's physician, said, when he saw the bodies in the morgue, "This is the most ghastly tragedy I have seen in a long time."

The dead children are, Eva, age

one; Charles Ja., four; and Herbert, three. They were found on the floor.

Thousands of families in Philadelphia and elsewhere are in a similar position, with the bosses and their government refusing to give them any but the most miserable charity relief.

Mrs. Nathan died and killed her children because the capitalist government that spends billions on war preparations would not give unemployment insurance. The blood of the crazed mother and her dead children are upon the heads of the capitalist city and federal officials as surely

as if they had held the revolver in their own hands.

DELAWARE, O.—Rather than have her children face destitution, Mrs. James A. Horner, a farmer's wife near here, shot and killed her nine year old daughter and wounded her baby daughter, and then killed herself. The family had been penniless for a long time.

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. — Mrs. B. Welch, 32, committed suicide by inhaling gas in the kitchen of her home because of inability to find any work.

who packed the hall responded with their applause. She added that if all the unemployed would join the Unemployed Councils we could do a great deal.

Many other women workers took the witness chair and all testified that they were willing to work but that they were turned down every where; and turned down by the relief and charity organizations as well. The mothers stated that free food and clothing for the school children would be a great help. A thirteen year old school girl in old thin clothing testified that her father works only two days a week and there are 7 in the family. "Oh, I wish we could have food in school; then we wouldn't ever be so hungry; and shoes (here she showed her torn sneakers)—it would be fine if we could get shoes for the winter."

The 1500 Negro and white men and women who packed these two

meetings voted solidly to support the Unemployed Council in its fight for immediate relief and for the workers present. They declared that they were willing to mobilize the families in the neighborhood to save them from evictions, and to go to the city officials and relief organizations for immediate aid.

They voted to struggle in an organized way for unemployment insurance and to support the national hunger march to Washington.

### Greetings from WORKERS OF LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Altman        | Zlotkiene   |
| Molik         | Smith       |
| Levaniene     | Romero      |
| Pepper        | Anonimous   |
| Bent          | Savickiene  |
| Mendell       | Pukiene     |
| Levisauskiene | Jozelskiene |
| Dr. Leidt     | Bush        |
| Mrs. Leidt    |             |

## NEGRO WORKING WOMAN ORGANIZER OF CLEVELAND

### Maggie Jones Calls Jobless Women to Join Fight

The following letter is from Mrs. Maggie Jones, Negro working woman, and organizer of the largest Unemployed Council in Cleveland, Ohio.

CLEVELAND, O. — Allow me space in your paper to say a few words about our Unemployed Council No. 8 in Cleveland.

Through our mass struggles and protest demonstrations we have now built an Unemployed Branch of 1,100 members in less than a year, about fifty per cent of them are women.

We had a terrible blow on October 6, when two of our comrades, Jackson and Rayford, had

their lives snuffed out by the city police who were let go free. The two workers were slain while trying to move back the furniture of a worker who was evicted. Hundreds of workers have come into our Council to make up for the loss of our two comrades.

We workers have this slogan, "Long live the unity of the Negro and white workers." And so we unemployed workers stand always ready like soldiers, for the many hard battles ahead, looking to the Communist Party for its leadership and a better equipment to fight our enemy, the capitalist class.

In our Council we have a nurse corps of women. This group was

organized on October 18, after the murder of our two comrades, when our women realized that we must be prepared to take care of our comrades who are injured in battles with the capitalist police. We started with sixteen women and now we have a group of thirty five which is studying first aid and doing some very good work.

We hope that all unemployed women and wives of unemployed workers will join the Unemployed Councils, so that we can fight together with our men against hunger and starvation and for unemployment insurance.

Maggie Jones, Organizer Council No. 8.

## Low Pay Leads to Girls' Degradation

### Negro Girls Victims of Discrimination

(By a Worker Correspondent)

OAKLAND, Cal. — Arrested at a demonstration the matrons kept me in solitary confinement. They thought I had propagandized all the girls in the detention room. Capitalism has wrought such havoc. All they seemed to care about was to play cards, revile each other with smudgy jokes and to recite their experiences.

Nine out of ten were colored. One agreed that one outstanding reason for their turning to the life of a prostitute or "sporting girls," was because of racial discrimination, which resulted in a greater difficulty than the white girls in finding normal work, and because of the lower pay given them.

"But honey, mostly why more of us colored girls are in here is because the white girls get more money, and so can bribe the police, while we do not get enough to buy ourselves off. Besides, I have an old mother and a sick father with a baby to take care of. What else can I do?"

The judge knows that they will continue to do the same thing over again, but generally sentences them to thirty days in jail or to pay a fine of thirty dollars or so. Pretty good rake off, so they just as soon have more of them. I suppose the police are in on this, or they are more sure of promotion in case of many arrests.

Women workers, let us put an end to such treatment accorded to our sisters.

—R. L. M.



# Textile Women in Forefront Of Fight Against Worse Mill Conditions, Says Ann Burlak

**Tells How Women and Girls at Woonsocket, Rhode Island, Won Strike Against Cut**

By ANNA BURLAK

(Assistant Secretary, National Textile Workers Union)

As is evident to anyone, there is ever an increase of women workers in the textile industry. Their lot in the industry is even considerably worse than that of the men. Especially is this evident in Rhode Island where women workers and young girls work tremendously long hours, for miserable wages of even 7-\$10 a week. Although in some states night work for women has been abolished by law, it is carried on in a large scale in Rhode Island. Weary, tired, sickly women toil all night in the mill, then on getting home early in the morning they carry on the drudgery of household work.

All this misery is beginning to make the textile women more and more class conscious. The women are beginning to take up the banner of struggle, in every strike, in many cases the women are in the forefront of the struggle. For instance, in Lawrence many of the women were in the forefront in the picket lines and other activities in the great strike of 23,000 textile workers.

### Militant in Strikes

In the militant strikes of Pawtucket and Central Falls, the women's and girls' militancy was in many cases better than that of the men. Now in Woonsocket, R. I.—in the Jarret Bros. and Cherry Brook Mills, where there are about 80 per cent to 90 per cent women and young girls working, a very militant strike was fought and won. The mill bosses were cutting wages continually in these woosted yarn mills, thinking that the women, being less class conscious than the men, would not take any action. However, on November 9, the night shift workers composed mostly of women, came out on strike both in the Jarret and in the Cherry Brooks Mills which belong to the same corporation.

Immediately some of the women got in touch with the National Textile Workers Union in Providence, and on November 10th a meeting of about 300 workers was held in a garage. Here plans for the organization of the strike were laid, and the women jumped into

the work. The next day another meeting of all the workers was held and a strike committee was elected. Again the women were in the forefront—the strike committee consisted of 18 women and four men. On Friday, November 13th, the strike committee went in to see the bosses—presenting the following demands: return of the wage cut, no discrimination, recognition of the mill committee. The bosses fearing a long militant strike, probably spreading to their other mills, settled with the strikers by giving in to their demands; they returned 10 per cent of the wage cut, agreed to no-discrimination, and agreed to an informal recognition of the mill committee.

### Win the Strike

At a meeting held Friday night, a report of the committee was given and the workers decided to go back to work on these conditions, also they decided to begin building the National Textile Workers Union in their mill.

A number of women joined the Union immediately, and decided to hold the first union meeting Friday, November 20. During this week an intensified campaign to organize all the workers is going on. Through these struggles the women textile workers are coming to the forefront in the battle against wage-cuts and speed-up. Wore women textile workers are making the National Textile Workers Union their union, for which they will fight and which they will build.

## A Lesson of Solidarity A Short Story

(Continued from page 4)

and encouraging the girls to carry through the fight.

She had known these girls in the hall for years, and yet she had not known them as they were now. Why? In the factory they would have small gossip about this and that, about a new dress, a hat or a particular scandal in the tabloids. But they would never get to know each, in a basic sort of way. Each had their own troubles and worries and didn't seem to care much for the others. And many of the girls would say, "As soon as I'm married I'm getting out of this place," or "Catch me working in this place after I get hitched," and talk like that. Each had her own method of escape. They had not looked up to girls like Ildred or anyone in the shop. No, what they had envied and hoped for was the insipid looking actresses in the tabloids or stuff like that. Come to think of it, what bosh.

And now she could see why she had worried so that day. She had worried how she herself would meet the threat of lower wages, she had never cared much that the other girls would also get it in the neck. And Charlie, the trouble with him is—that he thinks and feels the same way. That is he doesn't see the bigger cause of his condition and that pushes him on. But if Charlie would consider that there are thousands and millions like him and that they had

common problems. That was it, their own people. Before, she had nothing to lean on, only a hope that the boss would pay her. But now she had seen that the girls like her, with same ambitions, eagerness to live and have things, found they had the same worries.

### Greetings from

**CHICAGO WORKERS**  
A. Lilekls Louis M. Ruisix  
George Dargis Frank Ralla  
Paul Jukonis Javigis Uzmaris  
Paul Sestokas Jos. Garries  
P. Martin

### Greetings from

**WORKERS OF MONTREAL, Canada**  
U. Deveikiene M. Gudiene  
O. Rimarvlekette O. Naviokene  
K. Laurinautyte P. Suplevkias  
C. Kolokevitch S. Ozintac  
K. Pavlonis S. Matulevicius

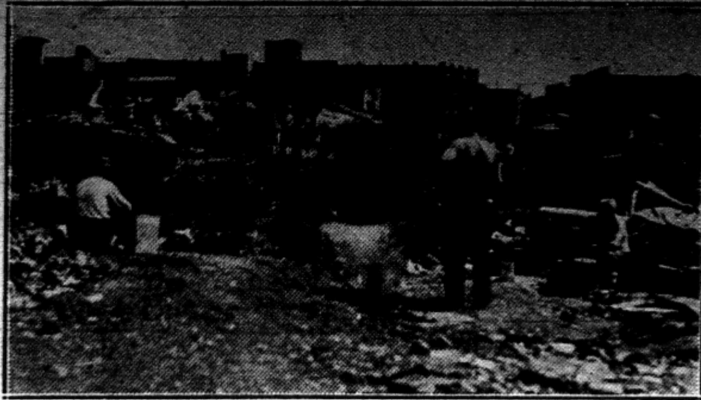
### Greetings from

**NEW ROCHELLE WORKERS**  
Ellin Teppio Talmas Narena  
Aino Ranta Mari Kaukola  
Selma Kataja Katjie Kaartinen  
Selma Petterson Anta Kahkonen  
Nestari Karhanca Linda Untala  
Ida Lalva Signe Stenfors  
Anna Helle Sigend Riens

### Greetings from

**CLEVELAND WORKERS**  
J. Roth Kathryn Tretak  
Mrs. Steve Jensch L. Bryan  
Julia Fedor J. Kovacevich  
Gladys Roth Katherine Kurilich  
Knerli Kati G. Milic  
Julia Friedrich L. Williams  
J. Sz. S. Milren  
M. Lukas J. L. Simon  
Bare Kapracl Anna Nyman  
Mrs. Mary Kovaci Sigae Johnson  
Mrs. Joe Nagy Lydia Hallerstron  
Grace Goldstein Wm. Petrshyn  
Mrs. Korman Andr. Motokanoyitch  
Elizabeth Gerenoser U. S. Evsnovich  
Ann Flechner Y. Habitor  
M. V. Morco Erica  
A. Rankin Marij Trebes  
Agnes Lindelle W. Adamof  
Ellen Berdison Mere Issen  
William Germak N. N.

## Degrading the Jobless Workers



Because the bosses refuse to give thousands of jobless workers, especially single men, any form of relief, the workers shown above are forced to live in patched shacks made of debris wood and paper on dump lands in Chicago. At the same time tens of thousands of homes and apartments in the city are vacant.

## N. Y. Council of Working Class Women In Activities

### Fight Against High Living Costs; Aid Build Unemployed and Children's Movement

NEW YORK. — The United Council of Working Class Women is now taking on a new orientation. For the last eight months the major activities of the councils have been the development of local issues, such as: section strikes against the high cost of living, the fight for the lowering of rents, school problems, etc.

During the last two months five new councils have been added, making a total of forty-eight. At present we are engaged in a three months' membership drive. The goal is five hundred new members, to be recruited from the real proletarian districts; with the main aim to draw into the organization Negro women, native born, and other language working class women. The main concentration points are Harlem and downtown also other sections in New York and vicinity are being penetrated into.

### Councils Are Active

Due to the new phase of work, the councils are bubbling with life. Where, only six months ago, the councils would hesitate in holding open air meetings, due to the lack of speakers, at present open air meetings are held weekly throughout the city, with speakers springing from the ranks of the local councils.

The attitude is no more theoretical speeches. The issues of the present time, such as unemployment, the high cost of living, increased gas and electricity rates, etc., are problems faced by every working class housewife. Is it a wonder that the council members can conduct meetings with their own forces?

As a result of this new members are coming in by leaps and bounds. Since October 15, when the membership drive was officially started, about one hundred and fifty new members joined the organization.

At present the Coney Island and Brighton Councils are becoming involved in a struggle for far cheaper bread. The sentiment for strike is high. Open air meetings are held daily. Leaflet distribution from house to house is being carried on. Indoor meetings are being held with the workers of the neighborhood attending.

The councils, in order to be able to carry on the work systematically, are carrying through a well pre-

pared educational program. The purpose of this is to train the comrades both organizationally and politically.

Classes in English are organized with capable instructors. Discussions are held on timely topics, led by council members in the various councils. Lectures on important working class problems, to which outsiders are drawn in, are held. Later on the new contacts are drawn into the organization. Correspondence circles are gradually springing up. Articles are written on every day experiences and wall papers are made up. Circulation libraries are being established, with the latest pamphlets, and books at the disposal of the comrades. The councils issue a monthly bulletin, "The Voice of the Councils."

### Building Children's Movement

The councils are playing an important part in the building of the Pioneer movement, to help rally the workers' children behind their interests. The councils will participate in the hunger march to Washington, with five delegates. They are also raising funds for the Hunger March by collections on tag days and through coupon books.

The councils will be a factor in helping to build the unemployment councils, through moral and financial assistance. The councils are involved in the drive to help establish milk stations for children of the unemployed. The councils are fighting for free food and for free clothing for children of the unemployed, etc.

The Council of Working Class Women calls upon all workers' wives to join its ranks, to help carry on the struggle against the high cost of living, against high rents, against imperialist war; for the defense of the Soviet Union, the only country where the workers and peasants rule.

- For lower food prices.
- For lower rent and better housing.
- For more and better schools in the working class neighborhoods.
- For reduced gas and electricity rates.
- For free food and clothing for children of the unemployed.
- For pure and cheaper milk.
- Organize a council in every working class neighborhood.

## Detroit Women in Conference Spur March Activities

(Continued from page 1)

held in Detroit on November 18, concrete tasks were given in connection with the final preparations for the National Hunger March to Washington on Dec. 7, and the mobilization of the broadest masses of women and children for the anti-war demonstration on Nov. 25th and the Women's and Children's demonstration on Nov. 28th.

Six of the delegates, 3 Negro and 3 white women, active workers in their Block Committees and Unemployed Councils were elected by the conference as candidates for the National Hunger March. The final election will take place at a city wide conference in Detroit on Nov. 22.

The main attention of the conference was centered on a mass demonstration of women and children to be held on Nov. 28 in Detroit. From seven meeting points throughout the city hundreds of women and children will go to Grand Circus Park, and from there proceed to the City Hall. They will demand from Mayor Murphy that he turn over the money collected in his children's tag day to the Unemployed Councils and the WIR, so that they can give food, milk, hot lunches, shoes and clothing to the children of the unemployed and part time workers. The

Statement of the ownership, management, circulation, etc., required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912.

of WORKING WOMAN, published every month at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1931.

State of New York.

County of New York, ss.

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Anna Damon, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the editor of The Working Woman and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

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

Name of publisher: Central Committee, Women's Dept., Communist Party U. S. A., Post Office address, P. O. Box 87, 50 E. 13th St., New York City. Editor, Anna Damon, P. O. Box 87, 50 E. 13th St., New York City. Managing Editor, none. Business Manager, Caroline Drew, 50 E. 13th St., P. O. Box 87, New York City.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

Central Committee, Communist Party, U. S. A., P. O. Box 87, 50 E. 13th St., New York City.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

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

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the six months preceding the date shown above is:

This information is required from daily publications only.

ANNA DAMON, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of October, 1931.

Max Klines, (My commission expires March 28, 1932.)

## THE WORKING WOMAN

P. O. BOX 87, STATION D, NEW YORK CITY

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

Name .....

Address .....

City .....



# Women In Michigan Auto Cities Tell of Need for Jobless Insurance

## Public Hearings in Detroit, Flint and Other Cities Show Extent and Depth of Misery

DETROIT, Mich. — The following testimony of cases of unemployment suffering was given at a public hearing here.

CASE No. 1: "I am a woman 78 years old living in Vermont St. I have nothing to eat; I am sick and so weak I can hardly walk. I used to get two dollars a week from the Welfare, but they cut me off because I did not have any young children. I need medical care, but I have not the carfare to go to the hospital and I am too weak to walk two miles."

CASE No. 2: "My name is Sam L. I live on East Fort Street. I am the father of seven children, and I have a sick wife and a father and mother depending upon me. I have been out of work for six months, and I don't know what to do next. I get \$4.50 from the Welfare, but with eleven people in the family, that does not go very far. The gas and electric lights were shut off four months ago. I have no coal to heat the house, and I got an eviction notice yesterday. My wife has been sick for the last two months. The children can not go to school because they have no shoes and clothes. Last week the truant officer came to the house to find out why the kids do not go to school. I told him the reason and he gave me a slip to go to the Welfare for shoes and clothes. I spent three full days at the Welfare waiting for the shoes but I did not get them yet. The children are still at home and will probably be on the street soon."

CASE No. 3: "My husband deserted me some time ago, and I was left with three children, six, seven and two years old. I tried to get some work, but could not get anything. My gas and electric light was turned off seven months ago. My children have no shoes and no warm clothing, and we have hardly any food to eat. I get two dollars a week from the Welfare, but they are threatening to cut that off because I have only three children. I used to get some milk for the children, but they have cut that off."—Mary B.

CASE No. 4: "My son and I have been living together. I am a colored woman seventy years of age. My son was out of a job for some months and we could not pay the rent. The constable came to evict us, and instead of putting the furniture on the street, he had it put in a truck and sent to a storage. They sent me a bill of \$19.50 and now I cannot get the furniture out. This is how they rob us poor people."

### Van Dyke Women's Council Active In Jobless Fight

Van Dyke, Mich.

To the Working Woman: Just to show you what working women can do when they are organized, the following is given as an example:

A few days ago an unemployed worker, who was standing in line at the local welfare station, waiting for the moldy bread and rotten vegetables that are given out there, collapsed on the sidewalk from weakness, due to hernia and undernourishment. The local county poor commission refused to do anything for this worker, until the Working Women's Council of Van Dyke, Mich. got on the job and forced the local commissioners to take this worker to the hospital and take care of him.

Four weeks ago the wife of an unemployed worker in this community, who had lain in bed for three weeks then, because of infection, the result of an abortion, was taken to the hospital and was taken care of only after the Working Women's Council forced these commissioners to act.

The county poor doctor, instead

of taking care of this woman, had threatened to arrest her and turn her over to the county prosecuting attorney. The Women's Council pointed out that abortions are a necessary evil among women of the working class, because these women already are burdened with children who cannot be fed and protected, as are the women of the Soviet Union, by maternity insurance.

—H. RENO.

### House to House Investigations In Detroit Section

Detroit, Mich.

To the Working Woman: These are some of the deplorable conditions in the Oakland section of Detroit which I discovered in our house to house investigations for the public hearings of our Unemployed Council.

Case No. 1: Two weeks ago Charley Williams was found dead in an old barn between Alger and Holbrook Streets. He had been seen the day before eating out of a garbage can. He had no relatives in the city. He and four or five other men had been sleeping in this alley all summer. He is still in the morgue.

Case No. 2: On Sherman Street there lives a family consisting of ten people. There are three men in this family, but none of them can find any work to do. The mother is very ill, and has had four operations in the last four years. The family has had no help from the Welfare, and finally they were so starved and desperate that they had to go to the police and ask for help. The police gave them a basket with some stale old food in it which was not fit for dogs to eat.

Time after time they have gone to the Welfare but with no results. The mother today is crying and threatening to commit suicide and to murder the children. I asked this woman to come with me to our Unemployed Council No. seven, and a few of the comrades made up a basket for her.

Then I told this woman that we cannot fight against this misery and starvation by committing suicide, that we must join the Unemployed Councils and in an organized manner, demand unemployment insurance from the government.

Case No. 3: In our neighborhood there is a colored family with six children, the oldest of whom is a girl sixteen years old. The mother has been going to the Welfare organization day after day, but she did not get anything. Finally they told her that she could get money by sending her sixteen year old girl "out in the streets."

This is the kind of advice our charity organizations give to the working class mothers — to send

### While Millions Suffer Cold



Federated Pictures.

Kay Francis, movie actress, shown how the lady of fashion is dressed these days of hunger and cold for millions. Her furs would feed a family for the winter.

their young girls out on the streets to sell their bodies! We must fight against this driving of girls into prostitution by building powerful Unemployed Councils which fight for the Unemployment Insurance bill.

—Lillie E. Hill, Unemployed Council No. 7.

### Need of Maternity Insurance Is Imperative Now

Flint, Mich.

Dear Comrades:

We would like to tell the readers of The Working Woman about a few of the miserable conditions that we found when we went out to investigate the conditions of the workers in our city.

One mother told us, "There are six in our family; my husband has not been able to find any work for the past two years. We get four dollars a week from the Welfare, and we must all live on that. This money does not even buy enough food for the family. Two weeks ago I gave birth to this little baby and we had no money for a doctor, or for drugs or any of the necessary sanitary materials. The only help I got was from a woman, a neighbor living next door."

Another woman in Flint told us how her husband tried to get a doctor when she was about to have her baby a few days ago. The doctor came, but when he found out

## Communist Bill in Reichstag Demands Full Protection for Working Class Women

### Equal Pay for Equal Work—Chief Demand For the Women in the Industries

By Lene Overlach (Berlin)

The Communist Reichstag fraction has brought in a bill for the protection of working women. The complete economic, social, cultural and political equality of women is demanded as a matter of principle.

For the working women the old trade union demand for equal pay for equal work is of chief importance. The social-fascist trade unions have long since dropped this demand, so that, for instance, the employers in the Lower Rhine district are attempting to put through the following wage cuts: for the men five per cent, for the wo-

men twenty-five per cent, and for young workers thirty-five per cent. As a matter of fact, in the past year, which was marked by a tremendously intensified employers' offensive, the disparity between the men's and women's wages has considerably increased.

In face of the fact that the married working women, clerks and officials, with the approval of the trade union bureaucracy, are the first to be thrown on the street by the employers and authorities, the motion demands complete equality for the working women in all professions.

The main demand for unemployed women is that they be given the legal right to full unemployment benefit without being submitted to any mean test and without regard to the income of other members of the family who are legally compelled to support them.

Today, as a result of the emergency orders, the benefits payable to women are greatly reduced or she is deprived of benefit altogether if the husband is working or in receipt of unemployment benefit.

#### Maternity Insurance Demands

As in former motions tabled by the Communists, there is demanded that women shall be allowed a leave of absence with full pay 8 weeks before and 8 weeks after confinement. Further, it shall be forbidden to discharge pregnant women until twelve months after their confinement. Nursing mothers shall be allowed a break twice during the working hours to suckle their children, without any deduction from their pay.

The following maternity benefits are demanded: medical assistance at confinement and a maternity bonus of one hundred and fifty marks. Suckling mothers to be paid an allowance amounting to half of the sick benefit for the period of at least nine months. The unemployed pregnant woman, in

addition to full unemployment benefit, shall receive an allowance of ten marks a week. This demand also applies to the pregnant wife of the unemployed worker.

Free maternity homes and clinics, creches, kindergartens, etc., are indispensable demands for the working women.

#### Demand Repeal of Par. 218

Of special importance is the demand for the repeal of anti-abortion paragraph 218, especially in view of the fact that at present, as a result of the fascist policy in Germany, a tremendous number of women and doctors are being prosecuted for violating this paragraph. An immediate amnesty for all persons who have been sentenced under the anti-abortion law is demanded.

The demand for complete legal equality of women is concretely expressed in the proposed marriage law. On entering into marriage the woman shall retain her independent right of decision in legal and personal questions. She will have the same parental authority over the children as the man. She shall be free to maintain her maiden name if she so wishes. Today, according to the marriage law of the German Republic, the man is even free to beat his wife.

Finally, there is demanded the abolition of all differential treatment of the unmarried mother, and the complete equality of the illegitimate child with the child born in wedlock.

The Communist Party of Germany is mobilizing all sections of the women for these important fundamental demands. These demands are the basis for the fights of the women for complete equality and emancipation. They are to be made the object of mass actions. These demands will be propagated at the Congresses of working women, in the preparations for the 3rd National Congress of Women and International Women's Day on the 8th of March.

that they had no money to pay him — he refused to attend to the woman, and left the house while she was in extreme suffering from her labor pains. The baby was finally born without a doctor and without any sanitary or medical care.

—H. J., Flint, Mich.

Editor's Note: It is this criminal neglect of working class mothers in this country, which is responsible for the large percentage of women who die in childbirth, and who might easily be saved with proper care and medical attention. Thousands of

babies die in the U S A before they are one year old because they are undernourished and cannot get the necessary care.

Working women must fight against these intolerable conditions. They must join the Unemployed Councils, which fight for unemployment insurance for all workers as well as for the special demands of working women:

Free medical care for unemployed pregnant women at the expense of the state.

Free hospital care during confinement and two weeks after.