

THE WORKING WOMAN

MAY DAY—1934

REPORT FROM THE FRONT

BERLIN

Reports in the bourgeois press state: "The 2,000,000 people gathered on the Tempelhof field in Berlin on the first of May were not very much inspired and Hitler's speech was very repressed." In the factories the following orders were posted for May 1st:

"To the well-known slackers, male and female, we announce that they had better not use the well known excuses and special illnesses on the first of May. We want the unity of the factories to be apparent to all. Act immediately."

Heil Hitler!

Factory Cell Chairman.

It was by means of this terror and open threats of imprisonment in concentration camps that Hitler mobilized his 2,000,000 "soldiers" for the May 1st demonstration. In spite of this, the following Anti-Fascist leaflets were pasted up in many Berlin factories:

"Listen, German worker Mickel:

Better prepare a Hammer and Sickle

For next year on the first of May.

This will end the Swastika away."

FRANCE

The terror program of the government did not intimidate the French workers. A demonstration of more than a hundred thousand marched through the streets of Paris against fascism and imperialist war, against wage cuts and denial of political rights, in a united front with the Communist Party. The French capitalists arrested a workers' deputy for picketing. The May Day demonstration was shot upon by police armed with machine guns, wounding and killing men, women and children. In one section of Paris barricades were thrown up. For seven hours workers fought behind them, singing the International and shouting "Long live the Soviet Union!"

U. S. S. R.

One of the most impressive May Day demonstrations ever seen in the Soviet Union passed the reviewing stand in the Red Square before Lenin's tomb and was greeted by the leaders of the Soviet government and George Dimitroff.

In these days of bloody battles between strikers and the armed forces which the ruling class is sending against them waging in almost every section of the country, battles which can no longer be mistaken for anything else but rapidly developing fascism here at home, it is encouraging to hear of the enthusiastic nationwide support received by the call for the International Women's Congress Against War and Fascism.

Women from every walk of life, regardless of political or religious affiliations, regardless of race, color or nationality, are responding to this call. Anti-war committees are springing up in many cities and immediately getting on the job of rallying the widest sections of American women for the struggle against war and fascism. Twenty-five thousand copies of this call are reaching across the country.

In Chicago, where the local committee is headed by Mabel Byrd, Negro woman who resigned from the N.R.A. apparatus in protest against the jim-crow policy and the shameful incidents in the restaurant of the U.S. Senate, neighborhood and shop committees are reaching out among the stockyards workers, P.W.A. workers, teachers, housewives, miners' wives, liberals, intellectuals and mobilizing them for a regional conference late in June, which will elect the delegates to Paris.

In Cleveland the committee is canvassing from house to house, visiting organizations, calling back yard conferences, sellings caps and aprons with Congress slogans on them, to mobilize the women for this vital work.

On the West Coast 230 organizations have been invited to participate in the local conferences. Special attention is being paid to the Cannery and Agricultural Workers who are living under the shadow of vigilante lynch law, and to the wives of the striking longshoremen. They hope to send one of these agricultural workers to represent them in Paris.

In the East, in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Boston, Springfield, Mass., Hartford, Connecticut, Delaware, Washington, D. C., committees are at work distributing calls, leaflets, buttons, copies of the special Congress issue of FIGHT, before factory gates, from house to house, reaching out among thousands of women, mobilizing for the coming struggles.

In New York, industrial conferences among needle and metal trades workers are being held. A monster rally will take place on June 15th, organized by the women's sub-committee of the American League Against War and Fascism.

Special efforts are to be made to send two Negro delegates from the South, from the heart of the lynch land—a share-cropper's wife and a steel worker.

The National Executive Committee, which reflects the broad appeal of this movement and has among its members representatives not only of national working class organizations, but also members of religious groups, professors, prominent writers, social workers, etc., is contacting every possible national women's organization calling upon them to join together in this International Congress.

Among the farm women splendid work is being conducted. Four members of the National Executive Committee are farmers' wives who have gotten committees working in the Middle West, Northwest and New England.

The response is very encouraging. The delegation will truly represent the broadest sections of the American masses.

But the time is very short. The delegates must leave this country on July 21st and enormous sums of money will be needed to finance them. The calls have collection lists attached to them. These must be filled in with the greatest speed and the moneys turned in to the local women's committees against war and fascism. Affairs of all sorts, parties, lectures, meetings must be held, not only to raise funds but to reach still wider strata of American women for this fight which is their fight—the fight to save their husbands and sons and themselves from destruction in the next war to make the world safe for the profit mongers.

Reports from Paris state that delegations are expected from China, Japan, Germany, Austria—almost every country of the world.

Here the delegates representing thousands upon thousands will meet together and work out a common program for war upon war and fascism.

YOU'RE TELLING ME

By GRACE HUTCHINS

If you've read two books that were meant for children, but are enjoyed by grown-ups too—*Alice in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass*—you remember what the Queen said to Alice:

"Now here, you see, it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"

That's what workers in the United States are finding out about industry under the profit system—we have to run hard just to keep in the same place. If we want to get something better we have to run at least twice as fast.

To get that something better workers have been on strike during this past month all over the country—longshoremens of the West Coast, in New York and in southern ports; iron ore miners in Alabama, coal miners in Pennsylvania, Kansas, Kentucky; truck drivers in Minneapolis, aircraft workers in Buffalo and Hartford, automobile workers in Toledo, Ohio. Eight strikers, five of them Negroes, have been murdered on the picket lines by police and company thugs.

Girls and women have been on strike with the men—silk workers in Connecticut, hosiery workers in Wisconsin, textile workers in South Carolina, packinghouse workers in Iowa and St. Louis, shoe workers in Illinois and Missouri, rubber workers in Ohio and tobacco workers in Detroit. If you want a list of all these strikes and the numbers that are out, you can find it in the June *Economic Notes*, put out by the Labor Research Association.

* * *

Miss Perkins Thinks It's Fine

Frances Perkins, the lady Secretary of Labor in Washington, is trying to break these strikes. Last autumn she sent her assistant McGrady to end the coal miners' strike in Pennsylvania. Now she has sent him to the Pacific Coast to call off the longshoremens' strike. Her only interest in strikes is to break them.

She has just written a book called *People at Work* to show how lovely everything is under the N.R.A., how much the workers enjoy the cotton textile code, how many millions have been put back to work under the "New Deal." What she doesn't say about the millions still jobless would

fill another book, but she will never write a book that tells the real truth about working conditions in the United States, or about the bloody terror used against strikers on the picket lines.

Forty women needle workers went to see Miss Perkins the other day. They were protesting against N.R.A. conditions in the New York needle trades and they insisted on seeing the Labor Secretary herself. Sometimes she won't even see the delegations of workers who come but sends a message that the Secretary of Labor is too busy to see rank-and-file workers. When she does see them, she sits upon a dais above them, but soon cuts short the interview, as she did this time, saying she will "investigate."

To dismiss the workers or the inquirers who ask her "embarrassing" questions, Miss Perkins often raises her lorgnette and looks at them as if she were a great lady and they were servants—which is exactly what she thinks they are. She herself is a servant of Wall Street, as her book shows.

The Darrow Report tells more truth about the N.R.A. than Miss Perkins does. It says what the Communists have been saying from the beginning, that the N.R.A. is sustaining profits for the big fellows by lowering the workers' standards of livings.

* * *

My Girls Must Smile

A candy boss, Mrs. O. Snyder, tells how she conducted her business and kept up her profits during the depression. She boasts:

"I have advised my girls not to talk depression and to smile more than they ever did in their lives. During 1931 I employed 14 porters in my various shops. Since January 1, I have laid off five and distributed the work among the remaining nine. I have made a substantial saving in the kitchens by keeping all the employees and operating only four days a week. Closing the kitchen for two days a week not only saves wages but electricity. In my shops where three or more salesgirls are employed, each girl takes two days off a week and I save the wages of one girl."

A Negro woman was telling a friend about the marvellous insurance policy she had just bought. She said:

"If I work hard enough and long enough—I make enough to bury me."

That's capitalism as the worker knows it, not as Miss Perkins writes about it. If a girl works hard enough and long enough, she may make enough for a decent funeral.

But we can get more if we strike for it!

**Save Ernst Thaelmann
from Nazi Butchers!
Staunch Fighter for Freedom for
Women Masses.**

Exploiters, food profiteers, war makers, the murderers of the workers are in favor of murdering Thaelmann.

Thaelmann is fighting for the freedom for all. Everyone must fight for Thaelmann's freedom.

Watch for the July Issue of the WORKING WOMAN!

This is not the way the WORKING WOMAN will look from now on. This is an in-between issue to enable us to get out a special very attractive July issue. It will carry many additional features, and more material on the Congress. SEND IN YOUR ORDERS AT ONCE!

ALSO the August issue will carry the best contributions on the WORKING WOMAN symposium: *What special features I would like to see in the WORKING WOMAN.* The five best letters, containing the best suggestions, will be printed in the August issue. They must be in no later than July 12.

HOWEVER, if you rush your contribution in before June 20, it will appear in the special July issue.

At any rate, let us know what you are doing among working women in your neighborhood, shop, factory, clubs and auxiliaries. You write it—we'll print it. And this will boost sales of our WORKING WOMAN wherever you live and work.

THE WORKING WOMAN

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If Mothers Knew the Horrors of War--

By VERA SWIRPUL

Member of the National Executive Committee of the American Section, International Women's Congress Against War and Fascism.

These spring days no doubt every farm woman is busy making garden, tending to small chicks, and doing other farm work. We all look to spring as something beautiful with its warm sunshine and its blue skies. This is just the time when we toiling women are liable to forget that there are dark clouds, that there are storms and tornadoes brewing. We may wake up some time only to find out the storm has reached us, that the tornado is on its way to destroy everything in its path.

I am writing to you again out of my busy days. I must find the time to write. Not only to write, but to fight against fascism and war. There are times when I want to forget wars and fascism, make my garden, cook and bake for my family. But every paper I pick up and every one I talk to reminds me of the war danger.

Dear toiling women, let us not forget that war clouds are hanging over us. Let us not wait until we have time, to do something about it. We toiling women should start right now, yes—today, to fight war and fascism. The imperialists are not waiting. They are preparing at a greater speed than ever before to slaughter our men and our boys. Look at the C.C.C. camps. Are not most of them only boys, sons of the toiling women, being trained for war to defend the wealth of the rich?

We mothers so often feel enraged when our boys finish up the cookies in day that were meant for a week, when they clean up on a pie that was meant for a week. What we don't threaten to do to them!

Dear mothers, stop and think what would life mean to you if these teasing boys were taken out of our home to be slaughtered, crippled on the battle field to protect the profits of the capitalists?

What we mothers haven't gone through to raise these boys. Many a mother has sat up night and day by her child's sick bed, crying and praying that his life should be spared, watching fearfully lest death should rob her of her child.

We mothers have fought sickness and poverty, giving the best years of our life to raise our children. We have gone through untold sacrifices and look upon our children with pride. We always wanted them to have the best in life. And now let us look at what is facing them today. If we cannot feed them, then it's highways, box cars, soup-lines and finally C.C.C. camps where they are trained for another imperialist war.

I am going to repeat the words of a world war veteran. He was on the

firing line, where he was shot and gassed. He said, "If the mothers could see the horrible death that their sons die, they would rather have them shot before their eyes than have them go to war." He saw many a wounded boy praying for days to his buddies to put his life out. Many of them called out in their misery and pain, "Mother, mother, help me!"

Now, we fighting women of the world, are calling to all mothers, wives and sweethearts, to all women of all races and creeds, join our fight against war and fascism. Fascism is being introduced more and more by the Wall Street government of our country. If we doubt that fascism is spreading in the U.S.A., then let us look at the South, at the terror that is used against the Negro people there. Every right is taken away from them. We must fight jim-crowism and lynching of Negroes. In order to fight all these measures taken by the "New Deal" we must also fight fascism. You who read this may say, "but what are we women going to do about it?"

First, every farm woman should read pamphlets and articles on war

and fascism, study them, and arm yourself with the knowledge to learn what war brings to the toiling masses.

Second, take some of your time away from your house and visit your neighbors, ladies aids, women's clubs, and sewing circles. Point out to all women that we are living in danger of war and fascism. Tell them that to prevent war and fascism we must begin right now to fight it. Once war is declared, all tears and wails of women will not save their men and sons from going to war.

Third, call in your locality anti-war meetings and at these meetings elect anti-war committees that will carry on the work further. Then at this meeting and at all meetings sell literature against war and fascism.

We women of today shall fight against war so that we shall not become war mothers. We do not want to sell the lives of our sons for medals, for the glory of being a war mother for capitalist profits. We the farm women must join the women of the world to fight war and fascism.

Farm women, awaken and unite with the toiling women of the world to fight against war and fascism.

Our Union Fights Against War and Fascism

By JEAN HARLING

The various tasks undertaken by the Needle Trades Women's Action Committee organized very recently, have met with some splendid results.

At the present moment new life, vitality and energy has come into our work as the result of our campaign in connection with the International Congress Against War and Fascism.

Here in New York our plans are extensive. We are holding a conference on June 16th, where women from every department of the needle trades will be represented. Women from unorganized shops, locals of the N.T.W.I.U. and I.L.G.W.U. Women regardless of their religious or political beliefs, regardless of their color or nationality will meet together in this conference to plan our fight against war and fascism. In preparation for our own conference and for the regional conference on July 7th in which we will participate, we are holding mass meetings.

Before the Congress, July 28, we have pledged ourselves to get 200 new subscribers for the "Working Woman," 300 subscribers for the "Needle Worker," and during the whole campaign we expect to enroll 200 new members for our Needle Trades Women's Action Committee.

of sending one delegate of our own to the Paris Congress in addition to the regular delegation. We know this means raising funds but we are out to get at least \$400 to finance the whole delegation. We are arranging mass demonstrations in the needle market to arouse all the workers, men as well as women, to the danger of war and the necessity of fighting now against it.

These demonstrations will also be expressions of solidarity with the German workers demanding the release of Thaelmann and Torgler and all the anti-fascist fighters in Hitler's jails and concentration camps. They will be protests against the developing fascism which is rearing its ugly head here in the United States. A banner of solidarity will be presented by our Women's Action Committee to the heroic German working women, who have proven their loyalty and courage in their determined fight against fascism and the war it is breeding. We are sending this banner to the Paris Congress with the American delegation with a message of solidarity and admiration.

The N.T.W.I.U. has already endorsed the call to the Paris Congress and is giving its fullest support and help to our women's committee.

Building Our Organization

By CLARA BODIAN

Secretary, U.C.W.C.W.

The United Council of Working Class Women has decided to enter into socialist competition with the Finnish Working Women's Clubs, during the campaign in preparation for the International Women's Congress Against War and Fascism, which will gather in Paris on July 28th, 29th and 30th, to plan a struggle against hunger, war and fascism.

We will make special efforts to build our organization by drawing in new members into the neighborhood councils, the quota being 200 new members, we will make an effort to help increase the circulation of the "Working Woman" magazine by securing at least 50 new subscriptions and increasing the sales above the 1,000 a month which is being sold at present.

Our organization will make a serious effort to raise \$400 for the campaign. We have assigned quotas to each council, according to their strength. We will distribute thousands of calls for this purpose. So far an order has been placed for 1,000 calls, 500 copies of the special issue of "Fight," which is already being distributed, and 500 buttons, etc.

Our organization will prepare a banner to express our solidarity with the European women in the struggle against hunger, war and fascism, which will be sent with the U. S. delegation to France. To carry through the campaign successfully our organization has set up an anti-war committee of seven which planned the following:

Each of the branches selected an anti-war committee from three to five, depending on the number of members in the council. This committee elected a chairman who is attached to the executive committee of the local council, so that she can submit the plans of her committee. This comrade is called in to regular meetings centrally for the purpose of hearing reports on the local activities. The function of this committee should be: (1) to survey the neighborhood for other women's organizations, as the major activity for our organization will be to penetrate other organizations, to urge the elections of anti-war committees; (2) to approach these organizations to arrange for lectures and discussions. Our educational committee has prepared an outline for these lectures and discussions. Credentials have been issued by the central office for this purpose.

Finnish Women On the Job

By EVI SUVANTO

National Sec'y, F. W. C.

The Finnish Working Woman's Club Organization has begun a very wide campaign against war and fascism all over the United States. This campaign includes preparation for the International Women's Congress in Paris this summer. Every one of the 3,000 members in the 203 clubs is involved in this work.

We have pledged to raise the sum of \$400 to finance the American delegation. This sum was divided among all the clubs.

In New York the clubs have entered into competition with the United Councils of Working Class Women. They have set themselves the following quotas, by which they will check their work: concentration on two factories—metal and textile, to build the struggle against war, by holding open air and shop gate meetings before these factories, selling anti-war literature, issuing special leaflets, etc. This work will be done jointly with the Women's Councils. Also they will get 50 new members for their own organization, 25 new

members for the American League Against War and Fascism. They will secure 50 new subscribers for Tyolaisnainen (Working Women) and 50 new subscribers for the "Working Woman" magazine. In addition these 14 clubs are active in the general campaign in New York for the preparation of the regional conference on July 7th, which will elect the delegates to Paris.

In Duluth, Minnesota, our clubs are participating actively in arranging the regional conference for the end of June. They are reaching the Finnish Women's Cooperative Guilds, church societies, and farm women from Minnesota and Wisconsin. This conference will elect at least one of the American delegates to Paris. The leadership of the Guilds is categorically opposed to our united front proposals, but we hope that members will disregard their stand and will come along.

From the Astoria, Oregon, cannery workers and housewives comes a pledge to spread this movement among their fellow workers and neighboring farm women. Their campaign will include the getting of

Regular meetings of the anti-war committees and the chairmen of the local committees are being held, so far we had two and some contacts have been made with organizations, etc., which we expect to follow up.

The joint committee of the U.C.W.C.W. and the Finnish W.W.C. will meet and compare the progress made.

A few mass meetings were held with Comrade Anna Schultz, with six other mass meetings being prepared.

We have learned that the Working Women's Federation of Cleveland have made elaborate plans in preparation for the Congress, and at our last Bureau meeting we decided to challenge them in the penetration of other women's organizations, in the gaining of new members, "Working Woman" subs, and the raising of money for the delegates to be sent to the Congress. Already we have received numerous reports from our local branches informing us of contact made with other women's organizations who are ready to participate in the struggle against war and fascism. Also, to come to the mass meetings and regional conferences which are being arranged in New York.

We have decided to issue 20,000 leaflets in the name of our own organization, English, Jewish, Spanish and Italian, to be used in our various concentration points, Harlem, Red Hook and Crown Heights.

25 new members into their organization, 25 new readers for their paper and 20 for the "Working Woman." They have invited many other organizations in their territory to a conference where they will organize the work.

This work in which we are engaged amongst the Finnish working and farm women, is very important. We know that the Finnish bourgeoisie together with the American ruling class, is doing everything in their power to checkmate the rising radicalization wave amongst the Finnish workers in this country. They are building all kinds of bourgeois women's clubs, societies, etc., in order to draw the working class women under their influence so that the bourgeoisie would be able to conduct its war preparations and further develop fascistization.

We must be on guard and mobilize all the workingclass women amongst the Finns in America to fight war and fascism. Through our organization and activity we are in the best position to do this work and carry the struggle against the offensive of the capitalists together with the entire working class of America, under the leadership of the Communist Party of the U.S.A.

MAY DAY Greetings

Big Scottsboro Theatrical Festival at the Workers' Camp Detroit

SUNDAY, MAY, 27, 1934

Beginning 11 A.M.

All Day Affair

Dancing, Swimming,

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right on Halstead and watch for signs
to Workers' Camp.

Carpenters' Local of the
Trade Union Unity League
Detroit, Mich.

Dr. B. Sherman
Macabee Building
Detroit, Mich.

Dr. M. Salutzky
Macabee Building
Detroit, Mich.

Progressive Women's Council
of Lodge Park
Detroit, Mich.

Ukrainian Working Women
Branch of U.U.T.O.
Hartford, Conn.

U.W.W.S. Local No. 3

J. Peterka Fulton
A. Kozak John Stacka
A. D. Rofce

Ukrainian Women's Club
A.L.D.L.D. Branch No. 79
Chicago, Illinois

P. Printavish Kaviokos
Mrs. M. Olsen P. Poponoff
Ellen Salmina G. Dickson
Mary Leketa A. Bitumoky
K. Anderson Mary Stoikoff
George Popoff
Waukegan, Illinois

From Pittsburgh Workers

H. Remaly Carmel Garcia
Edward Winkler Mrs. Pemaly

Ekamen

I. Homas W. Toffolori
J. Albans Bill Rimsky
Theo Mower
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Greetings from
WOMENS CLUB
Stamford, Conn.

Forward Comrades!

Toward a Victorious Red May Day
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tariat, Finnish Working Women's Clubs
Astoria, Oregon

Finnish Women's Club

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